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OIER *Newsletter*

Office of International Education & Research

2000 and Beyond

*John R. Pottenger, Ph.D., Director,
OIER*

Purpose

In our first newsletter, we introduced you to the many projects with which the OIER is involved. We are looking into and beyond 2000 to see how our office can grow and assist the university in providing better opportunities for students, faculty and the community.

To this end, the OIER is constantly searching for funds to assist university students and faculty members to participate in study abroad programs, do research at foreign locations, and attend international conferences to present research findings. In addition, the OIER is developing more study-abroad programs.

One of our first moves in this direction was an actual MOVE – our offices are currently located in Morton Hall room 126. The move enabled us to secure adequate space for a library to house growing information regarding study abroad opportunities.

Here are updates on projects that we discussed in detail in our first newsletter.

Project Updates

Community Connections

The OIER conducted a follow-on program in Russia this summer in three cities where former interns are located. (For more details, see the article on page 3.) In addition, we have hosted two of three groups for the 1999-2000

project year, one of business interns from Ukraine during the fall (October 13 – November 13, 1999) and one of educators (January 21 – February 14, 2000). Our final group of business interns for this project year will arrive in early May.

ACE Project

As a result of a grant awarded by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), the OIER administered the *Alabama Classroom Enhancement (ACE) Project*. Under the project, 18 Alabama teachers (K-12) pursued independent study from Denmark to Hawaii and all across the United States.

A recent article in *The Commissioner's Report*, published by ACHE, recognized the ACE project as a unique and well-planned professional development program to enhance subject matter expertise and improve classroom effectiveness. For example, Peggy Good, a second-grade teacher at Madison's Country Day School, which includes foreign languages in the curriculum of all its grades from pre-school through grade six, observed classes in seven schools in Denmark. Another ACE scholar, Barbara Harris, a fifth grade teacher at Page Elementary School in Scottsboro, studied rain forest and reef environmental science in Belize. According to Harris, this opportunity was "a dream come true. Exploring the rain forest gave me a new appreciation for the natural resources we have in Alabama."

Faculty/Student Study Abroad Services

As reported in our first newsletter, the OIER is currently assisting several students who wish to augment the quality, both in terms of depth and diversity, of their collegiate experience. Modest funds are available to assist students and faculty with study abroad opportunities. Approximately 50 students have received OIER assistance, financial and otherwise. The OIER has also provided several faculty members with financial assistance to attend professional conferences to present research findings. The conferences may be in domestic or international settings, as long as the substance of the presentation themselves has

international aspects.

In addition to providing assistance, the OIER has also been designated by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE, New York) as an issuing office for students and teachers to purchase International Student and Teacher Identity cards.

International Students

The OIER plays an active role with international students on-campus. The OIER serves as contact point for the American Councils of International Education (ACIE) that is sponsoring students participating in the U.S. Department of State Freedom Support Act and *Umid* Presidential Scholars.

Under these programs, over 30 students have attended or are now attending UAH from the following countries of the former Soviet Union: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

1999-2000 ACIE Students:

Freedom Support Act Scholars

Ketevan Chakhunashvili/*Georgia*

Tinatini Museridze/*Georgia*

Veronika Taldykina/*Russia*

Alexey Suslikov/*Russia*

Lydia Zubytka/*Ukraine*

UMID Scholars

Akmal Abdulkhatorov/*Uzbekistan*

Akbar Avilyaev/*Uzbekistan*

Timur Hakimov/*Uzbekistan*

Bobirkhon Ismailov/*Uzbekistan*

Otabek Madjidov/*Uzbekistan*

Djakhon Mamardjanov/*Uzbekistan*

Jurabek Mirzamahmudov/*Uzbekistan*

Takhir Sabirov/*Uzbekistan*

Hurshi Shamsitdinov/*Uzbekistan*

International Student Identity Card/International Teacher Identity Card

The OIER has been designated by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE, New York) as an issuing office for students and teachers to purchase International Student and Teacher Identity cards. These cards are internationally recognized as proof of student or educator status, also providing travel insurance and discounts.

To purchase a student or teacher identity card you need to have the following:

1. You must be a junior high school, high school, college, university, or vocational school student at least 12 years of age and enrolled in a study program leading to a diploma or degree at an accredited institution, or be a teacher at a K-college institution.
2. Passport size photo (1 5/16 x 1 1/16)
3. \$20.00 check or money order
4. Proof of student or teacher status. You must have **one** of the following for acceptable proof:

Students

Photocopy of school ID for academic year

School declaration with seal

Letter on school stationery from dean

Photocopy of transcript for academic year

Teachers

Photocopy of faculty ID

Letter on school stationery from chair

Benefits of identity cards include:

Low student airfares

Discounts around the world

Transportation discounts

Insurance coverage and help line

Discounts on attractions

Free ISIC Handbook

Accommodation discounts



Former ACTR Student Olga Sheremeteva at her wedding in Tyumen, Russia

For more information about OIER programs or services, please feel free to drop by our office at Morton Hall, Room 126 from 8:15 to 5:00 daily (closed from 12:00 to 1:00). We look forward to meeting you!

Follow-On Trip 1999

Tammy B. Paltchikov, Assistant Director, OIER

The Community Connections Program (CCP) is a unique opportunity for Americans to assist the citizens of the former Soviet Union in learning the skills needed to reform their economic and educational institutions. To date, the OIER has designed and conducted seven four-week internships for business managers and educational personnel from Yekaterinburg, Yaroslavl', Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, and Tula, Russia and Kiev and Uzhgorod, Ukraine.

This summer we had our first follow-on program in Russia. The trip was from July 28 to August 14 and spanned four cities. Our team of 12 presenters/staff included the following local business people and educators: Dr. Ralph Green, Huntsville Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Donald Duffey, Alabama Business Forms, Inc.; Mr. Alan Derrick, Derrick Design and Remodeling; Ms. Jan Wells, Rise Real Estate; Ms. Kathy Neyman, Redstone Federal Credit Union; and Dr. Linda Winters, Principal, McDonnell Elementary School.

Travel to Russia can be a daunting prospective, even for the well-seasoned traveler. However, the connections with our Russian interns eased the transition and made the trip a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. In many ways, traveling to the different cities was a homecoming celebration. Not only did it allow us to continue our connections with the interns, it also opened our eyes to their specific business and education environment, problems and needs. During our trip there were many opportunities for formal and casual discussions between our group members and Russians from all levels of business and education.



Huntsville group in Revda, Russia

The group traveled first to Moscow, Russia where we were greeted at the airport by Dima Poliakov (Winter 99) and Alexei Zaitsev (Winter 99). In Moscow, we visited with former interns' businesses and also the PMTI association, as well as the Moscow and American Chambers of Commerce. After spending several days in Moscow, we traveled via train (4 hours) to Yaroslavl', Russia. Our events and activities in Yaroslavl' were organized by Anna Danilova (Fall 98). After Yaroslavl', we were off to Yekaterinburg and Revda, Russia by overnight train (24 hours).

In Yekaterinburg, we had the opportunity to visit educational organizations on all levels from local to regional (similar to our state level). The activities were co-organized by Evgenii Karaman (Spring 98), Natalia Kisliakova (Spring 98), Mikhail Zanin (Spring 98) and Oksana Gainova (Spring 98). Even though the schools were on summer break, our group had the opportunity to visit with students because of organized summer festivals. Everyone enjoyed the interaction with the children; in particular we were impressed with their knowledge of English. From there, we flew to St. Petersburg to spend a few days visiting the Hermitage and the numerous palaces of Catherine and Peter the Great.

We have plans now for a second follow-on trip to continue the connections and relationships between Huntsville and our Russian/Ukrainian participants.

Upcoming Events

**May 8-31, 2000
Huntsville, Alabama
Hosting Opportunity**

Ten Russian businessmen and women from Kaluga, Russia will arrive for a four-week internship period. Host families and businesses needed!

For more information, please call 890-6055.

**July 20 – August 8, 2001
Moscow, Russia; Kiev, Ukraine
CCP Follow-on Project**

The OIER office staff and members of the community (10) plan to travel to Moscow, Tula, Russia and Kiev and Uzhgorod, Ukraine to conduct follow-on activities with CCP alumni from both 97-98, 98-99 and 99-00 program years. Look for more details in upcoming issues.

CCP Alumni News



Mikhail Zanin with fellow educators in Yekaterinburg, Russia

Mikhail Zanin, Spring 98. During his visit in Huntsville, Mikhail was very impressed with the organization of the library at McDonnell Elementary school. So much so that after extensively questioning the librarian, he designed a new plan for the library at

April 2000

his teaching college. Upon his return, he laid out his plan to his librarian staff. At that point, books were in boxes and there was no organization to enable students to check out books. Students were only able to read books in designated areas. Mikhail hired a newly graduated student to take over the responsibility of organization. When we visited Mikhail's school during the summer of 1999, we were able to see for ourselves the dramatic changes. Books were shelved in alphabetical order by author with easy access by card catalog. Students were able to find and check out books necessary for their

studies. The library has evolved and taken on a role as an essential part of the college.

Yuri Sabinin, Fall 98. Yuri interned at Alabama Business Forms, Inc. while he was in Huntsville, along with several other stores. Alabama Business was a new type of business that he had never been exposed to – the printing press. While Yuri's group was in Huntsville, the ruble crashed and his sister was forced to sell their clothing/department store in Yaroslavl'. Yuri spent the next several months searching for a job. A chance meeting with an old friend revealed an opportunity for a manager at a printing press company. Yuri

jumped at the chance, using the knowledge and experience he gained in Huntsville as a way of proving his ability to do the job. Now, several years later, Yuri is doing "better than okay," his financial situation much more stable than in the past.



Yuri (left) at internship site in Huntsville with Mr. Don Duffey (President, Alabama Business Forms, Inc.)

STUDY ABROAD!

Thinking about studying abroad?

Need some advice or financial aid?

Come see us – we can help you find the RIGHT program!

UAH

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