



# CCR Alumni Newsletter



IREX

*Business for Russia, Community Connections, PMTI*

Spring 2002

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Dear CCR Alumni:

Welcome to the Spring edition of the 2002 CCR Alumni Newsletter. This publication was previously called the BFR Newsletter and printed only in English for our English-speaking BFR alumni. The number of alumni from CC professional programs has grown extraordinarily over the years (since the programs inception in 1997) and this year we are producing the newsletter in Russian as well, so that alumni who do not speak English can also enjoy it. At this point in time, Russia has approximately 3200 Business for Russian alumni, 1200 Community Connections Professional alumni, and roughly 300 PMTI alumni. All of you are Community Connections-Russia alumni.

It is important for ECA, the US Embassy, IREX, and host organizations to keep in touch with you. We are always excited to hear about any developments in your professional lives that you wish to share with us. Furthermore, we like to encourage CCR alumni to stay in contact with each other. To this end we promote and sponsor alumni events or activities, which provide an opportunity for you to take part in seminars, training, or in some kind of social event.

We encourage all of you to write us and let us know of your interests in participating in alumni events, or simply share with us a story about your participation in the program, or how the program has impacted your personal or professional lives. So, please keep in touch. We want to hear from you!

Kind regards,  
Steve Mackey  
CCR Program Director

## Business Incubator

*Vladimir Novikov (Moscow – PMTI, Hayward, CA, 1999)*

In the fall of 1999, I went to the U.S on an internship under the PMTI program. I consider it to be very helpful and successful. We were hosted by the California State University (CSU) of Hayward. CSU's staff organized our stay in the U.S. They placed us with host businesses, helped us get used to the new environment, and answered our questions. I would like to express a great gratitude to the host organization, and special thanks to, Julie Faulkner and Bruce MacNab, who worked with us "on-line", without weekends, and did more than just a job.

During my internship I was particularly impressed by the concentration of business activities in Silicon Valley. It looked like a paradise for people and companies to create and develop new ideas, a paradise for new technologies.



*Vladimir Novikov (right) with alumni at the BFR Conference in Moscow*

After coming back to Moscow, I met with my colleagues from the PMTI and BFR programs and we agreed to create an informal union to help each other in different business situations. Then we decided to pay more attention to our business trade union, as we called it, and to transform it into an association. We came to the conclusion that the most suitable form of an association should be business incubator, an organization that helps start-ups develop in an accelerated fashion by providing such services as office space, funds, coaching, common services and networking connections. Statistics show that 62 percent of business incubators operate in the United States, the majority located in California. After what we saw in Silicon Valley, we realized that we were on the right track.

Three main things are needed for successful operation of a business incubator. First of all, there should be a group of enthusiastic people with new ideas (participants of BFR or PMTI programs are such people). Then, the ideas should be evaluated by appropriate professionals. As a result of long-term negotiations with the management of the Academy of National Economy which we graduated from, we decided that the expert evaluation and coaching for association projects will be done by ANE teachers and consultants. Of course, funds are needed for business incubator activities. We welcome different kinds of investors under concrete projects. Currently three projects have been launched.

We are open for cooperation. Information about our association can be found at [www.ane.ru](http://www.ane.ru). Please contact me if you'll have any questions or suggestions at [cr-master@mtu-net.ru](mailto:cr-master@mtu-net.ru).

## Not Only Business



*Victor Chauzov at the Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Co., Dallas, TX*

### *Victor Chauzov (N. Novgorod – BFR, Dallas, TX, 2001)*

At last all of the selection stages were behind us and we were at the airport in Moscow. The flight, lasting many hours, did not seem tiresome due to all of the positive emotions we felt. Monica DeLorenzo and Lorraine Zelinski, the Community Connections Program Coordinators gave us a cordial welcome upon our arrival in Dallas. We spent first two days in a comfortable hotel in the center; and orientation seminars and a city sightseeing tour quickly helped us to adapt to our new environment. Every member of our group felt the care with which our social program was organized. Thanks to Ed Hudson, I visited an art gallery and a symphonic orchestra. It was unforgettable.

Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Co. impressed me the most. This was the first of four host companies (DAIco Building Supplies, Home Depot, Boise Cascade Building Materials) specializing in wholesale trade in building materials. In 2001 this company celebrated their 100 year anniversary. The modern warehouses were filled not only with qualitative building materials but also a friendly and warm atmosphere. Mr. Jack Foxworth, the financial director of the company, organized a very useful business program, taking into account my preferences. The doors of all departments were open to me.

Our internship coincided with President Putin's visit to Texas and it was pleasant to note that many Americans showed a huge interest in our country. My trip to the USA helped me not only to expand my business outlook, but also to establish friendly contacts with people.

## CCR Alumni Newsletter

*Compiled and edited by Anna Poluarshinova and CCR staff*

The CCR Alumni Newsletter is produced by the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) with support from the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the US Embassy in Moscow. Funding for the publication is provided by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), US Department of State. The Newsletter is a quarterly publication and is available free of charge from IREX offices in Moscow, Vladivostok and Washington, and from ECA/PAS. Its purpose is to disseminate information about the Community Connections - Russia program and its participants, and to facilitate communication between and among program participants and their American hosts.

Submission of announcements, feature stories, interviews, and photographs is encouraged, if the materials are in the spirit of the Newsletter. We are currently accepting articles for upcoming issues of the CCR Alumni Newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article, please contact Anna Poluarshinova at IREX/Moscow. Photos are also welcome. We would also be interested in any comments or suggestions that you may have. Starting 2002 the Newsletter is available in Russian for those alumni who do not speak English.

Community Connections - Russia is a bilateral government-sponsored program providing five-week internships for Russian entrepreneurs at American businesses in communities across the United States. The program is organized and funded by ECA. The recruitment and selection of the candidates is administered by IREX.

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## Chicago Experience in NGO Development

### *Liudmila Korennykh (Barnaul – CC/NGO Development, Chicago, IL, 2001)*

Liudmila Korennykh, President of the local Altai NGO “Khrustalny Shar” (“The Crystal Sphere”) and the Civil Forum delegate from Barnaul, managed to fulfill all of the goals and tasks she set for herself during her internship. Liudmila believes that she can make great improvements in the work and activity of her NGO in a number of ways thanks to her internship.

Liudmila values her internship experience in Chicago. She was provided with the opportunity to get acquainted with practical experience of two large centers and an educational institution. Liudmila's organization provides assistance to women, teenagers and youth. Their main goals are helping people overcome their personal problems through training and consulting. Due to the information she obtained at the Chicago crisis center, her organization will be able to implement, and to foresee problems they may have, which Chicago faced about 120 year ago.

*Continued on page 4 "ALTAI NGO"*

## CCR Recruitment -2002

### Business for Russia

**Amur** (Blagoveschensk): 18 March – 19 April  
**Chukotka**: 27 May – 28 June  
**Chuvashia** (Cheboksary): 29 July – 23 August  
**Kaliningrad**: 27 May – 28 June  
**Khabarovsk**: 25 March – 26 April  
**Magadan**: 20 May – 21 June  
**Moscow Region**: 27 May – 12 July  
**Murmansk**: 20 May – 21 June  
**Novgorod**: 15 July – 16 August  
**Orenburg**: 27 May – 28 June  
**Primorski Krai** (Vladivostok): 1 July – 20 September  
**Samara**: 20 May – 21 June  
**Sverdlovsk** (Yekaterinburg): 15 July – 16 August  
**Udmurtiya** (Izhevsk): 22 July – 23 August  
**Yaroslavl**: 25 March – 26 April

### Community Connections Professional Program

**Amur** (Blagoveschensk) - NGO Development, Public Health: 18 March – 19 April  
**Buryatiya** (Ulan-Ude) – Historical&Cultural Preservation, Tourism Development, Urban Planning: 18 March – 12 April  
**Chukotka** - Public Health: 27 May – 28 June  
**Chuvashia** (Cheboksary) - NGO Development, Information Access: 29 July – 23 August

**Kaliningrad** - NGO Development, Tourism Development: 27 May – 28 June  
**Khabarovsk** – Criminal Justice, Urban Planning: 25 March – 26 April  
**Magadan** - NGO Development, Youth Advocacy: 20 May – 21 June  
**Murmansk** - Information Access, Youth Advocacy: 20 May – 21 June  
**Nizhny Novgorod** - Criminal Justice, Urban Planning, Information Access: 28 January – 22 February  
**Novgorod** - Criminal Justice, Urban Planning: 15 July – 16 August  
**Orenburg** - Information Access, Youth Advocacy: 27 May – 28 June  
**Penza** - NGO Development, Historical&Cultural Preservation: 18 March – 12 April  
**Primorski Krai** (Vladivostok) - Historical&Cultural Preservation, Information Access, Public Health: 28 January – 28 February  
**Sakha** (Yakutsk) - Tourism Development, Urban Planning: 20 May – 28 June  
**Samara** - Criminal Justice, Public Health: 20 May – 21 June  
**Sverdlovsk** (Yekaterinburg) - Criminal Justice, Information Access: 15 July – 16 August  
**Tomsk** - Tourism Development, Urban Planning: 28 January – 22 February  
**Udmurtiya** (Izhevsk) - Historical&Cultural Preservation, Youth Advocacy: 22 July – 23 August  
**Yaroslavl** - Public Health, Tourism Development: 25 March – 26 April

## Bashkortostan Public Health Professionals Trained in Mississippi

*Boris Rubtsov (Ufa – CC/Public Health, Jackson, MS, 2001)*



*Boris Rubtsov in the U.S. medical center*

In February 2001, a group of 12 professionals in public health from Bashkortostan were hosted by the Mississippi Consortium for International Development, Jackson, MS.

The program included visits to health and medical institutions. Among them I would mention particularly the visit to the State of Mississippi Department of Health and a meeting with its head, Dr. Thompson. Meeting with a health insurance professional, whose name was George Dale, was also interesting.

There are five major medical centers in Jackson, most of them private. There are public ones also. We visited all of these centers and had meetings with their CEOs. We also inspected the work of different health departments. All of our questions were given clear, complete and detailed answers. We managed to come to learn about different methods they used for treating patients.

We visited a private ambulance company and were told about how it functions. Two of us who spoke English, were offered an opportunity ride along during one of the shifts. When the program was over, each participant compiled a business plan, in which we wrote about using the knowledge and experience gained during our internship when back in Russia.

My general impression about the U.S. health system is that it is rational and functions well. I learned a lot during my program in the U.S. about the care given to people from all walks of life: young and old, rich and poor. It was especially interesting to learn about the policy of "managed medical care" and some of the pros and cons of this new approach to health care in the U.S.

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## We Have Seen the Future

*Ric and Meg Singson, CSU Hayward, CA*

“We have the seen the future”. This was a comment made by one of the participants during the awards ceremony for the Community Connections group from Astrakhan. The group recently spent one month at California State University, Hayward, which is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, next to Silicon Valley, the high-tech capital of the world. Seeing what is in the realm of possibilities raises the aspirations of the first generation of Russian entrepreneurs.

The participants particularly enjoyed their visit to San Francisco, which is one of the top tourist destinations in the world. After a brief courtesy call at the Russian Consulate in San Francisco, the group was given an orientation tour of the City. They were most impressed with the diversity of the region and how it is contributing to the dynamic economic and cultural life of the area.



*BFR participants from Astrakhan*

Friendships were established with both host families and business contacts. As a group they were hosted by a wide variety of companies including Hewlett-Packard, Oracle, Cisco Systems, and the New United Motors Car factory. The group was most impressed to be welcomed by the Russian Flag flying in front of the Executive Briefing Center of Cisco Systems, Inc. Other visits included the Jelly Belly factory, Budweiser, the Capitol, and the Monterey Aquarium. Their individual internship training included a variety of businesses that reflected the interest of the participants. Hosting companies included Yoshi's, a world famous jazz club and restaurant, Chevy's Restaurant, Hometown Buffet, Black Diamond Brewery, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Western Appliances, SBC Pacific Bell, Plastikon, Specialty AC, Alta Bates Hospital, and Software Advance Training Institute.

In addition to their business training, participants had the opportunity to observe American life and culture through their home-stay with host families. Some host families brought their guests to visit various points of interest in California. Long-term friendships were established with some of the host families, who, like the staff at Cal State, Hayward, thoroughly enjoyed the experience of getting to know our guests from Astrakhan, Russia.

*"ALTAI NGO" continued from page 2*

During the internship program organized by Heartland International, Liudmila was able to establish contacts with Morgan Park Academy and with the local women's organization “Coroptimist”. As a result of these discussions, Liudmila began organizing a club for Altay businesswomen upon her return to Russia.

Upon her return, Liudmila held a round table discussion for state, educational and noncommercial structures, and small and medium businesses, concerning the internship results and the experience gained during her internship in Chicago.

Liudmila Korenykh recommends increasing the number of practical classes, for example, in fund-raising, and advises participants to better prepare themselves in advance before participating in the internship.

Liudmila thanks all organizers of internship and her family hosts Kerry and Bruce Otto.

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## State Support of Business

*Konstantin Voitsekhovskiy (Penza – CC/Business Development, Columbus, OH, 2001)*

As the leader of an association of entrepreneurs, it was very interesting to get acquainted with the activities of such business institutions as the Chamber of Commerce of Columbus, the Columbus Rotary Club, the Ohio Bureau of Better Business, the State Secretariat of business registration, the Administration of the Governor and other state and nongovernment organizations dealing with small business support.

As a result of meetings in all those organizations, I managed to gain a lot of useful information. In my practical activity I plan to use the experience of the Columbus Rotary Club, the Ohio Bureau of Better Business and other U.S. institutions of business support at all levels of power.

Unfortunately, we can not simply transfer the experience of the enterprise in the USA and apply it here in Russia. Our mentality is different, our economy was developed in different ways, we have different legislation and different people. But I think we may develop separate elements of that system successfully in our country also. I hope we will manage to make our state support its own business and community organizations of businessmen, like they do it in the United State of America.



*Russian delegation meets the Administration of the Governor of Ohio*

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## The International Visitors Council of Greater Cincinnati Visits Chuvashia

**Dmitry Pozdeev, Ekaterina Shakhova (Cheboksary – BFR, Cincinnati, OH, 2000)**



*IVC, Cincinnati visitors in the Ministry of Economy for the Chuvash Republic.*

In 2000 the first group from Cheboksary took part in the Business for Russia (BFR) program. First and foremost, the group left the U.S. with priceless, first-hand impressions of its culture, people, and commerce. We certainly learned a lot, but more importantly, we made many new friends in

Cincinnati, OH. This trip was a bright spot in each of our lives, promising to shine for many years to come. We all had hoped that one day we could give a little of our lives, culture, and community back to our gracious American friends. One year later, representatives from IVC (Cincinnati host organization) visited a group of participants in their local community to personally observe and interact with them in their own environment.

We met our dear friends Mark Rebstock (Executive Director of IVC), Chuck Downton (trainer from Procter & Gamble), and Camille Schuster (Professor of Marketing at Xavier University) in Moscow and then went by train to Cheboksary. Their trip was organized by the Kamelia Scientific and Research Co (two alumni work for this firm) together with the Cheboksary Business Center. Our American guests met with BFR alumni, and held seminars for local businessmen. In addition, they met with the Minister of Economy for the Chuvash Republic.

Alumni enjoyed showing the guests around the city and introduce them to Chuvash cuisine, and to give them a unique perspective of a typical Russian home. We all gathered for dinner at one of the Alumni's apartment, where we ate and talked.

The meetings were warm and open, as well as insightful, due to a large extent to friendships forged during our time in the US. We came up with many ideas to help further develop our mutual relations and understanding. For instance we discussed forming a Russian-American club that could help bring together and put into practice relationships formed during exchange programs.

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### Tomsk Success Stories

**Oleg Bazan (BFR, Bedford, VA, 2001)** Company 'Variant', Individual Owner. Oleg states that his internship was very helpful in that it allowed him to see every aspect of how a printing company is run. He said that he was especially interested in management and distribution. After returning to Russia and implementing managerial and technical techniques that he learned in the states, he increased his volume and sales by 3 times. He also expanded his regional distribution.

**Vladislav Skorin (BFR, Bedford, VA, 2001)** Company 'Neftehimprom' Joint stock. Through the internship, Vladislav learned about company hierarchy and structuring, he returned to Tomsk and completely restructured his company's personnel. Through this change, he said he noticed more effectiveness at work, better product quality, and an increase of approximately 10% in sales.

**Andrei Voronkov (BFR, St. Louis, MO, 2001)** Company "Tomsk Telecom Yellow Pages" Joint stock. Andrei reported that his internship was very successful. He interned in a similar company and said he was amazed at how everything was structured and organized. Since his internship, he took a more aggressive role in promoting the product. He helped organize and place the yellow pages on the web, and has improved on his system of updating and maintaining the database.

### Business Women

On April 17, the Ambassador of the United States of America, Alexander Vershbow and Mrs. Lisa Vershbow will have a reception in honor of the First Russian American Business Women's Summit. BFR alumni are among the invitees.

**Natalia Tiunova (Moscow – BFR, Cincinnati, 1999).** In the beginning of 2002 the "Tea-coffee at Nickolskaya" cafe opened in the heart of the Orekhovo-Zuevo. Immediately after Natalia Tiunova returned from her internship in the United States, under the patronage of the "Business For Russia" program in the fall of 1999, she began work on opening the cafe. The internship took place in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Natalia got acquainted with the principles of running an American fast food business. Natalia used the experience gained at such companies as Blue Chip Cookies and Gold Chilli when she started up the cafe in Orekhovo-Zuevo Moscow region.

*Continued on page 7 "BFR WOMEN"*

## Community Connections Russia (CCR) Alumni Events

### St. Petersburg

On January 26, ECA alumni conference entitled "Growing an Alumni Association: Strengthening Civil Society" was held in St. Petersburg at the Russian Academy of Sciences. The event was initiated by the International Center of Worcester and co-organized by ICW, the working group of alumni, and IREX/St. Petersburg Representative Elena Kobets, with financial support from ECA. About 70 participants attended the event, among them 55 CCR alumni. Participants discussed how to organize and register alumni association; and what kind of events an alumni association supports. The St. Petersburg US-Russia Alumni Club was established at the conference. Conference participants approved the Club's charter, selected a working group, and worked out the program for the Club's future activities. More information is available at [www.usalumni.spb.ru](http://www.usalumni.spb.ru).

### Nizhny Novgorod

On February 28, Elena Arsentieva, CCR Alumni Coordinator, and Jeremy Bush, CCR Field Coordinator, conducted a meeting of CCR alumni of the Nizny Novgorod region. The event took place in the hotel "Volzhskiy Otkos". Forty seven CCR alumni attended the meeting as well as representatives of the Nizhny Novgorod Administration, members of the local community who were involved in recruitment and some of candidates for the 2002 recruitment. Regional representatives of the IATP, Project Harmony, program spoke about the Nizny Novgorod IATP site and their activities that facilitate the development of low-cost academic and non-commercial networks, conduct Internet training programs, and instruct all CCR alumni in technical and educational applications of the Internet. Irina Novikova, Nizhny Novgorod American Center Manager, gave a short review on center's activities, stressed that the main purpose of American Center activity is to meet the region's ever growing demand for information on American culture, economics, politics and education. Anatoly Onizhenko, the Director of the Educational and Advising Center, presented the programs administrated by his organization. Gennadii Podolny, Project Manager of PartNER Program in Privolzhsky Federal District, spoke about program and gave out to participants an application form for the first competition of partnership projects.

### Vladivostok

On March 16, Olga Shempeleva (CC, Fresno 2000 alumna) made a presentation about the cultural roots of the Maslenitsa celebration, its specific Russian features and traditions of similar holidays in other world cultures. Then folk group Litavitsa performed a show portraying principal events of Maslenitsa - dances, songs, jokes, proverbs etc. Then attendees got a chance to participate in other indispensable parts of the Maslenitsa holiday such as funny competitions, burning a Winter scarecrow, jumping over the fire etc. The event attracted more than 100 people - alumni of numerous USG sponsored programs, their family members, friends, employees of the US Consulate and other American citizens living and working in Primorye region. The event was a continuation of the alumni project entitled "Diplomacy of Cultures: Russia and

USA" that targets promotion of understanding between Russian and American cultures. The project was initiated by the RFE alumni association "Professionals for Cooperation", and sponsored by IREX, the US Consulate and private funds.

### Ulan-Ude

On March 22, a meeting of CCR alumni was held in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia. The alumni event featured the presentation of a joint project of three BFR alumni from Republic of Buryatia "The Golden Knot of Happiness", a program for the preservation of the national culture of Buryatia. The event took place in the Municipal library. Thirty-three CCR alumni attended the meeting. BFR alumni, Darima Tsybenova, Sergei Ulzetuev and Sergei Garmaev, winners of the Second Round of the Small Grants Competition, shared the results of their work. They published brochure *A World of Buryatian Traditions*, a book of "ABCs" and books on the native culture and history for school children.

Svetlana Zadevalova (CC/NGO Development, 2000, Worcester, MA), a winner of the First Round of the Small Grant Competition gave a brief summary of her project: "AIDS Prevention Action "Guiding Light". Liya Sandanova, General Director of Ulan-Ude NGO Resource Center, spoke about the ProNGO program that provides different services to CCR Alumni, such as professional assistance through information dissemination, professional consultations, technical and networking opportunities. Dashima Damdiniva, IATP Regional Coordinator, spoke about the Ulan-Ude IATP site, located at Buryatia Republic Center of Information, and their activities.



*CCR alumni at the Small Grants project presentation in Ulan-Ude*

### Yaroslavl

On February 13, a Training Seminar "Maestro of Business Talks" for BFR alumni from Yaroslavl was organized by Marina Makarova (BFR 1995, Columbus, OH), the Director of the Regional Institute of Professional Education "Conversion", as part of the Third Round of the Small Grants Competition. The seminar took place in the Regional Institute of Professional Education "Conversion". Twenty BFR alumni attended the seminar.

According to Natalia the internship itself helped her make "Tea-coffee at Nickolskaya" become one of the most popular places among the local residents in the very first weeks. The suggestion book is full of rapturous words and praise from visitors. The road to success was rather long and difficult. There were difficulties with searching for investors, renovating a space in an ancient wooden house, hiring the team of employees, acquiring the equipment and many other things.

The original idea for the cafe was to create a place for socializing. From the start, she had no intention of selling alcohol. Only tea, coffee, juice and different kinds of dessert. Why such a great success? During her internship in the United States Natalia understood that there was no room for guessing in small business. Everything was thought over very thoroughly: technology, menu, work with personnel, and cafe interior. There were plenty of questions, and when Natalia found the answers, she repeated again and again "Thanks to my American colleagues and everybody who organized my internship in the United States!"

At the present time, Natalia is going to expand her business and she is planning to open one more cafe on the territory of local university campus. This means that experience and knowledge, gained by Natalia thanks to the "Business For Russia" program, will be applied once again.

**Inna Shcherbina (Moscow – BFR, Tulsa, OK, 1999).** Before her trip to the U.S. to participate in the internship program, Inna Shcherbina worked as a director of the distribution company "U.S. Medical". Six months following the internship she opened the Medical Center, which brought together leading Russian orthopedics professionals to provide all necessary assistance to patients, from ambulance to surgery. The Center leases the surgical room at the Medical Center of the Ministry of Health. The plan of the Center was borrowed from similar U.S. medical institutions, where Inna completed her internship in 1999. The Center is almost two years old.

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**Tatyana Kudelina (Syktyvkar – BFR, Boston, MA, 2001)**

My field of activity is baking, and I have been occupying this niche for eight years already. Besides having my own bakery, I am the Head of the Komi Association "Guild of Bakers" and a mem-



***Tatyana Kudelina (left) during a meeting with businesswomen at the Small Business Administration of Boston***

ber of the Council of the Russian Guild of Bakers and Confectioners. Therefore, it was particularly interesting for me to get acquainted with representatives of U.S. small bakery business; to learn about other approaches to bakeries; and, finally, of course, to get some new recipes and new business contacts.

My program in Boston was designed in accordance with my wishes, and for this I am very thankful to Jenya Krein, the Director, and Joshua Pierry, an Associate Director of the Community Connections program. After an initial workshop I had an internship at the bakery where I learned about the process of organizing personnel, the supply of raw materials and product distribution, about organizing advertising campaigns and searching for new clients, and maintaining relations with old clients as well. And, of course, we exchanged recipes and ideas. Upon completing of my internship at the bakery, I visited wholesale warehouses, which provided raw materials to the bakery. I also visited wholesale warehouses of equipment and instruments for baking and confectionery processes. This is the same range of services the Guild of Bakers provides small bakeries in Russia.

My internship also included a visit to the Small Business Administration, where I got acquainted with the system of support for established and beginning entrepreneurs. During a meeting with Sherrie Rose Talmadge, an arbitrator, I learned about the way disputes between an employer and an employee, and between companies and different people, are normally settled before appealing to the courts.

Having participated in a "round table" at the Federal Labor Department, I learned the way relationships between an employer and trade unions were built, about the work of the Commissions of the Regional Empowerment Initiative for Women, National Minorities and Youth. Besides, I got acquainted with Sheila A. Murphy from the Center for Women and Enterprise. She told us about the Center's assistance to women's businesses and different training programs for women. I had an opportunity to work at the Boston Public Library on business issues, including using a data base dedicated to normative and legislative questions as well.

Special attention was paid to the workshop at the university. The most important thing is that we were given an opportunity to consider our problems in a totally different way. We were told not about what we were to do, but about the way we were to do it.

## **Project Harmony IATP Program Prize Competition for Alumni of ECA Programs**

The Prize Competition allows alumni of exchange programs sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State to share their "success stories" online.

In cooperation with ECA and the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow (PAS), once a month Project Harmony will select the best example of alumni work, which has significant social impact in the local community.

Winners receive a grant in the sum of 1500 rubles worth of Internet books and merchandise through the online bookstore *Bolero.ru*.

More detailed information is available in Russian at [http://iatp.projectharmony.ru/grants/prize\\_comp.html](http://iatp.projectharmony.ru/grants/prize_comp.html).

### **Prize Competition Winner Announced for the Month of February**

In February, ECA alumnus Sergei Makeev (Community Connections, 2000) became the first winner in the "Success Stories" prize competition, for his work in the field of ecology. Before his participation in the program, Sergei was a coordinator in the interregional campaign "Zhivoe More" ("Living Sea") in the Sakhalin region, the main goal of which is to preserve the sea's bio-resources.

As an active member of his community, Sergei traveled to Tuscon, Arizona in the autumn of 2000 where, as he says, "the non-profit sector is traditionally very strong" and he discovered "a real American social life." After his participation, Sergei wrote many publications about what he learned in America, as well as about the ecological situation in the Far East (these publications total approximately 100). At present, Sergei is organizing press conferences, competitions and other events on vital ecological problems of the Sakhalin region.

Sergei, once again, please accept our congratulations. We wish you good luck in your career aspirations and in different grant competitions!

### **CCR Alumni and Project Harmony IATP Sites**

The statistics on alumni users at the IATP centers show that the most frequent users of IATP centers are BFR alumni, who make up 23% of Project Harmony's patrons!

## **Small Grants Competition**

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), US Department of State and the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) are pleased to announce a SMALL GRANT COMPETITION FOR ALUMNI OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS – RUSSIA PROGRAMS:

Business for Russia  
Community Connections Professional  
Presidential Management Training Initiative

This competition is sponsored by the Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is administered by the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX). The goal of the small grants program is to help alumni of the BFR, CC and PMTI programs continue their professional development and engage in projects to benefit their communities. All alumni of the above three programs are eligible regardless of which U.S. organization hosted them. Alumni are invited to submit applications for projects lasting up to four months and requiring up to \$1,000.

The following types of projects are eligible:

- Publication and/or purchasing materials for professional development;
- Training programs or conferences related to their field;
- Projects aimed at providing local community information of social importance;
- Projects connected with on-going community activity of organization (NGO, educational institution);
- Programs, projects, specially for alumni, including those related to alumni associations.

**Please note that profit-making or commercial activity is not eligible for support.**

The Community Connections Alumni Small Grants Program will have two rounds of competition in 2002.

The first round will be announced on **April 8**, the deadline for submitting application materials is **17:00 on May 31**.

The second round will be announced on **June 3**, the deadline for submitting application materials is **17:00 on July 31**.

More detailed information and applications are available on IREX/Moscow website at [www.irex.ru](http://www.irex.ru). Please contact **Elena Arsentieva**, the CCR Alumni Coordinator, for information or consultations at [earsentieva@irex.ru](mailto:earsentieva@irex.ru) or by telephone at (095) 956-3596.