

CONNECTIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



UNC
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.

Farewell (Na Shledanou) Dr. Laura Janda!



Dr. Laura Janda, Professor of Slavic Linguistics at UNC-Chapel Hill, left the campus at end of the 2007 fall semester to begin work with the University of Tromsø in Norway. Dr. Janda has worked at UNC for sixteen years, during which time she administratively, academically, and personally contributed a great deal to the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEEEES) and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Dr. Janda served as Director of the Center from 1996-2001, co-Director of the Slavic and East European Language Resource Center from 1999-2006, and as a member of the CSEEEES Advisory Board.

Dr. Janda began working at UNC in 1991 as an Associate Professor of Western Slavic Linguistics. From her arrival, she played an integral role in the advancement of CSEEEES. The initial grant proposal submitted to the U.S. Department of Education to start the Title VI Center was written

with the stipulation that UNC would hire a professor in Western Slavic Linguistics—the position that Dr. Janda accepted.

In 1996, Dr. Janda also took on the position of CSEEEES Director. During her time as Director of the Center (1996-2001) Dr. Janda co-wrote several successful U.S. Department of Education grant proposals for the joint Duke-UNC National Resource Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies and the Slavic and East European Language Resource Center. In 1999, Dr. Janda submitted a winning proposal to the National Security Education Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, which garnered over \$360,000 to start an M.A. Program in Russian and East European Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. Thanks to Dr. Janda's efforts, the MA Program has grown and continues to attract top-level students.

Dr. Janda has advised five dissertations, sixteen M.A. theses, five undergraduate honors theses and mentored numerous foreign fellows.

In January 2008, Dr. Janda began work at the University of Tromsø as a Professor of Russian Linguistics. She will also be working on two research projects in the field of Slavic cognitive linguistics. One is called "Exploring Empitness" and involves the semantic and paradigmatic behavior of verbal morphemes in Russian. The second project is called "Modeling Clusters of Russian Verbs" and is concerned with the aspectual re-

JANDA CONTINUED ON 3

Brown Bag Talk: Kosovo



On November 28, 2007, Dr. Arben Hajrullahu, 2007-2008 Hubert Humphrey Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill, presented a brown bag lunch talk entitled "Long-

Term Peace in the Western Balkans: The Case of Kosovo" at the Global Education Center. Overall, Dr. Hajrullahu sees the Kosovo situation moving in a positive direction and that independence is likely. "It is not if, but how" he says.

Dr. Hajrullahu highlighted several factors which could help stabilize the region if Kosovo gains independence, notably using the European Union integration process as a tool for conflict management. If the countries of the Balkan region were to become EU members, it would level the playing field; making all of these countries equal partners who must work together to promote peace and security. Additionally, education measures that promote the denationalization of the historical perspective and emphasize liberal-democratic values as well as broadening communication networks could help strengthen cooperation and lessen tension in the region.

KOSOVO CONTINUED ON 3

Announcements

Please welcome new CSEEEES M.A. Student, **Nicole Balkind!**

UNC-CH welcomes two **Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) Fellows in the Spring 2008: Nino Kiladze** (nkiladze@gmail.com), Assistant Professor, Tbilisi State Medical University, Tbilisi, Georgia; and **Sayragyl Matikeeva** (sairagul.matikeeva@gmail.com), Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, International University of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Congratulations to **Dr. Beth Holmgren (Duke)**, named President Elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) and **Dr. Louise McReynolds (UNC-CH)**, named President Elect of AAASS Southern Slavic Association.

Lecture, **"Future of the Siberian Taiga (Boreal Forest),"** by **Dr. Nikolai Lashchinsky**, Principle Researcher at the Central Siberian Botanical Garden in Novosibirsk, Russia on **February 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium in the Global Education Center, UNC-CH campus.

Talk, **"Stalin and the Soviet Science Wars,"** by **Ethan Pollock** of Brown University on **February 28, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.** in Hamilton Hall, Room 569, UNC-CH campus. http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic/events/Pollock_flyer.pdf

Alumni tour to Ukraine and Romania with **Dr. Donald Raleigh** (UNC Department of History), July 14-27, 2008. For more information please visit <http://alumni.unc.edu/pdf/ACAUKrain-eandRomania.pdf>

UNC Summer in Moscow

It was especially neat to read Russian literature in Russia. . . I looked forward to our class discussions and remember a surprising amount of what we read because it was so relevant to the area.

~Past Participant Debra Fincham



Russian State History Museum, Red Square

In collaboration with the University of Toronto and Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU), the UNC-Chapel Hill Study Abroad Office is proud to offer students a great opportunity to spend six weeks (from mid June to late July) studying in Moscow, Russia. The program began in the summer of 2005. In 2007, it became a joint program between UNC and Toronto. Each summer a professor from either UNC or Toronto serves as the Resident

Director and teaches a course. UNC's Dr. Christopher Putney (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures), has led the group twice. The upcoming summer 2008 program will be led by Professor Donald Schwartz of the University of Toronto.

Students choose two out of the three following courses: a social science course (usually history or political science), a Russian literature course, and a Russian conversation course (for students who have taken at least two semesters of Russian). If you do not know any Russian, not to worry! This program is still open to those students who have never taken a Russian course. These students will take a Russian survival course during the first few weeks of the program where they will learn basic words and phrases.

During the summer, students live in the RGGU dormitories. In addition to coursework, students also participate in planned excursions in and around Moscow, including a trip to the traditional town of Suzdal and to St. Petersburg. Group activities and excursions are also arranged with RGGU so that the UNC and Toronto students have to opportunity to meet their Russian peers.

All UNC-Chapel Hill students are encouraged to apply! **The application deadline for summer 2008 is February 14, 2008.** For more information about the UNC Summer in Moscow Program and the link to the online application, please visit: <http://studyabroad.unc.edu/programs.cfm?pk=1824>

Russian Roundtable

On October 26, 2007, the UNC EU Center hosted a roundtable of experts discussing the "Russia and the Future of Democratization in Europe." Participants at the roundtable were Professors Stephen Hanson of the University of Washington, Hillary Appel from Claremont-McKenna College, and Graeme Robertson of UNC-CH. Professor Milada Vachudova from UNC-CH moderated the event. Hillary Appel began the session by reviewing President Putin's consolidation of power

and raising the question of why Putin is so popular? Economic results are at the core of her answer: due to the wind-fall of oil revenues and more efficient tax collection, the Russian economy has shown dramatic improvement. Control over media has also restricted the information available in Russia. Stephen Hanson asked the question of whether the Cold War has returned? He argued that since the Russian state is not driven by ideology, the Cold War is not back. At the same time, the Russian state lacks a commitment to any principle, a situation Hanson labeled "resentful statism."

ROUNDTABLE CONTINUED ON 4

CSEEEES Spotlight on Central Asia



Central Asia: The Place Where Algebra Was Born?

Recently, the UNC CSEEEES organized two events with a Central Asian focus. Dr. Shah-Ahmad Mutalov of the National University of Uzbekistan in Tashkent delivered a talk entitled, “Central Asia: The Place Where Algebra Was Born?” at the Global Education Center on December 5, 2007. This thought-provoking talk and subsequent reception had broad campus and community support. It was co-sponsored by the UNC Office for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Interdisciplinary Educa-

tion, Fellowships and Communication; the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations; the UNC Cell and Developmental Biology Department; and the Central Asian Focus Group. Audio as well as an overview of Dr. Mutalov’s presentation may be found on our Center’s website, <http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic/>.

Film Showing: Alisher Navoi

Along with the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, CSEEEES co-sponsored the showing of a Soviet-era film *Alisher Navoi* (Tashkent Studio, 1947) on January 10, 2008. *Alisher Navoi* has been called “a 14th century historical epic in the Henry V vein.” It is a salient example of the innovative filmmaking that was done outside of Moscow during the Stalinist period. After the film, Carl Ernst, Director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, and Marko Dumančić, a Ph.D. candidate and film scholar in the UNC Department of History, led a wide-ranging discussion about the broader context of the film.

We Will Miss You!

I have no way of expressing how grateful I am to you for all the time and effort you put into me and my education when I was at UNC. I thank you for all your support- academic, financial, emotional, every kind of support I needed when I was working toward my PhD. I couldn't have done it without you. Best of all, you helped me understand that life can be hard, it can be rewarding, but it should also be FUN! You're an inspiration to me- you have been since I first met you. Best of luck in your new position and your new life. I know it will be a thrilling experience and you're going to do wonderful things.
~Anne Stepan, Ph.D. '04

I was always impressed by the amount of knowledge and enthusiasm Dr. Janda brought to class every day. Her passion, like her store of fun facts, is inexhaustible!
~Ashley Timidaiski, CSEEEES M.A. '09

Dr. Janda is a very fascinating and enthusiastic person...I was very impressed not only with her knowledge of various languages, but also her open and likeable personality and diverse cultural interests. I enjoyed the atmosphere in her classroom and was also pleased that she was available for advice on research, funding, and just about anything else. I regret not having met her sooner. I wish her the best!
~Tabitha Walker, CSEEEES M.A. '09

Dr. Janda tirelessly promoted Slavic studies at UNC. Quite simply, were it not for her efforts, there would be no MA RUES Program...Her rigorous intellect and reassuring smile will be missed. We wish her professional and personal happiness at Tromsø.
~Dr. Jacqueline Olich, Associate Director, CSEEEES

KOSOVO CONTINUED FROM 1

Currently, there are just over 2 million people living in Kosovo. Of them, approximately 90% are Albanian, 6% are Serbian, and the remaining 4% are members of other national groups. Since the Kosovo War in 1999, the province has been under the administration of the United Nations.

Dr. Hajrullahu received his Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Vienna in 2005. His dissertation won the 2005 Alois Mock Europe-Foundation Award and was recently published, in German, as *Long-term Peace in the Western Balkans through EU Integration*.

JANDA CONTINUED FROM 1

relationships among Russian verbs. For more information on these projects and to learn more about Dr. Janda’s new department, please visit: <http://uit.no/humfak/7542>.

The CSEEEES is indebted to Dr. Janda for all of her hard work as Director of the Center and her continued support afterward. She will be greatly missed! We are happy that Dr. Janda will remain affiliated with CSEEEES as a Center Fellow. We wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors and will be looking forward to seeing her again during her return visits to UNC!

Chess Night Recap



The first CSEEEES-sponsored Chess Night on November 8, 2007 was a smashing success! Over seventy people played chess and watched the 1925 Russian film comedy “Chess Fever” (Shakhmatnaya goryachka). Thirty brave chess players, decided to test their skill against Grandmaster Michael Klein, who began playing tournament chess at the age of five. Mr. Klein studied Journalism at UNC, where he also fulfilled

his language requirement with Russian courses. Currently, he is a World Chess Federation (FIDE) member and director of the Young Master Chess Camps (www.youngmasterchess.com).

Due to its great success, CSEEEES is considering making Chess Night an annual event. We will keep you updated on the details!

My favorite part of the night was watching the fabulous Russian silent film. I hadn't seen it before, and I laughed out loud at it!

~Michele Rivkin-Fish (UNC-Department of Anthropology)

It was a great evening of chess learning and fun, with something for everybody. My husband and I really enjoyed the screening of Chess Fever, and our twelve year old son loved the chess quiz and playing Mike Klein in the simultaneous match. We were delighted to see many of our chess friends there, and we met new ones, too. I hope we'll have another chess evening soon!

~Regina Higgins (World View)

ROUNDTABLE CONTINUED FROM 2

The result is that Russia is today a blend of cynicism and nationalism, resulting in diplomatic isolation, little room for opposition, and corruption. Graeme Robertson noted that Russia under Putin had become a “useable state,” with reliable tax collection and services, and discipline. At the same time, democracy building has been a slow, uneven process. The participants ended with a lively discussion current politics in Russia, with Stephen Hanson arguing that President Putin would find a way to remain in power.

.....
Piano Recital, March 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. by rising international star and Croatia pianist **Ivana Vidovic**. For more information please visit: <http://music.unc.edu/calendars/thecalendar>

Buy your tickets early!

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.

EDITOR: ROBERT M. JENKINS

MANAGING EDITOR: JESSICA GOLLIDAY

CONTACT:

UNC at Chapel Hill Center
FedEx Global Education
Center, CB# 5125
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5125

<global.unc.edu/slavic>
tel: (919) 962-0901;
fax (919) 962-2494
Email: cseees@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

CENTER FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER

CAMPUS BOX 5125

CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-5125

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES