

## Living in a “Parallel World”: *Disability in Post-Soviet Ukraine*

By Sarah D. Phillips

**A**ndrei Budnik, who lives in Kyiv, Ukraine, lost the use of his legs in a logging accident in 1989 when he was 22 years old. He lived with his mother until she died last year, and now he lives alone. Because of the stigma and high costs associated with disability, Andrei's brother severed all ties with him when he became a paraplegic. Like most buildings in Ukraine, the building where Andrei lives is not wheelchair accessible. (Although legislation requires that all new buildings be designed to be wheelchair accessible, these laws are not enforced.) To reach his small apartment he must navigate a flight of stairs in his wheelchair. Since public transportation is also inaccessible to wheelchair users, Andrei travels almost everywhere he needs to go in his wheelchair, riding on the busy city streets. On an average day he covers 15-20 miles, which can take as long as 2.5 hours.

In 2000, Andrei, who has competed in national and international sports competitions for the past seven years, set a Ukrainian wheelchair racing record in the 1500 meter, a feat that went unnoticed in Ukraine. He is a professional ballroom dancer, and with his former dance partner took sixth place in the all-around competition at the world championships in Poland in 2001. But Andrei has no official sponsors. He is currently employed as a social worker in a youth organization in Kyiv, a job that offers him personal satisfaction but a very low salary. Andrei survives mostly on a meager government pension of \$30 per month.

These are challenges that are familiar to disabled people all over the world. Challenges such as these make many persons with disabilities in Ukraine feel

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*Andrei Budnik, activist for disability rights in Ukraine*

as if they live in a “parallel world,” one separate from that enjoyed by “able-bodied” people. The disabled in Ukraine face both hidden and open discrimination in their daily lives, and they are stigmatized through popular stereotypes of disabled persons as inferior, deformed, and even contaminating. These attitudes stem in part from the Soviet-era policies towards the disabled, which perpetuated such harmful stereotypes. Persons with visible disabilities (i.e., spinal injuries, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, mental problems, and others) were isolated in their homes, hidden from the public and thus made seemingly invisible. Since disability was seen as a defect and as a tragedy, the

Soviet regime pursued a policy of compensation. As Andrei put it, “We were given a label [“invalid” in Russian and Ukrainian], a pension, and a license to do nothing.” The invisibility of disabled persons positioned them as a non-problem. Their lives were not discussed, and there was practically no public debate about their needs. When attempts were made to rehabilitate people with disabilities, rehabilitation was primarily medical and vocational in nature, an approach that reflects the ideology that the problem is located within the individual, who needs to be changed/improved (i.e., given maximum physical functioning or gainful employment).

In postsocialism, the greater visibility of people with disabilities—and, especially, the burgeoning disabled rights movement—have stimulated debates about citizens' rights, entitlements, and responsibilities that go to the heart of postsocialist reforms in social policy. People like Andrei, who reject the “tragic” model of disability promoted by the Soviet regime, are taking up new models of disability, models that are influenced by disabled rights movements in Western countries such as Sweden, the Netherlands, Canada, and the United States. Most salient for many Ukrainian activists is the social model, which defines disability as social oppression, rather than a defect located in the individual. Promoters of the social model thus advocate for social policies that would target the source of oppression (i.e., architectural barriers, discrimination in education and employment). Central to these debates is the challenge of balancing fair entitlements for disabled persons with opportunities for physical, psychological, and vocational rehabilitation. A very important concept for many disabled activists is the notion of independent living, a movement that

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## Living—continued

had its origins here in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois and Berkeley, California in the 1960s and 70s. Like the social model, this movement shifts the focus from individual “inadequacies” of the disabled person to environmental barriers, and primary importance is given to facilitating out-of-home activity for people with disabilities.

Some inroads towards these goals are being made in Ukraine. The disability rights movement is one of the most seasoned and respected in the country, and more than 3,000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the disabled and for veterans (many of whom have disabilities) are working to improve the lives of disabled people all over the country. 35 large NGOs for disabled persons recently formed a National Association of Invalids of Ukraine, which is headed by Valery Sushkevich, a Member of Parliament and President of the Ukrainian Paralympic Committee, who himself is mobile impaired. It is hoped that, through the Association, disabled persons will be able to effectively pressure the government to meet their needs. Additionally, the younger generations in Ukraine have become accustomed to seeing and interacting with people with disabilities, and this familiarity has resulted in the weakening of negative stereotypes.

There are several facilities in the country that offer high-quality physical rehabilitation for people with spinal injuries and other motor impairments. Also, a Kyiv factory recently began to produce an “active” wheelchair that is lightweight and easier to maneuver than wider wheelchairs. Such a wheelchair could help people with motor impairments pursue a strategy of active rehabilitation, one of the main goals of the Ukrainian disability rights movement. Unfortunately, these high-quality rehabilitation services and active wheelchairs are cost-prohibitive for many disabled people, who often survive on meager government pensions.

Perhaps recognizing the centrality of economics to the problems of the disabled, the Ukrainian state is currently emphasizing vocational rehabilitation. Unfortunately, these vocational programs have many limitations. Most educational facilities that target the disabled population have not been adapted to accommodate mobile impaired persons, making it impossible for many to attend courses.

Some vocational centers for the disabled are inconveniently located, and users cannot conveniently travel to and from the centers. Some argue that such centers become “reservations” or even “prisons” for disabled people, who are trapped there and effectively segregated from the rest of society. Ukrainian labor laws require that an enterprise’s work-

force include a minimum of 4% disabled people. Paradoxically, such laws often work against people with disabilities. To avoid paying a fine for violating this law, and reluctant to remove architectural barriers to accommodate workers with special needs, many businesses employ “token invalids,” who are paid half their official salary to stay home and conceal the arrangement.

These problems point to more pervasive, yet often hidden, forms of prejudice and discrimination. In political and popular discourse, disability is a theme that is much abused and manipulated. In political campaigns, candidates play on the emotions of certain categories of citizens, oftentimes children with visible physical disabilities. At exhibitions of social services and NGOs, would-be sponsors flaunt their (often fictitious) support of “invalids’ organizations” through enlarged images of disabled people. People with disabilities thus become a commodity to be manipulated by powerful people and groups for their own gain.

In the face of such struggles, disability rights activists like Andrei Budnik are taking matters into their own hands. He is currently studying rehabilitation therapy at a university in Kyiv, which will help him offer rehabilitation to disabled and able-bodied children, teens, and adults through dance, music, and other arts through “Irida,” the civic organization where he is employed. He hopes to help others with disabilities pursue goals of “active rehabilitation” and independent living while challenging negative stereotypes of the disabled.

*Sarah D. Phillips is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology. She conducted research on the disability rights movement in Ukraine in summer 2002.*

A very important concept for many disabled activists is the notion of independent living, a movement that had its origins here in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois and Berkeley, California in the 1960s and 70s.



The Russian and East European Center is especially pleased to welcome **Maria Todorova** to the University and to the REEC community. She joined the History Department this year,

having taught previously at the University of Florida in Gainesville and the University of Sofia, Bulgaria. Professor Todorova is a distinguished scholar of Southeast European history and the history of nationalism. Many students in the humanities and social sciences are familiar with her book *Imagining the Balkans* (Oxford U. Press, 1997), which has been translated into nine languages with Croatian and Albanian translations forthcoming.

Professor Todorova received her PhD in history from the University of Sofia in 1977 for her dissertation on the Tanzimat reforms in the Ottoman Empire. At that time, Ottoman history was considered a safer choice because it was not as politicized as post-Ottoman Bulgarian history. Since then and especially after she came to the US in 1988, her work has focused more on the history of the modern Balkans, but one of the central themes of her work has been the nature of the Ottoman legacy. Her book *Imagining the Balkans* addresses this issue and the fundamental question of how to conceptualize a “region,” especially one that is as complex geographically and historically as the Balkans.

Professor Todorova’s present research continues some of the themes in her earlier work and raises new issues. One theme that her work continues to address is perceptions and representations. She is currently working on the symbology of nationalism by conducting a diachronic study of a Bulgarian national hero Vasil Levski. Another theme of her work is memory. She is particularly interested in how people remember their everyday lives during the communist period and is trying to launch an international project on nostalgia of communism and everyday life.

Professor Todorova has received numerous awards and fellowships for her outstanding work. She held the Guggenheim fellowship in 2001-02 and the National Humanities Center fellowship in 2000. At U of I she teaches courses on the modern Balkans, the Ottoman Empire, theories of nationalism, the history of Eastern Europe as well as an undergraduate course on historical interpretation. She has also been appointed Adjunct Professor of Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey.

# Outreach News

Besides our usual array of public events, the Center has been busy providing outreach programs for K-16 educators and students. Here is a select list of our programs:

- **Summer Research Lab.** This unique program brings in scholars and grad students from all over the world to use our Slavic Library and network with other scholars in the field. In 2000, we instituted a new Research Workshop as part of the SRL, which provides practical information on conducting research in the field.
- **Annual Summer Symposium:** “Islam from Eastern Europe to Central Asia” 2002. This symposium brings leading scholars in the field to address the chosen topic with the aim of assisting educators to enhance their curriculum on the topic.
- **Curriculum Development Workshop on Russia and the Balkans** for secondary and postsecondary educators. Begun in summer 1999, this five-day intensive workshop features sessions on Russian and Balkan history, culture, politics and economy.
- **Hermitage Museum exchange.** In March 2001 and June 2002, we had a unique opportunity to bring educators from the Hermitage Museum and other institutions in St. Petersburg, Russia, to give a series of public lectures as well as workshops for area teachers and K-12 students interested in Russian art and culture.

We also have been working closely with other UI area studies centers and the International Programs and Studies to conduct joint outreach programs:

- **International Summer Institute for Precollegiate Educators.** Begun in July 2002, the 5-day institute addresses selected topics—2002 World religions; 2003 World governments and politics; 2004 economic systems.
- **Update Newsletter.** This outreach newsletter is now published biannually and sent at no cost to approx. 2000 teachers nationally. If you wish to subscribe to the newsletter, please contact Lynda Park at REEC.



*Sergei Garezin from the St. Petersburg Palace of Youth Creativity working with children on rocket design in June 2002*

*For information on these and other programs at REEC, check our website at: [www.reec.uiuc.edu](http://www.reec.uiuc.edu). If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Center's outreach activities, please contact Lynda Park, Assistant Director, at (217)333-6022 or [lypark@uiuc.edu](mailto:lypark@uiuc.edu).*



## Letter from the Director

The Russian and East European Center, which has been a part of the intellectual life of this university since the late 1950s, is constructed of many parts—physical spaces, furniture, a lot of paper and electronic files, and money from various sources (especially the University and the US Department of Education). But at its heart are people. When you come into the offices of the Center, you see many of these essential people: the secretaries Sandy Reasor and Theresa Schafroth, the graduate student assistants Tamara Sollinger and Rob Whiting, the assistant director Lynda Park, and the administrative assistant Dianne Merridith, who helped make the center run efficiently for the last 24 years, but retired at the end of October. She was replaced by the new assistant to the director Merrily Shaw, who brings to the Center a great deal of experience at the university (having worked in Political Science, at ACDIS, and

at the European Union Center). If you haven't already met Merrily, stop by and welcome her to the Russian and East European community.

Faculty are also essential to the vitality of the Center. Everything we do—courses, lecture series, symposia, conferences, teacher training programs—depend on the involvement of our faculty, who generate ideas, share their expertise, and give generously of their time. I have to say how impressed I am with the collection of scholars and teachers in Russian and eastern European studies we have at this university. This has been true for some time. And in the last few years, many new colleagues have come to the university, strengthening our programs in many ways: Maria Todorova and John Randolph in history, Harriet Murav and Lilya Kaganovsky in Slavic and comparative literatures, Shannon O'Leary in geography, Anke Pinkert in German, Nancy Benson in journalism, Alexander Ardichvili in human resource education, Jiahua Che in economics, and Hamish Gow in ACE and

business administration. Miranda Beaven Remnek will be joining the library faculty this academic year as the new head of the Slavic and East European library.

And then there are the students who study here and participate in our programs, the teachers who take part in the teacher training programs we offer, the visiting scholars from Russia, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere, the invited lecturers who enliven our intellectual life, the participants in conferences, the associates of the Center and of the Summer Research Lab, and others.

It may sound trite, but it remains true: these are some of the people who are the Russian and East European Center. Which is to say: you are the Center. For myself, I want to thank you. I could have accomplished very little as Center director without you. I look forward to continuing to work with you on new and continuing programs and hope to see you at Center events.

—Mark D. Steinberg

# Nonprofit Strategies in Kurgan, Russia: *The Case of Zhenshchiny Nauki*

By Lindsay Shaw

This past summer I had the opportunity to meet with members of the women's organization Zhenshchiny Nauki (Women of Science) in Kurgan, Russia. Kurgan is a city of approximately 350,000 inhabitants, located east of Yekaterinburg and north of Kazakhstan. Although agriculture is the dominant industry, the city is well known for its industrial production and the Ilizarov Center for Restorative Traumatology and Orthopedics, which attracts patients from across Russia and around the world.

Zhenshchiny Nauki is a registered organization of 50 women faculty members from Kurgan State University. Their goal is to promote gender equality, domestic violence prevention, and the status of women in science. The organization's main form of direct outreach to the community is its quarterly publication, *Ia Zhenshchina 21 Veka (I am a Woman of the 21st Century)*. Articles, written by members of the group as well as other regional women's organizations and American contacts, cover a variety of topics that explore gender issues in Russia and Kurgan. The group prints 1,000 copies of each edition, which is sent to group members and distributed among the community.

Advertisers are usually local women business owners (e.g., a local frozen pelmeni company, salons, and gyms), who are often featured in the magazine as well. Zhenshchiny Nauki also organizes seminars and conferences with local



Shaw (center) with members of the NGO

leaders, hoping that they will teach their colleagues and employees about gender equality and the problems of domestic violence. Target groups include local police, university students, and regional political officials. The group has held three successful conferences so far, each attracting between 200 and 500 regional participants.

One of the defining features of Zhenshchiny Nauki is its relationship to

the West. The group operates almost entirely on grants from an American sister city program and smaller grants from Kurgan's sister city of Appleton, Wisconsin. The sister city program between Appleton and Kurgan is very active, including exchange visits among university students and professors, mayors, police officials, and high school students. Zhenshchiny Nauki existed on a much smaller scale before the sister city program flourished in the late 1990s. From 1996 to 1999, the group operated with no funds and with only 15 university professors. Group leaders met with a delegation of Appleton police officers visiting Kurgan in 1999, explained their dire financial situation, and received a \$150 grant, which funded the group's first confer-

ence. After the conference, the group earned a \$12,000 operational grant and additional smaller grants that fund the organization today. Group members have close ties with Appleton sister city participants, and as a result, the group is often associated with American visitors. Appleton leaders speak at the group's conferences, group members travel to Appleton, and American speakers are often featured when local media reports on the group's annual conferences.

When asked about results, most members told me that the group is becoming more established and respected in the community. Their efforts to educate the community have at the very least raised awareness about domestic violence and gender equality, which members feel is the first step toward improvement.

I was impressed by the progress of Zhenshchiny Nauki. The group has no permanent work space, funds, or staff. All members are volunteers, who also maintain full-time academic careers and family obligations. Despite these potential roadblocks, members have the time and dedication to continue holding regular meetings, applying for grants, organizing training sessions, publishing a magazine, and organizing conferences.

Lindsay Shaw is a MA student in Russian and East European Studies.

## “Rethinking Terrorism” October 3-5

Since the events of September 11, 2001, understanding terrorism as a global phenomenon has become a priority for the public as well as policy makers. On October 3-5, REEC, along with the European Union Center, organized the Joint Area Centers Conference on “Rethinking Terrorism,” in which leading experts in the field discussed terrorism as a social and political phenomenon and explored the possibilities and the implications of different responses. Among the speakers were Bruce Hoffman, Mary Jo White, Martha Crenshaw, Yvonne Haddad and Nazif Shahrani. Alongside the conference, a K-12 teachers' workshop on “Teaching About Terrorism” was held with the help of the Illinois International High School Initiative. Twenty-eight teachers from Illinois and other states attended. Approximately 170 people attended the conference in total. The conference was cosponsored by other area centers and units on campus. For more information see [www.ips.uiuc.edu/terrorism/index.html](http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/terrorism/index.html)

# Report from the Field: *Sofia, Bulgaria*

By Irina Gigova

**M**y research in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2001-02 was a bittersweet experience. Even if you are as lucky as I was to be a Bulgarian citizen (hence paying lower fees and copy rates) with funds from a western institution, you will inevitably find that while financial security allows one to enjoy all that charming Sofia has to offer, the first-hand encounter with the academic and research world is frequently grim.

Today Sofia, Bulgaria's capital and largest city, holds one-fifth of the country's 8 million inhabitants. It is the commercial, cultural and political center of Bulgaria, much as Paris is to France. Sofia is the starting (and in most cases, the final) point for any scholar of contemporary Bulgaria. For better or worse most of the crucial archives, museums, and libraries are situated there. Regional archives and museums do exist, and in fact they probably offer the researcher much more amiable reception and personal attention. Following the footprints of many before me, however, I stayed in Sofia for the duration of my research trip. Partially, my project—which reconstructs the cosmos of the Sofia-based literary community—demanded this geographical constraint.

I found a lovely sunny apartment in downtown Sofia within walking distance from the institutions I planned to explore for \$200 a month. Close distance was only one of the advantages of living in downtown. Another was the aesthetic pleasure of residing within the boundaries of old Sofia, which, due to continuous municipal efforts during the last decade, has recovered some of its glory. Major streets are being repaved, facades renovated, fancy modern buildings erected, and garbage is finally regularly collected. Indeed, I took great pleasure at the end of a busy day in strolling down Sofia's picturesque streets swarming with cars and people.

I spent ten months comparing the furniture and the institutional atmosphere of the Central State Historical Archive (containing pre-1944 materials), the Central State Archive (post-1944 materials), the Central Party Archive and subsequently the archives of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the National Library, the Interior Ministry, and the National Literary Museum. The first three places are the primary research sites for scholars of twentieth-century Bulgaria. They are all located in an ugly gray edifice - the Central Administration of Archives (CAA) - rising behind the former Communist Party Headquarters. From a scholar's point of view, the CAA is remarkably well run for a state institution. During the last decade it initiated a series of documentary volumes, maintains its own journal, organizes exhibitions, and most importantly, has opened the archives freely to both scholars and citizens. Moreover, it has an air-conditioned reading room that is open from 9-6pm!

Once you step out of that building, however, you must live with the material discomforts that have plagued the cultural and academic institutions of post-socialist Bulgaria. Thus during cold winter days, the National Library operated under limited hours due to freezing temperatures in the reading rooms. Portions of its roof, as well as that of the



*Gigova in front of the National Historical Museum in Sofia*

Academy of Sciences, severely leaked, so shelves were covered with nylon to protect valuable holdings from falling mortar pieces and dripping water. The list of problems is simply immeasurable.

On the other hand, the severely underpaid staff was usually amiable and helpful, particularly if you knew how to approach them. In the tiny space of the National Literary Museum, where I spent almost half of my time, I unavoidably befriended the two women working in the room. We shared institutional gossip and life-stories as easily as the coffee and sweets each of us brought daily. Even more enriching was my interaction with local historians. Most of them were energetic and ambitious women, who somehow managed to preserve their scholarly passion despite meager salaries, limited opportunities, and the range of other problems accompanying daily life in Bulgaria.

I had none of the annoying troubles foreign researchers often face: difficulties with police registration, double price standards and a language barrier. But then I had to cope with an unnerving feeling of guilt, for every evening I went to bed relieved that I did not have to live with the problems that an average Bulgarian struggles through daily. I knew that I had a return ticket back to Chicago in July.

*Irina Gigova is a PhD candidate in history. She conducted her research in Bulgaria on grants from the Graduate College and the History Department.*

## Live Chat with Librarians in Russia and Eastern Europe

**T**he Slavic Reference Service in the Slavic and East European Library is a national service that provides bibliographic and information services to libraries and individuals around the country. In the last few years, the SRS has been developing an online, real-time "chat" reference section, first with the reference department of the Jagellonian library in Krakow and then with the reference librarians at the Russian National Library. The "chat" reference allows patrons to have immediate contact with a librarian at the U of I Slavic Library. A consultation with a librarian in Poland or Russia can be arranged within 24-48 hours. The Ukrainian Parliamentary Library will also be participating in this international reference agency in the next month or two, and the SRS hopes to include librarians from the Czech Republic in the near future. For more information on SRS and the "chat" reference, check out its website at: [www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/srs.htm](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/srs.htm) An online tutorial on Slavic information resources is also available at the site.

## Faculty News

**Dmitry Bobyshev** published poems in *Novyi Mir* (vol. 4, 2002) and *Zvezda* (vol. 8, 2002).

"Ya zdes," his literary memoirs, were published in *Oktiabr*, volumes 7 and 9 (2002).

A number of his works are online at: [www.vavilon.ru/textonly/issue10/index/html](http://www.vavilon.ru/textonly/issue10/index/html) and [www.vavilon.ru/diary/index.html](http://www.vavilon.ru/diary/index.html). In June 2002 in St. Petersburg, Russia, he presented "On Monument of Akhmatova" at the annual "Akhmatova Readings" and gave a poetry reading in at the Akhmatova Museum.

**Donna Buchanan** contributed two entries entitled "Russia: Folk and Popular Music" and "Bulgaria" for the *New Harvard Dictionary of Music*, (revised edition, Harvard U. Press). She presented "Balkan Circuits, Ottoman Orbits, and Popular Music in the EU 'Accession States': A Comparative Case Study" at the conference on "Music and Cultural Identity" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia in October and gave two lectures at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, Slovenia and at the Music Sector of the Institute for Art Studies in Sofia, Bulgaria. In spring 2002, *Balkanalia*, which performs under her direction, conducted a master class with Turkish music virtuoso Faruk Tekbilek and performed at Illinois Wesleyan University and Carrie-Busey Elementary School, in addition to their annual spring concert.

**Marianna Tax Choldin** delivered the 2002 Mortenson Distinguished Lecture on "Walls and Windows, Islands and Bridges: Libraries Along the Road to Civil Society" in October.

**Bruce W. Fouke** is a 2002-03 CAS Fellow for his research on "Geomicrobiology and the Emergence of Coral Disease". He works in the Crimea. He also just finished construction of a new DNA-RNA molecular geomicrobiology laboratory that contains aquaria in which they are growing living corals and received a \$1.1 M research grant from the National Science Foundation Biocomplexity in the Environment initiative.

**Zsuzsa Gille** published "Cinderellas of Europe: Waste, Food and Cleanliness in Postsocialist Politics," *Anthropology Review* 17:1 (2002). She gave presentations at the international conference on Conflict Dimensions of Transnationalization in Rauischholzhausen, Germany, in July, and at the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, and the Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota, in September.

**Jonathan Ludwig** published "The Master and Margarita: A Fantasy of Redemption" in the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*. He has been appointed to a two-year term to the AAASS Committee on Language Study (2002-2004).

**Peter Maggs** was promoted to Clifford M. and Bette A. Carney Chair in Law in the College of Law. For the past several years he has been work-

ing as the principal drafter of a new Civil Code for Moldova to replace its Soviet-era code. The new code was enacted into law in June. Also, his translation of the *Third Part of the Russian Civil Code* was recently published by M. E. Sharpe.

**Zorica Nedovic-Budic** participated at the XVI congress of the Association of European Schools of Planning in Volos, Greece, in July, and presented: (with M. Vujosevic) "The Swinging Pendulum: Centralizing/Decentralizing Government and Planning in Yugoslavia" at the Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning of Serbia; (with B. Cavric) "Urban Development Trends in Post-Communist Cities: A Case Study of Belgrade and Zagreb" at the University of Bostwana.

**Shannon O'Lear** published: "Armenian Energy: Establishing or Eroding sovereignty?" *Journal of Central Asian Studies* 3, 2 (1999, in print 2002); "Azerbaijan: Territorial Issues and Internal Challenges in Mid-2001." *Post-Soviet Geography and Economics*, 42 (2001). She was an invited participant at the "Water, Climate and Development Issues in the Amudarya Basin" in Philadelphia in June. In October she was invited to give a presentation on the Caucasus at the U. S. Air Force Academy.

**Robert Ousterhout** was named Outstanding Faculty for Research in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. His book, *The Art of Kariye Camii* (Scala, 2002), has been published in English and Turkish.

**Janice Pilch** published "Understanding Copyright for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Materials," *Slavic and East European Information Resources* 4, 1 (2002) and "Baltic National Bibliography," *Slavic and East European Information Resources* 2, 3-4 (2001).

**Anke Pinkert** presented an excerpt from her book manuscript entitled "War Violence and Mass Death in the Psychiatric and Cinematic Discourse of the Soviet Occupation Zone and Early GDR" at the Franke Institute for the Humanities at the University of Chicago. She also published "Excessive Conversion: Antifascism and State Dissident in Franz Fuhmann's Das Judenauto," *Seminar: a Journal of Germanic Studies* 38:2 (2002).

**Mark Steinberg** published *Proletarian Imagination: Self, Modernity, and the Sacred in Russia, 1910-1925* (Cornell U Press, 2002), 3 articles in books, and completed the filming of a video/audio course of 36 lectures on "Ideas and Individuals in Russia from Peter the Great to Gorbachev" for the continuing education firm The Teaching Company.

## REEC Visiting Scholars

**Konstantin Shneyder** is an associate professor of history at Perm State University, Russia. He specializes in the social and intellectual history of 19th century Russia. He is here on a RSEP grant conducting research on early Russian liberalism of the 1840s-1860s.

**Alexandre Antochtchenko** is an associate professor of history at Petrozavodsk State University in Russia. He is conducting research on *Religious Spirituality as a Basis for Russian Emigrants' Identity (1917-1939)*. He specializes in Russian historiography, Eurasianism, and historical memory.

**Jeong-Sook Hahn** is a professor of history at Seoul National University in Seoul, S. Korea, specializing in intellectual and social history of Russia and Ukraine.

**Roman Licko** is a doctoral candidate in political science and lecturer of English and American Studies at Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. He is a Fulbright Scholar conducting research on Czechoslovak-American relations during World War II.

**Mortenson Center Scholars: Galina Kislovskaya and Natalia Kopelyanskaya**, Library of Foreign Literatures, Moscow, Russia; **Tatiana Rassokhina**, Tula State University, Tula, Russia; **Maira Tungatarova**, National Youth Library, Almaty, Kazakhstan

## Alumni News

**Terry Clark** (PhD'92, political science) was promoted to professor of Political Science at Creighton University.

**Susan Smith** (PhD'01, history) is an assistant professor of History at the College of Staten Island/CUNY.

**Matthew Tittle** (PhD'01, ed psych) has taken a position as visiting assistant professor with the UI Educational Psychology. He previously served as assistant director at the UI Campus Honors Program.

**Tom Trice** (PhD'99, history) is an assistant professor of History at California Polytechnic University.

## Thank you, Dianne!



Dianne Merridith, who kept the Center going for the last 24 years, retired in October. We wish her happy retirement. No more grant applications!

# Student News

**Stu Burns** (history) presented "Of Bandits and Bloodsuckers: Vampirism as a Leitmotif in Serb Peasant Resistance" at the Ohio Valley History Conference in Clarksville, TN, in October.

**Audrey Carmeli** (theatre) has completed the Certificate of Graduate Specialization in Russian and East European Studies. She also defended her dissertation "Allegory and Metaphor: Soviet Productions of Shakespeare in the Post-Stalin Era."

**Charles Michael Elavsky** (communications) was granted a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research award for research in the Czech Republic for 2002-2003.

**Brian Felt** (Slavic) completed his dissertation, "The Accentuation of Prefixed Nouns in Bulgarian and Russian." He is currently a Lecturer of Russian at Emory University.

**Chris Scarboro** (history) presented "From Turkish Bath to Parliament Building: An Investigation of Colonial Desire" at the Canadian Association of Slavonic Studies meeting in May. He received the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research award in Bulgaria for 2002-03.

**Lindsay Shaw** (REES) presented "Media and Civil Society: From Samizdat to the Information Society in Central Europe" at the Central Slavic Conference in Columbia, MO, in October.

**Robert Whiting** (REES) presented "Exploring the Boundary between Military Security and Civil Governance: IFOR/SFOR in Bosnia, 1996-97," at the International Studies Association conference in March.

## Incoming REES MA Students 2002-2003

**Rachel Facey, Hung-Yi Lee, Alicia Szymonik, Matthew Wright**

## 2001-2002 Graduates

### PhDs:

**Audrey Carmeli** (theater)  
**Juliya Dolinnaya** (Slavic)  
**Brian Felt** (Slavic)  
**Maxim Matusevich** (history)  
**Sarah Phillips** (anthropology)  
**Judith Pintar** (sociology)  
**Matthew Rosenstein** (Slavic)  
**Warren Woodfin** (art history)

### MA's:

**Maria Berdichevskaya** (advertising)  
**Volodymyr Chumachenko** (REES)  
**Jorge Coelho** (LIS)  
**Soobum Kim** (LIS)  
**Wendy Shelburne** (REES)  
**Katherine Sredl** (advertising)

### REES Minors:

**Julia Azari** (political science)  
**Angella Dieters** (international studies)  
**Michael Hickey** (political science)  
**Michael Thurston** (political science)

## FLAS/SSRC Fellowship Recipients Summer 2002:

**Randall Dills** (history—Russian)  
**John Krieger** (Slavic—Polish)  
**Ross Musselman** (history—Serbian/Croatian)  
**Tamara Sollinger** (REES—Estonian at BALSSI)

## FLAS Recipients 2002-2003:

**Margarethe Adams** (music—Turkish)  
**Andrew Asher** (anthropology—Polish)  
**James Bang** (economics—Russian)  
**Daniel Cardwell** (music—Russian)  
**Julia Cortinas** (music—Russian)  
**Randall Dills** (history—Russian)  
**Rachel Facey** (REES—Russian)  
**Diana Flesner** (music—Bulgarian)  
**Christian Hains** (history—Russian)  
**Kate Meehan** (history—Serbian/Croatian)  
**Ross Musselman** (history—Serbian/Croatian)  
**Natasha Kipp** (music—Russian)  
**Jessica Shelvik** (music—Russian)  
**Elizabeth Spreng** (anthropology—Czech)  
**Alicia Szymonik** (REES—Polish)  
**Jessica Wienhold** (comp. lit.—Russian)  
**Matthew Wright** (REES—Czech)

## Slavic Review Editorial Assistants 2002-2003

**Irina Gigova, Gregory Stroud, Christine Varga-Harris**



## Russian and East European Center News

Editor: Lynda Park  
Editorial Assistant: Tamara Sollinger  
No. 100 Fall 2002

The Center News is published bi-annually. We welcome your comments and suggestions. To be added to our mailing list, contact the center at the address below or e-mail: [reec@uiuc.edu](mailto:reec@uiuc.edu).

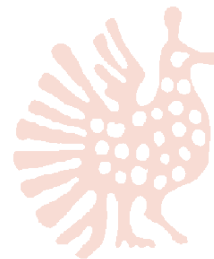
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## Svetlana Broz visits U of I

At the invitation from REEC, Svetlana Broz, cardiologist, activist, and granddaughter of the former Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito, visited our campus in October and gave a CAS/MillerComm lecture entitled "Facing Atrocity: Revenge, Justice and Reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina." Dr. Broz discussed how even in a time of atrocity there were acts of courage and compassion between people who were supposedly "enemies." Excerpts from her book, *Good People in an Evil Time*, were read as part of her lecture.

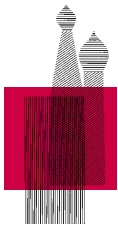


## Send Us Your News!

We would love to hear from REES-related alumni. Please send us your news along with the degree(s) earned and year and your current affiliation to the email or street address below.

### Correction

In the article on the "Dovring gift" in the spring 2002 issue of the Center News, the author of the books, *Road to Propaganda* and *English as Lingua Franca*, was incorrectly identified as Folke Dovring. The books were written by Karin Dovring.



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## Lecture Series—Fall 2002

### Noontime Scholars

September 24

**“The Indian Merchant Diaspora in Early Modern Central Asia”**

*Scott Levi* (History, Eastern Illinois University; REEC Regional Faculty Associate)

October 15

**“‘Prayer of the Heart’: Embodied Personhood in Greek Orthodox Christianity”**

*Angela Shand* (Anthropology, UIUC)

October 29

**“Is There Such a Thing as Post-communist Politics as Usual? Recent Elections in Eastern Europe”**

*Carol Leff* (Political Science, UIUC)

November 12

**“Empty Screens: the End of Utopia in Post-communist German Film”**

*Anke Pinkert* (Germanic Languages and Literature, UIUC)

November 19

**“Beria, Khrushchev and the Process of Destalinization”**

*Stephan Merl* (History, University of Bielefeld, Germany)

December 3

**“The Political Role of Religion in Central-Eastern Europe”**

*Zsolt Enyedi* (Political Science, Central European University, Hungary)

### Distinguished Lecturers

#### Colloquium Series

#### “Directions in Russian and East European Studies”

September 27

**“Get Real, Go Local: A Microhistorical Approach to Russian Orthodoxy”**

*Gregory Freeze* (History, Brandeis University)

October 17

**“Pig-Breeding and Other Goyish Topics in Soviet Yiddish Literature”**

*Gennady Estraiikh* (Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University)

November 7

**“Rituals in an Atomized Land: Challenging Models of East European Society”**

*Gerald Creed* (Anthropology, City University of New York)

December 13

**“Philosophical Perspectives on Orthodox Christianity in the Age of Enlightenment”**

*Larry Wolff* (History, Boston College)