

connections



**THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL**

A newsletter devoted to 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, NC.

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Director of the Kennan Institute Visits UNC

The Center for Slavic Eurasian and East European Studies (CSEEEES) at UNC hosted Dr. Blair Ruble, Director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies and the Comparative Urban Studies Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C., on March 2-3. Following in the footsteps of his father, Ruble came to UNC and earned an undergraduate degree in 1971. Here he had his first encounter with Russian culture in a history course taught by Professor Willis Brooks. "After that class I became interested in Russia, and have spent a long time living there over the years. My wife never forgave Willis for not teaching Italian history," Ruble joked during a scheduled presentation.

In a talk, "Creating Diversity Capital: Transnational Migrants in Montreal, Washington, and Kyiv," Ruble looked at the ways in which massive influxes of migrants in re-



*Blair Ruble (right) and
Bob Jenkins (CSEEEES)*

cent years have changed the politics

and institutions of these three cities, expanding their capacity for urban social sustainability. The presentation focused particularly on longstanding divisions within these communities: the French-English divide in Montreal, the black-white divide in Washington and the Ukraine-Russian divide in Kyiv. Each case explored the ways in which these three cities balanced a history of antagonistic identity politics with the demands of transnational migration.

The project had its roots in Kyiv, where Ruble discovered that many of the children in primary schools outside the city were from migrant families – and that these schools were trying to meet the par-

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Gender Workshop Focuses on the Wartime Experience

On February 3, three scholars presented stimulating ideas at the workshop, "Gender, War, and Nation in 20th Century Europe." The event, which drew an enthusiastic crowd, was co-sponsored by several UNC programs: CSEEEES, Center for European Studies, Department of History, and Curricula in Women's Studies and Peace, War, and Defense.

History professor Maureen Healey, Oregon State University, gave the leadoff presentation, "Engendering a Republic: Women and Men in Austria after the Great War," which used gender as a lens to

focus on contradictions in the quest to reconstruct social order in the rump Austria in the wake of World War I. While the new republic enfranchised women, it failed to accept their participation in the work force. Healey showed that the ideal vision of social order centered on the married couple. But the reality of life was far more complex, with demobilized and largely unemployed men bringing violence into the home. As a result, women came to experience the war, after the fact, in the form of domestic violence.

Holly Case, a history profes-



Maureen Healey

sor at Cornell University, presented on the topic of "Identity on Trial: Slander Trials in Northern Transylvania during World War II." Case's research focused on indictments for slander in the city of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca in today's Romania) during the Hungar-

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Announcements

Laura Janda (Slavic Languages & Literatures) won the **2005 Award for Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy** from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. She was honored for *The Case Book for Russian*, which she co-authored with Steven J. Clancy (Slavica Publishers, 2002).

In March 2006 **Milada Anna Vachudova** (Political Science) presented "**Democracy Promotion and the EU's Eastward Enlargement: Mechanisms that Translate External Leverage into Domestic Change**," at the Council for European Studies Biennial Conference. At the International Studies Association (ISA) conference, she will present "**The Foreign Policy of EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans and Beyond**" and gave a talk on her book "**Europe Undivided**".

Marina Sinchurina and **Elena Terpugova**, faculty members at Irkutsk State University, are visiting scholars in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. They are participants in a State Department-funded **University Partnership Program** involving Irkutsk, Moscow State University for International Relations, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and School of Information and Library Science.

Jenifer Parks (History) received a grant from the **Olympic Studies Centre of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to conduct research at the IOC archives in Lausanne, Switzerland on her dissertation entitled "Red Sport, Red Tape: Sports Bureaucracy, the Olympic Games, and Political Practices in the Soviet Union, 1952-1980."

CSEES Director **Bob Jenkins** presented on the panel, "Muslim Diasporas," at the **International School Studies Association** conference held at Research Triangle Park on February 17. Other UNC participants included Charles Kurzman (Sociology), Sahar Amer (Asian Studies), Carl Ernst (Religious Studies), and Kevin Hewison (Carolina Asia Center).

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ticular needs of their immigrant students. This in turn, led to the discovery that many migrant communities had moved just beyond Kyiv's city limits to avoid penalties and restrictions on the informal market which employs the vast majority of these new-comers. The intersection of the socioeconomic interests of migrants and the institutional shifts that occur within the host city as a result led Ruble to pursue the project.

Throughout the talk, Ruble argued that migrants challenge longstanding communal divisions, by making demands on municipal authorities and community members that intersect the typical dualist politics of the city. Cities that develop

creative ways to meet these new demands, and also integrate the human capital that comes with many of these immigrant communities, successfully build diversity capital. The process of building diversity capital opens a space for overcoming entrenched oppositions, by demanding a reconfiguration of the politics and institutions within a city. Ruble argued that a city's diversity capital – its ability to meet the needs and tap the resources of its immigrant communities – will play a large role in its success and viability in a time of unprecedented population movement.

Following the presentation Ruble led an informal discussion with Center MA students on career opportunities in Russian and East European Studies.

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ian annexation of 1940-44. She argued that there were gender patterns in these indictments. Charges against women were typically brought for statements made in private spaces, usually close to home; while men were indicted for statements in public spaces, typically pubs. What was common to both was the way that state prosecutors were able to generalize from angry claims made about



Holly Case

individual "Hungarians" to the Hungarian state, providing grounds for the slander charges. Case noted that just across the border in Romanian-controlled southern Trans-

sylvania a similar process was taking place with the Romanian state filing similar slander charges. Both sides monitored the actions of the other, while individuals with complex personal identities struggled to define their relation to these newly reconfigured nationalist states.

The keynote presentation of

the workshop was delivered by Professor Susan Grayzel of the University of Mississippi. Grayzel went beyond the impact of new technologies to discuss the portrayal of women and children in total war in Great Britain in her talk, "Babies & Bombs: Gender and Experience of 'Total' War, 1914-1945. Beginning with the representation of German zeppelin attacks on Britain in 1915, the portrayal of war was transformed as women and child casualties became incorporated into iconic images. Subsequently, the fear of aerial gas attacks during the



Susan Grayzel

1930s led the British state to mobilize development of a gas mask system to be used by women and children. This development required extensive research aimed at women as key actors on the home front. Grayzel maintained that these changes indicated that gender had become the most important marker for total war.

Uzbek Fulbright Scholar to Study Online Media at UNC

Amonnulla Hakimov will be spending nine months at UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication on a Fulbright Fellowship researching online media and how it can help countries in transition to develop free market reforms. He is also interested in the U.S. media and use of technology in schools. Before coming to UNC, Hakimov worked on informational technology initiatives for the United Nations and the IREX Board. He hopes

to use his research from his time at UNC to find ways to implement Western ideas and methods of using mass media in Uzbekistan.

Hakimov is very interested in mass media in the U.S. because there is no equivalent to it in Uzbekistan. He is concerned about the lack of freedom the press has in Uzbekistan. Reporters Without Borders has named the government an "enemy of

the internet" and Parade Magazine recently named Uzbek President Islam Karimov one of the ten worst dictators in the world. In Hakimov's opinion, the situation is getting

worse. Journalists have been imprisoned or exiled, and the government has put pressure on many journalists' families. A number of international organizations, such as IREX and the Soros Foundation, no longer operate in Uzbekistan.

He hopes that Americans will take more of an interest in his country.

He notes that as media coverage has moved away from the war in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan has been forgotten. It is important to cover events in Uzbekistan because it is of such importance to the U.S. in Central Asia.

Originally from Tashkent, Hakimov received his Bachelor's in Islamic Studies from Moscow State University's Institute of Asian and



Amonnulla Hakimov

Events

Mark Slobin, Professor of Music at Wesleyan University, presented **"Fiddler on the Move: Exploring the Klezmer World"** on March 23 at 7:30 in Murphey Hall Room 116. Slobin covered the evolution of "klezmer," in terms of musician, musical style, and scene, from its origins in Eastern Europe through the immigrant era and the post-1975 neo-klezmer movement through its current trends.

On February 18, Dr Sharon Kowalsky (History) led a group of 30 UNC undergraduates to Raleigh, for a Theater in the Park presentation of **"Galatea"**. A suspenseful look at one man's quest to find the truth about the murder of Russia's royal family during the chaos of the civil war, the play was written by renowned local director David Wood. Dr Kowalsky provided historical and factual context for audience members with a brief presentation and Q&A session following the performance.

African Studies. He also holds a Master's in international relations from the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Federation.

Former UNC Visiting Scholar Returns to Discuss Latest Research on Holocaust in Bessarabia, Transnistria

Dr. Diana Dumitru, the Rosenzweig Family Fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, spoke on February 13 about "The Attitude of the Non-Jewish Population of Bessarabia and Transnistria towards the Holocaust."

Dumitru chose these two regions because they had both been part of the Russian Empire before 1917, had multinational regions and significant Jewish populations. Both regions are also agriculturally-based economies. Differences between the regions emerged during the inter-war period when Transnistria was part of the Soviet Union and Bessarabia part of Romania. The Transnistrian population was economically homogeneous, intolerant towards religion because of Soviet policy, and had high levels of political integration. Bes-

sarabians were xenophobic and anti-Semitic, but they had religious free-



From left to right, Don Raleigh (History), Diana Dumitru, Chad Bryant (History)

dom. Dumitru is interested in the impact of these differences on how the non-Jewish populations responded to the Holocaust.

Her research included scouring archival documents, surveys of

Holocaust survivors and interviews with non-Jewish survivors of the war. While her research is still ongoing, she has been able to discern some patterns from the survey responses. In Bessarabia, the local population was largely enthusiastic about the Nazi's actions, whereas Transnistrians were concerned that they might be the next target of a pogrom. Overall, there was limited contact between Jews and non-Jews during this period, but when there was contact, the populations acted differently. Some helped; others didn't. Some would try to give Jews food while they were marching to ghettos while others would rob them.

Dumitru was a visiting scholar and Junior Faculty Development Program fellow at UNC in 2003-2004.

Small Really Is Beautiful, Especially in Linguistics

The title of the talk was anything but small. Masako U. Fidler, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages at Brown University, delivered her talk “Small is beautiful, or how tiny fragments of sound make a text multi-dimensional in Czech, Japanese, and other languages” on February 17 in Dey Hall.

Masako Fidler has published on discourse semantics, conditionals, and mood in Czech literature. She is the author of the Brown University On-Line Czech Literature Anthology. In 2004 she received the national award for excellence in teaching at the post-secondary level by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

In the talk, Fidler was concerned with onomatopoeic expressions, or Sound Symbolics Expressions (SSEs), as unique ways to re-

port and represent in verbal communication. The research presented in Fidler’s talk was conducted on Czech



Masako Fidler

and Japanese languages. Examples of SSEs include “brrr...” to represent “cold”, or, in another sense, a repeated “n” sound in Japanese that conveys a sense of sadness and loss throughout an entire text. She used these and similar examples from Czech and Japanese texts to illustrate her points.

Fidler brought up two approaches to Sound Symbolism. The first is the study of consistent connec-

tions between meaning and sound within language, that is, sound-shape imagery and vowel height; the second approach is the study of a discrete category of mimicking expressions. Fidler focused on the latter approach, maintaining that SSEs are truly discrete from the rest of the language, and not solely mimetic.

In effect, SSEs become a discrete category within language by creating distinct notions abstracted from the basic context of a given statement. To this end, the meaning of a statement comes not only from its content, but even more so from how the expression is performed verbally with tone and inflection as well as mimicry.

“SSEs enhance the performative aspect of language,” said Fidler.

UNC at Chapel Hill Center
223 E. Franklin St. CB# 5125
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5125

www.unc.edu/depts/slavic
tel: (919) 962-0910; fax (919) 962-2494
Email: slavic@email.unc.edu

Duke University Center
302 Languages Box 90260
Durham, NC 27708-0290

www.duke.edu/web/CSEEEES
tel: (919) 660-3157
fax: (919) 660-3188

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Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies
223 E. Franklin Street
Campus Box 5125
UNC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5125