



inflections

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Miroslav Vanek, Director of the Center for Oral History in Prague, Joins CSEEEES Community



Dr. Miroslav Vanek, Director, Center for Oral History, Prague, Czech Republic

Miroslav Vanek, director of the Center for Oral History in the Institute for Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, has returned to the UNC-Chapel Hill CSEEEES faculty for the 2004 spring semester. He previously taught at UNC-CH in fall 2000. Vanek, who received his Ph.D. from Palacky University in Olomouc, is an oral historian whose work has focused on applying oral history methods to Czech historiography. According to Vanek, "oral history is especially important because throughout

modern Czech history, written documents were often manipulated, destroyed or lost. There were also some historical events which were simply ignored and

were never recorded in a written form." The Center for Oral History was established on January 1, 2000, to address this gap in Czech historiography. According to the center's website, "the relevance of all of the Center's projects resides in the fact that these projects are aimed at 'endangered groups,' or groups who are elderly and may soon pass away. These groups represent an important and irreplaceable source for understanding recent Czech history, therefore, it is important to concentrate scholarly attention on these subjects without delay."

In addition to his work at the Center for Oral History, Vanek also teaches a course in oral history at the Philosophy Faculty, Department of Czech History at Charles University in Prague and at Jerome of Prague College, partner of the UNC-CH

Honors Program. According to Vanek, his teaching gives him an opportunity to interact and share research with his students, which he really enjoys. He is also the author or co-author of several books including *A Hundred Students'*

- See Vanek page 4 -

CSEEEES, UCIS Organize K-12 Russian Culture Fest

On February 6, CSEEEES and the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) organized its annual Russian Culture Festival for local K-12 students at the Carrboro ArtsCenter. Over 500 students were treated to a concert by the Russian folk music group *Moscow Nights* and a series of interactive Russian cultural activities organized by CSEEEES and UCIS. Activities included a geography station, a portrait gallery of famous Russians, a place to create name tags in Russian, a photo gallery, and displays with artefacts of tra-



Leslie Caster, MA Slavic Linguistics, helps students at the Russian Culture Festival/ photo J. Pinkham

ditional and popular Russian culture. According to Jeremy Pinkham, CSEEEES Depart-

- See Culture Fest page 5 -

On March 10-11, World View and CSEEEES will hold a spring seminar on Eastern Europe at UNC-Chapel Hill. With a primary audience of K-12 and community college educators, the program will help participants better understand the region and help them incorporate Eastern European topics into classroom teaching. Registration is \$135 per person. Visit the World View at www.unc.edu/world/ to learn more or register for this program.

On March 15th, 4pm, Toy Lounge, Dey Hall, UNC, Professor Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby of the University of Kentucky will give a talk, "Systems in Conflict: Life Cycle Rituals in the Post-Soviet Era," sponsored by the UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, CSEEEES, and the Slavic and East European Language Resource Center.

The 1st Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) Conference will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, **June 24-25, 2004**. AWSS invites proposals for individual papers and panels for this conference. It welcomes proposals in any field of Slavic, Eurasian, or East European studies, including anthropology, art, film, history, library science, linguistics, literature, music, political science, popular culture, sociology, and, of course, any aspect of women's studies. All proposals must be submitted electronically by **March 1, 2004** to Professor Julie Brown, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, jvbrown@uncg.edu. For more information, contact beth.holmgren@unc.edu.

- See Events page 3 -

RUES Alumnus, CSEEEES Bring JFDP Scholars to UNC, Duke

During the 2003-2004 academic year, UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke are hosting scholars from the Junior Faculty Development Fellow Program (JFDP), a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State administered by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS. The JFDP Program is a year-long, non-degree, professional development program for promising junior university faculty. The JFDP Program brings 125 professors from 15 Eurasian and Southeast European countries to approximately 60 U.S. universities.

UNC and Duke are hosting five JFDP Fellows from Moldova, Russia, Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro. The connection between the JFDP and UNC and Duke this year was, in part, facilitated by 2002 RUES MA Alumnus William Hein, who now works for American Councils in Washington, DC, administering the JFDP initiative. In addition to helping place fellows at U.S. universities, Hein's role in the JFDP program involves providing administrative support to program participants. Hein said, "I enjoy being involved with people from such a range of countries. It's also

great to be able to see so many cases of personal transformation over the course of the year. Many of them step off the plane a little bit overwhelmed by the whole experience. By the end of the year they are totally different people, more confident, speaking English with ease, and full of great ideas for reform back home." In addition, said Hein, "Another aspect of the JFDP is that it is not research-oriented. Fellows are not encouraged to be cooped up in the library, but rather interacting with professors and students." As a result, "the fellows make significant contributions to campus, so not all learning is one-way. They seem to be well integrated at their schools, giving presentations in classes and to the community."

The 2003-2004 JFDP Fellows at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke are:

Diana Dumitru

Diana Dumitru has worked as an associate professor in the department of world history at the State Pedagogical University "Ion Creanga" in Chisinau, Moldova since September 2000. She has focused on studying the problems of contemporary history in

Eastern Europe. She teaches totalitarian regimes of the 20th Century; the state and law of the Republic of Moldova; comparative politics of East European countries; the contemporary history of East European countries; nations, nationalism and ethno-political conflict regulation; and international relations. She is also interested in teaching methodology in higher education. In 2003, she was selected as a Teaching Development Program Fellow, a program organized by the Open Society Institute for Moldova. As a JFDP Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill she is exploring the American University system and expanding her expertise in history. During her stay here, she is also working on revising her course curricula and on creating a new course "History and Politics of Reconciliation". In addition, Diana intends to learn more about the organization of the system of graduate studies in history in the USA.

Natalia Krylova

Natalia Krylova is a professor of 20th-century Russian literature at the Karelian State Pedagogical University in Petrozavodsk, Russia. Her primary field of study is Russian avant-garde literature. She has a number of

Events

publications, including a monograph, exploring this issue. She has also been active in cultural education through local radio, television, and periodicals. Recently, she has expanded her research by adding a gender perspective. At UNC-Chapel Hill, she is developing several new courses on Russian literature, focusing on gender issues. "I appreciate very much the opportunity to act as a cultural ambassador and therefore try to participate in different events held at UNC," said Krylova. On February 19, Krylova gave a talk on Russian rock poetry, tracing the political and aesthetic genesis of late Soviet and post-Soviet rock-poetry and surveying its recurring themes and major singer-authors from Viktor Tsoi to Zemfira Ramzanova.

Slobodan Milutinovic

Slobodan Milutinovic, an Associate Professor in Environment and Urban Systems at the University of Nis, in Nis, Serbia, intends to develop new curricula for the education of future public servants in the area of environmental studies. One major area of focus is urban environmental management, involving topics such as municipal environmental policies, sewage and waste water treatment, waste management, urban transport, and environmental impact assessments, among others. A

second area of interest is change management and the urban environment, examining policy options and tools, sustainable livelihood programs, housing policy, and land use management. While attending professional meetings and national conferences, Milutinovic has already completed a textbook for use in a new course, and is at work on a second.

Ana Mukoska

Ana Mukoska, affiliated with the Sanford Institute at Duke, currently teaches in the Department for Journalism Studies at the State University in Skopje, Macedonia. She also works in the Euro-Balkan Institute, a think-tank in Macedonia in the department of research and analysis, where she prepares news and analysis covering foreign affairs and security issues. The news and analyses are designed to suit the needs of the senior governmental officials, business professionals, and the civil sector. Her work is focused on transatlantic relations (US-EU), the role of the US in the process of enlargement and transformation of NATO, the function of the UN Security Council in the era of war against the global terrorism. Mukoska has master's degree in Communications Studies and the title of her thesis work is "Analysis of the EU model about the information society". Her interests while at Duke include the role of media and the pro-

cess of cultural globalization and revival of ethnic, religious and national extremism, and the role of the media in promoting of the emergence of the information networked society.

Danica Radovanovic

Danica Radovanovic is from the University of Belgrade in Serbia and Montenegro. At UNC-Chapel Hill, she is affiliated with the School of Information and Library Science. Her background is in Philology sciences and Information and Library Science. In Belgrade, she works as the director of the Library and Information Center at the Faculty of Management as well as the manager of on-line databases. She has held lectures, workshops, and training courses for library information science professionals and has made several presentations at LIS conferences in Europe. She is the author of several papers and essays in LIS journals in Yugoslavia. She is also a member of the European Group for Library Automation. As a JFDP Fellow at UNC, her goal is to develop research and teaching skills as well as to build bridges between two cultures and universities.

The Carolina chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL of the Carolinas) will hold its annual conference on **Saturday, April 17** in room 3201 of the Student Union at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. We invite paper proposals on Slavic literatures, linguistics, cultures or language pedagogy. All members, including graduate AND undergraduate students, faculty, and independent scholars are encouraged to participate. Please submit the title and abstract of your paper by **March 17**. The paper should be approximately 20 minutes in length. Please email any questions or submissions to Jenne Powers at jennemarie@hotmail.com or mail them to: AATSEEL of the Carolinas c/o Jenne Powers University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures 425 Dey Hall, C.B.#3165 Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

Diane Koenker, Professor of Russian and European History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will give a paper, "Worker Culture and the Crisis of Class Identity at the End of the Soviet 1920s," **March 25** at UNC, and "Training Wheels: Bicycle Touring and the National Imagination in the USSR," **March 26** at Duke. For more details, visit the CSEEL website: www.unc.edu/depts/slavic.

The Chekhov Centennial and Beyond, a celebration of the life and works of Anton Pavlovich Chekhov commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the writer's death, will hold a **Duke - UNC joint conference on April 2-4**, commemorating the Chekhov centennial. The conference will

Events

feature invited guest lectures by renowned scholars, including Vladimir Kataev, panels on Chekhov's dramatic and narrative works by members of the local academic community, a book discussion panel, and a scene-writing and performance competition by graduate and undergraduate students, with prizes. For more information, please visit: www.unc.edu/depts/slavdept/spektakl.html.

Announcements

Professor Beth Holmgren's (UNC Slavic Languages and Literatures) edited volume, *The Russian Memoir: History and Literature*, Northwestern University Press, was published in November 2003. The anthology includes essays on the memoirs of the "private person" Princess Natalia Dolgorukaia, sophisticated high culture writers (Nikolai Zabolotskii, Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Brodsky), cultural critics and facilitators (Lidia Ginzburg, Avdot'ia Panaeva), political dissidents (Evgeniia Ginzburg, Elena Bonner), and popular artists (filmmaker El'dar Riazanov).

Madeline Levine (UNC Slavic Languages and Literatures) received the 2003 AATSEEL Award for the best literary translation into English from a Slavic or East European language published in 2001-2002, for her translation of *Milosz's ABC's* by Czeslaw Milosz (Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2001).

Ed Roslof (UNC History PhD), Director of the Fulbright Office in Russia, had his book, *Red Priests*, chosen by *Choice Magazine* as one of its Outstanding Academic Books of 2003.

- See Announcements page 5 -

News From Kosovo: UNC Graduate Talks about His Recent Experience Abroad

By Amanda Jacobson

On January 22, Wesley Jordan, a 1992 graduate of UNC, spoke about his experience living and working in Pec, a village in Kosovo, at a talk attended by scholars and students from Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Macedonia, as well as students and professors who study the area. Jordan, who received an M.A. from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, spent four years in Ukraine before taking the job in Kosovo as a microfinance analyst for Mercy Corpora-



Wesley Jordan discusses his experience in Kosovo/photo Jeff Long

tion.

Jordan began by describing how he assumed living in Ukraine for four years would have prepared him for life in Kosovo. He then explained that he could not have been more wrong and that any vision he had of Kosovo was shattered within

the first few days. Jordan lived with his family in Pec (or Peja in Albanian), a town predominantly occupied by Albanians, but still considered holy ground by Serbs. He explained that according to the Serbian Orthodox Church, Pec is the site of the first monastery for that religion, and therefore the birthplace of Serbian Orthodoxy. However, currently, the only Serbs still living in Pec are the priests and women who work and live at this monastery. Pec was one of the towns most heavily destroyed during the fighting in Kosovo;

- See Jordan page 5 -

- Vanek (from page 1) -

Revolutions: Students in the Period of the Fall of Communism - Life Stories (1999), the first oral history project in the Czech Republic, and *Islands of Freedom: The Young Generation, 1969-1989* (2002), a look at the powerful independent activity of Czechoslovakia's young generation during the last half of Communism.

Vanek's current research is a large oral history project, funded by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, involving Communists and dissidents from the old regime. He is looking at elites at the central committee, regional and district level. According to Vanek, "it is the first time that

many of the elite, higher-up Communists have been interviewed, and for many of them, it is a last chance to explain themselves and their actions." Through a series of interviews with dissidents, the project will also explore their role in the center as well as in the regions. Vanek's goal is not only to capture the oral history of the time, but also to develop relationships with universities across the Czech republic, creating a network spanning the country that will support future oral history research.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, Vanek is teaching a course, "Political Elites, Opposition, and Youth at the End of Czech Communism: Using the Oral History Method," which he hopes will allow students to

explore history from two sides: written and oral. "Students will understand that both are necessary for understanding what happened under communism and that oral history is particularly important in post-Soviet countries because it fills in a gap that the archives don't address; certain events simply cannot be explained with written documents," said Vanek. The course investigates oral history's practices and features as well as the conditions in Czechoslovakia and Central Europe on the eve of 1989. Eventually he hopes to have students create their own oral history projects. Vanek's stay at UNC is sponsored by CSEEEES, with support from the Honors Program.

UNC-Chapel Hill Slavic Department Hosts Russian Filmathon

P5

Announcements

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has established a **Paul Debreczeny Distinguished Professorship**, to be awarded to any outstanding faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences. The first occupant of the new endowed chair is **Craig Melchert** of the Department of Linguistics.

Milada Vachudova (UNC Political Science) is chairing and presenting on a roundtable for the upcoming Conference of Europeanists in Chicago in March. The roundtable is titled "EU Enlargement: Debating the Costs and Benefits for New Members, Old Members and EU Institutions."

Amanda Jacobson (RUES 2nd-year MA) will present her paper, "Inherent Contradictions: The Failed Case of Socialist Federalism in Yugoslavia," at the Southern Conference for Slavic Studies in Roanoke, VA, March 18-20 and at the "Dennison I. Rusinow Memorial Panel on Yugoslavia: Causes and Consequences of Yugoslavia's Disintegration" at the University of Pittsburgh, March 5-6.

John Surface (RUES 2nd-year MA) won 2nd place best paper award for his paper, "The Challenges to Polish Sovereignty in Accession to the EU and NATO - and Consequences to Polish and EU Foreign Policy," he presented at the Fourth Graduate Research Conference at Old Dominion University, February 6. He will also present at the University of Pittsburgh's 2004 Russian and East European Studies Graduate Conference, March 5-6.



Alexander Prokhorov kicks off the Slavic Department's Russian Film Festival/photo Jeff Long

On February 6-7, the UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and CSEEEES hosted its first annual Russian film festival. The theme of the festival was the exploration of the Russian city in post-Soviet film. Films screened included Alexei Balabanov's *Brother* (1997),

Valerii Todorovskii's *The Land of the Deaf* (1998), Bahktiiar Khudoinazarov's *Luna Papa* (1999), and Filipp Iankovskii's *In Motion* (2002). Alexander Prokhorov, assistant professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at the College of William and Mary in Virginia kicked off the festival with the keynote lecture, "New Orphans/Old Cities: Urban Setting in Post-Soviet Cinema." According to Prokhorov, "Soviet cinema made the city the center of the socialist utopia where deracinated orphans acquired the new Marxist identity." In post-Soviet cinema, filmmakers have focused on "the ruins of this utopia: the post-utopian cityscape of the Russian cinema after the future." Prokhorov

commented that "the major ingredients of the post-Soviet urban setting include the opposition between Moscow and Petersburg, where Petersburg represents the aborted modernist project. Moscow stands for the new commercial city, whose skyline is determined by the media and market whims, lack of any sense of history, and urban warfare of languages, cultures, and ethnicities. Against such a mise-en-scene emerges the orphan as the hero struggling to communicate with the world of fragmented languages and identities and unable to establish any code beyond the code of a displaced migrant constantly lacking the sense of stability and center."

- Culture Fest (from page 1) -

ment Manager, who, along with Tara Flanigan of UCIS, played an integral role in organizing the culture fest, "this year's fest was a great success."

- Jordan (from page 4) -

however, the international community has helped to rebuild a lot of the town.

Jordan described Kosovo as a stable place. He said that there is a sense of security among the people. He was quick to say, however, that this did not mean that acts of violence still did not occur.



Local K-12 Students Explore Russian Culture/photo Jeremy Pinkham

Jordan stated that, in his experience, the people of Kosovo are hopeful and look to the West for their future. However, a political resolution that does not include total independence for Kosovo will be unacceptable to the Albanians, and a resolution that does include it is unacceptable for the Serbian gov-

ernment. The political situation is still unresolved as negotiations remain at a standstill. Jordan's predictions leaned toward an economic solution. He argued that if both Serbia and Albania could achieve better economic stability and even prosperity, then politically they might reach a solution.

UNC-Chapel Hill Anthropology Department Adds Siberian Specialist



Mark Sorensen, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Curriculum in International and Area Studies, recently joined the faculty of UNC-Chapel Hill. Sorensen comes to UNC after completing his Ph.D. in biological anthropology at Northwestern University. His dissertation focused on “the impact of cultural change on the biology and health status of indigenous Siberians.”

According to Sorensen, his research shows that cultural changes linked to the breakup of the Soviet Union have left indigenous Siberian populations, such as the Buriat and Yakut, at a higher risk for cardiovascular diseases, high blood pressure, and psycho-social stress. His most recent publications include “Apolipoprotein B 3'-VNTR Polymorphism in Eastern European Populations” in the *European Journal of Human Genetics* and “Climatic Influences on Basal Metabolic Rates among Circumpolar Populations” in the *American Journal of Human Biology*. At UNC, he is teaching several

courses, including Human Growth and Development, Health Consequences of Cultural Change, Human Origins, and Global Health. He is also part of a team assisting Greg Gange of the Carolina Environmental Program in organizing a Siberian summer study abroad program. The program, which is in its developmental stages, would give students the chance to explore such topics as ecology, biology, and biological anthropology in Siberia. Sorensen says that he is very pleased to be at UNC-Chapel Hill, “a great university with phenomenal resources.”

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