

Inside this Issue

- 1 Letter from the Director
- 2 *Umid* Scholar to Graduate
- 3 Community Connections Program/Spring 2000
- 4 CCP Alumni News

OIER
Morton Hall Room 126
University of Alabama in Huntsville
Huntsville, Alabama 35899
Phone: (256) 824-6055
Fax: (256) 824-6142
Email: oier@email.uah.edu

OIER *Newsletter*

Office of International Education & Research

Project Updates

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

Community Connections

The OIER hosted a total of three groups this year from the former Soviet Union. (For more details, see the article on page 3.) Our next group from Zakarpattia, Ukraine, will be arriving in October 2000.

ACE Project

As a result of a grant awarded for the second year by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), the OIER will continue to administer the *Alabama Classroom Enhancement (ACE) Project*. Under the project, Alabama teachers (K-12) compete for grant funds to pursue independent study projects in the United States and abroad. To find out more, please contact our office.

PiE Project

After forming an alliance with the Huntsville City Schools, the OIER submitted a proposal to the American Councils of International Education (ACIE) to participate in their Partners in Education (PiE) project. ACIE approved the proposal and awarded a grant to the OIER to design and conduct an education internship program for nine Russian educators from Primorsky Kray, Russia. The educators will be in Huntsville from October 6 to November 13, 2000.

Faculty/Student Study Abroad Services

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 60 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.

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 a U.S. Department of State program funded under the 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.

Finally, we wish to congratulate our own Tammy Paltchikov, assistant director of the OIER, for earning the Master of Arts degree in Public Affairs at UAH! This is another superb achievement she may add to a long list of accomplishments that includes a B.A. in Slavic Studies (UAH), service as an officer in Naval intelligence, and

graduate studies in Belarus and Russia. Well, done Tammy!

For more information about OIER programs or services, please feel free to drop by our office at Morton Hall, Room 126 from 8:30 to 5:00 daily (closed from 12:00 to 1:00). We look forward to meeting you!



Umid Scholar to Graduate

Tammy B. Paltchikov, Assistant Director, OIER

Hurshidjon (Hurshi) Shamsitdinov arrived in Huntsville, Alabama, for the first time in August of 1997, as a member of the first group of *Umid* (Hope) Presidential Scholars to enroll at UAH. The *Umid* scholars are students from Uzbekistan, a former republic of the Soviet Union, who have been selected to study and obtain a degree in the United States.

The extremely competitive process to become an *Umid* candidate involves taking and passing three written examinations (English, finance, mathematics) and one oral examination (Uzbekistan culture and politics). These examinations assess the candidate's knowledge of English and his subject matter, as well as his knowledge of current government policy and culture in Uzbekistan. Hurshi's oral examination, for example, was conducted by the Uzbek Minister of Finance and a national Uzbek poet.

This summer will be another first for Hurshi; he will be the first *Umid* scholar to graduate from UAH. Hurshi will receive a B.A. degree in Finance from the College of Administrative Science. To Hurshi and his family, this degree represents the accomplishment of a lifetime.

Hurshi credits his family's support, especially his father's, in becoming an *Umid* scholar. Hurshi's father, who has a background in chemical engineering and owns a manufacturing company, has always considered a foreign educational experience as an essential part of his children's complete education. Hurshi's younger sister, recently graduated from high school, plans to become a lawyer and also

hopes to have the opportunity to study abroad during her educational career.

Hurshi feels that he has benefited from his education in the United States in many ways. He has changed his personal philosophy from one of "doing it all alone" to one that stresses the importance of networking and maintaining contacts with other people. He also says that he has "been exposed to new ideas and a broader view of different economies, in particular the market economy." Hurshi hopes to help promote an open market and a better telecommunications system in Uzbekistan so that his country may respond to the globalization of the economy and the expansion of the

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. \$22.00 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 | |



Internet.

Although he is certain that he will face some opposition to his ideas, Hurshi plans to work for the investment department of the Uzbekistan National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity. As the government regulator of foreign businesses, the bank oversees all financial activities of foreign banks and companies. As part of the investment department, Hurshi will be responsible for attracting more foreign businesses and investment capital, as well as recruiting local businesses to form partnerships with foreign companies.

We at the OIER office wish Hurshi the best of luck in the future!

CCP Spring 2000

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 eight four-week internships for business managers and educational personnel from Yekaterinburg, Yaroslavl', Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, Tula, and Kaluga, Russia and Kiev and Uzhgorod, Ukraine.

Our latest group of business people arrived from Kaluga, Russia, on May 5, 2000. This group included a government official, Mr. Guennadi Pertsev from the State Employment Agency. Mr. Pertsev spent two weeks observing the Huntsville program and meeting with his counterparts in Huntsville. He evaluated the Huntsville program very highly, stating that all activities were useful and contributed to the interns' and his understanding of American business practices.



Kaluga business group at McDonnell Elementary School

The first week of the internship experience in Huntsville consists of orientation to the Huntsville community and general business practices. To this end, the group visited several local attractions, including the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, EarlyWorks Museum, Constitution Hall Village and Burritt Museum. In addition, the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce provided an overview on the local business climate, Dr. Mary Spann, UAH, presented a lecture on business planning and market research, and the group toured a local business (Alabama Business Forms, Inc.) and school (McDonnell Elementary).

The interns also had a group internship at First Commercial Bank, where they learned in-depth the role of the banking system for business in America. As part of their two-day stay at the bank, the interns were exposed to all aspects of the bank as well as allowed to observe a board of directors meeting. Ms. Tish Phegus, representative of First Commercial, commenting on the overall experience for the bank employees, stated that "We learn as much, if not more, from them as they do from us."

As they prepared to leave Huntsville, the interns expressed their gratitude to the Huntsville Community and businesses that had so graciously spent time with them during their stay. They left with very good impressions and memories of the many people with whom they were fortunate to become

Upcoming Events

**October 13 – November 13, 2000
Huntsville, Alabama
*Hosting Opportunity***

Ten Ukrainian businessmen and women from Zakarpattya, Ukraine, will arrive for a four-week internship period. Host families and businesses needed!

**January/February 2001
Huntsville, Alabama
*Hosting Opportunity***

Ten Russian educators from Mordovia, Russia, will arrive for a three-week internship period. Host families needed!

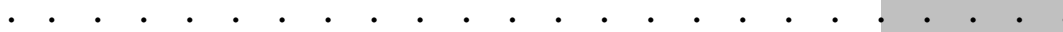
**April/May 2001
Huntsville, Alabama
*Hosting Opportunity***

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

**For more information, please call
824-6055.**

**July/August 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 97-98, 98-99 and 99-00 program years. Look for more details in upcoming issues.



acquainted. As a final note, we would like to say thank you to all the businesses and families that have hosted CCP interns since the beginning of our project in 1997. (See insert this issue.) It is truly their participation that makes *Community Connections* a great program.

CCP Alumni News



Oksana Gainova, Revda, Russia

Oksana Gainova, Spring 98. While visiting American schools, Oksana was

very impressed with our usage of colors. She learned how colors can be used to affect the mood and learning process of students. When she returned to her hometown of Revda, Oksana immediately began formulating a plan to obtain enough materials to repaint her teachers training college inside and out. She began a process of bartering that began with bricks and finally after eight levels resulted in the paint she needed. In the summer of 1999, repainting of the building was underway. All the window frames were painted white, a technique she had observed in her homestay's home in Huntsville, and the classrooms were painted in softer pastels, reflecting the knowledge she had gained here. Yet the outside of her buildings were all painted in gray.

When questioned about this, she responded that "In Washington, D.C., all important buildings are gray-white; to me this signifies power."



Gabriella, Tammy and Olena in New York, Fall 99

Gabriella Mehesh, Fall 99. Gabriella is the proud mother of a baby girl, Julianna, born on June 25, 2000, at 5:00 a.m., weighing 2.5 kg and 48 cm long. Mother and baby are recovering well.

STUDY ABROAD!

Thinking about studying abroad?

Need some program advice or financial aid?

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

UAH

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Office of International Education & Research
Morton Hall Room 126
University of Alabama In Huntsville
Huntsville, Alabama 35899

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

A Space Grant College
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution