inflections

The newsletter of the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Durham and Chapel Hill, NC.

MARCH 2002 VOL. 6, NO. 3

The Point of Return

Lynn Whiteheart, a student in the Russian and East European Studies MA program, writes about the sometimes harrowing, sometimes frustrating experiences of an international effort in Bosnia to allow refugees to return to their pre-war homes.

Whiteheart (2nd from left) and her two coworkers are flanked by an elderly ethnic Serb couple who have been allowed to reclaim their pre-war apartment.

THE CROAT woman, over eight months pregnant and wearing shorts, t-shirt, and sandals in the July heat, is yelling at me and waving her cigarette in my face. She and her family have been illegally living in a three-floor house in Drvar, Bosnia, a town that was 99% ethnic Serb before the war.

The family is merely being asked to vacate the garage on the lower level of the house owned by an ethnic Serb. A restless crowd of 15-20 people mill around. A handful of SFOR soldiers stand at a distance, ready to intervene, but only as a last resort to protect the two international workers on scene.

As an intern with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, it's my job to supervise the local multiethnic housing committee evicting people from buildings they do not own. Ordinarily, there would be a full-time OSCE observer, but the last one finished his one-year contract and his replacement has yet to arrive. I'm on my own.

Given the situation, it's time to follow the rules and have the housing committee turn the eviction process over to the local police. According to protocol, it then becomes the job of the International Police Task Force representative, an Irish woman, to nudge the local police to act. Because of the crowd and of fears for the pregnant woman, she declines to do so, and thus the whole event is called off. It's been six years since the war has ended and the owner of the building will wait another month until he can take possession of his garage and another two months before he can get the rest of the house. Such is the strength and unity of the international community.

In the final phase of the war in September 1995, the entire area fell to joint Croatian and Bosnian Croat forces. Within a week, practically the entire Serb population of Drvar fled. Municipal and industrial buildings and private homes were looted and destroyed. By 1998, about 7000 Croat displaced persons (mostly from central Bosnia) had moved in.

OSCE's Human Rights Department is the main international organization focusing on minority return and property laws. Due to the almost complete turnover in population, this is extremely important in Drvar. All of the Serbs that fled during the war are now attempting to return to their homes. The municipality has a housing commission (made up of three Serbs and three Croats) to facilitate the return process, but as in most parts of the country, there is a significant amount of political obstruction on the part of the local authorities. This is where OSCE Human Rights enters the scene. I spent most of my time working with the housing commission, attempting to thwart obstructive behavior and ensure a smoother restitution process. This meant weekly meetings, briefings with political heads, and observing evictions. The process is elaborate and contains numerous safeguards. Owners must first file claims, and the information is then verified. A field visit is undertaken to inspect the condition of the house. Eviction notices are handed out 15 days in advance, and police make an additional visit a day

SEE PAGE 2

Sharon Kowalsky has recently returned from a year-long research trip to Moscow. She presented a paper in September at the Havighurst Center at Miami University of Ohio on "Female Criminality and Criminal Responsibility in Revolutionary Russia" and plans to present at the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies in March.

Jerry D. Saye, Professor in the School of Information and Library Science at UNC, visited Slovenia for several weeks in October, giving a presentation at the annual conference of the Union of Associations of Slovene Librarians in Radenci. The topic was "When 'Surfing' the Web isn't Good Enough: Providing Access to Electronic Resources." ["Ko Brskanje Po Svetovnem Spletu Ne Zadostuje: Zagotavljanje Dostopnosti Elektronskih Virov"].

"To Begin Where I Am: Selected Essays of Czeslaw Milosz," edited and with an introduction by Bogdana Carpenter and **Madeline G. Levine** (Kenan Professor of Slavic Literatures, UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures),

SEE PAGE 3

pondering power sharing

Bosnia and Northern Ireland Compared

by Ken Palmer

THESE DAYS, it is hard not to notice the difficulties of democratically governing multi-ethnic societies, especially those torn by years of violent conflict between ethnic groups. The recent news has been filled with stories of such troubles in Afghanistan and Israel, to name a few.

Social scientists have for the most part agreed that elections, when structured like those in the US or the UK – winner-take-all or first-past-the-post systems – tend to exacerbate ethnic conflict by giving the vast amount of power to one ethnic group. Instead, they suggest setting up some sort of power-sharing between ethnic groups in representative political institutions as a way to reduce conflict.

But representative political institutions are not the only powerful state and social institutions in a society. I wondered, once power-sharing is set up in the polity, what happens in other institutions? How does this power-sharing spread to other key institutions in a society?

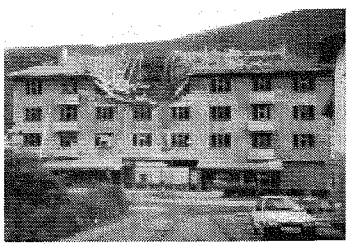
These questions are the broad focus for my dissertation research. I am studying the development and implementation of power-sharing in policing, education, and media in two societies with deep ethnic divides: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Ireland. I split my time from May through December of last year between these two locations and will be returning in the spring. I am particularly interested in the interactions between the text of a peace agreement in a society, local nationalist powers, and external actors (for example, the UN, OHR, and OSCE in Bosnia) in shaping whether institutions eventually become integrated or segregated, and how power is shared between ethnic groups.

In Bosnia, I mostly stayed in Banja Luka, the capital of the Republika Srpska, but I also worked in, as well as visited, Sarajevo, Mostar, and Brcko. Most of my days were spent interviewing international officials and talking to and observing local police, teachers, and journalists. ❑

FROM PAGE 1

beforehand. The squatters also have certain rights if they do not have any place else to live. However, at this point, only people who have several places to live are being asked to vacate one of them.

The property return process has been occurring in Drvar since 1997, and from my experience, will most likely continue until the termination of the OSCE mandate. The family described at the beginning of the story eventually moved out voluntarily, before they had to be evicted. They now live down the street, in another property where the whole scenario will likely have to be replayed. ❑

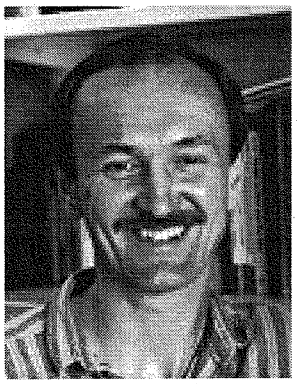


A shell-pocked building in Drvar, Bosnia

New Faces

The UNC East European studies program welcomes new associates

Dr. Milada Vachudova, Assistant Professor of Political Science: Before arriving, Ms. Vachudova taught international relations and comparative politics at the Central European University, Columbia University and Charles University in Prague. Vachudova has published numerous articles and book chapters on the European Union and NATO. She focuses on EU enlargement, immigration, ethnic conflict and security policies. Her book *Revolution, Democracy and Integration* will soon be released from Oxford University Press. Education: BA in International Relations (Stanford); MA and Doctor of Philosophy (the University of Oxford, St. Antony's College).



Dr. John Pickles, Earl N. Phillips Distinguished Chair in International Studies and Professor of Geography: Among his research interests are international restructuring and social justice, which are investigated through case studies of globalization, industrial change, and regional development. He is also known for his work in phenomenology and theories of space, apartheid and post-communist economic geographies, the study of the social contexts of geographical information systems, and post-communist transitions. His regional contributions have been focused on South Africa and Eastern Europe, most recently Bulgaria. He has written or edited nine books, over 50 articles and chapters, and more than a dozen monographs. Last semester he was on leave doing research in Trieste, Italy. He has served on the faculty at the University of Natal, Ohio University, West Virginia University, and was at Kentucky since 1990. Education: BA Honors and MA (Oxford), PhDs (the University of Natal and Penn State).

Cindy Walls, Communication and Development Officer for International Studies: Before moving to Chapel Hill, Ms. Walls worked in Washington DC for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department. There, she managed professional exchange programs for the countries of the former Soviet Union. Prior to that, she worked at the US Department of Commerce where she designed training programs for professionals from the former Soviet Union. Ms. Walls has also worked at World Learning on a USAID contract for Central and Eastern Europe. Education: BA in Russian Studies and International Relations (University of Virginia); MA in Russian Language and Literature (University of Arizona).

FROM PAGE 2

was published in November 2001 by Farrar Straus and Giroux. The volume includes seven essays newly translated for this collection by Prof. Levine.

events

MARCH 14-16: The 40th annual meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies will be held at the Hilton Daytona Beach. For more info, email: **david.darrow@notes.udayton.edu**

MARCH 14: EU enlargement in Central and Eastern Europe and its effect on environmental policy, quality, and security in the region as well as in Western Europe and beyond will be the topic of a forum in Washington DC. The event is 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 and the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. For more info: **jpinkham@email.unc.edu** **http://wwics.si.edu**

SEE PAGE 4

P4| events

FROM PAGE 3

APRIL 4: Lecture by Ellendea Proffer. For more info, call the **Duke CSEEES, 660-3157**.

APRIL 12-13: A symposium on "**The Russians in Hollywood**" will be held at UNC's Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence. Presentations include "The Russians in Hollywood/Hollywood on Russia, 1920s-1930s" by Olga Matich (UC Berkeley); "From Europe to Hollywood: The Transformation of Russian Stereotypes" by Oksana Bulgakowa (Stanford); "On Hollywood Types with Russian Names" by Yuri Tsivian (University of Chicago); and "Russians on the Range: Emigres Cast in Hollywood Genre Films" by Beth Holmgren (UNC Chapel Hill). For more information: **<beth_holmgren@unc.edu>. 962-7554**

APRIL 14-15: Internationalizing the Curriculum. For more info, call the **Duke CSEEES, 660-3157.**

APRIL 15: The application deadline for "Slavic and East European Languages: Acquisition, Techniques, and Technologies," **a summer insti-**

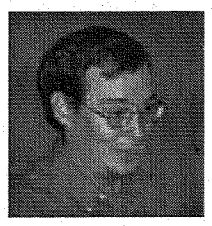
SEE PAGE 5

Recent Grads

of the UNC Russian and East European Studies MA Program

Stockton Butler

PROGRAM ANALYST, General Accounting Office, Washington, DC. GAO is the investigative arm of Congress and examines the use of public funds, evaluates federal programs and activities, and provides analysis.



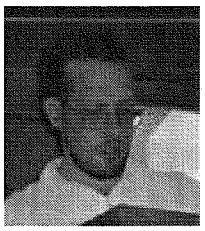
Because GAO works on Congressional request, projects generally take six months to one year to complete, and so the nature of work changes regularly. I am currently finishing a project looking at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's effectiveness in its oversight of the nation's energy markets. In February, I started looking at the physical security of chemical and biological weapons facilities in the former Soviet Union. This fits in well with my internship in the Nonproliferation Graduate Program at the US Department of Energy which took place during the summer between my first and second year in the MA program.

Karen Hauff

PROJECT ASSISTANT, Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart, Germany. The foundation has a strong focus on bi- and multinational projects with countries in Central and Eastern Europe. I work in the "Youth, Education and Civil Society" program and am involved in a broad spectrum of projects related to welfare, volunteerism, community initiatives and school education. Related to this job, I have been travelling in Central and Eastern Europe. I can apply my language knowledge as well as expertise and sensitivity towards the situation in those countries that I gained during my studies. A second asset of my graduate background that helped me to receive this position was my familiarity with the work of nonprofit organizations and the strengthening of civic structures in CEE societies.

Jason Czyz

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Washington, DC. My job consists of facilitating information exchange programs among the newly created energy regulatory bodies and those in the process of development in Central Eastern Europe and Eurasia. This involves inter-regional exchanges, pan-European exchanges, and bilateral exchanges between US public utility commissions and Central and Eastern European regulatory agencies.



The skills gained while pursuing an MA in Russian and East European Studies prepared me well for the type of work I do today. Every day I utilize area and regional knowledge as well as language skills. In particular, classes focusing on the transition of Eastern European and Eurasian nations have proved invaluable to the advancement of my career.

FULL updates could not be obtained for all graduates. Here are brief updates on the other grads:

Major Chad McGougan

is now a Russian/East European Area Analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Major Kenneth Dobbertin

is attending the General Staff Course at the National Defense Academy in Vienna, Austria.

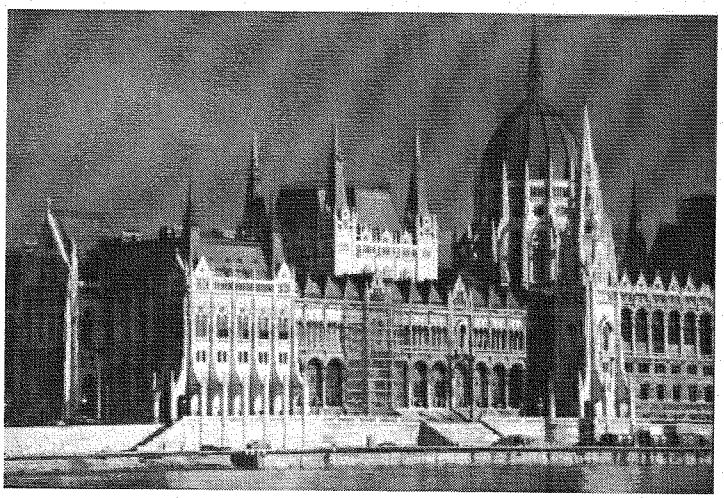
Major Joe King

is at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Frankfurt, Germany. ❑

Journey to Central Europe

Alumni gather for trip down the Danube

ABOUT 45 UNC alumni gathered for a trip to Central Europe last September, taking in the sights of Prague, followed by a cruise down the Danube to Budapest. To add another dimension to the trip, historical and political lectures were provided by Center for Slavic Studies Director Robert Jenkins and Gisela Vitt, professor emeritus of German at Ohio State. Another 40 alumni from Ohio State and Case Western were also part of the trip.



Top: the Hungarian parliament; below: tour members Jim Thompson, Alfred Brand, Dick Richardson, Robert Jenkins, Tom Tygart and Laurence Alspaugh. Photos courtesy of Jean Anne Leuchtenburg.

The tour, organized by the General Alumni Association, was overshadowed by the events of September 11, which took place when the group was abroad. One participant, UNC history professor William Leuchtenburg, remembers that there was a TV screen showing live coverage of the inferno as the group boarded a ship in Passau, Germany. "We did have a huge feeling of not being at home, which is where you want to be at a time like this," he said.

However, many participants said the most indelible part of the trip was the subsequent wave of sympathy that greeted them everywhere they went. Elizabeth Jackson, for instance, remembers an hour-long memorial service at St Stephan's cathedral in Vienna. Their bus driver also turned on the radio so that the group could hear the remarks prefacing a three-minute period of silence that was observed around Europe.

Still, there were plenty of other memories. The itinerary started with Prague, followed by a bus journey to Passau, Germany, then to the abbey at Melk, Austria, followed by Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest, among other places. Dr Jenkins's lectures focused on the Hapsburg heritage, the rise and fall of communism, and the challenges of post-communism. Vitt discussed Austrian history, the twilight of East Germany, and baroque architecture. Several participants said that they highly enjoyed the talks, while Jenkins said that the effect of his lectures was heightened by the fact that many alumni had obviously brushed up on their knowledge before the trip.

Laurence Alspaugh of Greensboro, a 1955 UNC graduate, said that for him the highlight was approaching the Hungarian capital from a distance by boat. Alspaugh's wife, Helen, was able to compare the Prague of today with the one she visited in 1960 as part of a choral group. Back then it was "dead and drab," she said. "Underneath, you knew there was beautiful architecture, but you couldn't really appreciate it." Now the buildings have been beautifully restored, and the city is bustling and businesses are thriving. ❑

FROM PAGE 4

tute for instructors of Slavic and East European languages, which will take place on the campuses of Duke and UNC July 8-17.

Topics include: the use of technology in the language classroom, using computer technologies to create pedagogical materials, teaching film and culture, integrating heritage students in the classroom, and internet resources for Slavic and East European language teachers. There are no registration fees or tuition costs; participants must pay their own travel expenses, but grants will be available to help defray these costs. For more information: **<www.seelrc.org> Meredith Clason, project coordinator, 962-0901, <meredith_clason@unc.edu>**

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

APRIL 20-21: The first conference of the **Southeast European Studies Association** will be held at UNC. For more information, contact the above email address.

Southeast European Seminar Set for April

THE FIRST conference of the Southeast European Studies Association is on track for April 20-21, featuring panels on topics ranging from security and integration to history, folklore and culture.

For the closing session on Sunday, there will be a roundtable on "The Southwestern Balkans: Current Situation and Prospects for the Future." Participants will include Robert Hayden (law and history, Pitt), Philip Shasko (history, Milwaukee), and Victor A. Friedman (University of Chicago). The following is a tentative schedule:

Saturday, April 20

9:00 – 10:30:
Roundtable: the Successes and Failures of Liberalism in SE Europe, 1800-1948

10:45 – 12:45:
A. Gender Issues, Dey 404
B. Historical Perspectives and New Interpretations, Toy Lounge

2:00 – 4:00:
A. Issues of Security and Integration, Dey 404
B. Folklore and Culture, Toy Lounge

4:15 – 6:15:
A. The Politics of Identity, Dey 404
B. Minority Issues, Toy Lounge

Sunday, April 21

9:00 – 10:30:
A. Modern Politics I, Dey 402
B. Russia and Its Balkan Connections, Toy Lounge

1:30 – 3:00:
A. Modern Politics II, Dey 402
B. Historical Perspectives I, Toy Lounge

3:15 – 4:15:
A. Historical Perspectives II, Dey 402
B. Linguistics/Language and Society, Toy Lounge

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

www.unc.edu/depts/slavic
tel: (919) 962-0901; fax: (919) 962-2494
email: slavic@email.unc.edu

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

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

Duke University and 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. *Inflections* is a quarterly publication of the Joint Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies. Editor: Robert M. Jenkins; Managing Editors: Bill Hein and Annie Bland.

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

Non–Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 177
Chapel Hill, NC