



Have a Happy New Year and all the best in 2007 on behalf of the LEADER Project. Thank you for your continued support!

## Re-Connecting...

*The Advisory Board will be contacting you soon with more details on the upcoming Alumni event. Keep your eyes open!*

*If you have any news or stories that you would like to have included into the next LEADER alumni newsletter, please email:*

[Jhui.mba2007@ivey.ca](mailto:Jhui.mba2007@ivey.ca)

## ED Greetings!

This year has been full of change for the LEADER project. With the MBA program shifting to a one year model, LEADER was forced to make some hard decisions on the short and long term goals of the program and how to most effectively serve our mission. As a result, some changes made include the re-introduction of HBA's, a shift to an entirely entrepreneurial teaching model, a re-design of the Advisory Board, and a thorough evaluation of all sites (present and past) to determine the best locations to support with the limited number of students in LEADER on a go forward basis.

While the challenges of LEADER are great over the coming years, we have a phenomenal group of teachers to support the program today and an incredibly committed Advisory Board to help support LEADER into the future.

Sincerely,  
Saba Hasanie and Trevor Davis

## New LEADER-ites!

*Welcome to the new project members:*

*Sung Bae, Efrem Berman,  
Nicole Choo, Rob Davis, Chris  
Gilpin, Leah Hillier, Sara Lear,  
Gavin McFarlane, Akil Nasser,  
Jono Plashkes, Josh Silvertan,  
Darwin Smith, Yvonne Tellis,  
Akash Winny Lorraine Wong,*

## Nizhny Tagil, Russia

The best part of my LEADER experience was observing students as they fostered an appreciation for the case method over the course of the 3-week program. At the beginning of the program, students had trouble grasping the case method. Since their school was primarily based on textbooks and lectures, students had to adapt to the case method where questions were encouraged and class participation was essential to the learning process. For the first few classes, students seemed engaged, but hesitant to contribute ideas. However, over time, they gained confidence and classroom discussion showed depth and momentum. My most vivid memory from Nizhny Tagil is the day I taught a strategy case and every student had his or her hand up, eager to share their ideas. From the feedback received from students, the case method was well received and students appreciated the opportunity to experience a new learning style. – Sarah Cheng, HBA 2007

Team Nizhny: Sarah Cheng, Rafal Kokolus, Andrew McFeetors, Lisa Wiens

## Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine – State Mining University

We traveled to Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine to teach and learn from 40 students at the National Mining University in the second largest city in Ukraine. We lived in five minutes from campus in our humble abode with a mini fridge, TV – with 90210 in Russian, and our beloved tea kettle that was our main source of heat. We taught two classes of twenty each, including three professors from the university itself. They were so passionate to learning, even ultimate Frisbee, which was quite entertaining to see our students in stilettos chasing after the disc. We even had an "organizational committee" who greeted us at the airport with our day by day social schedule. We toured the city, went to the war museums, the opera, the organ house, the football game, the banya and on a trip down to the Black Sea. It was an amazing experience and we can't wait to go to back to Eastern Europe for our next experience. – Tory Merritt, MBA 2007



Team Dnepropetrovsk: Jenny Hui, Christie Love, Tory Merritt, Tom Pawelkiewicz



## Chisinau, Moldova, and Togliatti, Russia – LPFE

consulting. From 9 am – 12 pm daily, the team taught entrepreneurial cases that highlighted the financial, strategic and marketing challenges of starting a small business. After lunch, the program shifted gears as we consulted with individual students on their own business plans. Working with students in critiquing their business plans was an incredibly rewarding experience. The students benefited from the entrepreneurial experience of the teachers while the teachers were challenged to find clever business solutions in an entirely different economic and cultural environment. It was extremely gratifying when students applied concepts they learned from cases to the business plans they were crafting.

The LPFE model was so beneficial for both students and Leaderites that the Leader Project has adopted the model for all its sites. Personally, I am looking forward to traveling back to Togliatti in 2007 and am hopeful that some of the business ideas the LPFE team helped launch have come to fruition – **Anand Kapur, MBA 2007**

Team LPFE: Anand Kapur, Mike Lloyd, Trevor Davis

The Entrepreneurial Stream is unique as it combines both case teaching and

## Irkutsk, Russia – Baikal National University of Economics and Law

After having a phenomenal beef stroganoff on the flight over to Irkutsk, our translator greeted us at the airport and we were then taken around the city on a mini-tour of the area. After visiting a couple of churches, the market and seeing war monuments, we were all toured out and decided to call it quits.

In between the overload of mayonnaise flavoured dishes, the ox tongue and the amazing shish-lieq, team Irkutsk found the equivalent of “Barney’s”, sampled various qualities of vodka and spent time with our students. As most LEADERites know, the students are what make the experience absolutely amazing. Not only did they take us to various establishments around the city, they demonstrated their hospitality, desire to learn our culture and a keen desire to educate us on their culture.

LEADER in Irkutsk was the most amazing experience that I have had and it couldn’t have been the same without Rejini, Nicole and Dave – **Charles Philip, MBA 2007**



Team Irkutsk: Dave Bassin, Charles Philip, Nicole Verkindt, Rejini Alemkunnappuzha



## Minsk, Belarus – State Linguistic University

Armed with cases in both English and Russian and were excited to pass on what we had learned from our own professors at Ivey.

Our first day was exciting as we found each of our two classrooms full to the brim with students eager to take the class—and participate. Though we were warned that at many sites, communication was an issue and it was difficult to encourage students to participate, we were teaching at the Minsk State Linguistic University. All of the students could read, write and speak English fluently. In fact, one of our students quoted a line from ‘Forest Gump’ in the first class.

As most LEADERites will agree, it was really the students who made the trip memorable. They became our personal tour guides and paparazzi, and were always will to help. We may have taught them lessons about business, but they taught us about persistence, hard work, and aspiration in a country where possibilities really are limited. – **Alex Yazdani, MBA 2007**

Team Minsk: Karim Essabhai, Sumit Nagi, Thomas Tse, Alex Yazdani

We arrived in Minsk, Belarus, ready to teach!

## Balti, Moldova – Balti State University

From what I understand Shislik means barbeque, at least that's what I thought when we left at about 9.30am. As it turned out I was right but in Moldova, it means multiple barbeques right after each other. The job of lighting the fire fell to the to the guys and we gave it a good old 48hr report try, much discussion, several opinions, logical thought.....but very little action. Thanks to the arrival of a grizzly shislik veteran, a.k.a the owner of the campsite with a bottle of red wine to douse the flames, the meat was saved.

By 5pm we were ready to go home, but our Moldovan hosts casually dismissed our plaintiff requests. This was just about the same time a swarm of oversize mosquitoes descended on us... the next 4 hours the mosquitoes had the best shislik of their lives. Eventually at 9pm after another round of cooking, eating, sleeping, reading and blood letting our hosts relented to let us go home. Bloating from 6lbs of pork and dizzy from the mosquito feeding frenzy we lazily called a taxi to take us home. – **Saulius Simonavicius, HBA 2007**



Team Balti: Michael Kahn, Everton Lewis, Brian Mullan, Saulius Simonavicius



Team Ekaterinburg: Rupert Cao, Andrew Dooner, Saba Hasanie, Sarita Persad

## Ekaterinburg, Russia – Ural State University

Any team with two executive directors is definitely posed to be the best team ever of 2005! Located in Ekaterinburg, Russia's fifth largest city, Ekat as we have lovingly termed it provided us LEADERites with great hospitality. The students were incredibly enthusiastic and very bright.

Throughout our 3 weeks in Ekaterinburg, we managed to squeeze in two visits to the ballet, a trip to the country side, a visit from the Nizhny Tagil team, a BBQ by the lake, and several other student initiated events. Our favorite event however were the daily coffee breaks in the Dean's office where we enjoyed many sweet treats as we over looked the Canadian and Russian flags displayed together in harmony on the table! Thank you for your hospitality Ekaterinburg ... we adore you! – **Saba Hasanie, MBA 2007**

## Togliatti, Russia

Had a rough first week with Mike getting almost arrested for not having all his documentation with him at the Kremlin in Moscow, to our luggage being lost for 2 days on the flight from Frankfurt, to arriving at the Samara Airport to an empty parking lot and confusion with our host regarding what 12:30 am meant (is it 30 minutes after midnight or 30 minutes after noon). Regardless, we were most impressed with our private accommodations, recreation facilities and breathtaking scenery at the Togliatti Academy of Management located on the shores of the Volga River amidst a State Park. Our few first days of teaching were rough, but a night out with the students to Pyramid and MDS – typical Russian 3-in-1 Night Clubs, loosened both the instructors and the students up a fair bit. The tranquility of TAM proved too much for Chad as he ventured out with the Entrepreneurship Team, also located in Togliatti for Russian linguistic training, sampling of local goods and services and general debauchery at the "Greenhouse". Over the coming weeks we enjoyed trips to museums, Samara (where we saw a 40 person street fight), several trips to the 'banya', the Lada Plant and an amazing 'shashliq' on the near by cliffs overlooking Russia's largest river. – **Chad Richard, MBA 2007 (Team: Thao Bui, Sudharshan Sathivamoorthy, Mike Vasilevski)**

### Contributions

*Did you know that over \$10,000 was raised in online donations last year?*

*If you are able to contribute, please contact:*

[leader@ivey.uwo.ca](mailto:leader@ivey.uwo.ca)

*or click on :*

<http://www.leaderproject.com/article.php?pn=sponsorleader>

### Aeroplan Mile Donations Accepted!

*Aeroplan is proud to facilitate the transfer of miles in support of The Leader Project organized by students at the Richard Ivey School of Business MBA Program.*

*Pledges of Aeroplan Miles will be accepted until February 16th, 2007. These donations will be used to support the travel requirements of students who will go abroad to participate in the program.*

*For further information, please contact*

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