



CENTER FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER
CAMPUS BOX 5125
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-5125

CONNECTIONS is a joint publication of the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies.

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 177
Chapel Hill, NC

Connections

Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies

Center Reaches Out Through Books

In an ambitious outreach effort, the Center has completed a book-mailing project to all public and federally-funded middle schools in North Carolina.

A total of 698 schools received copies of Usborne's First Thousand Words in Russian, an interactive picture dictionary with an internet-linked pronunciation guide. The U.S. Department of Education will feature this project among its best practices for international education activities.

CSEEEES Associate Director Dr. Jacqueline Olich, who directed the project with Department Manager Karla Nagy, said the chief aims were two-fold: to promote awareness and interest in Russian language among North Carolina students and to make administrators and media resource specialists in every county aware of the Center and its resources.

"The response has been gratifying," Olich said. "One librarian who had adopted a child from Russia wrote to thank us and ask where she and her child could formally study Russian language. Another media resource specialist wrote to say that her school had a copy of the Spanish version that was so popular, it was threadbare; they didn't have the funds to buy additional books in the series."

This effort was funded by the U.S. Department of Education National Resource Center, with support from Duke University's CSEEEES, the Bull's Head Bookshop and UNC's World View International Program for Educators.

The Center is working on its next large-scale outreach project, a Google Lit Trip for Gloria Whelan's Angel on the Square, a young adult novel set in Revolution-era St. Petersburg.



CSEEEES Awarded \$2.1 Million

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded \$2.1 million to the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies and its Duke University partner. CSEEEES is one of seven international centers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to receive competitive Title VI funding. UNC received a total of \$11.29 million.

The award, to be given out across a four-year period, will fund outreach programs, bring in guest speakers, underwrite conferences and workshops, and partially fund department staff.

With this grant the Center will also hire a new UNC faculty member specializing in environmental studies in the Caucasus region and Central Asia. Duke University will use grant funds to begin instruction in the Uzbek language starting Fall 2011.

The Department of Education also provided new allocations for the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Program. The UNC and Duke Centers both received nine academic year and seven summer fellowships. FLAS fellowships provide opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to intensively study less-commonly taught languages and world areas.

"Our central ambition was to receive funding that would allow the Center to continue to operate," said CSEEEES Director Robert Jenkins. "The cuts in the state budget over the past two years have hit CSEEEES very hard. I am most proud of the fact that our joint award with Duke CSEEEES was the largest combined award for National Resource Center and FLAS grants among the 125 centers in the country."

These grants will allow the joint centers to pursue many new initiatives. Jenkins said these include expanding activities and faculty expertise in the region of Central Asia and the Caucasus; implementing new programs aimed at K-12 and community college teachers, as well as at historically black colleges and universities; and working with other UNC units to explore broad issues of sustainability.

"The grants help elevate our profile inside the university and among the area studies community in the United States," Jenkins said. "The strong support level for FLAS fellowships will enable us work with academic departments and programs to attract the best students, as well as continue to support the M.A. program in Russian and East European Studies."

Summer in Central Asia



UNC alum and Rotary World Peace Fellow, Zumrat Salmorbekova (M.A. RUES '09), worked on peace, reconciliation, and security issues in Central Asia during summer 2010. Specifically, she studied conflict dynamics in Tajikistan and traveled to southern Kyrgyzstan after the June eruption of interethnic violence to conduct a rapid protection assessment.

As a consultant for AMEX International, Zumrat participated in the Tajikistan Conflict Assessment: Instability, Crisis and Recovery Program, funded by USAID/Central Asian Republics. During this time, she researched conflict triggers in Tajikistan and spent three weeks conducting in-depth interviews and focus-group discussions with Tajik citizens.

When violent interethnic conflict broke out in southern Kyrgyzstan, Zumrat joined the UN-Kyrgyzstan Protection Cluster team to assess the towns and districts of Osh and Jalal-Abad, the areas most affected by the conflict. Based on her

team's work, a report was released with key recommendations for meeting the protection needs of the population.

Zumrat's position as UNIFEM project manager, which she took in July, enabled her to establish an early warning system for conflict situations in the Ferghana Valley, which spreads across eastern Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Zumrat launched an assessment with a stakeholder group that included government representatives, civil society organizations, male and female community leaders, ethnic minorities, youth groups, and religious communities. As a result of the assessment, key gaps in the recovery needs of the local population were identified.

Zumrat is a specialist in gender, conflict, and peace-building from Kyrgyzstan. She is currently engaged in independent consultancy work on issues of conflict analysis, early warning, conflict prevention, and gender dynamics in post-Soviet space.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNC undergraduate **Natalia Smirnova** used her Carolina Undergraduate Health Fellowship to study the interaction of folk healing and biomedicine in contemporary Russia. She interned for a month at a St. Petersburg maternity ward and traveled to villages in the Komi Republic and Siberia to interview local healers.

Graeme Robertson (Assistant Professor, Political Science) received a grant to study democratization in Kyrgyzstan following the revolution of 2010. Robertson and his project partner, Grigore Pop-Elechs of Princeton University, spent two weeks in Kyrgyzstan this summer conducting preliminary interviews.

Olena Bushun (Former Fulbright) received a position with IREX on the implementation of the project "Global Libraries: Ukraine – Bibliomost" funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Anna Peck (Fellow, CSEES) published the book Konstruowanie historii, Prezentacja i percepcja Polski w amerykańskich podręcznikach akademickich i szkolnych in Poland, on the perceptions of Polish history and culture in American high school and undergraduate-level textbooks.

Silvia Tomášková (Associate Professor, Anthropology) will spend the fall of 2010 in Johannesburg at the Rock Art Research Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand in workshops aimed at technical training in studying rock art. In the spring of 2011 she will collaborate with anthropologists, archaeologists and African Studies scholars at the University of Cape Town.

Doug Buchacek (MA RUES 2006) and his wife welcomed their son Charles Robert Buchacek into the Young Slavists' Club on September 25, 2010. Doug is currently teaching Social Studies at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough, NC.

Jessica Golliday Wang (MA RUES 2009) was recently accepted to the Alternate Route to Certification program for Connecticut Educators.

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CSEES at the FedEx Global Education Center Open House, Sept. 1

FLAS Fellowship Updates

Congratulations to the **CSEES Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship** recipients:

- Kate Althaus (RUES) studied Russian at Indiana University's Slavic Language Workshop in Bloomington, IN.
- Laura Brade (HIST) studied pre-intermediate Czech at the Department of Czech for Foreigners, Faculty of Philosophy, Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.
- Dawes Cook (RUES) studied advanced Russian at the Duke program in St. Petersburg, Russia (Duke FLAS).
- Jesse Dent (RUES) studied intermediate-advanced Russian at Indiana University's Slavic Language Workshop in Bloomington, IN (Duke FLAS).
- Gary Guadagnolo (HIST) studied elementary Tatar in Kazan, Russia through Arizona State University's program at Tatar State University of Humanities and Education.
- Chris Plummer (RUES) studied advanced Russian at Indiana University's Slavic Language Workshop in Bloomington, IN.
- Betsy Potter (RUES) studied elementary Tajiki at Indiana University's Slavic Language Workshop in Bloomington, IN
- Rebecca Ruck (PWAD and INTS) studied intermediate Russian at Indiana University's Slavic Language Workshop in Bloomington, IN.

Congratulations to the **UNC 2010-2011 Academic Year FLAS Fellows** recipients: Kate Althaus (RUES) for Russian, Julia Ault (HIST) for Polish, Laura Brade (HIST) for Czech, Dawes Cook (RUES) for Russian, Trevor Erlacher (HIST) for Russian, Derek Holmgren (HIST) for Polish, Natavan Khan (RUES) for Serbian-Croatian, Chris Plummer (RUES) for Russian, Ian Robinson (RUES) for Hungarian.

Congratulations to the **Duke 2010-2011 Academic Year FLAS Fellows**: Sarah Bidgood (RUES) for Russian, Jesse Dent (RUES) for Russian, Andrew Ringlee (HIST) for Russian, and Audra Yoder (HIST) for Russian.

Meet the Incoming M.A. Students in Russian and East European Studies

Kate Althaus

completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio with a B.A. in History and Womens' and Gender Studies. During her time at UNC, she would like to elaborate upon her interests in youth, education, and generational studies by examining student movements and youth demographics in Russia during the years immediately leading up to and following the fall of the Soviet Union.



Natavan (Mammadova) Khan graduated from the Geography Department of Azerbaijan State University, currently known as Baku State University, with

a major in Economic Geography. After completing post-graduate courses in Economics at the Institute of Economy of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, she worked there as researcher. At UNC, she plans to study Serbian-Croatian and focus on issues related to conflict resolution.

Anna Kirey is originally from Ukraine and spent the last ten years in Central Asia. Since 2004, Anna has been an activist for sexual orientation and gender identity



issues and is one of the co-founders of the LGBT organization, "Labrys" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Anna is finishing her Kartini Asia Fellowship doing research on lesbian and transgender issues in Central Asia. Anna's areas of interest include the history of women's and LGBT movements and research on non-normative masculinities, especially in the former Soviet Union.



Csaba Marosvári was born in Budapest, Hungary. In 2009 he received a B.A. in International Relations from the Corvinus University of Budapest, where he studied post-Soviet energy

relations regarding natural gas. Following his graduation, he spent six months studying Russian at St. Petersburg State University. Csaba intends to expand his study of the natural gas issue in the Caspian region as well as gain practical experience in the field during his time at UNC.

Betsy Potter

graduated from Virginia Tech in 2009 with a B.A. in International Studies, German and Psychology. She spent 2009-2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia at St. Petersburg State University studying Russian language and culture, followed by a summer at Indiana University-Bloomington studying Tajiki. Her focus at UNC will be Central Asia/Tajikistan, and either public health issues or girls' access to education.



Visiting Fulbright Scholar



The CSEES and the Department of History are honored to host visiting Fulbright Scholar Sergei Kazakovtsev for the fall semester.

Sergei is a Ph.D. candidate in History at Viatka State University in Kirov, Russia. He completed his undergraduate studies at Viatka State University of Humanities and has an extensive background in research and teaching.

During the fall semester, Sergei will work with Dr. Donald Raleigh researching of topics about World War I, including Russian peasantry during the war, the problem of refugees in the Russian hinterland and wartime interethnic relations in Russia. He will also participate in History and CSEES graduate student seminars. During the spring semester, Sergei will be a student at of Indiana University.

Dr. Raleigh, says, "I am confident Sergei will take home with him to Viatka fresh ideas, approaches, and tools that he will share with his colleagues and students. But exchange programs such as this are two-way streets: we benefit greatly, too, from the diversity that he brings to UNC and its Slavic studies community."

Thank you, Madeline and Larry

We join the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures in thanking Professors Madeline Levine and Lawrence Feinberg for their years of service to the University and the profession, and wish them both long and fulfilling retirements.

Madeline Levine received her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1971 and joined the faculty of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1974. She led the Department as its Chair for two full five-year terms and later filled in as Acting Chair. She was appointed Kenan Professor of Slavic Literatures in 1994, and, in 2006-2007, served as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

For many years, Madeline served on the Board of Governors of UNC Press, and was its Chair for a number of them. Madeline has published extensively on Polish literature and has received worldwide recognition for her scholarly translations from Polish—in particular, a number of works by Nobel laureate Czesław Miłosz, whom she helped bring to the University as a visiting professor, as well as the work of Hanna Krall, Ida Fink and others. Her translation of Tadeusz Borowski's Here in Our Auschwitz and Other Stories is currently forthcoming from Yale.

Madeline taught courses on the full range of 19th and 20th-century Russian and Polish literature, comparative East European literature, as well as seminars on translation theory and practice. Her course, "Literature of Atrocity," in which students examined the Holocaust and the Gulag as represented in a diverse array of texts, was an especially popular offering.

Madeline has long enjoyed a well-earned reputation as a warm, generous, and wise mentor of graduate students and junior colleagues from across the College and beyond, and we hope she will continue to participate in the life of the University for many years to come.

Lawrence Feinberg joined the faculty of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures shortly after the Department itself was founded in 1969. That same year he had received his Ph.D. from Harvard, where he was trained by Roman Jakobson, a Russian linguist and literary theorist who pioneered the structural analysis of language. In the tradition of his mentor, Larry's research interests lie between the fields of poetics and linguistics.

His published work in linguistics has focused primarily on the structure of modern Russian, as well as on historical and comparative Slavic morphology. His research in the field of poetics has produced structural analyses of the verse of Pasternak, Blok, and Akhmatova.

As a teacher and mentor, Larry's role in the experience of the Department's students cannot be overestimated: his courses on Russian versification and Church Slavonic were for decades cornerstones in the training of all Slavic graduate students.

Larry was a mainstay in an applied linguistics capacity, teaching advanced Russian grammar as well as Ukrainian and Czech languages. He also has an impressive record of service at Carolina, marked in particular by his long-term service on the Administrative Board of the Graduate School. He served as the Department's Director of Graduate Studies and on the Graduate Admissions Committee for many years.

We look forward to Larry's continued contribution to the University's mission in his retirement.

New Perspectives

The Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies is happy to welcome new colleagues Klara Sabirianova Peter (Department of Economics) and Erica Johnson (Department of Global Studies) into our community.

Klara Sabirianova Peter joins the Department of Economics and the Carolina Population Center as an Assistant Professor and William R. Kenan Jr. Fellow. Previously, she worked at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan Business School.

Klara's previous research has examined the effects of market reforms on the quality of life, worker flows, returns to human capital, and firm efficiency in the context of several transitional economies. Currently, Klara is pursuing a research agenda at the cross-roads of labor and public economics as applied to Russia and other transition economies. She examines the effect of structural reforms on individual and firm behavior. Klara has served as a World Bank consultant for the project "Labor Market Study in Russia." Her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, USAID, U.S. Department of State, Soros Foundation, Ford Foundation and other public and private organizations. She is a research fellow of the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, Germany and a research affiliate with the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London, UK. She is a recipient of the 2009 Russian National Prize in Applied Economics.

In the spring of 2010, Klara and her co-authors of the paper, "Myth and Reality of Flat Tax Reform: Micro Estimates of Tax Evasion Response and Welfare Effects in Russia," published in the Journal of Political Economy, received the Russian National Prize for the best applied economics research paper on topics related to the Russian economy. At UNC, she teaches labor economics and economic development.



Erica Johnson joins the Department of Global Studies as a Lecturer and Director of Master's Studies in Global Studies. Prior to joining the UNC community, she spent 2009-2010 as a post-doctoral fellow in Central Asian Affairs at Georgetown University's Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies.

She received an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from University of Washington in Seattle, an M.A. in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies from UW, and a B.A. in Russian language and international studies from Wake Forest University. She made her first trip to Russia in 1994 and has since then travelled extensively throughout Russia, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, including seven trips to Central Asia from 2003-2009 for Uzbek language training and dissertation research including a three-month home stay with an Uzbek family in Samarqand.

Her research interests focus on central questions of comparative politics, political economy, and state-society relations in the post-Soviet region, with emphasis on Central Asia. Her dissertation, which she is currently revising into a book manuscript, explores how authoritarian governments in post-Soviet Central Asia manipulate health care provisions in order to gain regime legitimacy and survival, and how non-governmental organizations are incorporated into that strategy. Erica also has an ongoing research agenda on government and citizen uses of new information and communication technologies in post-Soviet Central Asia, and on civil society development in the post-Soviet region. At UNC in the fall semester, she is teaching a course on Soviet and post-Soviet political institutions. In the spring semester, she will teach a course on comparative health systems to include a unit on the Soviet "cradle to grave" system.



U.S.-Moldovan Ambassadors visit UNC



Asif Chaudhry, U.S. ambassador to Moldova, and Igor Munteanu, Moldovan ambassador to the U.S. (pictured at right) visited UNC on Oct. 7. As part of their visit, they met with CSEES students and faculty.

Keep an eye out for new faculty member profiles of Ewa Wampuszyc and Adnan Dzumhur (both in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) in our Winter 2010 newsletter!