

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Introduction to OIER
- 2 International Student Identity Cards
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 4 Community Connections Program

OIER  
Morton Hall Room 308  
University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Huntsville, Alabama 35899  
Phone: (256) 890-6055  
Fax: (256) 890-6142  
Email: oier@email.uah.edu

# OIER

## Newsletter

### Who are we?

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

#### **Purpose**

Recognizing the increasing number of internationally-related activities by university faculty and researchers as well as international students on campus, in Spring 1994 UAH established the Office of International Education and Research (OIER). With support from the Office of the Vice President for Research, the OIER extends and promotes the mission of UAH to the international arena.

The OIER provides support for 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 develops programs to bring international students and foreign faculty members to UAH for continuation of their educational and research objectives. Finally, the OIER seeks outside resources and opportunities to improve curriculum and teaching pedagogy related to international studies at UAH.

#### **Organization**

The organization of the OIER presently consists of a director, an assistant director, and a program assistant. The OIER offices are located in Morton Hall, Room 308.

The director of the OIER is Dr. John R. Pottenger, associate professor of political science.



Dr. John R. Pottenger

Dr. Pottenger is fluent in Portuguese, with a good working knowledge of Spanish and beginning levels of Russian. He has considerable international experience in Russia and Brazil, as well as other parts of Latin America. Dr. Pottenger has published widely on philosophical topics related to social transformation in Latin America.

Dr. Pottenger is also the director of the Space Orientation office in the Division of Continuing Education. The office conducts space science education programs in Huntsville; Washington D.C.; and Russia. The international programs are coordinated with the OIER.

The assistant director in the OIER is Ms. Tammy B. Paltchikov. Ms. Paltchikov is a graduate of the UAH Slavic Area Studies program, with an emphasis on the Russian language. Ms. Paltchikov participated in a year-long, study abroad program in Minsk, Belarus. In addition, Ms. Paltchikov was chosen for a six-week program at Moscow State University during the summer of 1997, funded by the U.S.

Department of Education, through the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR).



Ms. Tammy B. Paltchikov

The program assistant in the OIER is

Ms. Anita L. Rathz. Ms. Rathz has been involved with the coordination and development of several U.S.-Russian educational programs in conjunction with state, national, and international agencies, including the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Alabama State Department of Education, Moscow Aviation Institute, and Krasnoyarsk State University.

**Professional Affiliations**

The OIER or the director has been designated by the President of UAH as the institutional representative to the following organizations:

*Alabama Council of International Programs (ACIP)*

*Council of International Educational Exchange (CIEE)*

*Fulbright Programs*

*Mellon Scholarships*

*NAFSA - National Association of International Educators*

*National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC)*

*National Security Education Programs (NSEP)*

*Rhodes Scholarships*

*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. You must have one of the following for acceptable proof:

**STUDENT PROOF**

- Photocopy of school ID for academic year
- School declaration with seal
- Letter on school stationery from dean
- Photocopy of transcript for academic year

**TEACHER PROOF**

- Photocopy of faculty ID
- Letter on school stationery from chair

3. Passport size photo (1 5/16 x 1 1/16)
4. \$20.00 check or money order

**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  |                                  |



Ms. Anita L. Rathz

In addition, the OIER receives considerable information from a wide range of institutions on myriad international programs and opportunities for students and faculty.

**Programs/Services**

Community Connections

The OIER responded to an RFP from USIA to participate in the Community Connections program. The OIER's proposal, evaluated on a number of factors including costs shared by the grantee, was one of 42 organizations nationwide to be selected. The OIER is the only organization in the state of Alabama to host the program. (See more on CCP on page 4.)

Gregory N. Cox joins the OIER staff as a program co-director in the CCP program. Mr. Cox is a research scientist at the Global Hydrology and Climate Center (GHCC). He has considerable experience with environmental science education programs in southern Russia.



Mr. Gregory N. Cox

International Students

The OIER plays an active role with international students on-campus. The office director serves as the faculty advisor for the UAH Council of International Students (CIS). In addition, the OIER serves as contact point for the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) that is sponsoring students participating in the USIA Freedom Support Act and *Umid* Presidential Scholars. Under these programs 17 students have been or are now attending UAH from the following countries of the former Soviet Union: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

ACE Project

As a result of a grant awarded by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), the OIER will administer the *Alabama Classroom Enhancement (ACE) Project*. Under the project, a limited number of scholarships of up to \$3000 each for independent study will be awarded to teachers who have been nominated by their superintendents and who have submitted meritorious proposals

approved by appropriate review committees. Selection process began May 1, 1999.

Faculty/Student 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 50 students have received OIER assistance, financial and otherwise. Several faculty members have also been provided 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 in locating an appropriate program for students, the OIER has worked with the UAH Office of Student Enrollment to devise a computer tracking system to allow students to retain their status as UAH students while studying or working abroad. The following non-credit course designations have been designed and approved, and are now currently in use:

ISP 001 -- International Study Program:  
[country]

IWP 001 -- International Work Program: [country]

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. (For more information, see page 2.)

For more information about OIER programs or services, please feel free to drop by our office at Morton Hall,

## Upcoming Events

**July 25 – August 15, 1999**

**Moscow, Russia**  
***CCP Follow-on Project***

The OIER office staff and members of the community (10) will travel to Moscow, Yaroslavl', Yekaterinburg and St. Petersburg, Russia to conduct follow-on activities with CCP alumni from both 97-98 and 98-99 program years. Upcoming issues will include articles about this activity.

**August 18, 1999**

**UAH**  
***ACTR Students Arrival***

ACTR students arrive to UAH campus to begin or continue their studies.

**October 13-November 13, 1999**

**Huntsville, Alabama**  
***Hosting Opportunity***

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

**January 19-February 26, 2000**

**Huntsville, Alabama**  
***Hosting Opportunity***

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

**April 12-April 29, 2000**

**Huntsville, Alabama**  
***Hosting Opportunity***

Ten Russian professionals will arrive for a three-week internship period. Host families needed!

**For more information, please call 890-6055.**

June 1999

Room 308 from 8:15 to 5:00 daily (closed from 12:00 to 1:00). We look forward to meeting you!

## CCP 1998-1999

*Tammy B. Paltchikov, Assistant Director, OIER*

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

As we begin another year of CCP (1999-2000), we take the time to reflect on the lessons learned and ways to expand the program to more members

of the community. A noteworthy change was the inclusion of short-term internships at a bank and credit union. This allowed the interns to learn more about the backbone of the American economy and the interaction of small businesses with financial institutions. To date, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Colonial Bank, and Southtrust Bank have graciously provided these 2-3 day internships for the entire group of ten interns.

This year also brought us our first group of Presidential Management Training Initiative (PMTI) interns. The PMTI interns participate under a special agreement with the Russian government. We were very excited to have the opportunity to expand our Huntsville program in such a way.

As we look back, we are reminded of a comment from a past homestay host regarding the value of the program:

*We are definitely a global community now. The more we do to "make the connections," the better. (Spring 1999)*

It is our goal to ensure that each program builds upon the others for support and connections. Our follow-on project in Russia this summer is a major part of reaching this goal. Keeping in touch with the individuals and businesses that contributed to the success of the program is an integral part of the Huntsville Community Connections program!



PMTI Winter 99 Interns at RFCU



# UAH

**The University of Alabama in Huntsville**

Office of International Education & Research  
Morton Hall Room 308  
University of Alabama In Huntsville  
Huntsville, Alabama 35899

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

A Space Grant College  
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution