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OIER Newsletter

Office of International Education & Research

Project Updates

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

Community Connections

With a grant from the U.S. Department of State to conduct the Community Connections program, the OIER had the pleasure of hosting three groups this past year from the former Soviet Union. In addition, we completed our second follow-on trip to Russia and Ukraine this summer. (For more details, please see the article on page 2.) Our next group from Vologda, Russia, will be arriving on January 18, 2002.

Partners in Education

Due to the successful partnership with Dr. Linda Winters (principal of the Academy for Science and Foreign Language) and the Huntsville City Schools in conducting the Partners in Education (PiE) project last fall, the OIER was awarded a grant for a second year by the American Councils for International Education (ACIE). This year's educators were from Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The educators were in Huntsville from October 5 to November 12, 2001. (For related articles, please see pages 5 and 6.)

Alabama Classroom Enhancement

As a result of a grant awarded for the third year by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), the OIER will continue to administer the Alabama Classroom Enhancement (ACE) project. Under this project, Alabama teachers (K-12) compete for 15 grants of \$3000 each to pursue independent study projects in the United

States or abroad. To find out more, please contact our office.

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 through study abroad opportunities. Modest funds are available to assist UAH students and faculty members 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. In particular, the OIER serves as contact point for the American Councils for International Education (ACIE), which is sponsoring students participating in a U.S. Department of State program funded under the Freedom Support Act and Umid Presidential Scholars program. Under these programs, over 40 students have attended or are now attending UAH from the following countries of the former Soviet Union: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

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!

CCP Update

Tammy B. Paltchikov, Assistant Director, OIER

Follow-on trip Summer 2001

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 twelve four-week internships for business managers and education administrators from Yekaterinburg, Yaroslavl', Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, Vologda, Kaluga, and Tula, Russia, and Saransk, Mordovia, as well as Kiev and Uzhgorod, Ukraine.



Dance troupe in Tula, Russia

This past summer we conducted our second follow-on program in Russia, Ukraine, and Hungary. The trip was from May 24 to June 14, 2001 and included nine cities. The program was conducted in conjunction with another program sponsored by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE): Exploring Space: The Russian Connection. Our team of 26 presenters and staff included U.S. teachers, as well as local business and homestay hosts.

As with our first follow-on program, traveling to the different cities was like 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 environments, problems, and needs. During our trip there were many opportunities for formal and casual discussions among our group members and Russians and Ukrainians from all levels of business and education.



Group in St. Petersburg, Russia

The group traveled first to Moscow, Russia, where we were greeted at the airport by our alumni. In Moscow, we visited Star City, Space Mission Control, Moscow Aviation Institute, along with Red Square, Lenin's tomb, and the Kremlin. From Moscow, we traveled to Tula and Kaluga, where we visited various schools and businesses of our alumni. Some of the highlights included visiting Tolstoy's estate and Tsiolkovski's home, as well as attending various performances by children of the Tula schools.

Several members of the group traveled to Saransk, Republic of Mordovia, in Russia. They visited with alumni, including the Minister of Labor, Liuodmila Ivanova (Spring 2000).

The last stop in Russia was a visit to St. Petersburg to see the Hermitage and the numerous palaces of Catherine and Peter the Great.

From Russia, we traveled to Crimea, Ukraine. In Crimea, we visited Sevastopol, Yalta, and Simferopol. In Simferopol, Dr. John Pottenger (OIER director and CCP co-director), Dr. Michael Oliver (director of UAH Division of Continuing Education), and Dr. Sandy Enger (coordinator of the

UAH Institute for Science Education) met with their counterparts at the Tavrida State University to sign a memorandum of agreement and to discuss possible future collaboration. In addition, Greg Cox (senior research scientist of the UAH Earth Systems Science Center and CCP co-director), visited Novocherkassk, Russia, to sign another memorandum of agreement with Novocherkassk State Technical University.

The trip in Crimea was cut short due to an emergency meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which caused all of the airports to be closed. One quickly chartered flight later, our two groups met up in Kiev, Ukraine. (A second group had traveled only to Ukraine).



Greg Cox with Dr. Leonid S. Lunin, rector of Novocherkassk State Technical University

After a whirlwind tour of Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, we flew to Uzhgorod, the far western part of Ukraine, located in the Carpathian Mountains. Our alumni met us at the airport with lots of hugs and a huge sign!

We visited several unique and historic sites, including the Mukachevo castle and the Solotvino salt mines (900 meters underground!), as well as our interns' business sites and schools. And finally, Dr. Pottenger signed a memorandum of agreement with the rector of Uzhgorod State Institute of

Information Sciences, Economics and Law, for purposes of possible future collaboration.



Group in Uzhgorod, Ukraine

After Uzhgorod, we loaded up on a bus and drove to Budapest, Hungary (about a four-hour drive). The most harrowing part of the trip was getting through customs on both sides of the border. Once in Budapest, we had a wonderful two days of sight-seeing, including a river cruise along the Danube - truly unforgettable!



Vologda education administrators with Fred Sington, representative of the mayor, at St. James Catholic School in Gadsden

CCP Fall 2001

Our latest group of education administrators arrived from Vologda, Russia, on September 22, 2001. This group included a representative from the Duma (Russia's parliament) education committee, Luidmila Kundina. The group spent three weeks observing and visiting schools in the Huntsville area and other schools in the state. They traveled to Montgomery to meet with Dr. Joe Morton, deputy superintendent for the State of Alabama, and with Dr. William Blow, interim director of the Alabama Commission on Higher

Education. The administrators enjoyed their stay in Huntsville and evaluated their trip with high marks.

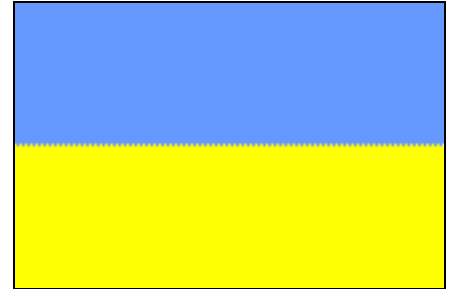
In the words of one intern, "the program allows more than acquaintance with the American educational system, but also an opportunity to know American society better, their everyday life, their traditions, to bring our countries closer together. Thank you! I invite you all to Russia."

A Host's Perspective

Kathy Neyman, Training Coordinator, Redstone Federal Credit Union, and CCP Community Mentor Coordinator

Aren't you afraid to go to Ukraine? How

will you manage without knowing the language? Why would you want to go over there? These are just a few of the questions I was asked before my two-week trip to Ukraine this past June. The answer to these questions is simple for me, because the people I am going to visit are my friends. That's right, friends!



Flag of Ukraine

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. Driver's License or Birth Certificate
3. Passport size photo (1 5/16 x 1 1/16)
4. \$22.00 check or money order
5. 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

You see, when I became involved in the Community Connections program two years ago, I never dreamed I would meet individuals from Russia and Ukraine, let alone, become very close friends with them. But it happened. As a business host and a host family, I quickly realized how important our connection is with the CCP interns. They want and need to learn about business practices. Additionally, as a host family, we really get to know each other; we realize we are all the same, even though we live thousands of miles apart. A bond develops quickly and a friendship forms. These people who live so far away are all of a sudden no longer strangers. You learn about their families, their culture, their wants and their desire to succeed in the world. You find yourself hoping the best for these newfound friends whom you may never see again. Or will you?

That's where the follow-on visits come in to play. To me, this is the "final step in the process," a step that is crucial to the success of the Community Connectons program. As CCP hosts, we have the opportunity to visit the interns, their families, and their businesses. We get to see first-hand the new processes and work habits they have implemented in their own workplaces in an effort to make a better way of life. We found that some of the interns were promoted within their businesses, some made exciting and productive changes in their workplaces, and some even ventured out to start their own businesses. We saw that we truly could make a difference, all of us working together for a better world. The follow-on visit is one of the most important parts of the program; it is the link that keeps us connected. After all, isn't that what the program is all about?

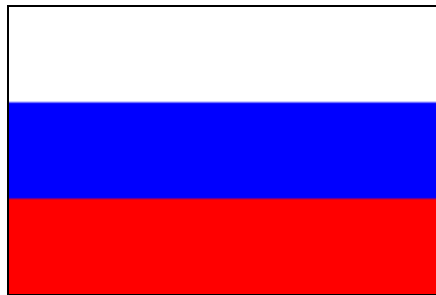
If you are considering becoming involved with the Community Connections program, I encourage you

to take that first step and just do it. If you haven't thought about it, maybe now is the time. It's never to late to get involved, make new friends, share your knowledge, and help make the world a better place.

CCP Interns for Winter 2002

Tammy B. Paltchikov, Assistant Director, OIER

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our next group in January. We are including a short biography on each participant. If you are interested in providing a homestay or business internship, please contact our office.



Russian Flag

Batig, Natalia: Ms. Batig is a realtor/partner in the real-estate agency "Variant." She founded the agency with two other partners in 1998. The agency provides purchase and sale of residential and commercial real estate, apartment exchanges, and legal paperwork procedures. In addition, since 1993 she has been teaching a self-designed program of English for children from 5-7 years old. She would like to be placed in a real estate agency, as well as an elementary school. She is interested in learning more about contract negotiations, management, advertising, public relations, and English teaching methods. Married, one daughter, Daria, 13 years old. Hobbies/Interests: Athletics, dancing, reading.

Bronshtein, Tatiana: Ms. Bronshtein is a manager in a bookstore that supplies

educational institutes of the Arkhangelsk region with textbooks and training aids. In addition, they provide consulting services in education and methodology of teaching foreign languages. She would like to be placed in a bookstore that deals with textbooks. She is interested in learning more about management and marketing. Married, 36, two sons, Andrey, 11, and Yura, 6 years old. Hobbies/Interests: Travelling, gardening, photography, museums, parks.

Chernysheva, Irina: Ms. Chernysheva is the finance director for a wholesale warehouse of clerical goods and office equipment, as well as food products and cigarettes. She is interested in office management and human resources. She would like to be placed in a supermarket-warehouse business and would like to know more about office management and human resources. Married, 38, one daughter, Alla, 10 years old. Hobbies/Interests: Kungfu/WUSHU, Tourism, classical music.

Gubanov, Danil: Mr. Gubanov is the financial director for the "Consultant" law agency. This agency provides major types of legal services (except criminal), emphasizing consultations for business contracts and documents. He would like to be placed in a law firm. He is interested in learning more about office management, finance, small business planning/start-up and personnel management. Single, 25. Hobbies/Interests: Swimming and shooting.

Maiorskikh, Mikhail: Mr. Maiorskikh is the director of a wholesale company of car chemicals and oils for the Vologda region. In 1987, he travelled to Japan to take part in internship training. He is interested in learning the American style of business, particularly within fierce competition. He would like to be placed in a wholesale oil

company. Married, 35, one daughter, Kristina, 6 years old. Hobbies/Interests: Sports, European football, tourism.

Melnikova, Irina: Ms. Melnikova is the general director of a food produce store. She wants to be placed in a mini-market. She is interested in learning more about human resources, particularly concerning professional training of staff. Single, 35, one son, Aleksandr, 14 years old. Hobbies/Interests: Travel, sports, reading, dancing.

Smotrayev, Sergey: Mr. Smotrayev is the import manager for a pulp and paper manufacturing company. His main function is procurement of chemicals, equipment and automation from abroad. He is responsible for contract negotiation, market research, and monitoring market trends. He would

like to be placed in either the pulp/paper manufacturing sector or in import/export. Single, 26. Hobbies/Interests: Computer, internet, cycling, bowling.

Sheremet, Andrey: Mr. Sheremet is the Finance Vice-Director for the company "Strug," a logging, wood-work, and timber trade company. It produces a wide range of timber products ranging from plank timber, veneer log, to lumber and edged board. As Vice-Director, he is responsible for the daily financial management (accounting, taxation, financial analysis, treaties and contracts), as well financial planning. He would like to be placed in an American wood-working company. He is interested in learning more about finance and accounting, certification of wood, management structure, the

dilemma between ecological and recreational concerns with more timber production. Married, 35, one daughter, Anna, 6 years old. Hobbies/Interests: Sports (playing basketball), Russian tsarist history, photography.

Sokolova, Evguenia: Ms. Sokolova is the managing director for her own business "Salena" that produces wood pallets from aspen trees for the U.K. She would like to be placed in a timber business in the United States, where she could learn more about advertising, shipping, buying, and finding new clients. Single, 47, two children, Elena, 20 years old, Aleksandr, 17 years old.

Tochilova, Natalia: Ms. Tochilova is general manager for an information services company that provides telecommunication components and technical service, as well as phone information for citizens and the private sector. She is interested in learning more about management, client relations, and staff relations, particularly selection of personnel. Single, 30. Hobbies/Interests: Music, swimming.

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The Office of International Education & Research



Russian business interns at RFCU

Congratulates Redstone Federal Credit Union on their 50th anniversary and salutes them for their contribution to international cooperation!

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"The Great Friendship Road" wall-hanging in Williams Technology Elementary School

The Great Friendship Road

The Partners in Education interns from Uzbekistan included eight Muslims who spoke before various community groups to discuss the nature of Islam and Uzbek culture. One example is the "Great Friendship Road" wall-hanging presented as a gift to the students of

Williams Technology Elementary School in Huntsville. The interns constructed it during their internship period at Williams.

The wall-hanging presents various articles and pictures about Uzbek culture and traditions. The principal plans to keep the wall-hanging until all students in the school have had a chance to come by to see it.



Nil Sadikov (center row, second from left) with his fellow PiE interns in Huntsville, Alabama

My Discovery of America

Dr. Nil Sadikov, associate professor, Tashkent State Economics University, Uzbekistan

(Editor's Note: Dr. Sadikov was a member of the group of educators from Uzbekistan, who participated in the Partners in Education program.)

Let me present myself. I am Nil Sadikov, associate professor of Tashkent State Economics University in Uzbekistan. I am a graduate of the Technical University and World Languages University in Tashkent. I have also delivered lectures at the Oriental Studies Institute. I am the author of four books, 12 booklets, and 250 articles on industry, education, science, culture, informatics, and business. I am presently working on a book titled *Civil Society and Its Basis:*

Non-Governmental Organizations and the Promotion of Democracy in Uzbekistan.

My first discovery of America was in 1994. I had an internship with the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. During my month-and-a-half stay, I visited New York, including the World Trade Center. As are all Americans and our Uzbek citizens, I was shocked by the terrorist attack. I am very saddened by that event, especially having my own recollections and more than two dozen pictures of the prominent twin towers; these towers are indeed the property, legacy, and heritage of mankind.

In my second discovery of America, I have been a member of the Uzbek group of educators participating in the Partners in Education, civic education program. We spent the first week of our program in Washington, D.C. We attended orientation sessions with briefings from the American Councils for International Education, the U.S. Department of State, Georgetown University, and many other public and private organizations. We also met with Rep. Bud Cramer in his office on Capitol Hill. And we visited Fordís Theater, where Abraham Lincoln was mortally wounded, and the house across the street, where he soon died; the Smithsonian Institutionís National Gallery of Art and the Museum of American History; a ballet performance at the Kennedy Center; and the Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania.



Flag of Uzbekistan



Uzbek educators with Rep. Bud Cramer in Washington, D.C.

Our five weeks in Huntsville consisted of classroom internships at Buckhorn High School, McDonnell Elementary School, Williams Technology Middle School, Butler High School, Grissom High School, and the Academy for Science and Foreign Language. In these schools, we tried to acquaint the school children with the ancient cities of Uzbekistan, including Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara, by showing slides reflecting our architectural masterpieces; I also showed examples of clothing reflecting our national dress. We visited museums in Huntsville, and we met with the Hon. Loretta Spencer, the Mayor of Huntsville.

All members of our greatly enriched Uzbek group will promote through consequent seminars, workshops, lectures, and lessons in Tashkent and the Tashkent region and in other cities throughout Uzbekistan the knowledge and experience in civic and citizenship education we received in America. I am very grateful to all the schools of Alabama we visited, our family hosts and hostesses, and everybody who assisted us in our being in America. I hope to continue my discovery of America and to strengthen friendly links of our countries in a third visit

Alumni News



Hurshi and Akbar, UAH graduates serving in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan

All males in Uzbekistan are required to serve a term in the Army. Our UMID scholars and UAH graduates are no exception, albeit at a reduced amount of time (normally two months). Two of our former students, Hurshi Shamsitdinov (B.A., Finance, 2000) and Akbar Avilyaev (M.S., Computer Science, 2001), sent us news about their military service. According to Hurshi, "We had to walk for miles under the sun during the hottest months of the year and we had to live in small camping-shelters that we made for ourselves. I would say that the army has taught me to be brave, to be able to cooperate and that there are hard-working people who are protecting the citizens at the borders."



Evgueni Zemskov's travel agency in Saransk, the Republic of Mordovia, Russian Federation

In an interview during our follow-on trip this summer, Evgueni Zemskov (Community Connections program, Spring 2001) shared with us some of the

insights that he gained during his internship at Adventure Travel in Huntsville. He was particularly surprised by the fact that the employees are governed by terms and conditions rather than a signed contract. In Saransk, he is often questioned about business start-up practices in the U.S., allowing him to share the knowledge that he gained from his briefing at the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce.



Flag of the Republic of Mordovia, Russia

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(CONGRATS!)



Bobir and Jurabek with UAH President Frank Franz

We would like to congratulate Jurabek Mirzamahmudov (B.S., Chemistry) and Bobirkhon Ismailov (B.S. Computer Science), both UMID scholars graduating from UAH this fall. They will return to their homeland in Uzbekistan to pursue careers and family. We want to wish them both success and happiness in their future endeavors!

Upcoming Events

January 18 - February 18, 2002
Huntsville, Alabama
Hosting Opportunity

Ten Russian businessmen and women from Vologda/Arkhangelsk, Russia, will arrive for a four-week internship period. (See bios on page 3.) Host families and businesses needed!

March 29 - April 28, 2002
Huntsville, Alabama
Hosting Opportunity

Ten Belarussian businessmen and women from Minsk, Belarus, will arrive for a four-week internship period. Host families and businesses needed!

October/November, 2002
Huntsville, Alabama
Hosting Opportunity

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

For more information, please call 824-6055.

Historic Anniversaries

10th anniversary of the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, December 25, 1991.

50th anniversary of the attack on U.S. naval forces by the Japanese Imperial Navy at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

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Make a Difference in International Relations!

Help Us Make A Difference! A contribution to UAH's Office of International Education & Research will help us to continue to provide opportunities for international cooperation and understanding. Current projects include:

- Community Connections - nationwide training program for businesspeople and educators from the NIS
- Study abroad scholarships - to allow American students to explore their role in the global community
- International students - to assist students in making a smooth transition into the UAH and Huntsville community

Yes! I would like to make a donation! Enclosed is a check in the amount of _____.

_____ Sponsor (\$1,000) _____ Contributor (\$500) _____ Host (\$250) _____ Donor (\$75) _____ Friend (\$25) _____ Other
 All donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to UAH Foundation/OIER.

Please send me information about: family hosting business internships

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail to: OIER, Morton Hall Room 126, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL, 35899



The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Office of International Education & Research
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 University of Alabama In Huntsville
 Huntsville, Alabama 35899

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