

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.

Crews Returns to Lecture on Muslim Networks in Eurasia



Dr. Robert Crews, in front of lecture subjects V.V. Putin and Talgat Tajuddin, delivers his remarks in the April 11th lecture. The lecture marked CSEEEES' inaugural event in the FedEx Global Education Center.

Transnational Muslim networks that interact with governments may have received a great deal of attention as contemporary organizations as of late, but they originated much earlier than the post-colonial period: this is the topic that served as the focal point of a recent lecture given by Dr. Robert Crews, a Professor of History at Stanford University. Dr. Crews is the author of the acclaimed *For Prophet and Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia*, and a UNC alumnus who received his Bachelor's degree in Russian and East European Studies. The event was jointly sponsored by the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies and the UNC Department of History.

Today's fears of transnational Islamic threats date not to some ancient struggle, Crews ar-

gued, but rather to the late 18th century, when the Russian and Turkish empires ran afoul of one another. This conflict was the first instance of Islamic parties making claims beyond their borders, which in turn increased anxieties and pushed Russia towards a strategy of containment. The Russian strategy shifted from conversion of Muslims and targeting of their networks for destruction, to the fostering of development of these networks in hopes of co-opting them for trading purposes. Moreover, these networks could be utilized for grander purposes: Catherine the Great sought not only new subjects to rule, but also to "civilize" the large populations of nomadic peoples under her rule — something Islam was seen

CREWS CONTINUED ON 4

RIEA Scholar Visits in May

On April 30, the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies and the Study Abroad Office proudly welcomed Ms. Inna Vitalievna Koshkina to the UNC campus, where she began a one-month practicum. The UNC stop marks the third and final stage of Ms. Koshkina's participation in the new Fulbright Russian International Education Administrators (RIEA) Program.



Inna Koshkina

Like all Fulbright programs, RIEA is a highly competitive program — there were just six positions available nationally — and it is thus a great honor for both Ms. Koshkina and CSEEEES. The curriculum seeks to aid the Russian participants in their work with international students who enroll at Russian institutions. According to the RIEA website, it covers such areas as academic placement, safety, cross-cultural challenges, and language training.

The experience should be of considerable benefit to Ms. Koshkina, whose research interests include the structure of American institutions and their international offices, the needs of students, the development of communication and cultural skills, and the initiation and sustainability of cooperative programs with other schools. Ms. Koshkina is the

KOSHKINA CONTINUED ON 4

Announcements and Alumni Updates

• **The Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies invites our readers to share with us some of your favorite web-based teaching materials and multimedia websites.** Your contributions will assist K-12 and community college instructors in their quest to promote understanding and appreciation of this fascinating area of the world! Please send suggestions to CSEEEES Associate Director Jacqueline Olich at jmolich@email.unc.edu.

• The final broadcast of the **Global Music Program** will air on May 25 (see article on page 4) but the Center is already looking ahead to next year! **Please send your proposals for both programming content and guests** to the CSEEEES Associate Director Jacqueline Olich at jmolich@email.unc.edu.

• Traveling East this summer? Be sure to snap plenty of photos! This fall, CSEEEES will hold its first ever **image contest, “Representations of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.”** Please see page 4 for more details.

• **Ben Foster**, a 2005 graduate of the Master’s Program in Russian and East European Studies, reports that he is now working for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Ben specialized in the Post-Communist Politics of Central Europe while studying at Carolina.

• **Dr. Louise McReynolds (History)** presented a paper in April at the Southern Slavic Conference in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. McReynolds plans on visiting St. Petersburg this summer to conduct further research for her book, which covers sensational murders in Russia.

• **Gregory Taff**, soon to receive his Ph.D. in Geography, was recently awarded the student paper award in the Russian, Central Eurasian,

Badcock Shares Current Research on Siberian Exiles

The overwhelming majority of Siberian exiles of the late Tsarist period consisted of criminal offenders, but a small portion — no more than 10% — were political prisoners. Of this latter category, most could be termed “anonymous” political prisoners, not the well-known, prominent members of the intelligentsia or nobility. Political prisoners presented two basic variations in their accounts of exile: one was a sense that the times spent in exile were times of reflection and experimentation; the other was a feeling of daily struggle for survival. On



Dr. Sarah Badcock shares her ongoing research on Siberian political exiles at the March 23rd presentation in Hamilton Hall.

March 26, Dr. Sarah Badcock, a lecturer at the University of Nottingham, shared her current research on the narratives of Siberian exiles with the UNC community. Her presentation, entitled “Contested Narratives of Siberian Exile: Lived Reality and Constructed Visions in Late Imperial Russia,” was sponsored by CSEEEES, the UNC Department of History, and the NCSU Department of History.

Dr. Badcock noted that she faced a real challenge in her research: it is relatively easy to assess the “lived reality” of the exiles — their jobs, daily life, etc. — but it is quite difficult to examine the psychological aspects of the exile experience. The attitudes of state actors are also important: the Tsarist government

felt an obligation to punish dissidents and to neutralize them, yet at the same time risked incurring very real costs — both monetary and the loss of the important skill sets that dissidents possessed. Dr. Badcock’s research is ongoing; she has visited archives in Yakutsk and Vladivostok, and hopes to travel to Irkutsk as well. She commented that there are any number of potential topics to examine: the prisoners’ gender issues (some 15-20% were female), networking amongst prisoners, communities and families, the relationships between political prisoners and criminal offenders, and the relationship between exiles and local residents.

One particularly important aspect of exile was that of occupation. Those members of the intelligentsia who were exiled tended to have economic support from home; “anonymous” prisoners lacked these resources and were forced to find occupations to survive. Workers who had specialized skill sets were removed from their urban environs and placed in regions that had little need for anything beyond manual labor. Moreover, employment opportunities were typically available only in the regional capitals, and so for a prisoner assigned to the periphery, the challenge was intensified. Labor mobility, explained Badcock, thus became key.

Before taking questions and comments from the audience, Badcock indicated that some prisoners did, in fact, manage to escape from exile. She noted that this feat was also telling in its disparity among groups: an estimated 12.5% of prisoners were able to leave the country this way, but most of these were members of the intelligentsia and nobility, who possessed connections with the “outside.” Class difference among prisoners was reflected in their choice of destination following escape from exile: better-connected prisoners tended to go to Western Europe, whereas those of the lower classes made their way to farther locations, such as Australia.

Gerovitch Speaks on Realities and Myths of Soviet Space Program



Dr. Slava Gerovitch of MIT presents his March 29th lecture in Dey Hall.

The Soviet space program produced two of the greatest scientific accomplishments in the country's history (indeed the world's history): the first man-made satellite, *Sputnik*, to be successfully launched into orbit, and then three and a half years later, Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space as well as the first to orbit Earth. Yet with these very real events came a set of memories and beliefs that were rooted in myth: so explained Dr. Slava Gerovitch in his recent lecture, entitled "Engineering Truth: Memory, Identity, and Culture in the Soviet Space Program." Dr. Gerovitch, of MIT's Program in Science, Technology, and Society, presented his research and took questions from members of the audience in the March 29th event, which was sponsored by the UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and CSEEEES.

Dr. Gerovitch's main set of research material came from memoirs of those associated with the program. He noted that such sources may well be factually flawed — due to opinions, biases, and memory gaps — yet it was these very defects which made

them interesting, as they reflected the political and social attitudes of the era in which they were written. One of the seemingly major paradoxes was the positive, nostalgic recollection of the Stalinist era by Soviet engineers. Dr. Gerovitch provided the example of two engineers of great scientific merit, Sergei Korolev and Valentin Glushko; although Korolev and Glushko were imprisoned by Stalin's orders, they later strongly praised him. These men viewed the Stalinist management style as superior to that of the Khrushchev era: Stalin concentrated power in vertical chains of command, removed outside interference as these were designated "special" programs and demanded results (and got them, in the minds of the engineers who found this motivational style inspiring — to the extent that Korolev would adopt it himself). Alternatively, Khrushchev regionalized and decentralized management of the system, creating new barriers to efficiency.

Another particularly interesting aspect of the space program was its

GEROVITCH CONTINUED ON 4

UPDATES CONTINUED FROM 2

and East European speciality group at a conference of the Association for American Geographers. Gregory has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Memphis.

- **Dr. Laura Janda (Slavic Languages and Literatures)** recently traveled to Moscow and Estonia. She had been invited to present lectures at Moscow State University and the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. In Estonia, she gave talks at Tartu University and also served as a mentor to graduate students.

- **Dr. Silvia Tomaskova (Anthropology and Women's Studies)** has received a residential fellowship at the School of Advanced Research in Human Experience in Santa Fe, NM (www.sar.org) for next year, as well as a National Humanities Center residential fellowship. She will be in Santa Fe, NM, all of next year. Both fellowships will allow Dr. Tomaskova to finish her book on Siberian shamans and prehistoric archaeology in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The book *Traveling Spirits: The History of Shamans and the Gender of Prehistory* is under contract with the University of California Press.

- **Dr. John Pickles (Geography)** has recently published several articles about his research of the clothing and textile industries in Eastern Europe. He has also been busy giving lectures on his research, with presentations at UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, the University of Florida, Queen Mary College in London, the University of London, and various workers' conferences in Poland. Dr. Pickles' latest book *State and Society in Post-Socialist and Post-Soviet Economies* will be released in the Fall of 2007 by Palgrave Macmillan Press.

- **Congratulations** to this year's graduates of the Master's Program in Russian and East European Studies, **Jeffrey Ringhausen** and **Miroslav Styblo**, as well as graduates of the undergraduate program, **Katherine Barber** and **Rachel Van Patten**.

CSEEEES Returns to Global Music Program

CSEEEES is set to take to the airwaves again on May 25 in the next broadcast of the Global Music Program on UNC's student-run WXYC. As the program's guest speaker, Aneta Spendzharova, a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science, will choose and comment upon selections from the contemporary Bulgarian music scene. The program will air at 5 P.M. on 89.3 FM in Chapel Hill and is simulcast on the station's website: <http://www.wxyz.org>. Following the initial broadcast, the show will be available on the Global Music Program's website at: <http://www.unc.edu/areastudies/publicprograms/global-music-audio.html>. The Global Music Program is produced by WXYC in conjunction with UNC's international area studies programs. Previous broadcasts may also be found on this online database, including UNC History Professor Dr. Chad Bryant's September program on Czech Rock 'n Roll.

KOSHKINA CONTINUED FROM 1

head of the international office at the Reshetnev Siberian Aerospace University in Krasnoyarsk, a Siberian city located some 2700 miles from Moscow. Her home university has about 7000 students, most of whom specialize in scientific, technological, and engineering fields. Ms. Koshkina's university participates in several different student exchanges with institutions in a number of countries, including the U.S., Germany, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. The university both sends and receives about 30 students each year in these placement programs. It is also part of a consortium of various universities in the Krasnoyarsk region which hosts foreign students and scholars in many disciplines.

Image Contest: "Representations of Eastern Europe and Eurasia"

Calling all photographers and artists: CSEEEES will hold its first ever image contest this Fall. All UNC students, faculty, and staff are eligible to enter. The theme of the contest is "Representations of Eastern Europe and Eurasia." Entries can be made in the form of original photography, graphic design, and/or visual artwork that depicts the history, culture, archi-

ture, or people of the region. Entries will be judged on artistic merit and relevancy to the theme. By submitting, contestants give consent to CSEEEES to edit and use images in future publications, including the CSEEEES' website. More information will be available on the CSEEEES' website (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic>) in the Fall.

GEROVITCH CONTINUED FROM 3

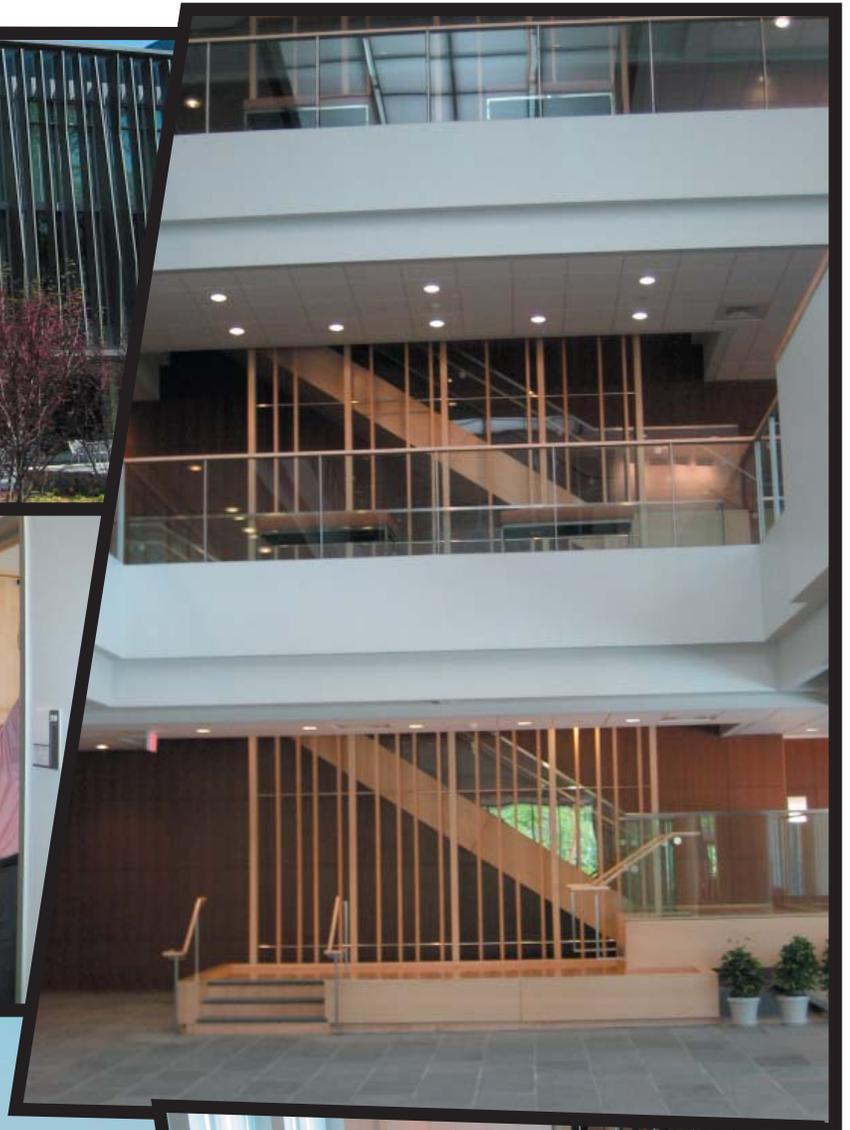
emphasis on automation. In fact, Gerovitch stated, when Gagarin made his trip to space he was tasked with absolutely no manual control of his craft (the only provision for any sort of control was reserved for emergency situations – and even then Gagarin could only control two functions: the attitude and retro-rockets of *Vostoĳ*). Such seemingly extreme manifestations of machine-over-man attitudes were the result of the space engineers' philosophy: cosmonauts were the weak link in a given space mission as they were unpredictable; machines on the contrary were wholly predictable, provided that the engineers were successful in building the "perfect" machine. Despite the ideological overtones that seem to have been present (the de-emphasizing of the individual,

for instance), it was ultimately the decision of the space engineers to insist on a leading role for automation, not Party ideologues, remarked Gerovitch. What made the situation ironic, however, was the fact that in the end, the "weak links" were the very men made out to be the heroes: it was the cosmonauts who were exalted in the press, not the designers. Dr. Gerovitch said another set of myths was constructed on behalf of the space engineers: the regime refused to tell the Nobel committee the true identities of those involved (they were told it was the "entire people" of the Soviet Union who were responsible). Korolev personally always refused to take credit, insisting on the legacy of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky in an effort to build the legitimacy of the space establishment.

CREWS CONTINUED FROM 1

to have done successfully in Persian and Turkish lands. Later in Imperial Russia, Nicholas I would focus on Muslim social networks as potential administrative institutions for Russians who held otherwise weak day-to-day power over some of these societies. Ironically it was the Orthodox Tsar, and not the Islamic clergy, that legitimated religious law in the area: Nicholas I adopted a policy of emphasizing those areas of the Shari' law that were in agreement with Russian imperial values (for example, prohibitions on adultery and alcohol, as well as support for rulers). Later other

political leaders, including the German Kaiser and the Russian Chairman of the Council of Ministers Sergei Witte, would also realize the value of working with, rather than targeting, Muslim networks in an effort to advance imperial interests. Crews noted that in the Soviet period the invasion of Afghanistan sparked a jihad that was critical for the reinvigoration of transnational networks. At the same time, Soviet authorities sought to co-opt Islamic religious leaders. Recently, President Putin has followed this approach, projecting Russia as protector of its Islamic peoples.



Images from CSEEEs' new home in the FedEx Global Education Center. Clockwise from top left: western face of the building, main staircase located in the atrium, looking down into the atrium, the Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower as seen from the patio and garden area on the building's roof, and finally, CSEEEs' new environs (rooms 3106-3110).

Estonian Folk Group “Kandali” Performs on Campus

For most of the twentieth century, cultural expression was harshly suppressed in the Soviet republics. Nevertheless, folk culture remained an important part of the identity of the inhabitants of these areas. Traditional dress, song, and dance were kept alive, even though they were forbidden in the public realm. Today in Estonia, folk dance remains an important aspect of culture, and Estonians are proud to have the freedom to maintain that tradition.

On April 6, the Estonian dance group Kandali showcased its talents on the UNC campus, performing for an audience of about 80. The audience included members of the Chapel Hill International Folk Dance Group, students, faculty, local Estonian-Americans, and other members of the Chapel Hill community. Following the performance, the dancers gave a brief instructional demonstration.



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: MATTHEW GREEN**

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/
CSEEEES
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