

New university museum: Nicolay Lobachevsky Museum in Kazan Federal University Russia

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Keywords: Cultural Heritage, University Museums, University Collections, Kazan University.

Abstract

This paper will present the new Nicolay Lobachevsky Museum in Kazan Federal University, Russia, opened in 2017, on the occasion of the 225th anniversary of the birth of the scientist, rector of the University, and one of the creators of non-Euclidean geometry, Lobachevsky. The Museum is located in the Kazan Federal University complex (KFU), in the 'rector's house', where Lobachevsky lived with his family. It is a scientist's house – a place of a genius's life, where Lobachevsky created and developed his ideas. The building is a part of cultural heritage.

The Museum exposition shows Lobachevsky's personality, his role in creating the theory of non-Euclidean geometry, presents the heritage of the Kazan geometry school in an international context and popularises the ideas of Lobachevsky. The Museum's interior allows visitors to feel the atmosphere of a nineteenth century family house while complementing the visit with five multi-media expositions.

Exhibits for the Museum were collected by scientists and KFU museums for 100 years. The creation of the Museum brought together these collections and made them public. The exhibition hall includes displays from the unique collections of 8 KFU museums and demonstrate the scientific achievements of KFU scientists. Students gain experience and implement their projects as curators or designers.

The Museum is a dynamic scientific and educational platform for popular science lectures and meetings with outstanding scientists, as well as classes with students. The activities of the Museum contribute to the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the University in Russia and in the world.

Svetlana Frolova is the director of the Museum of History of Kazan University, candidate of historical Sciences. Curator and supervisor of 80 exhibition projects in museums, author of research on museology, history of education in Russia, preservation of cultural heritage. Supervised the creation of the Lobachevsky Museum.

Artyom Kazakov is a specialist in exhibition activities at the Lobachevsky Museum in Kazan Federal University. Postgraduate student in Kazan Federal University. Participated in the creation of 10 exhibition projects. Author of articles on the history of social movements and organizations in the United States.

Leave to return

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Abstract

There are 11 museums at Kazan Federal University (KFU), eight of which are Kazan. Kazan University was founded in 1804. Museums were created at the University for educational and scientific purposes. They were the first public museums of the Volga-Ural region. As university museums, KFU museums have unique objectives:

1. Career Guidance. School children are one of the main audiences (30% of visitors). Museum guides should tell not only about scientific schools and discoveries, but also about the modern life of the University and the training of students. The atmosphere of the Museum's unique exhibits often contribute to the choice of KFU as a place for study.

Beginning in 2016, the University museums conduct lessons, master-classes, and quests. Their subjects are related to the collections of the University and modern areas of research. This made it possible to double the number of visitors in 2018 as compared to 2016. A result is that school children who visit the KFU museums often return as a student.

2. University collections are the basis for many courses and practices. The KFU museums conducted about 60 training courses for 2,000 students. Foreign students learn the Russian language in the form of games at the museums.

3. The museums are a starting platform for students of different academic directions to implement their projects (exhibitions, video, sociological surveys, etc.). For KFU students, it is their first professional experience.

4. KFU museums and collections are places of memory of the history of science and education.

Frolova Svetlana is director of the Museum of History of Kazan University. She is curator and supervisor of 80 exhibition projects in museums, author of research on museology, history of education in Russia, and preservation of cultural heritage, and supervised the creation of the Lobachevsky Museum.

Artyom Kazakov is a specialist in exhibition activities of Lobachevsky Museum in Kazan Federal University and a post-graduate student at Kazan Federal University. He has taken part in the creation of 10 exhibition projects and is the author of articles on the history of social movements and organizations in the United States.