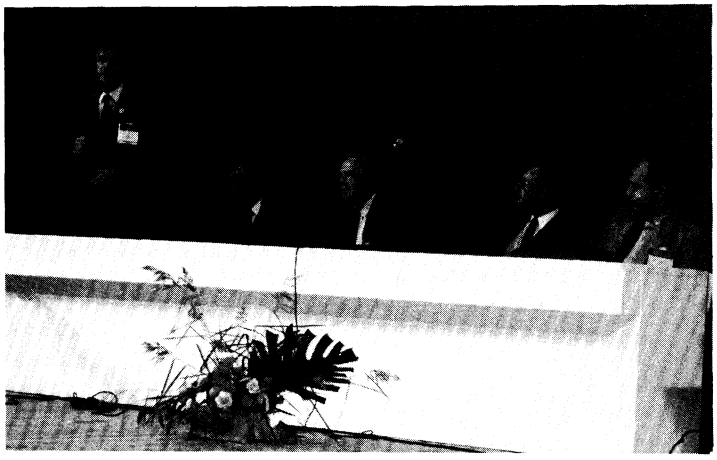
Back from Russia—With Love

The "Education in Optics" conference in Leningrad/St. Petersburg was a great success according to all the participants. We all left reluctantly thanks to the warm hospitality of our many hosts—hence the title of this editorial as a take-off from the James Bond spy story. (Yes, I confess, Ian Fleming was a favorite author of mine long before 007 became popular.) A number of the participants also had the opportunity to visit Moscow and SPIE's new chapter office there, which is located in quarters that used to house the KGB!

Yes, we did return from Russia—not from the USSR and not from the Soviet Union. There is currently a problem of nomenclature, in this time of flux, that even confused the Russians. (I use that term incorrectly as a way of describing all the people with whom we met and talked.) It is correct to say that I did come "back from Russia" since I only visited the Republic of Russia and not any of the other 14 republics that formerly comprised the Soviet Union.



Participants in the 1991 Education in Optics conference from left to right: Nikolai I. Koroteev (chair, Session 1), Gennady I. Novikov (chair, Soviet Organizing Committee), Nikolai Karlov (representative, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology), Brian J. Thompson (conference cochair), and Grigori B. Altshuler (conference cochair).

To add to our confusion, part of the conference was held in Leningrad and the other half at the same location but in St. Petersburg; the official changeover date was October 1, 1991. The hotel even changed its name while we were there.

As readers are perhaps aware, this was the second International Conference on Education in Optics; the first was held in San Diego in 1988.[1] We hope that this series will continue under joint sponsorship between SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering, OSA—The Optical Society of America, ICO—The International Commission for Optics, and local host organizations. The proceedings of these conferences will, perhaps, be more valuable than the presentations themselves, since they will allow the various curricula discussed to be studied in more detail.

A competition for the best student poster paper was organized by the SPIE Soviet Chapter; the papers described the current project or research work being conducted by the student. The students provided a short summary of their work, which was made available to the selection committee ahead of time. This was followed by a poster paper and an interview with each student at the poster paper site. The selection committee was chaired by Professor Brij Khorana of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in his role as chair of the Education Committee of SPIE. He was ably assisted by Professor Robin Smith of Imperial College, and I had the privilege of being the third member of the group. We judged 16 poster papers and found the quality to be extremely good. All the students were able to explain their work in English, some very fluently, others with a little prompting. This fact also impressed us.

The winner of this award was Tatyena Y. Cherezova of Moscow State University for her paper "Adaptive optics for all seasons and reasons." During our visit to Moscow State University, Brij Khorana and I had the opportunity to visit her laboratory, which certainly confirmed our judgment.

Since the quality of these papers was so high, the committee decided to name three other students for special commendation. These students in alphabetical order are Egor V. Degtyarev of Moscow State University, Ludmila A. Gerasimova of St. Petersburg Institute of Fine Mechanics and Optics, and Irina V. Veshneva of Saratov State University.

We congratulate these four students and also all those students who participated. The winner will receive a $1500 SPIE Travel Grant to be administered by the SPIE Soviet Chapter. The other three students will receive a letter of Special Commendation from the Society. Professor Alexander Priezzlev, who organized the competition, has prepared a short summary of the competition that will be published in the proceedings of the conference[2] together with short abstracts prepared by the students.

It is not possible to list all the people who made this conference a success, but I would be remiss if I did not pay special tribute to Professor Grigori Altshuler of the St. Petersburg Institute of Fine Mechanics and Optics who was the conference co-chair with me. His vice-chairs from the host institution were Professors Elena Dulneva, Gennady Kotov, and Ernst D. Pankov. Our thanks to Rector Gennady Novikov, the leader of our host institution, for chairing the Soviet Organizing Committee.

Glasnost means openness and we certainly encountered that and appreciated it. Perestroika means restructuring and we wish all our colleagues well in that endeavor.

Spasiba—Thank you!

Brian J. Thompson
Editor

1. B. M. Khorana, Ed., *1988 International Conference on Education in Optics*, Proc. SPIE **978** (1989).
2. G. B. Altshuler and B. J. Thompson, Eds., *1991 International Conference on Education in Optics*, Proc. SPIE **1603** (in press).

Optical Engineering Editorial Schedule

January 1992

Smart Materials and Structures

Richard O. Claus
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March 1992

Optics in Poland

Romuald Jozwicki
Warsaw Institute of Technology
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April 1992

Optical Methods and Means of Information Processing

Mikhail M. Miroshnikov
S.I. Vavilov State Optical Institute
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May 1992

Optical Implementation of Information Processing, Pattern Recognition, and Neural Networks

Bahram Javidi
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June 1992

Adaptive Signal Processing

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July 1992

Biomedical Optics

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Manuscripts due Jan. 15, 1991.

August 1992

Optical Engineering and U.K. Industry

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Manuscripts due Jan. 1, 1992.

September 1992

Wavelet Transform

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Manuscripts due March 23, 1992.

October 1992

Acousto-Optics

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This special issue will focus on all aspects of research on acousto-optic effects and devices as well as their signal and image processing applications. Manuscripts due Feb. 1, 1992.

November 1992

Relay Mirror Experiment

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This special issue will cover the Relay Mirror Experiment and associated experiments. Topics will include the development, deployment, operation, and performance of the space-based Relay Mirror and its associated ground-based equipment. Manuscripts due April 1, 1992.

December 1992

Automatic Target Recognition

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The areas to be considered for inclusion are sonar, radar, laser and passive IR, visible ATR techniques, modeling of sensors, target segmentation, detection and tracking, model-based target recognition, multisensor processing and sensor fusion for ATR, role of performance evaluation in ATR, invariant object recognition, neural networks for ATR, adaptive and learning systems for ATR, and optical processing for ATR. Manuscripts due April 1, 1992.

January 1993

Optical Research in Asia

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This special issue will present innovative research and development results from Asian countries. Every field of photonics will be considered. Prospective authors are invited to submit manuscripts for consideration. Manuscripts due Feb. 1, 1992.

March 1993

Optical Fiber Reliability II

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Manuscripts due July 15, 1992.

May 1993

Phase Contrast Microscopy

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Manuscripts due Oct. 1, 1992.

June 1993

From Numerical to Symbolic Image Processing: Systems & Applications

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Manuscripts due Oct. 15, 1992.

July 1993

Visual Communication and Image Processing IV

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Manuscripts due Dec. 1, 1992.

September 1993

Optical Science and Engineering in Canada

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Manuscripts due Feb. 1, 1993.