The Eastern Enlargement of the European Union: A View from Eastern and Central Europe  By Zsuzsa Gille

In December 2002, the European Union made the historic decision to admit eight former socialist countries into its ranks by 2004. These countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. (Malta and Cyprus are joining in the same wave of expansion.) Romania and Bulgaria were promised membership by 2007. The next step is for these eight countries to ratify EU membership, in most cases to be preceded by referenda. While there has been a marked decline in public support for EU membership in the region, especially in Poland, ratification is not expected to meet serious obstacles: polls show that the majority of the people will vote favorably in the upcoming referenda. With geopolitical boundaries so radically redrawn, it is difficult to overestimate the significance of “Europe’s unification.”

The central European and Baltic countries now joining have long felt that culturally they belong to Europe; some of their intellectual representatives have even argued that they represent European values, civilization and culture more faithfully than their western European counterparts. While thoroughly immersed in European intellectual and political traditions, these nations have often followed “Eastern” developmental paths, and thus failed to live up to the expectations of their Western-minded intelligentsia. Because of “bad historical luck,” such as Ottoman occupation, Russian imperialism, Nazi Germany’s invasion and the Soviet hegemony, just to mention the most dramatic events, central and eastern Europe have tended to appear backward compared to western Europe. In a more relational look at Europe’s history, however, many living in the region point out that it was exactly because they stopped historical assaults from the East and because of the West’s abandon of these small countries in their struggles for independence, most notably with the Turks and with the Soviet Union, that the West was able to colonize other parts of the world and was able to establish a most developed economic order complete with parliamentary democracy.

These historical frustrations over the “West’s arrogance” have only been renewed since state socialism collapsed. Most of the members-to-be have expressed resentment over what has been viewed as an unjustified delay of their EU accession and over the dictation of unfair accession criteria. One of the gravest grievances has been the demand for them to open up their markets to heavily subsidized EU products in the interim period while being barred from competition on the EU markets. This has proved devastating for many domestic industries. A further point of contention has been the amount of aid provided to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Most of these countries have a much larger share of their GDP originating in agriculture, and a substantially larger share of people employed in agriculture compared to the EU. In light of the longstanding crisis of agricultural overproduction in western Europe, the uncertainty of how agriculture will fare after accession is a serious political matter. A related worry is foreign land ownership: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and Slovakia successfully negotiated a minimum ten-year transitional period and additional safeguard clauses (Slovenia did not negotiate such clauses) to prevent the West from rapidly buying up agricultural lands and forests.

These concerns and negative perceptions notwithstanding, the majority in the region expects that foreign investment (which has been significant already), extended trade relations, and

—continued on page 2, see European Union
the EU’s structural funds will be a boost to their economies and living standards. The free movement of labor also appeals to east Europeans, although experts agree that only a limited stratum of professions will be able to take advantage of such an opportunity after the two-year initial, but renewable, transitional period. In other words, the free movement of labor will not take effect for two years after accession, and a clause in the agreement allows the present EU members to extend that transitional period after the two years are up.

Another attraction of EU membership is that it makes practically irreversible the end of Russian hegemony in the region and the democratic transformations that have taken place in the region since 1989. Liberals also expect that joining the EU will put the brakes on right-wing, nationalist, xenophobic, occasionally anti-Semitic political forces whose anti-western attitude, partly due to the mentioned delays in the accession negotiations and to economic uncertainty, resonated with a substantial part of the voting public. Because the EU has been closely monitoring the protection of ethnic and religious minorities, membership is likely to attenuate the nationalist fear of the disenfranchisement of cross-border diasporas. As in the Haider case in Austria, the possibility of EU admonishment may also weaken the right wing. Unfortunately, it is not at all clear whether the right wing won’t gain popularity in those countries that are now left on the other side of this new European border.

Formal acceptance notwithstanding, many east and central Europeans don’t believe that they will ever become full members enjoying an equal standing with western Europeans. Some already view the reduced CAP funding and a less advantageous accession package than what previous candidates received, in general, as a sign that they will be allowed to become second-tier members only. If Jacques Chirac’s recent reproach of eastern European heads of government as “badly brought up” for going on record to support the US’s war with Iraq is any indication, the fear may not be unwarranted.

As many of us embark on studying this momentous event we must make sure that such concerns of the region’s public don’t go unresearched.

Zsuzsa Gille is Assistant Professor of Sociology. She is currently conducting research on the EU accession of Hungary.

**European Union—continued**

Where is the “Russia and East Europe” that we identify as the region we study as a center? As national and regional boundaries shift, we are reminded of how contingent and historical such boundaries are. The accession of much of the old “Eastern Bloc” to the European Union—the subject of a major conference this spring—is one among many such realignments of association and identity in this region. Indeed, many of us have long been wondering what makes “our” region, as we are used to understanding it, still a definable world area. We wonder whether it any longer has coherence, whether there are still good intellectual reasons to speak of the successor states to the former Soviet Union and communist eastern Europe as a single object of study. History, of course, yields powerful legacies, making old connections relevant as new ones are made. But we cannot ignore the disintegration and realignments of bonds and boundaries. We live in a time when boundaries have again (as they so often have been in history) become especially porous, shifting, and ambiguous.

I know colleagues around the country who have been wringing their hands over this loss of clarity as to what we study. At Illinois, many of us associated with the Russian and East European Center—although the name far from captures what we do, it has acquired a certain dignity of age—have tended to view these uncertainties as invitations to explore the region and its complicated and changing linkages in new ways. If anything, the boundaries we draw have become more porous as the connections and associations have become more unstable and complex. Thus, we have faculty and students associated with our center who work on Greece, Turkey, Afghanistan, Austria, and Germany, as well as the traditional core of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The linkages connecting these areas often have long histories. The center continues to be actively involved in organizing and sponsoring events that cross conventional regional boundaries. This year, for example, we initiated and have sponsored the teaching of Turkish at Illinois, co-organized a lecture series on “the Islamic World” with the Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and worked with other area centers and units on campus to hold a major conference on “Rethinking Terrorism.” (We are grateful to the US Department of Education for their support of many of these activities.) Shifting and porous boundaries themselves are often at the center of attention, most visibly this spring in a major conference, titled “EUtopia,” that explores the “politics of European identity” in this time of European Union enlargement to include parts of eastern (or is it “central”?) Europe (see the feature article in this issue). Attention to what used to be considered the “borderlands” of the former Communist world of eastern Europe and Eurasia are also increasingly central to our inquiries. This spring, for example, we have sponsored a course on Central Asia by a visiting faculty, worked with the Illinois International High School Program to bring two Kyrgyz high school teachers for a series of outreach programs in schools throughout the state, and sponsored visits by ambassadors from Ukraine, Lithuania, and the Kyrgyz Republic for local engagements as well as lectures at the Sangamo Club in Springfield, which were broadcast on WSEC-TV.

Times of uncertainty, such as we live in now, can be unnerving, disturbing, and dangerous. At the same time, at least for intellectual pursuit, they can also be times of exceptional opening and possibility.

—Mark D. Steinberg
SRL Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Russian and East European Center and the Slavic and East European Library will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Summer Research Laboratory on Russia and Eastern Europe (SRL) this coming summer.

The Summer Lab was officially established in 1973 in order to accommodate a growing number of scholars who came to Illinois on their own to utilize the resources of the Slavic and East European Library and the voluminous Slavic, Eurasian, and East European holdings in the University Library, the largest collection west of Washington, DC. Thanks to the work of REEC faculty such as Ralph Fisher (founder and director of REEC until 1987), Ben Uroff, Marianna Tax Choldin and others, Slavic librarians such as Larry Miller, Dmytro Shtohryn, Bob Burger and Helen Sullivan, and the REEC staff, the Summer Lab has developed a solid foundation and has grown in numbers of associates and varieties of programs throughout the last 30 years. To date, 2,812 scholars from 933 institutions in the US, Canada and 49 other countries have attended the Summer Lab; a majority of the associates have participated in the Lab more than once. The Lab associates participate in a variety of conferences, workshops, and symposia (see Summer 2003 programs) and interact with scholars from all over the world. Over the years, they have organized voluntary discussion groups, some of which, such as Early Russian History, Women and Slavic Culture and Literature, and the Slavic Librarians’ Workshop, continue to meet each summer.

As a related program, the Slavic Reference Service was launched in 1976, under the leadership of Marianna Choldin, to meet the demands of inquiries generated from the Summer Lab. The Reference Service answers thousands of inquiries each year. The Summer Lab and the Slavic Reference Service are truly unique national and international programs, made possible only through the combination of the unmatched quality of the reference service of the Slavic library, the University Library’s massive collection in our field, and the resources of REEC and the University. Many associates claim that there is no better place in the world to conduct research in the field.

The celebratory event for the 30th anniversary is scheduled for June 18, which will be followed by the inauguration of the Ralph and Ruth Fisher Forum, a new annual thematic conference. The inaugural program will be an international conference on the Russian writer Vasilii Rozanov, organized by REEC faculty Harriet Murav (see faculty profile). The Summer Research Lab and the Slavic Reference Service are funded by the US Department of State Title VIII grants, and by support from the University and private contributors. For more information see www.reec.uiuc.edu/srl.htm

REEC Snapshots

Left: Children drawing pictures about Kyrgyzstan.
Right: Aikynai and Elmina playing games with students to celebrate Navruz, a holiday celebrated in Central Asia and the Middle East.
Struggling to Belong: An American Official in Moldova/
an Academic in the State Department
by Dmitry Tartakovsky

Three months after returning to the history department at the University of Illinois, I am only slowly beginning to place my varied experiences from two years in the Foreign Service into proper perspective. In October 2000, I left Champaign-Urbana and began training in Washington, DC, for a position as political attaché-vice consul at the American Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova, in accordance with my service obligation for a David L. Boren National Security Education Program scholarship I had won in 1997. After six weeks of learning how to say ‘no’ to desperate visa-seekers and how to call American families with news of their loved ones’ demise abroad, I was ready for my post.

Upon arrival in Moldova, a tiny, poor country of about 4½ million people, I was warmly welcomed by both the American ex-pat community and the FSNs (Foreign Service Nationals, i.e., local employees of US diplomatic missions). Much to my relief, I was told that my work portfolio would consist of very few consular duties and much more political reporting. I would be responsible for keeping track of political developments in the separatist enclave of Transnistria, populated mostly by Russians and Ukrainians, and the Turkic-speaking Christian Orthodox region of Gagauzia. As an accredited observer, I began to “assimilate” US policy views on Moldova.

Considered just a few years ago as the model for post-Soviet democratization and movement toward a free market economy, Moldova shocked Washington and the rest of the West in February 2001 by electing the Communists to power in Moldova. As an American diplomat what life is like for Moldovans who failed to learn the local language and hardly if at all mingled with locals. Now, I understand. After my experience in Chisinau, I believe that asking an American diplomat what life is like in a particular place where they serve is of limited utility. I could see that Moldovans were suffering from poverty, but living in my three-story house equipped with paid utilities, a maid, and a gardener, I could not pretend to know what Moldovans felt.

My integration into (or perhaps more accurately my confrontation with) State Department bureaucracy began immediately. Having been used to a certain amount of freedom and space to build my arguments in academic writing, I was informed that no matter what I write, policy makers in Washington would only read the first two sentences of my report, if at all. Therefore, I was told to get to the point and don’t bother with conclusions. Not to mention, whatever I wrote had to go through my political section chief and then the Ambassador prior to its transmission to Washington.

Inevitably, I usually failed to recognize the final product as something that had at one point belonged to my pen (or keyboard). These adjustments not withstanding, I was deeply impressed with the sense of mission and constructive patriotism within the American diplomatic corps. Despite the perks, American diplomats endure considerable sacrifices. The level of professionalism among my American colleagues, especially when compared to my mildly to heavily corrupt contacts at the Moldovan Parliament and Foreign Ministry, not to mention the members of the breakaway Transnistrian administration, was profound. Those that complained the most about the lack of professionalism in Moldovan society were the local employees of the US Embassy. It was only one of numerous reasons that I came away from the experience more proud and grateful to be an American.

Dmitry Tartakovsky is a PhD candidate in History.
by Colleen Galvin

Six months ago I joined the Peace Corps and began teaching English to high school students at the Zarafshan Academic Lyceum in Uzbekistan. I have it on good authority that Zarafshan and Champaign-Urbana are at approximately the same latitude geographically. And if I squint and turn my head to the side, I can see more similarities: Zarafshan is located smack dab in the middle of the Kyzyl Kum desert, in much the same way CU is surrounded by a “desert” of corn. And like CU, Zarafshan is essentially a one-industry town. Newmont, a joint mining venture between the US and Uzbekistan, employs most of my students’ parents.

But then there are the yurts. I was walking to work last month and saw a yurt, a thatched hut the Kazakh herders use and which would more commonly be found in the desert, not stuck between two cement apartment buildings in the middle of Zarafshan. So I stopped and stared, and then started looking around at the other pedestrians, wondering if anyone else noticed a big thatched hut in the middle of the sidewalk. And that is when I realized everyone was staring at me, the American. I am weirder than a yurt.

Now that I’ve lived in Zarafshan for a few months, I understand that it is not unusual to see yurts popping up from time to time. They are used in the funeral ceremonies of the Kazakh people: women stay inside the yurt and mourn while relatives prepare the traditional Kazakh and Uzbek dish, Osh, outside.

And though Zarafshan may not have many Americans (therefore making the few that are here “stareworthy”), it does have an amazingly diverse local population. My students are Uzbek, Russian, Kazakh, Korean, Tajik, or a combination thereof. Most speak more than two languages, and all are enthusiastic about learning English, despite the lack of library resources and textbooks. One of the aspects I appreciate the most about living in Uzbekistan is this diversity. I marvel at how easily my students and fellow teachers start a conversation in Uzbek, switch to Russian, then end in Tajik. I am still on the “ya ne panimayu” and “bilmayman” (translated: “I have no idea what you are saying”) stage of Russian and Uzbek. By the time I return to the yurtless Midwest, I should be able to hold a conversation in both. Conversing in English may be another matter.

Meanwhile, I am learning to stick out a little less in my Uzbekistani Midwest. And now, instead of being stared at on the street, I am more often greeted by “Miss Colleen, How are you?” I’ve traded one version of the Midwest for another, and I have every hope my Uzbekistani Midwest will soon feel like home as well.

Colleen Galvin graduated from the U of I in 1993 with a BA in English. She is now serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer for two years in Zarafshan, Uzbekistan. If you have any questions about Uzbekistan or the Peace Corps, she can be contacted via e-mail: cgalv1@hotmail.com

New Faculty Profile: Harriet Murav

The Russian and East European Center is pleased to welcome Harriet Murav to our community. She joined the University faculty from UC-Davis in fall 2002 with a joint appointment in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the MLA. She also has a forthcoming book, Identity Theft: The Jew in Imperial Russia and the Case of Avram Uri Kovner (Stanford, 2003), which examines Kovner, a Russian-Jewish nihilist writer who corresponded with Dostoevsky and Rozanov, and the production of the Jew as a category in fin-de-siècle Russia. She is currently studying the life and works of Vasilii Rozanov, about whom she is organizing an international conference here this summer, which will draw prominent presenters from Russia to New Zealand. She also has a recent article on Tolstoy’s Resurrection.

Although Murav focuses mainly on 19th and early 20th century literature, she cannot help but be drawn by contemporary Russian literature, which, she remarks, is extraordinarily rich. Writers are exploring new styles and delving into subjects that were once suppressed or banned by the Soviet government. There is a feeling that there are no limits in the literary field. Also, literature from abroad, especially from the West, is widely available. “Almost everything that was banned in Soviet times has been translated into Russian in the late 1980s. I found a translation of Foucault’s What is an Author online,” she notes. In addition, writers whose works were once “swept under the rug” are now being published and studied by scholars. Murav notes that most female writers were not taken seriously and excluded from literary and historical canons; their writings were not taught in courses on Russian literature even in the US. But this is slowly changing. Murav, in fact, teaches a course on women writers in Russia, as well as courses on Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, and together with other faculty in Slavic and History, is preparing a new graduate course on gender, masculinity and the body in Russian culture.

Dmitry Bobshev gave a poetry reading at the AATSEEL annual meeting in New York in December, published chapters from his literary memoir "Ya zdes" in October, volume 11 (2002) and "Guliaia s Dovlatovym" in Magazine Kolokol, volume 5 (2003), and wrote the introduction to "Pokhvala Rossiskoi Poezii" by Yu. Ivask in Izdatelstvo "Aleksandra" (2002).

Matti Bunzl was appointed as Acting Director of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

Zsuzsa Gille has received the Beckman Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Studies and the Hewlett International Travel Grant for her research project: "Apples and Waste: Understanding the Environmental Implications of Hungary’s Entry into the European Union." She also received an IREX grant to conduct seven months of research in Hungary.

Diane Koenker was awarded the Journal of Modern History Chester Highby Prize for Best Article 2001-02 at the 2003 meeting of the American Historical Association for her paper, "Fathers against Sons/Sons against Fathers: The Problem of Generations in the Early Soviet Workplace." She also presented "The Proletarian Tourist in the 1930s" at the AAASS convention in Pittsburgh in November 2002.

Sherban Lupu was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa from the Academy of Music G. Dima at the University of Cluj, Romania. He also received the A. Beckman Award from the Research Board for the recording of piano and violin pieces by Bela Bartok, released a new CD entitled Inner Visions in December, performed at Symphony Space in New York, and taught master classes at the Mendelssohn Music Academy in Leipzig, Germany.

Peter Maggs visited Russian law schools in Khabarovsk, Kazan, Yuzhnoakhalmsk, Moscow, and St. Petersburg last December and January as part of a small team of Russians and Americans preparing a report on Russian law schools for the USAID. He also presented "Constitutional Commercial Law in the Courts" at the AAASS convention.

Jordana Mendelson presented "Artists, Hybrid Media, and the Politics of Public Display" at the conference on Visual Communication and Social Change in April.

Zorica Nedovic-Budic was elected to the Board of Directors of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and received a Recognition of Service Award from the Serbian Association of Physical Planners.

Shannon O’Lear, as an IPRH Fellow, presented "Resource Conflicts: The Case of Oil-Rich Azerbaijan," at the annual IPRH conference on "The South" in April. She also presented "Oil Wealth, Public Perception and Political Motivation in Azerbaijan" at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in March.


Miranda Beaven Remnek has joined the University as the new Head of the Slavic and East European Library this January. Her faculty profile will be featured in the next issue of the Center News.

Steven Roper (Eastern Illinois University; REEC Regional Faculty Associate) received a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant to present lectures on research methods at the International Institute of Management in Moldova and conduct research on the Moldovan parliament this summer. He also published (with Florin Fesnic) "Historical Legacies and Their Impact on Post-Communist Voting Behaviour," Europe-Asia Studies (January 2003).

M. Mobin Sheriff participated in the "Conference on Strategic Planning of Higher Education for Afghanistan" at Indiana University in October 2002 and presented "Education as a Weapon: Madrasa in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia" at the Comparative and International Education Society in New Orleans in March. He also gave a lecture on the current situation in Central Asia at a REEC-sponsored teachers’ conference at Illinois State University in November.

Olga Soffer presented the keynote address, "Textile Arts and Late Pleistocene Life: A Focus on Perishables and the Invisible," at the International Regional Conference of the Gravettian Along the Danube" in Mikulov, Czech Republic.

Marek Sroka presented "International Virtual Reference Desk at the UIUC Slavic and East European Library" at the AAASS convention.

Mark Steinberg gave a lecture, "Strangers in a Strange Land: Russian and Ukrainian Worker Writers, 1910-1925," at the University of Alberta in January, sponsored by the History Department and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and presented "Sacred Stories: Interpreting Religion in Late Imperial Russia," at the University of Chicago Russian Studies Workshop in February.

Richard Tempest presented "The Russian Body Impolitic: Body Language in Contemporary Russian Political Culture" at the AAASS convention.

Visiting Scholars Spring 2003

Jeong-Sook Hahn, professor of history at Seoul National University, South Korea, specializes in the intellectual and social history of Russia and Ukraine.

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

Laurentiu Radvan, lecturer in history, University of Cuza, Romania, is here on an OSI Fellowship to conduct research on urban development in medieval Central Europe.

Russell Zanca, associate professor of Anthropology at Northeastern Illinois University, REEC Regional Faculty Associate and U of I alum-nus, is visiting faculty teaching "Central Asia Past and Present," a REEC-sponsored course. He specializes in the cultural anthropology of Central Asia.

Elmira Kim and Aiknayus Yusupova, high school teachers from Osh, Kyrgyzstan (see photo on page 3)

Mortensen Center Scholars: Olena Bashun, Donetsk Regional General Scientific Library, Ukraine; Tatiana Rassokhina, Library of Tula State University, Russia; Maira Tungatarova, National Youth Library, Kazakhstan.

New REEC Associates Announced!

Dimitrios Christos Glaros, born on Jan. 19, 2003 to Angela Shand (anthropology).

Emma Rose Herzog, born January 5, 2002 to Stephen Herzog (history)

Kieran Park McDonough, born on November 18, 2001 to Lynda Park (REEC).

Cian Thomas O’Lear, born on January 29, 2003 to Shannon O’Lear (geography).

Alexander William Rushing, born on June 6, 2002 to Lilya Kaganovsky (Slavic).
Contribute to the new REEC Graduate Student Research Fund

As you will note from this and other issues of the Center News, REEC 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 REEC-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 REEC Graduate Student Research Grant. The grant would be open to graduate students in all disciplines at UIUC.

Please send your contribution to: REEC, University of Illinois, 104 ISB, 910 S. 5th St., Champaign, IL 61820. Your gifts are tax-deductible. Thank you very much for your support.

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Student News

Beth Admiraal-Reitsma (political science) presented “Converting Russia to Freedom: The International Community and Religion in Russia” at the AAASS convention in November 2002.

Andrew Asher (anthropology) presented “Building Empire: Theorizing the EU’s Eastward Expansion” at the Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society in April.

Theodora Dragostinova (history) presented “The Voluntary and Reciprocal Population Exchange between Bulgaria and Greece in the Interwar Period: Some Issues of Interpretive Reciprocity” at the International Conference “History-Migration-Anthropology: New Perspectives on European Migration and Migration History” at the University of Erfurt, Germany, in November. The same paper was later awarded the James F. Clarke Memorial Scholarship Award from the Bulgarian Studies Association.


Irina Gigova (history) presented “From Libertarians to Socialist Mothers: Bulgarian Women Writers in Transition to Socialism” at a conference on “Power and Power Relations in Eastern European Politics and Societies” in Berkeley.

Kory Langhofer (undergraduate in political science) was named outstanding student by the Dad’s Association for the 2003 Certificate of Merit Awards. Kory also received the Student Laureate Medallion from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois in November.

Angela Shand (anthropology) presented “The Sign of the Cross: Theology, Personhood and Liturgical Performance in the Greek Orthodox Church” at the first International Congress of the Society of Gesture Studies in Austin and “Prayer of the Heart: Embodied Personhood in Greek Orthodox Christianity” at the AAA annual meeting.

Christine Varga-Harris (history) presented “Home as the Hearth of Socialism: Discourses on Housing and Soviet Citizenship in Russia During the Thaw” at the AAASS convention.

2003 Skalnik Prize for Best Essays in Russian and East European Studies
Undergraduate winner: Denise Gill (music history) “Beyond the Lyrics: Musical Layers Heard in Newly Composed Folk Music”
Graduate winner: Jessica Shelvik (musicology) “Redemption in Russia: The Rhetoric of Dostoevsky’s Slavophilism”

Correction
Under “Student News” in the fall 2002 issue of the Center News, Julia Azari was incorrectly listed as receiving a REEC minor. She graduated from the UI with a BA degree in political science in 2002.

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.

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Editorial Assistant: Tamara Sollinger
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“Directions in Russian and East European Studies”

January 23
“The End of Eastern Europe: Diverging Paths of Postcommunist Transformations”
Grzegorz Ekiert (Government, Harvard University)

February 20
“Art and Politics at War: Reading Eisenstein’s ‘Ivan the Terrible’”
Joan Neuberger (History, University of Texas, Austin)

March 6
“Gentle Bridges: George Steinmann’s Contemporary Art Projects in Estonia and Russia”
George Steinmann (independent artist, Switzerland)

March 13
“Hermophobia (On Sexual Orientation and Reading Nabokov)”
Eric Naiman (Slavic & Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley)

April 24
“Interpreting Viewers’ Reactions: How Russians Process the News”
Ellen Mickiewicz (DeWitt Wallace Center for Communications and Journalism, Duke University)

Noontime Scholars

February 25
“Mobilization Without Preconditions? How Anti-Americanism Shapes Islamism in Central Asia”
Ed Schatz (Political Science, Southern Illinois University; REEC Regional Faculty Associate)

March 7
“Tatlin: Freudian (De)Constructivist of the Russian Avant Garde”
Alexei Kurbanovsky (Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia)

March 11
“How Russia’s Classic Films Reached the USA”
Stephen P. Hill (Slavic & Cinema Studies, UIUC)

April 15
“The Slovak Question in the Documents of the U.S. Department of State Between October 1938 and March 1939”
Roman Licko (English & American Studies, Matej Bel University, Slovak Republic)

April 29
“Cossack History and Ukrainian Intellectuals, 1800-1860”
Jeong-Sook Hahn (History, Seoul National University, South Korea)

“The Islamic World: A Century of Transformations”

January 31
“Islam and Politics in the Post-Ottoman Balkans”
Xavier Bougarel (National Center for Scientific Research, Paris, France)

February 17
“Defining Femininities and Rights: Islamist Appropriations of Liberal Feminist Legacies”
Marilyn Booth (Comparative Literature, Brown University)

April 7
“Identity and Empire: The Muslims of Imperial Russia Enter the Twentieth Century”
Azade-Ayse Rorlich (History, University of Southern California)

May 5
“Dynamics of Islam in Contemporary Africa: Between Sufism and Islamism”
Leonardo Villalon (Center for African Studies, University of Florida)

This lecture series was co-organized with the Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.