Natalya Solzhenitsyn on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

On June 14–16, 2007, the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center hosted a conference on “Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn as Writer, Myth-Maker, and Public Figure,” organized by Professor Richard Tempest. Eighteen leading scholars from the US, Russia, Britain and France took part. Also present were Solzhenitsyn’s two sons, Ignat and Stephan, and his wife, Natalya Solzhenitsyn, who delivered the keynote address, “Another Time, Another Burden: Solzhenitsyn after His Return to Russia.” Mrs. Solzhenitsyn, who has been called the writer’s closest collaborator and is the editor of his works, sat down with Joel Super and Usha Gandhi on behalf of the Illinois International Review. Following are excerpts from the interview.

Q. What do you feel is your husband’s legacy for Russian history, politics, and culture?

A. I think his legacy is very significant and serious. An assessment of this legacy in Russia is only just beginning. A demonstration of that is the 90th anniversary of the February Revolution. Just this year, the Russian newspaper Rossiiskaia Gazeta published Solzhenitsyn’s long essay on this, which was written back in 1983. This article, newly reprinted now in 2007, received wide and animated discussion in the pages of the Russian press, which continues to this day. Participants included academicians, historians, different generations, both young and old, and regular people off the street—anyone with an interest in Russia’s past. This interest

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in our past has only in recent years become acute and relevant to many people.

The name of Solzhenitsyn has always been widely known in Russia, but reading Solzhenitsyn was totally banned for decades. The reputation he had was as the “enemy of the Communist regime.” This reputation inhibited people from the desire to read him because they thought they knew [him]. Now we are seeing an engagement with Solzhenitsyn’s thought, and people actually reading Solzhenitsyn’s thoughts, demonstrated in part by ever-increasing reprints. The demand continues, and since the book market in Russia is every bit as market-oriented as in the West, that’s a clear indication they only publish what sells.

Q. Referring to the “neglected and acutely malignant tumor” that he thought would end in death, he spoke of the “divine miracle” that it was healed. “Life given back to me has not been mine in the full sense: it is built around a purpose,” he wrote. What, in your view, has been the core of that purpose?

A. He himself saw it this way, that God spared him, life was preserved for him, he was not killed in the camps, he was not killed in the army, or by cancer. Concurrently, he was a witness. He was born in 1918—born at the same time as the Revolution. His life mirrored, took place in parallel with, the life of Russia after the Revolution. He was an unprotected grain in that movement and subject to the wild squalls of Soviet history that he experienced no less than any denizen of that country. Yet he did not perish, while so many others perished. He felt it a duty to speak for them, to what he had seen. He survived, others did not.

For many years he feared greatly he would run out of time, and that is why he did not spare himself, worked tirelessly, and without ceasing. For some years now he feels a great sense of liberation, and that he has fulfilled in time the chief purpose of his life.

Q. He saw the most incredible changes, lived through nightmares, and saw at least some dreams come true. There was a time when he hardly dared hope that his writings would be published in his country. The world read his writings before many in Russia did, but now at last the full collection of his writings is also being published in Russia. What is the dream he would still like realized?

A. He lives with the constant thought, prayer and anxiety for Russia. That truly, without any flight of fancy, is the love of his life. The greatest love of his life is Russia. His dream is for Russia to heal itself, and for her people to prosper, not only materially, but spiritually, both. In recent years it’s the only thought that truly animates him and engages him.

Q. What is his view of contemporary Russian politics?

A. He does believe that Russia has indubitably achieved freedom. People can travel where they wish, speak what they wish. But there is a horrifying drop in the standard of living, as well as the public morale and people’s perception of themselves.

During the perestroika period people were deeply wounded by the shameless, very public example of theft and embezzlement—people enriching themselves beyond measure and without any consequence or punishment. [From a situation] where everything belonged to the state to private property [is a path] utterly necessary, nonetheless [it was] so fast, so unjust. People lost all belief in justice, that justice is possible. Material impoverishment is a phenomenon that occurs concurrently with the growth in the economy. The fact that a large percentage of the population finds itself not better off, but much worse off today than 15 years ago, worries him. He believes that Russia is basically on the right track, but huge trials and tribulations await her on that path.

Q. Does your husband consider there to be a current East/West cultural divide? What can the West do to bridge this?

A. The West is not comporting itself well. The West is critical and ignores the fact that in a country with such a history it is impossible to build democracy in 15 years. The power of the people is only beginning to be built; that foundation is only just beginning. We’re at the start of the journey.

Natalya Solzhenitsyn’s keynote address and Richard Tempest’s conference report can be found online at: www.reec.uiuc.edu/events/fisher.html
Director
Continued from page 1

and various duties as Director. The same level of commitment to the Center’s mission has been shown by the REEEC staff, who have been wonderfully welcoming. They give evidence of their competence and dedication every day. Lynda Park, our Associate Director, coordinates the Center’s outreach programs and organizes our lectures and conferences, whilst supervising the Summer Research Lab and in addition teaching the REES 200 course. She juggles these different and challenging assignments with consummate ease. Merrily Shaw, the Assistant to the Director, has decades of work experience at UI, including five years at the Center. Her epic institutional memory and unique administrative know-how is complemented by a marked artistic streak. This last quality has been on full display (and I use the word advisedly) since the beginning of the semester, when she decorated the walls of our conference room with dozens of posters advertising Center events held over the last few years, most of them designed by herself. If you find yourself in Room 103 in the International Studies Building, a cozy place where many members of the REEEC community go to read the papers or catch up on their work, take a look around. You will see a gallery of colorful images illustrating the lectures and conferences we have hosted, a kind of visual history of the Center. I think you will be impressed! Theresa Scharfoth, in charge of accounting, is an ace with figures, facts and all kinds of other data, both quantifiable and intangible, that are essential for the smooth functioning of our office. I have never known her to be unable to answer a question—and since arriving at the Center, I have had many, many questions to ask! At the start of the academic year these long-serving members of our staff were joined by Faith Heisler as REEEC secretary, Christine Allen as the REEEC Librarian and Larisa Puslenghea as our Outreach Assistant. When you next visit our office, be sure to say hello!

Another recent, and very welcome, development I would like to mention is the establishment of a registered student organization for REEEC graduates and undergraduates. The motive force behind this initiative was Terrell Starr, a second year REEEC MA student, who has been elected REESSO’s first president. Heather McCloud, a REEEC undergraduate, is the REESSO treasurer. Terrell and Heather have ambitious plans for lectures and even student con-

Just as Professor Hayden’s stimulating and provocative lecture set the tone for the discussions at the conference, which were always productive, though at times passionate, informed as they were in many cases by the personal experiences of some of the participants of the reality of inter-ethnic conflict.

Three more “Directions” lectures followed in October and November. Halil Berktay of Istanbul’s Sabanci University surveyed recent political and cultural developments in Turkey and pronounced himself hopeful about the country’s future, despite the ultranationalist mood persisting within sections of Turkish society. James Millar of George Washington University offered an economist’s perspective on Vladimir Putin’s presidency, suggesting that while in the short term his state-building project is likely to prosper, its long-term prospects are doubtful. Most recently Douglas Northrop of the University of Michigan discussed the intriguing spatial congruence between the earthquake zones of tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union and the historical areas of political and cultural instability in the eastern and southern marches of those two empires. One of next spring’s “Directions” speakers will be William Brustein, Associate Provost for International Affairs whose research interests include Eastern Europe and the Balkans. He will speak on anti-Semitism in Romania and Bulgaria before World War II. We also look forward to hosting David Satter, the distinguished journalist and Russia expert, who will spend 8 weeks on campus and, in addition to giving a “Directions” talk and teaching a REES/journalism course, will take part in our “Russia at the Crossroads” forum. This one-day event, which will take place after the March presidential elections in that country, will bring together UI faculty and outside special-

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ists for a discussion of what the future holds for that part of the world.

The spectrum of topics and disciplines covered under the “Directions” rubric and other events illustrates the way in which REEEC, whilst continuing to study traditionally defined geographical, political and cultural spaces, is exploring new avenues for its engagement with the region. In the future I see us increasingly focusing on issues such as gender, human trafficking, armed conflict, nuclear security, environmental health and popular culture. Many of the nations in our institutional purview have been subjected to dynamic, sometimes wrenching change which is continuously turning established political and social structures—even entire states—into bits and pieces of history. Looking at what has been happening in the region since 1989 or 1991, one could say that in many cases the past has truly become a foreign country, to paraphrase L. P. Hartley. Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia have seen post-Soviet, post-socialist, post-colonial identities variously affirmed, attacked or re-negotiated. Here history is being generated by the year, the month, even the day, impacting millions of lives in the region and beyond and reminding us that the world we live in is becoming increasingly interconnected, for good or ill.

At the same time that the lands and peoples we study are undergoing transformation, the boundaries of our disciplines are being reconfigured and their methodologies redefined. The Center will seek to reflect these new paradigms of knowledge production in its programs and activities. We will pursue research opportunities, as well as collaboration and academic exchanges with institutions in the region. On the U of I campus, we will reach across departments, area centers and colleges. One of our priorities will be to enhance the Center’s teaching mission, both with regard to our BA and MA programs and also the less commonly taught languages, particularly those offered in the Slavic Department. This undertaking will be part of a broader effort to build on the curricular presence of area disciplines at Illinois. We will strengthen outreach to the Polish, Ukrainian and Bulgarian émigré communities in Chicago; and continue the tradition of including performances and presentations by artists and authors in our Center programming.

Let me conclude by saying that the involvement of faculty and students is essential if REEEC is to be successful in its mission. To quote one of my predecessors, Mark Steinberg, you are the Center. Our conferences, lectures, colloquia and other activities need the participation of all those at the University of Illinois who study, research, teach and are otherwise intellectually and professionally connected to the region. The next five years promise to be an exciting and challenging time for all of us, and I look forward to many joint projects and endeavors.

With best wishes,

Richard Tempest
Elizabeth Sweet joined the Department of Regional and Urban Planning as Assistant Professor in fall 2005 from the Northeastern Illinois University. She received her MA and PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research interests are in economic development, particularly as it relates to indigenous women, in Mexico, Chicago and Russia. In 2005–2006 she was a visiting professor and Fulbright Scholar at Buryat State University in Ulan Ude, Russia.

Professor Sweet is working on a number of projects that address women in Siberia. One project examines contemporary Russian policy for indigenous peoples and its impact on economic development. In another joint project with faculty and graduate students at Buryat State University, Sweet has conducted almost 100 interviews with women in an attempt to understand how Russian and Buryat women cope with the economic transition from planned to market economy. The interviews indicate that women had different reactions depending on their age group. Whereas older women employed a survival strategy reminiscent of the war period when they retreated to their dachas and tried to store as much food as possible, highly educated middle-aged women who suffered from discrimination on the job market chose to create small businesses, with some finding solid economic success. Younger women, who are less well educated, saw marriage as a major option. They have turned to Internet dating and often marry either foreigners or older, wealthier men. At all levels, the women have shown amazing resourcefulness in their struggle.

Sweet is also conducting a study on domestic violence in post-Soviet Russia. Preliminary results suggest that the rates of domestic violence have increased during the transition to a market economy. She has also just initiated another project with a Russian professor in Saint Petersburg that deals with the issues of federalism and feminism to determine whether there are any parallels between the anti-feminist backlash that is occurring in Russia and the anti-federalist process that is also underway. Sweet has worked extensively in Mexico and Chicago, and she has found significant similarities in the experiences of Mexican and Russian women.

Currently Sweet is teaching a class on Planning of Cities and Regions that provides an introduction to urbanization and resource development. She is also designing a new course called “Race and Gender in Economic Development” and plans to teach a course on planning in Russia in the near future.

New Faculty Profile: Elizabeth Sweet

Steinberg Receives Guggenheim

Mark Steinberg, professor of history and editor of the Slavic Review, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2007 “on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishments,” according to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He was among 189 artists, scholars, and scientists, out of over 2,700 applicants, to receive the fellowship.

With the fellowship, he plans to write St. Petersburg Fin de Siècle: Landscapes of the Darkening Modern, 1905–1917—a book that will “explore Russian history in a critical era, but also...explore a particular location and instance of the modern age and how it was experienced, interpreted and negotiated,” he notes. The book will examine ideas of modern crisis in a comparative context; the “imperial metropolis,” its economic and social development and images of urban life; “black masks,” meaning disguise, deception and uncertainty; death and suicide as “social phenomena and interpretive touchstones”; melancholy in public emotions and efforts to “overcome the darkness of melancholy”; the “poetics of the modern,” especially in the literary work of Alexander Blok and Andrei Bely, as well as visual imagery of the city.

Our heartfelt congratulations, and we look forward to reading his new book.

Based on the press release by Andrea Lynn, UI News Bureau: www.news.uiuc.edu/news/07/0416guggenheim.html
“Balkanalia” Initiates Bulgarian Music and Culture Seminar

By Donna A. Buchanan, Associate Professor, School of Music

“Take us to the Balkans!” For years the members of “Balkanalia,” the UI Balkan Music Ensemble, passionate about the music they performed and eager to learn more about the cultures from which it originated, had pestered me to organize a group excursion to any part of the Balkan peninsula, but especially Bulgaria, my primary area of ethnomusicological specialization. With the generous logistical assistance of the recently established American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS), in spring 2007 this dream became a reality. From 22 May–5 June, eighteen current and alumni Balkanalians participated in a two-week Bulgarian traditional music and culture seminar. Organized in partial celebration of the group’s tenth anniversary, this seminar involved English-language lectures given by local scholars on Bulgarian popular culture, textiles, and history; master classes and lessons in indigenous musical styles and techniques taught by local musicians and vocalists; and educational excursions to museums, historic and architecturally significant sites, and artistic events. A week of intensive daily rehearsal and instructional activities on the Illinois campus, culminating in a “farewell” concert on 20 May, launched the tour.

Although based in the capital city of Sofia for much of the trip, the ensemble also traveled widely, performing three well-received concerts of Bulgarian, Greek, Macedonian, Serbian, and Turkish folk music in various parts of the country. The first took place at the Opera House on Blagoevgrad’s main square on 26 May. Located in the Pirin Mountains, this charming, serene, and pedestrian-friendly city is home to the American University in Bulgaria, which served as our host and with which Illinois established a bi-institutional relationship in summer 2007, a direct consequence of the trip. The splendid Aula of Sofia University “Sts. Cyril and Methodius,” with which Illinois signed a similar agreement in November 2006, was the setting of Balkanalia’s second performance, held on 29 May in conjunction with the annual “Days of Bulgarian Culture” celebration. The group also appeared at the international Festival of the Roses on 2 June, an annual two-day event held in the town of Kazanluk, in central Bulgaria’s Thracian plain, that draws visitors and performers from all over the world. Two of the performances were televised and clips shown on local news broadcasts.

Beyond the basic itinerary, almost every day brought unanticipated surprises that greatly enhanced the seminar’s educational value and artistic appeal. We found that we could climb all over the magnificent stone walls of Hisarya, an ancient spa town boasting the best preserved Roman ruins in the country, and enjoyed basking in the late afternoon sun on the steep, hillside seats of Plovdiv’s spectacular outdoor second-century A.D. Roman amphitheater as a soundcheck was being conducted for an unexpected evening performance of Romani music. Despite the fact that it was a national holiday, in Sofia, Svetoslav Baltakov, director of the Macedonian Ensemble “Ilinden,” organized a rehearsal for us to observe that led to joint impromptu music-making and dancing. After attending a private, thirty-minute performance by Sofia’s National Ensemble for Folk Songs and Dances “Philip Koutev” so overwhelming in its power and beauty that it moved many Balkanalians to tears, we were interviewed by one of the country’s leading movie directors concerning...
their interest in Bulgarian music. The director was beginning work on a new feature film whose cast of characters includes a foreigner drawn to Bulgarian folklore, and our remarks served as a resource for probing this attraction. A chance encounter in the tiny, architecturally significant village of Melnik, situated on southwestern Bulgaria’s border with Greece, prompted Elena Georgieva-Kamenarova and her husband, Jane Kamenarova, two musically gifted visual artists who have made it their life’s mission to understand, preserve, and popularize the fast disappearing musical traditions of the area’s older generation, to treat us to a spontaneous ninety-minute performance and discussion of their work inside the canvas-lined walls of their crowded studio. An unforgettable jolting and cramped taxi-van ride across Sofia’s cobblestone streets and up the surrounding slopes of Vitosha Mountain brought us to the village of Vladaya, where we had opportunity to listen to, converse and sing with the brothers Dimitur and Vladimir Mitev, the only male duo that continues to perform a specific style of two-part singing indicative of the Shop ethnographic region. And in old Plovdiv, after applauding furiously beneath an open window of the Academy of Music, Dance, and Fine Arts as the city’s wind band concluded a buoyant daichovo horo (a dance tune metered in 9/8), we found our way upstairs at the invitation of the band’s director, entering their rehearsal room just as they struck up John Philip Sousa’s The Stars and Stripes Forever and several Bulgarian marches in our honor, only to learn that some band members had recently toured the U.S. with a national ensemble that performed at the University of Illinois’s Krannert Center for the Performing Arts!

Funding for various aspects of the trip was supplied by concert honoraria and donations amassed over many years; small co-sponsorships from the School of Music and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center; a College of Fine and Applied Arts special grant; a grant from the Student Organization Resource Fee Fund; a portion of a Ford Foundation grant focusing on “Transnationalism and the Arts” awarded to Charles Capwell, Thomas Turino, Isabel Wong, and Mark Steinberg in 1999; and personal contributions from the participants themselves. While Buchanan arranged the seminar’s educational and musical program as well as the group’s transatlantic travel, ARCS graciously and efficiently secured hotel and rehearsal space and a contract with a local bus company to facilitate in-country transportation. The Center also offered its library as a venue for seminar lectures and in general, tirelessly ensured that all local arrangements unfolded smoothly. This invaluable assistance, together with the incomparable hospitality of the many individuals Balkanalia encountered and the impeccable musical instruction provided by members of the Philip Koutev, Pirin, Bulgarian Radio, and other professional folk ensembles, made this trip a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all concerned and provided a powerful model for similar future endeavors.
I came across the announcement two weeks before the deadline, so I had to rush to put together my application. When I received the acceptance notification, I excitedly made plans for only my third visit to Russia—I had been to Moscow and St. Petersburg twice before. The focus of this trip was the historic city of Vladimir (about 110 miles east of Moscow) and the surrounding region, including the ancient city of Murom (about 80 miles beyond Vladimir). After a few days of informative pre-departure lectures by REEEC faculty on the Urbana campus, fifteen of us American teachers (for the majority of whom this was their first trip to Russia) were off to spend four weeks of our summer vacation in Russia.

As soon as we arrived in Vladimir, our group was up and running from lectures on politics, history, and economy to excursions to monasteries, factories, and farms. The American Home was the staging point for all of our in-country activities. The American Home is a curious institution—it is actually a 15-year old, typical single-story American house, complete with a white picket fence and a very un-Russian manicured lawn, in the center of an ancient Russian city. It exists as a beacon of American ambassadorship, with English language instruction and community outreach programs, under the watchful eye of its American founder and caretaker, Ron Pope, a political science professor at Illinois State University and our in-country seminar director.

As a language teacher, my most important goal for the trip was to have the fullest opportunity to practice my Russian. During the time in Vladimir, basic language lessons were part of the program for the group, but the staff at the American Home generously arranged one-on-one conversation sessions for me with native-speaking instructors. Moreover, befitting the seminar theme of everyday life, we lived with host families in typical Russian apartments. I had requested that I be placed with a host family that didn’t speak any English, and that’s just what I got. In Vladimir, I lived with a very hospitable woman named Katya and her dog and cat in a 4th floor apartment about a two-mile walk from the American Home. In Murom, my host family for four days was a kindly retired

Holschuh with the colonel and his wife

The staff at the American Home in Vladimir welcomes the Fulbright teachers with the traditional bread and salt ritual.
Soviet Army colonel and his wife, an elementary school teacher. While my stay with Katya was very enjoyable, “The Colonel” (as we came to call him) and his wife delivered an unbelievable dose of the Russian experience—culture, hospitality, and language practice—in little more than a long weekend. The time we spent at The Colonel’s dacha (his “country place” about 20 miles from his apartment), the gem of which was his banya (Russian sauna) which he had built himself, was without a doubt one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had in Russia. In all, my Russian got quite the workout during my time in Vladimir and Murom.

From Murom, we traveled to St. Petersburg and Moscow for more typical sightseeing. We had wonderful tours of the Hermitage and the Russian Museum by the museum scholars. The visit to the memorial to the siege of Leningrad was unspeakably moving. On a lighter note, what I thought might have been a note, what I thought might have been a high point for me in Moscow— to see Lenin in his mausoleum in Red Square— turned out to be rather anticlimactic. After a long wait in a Soviet-style line, I had 30 seconds with him, or the waxy replica of him. I guess, I can now say I’ve been there.

The five week went by in a flash. The entire seminar, from the initial meetings in Illinois to the last night in Moscow before heading home, turned out to be my best trip to Russia and was, by far, the most productive experience (in such a short amount of time) I have had as a high school Russian teacher. While I was the only language teacher on the trip, the interaction with a great group of American teachers from all over the country was an education in itself. I returned feeling invigorated as a teacher and “re-calibrated” as a Russian speaker. I simply could not wait to start the new school year and share with my students all that I had been experienced, from visits to 12th century cathedrals to stories about living with Katya and The Colonel. While few American high school students are familiar with the map of Russia, I can guarantee that fifty of them in North Texas know exactly where Vladimir is…and why. I am sure I speak for the other 14 teachers when I say that we were all enriched by our experiences in Russia. We, as well as our students, are thankful for the opportunity that REEEC at Illinois, the American Home in Vladimir, and Fulbright-Hays provided.

REEEC would like to thank the donors who contributed to REEEC, the Summer Research Lab, and the Ukrainian Research Program in 2006-07:  
Donna A. Buchanan
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Alicia C. Szymonik
Frederick D. Thayer, III
Mary and Harold Zirin
Faculty/Staff News

Donna Buchanan stepped down as the REEEC director after her three-year term ended in August. REEEC is most grateful for her leadership. This year she is on a much-deserved sabbatical conducting research in part in Bulgaria.

Michael Finke co-edited, with J. de Sherbinin, Chekhov the Immigrant: Translating a Cultural Icon (Slavica 2007), which includes contributions by today’s leading translators of Russian literature, prominent American fiction writers and critics, physicians and medical historians.

George Gasyna published “At the Limits of Literature: A New Reading of Gombrowicz’s Kosmos,” The Sarmatian Review (2007). In 2007, he presented: “Kapu´sci´nski’s Poland” at The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America’s Annual Meeting at Georgetown; “When Critics, Physicians and Medical Historians. Prominent American Fiction Writers and one on Identity Politics in Conrad’s Fiction,” at the Third Annual NIH/NSF/USDA Central Asia ICBG Conference on Teaching and Scholarship Award. During the summer, she presented at the International Colloquium on Poetics of Memory at Lund University Sweden, the International Colloquium, “Pisatel’ i vlast’” at the University of Konstanz Germany and at ICCEES Regional European Congress in Berlin. Her published work includes “Iz opyta buratinskogo zaimekhenia: trasformatsii puti v russkoi literature,” in Sovremennaya russkaya literature: problemy izuchenii i prepodavaniia. Sbornik statei (Perm’ 2007) as well as various articles for the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture.

REGIONAL FACULTY ASSOCIATES NEWS

Marina Balina (Illinois Wesleyan) has been named the Isaac Funk Endowed Chair in Russian Studies and received the (Bloomington-Normal) Pantagraph Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship Award. During the summer, she presented papers at the International Colloquium on Poetics of Memory at Lund University Sweden, the International Colloquium, “Pisatel’ i vlast’” at the University of Konstanz Germany and at ICCEES Regional European Congress in Berlin. Her published work includes “Iz opyta buratinskogo zaimekhenia: trasformatsii puti v russkoi literature,” in Sovremennaya russkaya literature: problemy izuchenii i prepodavaniia. Sbornik statei (Perm’ 2007) as well as various articles for the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture.

Rosina Neginsky (UIUC) presented “Vladimir Soloviev and Salons” at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris in May 2007, as well as accepting an invitation to present her paper, “Platon’s reason in Vl. Soloviev’s philosophy and in works of Russian Symbolists” at a conference organized by the Department of Philosophy and Slavic Studies at the University of Lyon.

Ron Pope (ISU) led the REEES Fulbright-Hays seminar in Russia for 15 K-12 educators in summer 2007. The staff at the American Home in Vladimir, Russia, for which he serves as the president, helped to organize the seminar.

Nancy Scannell (UIS) was invited by the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology to participate in a session on "Raising the Standard of Living in Emerging Markets" at a conference in Panama City, Panama, in March 2007.

Roshanna P. Sylvester (DePaul) has been awarded a sabbatical fellowship and a Spencer Foundation grant, both for her project, "Girls, Science, and Technology in Cold War America and the Soviet Union."

**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 street address below.

**Student News**

Robert Blaney (REEES) is doing a year-long internship in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Stefania Costache (history) presented "Sovereignities in the Making: The Interaction between Ottoman Imperial and Phanariot Local Authorities in the 16th-Century Danubian Principalities" at the annual AAASS convention in New Orleans in November.

Erica Fraser (history) presented "Space Heroes: Celebrity Culture & Masculinities among Early Soviet Cosmonauts" at the AAASS convention.

Diana Georgescu (history) presented "Playing ‘Socialist’: Ideological Scripts and Remembered Experiences of Childhood in the 1980’s Romania" at the AAASS convention.

Zsuzsanna Magdo (history) presented "Futures and Past: Postcolonial Theory and Its Challenges in Eastern European Historiography" and organized the panel "The persistence of empires" at the AAASS convention.

Katherine Sredl (communications) presented "Set the Table: Women Communicating Status in the Home" at the Association for Consumer Research Conference in October.

Dmitry Tartakovsky (history) presented "Perception vs. Reality: Bessarabian Jews in Greater Romania under Surveillance as Soviet Sympathizers" at the AAASS convention in November.

Al Umarov (ACE) received an offer from J.D. Power and Associates to work as a senior consultant.


2006-2007 Graduates

**PhDs:**
- Michael Findley (political science)
- Susan Jellissen (political science)
- Elizabeth Radziszewski (political science)
- Melanie Turgeon (choral conduction)

**MAs:**
- Margaret Akselrod (comparative literature)
- Katya Balter (comparative literature)
- Sara Brinegar (REEES)
- Diana Cheng (NRES)
- Tony Demchak (REEES)
- Katya Dunatov (LIS)
- Colleen Galvin (LIS)
- Ryan Haynes (musicology)
- Daria Kabanova (comp lit)
- David May (REEES)
- Andrea Michaelis (REEES)
- Loren Puette (REEES)
- Rashelle Roos (art history)

BAs & Minors:
- Vladimir Brilliant (Russian)
- Ann Dailey (REEES major)
- Douglas Heintz (Russian)
- Kathleen Kelly (Russian)
- Joshua Kueker (REEES major)
- Aleksandra Lukash (REEES minor)
- Areta Kovalsky (REEES minor)
- Anne Mallicoat (REEES major)
- Yekaterina Shenderova (REEES minor)
- Olga Tarsova (Russian)

Incoming REEES MA Students
- Kristen Hamm
- Douglas Heintz
- Nicholas Hryhorczuk
- John Mann
- Brendan McElmeel

2007-2008 FLAS Fellowship Recipients

Summer 2007
- Robert Blaney (REEES–Russian)
- Fedja Buric (history–Turkish)
- Diana Cheng (NRES–Russian)
- John Mann (REEES–Serbian–Croatian, EUC FLAS)
- Mary McGuire (German–Yiddish)
- Terrell Starr (REEES–Georgian)

AY 2007-2008
- Nina Ball-Pesut (comp lit–Serbian–Croatian)
- Diana Cheng (NRES–Russian)
- Kristen Hamm (REEES–Russian)
- Douglas Heintz (REEES–Polish)
- Nicholas Hryhorczuk (REEES–Russian)
- Natasha Kipp (musicology–Turkish)
- Rachel Koroloff (history–Russian)
- John Mann (REEES–Serbian–Croatian)
- Nelly Matova (musicology–Czech)
- Brendan McElmeel (REEES–Russian)
- Hilary Negele (REEES–Russian)
- Faith Stein (comp lit–Russian)
- Kevin Tunley (REEES–Czech, EUC FLAS)

**Slavic Review Editorial Assistants**
- Diana Georgescu
- Seven Jug
- Jesse Murray
Noontime Scholars Lecture Series

August 28
"Mass Inventing Friendship: Propaganda for the USSR in Stalinist Poland"
Jan C. Behrends (Research Fellow, Social Science Research Center (WZB), Berlin; Humboldt Scholar, University of Chicago)

September 11
"The Ecstasy of Big Ideas': Building Yugoslav Tourism through the Five Year Plan, 1947–1951"
Kate Meehan Pedrotty (History, University of Illinois)

September 25
"The Revolutionary Implications of Russian Alcohol Prohibition, 1914–1925: New Insights from the Archives"
Mark Schrad (Political Science, University of Illinois)

October 9
"Hip-Hop, Migration, and the Racialization of Class Identities in post-Orange Revolution Ukraine"
Adriana Helbig (Musicology, University of Illinois)

October 23
"Europeanness and Modernity in the ‘Utermost East’: Sakhalin Island in the Imperial Russian Imagination"
Sharyl Corrado (History, University of Illinois)

November 13
"Dainty Shapes and Hairy Apes: S. I. Witkiewicz vs. the Polish Avant-Garde (1919–1939)"
George Gasyna (Slavic and Comparative Literature, University of Illinois)

November 27
"The Ironies and Challenges of Soviet Expropriation in a Russian Province"
Susan Smith (History, Bradley University)

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

September 21
"Highways, Roadblocks and Empires"
Robert Hayden, Professor of Anthropology, Law, and Public & International Affairs; Director, CReES, University of Pittsburgh

October 4
"Thoughts on the Fabrication and Escalation of a New Nationalism and Vigilantism in Turkey"
Halil Berktay, Associate Professor of History, Sabanci University, Istanbul; Center for Middle East Studies, Harvard University

October 18
"What is Putin’s Economic Model? The Market versus the Service State"
James Millar, Professor Emeritus of Economics and International Affairs, George Washington University

November 8
"Earthquakes and Empire in Modern Central Asia"
Douglas Northrop, Associate Professor of History and Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan