

Exchange

Fall 2007

Fuqua Reunion And Forum In Russia

In 1990, after the collapse of communism in Russia, Fuqua launched a joint venture with the Soviet Union to teach the management practices of a free-market economic system to Soviet managers. Each of the programs included preparation in Moscow, classroom work at Duke, and a corporate internship.

J.B. Fuqua was instrumental in driving the initiative, donating \$4 million to launch the program. Fuqua, with then-Dean Thomas Keller, negotiated the cooperative agreement in Moscow with Leonid Abalkin, then Deputy Prime Minister of the USSR; Abel Aganbegyan, Rector of the Academy of National Economy of the USSR Council of Managers; and Gennady Yagodin, Chairman of the State Committee for Public Education. Jeff Smith, former manager with General Electric in Moscow, led the initiative at Duke and assisted Fuqua and Keller with their meeting with Soviet officials. All in all, seventeen groups of Russian managers were trained at The Fuqua School of Business in cooperation with the All-Russia Academy of Foreign Trade (1990–1995) and the Russian Academy of the Entrepreneurship (1991–1997).



Alumni of the Soviet Managers Program at the Duke-Russia Business Forum

The goal of the program was consistent with the basic mission of The Fuqua School of Business: to enhance the practice of management through education and research. This past summer, Fuqua hosted a reunion for graduates of the Russian Managers' program as well as a business forum open to all Duke alumni and corporate guests. There were over a hundred participants in the two-day event that took place in Moscow.

"It was wonderful to reconnect with graduates from these programs," said Assistant Dean Elizabeth Hogan who managed the event. "The alumni of these programs are an important part of the school, and we're thrilled to be partnering with them again."

The second day of the event was The Duke-Russia Business Forum which consisted of keynote addresses by Dean Blair Sheppard and Troika Dialog's CEO Ruben Vardanian. There was also a panel session on current and future trends in technology with the following speakers: Vladimir Dolgov, General Manager of Google-Russia; Birger Steen, General Manager Microsoft Russia; and Marat Shafigullin, Manager of Gartner Executive Programs.

school briefs

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