

connections



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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CSEEEES Hosts Symposium on Western Balkans

On Friday, August 27, 2004, the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies (CSEEEES) hosted a conference at the Wilson Library entitled "OSCE, EU, and the US: What Prospects for the Western Balkans?" This event brought together three United States career diplomats who have all served, or still serve, at various posts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

After introductory remarks by Dr. Robert Jenkins, Director of CSEEEES, each panelist had twenty minutes to brief the audience on post-conflict life in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Ambassador Michael Wygant, the former Deputy-Head of the OSCE mission to Croatia, spoke of the difficulties that faced reforms in 1999 and 2000 in Croatia, caused in part by the unwilling government of former President Franjo Tudjman. Under the Mesic government after 2000 there was some improvement, though Croatia has a long way to go and many more reforms to implement.

Ambassador Todd Becker, currently the Deputy-Head of the OSCE mission to Croatia, then addressed Croatia's prospects for joining the European Union. His comments extended those given by Ambassador Wygant:

because Croatia desires to join the EU, its government is working at implementing reforms at a pace that would allow

membership in the near future. Becker stressed that the Croatian government needs to continue to cooperate and implement reforms suggested by the OSCE and United Nations as well.

The focus switched from Croatia to Bosnia-Herzegovina with comments from Ambassador Robert Beecroft, the former head of the OSCE mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The theme of Beecroft's remarks was obvious from the start. Speaking of the complex challenges of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Beecroft



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Reading Group about Russian Women on the 19th Century Estate Kicks Off

The Robertson Collaboration Fund will sponsor a monthly reading group for the 2004-2005 school year entitled "Mistress, Peasant, Revolutionary: Women on the Nineteenth-Century Russian Estate," hosted by Beth Holmgren, chair of the department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at UNC, and Jehanne Gheith, associate professor of Slavic and Women's Studies at Duke. The group met for the first time on Thursday, September 23, with an introduction to the various themes of the literature on the subject of women's

roles in pre-revolutionary Russia.

The meeting gave the professors an opportunity to share their research interests with the students gathered. Holmgren had been researching the Stalinist era, but has since shifted her interests to earlier eras, recently becoming interested in nineteenth century women writers. Gheith, Holmgren noted, is the expert among the two, having focused on women writers for longer. Both also noted that neither the material nor the

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FLAS Recipients Spend Their Summers Abroad and in U.S.

Prague Summer

Ben Foster (MA RUES) received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) to study at Charles University's Prague Sum-



mer University in July and August of this year. The program emphasizes immersion in Czech for non-native speakers. Therefore, all in class instruction was in Czech, widening its students' vocabulary quickly. The class day was divided into morning and afternoon sessions, with the three hour morning session focusing on grammar. "It's frustrating finding out how much you don't know about the subject you're in class for. There was one struggle after another, but I definitely spoke Czech better at the end of August than I did in July." The afternoon sessions were spent developing the students' verbal abilities. During these sessions the instructors created scenarios for the students to piece together and develop the skills they learned before lunch.

Of course, not all of Ben's

experience took place in the classroom. Being in the country's capital allowed him immediate access to local media that allowed him to put his reading and listening comprehension

to practical use, and the chores of feeding himself, doing laundry, and moving about the city required a certain level of competency. "Buying a bus ticket to get out of town was like taking a final exam," he says.

Ben managed to see other parts of Bohemia as well, including the former Hapsburg frontier fortress and concentration camp, Terezin. The visit to the town and camp was a sobering experience, capping off an academic year in which he studied life in Eastern Europe under the Holocaust. The program-sponsored trip to Liberec and Frydlant gave him a look at the medieval history of Bohemia, as did his own venture to Cesky Krumlov. Ben

Nezaboravno Leto u Pittsburgu

Unlike her colleagues who went to study abroad this summer, Polina Kozak (MA RUES) couldn't leave the country. Rather than facing disappointment and a dull summer, she used her FLAS to study Serbian at the Summer Language Institute (SLI) at the University of Pittsburgh. She says "life in the city, combined with classes and activities at SLI and the diversity of students and instructors, made my two months in Pittsburgh unforgettable."

The institute, comprised of Polish, Slovak, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Russian, and Serbian language programs, is placed in a city full of diverse ethnic neighborhoods inhabited by East European descendants. Language immersion is therefore offered not only in a classroom setting, but also in less formal atmospheres, such as soccer matches, visits to East European enclaves in Pittsburgh, and class-hosted "Happy



Hours,” through which Polina claims she traveled around Europe without ever leaving Pittsburgh.

Polina was impressed with the academic aspect of the program as well, most of all because of her teachers. “The three language instructors, Ljiljana Djuraskovic, Rada Drezgic, and Bojan Belic, were not only talented teachers but also sparkling personalities who energized five hours of classes and made time fly by unnoticeably.” She attributes the popularity of the program (attendance at the Serbian program at SLI was second only to Russian) to her talented instructors.

With a couple of Balkan tunes stuck in her head, several traditional Serbian recipes in mind, good memories, and a little bit of sadness, Polina returned to UNC after six weeks of speaking, thinking and breathing Serbian. She continues to stay in

Debrecen

Second-year MA RUES student Jessica Herzog spent the summer in Debrecen, the second largest city in Hungary. Along with hundreds of other students from Europe, Asia and the United States, she attended the Debrecen Summer University’s popular intensive Hungarian language and culture program. Although she and her classmates became frustrated with Hungarian grammar and overwhelmed by new vocabulary at times, Jessica says, “I always had fun in the classroom. We played games, sang folk songs, and chatted about topics from education to fashion.” When not in her daily language classes, she participated in a number of the school’s supplemental cultural activities ranging from showcases of traditional dance to screenings of recent Hungarian films.

While abroad, Jessica also had the chance to travel to several of Eastern Hungary’s most scenic and historic areas, tasting multiple types of dessert wine in the famous Tokaj wine region and touring the Great Hungarian Plain by horse cart. Following the program’s end, she also visited Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna before returning to Chapel Hill at the end of August. Eager to improve her Hungarian even more, Jessica continues her study of the

Belgrade

Thomas Cooper, a Hungarian instructor at UNC-Chapel Hill, received a summer FLAS to study Serbian in Belgrade this year. He attended an intensive language immersion program at the private school Azbukum, spending four hours each day in class. Before attending the program, Thomas confesses, his abilities were limited to the written language, but six weeks of immersion greatly improved his speaking and listening abilities. Outside of the classroom the program offered cultural and historical lectures and guides, such as a tour of the cathedrals in Serbia’s capital city.

He was also able to take advantage of the proximity to Bosnia, visiting the capital of Sarajevo and Mostar, the historic capital of Herzegovina, learning what he could from those cities’ recent history.

Thomas continues to receive instruction in Serbian and hopes to return next summer for more advanced instruction. He is currently interested in pursuing research related to the German, Serbian, and Hungarian literature of the Vojvodina region. Ultimately he plans to collaborate with scholars from Central Europe to write a history of the

Events

‘The Lessons of Beslan? Terrorism and the ‘New Security’ in Russia.’ A roundtable discussion conducted by faculty from UNC, Duke and Appalachian State University on current events in Russia. Speakers for the event are Jonathan Weiler (UNC-Adjunct Prof. of RUES), Graeme Robertson (UNC-Asst. Prof. of Political Science), Martin Miller (Duke-Prof. of History), and Anatoly Isaenko (ASU-Asst. Prof. of History). The event is sponsored by the CSEEEES and the UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. Tuesday, October 12, 7-9 PM, Toy Lounge, Dey Hall.

CSEEEES, the Center for European Studies, and the University Center for International Studies will be hosting a conference on **“Comparative Perspectives on Trade Liberalization and Production Networks in the New European Clothing Industry”** on October 15-16, 2004. For more information, please contact Dr. John Pickles (jpickles@email.unc.edu).

In commemoration and celebration of the life and work of Nobel Laureate **Czeslaw Milosz**, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, along with the Department of English and CSEEEES, will sponsor a program of readings from Milosz’s works, in English and in Polish on Thursday, October 7, at 7:30 PM in Toy Lounge.

The UNC Department of Dramatic Art Studio 3 presents **MAD FOREST**, a play from Romania, by Caryl Churchill and directed by Julie Fishell. It will be performed in the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theater in the Center for Dramatic Art at 8:15 PM from November 5-9 with an additional performance on November 8 at 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$5.

Duke University will be hosting a film festival entitled, **“Arada/Between: Contemporary Turkish Cinema”** between September 20 and October 22. A schedule of events is available at: <http://www.duke.edu/web/film/screensociety/Arada.html>

The UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literature is hosting a **Czech Film Series** on the following Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM in Dey Hall 113: Oct.

Announcements

Lily Feiler, a member of the Slavic community in the Triangle, died last June. She received advanced degrees at the Ecole de Science Politique in Paris and at NYU and Columbia's Harriman Institute in New York. Among her publications were *Mayakovsky and His Circle*, a translation of Viktor Shklovsky's book for which she was nominated for the National Book Award, and *The Double Beat of Heaven and Hell: Marina Tsvetaeva's Poetry* published by Duke University Press. Her extensive library of Russian futurist poetry has been graciously accepted by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at Duke University as a special collection.

Vasa Miakhailovich, Slavic Languages & Literature, has published a book of short stories called *Belly Dancer and Other Stories*. Most of these stories were translated in her Serbo-Croatian classes at UNC. Also, Slavica Press in Bloomington, IN has published a revised edition of her *Anthology of Serbian Literature*.

Laura Janda, Slavic Languages & Literature, created a new media module for Russian aspect. It can be found on the web at <http://isl.unc.edu/russian/index.php>

Jehanne Gheith, Duke University Slavic Languages & Literature, published *Finding the Middle Ground: Krestovskii, Tur, and the Power of Ambivalence in Nineteenth-Century Russian Women's Prose* (Northwestern University Press) this past spring.

Duke University will offer **Beginning Georgian** as a summer course during Duke's first summer session. The dates will be May 19-June 27. For more information, contact Susan Riner (919-660-3157) or Edna Andrews (919-660-3142).

Information sessions on the **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)** for summer 2005 and academic year 2005-2006 will be on November 16 at 3:00 PM and November 17 at 10:00 AM in the UCIS Conference Room, 223 E. Franklin St. Academic Year FLAS's will be available for Russian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, and Serbo-Croatian and summer FLAS's for languages of the area.

Robertson Joins Political Science Faculty

Graeme Robertson, fresh from defending his dissertation at Columbia, recently began his professorship in the political science department at UNC Chapel Hill. Professor Robertson's research interests include the peculiarities of labor-state relations in Russia, as well as center-periphery relations. "Labor unions in Russia just don't function the same way they do in the West," he says. He remains enthusiastic about his research, but is glad to have completed it, as the situation in Russia since 2000 has become more restrictive to academic research.

Robertson's work has taken him far from his hometown of Glasgow, Scotland, to Vladivostok, Moscow, Oxford, and, most recently, New York.



Having just arrived in Chapel Hill, he is ready for the slower pace of the American south. Traditional Southern hospitality has been extended to him ever since he arrived, and he says he's enjoyed it. "I'm 600 miles away from anyone I know, so it's been great having people ease the transition."

Robertson says he enjoys teaching here, commenting that UNC students are living up to their reputation of being bright and enthusiastic about their studies. He is currently teaching an introduction course about the politics of the former Soviet Union.

Aside from academics in Chapel Hill, Robertson also will be certain to take advantage of the local golf courses and music scene during the next few years.

Reading Group (from page 1)

discussions will be limited to literature. They hope to make the group an interdisciplinary experience and in February will host two scholars from outside the triangle community. Adele Lindenmeyr from Villanova and Christine Worobec from Kent State will lecture with a history-oriented perspective.

The texts and discussions will cover various aspects of women's life in Russia: class issues concerning peasantry and gentry, folklore centered around peasant women, and the intelligentsia and revolutionaries, to name a few.

The reading group will combine an informal feel, as Holmgren and Gheith will be hosting further sessions from

their homes, with enlightening topics. The academic community apparently is hungry for such an experience, as the room designated for the meeting quickly filled with students from both Duke and UNC, graduates and undergraduates, representing majors and disciplines from Slavic Studies to Chemistry, and many in between.

The other meetings for this semester will be held at Duke on October 21 and December 2 and UNC on November 18. Presentations for next semester are planned on January 27, February 10 and 24, and March 24. For more information, please contact Beth Holmgren (beth_holmgren@unc.edu) or Jehanne Gheith (gheith@duke.edu)

Introducing the Class of 2006

Douglas Buchacek

Douglas Buchacek grew up in Wilmington, Delaware. He got his B.A. from Purdue University, majoring in American history and minoring in Russian. After a semester studying Russian in St Petersburg in 1999, he decided that Russia was vastly more interesting than American history, and moved



there as a Peace Corps volunteer to teach English and further study the crazy, wonderful place. After living in Vladimir and Ekaterinburg, he came home in 2003. As a result of his experiences teaching, he wants to focus his studies on the Russian education system. Apart from his studies, he is a sometimes participant in the Chapel Hill-based recording project, the Day Action Band.

Jennifer Pyclik

Jennifer Pyclik graduated from Purdue University in 2001 with a B.S. in Quantitative Agricultural Economics and a minor in International Studies. She received her J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis in May 2004. While at Purdue, Jennifer spent a summer in Novgorod, Russia studying language and agriculture. While in law school, she had summer internships with human rights organizations in the Czech Republic and Ghana. Her research will be focused on human rights in Eastern Europe and how they will be impacted by the transition into



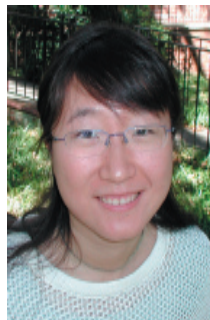
Kristin Deinert

Kristin Deinert graduated in 2002 from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. She majored in Political Science and minored in Russian and German. While attending Luther, she was a presenter at the Nobel Peace Prize Forums held in 2001 and 2002. Kristin also presented her senior research on the Chechen conflict at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in 2002. She recently bought her first home in Carrboro and works as a licensed insurance agent for State Farm while attending UNC part time. Her studies will most likely focus on conflict resolution in the Balkans and in the former republics of the Soviet Union.



Wenjie Zhang

Wenjie Zhang is from Beijing, China. She graduated from Peking University with two majors: BA in Russian Language and Literature and a Bachelor in Economics. After graduation in 2003, she started to work for China Central Television as a website editor. Her main duty was to collect, organize, edit and distribute TV programs on the website of CCTV. Now at UNC, she will concentrate her research on political science, especially the relationship between Russia and the European Union.



Ginny Muller

Ginny Muller moved to Carrboro, North Carolina from Illinois, where she graduated from Principia College in June. Her undergraduate degrees are in political science and foreign languages—French and Russian. Ginny loves to run, travel, and read, and she's also enjoying having her own apartment and a kitchen where she can cook and eat whatever she wants, whenever she wants. Ginny plans to spend her time at UNC learning as much as she can about Russia and Eastern Europe, with an eye on living and working in Washington DC or some other exciting city somewhere in the world when she graduates.



OSCE (from page 1)

suggested that there is simply too much history “per capita” in Bosnia-Herzegovina, meaning that the people’s penchant for remembering their past has made rebuilding the country quite a challenge. He noted that reforms are occurring in a number of areas, like property settlement, defense, and education, and argued that a fundamental change is that Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia can imagine its future in Europe.

Both OSCE missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia continue to push for “sustainable return” of refugees and displaced persons as well as work to deepen the rule of law. An extended discussion with the audience highlighted the challenges that have been overcome and those that still remain.

Slavic Cultures Represented at Exploris

On September 11, the Exploris Museum in Raleigh sponsored a diversity event called "Uniting for a Better Tomorrow." Over 500 people visited booths to learn about various cultures, including West Africa and East Asia.

The Slavic Languages department and CSEEEES sponsored a table where the cultures of many Slavic countries, including Russia, Poland, Czech Republic and the republics of the former Yugoslavia, were represented. Slavic Lin-

guistics student Biljana Belamaric



organized the display and was on

hand to explain the objects and their meaning. She also taught several people the Russian alphabet. Children and their parents were able to look through children's books in a variety of Slavic languages. The main attraction at the table were the matryoshka dolls.

The day's events also included a lecture on Islam and a presentation by children from the Triangle Interfaith Alliance who performed songs and dances from various cultures, including a

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