

IN CONSORTIUM WITH DUKE UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES, THE CSEES IS RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS SERVICE OFFICE OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AS ONE OF SIXTEEN NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS IN SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES.

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## Former Polish dissident and editor spoke at UNC about post-communist democracy



*Adam Michnik at UNC*

Adam Michnik, a legendary figure of the Polish anti-communist opposition, was a special guest on the UNC campus in late April, giving two talks (one in Polish) and holding a forum with students and faculty. The historian, public intellectual, and co-founder and editor-in-chief of Poland's largest paper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, is the author of numerous books and essays and a laureate with many honors.

In his talk, "The Traps of Democracy After Communism," he discussed Poland's successful democratic transformation. Economic reforms that were initiated in the early 1990s placed Poland on a path of continuous economic growth. Poland's integration into the EU and its membership in NATO brought a general feeling of security, freedom and democracy. Michnik stated that the tendency to strengthen democracy is more readily observed in Poland in comparison with other countries. In Poland, political parties in power have changed often, which has prevented parties in power from getting attached to their seats in government and turning authoritarian, like in Russia and Hungary. At the same time, he underlined internal traps with which Poland has not dealt yet, specifically unemployment and economic inequalities, and the role of the Catholic Church in politics. Michnik stressed that corruption, often endemic in other post-communist countries, has not become an irremovable part of the Polish economic and political system. Unlike in Russia and Ukraine, Polish oligarchs were not given an opportunity to dictate political solutions by funding political parties and buying seats in parliament.

Poland has also avoided the trap in the idea of changing international borders - the philosophy of open borders has prevailed. This philosophy is a direct contradiction to the most recent actions of Russian President Putin in Ukraine. Michnik mentioned that Putin's policy hinders the development of democracy in Russia and it is the biggest threat to Ukraine's democratic transition. If Ukraine survives the conflict, he added, the nation can learn from Poland's successful democratic transformation.

BY ANYA YUDINA (MA RUES '15) AND ZUMRAT SALMORBKOVA (MA RUES '09)

## Busy semester on three continents

UNC professor and students take a trip to the Balkans and explore South Africa during a memorable semester abroad

Dr. Robert Jenkins, CSEES Director and Senior Lecturer in Political Science, was busy in 2013 leading two different UNC study abroad programs. During summer 2013, he directed the Burch Field Research Seminar (BFRS) in the Balkans and Vienna for a seventh time. As in previous years, the focus of the program was international response to war and the challenges of peace and state building in the former Yugoslavia. Fifteen undergraduate students joined Dr. Jenkins and his Program Assistant, Besir Ceka, who had just completed his Ph.D. in Political Science at UNC and teamed up with Jenkins for a third summer BFRS.

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# News & announcements

**ZUMRAT SALMORBEKOVA** (MA RUES '09) is Interim Associate Director of CSEEEES

**IRINA OLENICHEVA** is the new Department Manager of CSEEEES

**TREVOR ERLACHER** (PhD candidate, Department of History) won an ACTR grant for nine months of research in Lviv and Kyiv, Ukraine, starting in September 2014.

**KIRAN AUERBACH** (PhD candidate, Department of Political Science) was awarded a summer research and language fellowship, funded by the U.S. State Department and administered by American Councils for International Education. She will spend 3 months in Bosnia and Herzegovina from May until August.

**EMILY BARAN** (PhD, Department of History) published her first monograph, *Dissent on the Margins: How Soviet Jehovah's Witnesses Defied Communism and Lived to Preach About It* (Oxford University Press).

**GARY GUADAGNOLO** (PhD candidate, Department of History) is conducting dissertation research in Kazan, Russia, thanks to a Title VIII Research Fellowship from American Councils. He recently presented a paper at a Kazan Federal University conference. His research will continue through the calendar year thanks to a Fulbright-Hays dissertation fellowship.

**ELEONORA MAGOMEDOVA** (Senior Lecturer in Russian, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures) received the Johnston teaching award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

**MILADA ANNA VACHUDOVA** (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science) published a new article "EU Leverage and National Interests in the Balkans: The Puzzles of Enlargement Ten Years On" in the *Journal of Common Market Studies*.

**DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES** published in November the inaugural issue of *ВІСНИК: E-Journal of Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies*, sponsored by the Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association. The journal is open to submissions in all relevant disciplines and in all the major languages.

**UNC-CHAPEL HILL AND DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES** announced a cooperative collection development pilot program for Russian literature and literary criticism, effective August 2013.

**AARON HALE-DORELL** (PhD candidate, Department of History) won the SCSS graduate student paper prize in Atlanta for his paper on "Khrushchev's Corn Crusade".

**THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES** is happy to announce a new undergraduate concentration in Central European Studies. The department began offering the new concentration in the fall of 2013.

The new concentration presents an interdisciplinary track and will appeal to a diverse group of undergraduates interested in Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish and the history of Central Europe. In addition to studying two different Central European languages, students will take two core courses—GSSL 260 (From Berlin to Budapest: Literature, Film, and Culture of Central Europe) and HIST 260 (East Central Europe from the Eighteenth Century to the Present)—and six other courses in GSSL and other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

## IN MEMORIAM

**CSEEEES** is sad to announce the death of Josef Anderle, professor emeritus of history at UNC. Prof. Anderle for many years taught eastern European history. He died on February 10, 2014, at the age of 89.

Josef Anderle was born outside Prague in 1924, he was raised as an orphan by nuns whom he deeply appreciated as having aroused his lifelong love of history. Josef Anderle arrived in Chapel Hill in the mid-1960s as the Department's first hire in East European history. In 1991, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by his beloved Charles University in Prague. Born an orphan, he never imagined that he would teach Czech history in America.

**CSEEEES** is sad to announce the death of David Griffiths, Professor Emeritus of History. He died on February 17, at the age of 75.

David Griffiths was born in 1938 in Neptune, New Jersey and attended college and graduate school at Swarthmore College, Columbia University and Cornell. He was an internationally known specialist in 18th Century Russian history, and taught Russian and European history for 39 years at UNC Chapel Hill.



## PEOPLE AND STORIES

In the hope of calming down those CSEEEES students who worry about their future careers or are yet undecided about what they want to be doing after graduation, I talked with Lynn Virgil, a former CSEEEES student. She told me what courses she took when she was a student, what was her first job, what she was doing in the middle of Africa and what it felt like to interview Amy Winehouse.

**Q:** Tell us a little about your first job after graduation.

**A:** During my second year at UNC (fall of 2001), I received a fellowship and interned with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I worked as a Human Rights Officer in Drvar. The big push at the time was property law implementation to facilitate the return of Bosnian Serbs to the region (this was also the focus of my thesis). I returned to BiH the following summer in 2002 as a UN Volunteer (UNV) with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. There, I worked directly with returnees, trying to get them what they needed to rebuild their homes and sustain themselves. I was in this position for a year, then I returned to the States.

**Q:** Describe your current job.

**A:** I'm a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State. I am Management-coned, though I've been fortunate enough to do a variety of jobs and have not been pigeonholed into only management work.

My first tour was in Bujumbura, Burundi - a tiny post in middle of Africa, located beside Rwanda. Burundi went through the same genocide that Rwanda experienced, though on a smaller scale. I was the General Services Officer so a lot of my work was not very exciting - I supervised approximately 100 local Burundians who worked in maintenance and supplies.

After that, I fulfilled my consular requirement at the Embassy in London for one year and was Staff Assistant to the Ambassador for my second year. A few highlights from my year working visas - I interviewed Amy Winehouse, Jamie Oliver, Helena Bonham Carter, Rupert Evert, Simon Cowell, Seal and my personal fave - Guy Ritchie.

From London, I returned to DC and worked in the Secretary's Operations Center for a year. The Ops Center is a 24-hour crisis watch center in addition to the Secretary's "call center." It works 24/7 and NEVER (I mean really - never) closes. The year I was there was quite intense - we covered Fukushima,

the Arab Spring and the killing of Bin Laden (for which I was on shift and very busy that night).

After Ops I needed something a little lower key so I took a job as an Assignments Officer in the Executive Office of the European and International Orgs Bureau. I worked with embassies and FSOs on filling all mid and senior-level "reporting" positions (political, economic and public diplomacy jobs).

Following three years in DC, I moved to the embassy in Athens, Greece. My official title was International Relations Officer but I worked in the political section and ended up filling in as the deputy political chief for most of my time there.

**Q:** Did you follow a linear career path?

**A:** I think so. For me one thing just led to another. I went to Poland after undergrad, applied to grad schools, happened to meet Dr Jenkins in Warsaw, went to UNC, got two fellowships that allowed me to study Serbo-Croatian and go to Bosnia - which then led to my job at the Department of Commerce and State Department.

**Q:** What courses and languages did you study at UNC?

**A:** I came to grad school with a decent base in Polish, then studied Serbo-Croatian at UNC.

**Q:** In what way did UNC prepare you for your future career?

**A:** When I started the MA program at UNC, my class was only the second one to come through and the program was quite flexible. Knowing I did not

want to pursue a PhD, I focused on a more concrete subject matter so that I would be able to transfer what I learned into job opportunities.

**Q:** How have you stayed connected to CSEEEES and UNC since graduation?

**A:** Somewhat. I've managed to stay in contact with Dr Jenkins and DC ends up being a small place after a while, so I've run into a couple of people I knew from UNC and the Center.

**Q:** Do you have any advice for current MA RUES students?

**A:** Everyone is different and choosing what one wants from any stage of education is entirely up to the individual. For me, I really think I owe a lot to luck and timing. I just followed what sounded interesting at the time.

ANYA YUDINA INTERVIEWED LYNN VIRGIL FOR CONNECTIONS



“The year I worked in the Secretary's Operations Center was very intense - we covered Fukushima, the Arab Spring and the killing of Bin Laden. I was on shift and very busy that night!”







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During the first week of the program, students were able to combine intensive background in the classroom with breathtaking vistas of Dubrovnik, Croatia. The following two weeks were spent in Bosnia-Herzegovina, looking at the activities of such international organizations as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Office of High Representative (OHR), and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). During a week based in Sarajevo, the group was able to witness protest demonstrations over the inaction of politicians on a law on identity documents. Unlike recent protests that led to violence against state buildings, the summer protests had more the air of a concert.

*Students at Latin Bridge, Sarajevo*

The second week in BiH took the program to Banja Luka and Mostar. Students found the mood among international organizations very despondent over the failure of Bosnian political elites to implement reforms that would boost the country's progress toward the European Union.

By contrast, the mood was largely upbeat in Kosovo, where the program spent its fourth week. Both international actors and Kosovars were optimistic over the recently penned Brussels Agreement between the prime ministers of Serbia and Kosovo, which was brokered by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton. The exception to this optimism was north Mitrovica, where the threat of violence discouraged the group from visiting in 2013.

The final two weeks of the summer program were based at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. In addition to classroom activities and research projects, students visited international organizations in Vienna, including the OSCE Permanent Council and the Vienna Headquarters of the United Nations.

With only a short turnaround in the United States, Dr. Jenkins was off to Cape Town, South Africa, for the fall semester, where he was Faculty Director for UNC Honors Program. While not quite Eastern Europe, South Africa did present important comparative insights for Jenkins. He taught a course to the UNC students, "Ethnicity, Nation, and Democracy Compared: Eastern Europe and South Africa," which explored the end of authoritarian rule and the development of democratic institutions. The course also compared the differing nature of nationalism in Eastern Europe, where ethnicity has played a central part in defining political community, and South Africa, where ethnicity has a role in politics but nation is defined in racial and multi-racial terms.

For much of the semester, Jenkins assumed the role of student himself, learning about South African politics through reading,

*Dr and Mrs Jenkins with Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

observing parliament and campaign rallies, and partaking in historical tourism. Jenkins noted that among the more moving experiences were spending two nights in Soweto, the township home of late President Nelson Mandela outside of Johannesburg, and visiting Robben Island, where Mandela spent 18 years as a political prisoner. The final week of the semester program was marked by the death of Mandela and students had a unique opportunity to witness that broad-based mourning that accompanied his passing.

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