

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.

CSEEEES Welcomes New Associate Director



The Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies welcomes its new Associate Director, Dr. Jacqueline Olich. Dr. Olich received both Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts degrees in History from UNC-Chapel Hill. Earlier, she had graduated from Lafayette College with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her dissertation was titled "Competing Ideologies and Children's Books: The Making of a Soviet Children's Literature, 1918-1935," and reflected an interest in children's literature that has since expanded to include a desire to acquaint the English-speaking youth audience with the Soviet space program. She has also published a pair of entries in the *Encyclopedia of Russian History*.

Dr. Olich's arrival coincides with the Center's move to the new FedEx Global Education Center, which she noted is more conveniently located for visitors and allows for a wider range of outreach programming options, such as brown-bag discussions, lectures, and workshops. These gatherings will reach out to a

diverse audience, including faculty, students, K-12 educators, and the general university community. Such outreach events are one of the Associate Director's main job responsibilities, a task for which Dr. Olich is well-suited, since she has participated in many regional conferences and presentations, including the programs of World View and the *Adventures in Ideas* series, which is part of the Program in Humanities and Human Values. Dr. Olich will administer the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, which are one of the major funding opportunities for the Center's graduate students. Dr. Olich will also be an instructor for one course per year. As a visiting lecturer she has taught an intensive graduate reading seminar on Modern Russian and East European History, as well as designed and led an online undergraduate Russian History course as part of the Carolina Courses Online curriculum.

OLICH CONTINUED ON 2

UNC Marks 50th Anniversary of Hungarian Revolution

Dr. Csaba Bekes, the Founding Director of the Cold War Research Centre in Budapest, Hungary, gave an autumn lecture marking the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. Dr. Bekes is also a Research Fellow at the 1956 Institute in Budapest. The event, sponsored by the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, was held on November 30th at the Toy Lounge, located in Dey Hall, and was attended by more than fifty members of the university community.

Entitled "The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and World Politics," Dr. Bekes' lecture focused on the Cold War policies of the United States and the Soviet Union with regard to Hungary. Dr. Bekes noted that the 1956 events were a pivotal point in the history of the Cold War, not only to Hungarians and the two superpowers, but to subjugated Eastern European countries as well: the Soviet regime's successful suppression of the revolt served as a lesson to Czechoslovaks and Poles.

Dr. Bekes assessed the roles played by the Soviet Union and the United States in contributing to the uprising. He noted that US foreign policy, though based on seeking "peaceful coexistence" with the USSR, was at the same time advocat-

BEKES CONTINUED ON 4

Announcements

• **Dr. Robert Crews** of Stanford University's Department of History will present a lecture on Islam in Russia on **April 11th** at a time and location to be determined. Please consult the Center's web site for further details.

• **Estonian Folk Dance Group "Kandali"** will perform on **April 26th at 8:00 PM** in **209 Manning Hall**. This fifteen-person team was founded in Tallinn, Estonia in 1978 and has performed nearly 1600 times in 40 countries.

• The next workshop in the series "Gender, Politics & Culture in Europe and Beyond" will take place on **May 16th**. Entitled "**Gender, Experience, and Memory, 18th-20th Centuries: A Transatlantic (Post)Graduate Workshop**," the event is free, but registration is required by April 30th. For more information, including registration details, please consult: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/europe/conferences/gender/>.

• An international conference on similar themes, "**Gender, War and Politics: The Wars of Liberation, Transatlantic Comparisons, 1775-1820**" will take place the following three days, **May 17th-19th**. For details, please visit: <http://www.unc.edu/~hare/GWP/home.html>

• **Dr. David Griffiths** and **Dr. Willis Brooks**, both of the Department of History, are set to retire at the close of the semester.

• **Dr. Donald Raleigh (History)** recently published the chapter "The Russian Civil War 1917-1922," in the (first) *Cambridge History of Russia*, vol. 3, *The Twentieth Century*, edited by Ronald G. Suny.

• **Dr. Vlad Trembl (Economics, Emeritus)** and **Dr. Denis Mickiewicz (Slavic Languages)**, of Duke, recently published autobiographical essays in Moscow. These texts were part of a volume compiled and written by Liudmila Flam, entitled *Sud'by pokoleniia 1920-1930-kh godov v emigratsii: ocherki i vospominaniia*. A copy of the book was donated to Duke University's library.

Student Seeks to Combine Love of Eastern Europe With Career In Health Field

Elizabeth King has spent time both studying and working in Russia and Ukraine, and has incorporated these unique experiences into her academic and professional plans. At present, King is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Health Behavior and Health Education at UNC. Although the decision to seek a career in the public health sector was not originally linked with her time abroad, she does credit it with having shaped her career plans and studies, as well as her attitudes towards the health field.

After spending a summer studying in Lviv, Ukraine, King was a Fulbright Student Fellow in 2000-2001. Based in St. Petersburg, Russia, she conducted research on the life attitudes of young women on a wide range of issues such as careers, politics, and health. This investigation culminated in her presentation of a final paper at the Russian Association of Women in Science – just one of several conferences in which she participated.

After completing her fellowship program, King moved some 1,000 kilometers south to take a position as the Resident Coordinator for an American study program at Voronezh State University. The two years that she spent there are recounted as being inspiring and rewarding. Not only did she form very close friendships and acquire a deeper appreciation for language and culture, but she also she mastered the various bureaucracies of the Russian system.

King's current research interests include the occurrence of HIV among sex workers in Russia as well as the relationship between violence and HIV. Looking ahead, King would like to return to Russia, but this summer she intends to expand her geographical area of interest with a visit to Serbia. Ultimately, she would like to work for a global health organization, in an effort to address the threats that HIV and violence pose to women.

"Family, Work and Welfare" Workshop Held

The Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, in conjunction with the Center for European Studies, the Curriculum in Women's Studies, the Department of History, presented "Family, Work, and Welfare in Past and Present: A Transatlantic Workshop" on November 10th and 11th. Among the many modules presented was "Gender, the

Family, and Welfare in Eastern Europe" by Dr. Jill Massino of Bowdoin College. Dr. Karen Hagemann and Dr. Chad Bryant organized and chaired the event; other panel chairs included faculty members from the Departments of History and Political Science: Dr. Evelyn Huber, Dr. Jacquelyn Hall, and Dr. John Stephens.

Mally Presents Research on Depression-era Workers' Theater Companies

On January 19, 2007, Professor Lynn Mally, University of California at Irvine, received an enthusiastic reception from a Hamilton Hall crowd of about 30 for her presentation, "Inside a Communist Front: A Post Cold War Assessment of the New Theater League in Depression America." Professor Mally shared her research on the development of workers' theater

groups in the United States during the early 1930s. In part affiliated with the Communist Party of the USA, and thus subject to Soviet influence through Comintern, the workers' theater groups also had independent tendencies. Mally argued that after the Comintern abandoned proletarian culture for socialist realism in 1932,

MALLY CONTINUED ON 3

New Librarian for Slavic and East European Studies Arrives at Duke

Duke University's Perkins Library welcomed a new Librarian for Slavic and East European Studies in September, Dr. Ernest ("Erik") Zitser. Dr. Zitser holds a Ph.D. in Russian History from Columbia University. Prior to coming to Duke, he was a Center Associate at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, as well as their librarian. He is the author of the 2004 book *The Transfigured Kingdom: Sacred Parody and Charismatic Authority at the Court of Peter the Great* and has penned several articles in both history and library journals covering such topics as early modern Russian court spectacles and the Davis Center's Soviet Information Bureau photographic collection. This March, he will present a paper based on his current research on Russian Imperial political pornography, at the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. Zitser indicated his desire to build on Duke's special relationship with UNC and expressed his eagerness to work with his counterpart at UNC, Nadia Zilper, in the spirit of the cooperative collection development agreement between the two universities. It is due to this agreement to coordinate library holdings that Duke has been able to focus on acquiring extensive modern Russian social science and Polish literature collections. Also housed at the Duke library is the one of the largest collections of Russian video recordings in the country, which focuses on Socialist Realism and the late-and post-Soviet



eras in particular. In addition to the bibliographic assistance that he provides to faculty and student researchers, Dr. Zitser is currently working on some longer-term projects, such as the creation of a web-based research portal for accessing the university's substantial multi-media collection on 20th century Russian on visual culture. He is also assisting Dr. Charles Becker, of Duke's Department of Economics, in finalizing a unique agreement that would allow library patrons to have electronic access to the regularly-updated database of publications from the Statistical Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

MALLY CONTINUED FROM 2

the U.S. workers' theater movement went in a different direction, broadening into a more universal cultural force, the New Theater League. This change preceded the Comintern adoption of the popular front strategy in 1935. As a result the New Theater League became an irritant for Moscow, which could not control its message. The talk was co-sponsored by the UNC Department of History and CSEEEES.

OLICH CONTINUED FROM 1

Dr. Olich currently resides in Durham with her husband and two young sons. When she can find the time, she enjoys playing tennis and reading the *New York Times*. She is an avid sports fan who follows Carolina athletics, and as a New York native, lends her support to the Yankees.

CSEEEES Moves To New Location

The UNC-Chapel Hill Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEEEES) has moved to the new FedEx Global Education Center. The new facilities, which officially opened on March 13th, are located at the intersection of Pittsboro and McCauley streets, near the Carolina Inn. Equipped with state-of-the-art classrooms and conference rooms, an auditorium, and a large reception area, the new building is a major upgrade to the Center's educational and outreach capabilities. Existing postal and electronic addresses will remain the same, as will the main office telephone number.

In Memoriam: Dr. Robert Stevenson



On November 25, 2006, Robert L. (Bob) Stevenson, Kenan Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, died of a heart attack. A native of Wisconsin, Bob received his BA and MA degrees from University of Wisconsin and his PhD from University of Washington. He joined the UNC faculty in 1975. Among many periods of foreign travel, he spent a year in Budapest as Assistant Director of the American Journalism Center and a shorter time at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania. Not only was Bob a long-serving member of the Center Advisory Board, he was tireless in his networking of visiting scholars and students with those in other disciplines. We will miss his ever-present smile and friendly engagement. A memorial service was held on January 13, 2007.

MA Program Welcomes Jeff Gerring

Jeff Gerring graduated from Georgia State University with a B.A. in Geography, concentrating in Geographic Information Systems. He has been in the US Navy since 1996, and has deployed to the Middle East, South America, Europe, and the Western Pacific. He is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Naval Science for the Naval ROTC program at UNC. Jeff is concentrating in Security Studies of the Balkan region, and hopes to become a Foreign Area Officer for the US Navy.



BEKES CONTINUED FROM 1

ing the "peaceful liberation of captive nations," which served to bring false hopes for assistance in the event of an armed uprising. For its part, the Soviet leadership had failed to deliver on post-war promises for reconstruction and better lives, retained the unpopular Hungarian General Secretary Matyas Rakosi for over a decade, and ultimately decided to escalate what was a localized problem into a full-blown foreign military intervention.

In the end, Dr. Bekes remarked, the Soviets were their own worst enemy, not only at the time, but for the future as well. They had succeeded in turning a riot into a full-scale uprising and at that point were forced to show their true colors: "allied" states were not to challenge Soviet authority, or they would face the prospect of the Red Army marching through their streets. At the same time, the



Soviets undermined their own regime by redirecting future opposition to evolutionary reform tactics in the place of revolutionary uprising.

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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