Tatyana Yeryomenko Returns to Russia

Russian librarian's semester-long stay at IU bears fruit

Dr. Tatyana Yeryomenko returned to Russia on May 19, bearing new insights into library science, two new computers, and a great deal of good will from her American colleagues at Indiana University.

Dr. Yeryomenko, Director of Libraries at Ryazan State Pedagogical University in Ryazan, a city of 600,000 about 125 miles southeast of Moscow, came to IU in January as a participant in the 1995 College and University Partnerships Program between Indiana University and Ryazan State Pedagogical University. The program, directed by Howard Mehlinger, Director of IUB's Center for Excellence in Education, and funded by United States Information Agency (USIA), has had 11 participants from Ryazan since 1992, with visits focusing on libraries, research, administration, and global relations.

"I have learned much from this experience," Dr. Yeryomenko said. She was particularly impressed with methods of cataloging, library management, preservation, and automation.

"There are major differences in circulation policy, and the degree of automation is much higher in American libraries," she said, noting that the use of computers to find and check out materials is much more extensive in the United States than in Russia.

Dr. Yeryomenko planned to use a $15,000 grant from the College and University Partnerships Program to purchase two computers and the necessary software to begin the process of automation. She also said she would purchase books and CD ROMs. "I hope to introduce a lot of changes back in Ryazan," she said. "This grant will help me make the first decisive steps in this process. Even two computers can make a big difference."

During Dr. Yeryomenko's visit to the Indiana University Libraries, Sally Rausch, Associate Librarian of IU Libraries, served as her primary contact and teacher. "Dr. Yeryomenko was a very hard-working visitor," Rausch said. "Her visit was an enriching experience for the libraries as well as a very personally rewarding experience for me."

Ms. Rausch arranged a variety of visits and opportunities for Dr. Yeryomenko to learn about American librarianship, including attendance at the 13th annual Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Research Library Directors Conference in Dublin, Ohio in mid-March. OCLC is a nonprofit computer library service and research organization whose computer network and services link more than 20,000 libraries in 61 countries and territories.

This year's OCLC Conference focused on the growing interdependence of the world's research libraries, and issues confronting research libraries around the globe. Speakers, panelists, and participants from countries as diverse and far-flung as Australia, Brazil, Hungary, Hong Kong, Mexico, Russia, and the United States gathered at the conference. "I learned about the most important developments of the different libraries of the world," Dr. Yeryomenko said of her experience at the conference.

Dr. Yeryomenko said that the most important thing she will be returning to Russia with—more important than the new methods and techniques, more important even than the new computers—are the professional relationships she established during her stay here. "I believe I will keep in contact with all the people I met here and we will continue to cooperate in the future," she said. "This visit is just the beginning of a future of widespread contact with American colleagues."

Workshop focuses on

IUB's Lindley Hall offered a cozy refuge from the cold May rain as IU's Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center hosted a Midwestern College Faculty Development Workshop entitled The Baltic States: Post-Soviet Transition and Prospects, May 13-14.

The workshop was designed to provide a variety of perspectives on recent developments in the Baltic states, according to Toivo Raun, Professor of History in IU's Department of Central Eurasian Studies, who moderated the workshop. Topics included ethnic relations, the role of women, and Baltic political and economic relations with the rest of the world.

Professor Raun kicked off the Saturday morning session with a talk called "The Legacy of the Baltic Past." Other presenters included Ains...