

Hosting Corner

RICHLAND, WA – If part of your day job involved teaching a course called “Weapons of Mass Destruction,” what would *you* do to unwind? For host **Dr. K. Mark Leek**, a senior research scientist at [Pacific Northwest National Laboratory](#) (PNNL) and the codirector of the **Joint Institute for Global and Regional Security Studies** (IGRSS), the answer is white-water kayaking and fern gardening.

At IGRSS, a collaboration between PNNL and the **University of Washington**, Leek helps prepare students for careers in nonproliferation. Fortunately for Open World, Leek’s commitment to nonproliferation education extends beyond the classroom. Since 2005, he and a colleague at [Oak Ridge National Laboratory](#) have managed Open World’s special exchanges for 60 Russian nonproliferation professionals.

Among the Russian leaders who participate in the nonproliferation exchanges are nuclear regulatory agency officials, community disaster response coordinators, nuclear safety inspectors and nuclear policy experts. Leek’s delegates begin their U.S. visit at PNNL locations in Seattle and Richland,

WA. Teams of scientists at the **Department of Energy** (DOE) laboratory address critical problems in national security, as well as in energy security and the environment.

Working with PNNL staff in Richland, delegates learn about the science and technology behind U.S. nonproliferation activity, as well as nonproliferation policy at the lab’s [Pacific Northwest Center for Global Security](#) in Seattle. Leek and his university colleagues also introduce the Russians to nonproliferation studies as taught in U.S. institutions of higher education.

The delegates hosted simultaneously at Oak Ridge follow a parallel program. Both delegations then travel to Washington, DC, to get a firsthand look at the development of U.S. nonproliferation policy.

“The purpose of the exchanges,” Leek said, “is to foster good relations between Russia and the U.S. in the area of nonproliferation and to create collegial relations among nonproliferation specialists that transcend international borders.”

These goals were put to the test in August, when Leek hosted his most recent nonpro-

liferation delegation. But, he reports, “In a time of tension between our two countries, the Russian delegates found that they could have frank discussions with their American counterparts. I believe that our Open World exchanges encourage that atmosphere of respect and openness among our participants.”

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Hosts Dr. K. Mark Leek (center front, in blue) and John Randolph (back row, second from right), with Director O’Keefe (front row, far right) and 2008 Russian nonproliferation delegates.

Making a Difference

WASHINGTON, DC – One of the outstanding young alumni of Open World’s nonproliferation program is **Natalia Sarayeva**, now in the Master of Science in Foreign Service program at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Sarayeva reports that participating in a 2005 exchange to Tennessee, Georgia, and Washington, DC, “created a snowball effect for my future development and provided me with many opportunities for expanding my experience in the nonproliferation field.”

At the time of her visit, Sarayeva was a young research assistant in the nonproliferation division of the **Kurchatov Institute**, Russia’s leading nuclear energy-related research institution. Sarayeva says that being an Open World alumna helped earn her a promotion at work and acceptance into the **World Nuclear University** (WNU) Summer Institute for nuclear professionals held in Stockholm in 2006. (WNU is a partnership between global organizations of the nuclear industry, the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) [IAEA], the [Nuclear Energy Agency](#) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and leading institutions of nuclear learning.) Sarayeva also says that her exchange ex-



Alumna Natalia Sarayeva

perience contributed to her selection to serve as a panelist for a forum on “Knowledge Management in Nuclear Facilities” at a 2007 IAEA conference in Vienna, and gave her an edge when competing for the Russian private-sector scholarship funding her study at Georgetown.

Sarayeva’s Open World exchange was organized by **John Randolph**, an engineer at **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** (ORNL) and a director of the **Blount County (TN) Sister City Organization**. Sarayeva and her fellow delegates had intensive tours, briefings, and roundtables on nonproliferation practice and policy at ORNL, the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, the University of Georgia in Athens, and the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. The delegation and another

nonproliferation team visiting Washington state (see story above) then traveled to Washington, DC, for joint talks on nonproliferation with key U.S. policymakers.

Open World congratulates Sarayeva on her career successes and looks forward to her future contributions in the nonproliferation field.