

# CONNECTIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



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GLOBAL

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.

## Global Women's Health Luncheon Series



Dr. Jacqueline Olich and Dr. Nino Kiladze

The UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies (CSEES) in collaboration with the Carolina Women's Center, hosted an April luncheon series to explore the state of women's health in the former Soviet Union. Four scholars from different disciplines presented their research to students, scholars, and community members at the FedEx Global Education Center.

Dr. Jacqueline Olich, Associate Director of CSEES and Dr. Ashley Fogle, Associate Director of the Carolina Women's Center co-organized the series. Dr. Mark Sorensen of the UNC Anthropology Department was the initial speaker, with a talk entitled "Women's Health in Post-Socialist Russia: The Impact of Economic and Social Change," examining the role of social and biological factors on the health status of indigenous Siberians. Sorensen showed how the breakup of the Soviet Union has contributed to the rapid decline in cardiovascular health in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

Dr. Nino Kiladze, Assistant Pro-

fessor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Tbilisi State Medical University in Tbilisi, Georgia and Junior Faculty Development Program Fellow at UNC presented a talk entitled "Women's Health Issues in Georgia." Beginning with an overview of the geography and history of Georgia, Kiladze then presented statistics on birthrates, maternal mortality, HIV infection, and adolescent births. While Georgia may be fairing better than some other developing countries, she concluded that there is still much work that needs to be done in terms of health education as well as access to healthcare for women.

Elizabeth King, doctoral candidate in the UNC School of Public Health, presented a talk entitled "Confronting Domestic Violence in Russia: Exploring the Role of Health Care Providers." King shared research she conducted in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Voronezh, where she looked at health care providers' perceptions and understandings of domestic violence as a health issue among their female patients. "I found that while providers do see women with injuries from abusive spouses and partners, there is not a systematic way of addressing this concern nor are records systematically kept," King reported. She hoped that the audience came away with "an appreciation of looking at violence as a public health issue, the extent to which it is a problem in Russia, and an appreciation for the complexity of using health care settings in addressing domestic violence."

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## Connection to Kyrgyzstan



Clayton Middle School, NC

*Adapted from article by Cori Sue Morris '08, originally published in the Center for Global Initiatives's "NC Community Features"*

With the help of UNC's Center for Slavic, Eurasian and Eastern European Studies (CSEES), Hubert Humphrey Fellow Sheradil Baktygulov established the Kyrgyz Connect project to broaden horizons through personal connections. Baktygulov wanted to connect Kyrgyz and American students to show them their commonalities and shared experiences.

He set up the project, Kyrgyz Connect, with Jacqueline Olich, Associate Director of the UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian and Eastern European Studies. They established a plan with two schools: Clayton Middle School and the School Complex Lyceum 13 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

On March 19, Baktygulov and Olich visited Clayton Middle School's Global

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## Announcements

Congratulations to the Summer 2008 **UNC FLAS Fellowship** recipients: **Nicole Balkind**, Russian (Russian and East European Studies); **Cassandra O'lenick**, Polish (Environmental Science Engineering); **John Robertson**, Czech (History); **Allison Ann Rodriguez**, Polish (History); **James Slater**, Russian (Slavic Languages and Literatures); **Renee Young**, Russian FLAS from Duke (School Of Information & Library Science); and **Caroline Wisler**, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (Anthropology).

**Nydia Fors** and **Jessica Gollday**, RUES MA students at UNC, are recipients of the **UNC Center for Global Initiatives Internship Award**. Nydia and Jessica will intern with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow this summer.

**Sam Baron**, **Kevin Bartig**, **Marko Dumancic**, **Edward Geist**, **David Griffiths**, **Louise McReynolds**, **Adrianne Nolan-Jacobs**, **Jacqueline Olich**, **Jenifer Parks**, **Donald Raleigh**, **Eric Steinhart**, **Gleb Tsipursky**, and **Ernest Zitser (Duke)** participated in the **Southern Conference on Slavic Studies** 46th Annual Meeting at Emory University from March 27-29, 2008.

**CSEES** Director **Robert Jenkins** presented a paper, "Nation and State Building: The Role of Education in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina," at the 2008 World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities in New York city on April 11, 2008.

**Milada Vachudova** hosted a roundtable, "Democratization After Communism: How Much and Why?" on Friday April 18, 2008. **Grigore Pop-Eleches** of Princeton University, **Mitchell Orenstein** of SAIS Johns Hopkins University, **John Gould** of Colorado College, and **Graeme Robertson** of UNC Chapel Hill participated.

## Study Abroad in Poland

*"I took beginner's Polish and got a lot of practice on the street. Unlike in Western Europe, not everyone in the former Soviet Bloc speaks English, so you are forced to speak in the native tongue."*

—Past Participant **Brett Sturm**



Krakow, Poland  
Photo Courtesy of Tabitha Walker

The UNC-CH Study Abroad Office offers students an exciting opportunity to study in Krakow, Poland at Jagiellonian University, the oldest university in Poland, founded in 1364. Students will study with the Centre for European Studies (CES), an interdisciplinary institute of the university, established in 1993. CES offers an English-language curriculum for undergraduate students who wish to spend either a semester or an academic year in Poland.

Poland's central location in Europe allows CES to offer students two study

tracks: one looks to the west and focuses on the European Union and the other looks east and concentrates on changes in post-communist Europe. Recent course offerings include: The Cultural Construction of European Identities; EU Law and Institutions; History of 20th Century Art; Sociology of Conflict: the Balkan Mosaic; and From Post-Communist Transformation to EU Enlargement.

A historic city filled with beautiful architecture, art, museums, restaurants, and pubs, Krakow is also home to eleven universities. The large student population makes Krakow a dynamic and fun place to study. CES also organizes trips for students to several Central and Eastern European cities. Past trips have included visits to Gniezno, Biskupin, Auschwitz, Budapest, Pecs, Lviv, Kiev, Vienna, and Bratislava.

The curriculum is comprised of language study and lecture courses taught in English. UNC students are required to enroll in a Polish language course while in the program. All levels of Polish, from beginning to advanced are offered. Students who meet the minimum prerequisite of Polish language study may enroll in classes taught in Polish.

**The application deadline for Spring 2009 is September 25, 2008.** Notification begins on October 10, 2008.

For more information about the study abroad program at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, please visit: <http://studyabroad.unc.edu/programs.cfm?pk=1149>

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Connections class. They were joined by another Kyrgyz native -- Sairagul Matikeeva, Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations at the International University of Kyrgyzstan--who is at UNC as a 2007-2008 JFDP Fellow. Baktygulov and Matikeeva taught the children about their home. Then Clayton students were filmed discussing their interests, lives and school activities. The video will be sent to students at the School-Complex-Lyceum 13 who will reply with information about themselves. The school specializes in English, al-

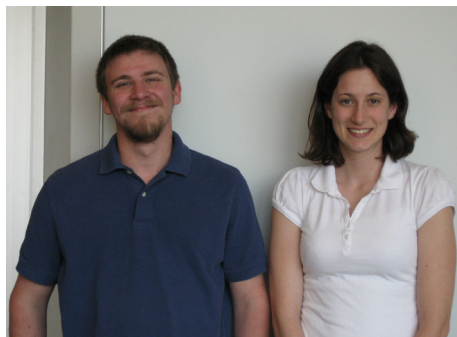
lowing the students to practice as they interact with American children. The project will continue in a virtual pen pal format.

"We're going to let the students tell us what they're interested in and would like to learn more about," Olich said. Olich hopes the program will expand the horizons of the Clayton students and prepare them for a global future. After its initial trial at Clayton Middle, the program will be expanded to Union County Early College.

For the full text of Morris's article, as well as much more information on the Center for Global Initiatives, please visit: <http://global.unc.edu>



## 2008 CSEEEES MA Theses



Matthew Green and Katrina Dusek

*Negotiated or Stolen? Methods of Transition and Patterns of Opposition-Regime Interaction in Communist Eastern Europe*  
by Katrina Dusek

My thesis investigates patterns of pre-transition opposition-regime interaction that affect post-transition democratic trajectory in East Central Europe. Specifically, I developed a model for pre-transition interaction which I call the “mobilization-liberalization cycle”. Five case studies demonstrate that in countries with comparatively mild regime atmospheres, patterns of opposition resulted in mature oppositions and therefore more favorable democratic trajectories. Conversely, in countries with severe regime atmospheres, such patterns did not develop and no mature opposition was formed. In these cases, re-

gimes were able to dictate the terms of transition, and the path to democratic consolidation was compromised.

*The Kremlin's Constraints: A Three-Tiered Model for Explaining Gubernatorial Vulnerability in Russia, 2005-2007*  
by Matthew Green

The thesis focuses on the federal center, which supposedly has a great deal of “de jure” power over the regions in the form of the right to appoint and recall regional governors. I argue that the Kremlin is nevertheless restricted in not only “who” it may replace but “how” it may replace them (i.e. what sort of post-office compensation they receive). These restrictions are derived from structural properties of the region and the clout of its executive. I chose the topic because gubernatorial appointments in Russia are often cited as one of the key developments in the “rolling-back” of democracy and centralization of power in Russia -- and this provides a useful way to test whether, and to what extent, power has shifted back in favor of the federal center at the expense of the periphery.

## Hedlund Speaks on Russia

Professor Stefan Hedlund of Uppsala University in Sweden presented a talk entitled “Is there a Russian Economic Model?” on March 14, 2008. The talk was co-sponsored by the CSEEEES, the Center for Global Initiatives, and the Office of the Associate Provost for International Affairs at UNC. Professor Hedlund is the author of numerous books and articles which have addressed property rights, power, and Russian traditions. In his talk, Hedlund offered

a view of the Russian economy that emphasized the hierarchical nature of transactions in contrast to the horizontal nature of markets that are rooted in unconditional property rights. According to Hedlund, power in Russia is unaccountable because property rights remain conditional and there is no independent judiciary. As a result, Russia today displays a historical pattern characterized by a state that is the engine of growth, sometimes a source of reform, and staffed by a completely dependent service “nobility.” Despite the power of the state, Hedlund closed by noting it remains vulnerable to external shocks.

## Collections Corner

*Contributed by Dr. Ernest Zitser*

The Collections Council of Duke University Library has approved a digitization project called “Americans in the Land of Lenin: Documentary Photographs of Early Soviet Russia.” The project, which is being spearheaded by Dr. Ernest Zitser, Adjunct Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Slavic and Eurasian Studies & Librarian for Slavic and East European Studies at Duke University, seeks to digitize and describe images drawn from the Frank Whitson Fetter Papers and the Robert L. Eichelberger Papers in the Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Special Collections Library (RBMSCL).

The Eichelberger collection includes images taken by the photographers of the American Expeditionary Force in Siberia, Manchuria, and Mongolia during the Russian Civil War (1918-1921). The Fetter photographs document everyday Soviet life in 1930.

The Fetter and Eichelberger photographs are unique to RBMSCL and relate to the Documentary Photography and the Transcultural Experience digital collection themes. The collection complements the “Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections” at the University of Michigan and the “Russia Beyond Russia” collection at UNC-Chapel Hill. The new materials constitute one of the largest collections of such materials in the U.S. and serve as the first step in the digitization of additional parts of Duke’s extensive collection of 20th-century Russian visual culture. This new digital collection of roughly 1,400 images will be available to the public in late 2008 or early 2009.

For more information about this project or Duke’s Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies collection, please visit: <http://library.duke.edu/research/subject/guides/slavic/index.html>, or contact Dr. Zitser, 919-660-5847, [ernest.zitser@duke.edu](mailto:ernest.zitser@duke.edu).

# In Memory: Dr. Paul Debreczeny

*"Professor Debreczeny had a long international reputation as a first-rate scholar of Russian literature, especially Pushkin, and his translations of Pushkin's collected prose are absolutely unsurpassed in English. For those of us lucky enough to have known Paul personally, he will be remembered as a kind, thoughtful, and incredibly generous colleague and teacher. He was much loved here, and we feel his absence deeply."*

-- Dr. Christopher Putney,  
Chair of UNC Slavic  
Languages and Literatures

Our esteemed colleague Dr. Paul Debreczeny passed away on March 18, 2008. Paul was an Alumni

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Russian and Comparative Literature, a renowned world-class scholar of Russian literature. He was a founding member of the UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and was instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies. More than one hundred people attended a memorial service for Professor Debreczeny on Friday, May 16, 2008 on the UNC-CH campus.

## RUES 699 "Twentieth-Century Childhood In Comparative Perspective"

### A New Undergraduate and Graduate Course

Fall 2008, TR, 9:30-10:45 a.m.,  
Contact Dr. Jacqueline Olich,  
[jmolich@email.unc.edu](mailto:jmolich@email.unc.edu)

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Dr. Oleh Wolowyna, independent scholar, presented "Health and Mortality Patterns of Women in Ukraine," based on research he conducted with Natalia Levchuk, Senior Demographer at the Institute for Demography and Social Research in Ukraine. Wolowyna asserted that Ukraine faces a serious demographic crisis due to low fertility and high mortality rates. It is expected that between 2005 and 2050, Ukraine's total population will decrease by 34%. "Female mortality in Ukraine is twice as high as female mortality in European Union countries, with three-fourths of deaths due to circulatory diseases in Ukraine, compared to fifty percent in European Union countries," reported Wolowyna and Levchuk.

The successful luncheon series was a first-time collaboration between CSEEEES and the Carolina Women's Center, who hope to continue this fruitful partnership.

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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