K–12 Teachers Visit Russia on Fulbright-Hays Seminar

Fourteen K-12 teachers from around the US participated in a summer seminar in Russia, organized by the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center and funded by the US Department of Education Fulbright-Hays program. The seminar, entitled “Understanding Russia through Everyday Life,” was organized in conjunction with Ron Pope, associate professor of government at Illinois State University and REEEC Regional Faculty Associate, who led the group in Russia. He is the founder of the American Home in Vladimir, an educational institution whose staff provided the programming and logistical support for the seminar. The aim of the seminar was for the teachers to develop a better understanding of Russia by learning first-hand about Russian everyday life past and present and to develop lesson plans on Russia that they could use in their classrooms and then disseminate nationally. A diverse group—who teach elementary to high school, social studies to economics—the 14 teachers spent four weeks (June 22-July 19) in Russia, mostly in Vladimir but also in Murom, St. Petersburg, and Moscow, learning about post-Soviet Russian society, politics, economy, and education as well as history and culture. Before their trip to Russia, they took part in a five-day pre-departure curriculum development workshop on Russia at Illinois, featuring lectures by our own faculty. More information on the seminar along with a photo diary can be found at www.reec.uiuc.edu/outreach/fulbright.htm

Immersion in Russian Daily Life
by Jessica Barranco
(Phoenix, Arizona)

I am writing on behalf of the 14 extremely fortunate American social studies teachers who traveled to Russia this past summer thanks to a generous Fulbright-Hays grant. Our program was the result of a unique collaborative effort on the part of REEEC and the American Home in Vladimir. We were promised an in-depth look at everyday life in Russia, and the program delivered that and much, much more. The richness of our personal and professional experiences exceeded our expectations in every way.

We began our adventure with an outstanding five-day, pre-departure workshop under the direction of Lynda Park at Illinois. Seated around a con-

—continued on page 3
Director—continued

flicts, state-building, nuclear power and weapons, the emergence of new market economies, legal reform, oil and other natural resources, environmental crises, human and narcotics trafficking, post-socialism, crime syndicates). They have much to teach us, too, about changing gender codes, the intertwining of ecology and spirituality, migration, and the rights and lifestyles of indigenous peoples. I thus view the development of an integrated Caucasian and Central Asian studies curriculum—through new course offerings, faculty hires, and expanded library resources—as both a marvelous opportunity and strategic objective for future growth.

The interface between our region and the European Union represents a second opportunity for expanded joint programming and scholarly investigation. As Peter H. Solomon, Director of the Centre for Russian & East European Studies at the Centre for Russian & East European Studies at the University of Toronto remarked in the latter’s September 2004 Centre News,

Now that a group of countries in Central and Eastern Europe has joined the European Union, and other hopefuls are waiting in the wings, it is becoming imperative to examine the countries of our region within a larger European context. At the same time, the study of Europe itself must embrace the East, and even now for most observers Europe means all of the EU, not to speak of the “wider Europe” that includes most of the Balkans, if not also Ukraine and Russia (p. 1).

I therefore foresee continuing to cultivate events that are timely, whose substance transcends any one discipline, and that reach out across Area Centers and Colleges, as scholars shift their focus from within to between disciplines and the world’s regions as defined traditionally by area studies curricula. To wit, REEEC is co-sponsoring a Turkish Studies Symposium on “Media and History in Late Ottoman and Early Republican Turkey,” co-organized with PSAMES, while in early April we will hold an international conference, hosted by Washington DC’s Kennan Institute, on “Commercial Law Reform in Russia and Eurasia” in honor of Peter Maggs, professor in the UIUC College of Law.

I would like to focus more attention on our teaching mission. Although graduate applications have increased markedly in quality and quantity over the past few years, one of the Center’s aims is to increase enrollments in our MA and BA degree programs as well as our REEES-related courses. Crucial to this process will be locating additional funds for graduate fellowships to attract and support our top applicants as well as our fine international students, who do not qualify for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship. We must obtain monies to better support graduate student research, and strive to create a stronger sense of campus among both our BA and MA populations. Marketing is of key importance—our degree program leaflets have been redesigned and updated, and a new REECC brochure will be available in spring 2005. The REECC website has also been updated, and a new corner dedicated to profiling our MA students. We also anticipate transforming our Russian and East European Studies and Balkan Studies MA Certificate programs into graduate minors, receipt of which will be officially printed on student transcripts (the current certificates are not), within the next six months.

The superb quality of our “Directions” and “Noontime Scholars” speakers continues to provide an invaluable supplement to required course work and stimulating discussions of benefit to the entire campus. This year we are again very fortunate to have scheduled several internationally renowned specialists, including Tomislav Longinovic (University of Wisconsin, Madison), a cutting-edge literary scholar of Serbian and Balkan cultural studies, gender, and expressive culture; Sheila Fitzpatrick (University of Chicago), author of several celebrated books on Soviet history that occupy a prominent place on any REEES student’s “must read” list; linguist Victor Friedman (University of Chicago), one of the world’s foremost authorities on Balkan and Caucasian languages, ethnicity, and culture; and Susan Gal (University of Chicago), an acclaimed linguistic anthropologist who has published widely on issues of language, gender, and society in Eastern Europe.

By reaching out to our regional faculty associates with new conference and UIUC-based research grants (see p. 9), my hope is that the Center will become home to a large network of affiliated scholars whose presence and activities will only further enhance the camaraderie and collegial exchange of ideas that I have regularly experienced in REEES circles. In addition, the growing number of international REEES scholars choosing to spend their sabbaticals in residence at Illinois (see p. 10), and our strengthening relationship with the Association for Women in Slavic Studies, which will once again allow us to host its annual conference in tandem with the Summer Research Laboratory during June 2005, have contributed to this sense of expanded community. They are also important testaments to the Center’s significance; its dynamic, capable staff; and the unparalleled resources of our Slavic Library and Slavic Reference Service. I am honored to be a part of these developments, and thank you all for the opportunity to direct REEES during this exciting time. Please know that Lynda Park and I always welcome your comments and suggestions.

Respectfully,
Donna A. Buchanan
Fulbright—continued

From Murom, we toured the beautiful cities of St. Petersburg and Moscow. We visited many breathtaking and moving sites, from the Winter Palace and the Siege of Leningrad Memorial in St. Petersburg, to the Kremlin and the recently opened Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer in Moscow. As teachers, we especially appreciated the outstanding tour of the State Russian Museum led by art historian Aleksei Kurbanovskii and the fascinating bus tour of the sites of the Russian Revolution led by Professor Boris Kolonitskii. What a privilege it was to listen to these two experts. Particularly memorable from our stay in Moscow was our visit with Militia General Boris Gavrilov who spoke with us at length about the challenges confronting law enforcement officers in today’s Russia.

No doubt many of our classrooms at home are now adorned with Russian maps, matroschkas, and posters of the Cyrillic alphabet. Some of our students are reading Russian fairy tales, Pushkin’s The Bronze Horseman, and Tolstoy’s Hadji Murad for the first time. Some of them are making lacquer boxes and are corresponding with their Russian counterparts on a regular basis. Our ability to teach periods such as World War II, the Cold War, and the dissolution of the USSR has been enriched by the conversations we had with Russians who remember and lived through them.

As we watch events unfold in Russia, we have a newfound compassion and perspective. We thank REEEC, the American Home, and the Fulbright-Hays Program for the remarkable opportunity they gave us. Thanks to their collective effort, there are students seated in fourteen different classrooms from California to New Jersey reaping the benefits of their teachers’ new insights and personal experiences.

Teacher Reflection

Russian Daily Life Interests

U.S. Students

By Tom Murdoch (Mahomet, Illinois)

One of the great joys of traveling abroad and experiencing different cultures comes from the opportunity to share those experiences with students upon returning home. The sharing of such experiences is particularly rewarding when included as a part of a course curriculum where a high level of student curiosity and interest results.

My Fulbright-Hays experience in Russia this summer offered such an opportunity. To my surprise however,
much of the student interest developed around topics which I had least expected. For example, students’ questions focused on traditional aspects of Russian culture, including family gatherings, entertainment, farm life, and schools. I had anticipated questions about fashion, music, automobiles, teen activities, and economic growth, planning to use these as a lead-in to a discussion as to how American cultural influences were affecting Post-Soviet Russia. Few questions arose from these topics. In fact, student interests were much more in line with the purpose of our trip, which was “Understanding Russia through Everyday Life.”

Fortunately, I had accumulated extensive notes and digital images to draw on, so I could quickly rearrange my presentations to meet the students’ interests. The spontaneous discussions of everyday Russian life, which developed in most of my 7th and 8th grade classes, gave me an opportunity to share many personal experiences with my students. The weekends at my host family’s dacha, the visit to a small private farm, and dinners with a former Red Army dacha, the visit to a small private farm, and dinners with a former Red Army

In the Moscow shopping malls. Deciding to keep the discussions focused on the lives of ordinary Russians, I showed photos from our visit to a small family farm which had been operating since 1956. The first photo was one of our Fulbright group seated around the breakfast table in the farmhouse kitchen. The table was piled high with traditional Russian breakfast pastries, sausages, and dairy products. The farmer’s wife, a very plain, round-faced woman dressed in typical baggy babushka attire, stood at one end of the table, arranging food. Beside her a slender, sharply dressed woman served tea from an ancient samovar. Again, students’ questions focused on, so I could quickly rearrange my presentations to meet the students’ interests. The spontaneous discussions of everyday Russian life, which developed in most of my 7th and 8th grade classes, gave me an opportunity to share many personal experiences with my students. The weekends at my host family’s dacha, the visit to a small private farm, and dinners with a former Red Army

Family life around the dacha was of particular interest to students. I began by showing them a photo of a Sunday meal with my host family. Family members Anastasia, Boris, and Violetta, along with Boris’s fishing buddy Viktor, were shown seated at a table on the edge of the dacha garden, which was enclosed by grape vines. On the table were fresh onions from the garden, tomatoes and cucumbers, and a stew made from fish Boris and Viktor had caught in the Klyazma River, which flowed only a few hundred meters from the dacha. The students’ questions were very basic but showed a high level of interest. “What kinds of fish live in the Klyazma?” “What does Viktor do for a living?” “If Violetta was a doctor, why does she only make a hundred dollars a month?” “Why does Boris have bee hives in the garden?” “How far is the dacha from the family apartment in town?” “Why don’t people live in their dachas all year round?” “Do all Russians have dachas?” and on and on the questions came until I realized that ten minutes of class had passed and we were still on the first photo. This was good; the class had taken control of the discussion, and it was much better than the one I had scripted about museums, automobiles, restaurants, dress, and teenagers at the Moscow shopping malls.

Deciding to keep the discussions focused on the lives of ordinary Russians, I showed photos from our visit to a small family farm which had been operating since 1956. The first photo was one of our Fulbright group seated around the breakfast table in the farmhouse kitchen. The table was piled high with traditional Russian breakfast pastries, sausages, and dairy products. The farmer’s wife, a very plain, round-faced woman dressed in typical baggy babushka attire, stood at one end of the table, arranging food. Beside her a slender, sharply dressed woman served tea from an ancient samovar. Again, students’ questions focused on, so I could quickly rearrange my presentations to meet the students’ interests. The spontaneous discussions of everyday Russian life, which developed in most of my 7th and 8th grade classes, gave me an opportunity to share many personal experiences with my students. The weekends at my host family’s dacha, the visit to a small private farm, and dinners with a former Red Army

When their photo was shown to the class, one student wanted to know if she was a “scary” person. I assured him that Yuri was a very warm and friendly person with a great sense of humor, and he was not at all scary. I commented that when I was in the Air Force I had known some American missile launch officers who were pretty scary though. Students’ attention then turned to Anna, who became the subject of numerous comments and questions such as: “She is pretty.” “Are most Russian girls that pretty?” “Does she speak English?” “How old is she?” “What subjects does she take in school?” “She looks like she could be an American.” I seized upon this opportunity to explain to the classes that in recent years, teenage girls have played a major role in changing Russian culture though their open and public display of Western behavior and dress. Most of the students seemed to conclude that Russian teenagers were not a whole lot different from themselves.

Thus, my first prepared lesson on “Understanding Russia through Everyday Life” came to an end with the discussion of the role of teenage girls in bringing about change in Russian society. I had not followed my lesson plan at all, barely gotten through a half-dozen photos, and let discussions range far and wide. Yet I had the sense at the end of the day that by letting the students take the lead with their questions and comments, they had developed a much better sense of Russian life than they would have had I followed my script. It is noteworthy that they had accomplished this through a genuine interest in people instead of places and things.
Susan Eisenhower, chairman and senior fellow of the Eisenhower Institute, gave a CAS/MillerComm lecture on “Russian-US Relations in the Coming Decade” on Sept. 23. Her lecture included personal stories of her meeting Nikita Khrushchev as a child when her grandfather, President Eisenhower, brought him to the Eisenhower farm during Khrushchev’s tour of the US and being chastised by her parents for thinking that he seemed like Santa Claus without the white beard and of her going to the Soviet Union in the mid 80s and meeting her future husband Raold Sagdeev, a famous physicist in the Soviet space program. With her personal and professional insights on Russia, she discussed the current problems and improvements in the Russian economy and politics since 1991. In conclusion she emphatically noted the importance of the US government working closely with Russia, despite the fact that Putin appears to be moving towards more authoritarian politics. Her visit was organized by International Programs and Studies and cosponsored by REEEC.

New Faculty Profile

Tim Pilbrow

REEEC is pleased to welcome Tim Pilbrow to UIUC as visiting assistant professor of cultural anthropology, a position supported by REEEC and the Department of Anthropology. During the current academic year, he will teach courses on “Anthropology of the Balkans,” “Anthropology of Postsocialism,” and an introductory course, “Anthropology in a Changing World.”

Professor Pilbrow received his BA from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, and his MA and PhD from New York University. His research interests span political and symbolic anthropology with a particular focus on symbolic processes of identity formation in post-socialist Eastern Europe. His doctoral dissertation, which examined the reproduction of national ideologies in mid-1990s Bulgaria, was grounded in ethnographic research in secondary-school history classrooms in Sofia. Among the findings of this research was that conceptions of the nation were intimately linked to teachers’ pursuit of dignity as individuals, as professionals, and as members of the nation.

Asserting a continuity of identity that transcended the disjunctions of the post-socialist period was an important means to claiming dignity. For some older history teachers, who had worked most of their careers during the state-socialist period, the break could be transcended by a claim to having always been good educators. For younger teachers, post-socialism legitimated a sense of self that had hitherto been private and oppositional. Professor Pilbrow’s current research focuses on irony as a means to express the complexities and ambiguities of Bulgarian national identity, which is always cast in some relation to perceptions of Europe. He observes that while school history classes teach that Bulgaria has always been a part of Europe and a bulwark between the rest of Europe and the oriental East, outside the history classroom the Europeanness of Bulgarian culture is constantly under question, and ironic self-portrayals abound. Yet while Bulgarians use irony as a way to laugh about how they measure up as Europeans, he suggests they are also questioning the meaning of Europe.

Professor Pilbrow is the author of “‘Europe’ in Bulgarian Conceptions of Nationhood” in The Nation, Europe, the World: Textbooks and Curricula in Transition (2004) and “The Nation and its Margins: Negotiating a National Identity in Post-1989 Bulgaria,” The Anthropology of East Europe Review (1997). He has taught anthropology at a number of institutions, most recently at George Washington University in Washington, DC. His spouse, Varsha Pilbrow, is a biological anthropologist, who also has a visiting assistant professorship in Anthropology.

Eisenhower Talks about US-Russian Relations
Thanks to the Graduate College Dissertation Research Grant, I spent the last summer in Lithuania, collecting data for my dissertation on the spatial and technological aspects of collectivization. I was able to visit remote rural communities, work in the Communist Party Archive in Vilnius and the local archives in central Lithuania, and conduct interviews with former collective farm elites—rayon party secretaries, collective farm directors, and agronomists—and farmers themselves. I brought back a wealth of archival and ethnographic data on the demolition of pre-WWII farm settlements, relocation of the residents to newly built soviet villages, and introduction and development of new soviet farming technologies and communications-transportation infrastructure. In short, I studied various aspects of materialization of the soviet regime in Lithuania’s countryside.

As with many research projects, collecting data was a much messier process than I had envisioned. I discovered, for example, that the majority of annual reports on soviet agriculture were discarded from local archives as they were “just collecting dust.” I also spent hours dealing with jamming copiers, trying to locate documents in the maze of indexes, and negotiating with research assistants about the number of files to be checked out at the archives. I soon realized that information that is so easily available to scholars and the public in American and West European institutions can be carefully guarded in other places.

The most challenging part of the research trip was my own conflicting feelings about conducting research in communities that I remembered visiting since my childhood. In Number Our Days, Myerhoff suggests that scholars who study communities to which they consider themselves to belong should undergo an important stage of “reflexivity” upon their return to these communities. The major issue is not only that scholars have to adopt new roles, but also that they should re-evaluate histories of their families from a “scholarly” perspective. In my case, I came to a realization that what I knew about collectivization, especially later stages of sovietization, from experiences of my parents and grandparents had little to do with how other members of the community saw it. For example, I had always believed that after collectivization Lithuanian farmers became the most disadvantaged group that never recovered from the loss of their land, property, and in many cases, their homes. During the interviews and through the analysis of archival data, I found that Lithuanian farmers had successfully “domesticated” collectivization and were even able to accumulate relative wealth. One of the common strategies that they used to respond to collective ownership of land was subsistence farms. These relatively small, but intensively cultivated and well-fertilized fields soon grew into an important source of food not only for the families of the farmers, but also for their extended families, friends, and acquaintances in cities. Many informants pointed out that “subsistence” farms became a significant source of income that brought relative prosperity to farmers and created a base for the growth of the second economy in the soviet food sector in Lithuania.

All in all, the research trip was extremely fulfilling. I met fascinating people, listened to good stories, ate great food, and got to read historical documents from the files stamped with a red “SEKRETNO.”

1 Barbara Myerhoff, Number Our Days: A Triumph of Continuity and Culture among Jewish Old People in an Urban Ghetto (Simon and Schuster, 1978).
Cities in post-communist Europe are the home of more than 300 million people; they offer significant opportunities for sustained economic and social improvement as well as for more democratic governance. Post-communist cities are the foci of dominant political, economic, and cultural activities. In the 1990s they accounted for as much as four-fifths of the GDP and remain the centers of economic growth, finance, technological innovation, and cultural diversity. But they also tend to concentrate socially deprived populations and have become more socially polarized. Changing spatial patterns and urban policies are closely related to these drivers of economic and social change but also to recent political and fiscal decentralization.

Under the broad theme of “remaking post-communist cities,” academics and policy makers from North America and Europe shared their research and experience in the 2004 Fisher Forum on June 18-19, as part of the Summer Research Lab on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. The international conference was particularly successful in attracting distinguished scholars, such as Gregory Andrusz (Middlesex University, UK), Alain Bertaud (independent consultant), Robert Buckley (World Bank), Peter Marcuse (Columbia University), Ivan Tosics (Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary), and Sasha Tsenkova (University of Calgary, Canada), as keynote speakers as well as researchers from various countries and disciplines. The papers reflected a diversity of views and perspectives on the issues of societal change and related socio-economic governance, and planning processes in eastern and central Europe. The conference was a forum for debate on challenges and opportunities in post-communist cities emphasizing the diversity of urban change. It explored a wide variety of issues centering on thematic clusters: spatial process of change, planning and governance, and the politics of housing reforms. The final session, “Provision of Affordable Housing in Post-communist Europe,” provided a venue for public discussion on these issues open to students, academics, secondary teachers, and the wider community.

The conference highlighted the importance of post-communist cities in shaping these new societies. It explored the process of change in the last decade of “transition to markets and democracy.” The conference proceedings, Winds of Societal Change: Remaking Post-communist Cities, edited by Zorica Nedovic-Budic and Sasha Tsenkova, the conference co-organizers, bring together a wide range of intellectually stimulating contributions. The papers draw on current research on post-communist cities and will be of interest to the wider community of academics, researchers, and practitioners. Those interested in purchasing a copy of the proceedings should contact the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center.

The generous support of REEEC was instrumental in making this conference a success. We also extend our gratitude to other co-sponsors at Illinois—International Programs and Studies, Urban and Regional Planning, the European Union Center, and Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. For more information on the conference see reec.uiuc.edu/events/FisherForum/FisherForum2004/fisher2004.html

Dr. Zorica Nedovic-Budic, Urban and Regional Planning, UIUC
Dr. Sasha Tsenkova, International Development and Planning, University of Calgary
Since last spring the Slavic and East European Library has been active in a number of areas. There have been some changes on the collections front, leading to a greater distribution of selection responsibilities: we now have area specialists for Central Europe, South Slavic Studies, and Russian Area Studies including the Caucasus and Central Asia. We are also in the process of negotiating the donation of more than one major personal collection, which will strengthen our holdings and permit us to develop new programming to attract users to our collections.

Our renowned Slavic Reference Service under the leadership of Helen Sullivan continues its successes. It has recently extended its coverage to include science and technology questions, and it continues to add new sections to its popular Guide to Slavic Information Resources. The SRS has installed new software which permits the addition of US holdings data to bibliographic citations drawn by our staff from the online catalogs of East European libraries. Finally we are in the process of adding a Library Corner to the REEEC website, which will have links to four brief pages: Selected New Reference Titles; Current Projects; Recent Major Acquisitions; New Indexes and Databases.

We were also active with summer programming, including the Summer Lab Research Workshop (with visiting librarians from Moscow and St. Petersburg), a new 19th Century Russian Reading Culture Workshop, and the Slavic Librarians’/Digital Text Workshop, which introduced colleagues to the potential of working with electronic texts in Slavic studies.

This last event was part of a series of digital initiatives that we began in recent months, including our Inventory of Slavic, East European & Eurasian Digital Projects. In July we welcomed our new Slavic Digital Humanities Fellow, Patricia Hswe, who comes to us under the auspices of the Council on Library and Information Resources Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Scholarly Information Resources. Illinois is one of ten institutions participating in this program. Dr. Hswe is already involved in several digital initiatives, including a project to digitize and produce an online finding aid to posters in the Zdenka and Stanley B. Winters Czech and Slovak Poster Collection, 1920-1991. We are also working on two grant proposals: one to develop further our Inventory project, and the other to advance our Early 19th Century Russian Readership & Culture Project, which will involve collaboration with Moscow literary colleagues who are digital experts. All in all, the Slavic Library has a full agenda!

For more information on the digital initiatives see www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/slavdigpro.htm; for others see www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/index.html

Miranda Remnek, Head, Slavic and East European Library

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### 2004 Current Affairs Forum

**“Communities and Conflicts in Central Asia and the Caucasus”**

**September 30**

**Panel: Caucasus**

“Politics of History in the South Caucasus”
Robert Krikorian, U.S. Department of State; George Washington University

“Ties That Bind: Mutual Obligation and Youth Development in the Caucasus”
Eric Lepisto, Columbia University

“Public Perception of Oil, Natural Resources and Political Activity in Azerbaijan”
Shannon O’Lear, University of Kansas

“Mythology and Political Failure in Chechnya: Ten Myths about the Chechen Conflict”
Robert Ware, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

**Panel: Central Asia**

“Communities and State-building in Central Asia”
Kelly McMann, Case Western Reserve University

“Encountering Transition: The Case of Women in Rural Kazakhstan”
Cynthia Werner, Texas A&M University

“Transition and the Beached Diaspora: Migration between Uzbekistan and Russia during the Transitional Era”
Richard Wolfel, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

**Closing Address**

“Islam and Politics in Central Asia”
John Schoenbrin, director
Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus, Harvard University
Dmitry Bobyhev gave several readings and lectures last summer in St. Petersburg and Moscow, including at the Akhmatova Museum and the Books Forum of St. Petersburg. He published “Zvezdorech’,” Novyi mir (2004). He also was a recipient of a REEEC 2004 summer course development grant to develop a new 424-level course on “Russian Modernism.”

Marianna Tax Choldin was featured in an October issue of American Libraries in an article about the Mortenson Center. She also is chairing an international advisory committee to help Tbilisi State University and the Pedagogical University to develop curricula for library and information science, funded by the U.S. Department of State, IREX, and the American Councils.


Steven P. Hill was an invited participant in a test review conference “Passing Score Review Conference,” organized by the Illinois State Board of Education in Springfield in August to review the new teacher-certification exams being implemented in Illinois.


Diane Koenker gave two lectures: “Worker Culture and the Crisis of Class Identity at the End of the Soviet 1920s,” at the University of North Carolina and “Training Wheels: Bicycle Touring and the National Imagination in the USSR” at Duke University.

Sherban Lupu received the “Award for Outstanding Teaching” from the Ministry of Culture and Education in Poland and was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Cultural Institute of Romania. He has released several CDs, one containing virtuoso folk violin of Romania with himself as soloist and two CDs containing the complete works for violin and piano by the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok. He has played a number of concerts and given master classes in Hungary, Romania, and Poland. He published, in Romania, a book with CDs entitled, Folk Fiddler’s Art in English and Romanian. It is a historical and ethnomusicological survey of the virtuoso violin folk artists in Eastern Europe.


Robert Ousterhout presented “Kiev and the Origins of Early Russian Architecture” at the annual Medieval Studies Symposium at the University of New Mexico last spring. He co-curated the exhibit “Restoring Byzantium: The Kariye Camii in Istanbul and the Byzantine Institution Restoration,” which appeared at Columbia University last spring and at the Kranert Art Museum this fall, as well as organizing related symposia at both venues and co-editing the exhibition catalogue. During the summer he joined with Anne D. Hedeman (art history) in leading the Medieval Studies graduate seminar to Paris and Istanbul. He continues as co-director for the restoration of the Zeyrek Camii in Istanbul (the Byzantine monastery of the Pantokrator).


Mahir Saul has spent six months of research and writing at the Laboratoire d’Anthropologie Sociale in Paris and two months in the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany.

Paul W. Schroeder published Systems, Stability, and Statecraft: Essays in the International History of Modern Europe (Palgrave, 2004). He has also published three articles in The American Conservative and one in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on issues of current world politics. At the American Political Science Association meeting in September he took part in a panel devoted to a consideration of his work under the title, “Systems, Stability and Statecraft: The Contributions of Paul W. Schroeder to International Relations Theory.”

Valeria Sobol presented “Reflexes of Love: Schenchen’s Theory of Passions and Nineteenth-Century Russian Love Narratives” at the conference on “Perspectives on Slavistics,” Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium, in September. Under a REEEC summer course development grant, she developed a new course titled “Between East and West: The Literary Journey and the Exploration of Russian National Identity.”

Olga Soffer was an invited discussant at an international conference, “Upper Pleistocene Prehistory of Central Asia: the Emergence of the Initial Upper Paleolithic,” in Taschkent-Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and at an international symposium, “The Gender of Rock Art: From Cave Art to Contact,” in Foix, France, both in August. She also co-edited Perceived Landscapes and Built Environments: The Cultural Geography of Late Paleolithic Eurasia (Oxford 2003), and authored “Recovering Perishable Technologies through Use Wear on Tools: Preliminary Evidence for Upper Paleolithic Weaving and Net Making.” Current Anthropology (45, 2004).

Mark Steinberg is enjoying his sabbatical year researching and writing in St. Petersburg and Berlin. He is working on a manuscript on cultural conceptions of modernity in Russia through the prism of St. Petersburg from 1905 to 1917.

Regional Faculty Associates News

The Regional Faculty Associates program at REEEC was established a few years ago with the aim of expanding our community of interested scholars and to network more closely with faculty in smaller universities and colleges in the region. We also offer the Regional Faculty Associates limited domestic conference travel grant and research travel grant to conduct research at UIUC. For more information and to see the list of current associates see www.reee.illinois.edu/people/regional.html.


Robert Bruce Ware (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville) has published and continues to publish articles on Chechnya, the north Caucasus, Russia’s fight against terrorism, and the US-Russian relations in various journals, newspapers, and media outlets, including Central Asia and the Caucasus, UIPI, San Francisco Chronicle, RFE/RL, In the National Interest, and Johnson’s Russia List.

Nancy Wingfield (Northern Illinois University) has a co-edited volume with Maria Bucur, Gendering the Eastern Front: Women, Men and Wartime Violence in Eastern Europe which has press board approval from Indiana University Press. She published “The Sacred and the Profane: Religion and Nationalism in the Bohemian Crownlands, 1880-1920” (with Cynthia Paces) in Constructing Nationalities in East Central Europe, ed. by Judson and Rozemblit (Berghahn Books, 2004), and "The Problem with 'Backwardness': Ivan Bernd’s Central and Eastern Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," European History Quarterly (Oct. 2004).
Alumni News

Heather Coleman (PhD ’98, history) is associate professor of history at the University of Alberta. She previously taught at the University of Calgary. Irina Gigova (PhD ’04, history) is assistant professor of history at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Andrew Green (PhD ’99, political science) has accepted a position as a Democracy Fellow in the Strategic Planning and Research Division of the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office for Democracy & Governance, serving as the principal liaison with USAID missions in Romania and Macedonia for democracy-promotion programs.

Marjorie Hilton (PhD ’03, history) is assistant professor of history at University of Redlands in California.

James Nelson (MA, PhD ’74, Slavic linguistics) has published translations of two Russian literary works: Friedrich Neznamský’s Nochnye volki (Night Wolves) and Benedikt Sarnov’s Perestan’te udivliat’sia: nepridumnuye istorii (Stop Being Surprised: Vignettes of Soviet Literary and Other Life). He will also publish Bosnia Journal about his experience of serving as a translator for communication between the Russian and American generals in the Balkans in 1995-96. His wife, Rosemary Nelson, earned her MA in Russian at UIUC.

Sarah Phillips (PhD ’02, anthropology) co-produced an ethnographic film with Timothy D. Miller titled: “Shapes in the Wax: Tradition and Faith among Folk Medicine Practitioners in Rural Ukraine.” She is assistant professor of anthropology at Indiana University.

Vlada Shikova (MA ’00, REES) is a program officer for the American Councils for International Education in Washington, DC.

Student News

Maggie Adams (ethnomusicology) received a Fulbright-Hays Research Fellowship to conduct her doctoral research in Kazakhstan for one year (2004-05), and a 6-month grant from Social Science Research Council for research in Xinjiang, China, to be conducted in fall 2005. She will study state-sponsored festival music and televised events and is interested in comparing majority and minority status of the Kazakh populations split across the border of China and Kazakhstan.

Andrew Asher (anthropology) was elected in August as the graduate student member of the executive committee for the Society of the Anthropology of Europe. He will present a conference paper, “‘Graduated Citizenship’ in Post-Socialist States: Regulating Population in China, Poland, and East Germany,” with Junjie Chen (anthropology, UIUC) at the American Anthropological Association meeting in November.

Amy Blau (comparative literature) is spending the year conducting dissertation research at the YIVO Institute and the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City on fellowships from the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the Center for Jewish History.

Volodymyr Chumachenko (Slavic) presented “Shaping the Identity of the Subaltern: Soviet Ukrainian Historical Novel of the 1960-70s*” at a AATSEEL conference in Wisconsin.

Sharyl Corrado (history) received a Fulbright-Hays Research Fellowship to conduct her dissertation research in Russia and Japan on the history of Sakhalin.

Ashley Filmer (REES) published a book review of The Man Who Spanned Two Eras: The Story of a Bridge Pioneer Ralph Modjeski by Jozef Glomb, Sarmatian Review (Jan. 2004). She was a student participant at the National Press Photographers Workshop, Norman, OK, and spent six weeks at the Jagiellonian Summer School of Polish Language and Culture in Krakow on a FLAS Fellowship.


Katherine Sredni (advertising) presented “Why Are We So Stupid?: An Historical Approach to Post-Socialist Consumer Research” at the Association for Consumer Research in October.

Slavic Review Editorial Assistants 2004-2005
Andrew Asher, Oana Popescu-Sandu, Gregory Stroud

Slavic Reference Service Library Interns 2004-2005
Maria Christina Galmarini, Emily Goodhue, Suzana Palaska, Tatjana Stafets, Karin Steinbrueck, Oksana Zavalina

Visiting Scholars Fall 2004

Andrew Herscher (AY 2004-05) is a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities and visiting assistant professor of comparative literature. He received his PhD in architectural history and theory from Harvard University. His research interests include the history of architecture, violence and architecture in Kosovo, ethnic conflicts, and monuments.

Vladimir Luzin is a Fulbright Scholar and visiting professor at the College of Law. He is currently professor of law at Nizhny Novgorod State University in Russia. He received his PhD in law from Moscow State University and specializes in comparative human rights law.

Kyoung Hyoun Min (AY 2004-05) is a REEEC visiting scholar and associate professor of history at Korea University. He received his PhD in history from the University of Paris I. His research interests include Russian history and the Russian Far East.

Nyamosor Tuya (AY 2004-05) is a visiting scholar at the College of Law. She is a former foreign minister of Mongolia and specializes in international relations, Mongolian foreign policy, post-Soviet democratization, political party development, and human rights.

Galina Yankovskaya (AY 2004-05) is a NCEEER Fellow at REEEC and associate professor of history and political science at Perm State University in Russia. She received her PhD in history from Perm State University. Her research is focused on Russian culture in the 20th century and visual representation of authority in post-war mass media in the US and the Soviet Union.

2004-05 FLAS recipients

Summer 2004
Andrew Asher (anthropology—Polish)
Elana Jakel (history—Yiddish)
Jessica Shelvik (musicology—Russian)
Elizabeth Spreng (anthropology—Sorbian)
Jennifer Young (anthropology—Yiddish)

Academic year 2004-05
Margaret Akselrod (comparative literature—Yiddish)
Andy Bruno (history—Russian)
Ashley Filmer (REES—Polish)
Michael Findley (political science—Serbian-Croatian)
Emily Goodhue (GSSLS—Russian)
Christian Hains (history—Russian)
Ryan Haynes (musicology—Serbian-Croatian)
Elana Jakel (history—Yiddish)
Susan Kelleher (art and design—Czech)
Natasha Kipp (musicology—Turkish)
Tatiana Kuzmic (comparative literature—Czech)
Jennifer Lundquist (history—Serbian-Croatian)
Oana Popescu-Sandu (comparative literature—Russian)

Benjamin Smith (musicology—Russian)
Elizabeth Spreng (anthropology—Czech)
Katherine Sredni (communication—Serbian-Croatian)
Karina Steinbrueck (REES—Turkish)
Dmitry Tartakovsky (history—Russian)
Jennifer Young (anthropology—Yiddish)
2004-2005 Incoming REES MA Students
Maria Christina Galmarini, Maria Radeva, Karin Steinbrueck, James Walker

2003-2004 Graduates
PhDs:
Alin Ceobanu (sociology)
Irina Gigova (history)
Miglena Ivanova (comparative literature)
Maria Plotnikova (regional planning)

MAs:
Rachel Elizabeth Facey (REES)
Natasha Kipp (MM, ethnomusicology)
Alicia Christine Szymonik (REES)

BAs:
Mariya Drachevskaya (REES minor)
Adam Richard Krieger (REES major)

Contribute to the REEEC Graduate Student Research Fund

As you will note from this and other issues of the Center News, REEEC is able to sponsor a wide range of programs designed to enhance the study of Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe. Much of this is funded by the US Department of Education and the Department of State along with the University. However, none of those funds can be used for REEEC-affiliated graduate students to conduct research in the field, and university funds for research travel are very limited. In particular, the ability of doctoral students to obtain major grants for dissertation research is much enhanced by preliminary field research, and MA students normally cannot find support for thesis research abroad. To address these needs, we are seeking to establish a new REEEC Graduate Student Research Grant. The grant would be open to graduate students in all disciplines at UIUC.

Please send your contribution to: REEEC, University of Illinois, 104 ISB, 910 S. 5th St., Champaign, IL 61820.
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Olena H. Saciuk
Self-reliance Ukrainian America
Dmytro Shtoryn
Maria Fischer Slysh
Christine M. Sochocky
Alexander Sydorenko
Marta Tarnawsky

Thank you!
Noontime Scholars

September 17
“Tales of Old Odessa: Crime and Civilization in a City of Thieves”
Roshanna Sylvester (History, DePaul University; REEEC Regional Faculty Associate)

September 28
“Violence Taking Place: On the Architecture of the Kosovo Conflict”
Andrew Herscher (Mellon Fellow in the Humanities, UIUC)

October 12
“Baltic Villages: European Reforms, Soviet Realities”
Diana Mincyte (Sociology, UIUC)

November 9
“Turkic Eurasia in the Contexts of Post-Socialism and Globalization: Regional Representations and Agendas Found in Turkey”
Kyle Evered (Geography, Illinois State University; REEEC Regional Faculty Associate)

November 30
“Modern in Form, Socialist in Content: Housing and Material Culture under Khrushchev”
Christine Varga-Harris (History, UIUC)

Directions in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Colloquium Series

September 10 (also Bruno and Wanda Nettl Distinguished Lecture in Ethnomusicology)
“Afghanistan: Musical Construction and Reconstruction”
Mark Slobin (Professor of Music, Wesleyan University)

October 21
“Post-Yugoslav Masculinity in the War Cinema of the 1990’s”
Tomislav Longinovic (Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literature, University of Wisconsin, Madison)

November 11
“Soviet Society under Khrushchev - the Problem of ‘Social Parasites’”
Sheila Fitzpatrick (Bernadotte E. Schmitt Distinguished Service Professor of History, University of Chicago)

December 2
“Language and the Future of Europe: Some Current Issues”
Susan Gal (Professor of Anthropology and Linguistics, University of Chicago)

Send Us Your News!

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