



Russian Folk Musicians in Residence through Open World Program

By Elana Jakel and Lynda Park

This March REEEC had the opportunity to host four folk musicians from Russia as part of the Open World Leadership Program, established by the US Congress to enable emerging leaders from Russia and other Eurasian countries to experience American society and culture first-hand. The Open World delegates included: Yuliya Kovyrshina from Petrozavodsk, who specializes in a variety of traditional vocal styles from Karelia; Evgenia Ratsen from St. Petersburg, who performs indigenous vocal music as well as pop music that infuses traditional styles; Nadezhda Utkina from Izhevsk, Udmurtiya, who performs Udmurt folk songs and runs a NGO to promote the indigenous culture; and Sayan Chambal from Kyzyl, Tuva, who is called an “one-man-orchestra” for his ability to throat-sing and play, and make, many musical instruments.

The delegates kept a busy schedule during their two-week residence, which included trips to Springfield and Chicago. In Chicago and Urbana the delegates performed a free concert, “Russian Music from Tuva to the White Sea,” and delighted the crowd with individual pieces from their respective regions as well as unique ensemble



Above: Musicians Nadezhda Utkina, Sayan Chambal, Evgenia Ratsen, Yuliya Kovyrshina (l.-r.) dressed in traditional costumes for a concert



Left: Chambal playing a Tuvan flute at Urbana concert

Above: Ratsen, Utkina and Kovyrshina (l.-r.) performing at Urbana concert

Photos courtesy of Josh Birnbaum, *The Daily Illini*



Performance at Westview Elementary School in Champaign

pieces. The four musicians, who did not know each other before this program, noted how exceptional the performances were for them as well, as they combined the styles from Tuva to Karelia in one Russian song. Many in the large Urbana audience of over 250 remarked that the concert was “extraordinary.” The group also gave a lively performance at Westview Elementary School in Champaign (see page 3) and at the YMCA’s 23rd Annual International Dinner. In addition, they conducted two sets of master classes open to university students and faculty, and provided presentations in the “Introduction to World Music” survey course and the “Current Perspectives on Central Asia” seminar.

Thanks to the quality of the University’s School of Music, the delegates were able to observe, tour, and participate in a variety of activities pertaining to American and non-western musical traditions and ensembles. These included tours of the John Philip



Summer 2007 Programs

Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, June 11–August 3

Ralph and Ruth Fisher Forum: “Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn as Writer, Myth-Maker and Public Figure,” June 14–16. Faculty Organizer: Richard Tempest (University of Illinois)

Central Asia-Caucasus Studies Training Workshop for Junior Scholars: “From Chechnya to Kabul: New Directions in Central Asian and Caucasus Studies,” June 26–28. Moderator: Douglas Northrop (University of Michigan)

Balkan Studies Training Workshop for Junior Scholars: “Building Balkan Studies: Integrating Multidisciplinary Perspectives,” June 27–29. Moderator: Victor Friedman (University of Chicago)

Summer Lab Noontime Scholars Lectures, June 13–July 10. Held on select days.

Summer Lab Film Series, June 11–July 11. Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Slavic Digital Text Workshop: From Medieval Texts to Geo-Cultural Data (GIS), June 9–12. Coordinator: Miranda Remnek (University of Illinois)

SRS Individualized Research Practicum, duration of the Summer Lab.

Curriculum Development Workshop on Russia for K-12 Educators, June 20–24.

Fulbright-Hays GPA Short-term Seminar in Russia for K-12 Educators: “Understanding Russia through Everyday Life,” June 25–July 23.

International Summer Institute for Pre-collegiate Educators: “Teaching World Cultures through Literature and Film,” June 25–29.

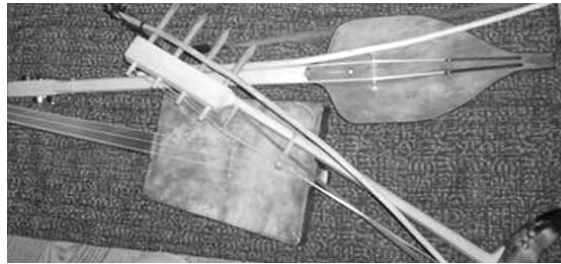
For information on any of our summer programs, please contact the Center at (217) 333-1244 or reec@uiuc.edu. Information available online: www.reec.uiuc.edu



*Clockwise form left:
Farewell dinner at a local
restaurant*

*Musicians talking to UI
students on the quad*

*Tuvan string instruments
made by Chambal*



Sousa Archives, the Center for American Music, and the Center for World Music as well as participation in rehearsals of Balkanalia, Gamelan Kebyar, and the Old Time String Band. The delegates also learned about how the community promotes the arts by meeting with Mike Ross, director of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, as well as its Creative Intersections staff and a local cultural organization that promotes the performing arts. In addition, the delegates met with Music students and faculty members to compare music education in the two countries.

During the group’s stay, many of us got to know the delegates and their facilitator, Konstantin Molotilov from Krasnoyarsk, well. They were hosted by local families and escorted by two GAs, Jessica Shelvik and Rebecca Mitchell, without whom this program would not have been possible. We will remember Sayan delighting in

learning how to play pool in a jazz club in Chicago or jamming with a local band at the Canopy Club and the group singing sorrowful parting songs at the farewell dinner.

The Open World delegates’ successful visit underscored the value of the arts in building community outreach and bridging cultures in a meaningful way. With our four-year initiative, “Festive States: The Art(s) of Celebration in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia,” REEEC is very much committed to continuing public engagement through the arts.



*Top: Chambal learning
how to play pool at a
Chicago jazz club*



*Left: Musicians with
Mike Ross of the
Krannert Center for
the Performing Arts*

Whither Czech Studies?

By David Cooper (assistant professor, *Slavic Languages and Literatures*)

At last year's Czech workshop at the University of Michigan, I participated in a roundtable that asked "Whither Czech Studies?" To which my short answer was, "To the University of Illinois!"—at least in terms of the next Czech workshop. The longer answer is, of course, more complicated.

Czech studies as a whole in the U.S. has been in a state of transition since 1989, when the changes in central and eastern Europe awoke a wave of new interest in the region. This interest has resulted in concrete gains for Czech studies in the U.S. academy in certain areas, but not, unfortunately, in all. Among the gains, I would cite the recent success of several young historians who work primarily or comparatively on Czech topics in competing for general Europeanist professorial positions. This is a hopeful indicator that some of the prejudices that relegated east European history to special, marginal positions within history departments are being successfully overcome. This type of integration seems to be the key for the future success of Czech studies as a whole in the U.S. academy. Why should an art history department, for example, not hire a specialist who can teach cubism in the Czech decorative arts alongside the paintings of Picasso? In many fields, from anthropology and sociology to music and architecture, there are opportunities for specialists whose work on Czech topics engages the

broader discussions of the field as a whole to integrate themselves into university departments and institutions.

This integration, however, remains an unfinished project, and prejudices still stand in the way. The support of Czech studies from area studies institutions thus remains a necessary and vital force for its continued development. Area studies still continues to serve as the ground where specialists in music and politics and economics that share an interest in Czech culture can come together and test their empirical observations and theoretical perspectives with others who share specific, local knowledge. This is one function of the Czech workshop, begun by Professor Jindřich Toman at the University of Michigan in 2000. This year, the University of Illinois became its first stop on a sojourn that will hopefully take it through a series of host institutions as it continues to nurture the work of younger scholars with an interest in Czech studies.

There are, then, reasons for optimism for the future of Czech studies. One cause for concern is the status of Czech within Slavic language and literature departments. Here, integration is a bigger challenge: a specialist in Czech literary modernism is not likely to find a place within broader literary studies as a general specialist in modernism, but has to compete for extremely rare positions as a Czech specialist in Slavic departments. Many departments that formerly had tenured specialists in Czech literature have replaced them with language lecturers and second-tier language and literature faculty. Those hired for such positions are often highly qualified—overqualified for the

type of positions they fill—but they are also overworked. This is a grave concern because these professors offer essential language and cultural training to specialists across the disciplines in Czech studies. A colleague from a large state institution, who has a tenured position in Czech literature, spoke eloquently about the challenges she faces as an essential advisor to research and dissertation projects in disciplines like music and political science in which she has no expertise. Fortunately for her students and colleagues, her commitment, and the institution's commitment to her, allows her to fulfill that role as best she can. The overworked and undersupported part-time language lecturers at other institutions are far less likely to be able to play such a role in supporting Czech studies.

The University of Illinois has admirably avoided creating this type of second-tier faculty. I am glad to be in a position to promote and support the development of Czech studies at this university, across the disciplines.

2007 CZECH WORKSHOP

"Czechs in the New and Old Europe:
New Approaches"
March 30 – April 1

Keynote Address

"The Czechs Without the Slovaks: Where
the Past is Another Country and Nation"
Martin Votruba (Director, Slovak Studies
Program, University of Pittsburgh)
Preceded by remarks by Marek Skolil,
Consul General of the Czech Republic

Painting Matrioshki Dolls at Elementary School



As part of our Festive States Initiative, REEEC conducted a four-week outreach program on Russian culture and arts at Westview Elementary School in Champaign in February and March. With the assistance and support of Principal Trevor Nadrozny and art teacher Jill

Lagerstam, all third graders learned about Russian culture and arts and painted their own matrioshki dolls in the art class. The program culminated with an all-school Russian arts assembly in which the musicians from the Open World program (see page 1) performed folk songs from Russia, and Tatiana Zunshine, publisher and translator of children's books, read popular Russian children's stories.

Report from the Field:

Notes from a Moscow Nightclub

By Greg Kveberg (PhD candidate, History)

I am a historian, but a somewhat unconventional one — I study rock music, the musical underground and subcultures. While conducting research in Moscow, I had wonderful personal interactions in the libraries and archives where I did most of my work. The stern matron of RGASPI was extraordinarily kind and helpful. The staff of the non-traditional publications section at the State Historical Library was always knowledgeable and friendly, and even the notoriously unhelpful Moscow city archives provided me with useful supplementary materials. Some of the most enlightening parts of my research year occurred in much less traditional venues, however, and it is on these experiences that I would like to focus.

While I spent my days in archives and libraries, I spent many of my evenings in bars and clubs. There, and often in my day-to-day affairs, I found that my knowledge of and interest in rock music and the musical underground gave me access to a whole different part of the city.

I had known, thanks to the internet, that Moscow had a flourishing goth scene. Once I'd had a little time to revive my spoken Russian, I dressed in my favorite stompy boots and headed to the Moscow goth scene's biggest event of the year—its Halloween party. As I walked into Club Tochka—located underground, like most Russian clubs, I felt that I had come home. The crowd inside looked more or less like the crowds I have encountered in London, New York, or Vienna. Pale faces, black hair, leather and vinyl clothing could have come from any goth club in the world.

Of course, the goth scene and the club did have certain distinctively Russian characteristics. At Tochka, as in almost any other Russian club, you could reserve a table and feast on a three-course meal before starting to dance. Concert line-ups tended to be more in the Russian music festival style, so one would generally hear three to four songs from a dozen or more bands, instead of larger sets by just one or two bands.

The similarities were, however, much more noticeable than the differences. Most of the music was part of the international goth canon — from the Sisters of Mercy to Covenant. The local Russian music was in the same style, and almost always in English. Russian goths are a little more likely than westerners to dance *with* someone, rather than near them, but still do much more swooping and stomping than most Russians. Even the goth tradition of playing, dancing to, and laughing at one or two popular dance songs exists in Russia. On Halloween, for example, we danced and laughed to the massively over-played Romanian “Dragostea Tin Dei.”

The club-goers were friendly. One young Russian bounced up to me and became my friend just because I was wearing a Clash t-shirt. One doesn't see much goth-punk crossover in Russia, and she was thrilled to meet someone else who clearly liked the Clash. She later wandered with me through my neighborhood, showing me all the hidden punk clubs that I would never have managed to find on my own, and introduced me to some fabulous and obscure Muscovite punk and ska.

Music helped me connect with people outside of my own little subculture as well. At one point, I lost my passport and visa—something which, for the record, I do not recommend doing. I was forced to go and have a chat with the local militia. After the initial stern preliminaries, the three bored-looking officers at my local precinct asked me what I was doing in Russia. Once I had explained that I was studying rock music, things changed. Instead of glaring at me, they talked with me about music. (They liked British music, typical for their generation, especially Pink Floyd). They helped me wrestle with the necessary paperwork, and we parted on good terms.

What is the point of all this? Music played a crucial role in shaping the last Soviet generations, and it means a great deal to Muscovites today. Music is at the heart of vibrant subcultures. The city boasts clubs ranging from grungy punk to *elitnye* clubs whose face control was so strict that they never let me through their doors. From the spike-and-leather wearing youngsters at the Chistyie Prudy metro station who are becoming part of transnational subcultures to ordinary 30-something *militsonera* who are reliving their youth, music matters.

Public Forum Series: Confronting the New Eurasia

This spring REEEC held a two-part forum series to highlight our annual theme, “Confronting the New Eurasia.” These two informal fora examined the changing concept of Eurasia, as geopolitical category and scholarly paradigm, in the postsocialist world.

Part I:

Interdisciplinary Perspectives January 30

Katherine Verdery
Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center
Mark Steinberg
History, University of Illinois
Margarethe Adams
Musicology, University of Illinois
Zsuzsa Gille
Sociology, University of Illinois

Part II:

Multiregional Perspectives March 2

Stephen Hanson
Political Science, University of Washington
Gardner Bovingdon
Central Eurasian Studies, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Indiana University
Mahir Saul
Anthropology, University of Illinois
Matthew Ouimet
US Department of State
Donna Buchanan
REEEC, Musicology, University of Illinois

New Faculty Profile: Michael Finke and George Gasyna

REEEC is pleased to welcome two new faculty members to the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures this year: Michael Finke and George Gasyna.

Michael Finke, Professor of Russian Literature, received his PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Indiana University in 1989. Before coming to Illinois, he taught for eighteen years in the Department of Russian and the International and Area Studies Program at Washington University in St. Louis.

Finke is a Chekhov specialist whose interests include literature and medicine, literature and psychoanalysis, and aviation and popular culture. He is the author of *Seeing Chekhov: Life and Art* (Cornell, 2005) and *Metapoesis: The Russian Tradition from Pushkin to Chekhov* (Duke, 1995). He co-edited with UI colleague Carl Niekerk, *One Hundred Years of Masochism: Literary Texts, Social and Cultural Contexts* (Rodopi, 2000), and with Julie de Sherbinin, *Chekhov the Immigrant: Translating a Cultural Icon* (Slavica, forthcoming). Finke also has published widely in other edited collections and journals such as *Russian Review*, *Russian Language Journal*, *Indiana Slavic Studies*, and *The Pushkin Journal*.

This academic year Finke taught an undergraduate survey of post-revolutionary Russian literature, an introduction to Chekhov's major works for both undergraduates and graduate students, and a seminar on Russian Realism. Next fall he will offer a new seminar on "Russian Literature and Medicine."

George Gasyna is tenure-track Assistant Professor of Polish Literature and Comparative Literature and director of graduate studies in the Slavic Department. Gasyna received his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Toronto in 2005. He came to Illinois in fall 2006 from McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, where



MICHAEL FINKE



GEORGE GASYNA

he was a lecturer in the Department of English and Cultural Studies.

Among Gasyna's teaching and research interests are twentieth-century Polish literature,

exile and emigration as discourse and practice, modernism, postmodernism, avant-garde, cultural studies, and diasporic and minority cultures. He currently has two research projects in progress, both of which are broadly based on his doctoral dissertation. The first, entitled *Nation as Pathology: Representations of Community in Conrad, Joyce, Gombrowicz, Nabokov, and Rushdie*, explores the dialectics of iconoclasm and national/cultural belonging in the writings of these five authors. His second work in progress, *Zones—the Literature of Contact, the Literature of Transition*, examines major transitional moments in twentieth-century culture and the role of literature as agent of and witness to these changes. Gasyna's work has appeared in *Russian Literature*, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, *The Sarmatian Review*, and *Kresy*. He has also published pieces in several edited collections as well as English translations of Polish literary works.

During his first year at Illinois, Gasyna taught two undergraduate courses in Polish studies—"Problems in Polish Literature: Émigrés and Exiles, 1791 to 1991" and "Advanced Readings in Polish"—as well as a comparative literature seminar for graduate students, "Modernism and its Aftershocks." He is also developing a minor in Polish civilization and culture, which the Slavic Department is planning to launch in the fall of 2007. Also in the fall, Gasyna will be teaching an introductory seminar on approaches and methods in the study of comparative and world literature, and co-teaching, with David Cooper in Slavic, an upper-level seminar, "The Polish and Czech Avant-Garde."

In Memoriam: Temira Pachmuss

Temira Pachmuss, a leading authority on Russian literature in emigration following the Bolshevik Revolution, died at her home in Urbana, Illinois, on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, after a brief illness. She was born Tat'iana Ivanovna Bogomazova in Vask-Narva, Estonia, a few months before her father, Ivan Nikitich Bogomaz, a Red Army commander, was shot by the Estonian White Guard in April 1919. Her university studies in Leningrad were interrupted by World War II, but she continued them in Germany and Australia, where she earned her BA and MA degrees at the University of Melbourne, and at the University of Washington, where she earned her PhD in 1959, studying under Victor Ehrlich. She came to the University of Illinois in 1960 and retired from teaching in 1996. She was the author of numerous books, including *Ziniada Gippius: An Intellectual Profile* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1971), *Women Writers in Russian Modernism: An Anthology* (University of Illinois Press, 1978), *Russian Cultural Revival* (University of Tennessee Press, 1981), *Russian Literature in the Baltic between the World Wars* (Slavica Publishers, 1988), and *A Moving River of Tears: Russia's Experience in Finland* (Peter Lang, 1992). She was also the editor and translator of numerous works by Zinaida Gippius and Dmitry Merezhkovsky. In addition, she taught and wrote extensively on the works of F. M. Dostoevsky. On the occasion of her retirement, Dean Jesse G. Delia wrote to thank her for her long and distinguished service to the University of Illinois and its Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, taking note of her thirty books and the recognition she had earned, including a request from the Russian Academy of Sciences to translate some of her books into Russian. That with the break-up of the Soviet Union and the renewed interest in formerly neglected or proscribed authors her scholarship had finally won recognition also in Russia was a source of special satisfaction to Temira Andreevna. In 2001 she was awarded the Order of the White Star by the Republic of Estonia.

Frank Y. Gladney
Slavic Languages and Literatures

Faculty/Associates News

Eugene Avrutin published "Racial Categories and the Politics of (Jewish) Difference in Late Imperial Russia," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* (8: 1, 2007). He received a Memorial Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship for 2006-07, and a Title VIII Research Fellowship at the Kennan Institute for 2007-08.

David Cooper published "Vasilii Zhukovskii as a Translator and the Protean Russian Nation," *The Russian Review* (66: 2007).

Eda Derhemi received a 2007-08 IREX IARO fellowship, enabling her to conduct research in Albania and Kosovo for a six-month period.

Zsuzsa Gille published *From the Cult of Waste to the Trash Heap of History: The Politics of Waste in Socialist and Postsocialist Hungary* (Indiana, 2007).

Steven P. Hill presented "Moscow Art Theatre on Berlin's Screen, 1922-24" at the AATSEEL national conference in Philadelphia in December 2006.

Hans Hock presented "Morphology and *i*-apocope in Slavic and Baltic" at the Indo-European Conference at the UCLA and also presented the UI Humanities Lecture, "Is Philology Safe? Language, Ideology, and the Tarim Mummies," in November 2006. In April he gave a PSAMES lecture on "Appropriating the Past: Language, Archaeology, and Ideology in Central and South Asia."

Lilya Kaganovsky received a UI Center for Advanced Study fellowship for 2007-2008 for her project, "The Voice of Technology and the End of Soviet Silent Film: 1928-1932." She presented "Filming with White: On Kozintsev and Trauberg's *Odna*" at the AAASS convention in Washington, DC, in November 2006.

Diane Koenker spent two months conducting research in Moscow and Sochi (Russia) in fall 2006 for her project "Proletarian Tourism in the Soviet Union." Her book (co-edited with A. Gorsuch), *Turizm: The Russian and East European Tourist under Capitalism and Socialism*, appeared from Cornell in late 2006; in addition to the co-authored introduction, she contributed a chapter, "The Proletarian Tourist in the 1930s: Between Mass Excursion and Mass Escape."

Sho Konishi completed a short research trip funded by a William and Flora Hewlett International Research Travel Grant in 2006. He recently received both the University of Cambridge Center for Research in Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities Visiting Faculty Fellowship and the Esperanto Studies Foundation International Research Award. The SSRC also nominated him for a research fellowship in Japan. He was selected a 2007 Florence Tanner Moeson Fellow at the Library of Congress, where he gave the Moeson lecture in April. He also spoke at Oxford in December 2006 on the philosophy of nothingness, and will speak at the World Esperanto Congress in Yokohama this summer. He published an essay on Russian-

Japanese transnational intellectual history in the 19th century in the *American Historical Review* (Feb. 2007). Another essay on the intellectual practice and theory of translation and transnational conversions to Tolstoian religion in 19th-century Japan is forthcoming in *Converting Cultures: Religion, Ideology, and Transformations of Modernity* (eds. K. Reinhart and D. Washburn), published by Brill. He is scheduled to be a visiting fellow at the National Slavic Research Center in Sapporo this year.

Mary Ann Lila reported that Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are being added to her ongoing project (with colleagues), the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups, which is funded by the NIH/NSF/USDA-FAS.

Joseph Love published "Flux and Reflux: Interwar and Postwar Structuralist Theories of Development in Romania and Latin America" in *History and Culture of Economic Nationalism in East Central Europe*, eds. H. Schultz and E. Kubu (Berlin, 2006).

Sherban Lupu joined with other Romanian musicians in a concert in November 2006 at Duna Palace in Budapest. This spring he received a prize from the Romanian National Radio Corporation for his worldwide musical activities.

Peter Maggs published a contribution to a Festschrift, "United States Courts Judge Transition Country Legal Systems," in *Rechtslage von Auslandsinvestitionen in Transformationsstaaten* (Berliner Wissenschafts Verlag, 2006), and contributed commentaries on several articles of the Fourth Part of the Russian Civil Code in the forthcoming *Commentary to the Russian Civil Code* (edited by M. Fedotov). An English translation (with A. Zhiltsov) of the Fourth Part of the Russian Civil Code was published in Moscow this spring.

Diana Mincyte presented "The Politics of Efficiency and Subsistence Farming in Europeanizing Lithuania" at the Society for Social Studies of Science meeting in Vancouver in November 2006, and "Science, Development and Small-Scale Farming in Europeanizing Lithuania" at the American Society for Environmental History meeting in Baton Rouge this spring.

Harriet Murav gave seminars and lectures on the theme of memory and remembrance in post-war Russian-Jewish and Soviet Yiddish literature at the Center for Judaica in St. Petersburg in March.

Janice Pilch participated in the round table "Fair Use, Intellectual Property, and What if Russia Joins the WTO?" at AATSEEL in December.

David Prochaska published (with T. Burke) "Rethinking the Historical Genealogy of Orientalism," *History & Anthropology* (18:1, 2007).

John Randolph published *The House in the Garden: The Bakunin Family and the Romance of Russian Idealism* (Cornell UP) this spring. He also published "The Singing Coachman, or The Road and Russia's Ethnographic Invention in Early Modern Times," *The Journal of Early Modern History* (Jan. 2007). He gave presentations on this subject at the AAASS in 2006, the Midwest Russian History Workshop in February, and at Carleton College in March.

Mahir Saul published "Méthodes en histoire orale. Genèse de l'autorité politique moogo," *L'Homme* (182, 2007). He now has a 0% appointment as Associate Curator at the Spurlock Museum.

Olga Soffer was elected a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was listed in *Who's Who in America* in fall 2006. In September 2006 she presented "The Politics of Rubicons and the Imagined Pasts" at *Transitions in the Paleolithic*, C 63, of the Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences in Lisbon. She also published (with J. Adovasio and J. Page) *The Invisible Sex* (Smithsonian/HarperCollins, 2007).

Mark Steinberg was invited by the Getty Center in Los Angeles to present a talk in January on "Russian Revolutionary Festivals: Making a New Time," and will be working with the Getty Center further on a planned exhibit on avant-garde Russian books. He also presented his work on melancholy and Russian urban modernity to the Research Triangle Intellectual History Seminar in North Carolina and a paper on "Masks: Appearance, Spectacle, and Knowledge on Petersburg's and Bely's Streets" at the AAASS. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2007-2008.

Richard Tempest gave an interview to the *Duma* newspaper on the subject of Russian and American culture and politics ("It Is Not Easy to Understand the Russian Soul," Dec. 5, 2006), and gave three invited lectures in December: "The American Political Scene after the 2006 Midterm Elections" at the Atlantic Club in Sofia; "Putin's Body as a Political Artifact" and "Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: The Myths and the Texts" at Sofia University.

Robert L. Thompson spoke on agricultural policy at the Congressional Research Service's Seminar on Legislative Issues and Procedures for Newly Elected Members of Congress in January.

Sever Tipei gave a master class at the National University of Music in Bucharest in November. With a UI vocal group, he performed his composition "Curses" ("*Blesteme*") based on the poetry of Tudor Arghezi at the national SEAMUS conference in Ames, IA. "Funktasia," a CD with music by Tipei and Z. Browning, was recently released by the CENTAUR label.

Maria Todorova gave the Third Chancellor's CAS Special Lecture, "Bones of Contention: The Making and Meaning of a National Hero (Vasil Levski)," in March.

Regional Faculty Associates

Terry D. Clark (Creighton University) received the 2007 Dean's Award for Scholarship in the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences.

Nancy Scannell (UI-Springfield) was invited by the President of Kazakh-Russian International University, Dr. Temirkhan Berdimuratov, to speak at KRIU's conference, "Modern Models of the Personally-oriented Educational Technologies: KRIU's Experience of the Teaching Model Based on the Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP)," in Aktobe, Kazakhstan, in November 2006. She presented "Tools in Communicating Finance Principles to Foreign Students: Diversification and Relevance," and offered lectures to KRIU students and visiting European University students.

Russell Zanca (NIU) co-edited (with Jeff Sahadeo) *Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present*, forthcoming this June from Indiana UP.

Alumni News

Theodora Dragostinova (PhD'05, history) has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of Eastern European history at Ohio State University starting in fall 2007.

Jeff Sahadeo (PhD'00, history) published *Russian Colonial Society in Tashkent, 1865-1923* (Indiana UP, 2007). His co-edited volume with **Russell Zanca** (PhD'99, anthropology), *Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present*, is forthcoming this June with Indiana U Press.

Christine Varga-Harris (PhD'05, history) has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of history at Illinois State University starting in fall 2007.

Elizabeth Ann Berry (undergraduate, community health) won first place in the ACTR Eighth Annual National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest, Non-Heritage Learners, Level 2.

Andy Bruno (history) received 2007-08 fellowship offers from IREX and from SSRC to conduct research on his dissertation, "An Environmental History of Russian and Soviet Modernization Efforts, 1861-1941." In March he presented "The Ideology of 'Backwardness' and the Natural World in Late Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union" at the American Society for Environmental History conference in Baton Rouge.

Pompilia Burcica (history) presented the following papers this spring: "Nationalizing Slovaks and Romanians through Theater, 1918-1930" at the Czech Workshop at Illinois; "Technology and Nationalism: The Spread of the Treadmill Stage in Bukovina, between the Wars" at the Paul Lucas Conference in History at Indiana University; and "Nationalizing Romanians: The National Theater of Bucharest on Tour in Transylvania" at the 4th Annual Graduate Student Conference sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh REES and GOSECA.

Volodymyr Chumachenko (Slavic) presented "Conflicting Identities—the Soviet Historical Novel in the 1960s-1980s" at the AATSEEL conference in Philadelphia in December.

Angela Glaros (anthropology) received a scholarship for the best research project on the Anthropology of Music and Mediterranean Cultures, administered by the University of Bologna and the International Council for Traditional Music. The award will support her dissertation research, "Soundscapes of Tradition: Singing Gender on Skyros," in 2007-08.

Elana Jakel (history) received a 2007-08 IREX IARO fellowship and a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct her dissertation research in Russia and

Ukraine. In March she participated in an SSRC Dissertation Development Workshop on "Violence in Eurasia: Historical and Contemporary Approaches."

Muzhgan Nazarova (LIS) received a 2007-08 IREX IARO fellowship to conduct her research on the impact of the regional libraries functioning as community centers in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Kate Meehan Pedrotty (history) presented "The 'Astonishing Armistice': Domestic Performance and the International Gaze in the Era of the 1984 Sarajevo Olympic Winter Games" at the Graduate Student Conference sponsored by U Pittsburgh REES and GOSECA.

Sarah Taitano (undergraduate, international studies) was awarded the NSEP Boren Scholarship to Russia in 2007-08.

Dmitry Tartakovsky (history) received a dissertation completion grant from the Department of History.

2006 Yaro Skalnik Prize for Best Essay in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Undergraduate winner: **Anne Mallicoat** (REES, economics), "Rosneft: History and Scandals"
Graduate winner: **Elana Jakel** (history), "Fighting for Belonging/s: Jews, Property, and Place in Soviet Ukraine, 1944-1946"

2007 Dobro Slovo Inductees

Douglas Heintz
Olga Tarasova
Vladimir Brilliant
Sarah Carsey
Stephanie Dold

2006-07 International Engagement and Protocol Interns

Hilary Negele
Terrell Starr
Kevin Turley

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center News

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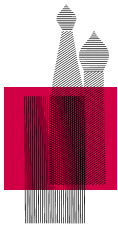


The Center News is published bi-annually. We welcome your comments and suggestions. To be added to our mailing list, contact the center at the address below or e-mail: reec@uiuc.edu.

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Skalnik Prize winners Anne Mallicoat (l) and Elana Jakel (r) with Prof. Carol Skalnik Leff



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Noontime Scholars Lecture Series

January 23

“The Transnational Recruitment of Post-communist Elites: Émigrés, Linguists and Resume Managers”

Carol Leff (Political Science, University of Illinois)

February 6

“Healers and Pilgrims: Syncretism and Shrine-based Islam in Kazakhstan”

Margarethe Adams (Ethnomusicology, University of Illinois)

February 20

“Authority, Legality, and the Disintegration of the Jewish Community in the Western Borderlands”

Eugene Avrutin (History, University of Illinois)

March 13

“Contested Sovereignities: The Russian Empire and Indigenous Siberian Political Culture in the 17th Century”

Alexandra Haugh (History, Northwestern University)

April 3

“Liberal Reform in an Illiberal Regime: The Creation of Private Property in Russia, 1906-1915”

The Honorable Stephen Williams (United States Court of Appeals)

April 17

“Articulation and Perceptions of National Ideology in 19th Century Plovdiv”

Andreas Lyberatos (Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University)

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

January 25 (with History)

“Abusive Cadres in a Voracious Party-State: Collectivization in Romania, 1948-1962”

Katherine Verdery (Julien Studley Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center; Miller Endowment Visiting Professor, U of I)

February 8

“Demographic Policy as an Instrument of Genocide—the Armenian Case”

Taner Akçam (Visiting Associate Professor of History, University of Minnesota)

February 15

“Whose Hybridity? Whose Diaspora? Agency and Identity in Transnational Musics”

Thomas Solomon (Associate Professor at the Grieg Academy, Institute of Music, University of Bergen, Norway)

March 2

“Ideology, Uncertainty, and the Fate of Russian Democracy”

Stephen Hanson (Boeing International Professor of Political Science; Director, Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, University of Washington)

April 19

“The State of the Stars: Modjeska and the Warsaw Imperial Theater”

Beth Holmgren (Professor of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, Duke University)

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