

CONNECTIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



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CONNECTIONS is devoted to the diversity and opportunity in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, published by the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Dr. Robert Jenkins Leads Burch Field Research Seminar



2007 Burch Field Research Seminar Participants at the NGO, Peace Through Heart, in Kozarac, Bosnia-Herzegovina

This summer Dr. Robert Jenkins, Director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill led a group of twelve undergraduate students on a Burch Field Research Seminar entitled "International Organizations and the Balkans: Focus on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)." The eight-week seminar was conducted on-site in Austria, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The group spent the first and last four weeks in Vienna, visiting OSCE and UN headquarters as well as attending seminar classes and presentations by guest lecturers from the Diplomatic Academy on topics ranging from the history of the Habsburg Empire to European Security. The second week of the trip was spent in Dubrovnik, Croatia working with the Inter-University Center (IUC). During weeks three and four, the group traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina and

Croatia where they met with the OSCE mission headquarters in each country, OSCE regional centers and field staff, as well as other international and non-governmental organizations. By the end of the seminar, students produced a twenty five-page research paper on a topic related to this world region.

Of course, the summer wasn't all about classes, meeting, and papers. The group managed to have some fun as well! Memorable moments included a cookout at the home of Todd Becker, Deputy Head of OSCE Mission in Croatia, walks through Old Town Sarajevo, as well as more poignant sites. Polina Kozak, an RUES MA alumna on the program, visited Srebrenica where she saw the cemetery and memorial to some eight thousand Bosniak men and boys killed in the area in 1995. Notably, Polina is now interning with the Head Of-

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Piedmont Slavic Colloquium Returns!



Dr. Chad Bryant, UNC Chapel Hill Department of History

Scholars and students from across the state gathered for dinner and discussion at the Piedmont Slavic Colloquium held on UNC campus on the evening of September 20, 2007. The event was sponsored by the UNC-Duke Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies. In attendance were representatives from the fields of History, Political Science, Law School, Slavic Literature and Languages, Anthropology, Area Studies, International and Area Studies Curriculum from UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke, and NC State as well as the University of Iowa and the University of Nevada Las Vegas/National Humanities Center.

Guest speaker Dr. Chad Bryant, UNC Chapel Hill Department of History, pre-

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Announcements

Dr. Milada Anna Vachudova, UNC Department of Political Science, was awarded the **Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research** for her book, *Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage and Integration After Communism* (Oxford, 2005). The prize is awarded biennially by the International Social Science Council. She will travel to Paris in November to give an address and accept the prize.

Congratulations to this year's **FLAS recipients**: James Slater (Slavic Languages and Literatures); Tabitha Walker, Matthew Green, Ashley Timidaiki, and Nydia Fors (Russian and East European Studies); and Kim Angelon and Elizabeth King (Public Health).

The American Council of Learned Societies recently announced a fellowship to **Kevin M. Bartig**, UNC Department of Music doctoral candidate. Bartig's dissertation is entitled, "Composing for the Red Screen: The Film Scores of Sergei Prokofiev."

Dr. Louise McReynolds, UNC Department of History, spent the month of June in St. Petersburg researching her current book project, "Murder Most Russian." This semester she will be presenting papers derived from her project to the University of Michigan Slavic Workshop and the University of Wisconsin Department of History.

Alexandra Deyneka (Art History) recently completed her M.A. thesis entitled "The Ackland 'Sophia': Contextualizing, Interpreting, and 'Containing' Wisdom," an analysis of the sixteenth century Sophia icon housed at the Ackland Art Museum.

Attention Graduate Students! The Annual Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) is now accepting entries for their annual student essay contest. **Deadline: January 15, 2007.** For more details please visit <http://www.sewanee.edu/Faculty/Goldberg/SCSS/BTEssay.htm>

Emily Baran's (History) essay entitled "Communism or Armageddon? Representations of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Press, 1954-1985" won the **American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) national prize for the best graduate student essay** in the field of Slavic studies.

Tar Heel Bus Tour Recap

The Tar Heel Bus Tour is a five-day trip across North Carolina that gives new UNC faculty members a unique opportunity to learn more about the state they serve. Since the first Bus Tour in 1997, about 325 participants have journeyed across the state learning about its history, culture, and economy while meeting members of the local community as well as other UNC faculty.

CSEEEES affiliates Dr. Louise McReynolds (History) and Dr. Michele Rivkin-Fish (Anthropology) participated in the 2007 Tar Heel Bus Tour from May 14-18th. Dr. McReynolds had this to say:

"It was wonderful to recapture the reason why we chose UNC, because of all that the school and the state have to offer. I made friends outside of my discipline. And I really, really learned a great deal about the state for which I work. I know my students better, because I have a deeper understanding of the variety of cultures in North Carolina. Most of all, I just had a great time."

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Dr. Robert Jenkins and Todd Becker, Deputy Head of OSCE Mission in Croatia

fice of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Education Department as a result of the connections she made during this trip.

The Burch Field Research Seminar was created in 2000 by Dr. Eric Mlyn. Dr. Jenkins has led the program four times since 2002, introducing 60 UNC students to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The next seminar will be in summer 2009, with plans to include field study in Kosovo.

Collections Corner

The André Savine Collection, acquired in 2002 by UNC-Chapel Hill, contains over 60,000 items, which include books, serials and newspapers, rare manuscripts, photographs, and archives relating to the Russian Diaspora collected over a period of thirty years by the late André Savine (1946-1999). Savine owned the Paris bookstore, Le Bibliophile Russe. This impressive collection covers the period following the 1917 Russian Revolution to the present. The collection is composed of several substantial sub-collections, which include most prominently a sub-collection of hand-written journals, memoirs, and other documents of White Army soldiers in Gallipoli (of which Savine's father was a part), another sub-collection of more than 10,000 books of poetry, fiction, history, memoirs, philosophy, religious studies, politics, and children's literature, a sub-collection of archival material, as well as a sub-collection of bibliographic and biographical information, annotated extensively by Savine on index cards and notebook pages.

The André Savine Collection is one of several such collections of materials from the Russian Diaspora. Most of these materials are scattered all over the world. The collection will be catalogued from January 2008 to June 2010 with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

For more information on The André Savine Collection please visit: "Russia Beyond Russia Digital Library" at <http://online.eastview.com/projects/savine/index.html>

The collection is supervised by Dr. Nadia Zilper, Curator, Slavic & East European Collections and The André Savine Collection. For more information about the Slavic and Eastern European Collections at UNC Libraries, please visit: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/cdd/crs/international/slavic>.

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sented "Then the Czechs Alone: Nazi Occupation and Postwar Expulsions in the Bohemian Lands," based on his new book *Prague in Black, Nazi Rule and Czech Nationalism* (Harvard University Press, 2007). A lively question and answer period followed the presentation.

The Piedmont Slavic Colloquium began in the mid nineties. This semi-annual event will be held next spring at Duke University. Details forthcoming.

Meet the New First-Year M.A. Students 07-09



Left to Right: Jessica Golliday, Zumrat Salmorbekova, Nydia Fors, Tabitha Walker, Ashley Timidaiski, and Jie Shen.

Please join us in welcoming this year's incoming M.A. students!

- **Nydia Fors** graduated from the University of Florida in 2003 with a B.A. in Linguistics and minors in Russian, TESL, and Anthropology. After completing her degree she spent time in New York's Brighton Beach till she got the chance to go to Russia, where she spent the next three years teaching English and studying Russian. Nydia enjoys traveling, cooking, and physical activity.

- **Jessica Golliday** grew up in northern Virginia. She received a B.A. in International Relations and Russian Language and literature from Mount Holyoke College. After graduation, she studied in Tbilisi, Georgia before working with the Institute of International Education in Washington, D.C. At UNC she plans to study Russian history, politics, and language as well as Russian-Georgian relations. She is a recipient of the Graduate School's Master's Merit Assistantship Fellowship.

- **Jie Shen** graduated from Peking University in China with a B.A. in Russian Language and Literature. After completing his MA, he wants to continue his education, and then spend some of his lifetime visiting the counties of the former Soviet Union.

- **Ashley Timidaiski** lived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the first 20 years of her life before moving with her family to South Carolina. She attended Middlebury College where she earned a B.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies. During her junior year she studied abroad in Yaroslavl, Russia, and served an internship at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. After graduation in May of 2007, she spent a summer at Indiana University

studying Polish, which she continues to study at UNC. Her academic interests are the Russian and Polish languages, as well as Russian and Polish politics and foreign relations.

- **Tabitha Walker** graduated from UNC Charlotte in 2005 with a B.A. in International Studies and German. She then moved to Olsztyn, Poland, where she taught at a private English school. At UNC she will focus on the Polish and Serbian languages, and research issues of identity and national character in Poland. In her free time, Tabitha enjoys international cuisine, traveling and jazz.

- **Zumrat Salmorbekova** graduated from Kyrgyz National State University in 1995 with a MA in Kyrgyz History. After completing the degree she worked for the Institute for Regional Studies, an NGO in Kyrgyzstan. In 2005 she implemented UNIFEM "Gender dimensions in the system of early warning and conflict prevention in the Ferghana Valley" project. In 2006-2007 Zumrat was a gender mainstreaming consultant for the UNDP "Peace and Development" program. At UNC she is a recipient of a Rotary Peace Fellowship and is interested in studying the situation in Serbia and Croatia with the special focus on Kosovo conflict.

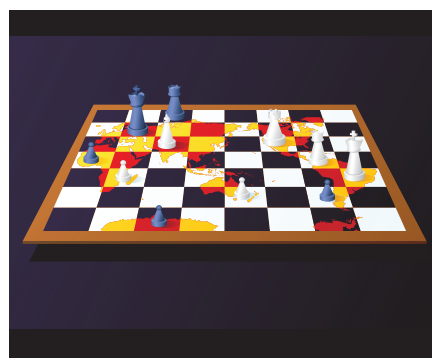
Events

Ukrainian Dance Ensemble "Lyman" Performance, November 3, 2007, 7:30 p.m. at the N. Raleigh Christian Academy, 7300 Perry Creek Rd., Raleigh NC 27616. For more information see: <http://ncua.inform-decisions.com>

Raleigh International Festival. November 3-4, 2007 at the Dorton Arena, N. C. State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. Tickets: \$6 at the door, \$5 in advance FREE for children ages 12 and under. Educators \$4.00 with proper identification. For more information please visit: <http://www.internationalfestival.org/index.html>

Chess Night! November 8, 2007, 5-8p.m. at the FedEx Global Education Center Atrium and the Global Cup Cafe, UNC-Chapel Hill. Looking for a chess partner? Want to learn how to play? All levels and ages welcome. BYOB-Bring your own board! Enjoy the classic Soviet silent short film, "Chess Fever"

(Shakhmatnaya goryachka), 1925, by director Vsevolod Pudovkin. Don't miss



this family-friendly celebration of chess. Free and open to the public.

Polish Poet Piotr Sommer reads from his poetry in English and Polish, Monday, November 12, 5:00-

6:15 p.m. at the FedEx Global Education Center Room 4003.

Piotr Sommer "A Poet's Life in Warsaw" Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 7:30 p.m. at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center Theatre, UNC-Chapel Hill Campus (Campus map: <http://www.planroom.unc.edu/gis/Mapbody/index.asp?path=visitor.asp/q/q=test&Flag=maps>)

Brown bag lunch presentation "Long-term Peace in the Western Balkans: the Case of Kosovo" Wednesday November 28, 2007, 12-1:20 p.m. at the FedEx Global Education Center, room 4003, will be presented by **Dr. Arben Hajrullahu**, Hubert Humphrey Fulbright Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill.

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

Alumni Profile

John Surface



Adjudicating visas, assisting American citizens, and speaking to the Polish public at cultural and academic gatherings are just a few of the professional duties performed by Vice Consul John Surface of the US Department of State.

Currently posted in Krakow, Poland, Surface is a 2004 alumnus of the UNC-

Chapel Hill Russian and East European Studies Master's program. He wrote his MA thesis on Polish foreign policy toward the European Union. He is now in the process of completing a second Master's degree in Geography, which he began at UNC.

Prior to coming to UNC, Surface spent a considerable amount of time in Poland in several educational positions. Surface first participated in WorldTeach, which placed him as a volunteer teacher. Surface notes he was a witness to the country's transition to a market economy, which despite being trying at times, was part of a larger, positive experience – so much so that he decided to remain in the country. The originally planned year or two abroad turned into seven and one half years; following his participation in the WorldTeach program, he signed on as an instructor in the foreign language teacher training program at the University of Gdansk. Two years later he went on to become the Director of the American School of Gdansk

and Gdynia, where he would remain for another four years.

Though consular duties are the core of his professional obligations at present, his job has also led him outside Krakow as well, allowing him to reconnect with his past: Nowy Sacz, where Surface opened a photography exhibit last March. He has also given numerous talks at Polish colleges, met with the Film and American Studies departments at Jagiellonian University, and spoken at film festivals. It is these job activities that Surface relishes: "I most enjoy getting in front of an audience and connecting with the local population. I taught here for seven years. I like the interaction. The questions these days, focusing on foreign policy, are much tougher than when I was teaching history or film. But that's the job and therein the challenge – and the pleasure – of getting out there and meeting the locals."

Duke University & the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Institutions. This publication was produced without the use of state funds.

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

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