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Joint Workshops for Education Reform

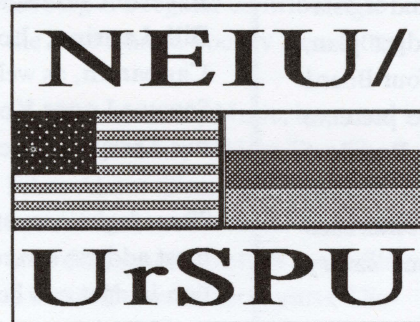
The second of two USIA-funded joint workshops between the Northeastern College of Education and Urals State Pedagogical University (UrSPU) was held April 19-21 at NEIU. Sixteen Russian faculty made presentations in the three areas of educational leadership, instructional/curricular design and special education. In May 1993 NEIU faculty had made presentations in these same areas at UrSPU in the partnership's first joint conference in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

Lynne Reynolds, Special Education, who, as special assistant to the president, organized the workshops, told **fyi**: "Our initial job was to help bring them up to speed on the world scene. But the workshops were also productive. They worked hard the entire time they were here (April 1-30). We are hooking people up by E-Mail to get going on joint research projects." After the workshops in Ekaterinburg "they actually turned around, did research and experimented with the things we brought there. They are applying the information in their own way and getting results."

Educational Leadership

The Educational Leadership group worked on case studies to develop the basis for a new program to train educational leaders in Russia. They have

never trained educational leaders because they have always been political appointments. Janet Fredericks, Educational Foundations, who was



a participant in the Educational Leadership sessions, told **fyi**: "the 'case method' and the 'ill-structured problem-solving' approach were used as the basis for discussion and finding options and solutions." (cont. p. 4)

Campus Building Update

- **D Building** - Asbestos removal completed; remodeling on schedule; all occupants to move back this December.
 - **Science Building** - Masonry and roof work completed, landscaping being restored; painting of hallways and classrooms, repair of water damaged walls to be completed by fall semester.
 - **New vehicle access road** to cross southeast corner of library and join parking lots M and K, south and east of library; B drive area to be landscaped. Completion in August 1994.
 - **New Library Roof** - This project has been completed on schedule. This is the last major reroofing project.
- See the September **fyi** for more campus building project news.

The Ministry Conference on Partnerships

Impressed with the work of the highly successful workshop conference in Ekaterinburg, the Russian Ministry of Education, in July 1993, requested NEIU to assist Russia in establishing other soundly-based, enduring partnerships in higher education by inviting presidents and provosts from across the nation to attend a conference in the Chicago area with officials from the ministry and rectors from nine pedagogical universities in the Urals mountain region.

President Lamb and Shirley Neal, executive assistant to the president, began planning the conference in July 1993. Funded by the Soros Foundation, the conference, held on April 11-13 at the Radisson Hotel in Lincolnwood, brought together 30 U.S. presidents and provosts with four ministry officials and nine rectors.

The conference allowed the Americans to have one-on-one meetings with ministry officials and rectors. Education Minister, Evgheni Tkachenko, was assisted by deputy ministers Elena Lenskaya, on the international aspects of partnerships, Margarita Kostikova, on the challenges in teacher training reform, and Elena Podosenova, on research in pedagogical universities. (cont. p. 2)

The BGU Chancellor's Column

The articles appearing in this column are prepared for the FYI newsletter by the Board of Governors Universities Chancellor Thomas D. Layzell. Northeastern, Chicago State, Governors State, Western Illinois and Eastern Illinois Universities operate under the direction of the Board of Governors Universities (BGU).

State Funding Decisions Coming Soon

The legislative session is fast drawing to a close and legislators have yet to reach agreement on a state budget plan, including funding for Northeastern and the other four Board of Governors Universities. We are still working to preserve the level of funding recommended by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Governor Edgar, **which would provide NEIU with a \$1.5 million, or 3.4 percent increase over last year. Funds for average 3.5 percent salary increases are included in that figure.**

Right now, all higher education budget bills are headed toward conference committee, and they will be part of a final budget deal worked out between the House and Senate.

(Conference - cont. from p. 1) Other experts who assisted included Dan Davidson, executive director, American Council of Teachers of Russian, Igor E. Kurov, president, Association of Teacher Training Universities of Russia, and Ann Muravieva, deputy director, Soros Foundation.

In his address Minister Tkachenko praised Lamb for his leadership: "President Lamb deserves high praise for conducting a well-organized, highly substantive conference and for successfully convening **30 American university leaders from across the United States** to meet with our ministry party and visiting rectors."

Tkachenko said that the ministry was interested in establishing many strong

partnerships and that "the NEIU/UrSPU partnership serves as an excellent model." Several partnerships were initiated at the conference.

"The outstanding priority, which the ministry wished the Americans to understand," Shirley Neal told the **fyi**, is "the **democratization and humanization of the Russian education system**: to teach these values and through teacher training pass them on through the schools. It's giving students more say in their education."

"At the end of the ministry conference," Neal continued, "the participants **stood up and asked President Lamb to continue coordinating this new coalition** of American and Russian universities to provide a network

NEIU is fortunate to have solid support from its area legislators and legislative alumni. Of special note is Representative **Bob Biggins** (R-Elmhurst), who knows NEIU's funding inequities and has pledged to help his alma mater. Rep. Biggins is one of the "budgeteers," as they're called, and he will be involved in drafting the budget deal.

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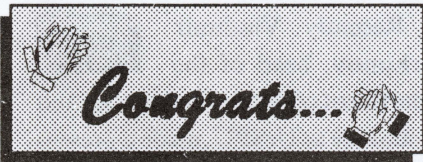
Senator **Walter Dudycz** (D-Chicago) and Representatives **Harold Murphy** (D-Maywood) and **Coy Pugh** (D-Chicago) also hold NEIU degrees and have been very helpful in promoting NEIU and its funding needs.

Our area legislators are also important to us, including Senators **Howie Carroll**, **Art Berman**, **Miguel del Valle**, **Earlean Collins**, and **Margaret Smith**, and Representatives **Bill Laurino**, **Lovana Jones**, **Miguel Santiago**, **Ralph Capparelli**, as well as our chief appropriations bill sponsors: Senator **Laura Kent Donahue** (R-Quincy) and Representative **Terry A. Steczo** (D-Oak Forest).

These legislators strongly support the BGU universities but must address several critical issues **before** any higher education budget can be balanced. Medicaid remains the primary problem but special committees and task forces are also meeting to deal with long-term pension funding, riverboat gambling and purchasing reform. We will keep the universities apprised of future legislative developments.

newsletter so they weren't reinventing the wheel and to exchange ideas to organize group travel to Russia to develop partnerships and, possibly, to have future international conferences. So, we now have here at Northeastern an organization called **RAISE**, or Russian American Initiative to Support Education. Under this umbrella the President will be conducting some of these activities in the future.

"Also, following the conference the President received many letters of appreciation from presidents all over the U.S. as well as from the Russian people, thanking him for doing this very important work. **As many of them noted, this is the way to help Russia sustain its democracy.**"



JOE ACCARDI, Library, made the presentation, "What's New? What's on the Horizon? Integrating New Technology in the Academic Library" for a conference in Madison, Wis., on "The Academic Library in the Electronic Age," June 8-10.

LUCRECIA ARTALEJO, Foreign Languages and Literatures, presented a paper, "Orfeo y Cleopatra: entre Miguel de Unamuno y Renaldo Arenas" in the session "La Objetividad del otro como fórmula de construcción subjetiva en la narrativa y drama contemporáneos" on May 24 at the 14th Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures.

A paper by **NETIVA CAFTORI**, Computer Science, "Educational Effectiveness of Computer Software," will appear as a feature article in *T.H.E. Journal*, tentatively scheduled for the August 1994 issue. . . . Wearing her "second hat," Caftori is exhibiting some of her art works at the Artful Angles Gallery in Evanston (614 Dempster; open daily 11:00 a.m.-dusk) to February 1995.

IVA CARRUTHERS, Sociology, gave the keynote address Sunday, April 10, for the National Education Association's national conference on "The New Learning Environment/ Serving Diversity through Technology" in Albuquerque, N.M. Carruther's topic was "Technology and Diversity: Breaking Barriers to Make a Difference."

RENNY GOLDEN, Criminal Justice and Women's Studies, was a key-

note speaker for the University of Maine's Peace and Justice Speakers Forum on April 21. Golden spoke on Salvadoran women and elections.

TOM HOBERG, English, presented a paper, "Arthur Among the Whigs," at the 29th Annual Conference of the Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, on May 9. . . . Hoberg introduced a speaker and presided over the awards for best essay at the annual Jane Austen Society Chicago Gala, Saturday, May 15. Hoberg is a regular contributor to the Jane Austen Society Newsletter.

ELYSE MACH, Music, is quoted in the new hit film, "Thirty-Two Short Films About Glenn Gould," which has received rave reviews. Mach, the only Chicagoan involved in the film, does voice-over in some parts. Dialogue from her book, *Great Contemporary Pianists Speak for Themselves*, is also used in the film. Mach has described Glenn Gould as "the James Dean of classical music."

EDWARD ODISHO, Curriculum & Instruction, presented his paper, "Know Your Language 'One' to Better Learn Your Language 'Two,'" at the Illinois TESOL/Bilingual 21st Annual State Convention, at the Radisson Hotel, Lincolnwood in March. . . . Odisho presented "Multiculturalism: Textbook Version or Real-Life Version" to the faculty and staff of St. Augustine's College in Chicago in April.

ANGELINA PEDROSO, Foreign Languages and Literatures, was the keynote speaker at the 14th Annual Awards and Installations Banquet of Latinos involved in Further Education, student chapter of The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and The Society of Hispanic Profes-

sional Architects at the Illinois Institute of Technology, April 29. Her topic was the pursuit of excellence in education and students' commitment to and involvement with the Hispanic community during the years they spend in school and after graduation.

LAURA SANDERS, Earth Science, was awarded a \$750 scholarship to attend a short course on "Mathematical Modeling of Groundwater Flow" May 12-14, in Columbus, Ohio.

ELKIN SITHOLE, Inner City Studies, lectured on "Influences of African Music on American Music" at Tulane University on April 8.

EDWARD STUART, Economics and International/Intercultural Studies, chaired a session on "Twentieth Century History" at the Midwest Slavic Conference on April 30 at Northeastern. . . . More importantly, however, Stuart fulfilled a major professional/personal goal for the spring 1994 semester by running and completing his first Boston Marathon on April 18.

MARYLENE WHITEHEAD, Project Success, invited as a delegate to the Third International Women Playwright's Conference in Australia this July, received an additional honor with the selection of her one-act play, "The Forbidden Place," for performance at the conference. The play won 1st place in the Hoyt Fuller Play Festival in 1987. The play has been produced by Chicago State University and Sankofa Theater Company.



(Workshops - cont. from p. 1) Jeanne Baxter, Educational Foundations, said "problem-based learning was a new learning approach for many and demonstrated the interactive learning to which we are committed."

Following grant guidelines, four objectives were accomplished by the participants, Fredericks said: 1) issues of mutual importance in leadership education in Russia and the U.S. were identified; 2) a deeper understanding of the opportunities and constraints in the U.S. and Russian education systems were reached; 3) faculty to faculty research initiatives and projects in leadership education were strengthened; and 4) with their visits to area schools, the Russians were introduced to university/school partnerships. The learning worked both ways: Elaine Koffman, Educational Foundations, saw different types of school-university partnerships both in the Chicago area and Russia and "it stimulated me to reflect on my own role in Northeastern's relationship with Mozart Elementary School."

Instructional/Curricular Design

The Instructional/Curricular Design people, along with developing materials to take back, produced a videotape on demonstration that could be used in both countries for teacher training. With education reform, curricular change and teacher training become big issues. The Russians visited many schools and talked with our teaching graduate students and Chicago and suburban public school pupils. They talked with immigrant Russian students at Mark Twain Elementary School in Niles (District 63) and were interviewed by the Russian radio station. "They were impressed with how humanistic we are with students," Janet Bercik, Curriculum and Instruction, and coordinator,

Clinical Experiences and Student Teaching, observed. "They never had this kind of interaction with students, or even teachers before, but they are beginning to now."

Special Education

One of the major tasks was to help the Special Education group to "develop a philosophical statement, to figure out what it is they believe, because they need a great deal of reform in the area of special education," Reynolds said. "They needed to see what we did here, so they spent most of their time going from school to school. What really came out of the workshop and the month's activity was this clarifying of their thinking. We did develop a philosophical statement for them to take back, share with their faculty and come to some agreement."

Two objectives the Russian special ed teachers have set for the next few years, Patricia Schutt, Special Education, said, are "to review their own programs and bring them more in line with current thinking in the field of special ed; and to change their policies for people with disabilities."

What's Ahead?

There will be many more exchanges on this first grant, and a second USIA grant which involves other areas such as economics, marketing, business and finance, and continuing education has already been applied for. There are several joint authorship projects, including a textbook that can be used in Russia and the U.S. to prepare school leaders. Dr. Lioudmila Roubina, chair, Sociology, UrSPU, and co-director of the USIA grant, said she "learned that many of our educational problems and concerns are similar even though our histories and cultures differ."

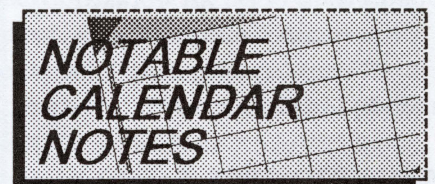
■ Recently Vladimir Korkunov, head of the Department of Special Pedagogics and Psychology at UrSPU, made a presentation at the Council for Exceptional Children convention in Denver on special ed reform in Russia.

■ Nancy Fellows, Educational Foundations, and a group of principals went to Russia to initiate partnerships with comparable Russian schools and to provide computer equipment that will enhance those partnerships.

■ Fellows and Ellen Fiedler, Special Education, spent the month of June in Russia setting up an instructional support center with computers and software through the USIA grant.

Recognition Dinner Proceeds

Over 370 people participated in the NEIU 1994 Recognition Dinner on May 7. Net proceeds amount to over \$63,500. This was the second most successful Northeastern Recognition Dinner in history. The monies raised will be evenly divided by the NEIU Foundation Board between the university's minority scholarship program and small grants for faculty research and scholarly projects.



Tue., July 15-Thur., July 17: Ensemble Español's American Spanish Dance Festival; 8:00 p.m., July 17 at 3:00 p.m. . . . **Thur., July 21:** Graduate Recital, Brian Kabat, baritone; 7:30 p.m. . . . **Thur., July 28:** guest artist Mark Valenti, pianist; 2:30 p.m. . . . **Tue., Aug. 9:** Graduate Recital, Joan Welles, soprano; 7:30 p.m. . . . **Wed., Aug. 10:** NEIU Summer Opera Workshop Scene Recital; 7:30 p.m. (All events in Auditorium; admission, free.)