

Writer A.C. Frieden Returns to Russia for Literary Inspiration

MOSCOW, Russia (June 16, 1998) – Writer-lawyer A.C. Frieden returned to Moscow, Russia, to take in more of the sights and feel of a city he'd fell in love with two years ago. His trip coincided with this year's foreign studies program of Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, established in partnership with the law school at Moscow State University. This was the same international legal studies program Frieden attended as a law student in 1996. "The experience I gained from my studies here two years ago, both from a legal and intercultural perspective, was immensely enriching," said Frieden. "So enriching, in fact, that I had to come back, and this time with a whole new purpose and a relaxed pace."



Above: Moscow State University seen from the top floor bar at the National Science Institute.

Frieden spent much of his time exploring sites throughout the city, from top landmarks to off-the-beaten-path hangouts. "I'm looking forward to including scenes from here in one of the two novels that I'm writing," said Frieden. "Moscow has been the venue for many Cold War era books, but so far there are relatively few novels that capture the rapidly changing fact of this place since the breakup of the Soviet Union."



Above: The Moscow City Museum (left), the north walls and towers of the Kremlin (center) and the recently built multilevel underground shopping center (right/foreground).

He reconnected with friends and colleagues, including local attorneys and faculty, and made new contacts, many of whom were delighted to show Frieden neighborhoods not often seen by foreigners. Frieden also stayed at the luxurious Baltchug-Kempinski Hotel and celebrated his 32nd birthday at the Hotel Savoy. He plans to include these spots in his novel.



Above: Frieden visits the not-so-accessible KGB Museum, located near the current headquarters of the Federal Security Service (gray building, right) and former KGB HQ (far right) in Lubyanka.



Above: Frieden attended a session of the State Duma (lower house of parliament), witnessing the live debates from the official press room (right). As part of the Loyola delegation, and with the help of Moscow State University faculty, Frieden benefited from unique access to government offices.



Above: An unexpectedly entertaining evening in Moscow.

Moscow is a city in transition, with a rapidly growing divide between rich and poor, with corporate bodyguards, expensive SUVs, luxury stores and a new suburban sprawl popping up out of nowhere. It is a place of contrast and at times it feels so different from the rest of Europe. It is a place of both excesses in lifestyle and deprivation of essential elements. As an example of this city's strange mix of vice, charm and hospitality, Frieden recalled, "One evening with colleagues walking out of a Moscow pool bar with the Armenian owner and his Cuban bartender that I had befriended, we were shocked to find at the doorstep an unsaddled horse waiting for a ride, all because one of my friends had told the owner in passing of her interest in horses. After the semi-sober equestrian experience on the cobbled streets of downtown Moscow, a police squad car—a large, new American cruiser—pulled up. They were as surprised as everyone else, and with my cigarettes and a Champagne bottle in hand I joined the cops for a pleasant chat. No Gulag. No worries."

As part of his stay in Moscow, Frieden also provided a presentation on intellectual property licensing to visiting Loyola law students in the foreign studies program. Frieden received his Juris Doctor from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, as well as a Certificate in International Legal Studies after attending Loyola's study abroad programs in Vienna (1995), Hungary (1996) and Moscow (1996).

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian writer and lawyer living in Chicago. He is currently working on his debut mystery novel, *Canvas Sunsets Never Fade*, to be published by Avendia Publishing and has begun writing his second novel, tentatively titled *Tranquility Denied*. For details, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog.

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