

connections



THE UNIVERSITY
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at CHAPEL HILL

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Czech-American Group See Room for Improvement in Flood Response, Prevention

The floods that devastated the Czech Republic in 2002 gave JoAnn Carmin, a UNC-CH alumnus and currently a professor at M.I.T., the opportunity to team with other scholars from the U.S. and the Czech Republic to research the effects of the flooding on Czech environmental policy. On Friday, April 9, the team presented their findings to an audience gathered in the UCIS conference room.

The group had conducted interviews with more than 60 public officials and NGO members to learn what policies were being implemented; how the affected communi-

ties were adapting to the environment; and how active civil society actors advocated changes in how Czechs addressed water-related is-

the water-related environmental issues. The EU's directives, which must be integrated into laws at the state level, did not mention floods or droughts. The directives concentrated on quality monitoring. It wasn't until 2004 that the EU released communications on flood prevention, monitoring, and mitigation, which recommended changes in agriculture programs and information dissemination on flood prevention.

Jirina Jilkova's presentation focused on land use planning. She found that the Czech Republic's post-flood efforts were directed at recovering the \$30



Seated from left to right: Jirina Jilkova, JoAnn Carmin, Stacy VanDeveer
Standing, L to R: Elizabeth Albright, Lenka Camrova, Dana Viktorova, Tina Rosan, Douglas Crawford-Brown, Kate Mitsch

sues.

Elizabeth Albright discussed how the EU had addressed

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Swedish Economist Discusses Gorbachev's Role in Russia's Economic Collapse

Stefan Hedlund, professor of East European Studies at Uppsala University in Sweden, presented "Economic Meltdown in Russia: Is Gorbachev to Blame?" on April 25. Hedlund believes that Gorbachev was responsible for the political and economic collapse of the USSR, but that Yeltsin aggravated the problem. Normally, societies would evolve a system of

norms and values that would prevent it from massive problems, such as the financial crash of August 1998. However, Russia does not have such a system and thus could not stave off economic crises.

Hedlund identified four "pillars," holdovers from the Soviet system, which inhibit economic growth. First, Russia does not have a form of power sharing. Also,

there are only conditional property rights. The third is the combination of money and privileges and the final one is having the state be the engine of growth (a trickle down system instead of an economy driven from demand on up).

Gorbachev's reforms did not change any of these pillars.

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Announcements

Donald J. Raleigh, UNC Dept. of History, received a Guggenheim Fellowship for the 2005-06 academic year to work on his new book project, **"Soviet Baby Boomers: An Oral History of the Class of '67."**

The UNC-Duke program was well represented at the **Southern Conference on Slavic Studies** meeting held in Nashville, TN, April 14-17, 2005, with the following faculty members presenting papers or participating in some other capacity: David Griffiths, Donald J. Raleigh, Warren Lerner, Sam Baron, Christopher Putney, Madeline Levine, and Jehanne Gheith.

Many UNC-Duke PhDs and current graduate students also took part in the program: Sharon Kowalsky, Jack Langer, Ron Bobroff, Sue McCaffray, John Surface, Kevin Bartig, Betsy Hemenway, Chris Ward, Jeff Jones, Alison Rowley, Josephine Woll, and Kim Jastremski.

Nick Ganson, UNC Dept. of History, has been named the winner of the 2005 Annual Southern Conference for Slavic Studies Student Essay Contest for best essay by a graduate student. The essay was entitled: **"Exploring the Causes of Child Mortality during the Soviet Famine of 1946-47."**

Silvia Tomaskova, UNC Dept. of Anthropology, has received a Ryskamp Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for 2005-06 to work on her book **"Traveling Spirits: the History of Archaeology and the Gender of Prehistory."** This work traces the history of shamans among native peoples of Siberia through colonial narratives and ethnographic accounts, and examines the entry of these stories into European scientific archeology in the early 20th century. In solidifying the scientific nature of archeology, women and transgender shamans were left out of the history, to present a masculine religious leader that is described as a universal a-historical category.

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RUES MA Class of 05 Present Theses at Piedmont Colloquium

On Thursday, May 12, the graduating class of MA students in Russian and East European Studies at the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies presented their theses at the Piedmont Slavic Colloquium. Topics ranged from Foreign Direct Investment in Russia to the normative frameworks on both sides of the Kosovo conflict in 1999.

Visiting scholar Zumrad Ahmedjanova also contributed with a presentation, "Muslim Brotherhoods in Uzbekistan," on the history of Sufism in Uzbekistan. In it she explored the different agents who have attempted to define "true Islam" in the Central Asian region over the past three centuries. As these agents included the state under Soviet rule, the traditional interpretation of Islam was removed, making way for the wahabbist style that has become increasingly dominant in the region since 1991.

Ben Foster's thesis, "Party People: Leadership Focus in Czech Political Parties, 1989-1998," looked at party leaders' relationships with their own parties and with other party leaders in the post-communist Czech Republic. He traced the defining characteristics of these relationships to the time of transition from communist rule to free elections.

"Transnational Advocacy Networks and EU Accession: The Case of the Central and Eastern European Women's Movement," Jessica Herzog's thesis, examined how transnational NGO's have used the EU's strength to affect changes towards women in Central and Eastern European states. As Ms. Herzog stated, the results have varied across the region.

In her thesis, "International Normative Structure in Milosevic's Strategic (Mis)calculations: NATO's Air-Bombing Campaign in Kosovo, 1999," Polina Kozak explained Slobodan Milosevic's decision, based on a normative argu-



From left to right, Polina Kozak, Ma Li, Ben Foster and Jessica Herzog.

ment, to accept the risk of war. The ruling of the independent international commission on Kosovo deeming NATO actions "illegal but legitimate" reflected the interactive nature of the normative structure, which Yugoslavia's president did not take into consideration.

Li Ma's thesis, "A Comparative Study of Russian and Chinese Governments' FDI Policies," found a large difference between the two countries' total of foreign direct investment. She found the reasons for this contrast in the policy framework of each government and the intrinsic systemic reasons between the two.

Hedlund (from page 1)

Perestroika and glasnost did allow people to discuss these problems and to develop cooperatives and joint ventures. The joint ventures were not particularly good as the participants did not think of the public good while making decisions and therefore stripped national resources in order to buildup their private stocks to await collapse.

Shock therapy changed the economy in three basic ways. First, money was used in an economic sense. Previ-



ously, the economy was indifferent between goods and currency (somewhat like the U.S. food stamp program) but now it had economic meaning. Secondly, open borders allowed for free trade, including currency trade. Finally, private ownership and property rights were established.

Hedlund concluded that while Gorbachev was to blame, Russian culture also played a significant role in the economic collapse.

Czech Floods (from page 1)

billion of damage, while only 1% was directed at prevention.

Dana Viktorova, from Prague's University of Economics, examined the region's vulnerability to floods. The region of Bohemia is geographically apt to flooding as a result of the Vltava river basin's width near its source and narrow "neck" only a few hundred miles downriver. However, Viktorova found that inconsistencies in regional administrative borders mean that efforts at flood prevention and mitigation are often ill-organized. The lack of a centralized agency to coordinate the regional offices compounds the confusion.

Lenka Cemrova, also from the University of Economics, focused on municipal changes in response to the floods. Towns have adopted some flood prevention measures, she said, and now involve NGO's in crisis management and planning. However, because of fiscal restrictions, most of the municipalities still rely on technical means to monitor and assess the risks of flooding. Environmental means, said Cemrova, are limited by a lack of funds.

Christina Rosan, from M.I.T., addressed the environmental NGOs' responses to the flooding. The strongest NGOs in the region are watchdog-type organizations, such as Arnika and Greenpeace. Rosan pointed to the organizations' exposure of the Spolana chemical plant's leaks into the Vltava River after the floods to illustrate their tactics and area of focus.

Stacy VanDeveer, a professor from the University of New Hampshire, concluded the presentation by posing the question of how to frame the 2002 floods. Framing the issue, he said, is problematic, as the previous presentations had shown. There are varying interpretations of what caused the floods' severity, from natural occurrence, inadequate administrative structures, to ecological irresponsibility. Likewise, the effects of the floods and agents that are involved in the cleanup are legion, making it clear that something so deceptively simple as a lot of water is truly a complex problem.

Announcements

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Chad Bryant spent much of the last twelve months in Prague conducting research for his book, tentatively entitled *A World Undone: Czechs and Germans under Nazi Rule*. In March, 2005, he completed the manuscript, which is now under review with Harvard University Press. Last fall, the *Journal of Contemporary History* accepted for publication an article entitled "The Language of Resistance? Czech Jokes and Joke-telling under Nazi Occupation, 1943-1945," and Bryant presented another paper, "From Nationalism to Practice? Studying Individuals and States in East-Central Europe," at a conference on the history of East European Studies held at the University of Tübingen, Germany. A fellowship from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research funded Bryant's research during the 2004-2005 academic year. In June, 2005, he will return to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where he will spend his second summer as a research scholar in the Center's East European Studies program.

Beth Holmgren, UNC Dept. of Slavic Languages & Literature, has recently published the following:

"**The Polish Actress Unbound: Tales of Modrzejewska/Modjeska.**" In *THE OTHER IN POLISH THEATRE AND DRAMA*, ed. Kathleen Cioffi and Bill Johnston (Indiana Slavic Studies, Aug. 2004);

"**Nadezhda Iakovlevna Mandel'shtam.**" In *DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY: RUSSIAN PROSE WRITERS AFTER WORLD WAR II*, ed. Christine Rydel (2005);

"**Cossack Cowboys, Mad Russians: The Émigré Actor in Studio-Era Hollywood.**" *THE RUSSIAN REVIEW*, April 2005.

Thirteen Russian students from Moscow and Irkutsk spent a week at the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication as part of a State Department program linking the two universities with the Schools of Journalism and Information and Library Science.

Baskin Connects Balkan Intervention to Iraqi War

On Thursday, March 31 Dr. Mark Baskin presented “Between Exit and Engagement: Balkan Lessons for Baghdad.” The talk examined the mandates and goals of the Balkan intervention of the 1990s in order to draw lessons for the current war in Iraq.

Dr. Baskin is a political scientist, author, and field practitioner with particular interests and expertise



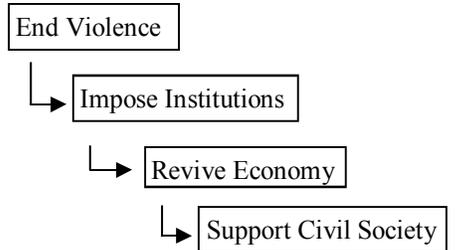
in conflict and post-conflict administration. He spent nearly a decade working for

United Nations peacekeeping operations in the field and at mission headquarters in Zagreb, Vukovar, and Sarajevo. He served as the UN’s Deputy Regional Administrator in Prizren, Kosovo, and as Prizren’s Municipal Adminis-

trator from 1999 to 2000. Dr. Baskin’s research has focused on ethnicity and nationalism in socialist Yugoslavia, economic and political transitions in the Balkans, and the establishment of rule of law and governance in conflict zones. He is currently working as an advisor to the Iraqi government on the creation of a viable constitution and parliamentary system.

According to Baskin, the goals and mandates of the military portion of an intervention impact the way in which subsequent state-building processes will develop. In his talk, he identified security, reconstruction, administration, and democratization as possible goals/mandates that affect a post-invasion situation. From these goals/mandates one can anticipate the type of post-invasion occupation – ranging from joint governance (with a high degree of stakeholder participation) to neo-colonial administration (marked by political exclusion). Baskin emphasized, how-

ever, the lesson learned from the Balkan intervention that in either case (joint governance or neo-colonial administration), occupying forces must follow a specific progression in order to establish a stable regime. Called the “cascade of governance priorities,” the progression can be understood as follows:



Failing to complete any one of these steps jeopardizes the successful completions of the steps following it. So while these priorities can be pursued jointly, the success of each subsequent step relies on the completion of prior goals.

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