



CENTER FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
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Connections

Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies

New Perspectives

UNC's Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEES) is happy to welcome two new colleagues into our community. **Hana Pichova** (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) and **Marzanna Poplawska** (Department of Music).



Hana Pichova was born in Prague, but immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1980. She received a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1991). She specializes in twentieth century Czech and

Russian prose. Her published work focuses largely on literature in exile, specifically on how memory functions in Kundera's and Nabokov's works (*The Art of Memory in Exile: V. Nabokov and M. Kundera*). She has recently focused on how Czech literature refracts cultural and architectural events that occurred in Czechoslovakia after WW II, including a new book project, *The Mysterious Affair in Prague: In Search of the Stalin Statue and Its Sculptor*. This work documents the history of one of the largest Stalin statues ever built, which stood for seven years in one of the most prominent locations in Prague. She also explores narrative accounts of this event as meditations on the function of monumentality, aesthetics, and power. Pichova, along with former colleague Craig Cravens, produced a translation of Vladimir Macura's *The Potato Bug and Other Semiotic Essays on Czech Culture*, due out next year.



Marzanna Poplawska holds degrees from Warsaw University (M.A. in Musicology, 1998) and Wesleyan University (Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology, 2008). Her Ph.D. dissertation entitled "Christian Music and Inculturation in Indonesia"

examines the phenomenon of inculturation, with its theoretical, political and sociological implications, in Indonesian Christian music, with a focus on central Java and the island of Flores. Her primary interests encompass the musical traditions of Indonesia, South East Asia, and Central-Eastern Europe. She also examines issues of musical cognition, acculturation/inculturation, music and religion, and ritual music. She is a lecturer in World Music and Director of Gamelan Nyai Saraswati.



UNC Alum Ken Palmer leads the students on a tour of Mostar, BiH.

Vienna & the Balkans Study Abroad Burch Program

This summer marked the fifth bi-annual Burch Field Research Seminar in Vienna and the Balkans. Dr. Robert Jenkins, assisted by GTA Besir Ceka, led a group of 16 undergraduates in a field study of southeastern Europe. This program gave students access to issues and places, generally only available to them through the media.

The journey began in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on June 14. The following weeks provided students with the opportunity to experience the region firsthand. They visited Banja Luka and Mostar, BiH; Budva, Montenegro; and Prishtina, Kosovo. Participants were particularly struck by the contrasts of the region. Pete Bonds was surprised to see a giant portrait of former President Bill Clinton overlooking Bill Clinton Boulevard in Prishtina. Students were also astonished by the extremely warm welcome extended to them by the people of Kosovo. Diana Roycroft noted the relatively cold reception they received from Bosnian Serbs.

In the field, the group met with more than 70 representatives of global organizations, who discussed challenges of state building and ethnic reconciliation. Some of these representatives were members of the greater UNC community. Ken Palmer, who received his PhD in Sociology from UNC in 2005, currently works with the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) and hosted the group in Mostar. Former Humphrey Fellow at UNC and current professor of political science at the University of Prishtina, Arben Hajrullahu, greeted them during their stay in Kosovo. In Vienna, students wrote research papers and observed operations at OSCE headquarters.

The trip made a lasting impression on students, and inspired some to continue their studies on the region. "It's not just somewhere I went for the summer," said Diane Collopy. "It's somewhere I want to really get involved with."

The Dutch Disease Spreads from Chapel Hill to Baku



Dr. Gubad Bayramov came to UNC-Chapel Hill in Spring 2009 as a Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) Fellow. An economist from Azerbaijan State University, Dr. Bayramov collaborated closely with his faculty advisor, Dr. Patrick Conway (Economics Department) during his time on campus. Together they developed a research

project entitled "The Dutch Disease in Azerbaijan: A Disease After All?" The project will investigate the current and future economic situation in Azerbaijan. Its foci are the short-term oil production boom; the rapid increase of expenditures in

Azerbaijan; the impact of government expenditures on growth; and symptoms of the Dutch Disease in Azerbaijan.

The project won a national competition entitled "Institutional Transition in the Emerging Market Economies of the Balkans and the Caucasus", sponsored by the University of Delaware. The competition looked for research proposals that addressed the continuing transition to a free-market economy in the Balkan and Caucasus regions and its implications. Funding for this project is provided by the US Department of State, under Title VIII. The project began here at UNC Chapel Hill, but the majority of the research will take place in Baku at the Economic Research Center. The project will conclude at the end of October.

CSEES has hosted eight JFDP Fellows in the past seven years.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Professor **Milada Anna Vachudova** (Department of Political Science) was awarded the Hettleman Award for Artistic and Scholarly Achievements by Young Faculty by Chancellor Holden Thorp. These prizes are given each year to four tenure-track or recently tenured members of the faculty from across the university. The award committee cited Professor Vachudova's internationally recognized research on democratization and international actors in post-communist Europe, including her book, *Europe Undivided*, which was awarded the Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research in 2007.

Lieutenant Jeff Gerring, a 2009 graduate of the RUES MA program, has earned the position of Commanding Officer of the Navy Operational Support Center, Billings, MT.

Billy Beaver (MA RUES) received an ACTR Fellowship for summer 2009. He went to Baku, Azerbaijan, where he studied Azeri.

Colin Biddle (MA RUES) is interning with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The **FLAS application deadline** for 2010-2011 is January 29, 2010 for both academic-year and summer awards.

SPOTLIGHT

Olena Bashun is currently at UNC on a Fulbright Fellowship, working with Nadia Zilper (Head of Global Resources and Area Studies Dept. and Curator of Slavic & East European Collections). She received her Ph.D. in Pedagogy from the Kiev National University of Culture and Arts in 2001. Her areas of interest include library marketing and fundraising, and computer technologies for libraries.

Some of Olena's published works include: [Libraries of the USA: View Point of the Ukrainian Professional](#) (Nora-Druk, 2004), [Fundraising or the Skill of Gathering Money: Scientific and Methodical Recommendations for Libraries](#) (Donetsk, 1998), and [The Influence of Marketing and Fundraising on Transformation of Libraries](#) (Donetsk, 1999). She has also issued ten foreign publications and over one hundred publications in Ukrainian journals and newspapers.

Meet the First-Year M.A. Students



Left to Right: Manuela Mot, Dawes Cooke, Sarah Bidgood, Gozel Arazmedova, T. Jesse Dent, Jr.

Get acquainted with our incoming Russia and East European Studies (RUES) M.A. students!

Gozel Arazmedova graduated from MagtymgulyTurkmenStateUniversity. She then accepted a position with the American Red Cross as head of food distribution for tuberculosis patients in Turkmenistan. In 2002, she began working for the U.S. Embassy as a consular assistant. Gozel comes to UNC as a Rotary World Peace Fellow. After UNC, she intends to return to Turkmenistan in order to address women's rights and equality.

Sarah Bidgood is originally from Lancaster, PA. She attended Wellesley College, and received her BA in Russian Language and Literature in June 2009. While a student at Wellesley, she lived and studied for one year in Yaroslavl, Russia. During her time at UNC, she intends to study gender, specifically womanhood, as a construction of the Soviet state. Sarah is also interested in exploring Eastern European feminism.

Dawes Cooke grew up in Charleston, South Carolina. He attained his BA from the University of South Carolina in 2007, with a double major in Russian and History. After graduation, he lived in Vladimir, Russia for one year. During his time in Vladimir, Dawes taught English at the American Home. At UNC Cooke plans to continue his study of

Russia and is interested in researching imperial politics.

T. Jesse Dent, Jr. earned a BA in Government and Politics at the University of Maryland at College Park, an MA in Political Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC Teacher Licensure at UNC-Charlotte. He taught political science and coordinated international programs and study abroad at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte. During that time he developed several successful grant proposals that funded programs in Australia, Morocco, France, Japan, and Russia. In the RUES Program, Jesse is concentrating on Russia with a special interest in Russian civil society.

Manuela Mot has been a journalist in her native Bucharest, where she closely followed Romania's foreign policy in its bid for NATO and EU membership. She was editor of Ministry of European Integration's European Affairs Weekly. Manuela was actively involved in several communication projects aimed to increase the awareness on the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of EU citizens after the country's accession. Her most recent position was in the private sector as a PR specialist. At UNC she is a Rotary World Peace Fellow. Manuela plans on a career in politics or diplomacy with an international organization or an NGO.

Summer FLAS Fun

Eight Summer FLAS awards were given out through the CSEES this year.

Colin Biddle (MA RUES) studied intensive Bosnian/Serbo/Croatian (BCS) at the Melikian Center at Arizona State University. His program included an additional three weeks of study in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Colin also got the chance to travel through the Balkans during his trip.

Sarah Bidgood (MA RUES) took seventh-year Russian courses at Indiana University's Summer Workshop in Slavic and East European Languages (SWSEEL). Her courses included grammar, conversation, video lab, and phonetics. Her classes involved watching movies and singing songs, as well as a lot of harder work.

Hannah Harvester (Folklore) studied advanced Polish at John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, Poland.

Angela Henderson (MA RUES) spent six weeks studying intensive introductory Polish at the Summer Language Institute (SLI) at the University of Pittsburgh. The Institute also gave her the opportunity to attend cultural activities sponsored by the University.

Scott Morrison (Slavic) traveled to Vladimir, Russia, where he studied at the KORA Institute to prepare for teaching Russian language classes here at UNC. Between his travels

in Russia and his studies with the "capable and kind" instructors at the KORA Institute, Scott feels more prepared to teach Russian now than he would be otherwise.

Andrew Ringlee (History) used his FLAS to attend Indiana University's SWSEEL, where he took sixth-year Russian courses.

John Robertson (History) studied Czech at the Ústav Jazykový a Odborný Přípravy in Prague, Czech Republic, in preparation for archival research in Moravia. John was able to spend time in Moravia, as well as to explore Prague itself.

Isaac White (MA RUES) attended the University of Pittsburgh's Russian and East European Summer Language Institute where he studied BCS. His classes included not just grammar but cultural studies, films, music, cultural norms, and cooking from the former Yugoslavia.

Brandon Rice (MA RUES) received a Duke University FLAS award and participated in the Duke in Russia program. The program included a 7-week stay in St. Petersburg, with daily lessons at the Smolny Institute. Lessons focused on grammar, literature, mass media, and film. The program also involved trips to the St. Petersburg outskirts and longer trips to Vologda and Moscow.

EVENTS

Carolina Seminars "Russia and its Empires, East and West"

FedEx Global Education Center, 1009
6:00 - 7:30 PM

November 18th

"The Empress and the "Whore": The Curious Case of Anna Kunigunde Felker, alias Drezdenska" with Igor Fediukin

December 9th

"The Re-Appropriation of the Past: History and Politics in Soviet Armenia, 1988-1991" with Robert Krikorian

FLAS Information Sessions

FedEx Global Education Center
DeBerry Board Room 3009

November 17th, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

November 18th, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

International Folk Dance

The Chapel Hill International Folk Dance Club is celebrating their 45th anniversary by offering free lessons in folk dances from around the world. Lessons will be held in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium at the FedEx Global Education Center on the following dates, from 7:00-8:30 PM.

October 29th

November 5th

November 12th

Then show off your talents or simply enjoy a dance performance during the exhibition on November 21st, from 1:00 PM-11:30 PM in the Frank Porter Graham Student Union Great Hall

For updated information on all upcoming events, please visit <http://global.unc.edu/slavic/>

Young Slavists Club

This year four children were born to members of the CSEES community. Let's welcome:

Zachary Benjamin Gerring, born on January 31, 2009, to Jeff (MA RUES 2009) and Angela Gerring.

Tomas Robertson, born on February 15, 2009, to Graeme Robertson and Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo. Graeme and Cecilia are professors of political science.

Dominik Vachuda Bryant, born on May 13, 2009, to Chad Bryant and Milada Vachudova. Chad is a professor of Central and Eastern European history and Milada is a professor of political science.

Jack Gregory Dusek, born on August 1, 2009, to Katrina (MA RUES 2008) and Greg Dusek.