

inflections

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The Burch Field Research seminar participants in Prague

Emigres Illuminate Czech History for UNC Students



Czech Professor Jan Bazant talks with students at the presentation of the work of the Burch seminar in late October.

A GROUP of eight students have presented the fruit of their oral history project undertaken in Prague last semester, interviewing Czechs who had left their country during the socialist era and later returned.

Through coursework at Jerome College of Prague and working with the staff of the Institute of Contemporary History, the students immersed themselves in interviewing techniques and Czech history.

The goal of the Burch Field Research Seminar was to examine the reasons that people left what was then Czechoslovakia, and to explore their experiences upon their return to what is now the Czech Republic. The idea was not so much to record accurate historical information, but to take down a narrative explaining what the turbulent historical events meant in people's daily life, said Celia Quinn, a participant in the seminar and a junior in geography.

Some of the best interviews were those

with General Raimond Hanak, who emigrated after he was

removed from his position by the Communists in 1948 and spent most of the next 50 years living in Colombia; political analyst Jiri Pehe; Vratislav Brabenec, a saxophone player with the group Plastic People who was forced into exile by the regime in 1981; and Petra Hruby, a resistance activist in the fifties who later helped to start Radio Free Europe.

There was a range of different experiences among the people that were interviewed, Quinn said. For instance, there was a sociology professor who played a big part in dissident circles. There was another person, who had German relatives and had no trouble blending in in West Germany, and didn't par-

ticipate in émigré circles. Some figures who were forced to emigrate considered themselves exiles, not émigrés. There were also different waves of emigration, including after World War II, the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion, and again in the 1980s.

One interviewee was "brainwashed" on Western ideals

while living in Canada and the US, a staunch believer in the ability to start from scratch and make anything of yourself, said Erin Karcher, a senior in English and German studies. He felt that people like himself, with similar business experience, were exactly what the Czech Republic needs now, whereas other interviewees disagreed.

"For me, the thing that I have found most interesting is that everyone we've talked to left this country convinced that they would never be able to come back," Quinn said.

Being away from home for just a

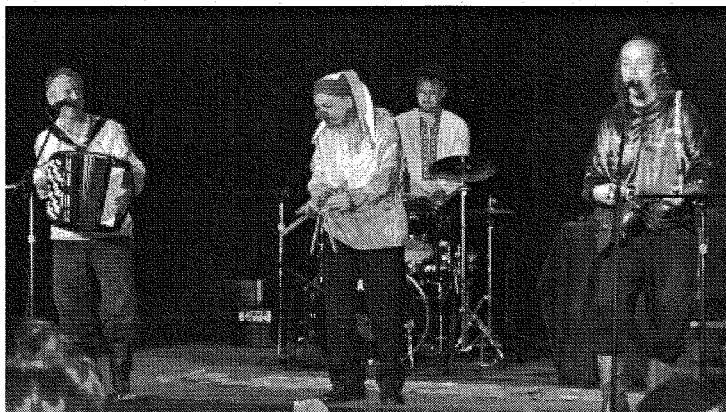
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CSEEEES Brings 'Russian Folk 'n Roll' to School Audience

Lawrence Feinberg (UNC Slavic Languages and Literatures) presented a paper at a three-day (Sept. 6-8) conference in Paris devoted to the role of institutions in the history of Slavistics. The conference, attended mostly by scholars from Central and Eastern Europe, was organized by the International Commission for the History of Slavistics and co-hosted by L'Institut d'Etudes Slaves and L'Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales. The title of his paper was "O rannej istorii amerikanskoj slavistiki: uchrezhdenija i lichnosti."

Freud Au Pays Des Soviets by **Martin A. Miller** was published in November (Paris: Le Seuil, 2001) as a translation of his *Freud and the Bolsheviks* (Yale, 1998).

An anthology of folk tales, *Tales from the Heart of the Balkans*, retold by **Bonnie C. Marshall** and edited by **Vasa D. Mihailovich**, was published by Libraries Unlimited, Englewood, Colorado. Marshall has a doctorate from UNC and Mihailovich is an Emeritus professor.



The Russian folk-rock group Limpopo performs in Carrboro

MORE THAN 700 children and teachers breezed through the Carrboro ArtsCenter in early November to catch the "Crazy Russian Folk 'n Roll" show by the band Limpopo, and see the gallery of artifacts, maps and information about Russia.

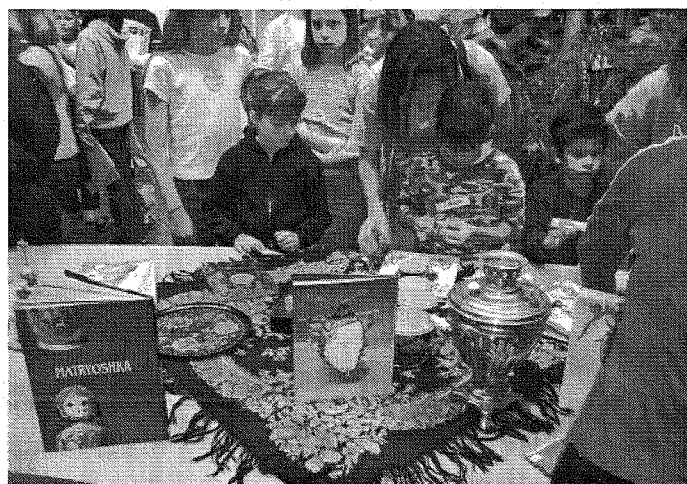
"The biggest hits were the Matrioshka dolls and the Cyrillic name tags," said Jeremy Pinkham, Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies office manager and co-organizer of the event. Given class lists in advance, a personalized name tag was made for each child. The tags helped the kids to begin to grasp the complex idea that there is another alphabet out there, that people communicate in other languages and sets of symbols, he said.

CSEEEES and the University Center for International Studies partnered with the ArtsCenter for the event. It was part of the ArtsCenter's School Show Series intended to engage K-12 students in the arts and diversity.

Originating in Moscow, the six members of Limpopo played 22 shows in a week and a half in the Triangle area, in-

such as rock and jazz, said Stacie Sanders, ArtsCenter children's and family programs director. As a result, Limpopo did a good job of engaging students, who are usually more reticent to get involved.

The ArtsCenter has several such shows, blending musical groups with cultural information. While the venue provides the performing arts perspective, teaming up with CSEEEES or similar centers brings additional avenues to introduce students to foreign cultures. An extra show had to be added to meet demand from area schools. Several classes were



Children examine the Russian cultural gallery

cluding four at the ArtsCenter. The band features Russian "pop-a-billy tunes" with trombone, balalaika, African drums, keyboards, sweetsticks, and bayan. The best thing about the band was that they blended traditional folk sounds and dance with sounds that American students can relate to more

actually studying Russia and were especially interested in the program, Sanders said. Study guides were handed out in advance to the teachers, allowing them to obtain additional information and to broaden the experience for their pupils. □

www.limpopo.com

Vienna-based Summer School Features OSCE in Balkans

UNC WILL be offering a summer school session in Vienna on the role of international organizations in the Balkans, with an emphasis on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The highlight of the program will be a ten-day field trip to Bosnia to meet representatives of international organizations in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar.

The session will last from May 28 to July 26, 2002. Led by Center for Slavic and East European Studies Director Dr. Robert Jenkins, the Burch Field Research Seminar will combine coursework with experiential learning in order to investigate the structure and dynamics of international organizations and their role in conflict resolution and democracy building in post-communist Europe, particularly

in the Balkan countries. Key research questions include relations between international organizations, the consequences of potentially conflicting goals within an organization, and the relationship between headquarters and field missions.

While in Vienna, students will visit OSCE headquarters, attend weekly sessions of the Permanent Council of ambassadors to OSCE, and receive briefings from ambassadors and OSCE staff in Vienna.

The core course will be taught by Jenkins and will explore the evolution of conflict in the Balkans over the past decade, the attempts of international organizations to secure peace and aid reconstruction, and the nature of organizational behavior and activities. The staff of the Vienna Diplomatic Acad-

emy will teach a second course on European politics and security, with supplemental lectures on international relations and the history of Vienna.

Another short trip will be taken to Budapest for briefings by staff members at the Open Society Institute, the Budapest-based center of the philanthropy network of George Soros. Meetings with leading Hungarian political party representatives will also be arranged.

In consultation with Professor Jenkins, students will design their own research project for the seminar. Requirements include maintaining a journal and writing a research paper. Applications are due by Feb. 15. □

www.unc.edu/depts/honors/burchfield/vienna2002.htm

EU, Environment, and Eastern Europe to be Subject of Washington Conference

AT A CONFERENCE in Washington on March 14, scholars and policy experts will examine how EU enlargement in Central and Eastern Europe will affect environmental policy, quality, and security in the region as well as in Western Europe and beyond.

The forum will be sponsored by East European Studies and the Environmental Change & Security Project of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech.

The keynote speaker is expected to be Bedrich Moldan,

Director of the Charles University Environmental Center, Prague, who was also the first Czech Environmental Minister and former negotiator with the EU on the environment.

The tentative topics of the panels are: Implications of EU Enlargement for Environmental Policy, Cross-Cutting Environ-

mental Initiatives and Environmental Institutions, Nongovernmental Organizations and EU Enlargement, and Future Challenges of EU Accession for the Environment. □

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Czech History

semester, it was difficult to imagine this situation. Another student interviewed a person who was studying in the US in 1968, and his mother called and told him, "Don't come back." "I can't imagine what I would feel like if I got that phone call," she said.

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History frequently glosses over individual stories, Karcher said, and the Burch seminar approach helped to remedy this. "We got to experience history firsthand, to talk one-on-one with an individual," she said. □

meetings | P3

DEC. 14: Paper proposals are due for the next conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. The 34th National Convention is to be held in Pittsburgh, 21-24 November 2002.

www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass

MARCH 14-16: The 40th annual meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies will be held at the Hilton Daytona Beach.

david.darrow@notes.udayton.edu

APRIL 12-13: A symposium on "The Russians in Hollywood" will be held at UNC's Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence. See back page for more details.

APRIL 18-21 : The Thirteenth Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore will be held at UNC. For more information, e-mail **curttf@unc.edu**.

APRIL 20-21: The first conference of the Southeast European Studies Association will be held at UNC.

Symposium to Discuss Russians in Hollywood

"THE RUSSIANS in Hollywood," a symposium sponsored by the UNC Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences, the UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the UNC-Duke Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, will take place April 12-13, 2002, in the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

The symposium's lectures and events will explore the biographies, influence,

and specific contributions of Russian émigré artists working in studio-era Hollywood.

"The Russians in Hollywood" features talks by Professors Olga Matich (UCalifornia, Berkeley), Yuri Tsivian (University of Chicago), Oksana Bulgakova (Stanford U.), and Beth Holmgren (UNC-CH); a roundtable on the redefinition and manipulation of ethnicity in Hollywood studio-era film conducted by invited speakers and fac-

ulty from UNC and Duke; and screenings of several Russian-influenced films ranging from the silent *Last Command* (starring Emil Jannings) to the 1940s comedy *Comrade X* (starring Clark Gable, Hedy Lamar, and a cast of notable Russian stock characters).

For more information, contact Beth Holmgren (beth_holmgren@unc.edu, 962-7554).

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