

connections



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

A newsletter devoted to 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, NC.

December 2005, Vol. 3, No. 2

Muslim Modernities Series Examines Identities in Bulgaria

On November 18, CSEEEES hosted Mary Neuburger, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin, as part of its on-going lecture series and workshop focusing on Muslim Modernities and Europe. Her presentation, "Under the Fez, Behind the Veil: Muslim-Christian Encounters in Modern Bulgaria," examined the ways in which the Slavic majority has managed and conceptualized the identity of the roughly one million Muslims living in Bulgaria, while attempting to construct a national identity which negotiates between the conflicting poles of East and West, modernity and backwardness. Drawing on themes from her new book *The Orient Within*



Mary Neuburger, with her new book *The Orient Within*, stands in front of Morehead Planetarium.

(Cornell University Press, 2004), Neuburger argued that Bulgarian Muslims have played a central role

in the creation of Bulgarian national identity since 1878, when Bulgaria acquired its autonomy from the Ottoman Empire. Much of the shifting debate over Bulgarian identity manifested itself in equivocal attitudes toward dress. From rejecting the fez as a marker of collaboration with the Ottomans in the early days of independence to "de-veiling" campaigns during the Communist period, clothing became an important marker for central authorities striving to create a modern, European Bulgaria.

The sizable Muslim minority in Bulgaria has inhabited the geographical and social margins of

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New Series on Gender in Europe Begins with Look at Masculinity

A new workshop series, entitled "Gender, Politics, and Culture in Europe and Beyond," began on November 3-4, with a series of speakers presenting their work on masculinity, politics, and citizenship in modern European history. The series is sponsored by CSEEEES, Center for European Studies, Curriculum of Women's Studies, and the Department of History at UNC-CH. One workshop is planned for each term for at least the next three semesters.

This first workshop featured three speakers. The keynote speaker, Dr. Anna Clark, from the University of Minnesota, spoke on

"The Rhetoric of Masculine Citizenship" in 17th century and late 19th century England and France. Dr. Stefan Dudink, Radboud University, presented on masculinity and citizenship in Dutch politics in the 19th century. The final speaker of workshop, Marko Dumancic, a PhD student at UNC, examined masculinity in Soviet film. Dumancic showed clips from "The Circus" and "Ballad of a Soldier" to demonstrate how the image of the ideal Soviet man changed between the Stalin to Khrushchev eras.

Future workshops will look at war memories and gender and the welfare state in transition. The next

series, planned for February 3, 2006 is "Gender, War, and Nation in 20th Century Europe." Maureen Healy, Oregon State University, will speak on "Engendering a Republic: Women and Men in Austria after the Great War." Holly Case, Cornell University, will lecture on "Identity on Trial: Slander Trials in Northern Transylvania during World War II." In the evening, Susan Grayzel, University of Mississippi, will present "Babies and Bombs: Gender and the Experience of 'Total' War, 1914-1945." For more information, please contact Karen Hagemann (hagemann@unc.edu).

Announcements

Dr. Robert L. Stevenson (School of Journalism and Mass Communication) is an outside evaluator for a U.S. State Department-funded University Partnership program between the Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia and the University of Belgrade. The year-long program involves faculty and student exchanges, curriculum development, and professional workshops.

UNC participants at the **American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) conference** in Salt Lake City on November 3-5 included Madeline Levine (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures), Beth Holmgren (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Steve Rosefielde (Economics), Don Raleigh (History), and Sharon Kowalsky (History). Nick Ganson (History) won the AAASS national award for the best graduate student paper. Other UNC PhDs, from the Department of History, who participated are Ed Roslof (Director of Fulbright Program, Moscow), Paula Michaels (University of Iowa), Betsy Hemenway (Xavier University), Kate Transchel (Cal State University-Chico), Jeff Jones (UNC-Greensboro), and Chris Ward (Clayton State University).

Diana Popova is visiting UNC on a Fulbright this semester. She holds a PhD from the University of Surrey, Guildford, England, although she is a native Bulgarian. She is teaching Bulgarian Culture in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Professors **Don Raleigh** (History) and **Robert Jenkins** (Director, CSEES) were Non-resident International Scholars at the World History Department of the "Ion Creanga" State Pedagogical University in Chisinau, Moldova, in October. The department is a partner department in the Open Society Institute's Academic Fellowship Program. Raleigh and Jenkins conducted workshops on roles and responsibilities of U.S. faculty and curriculum development, gave lectures, observed courses of their Moldovan colleagues, and met with a variety of university officials during their week in Chisinau. Dr.

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Lara and Lolita have more in common than most think

Although Vladimir Nabokov thought *Doctor Zhivago* should be destroyed and Boris Pasternak probably never read *Lolita*, their main female characters, Lara and Lolita, have a great deal in common, according to Irene Masing-Delic of the Ohio State University. She presented "Larissa and Lolita, or Catharsis and Dolor in Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago* and Nabokov's *Lolita*" on November 18, which was sponsored by the UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

While *Lolita* is a nymphette, Lara is also quite young and naïve at the beginning of the novel. Both have mothers who are jealous of their daughters. Their relationships with good men end quickly. They are tortured by their



Masing-Delic delivers her presentation in Toy Lounge.

co-suffering with their lovers. Both share common psychological traits and both represent bondage of women to men. Humbert, the man who lusts after Lolita, and Komarovsky, Lara's rapist, are also similar in that they use bribery and threats to get their victims and both become trapped by their attempts to trap others.

Masing-Delic suggests that similarities between the novels are the result of both novels sharing a common Russian cultural background. Although Humbert is not Russian, Masing-Delic points out that he is made Russian through the author and he has an extensive knowledge of Russian literature. Lara's later return to Komarovsky represents Russia's bondage and fear of freedom.

Bulgaria (from Page 1)

Bulgarian society since 1878. Since the late nineteenth century, but particularly in the communist period (1944-89), Bulgarian bureaucrats and intellectuals have confronted the Muslim periphery in various ways, focusing on dress as a means of integration.

The veil and other Turco-Muslim garments were at times central to twentieth-century Bulgarian efforts to confront difference at the hidden and often obstinate periphery. Clothing reform, aimed

primarily at Muslim women, was an arena in which Bulgarian bureaucrats and intellectuals pondered and negotiated Bulgaria's place between 'East' and 'West', Europe and Asia, the past and the future. As a result, Muslims' garment choice became politicized, a mark of defiance or loyalty to the state and the nation. Both before and during the communist period, draping 'oriental' garments seemed incompatible with concepts of Bulgaria as modern and European.

Siberian Summer Study Abroad Program

A new study abroad program in Siberia will begin in early June and last until late July. For eight weeks, students will travel to various locations, including Novosibirsk, the Golden Altai mountains, and the Lake Baikal region. Courses include Peoples of Siberia, Conservation of Biodiversity in Theory and Practice, and Siberian Environmental Field Studies. All courses

will be taught in English and there is no language pre-requisite. This year's faculty advisers are Mark Sorenson (Anthropology) and Greg Gangi (Carolina Environmental Program). The application deadline is February 10, 2006. For more information, please visit <http://studyabroad.unc.edu> and <http://www.ccp.unc.edu/outreach/siberia>.

Clason Accepts Position at University of Chicago

Meredith Clason, a long-time valued member of the CSEEEES community, has accepted an offer to be the new Associate Director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies at the University of Chicago.

Clason received an MA in Russian Literature from UNC-CH in 1996, and began work at the Geological Sciences library. Before long, she became department manager of CSEEEES, and worked with then-Director Laura Janda during a period of substantial growth that saw both the creation of the MA Program in Russian and East European Studies, and the Title VI-funded Slavic and East European Language Resource Center (SEELRC), where she was the Project Coordinator for the past 4



Meredith Clason at her going-away party

years.

She also has a distinguished record of service to UNC-CH, including a two-year stint as an elected representative to the Employee Forum, which represents the interests of employees to the uni-

versity administration. Throughout her career at UNC-CH, Meredith remained an avid student of Slavic languages, studying Serbian-Croatian and Bulgarian; and she contributed her cooking and creative talents to a number of special receptions and K-12 outreach programs.

CSEEEES would like to thank Meredith for her many years of dedication, and wish her the best in her new position.

UNC history graduate returns for one-year teaching assignment

Sharon Kowalsky joined the faculty of the Department of History this fall as an adjunct assistant professor. She has taken over teaching duties for Don Raleigh, who is on leave with a Guggenheim Fellowship, while he finishes his latest book. Kowalsky finished her PhD at UNC in 2004. Her dissertation, "Making crime and sex Soviet: women, deviance, and the development of criminology in early Soviet Russia," focused on how the female criminal was understood and how these views related to attitudes of the 1890s-1930s.

After finishing her graduate studies, she accepted a post-doctorate position at Georgetown

University in Russian history. This fall she is teaching Soviet history courses at the graduate and undergraduate level. In the spring, she will teach a survey course of Russian history from 1861 to the present and a course on women in Russian and Soviet history.



Sharon Kowalsky

In addition to teaching, she is currently revising her dissertation into book form and is working on an article on infanticide in the late imperial period with a colleague in Sweden. She presented a paper at the recent American Association for the Advancement Slavic Studies conference on the profession of criminology in the 1920s and is planning on presenting at the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies in the spring.

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Diana Dumitru, a member of the World History Department, was a visiting scholar at CSEEEES in 2003-04, when she held a Junior Faculty Development Program fellowship from American Councils.

The following will take place in the spring but dates have not been determined yet. Please continue to check the CSEEEES website for updates.

- "A Prayer for Poland: Chopin's Sonata for Cello and Piano" by Andrew Willis, Professor of Piano at UNC-Greensboro
- "Multidimensional Image-creation through Sound Symbolism: Observations from Literary and Non-literary Texts in Czech, Japanese, and Other Languages" by Masako Fidler, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages at Brown University
- "Popular and Liturgical Music and Performances by East European Jews" by Marek Slobin, Professor and Chair of Music at Wesleyan University

The application deadline for Summer 2006 and Academic Year 2006-2007 **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships** is January 27, 2006. All application materials are to be submitted to the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies. Please contact Jeremy Pinkham (jpinkham@email.unc.edu) for more information.

In November, **Milada Anna Vachudova** (Political Science) was one of twelve academic experts to take part in the summit of the Club of Madrid, an organization of former world leaders engaged in the promotion of democracy. Recently, she gave a talk on her new book, "Europe Undivided," at the Central European University in Budapest and two lectures at the Faculty of Politics in Belgrade as part of a graduate course on the European Union. On 9 December, she took part in a conference organized by the U.S. State Department on the economic choices and the performance of Central and East European economies titled "Alternative Capitalisms."

Polish economist discusses country's future, benefits of EU membership

On November 14, Wojciech Bienkowski, from Warsaw University, spoke on the current economic situation in Poland and how the country has benefited from European Union membership. He began by reviewing various economic indicators, such as Gross Domestic Product, growth rates, and export-import ratios, to show that Poland has made improvements over the past decade. While unemployment remains high (17.5%), Poland has a growth rate higher than Western Europe, decreasing foreign debt, and on improving budget deficit. Bienkowski believes that the unemployment rate will improve as Poland finishes restructuring its economy.

Poland has already received

numerous benefits from EU membership despite joining less than two years ago. Entry opened up a large market for Polish products and eased border restrictions for Polish laborers to work in the West. Poland has also received EU grants and funding from the European Investment Bank to continue modernizing the economy. Membership acts as a sort of insurance policy that encourages foreign investment.

Poland still faces development problems. Bienkowski identifies three different economic routes Poland can take (the Anglo-Saxon model, the continental model, and the Scandinavian model). He advocates the Anglo-Saxon model, and feels that a *laissez faire* of the econ-

omy, a primary identifier of the Anglo-Saxon model, is best. He rejects the continental model, as it promotes protection for French and German agriculture to the detriment of Polish farmers, who desperately need help.

The October elections can potentially shift the direction Poland is taking economically. The new administration wishes to increase the budget deficit and maintain government ownership of key industries. It also wishes to heavily subsidize farmers and miners and to begin a large apartment building construction project that will cost billions. The government also wishes to renegotiate the Poland-EU membership agreement.

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Duke University and 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: Jennifer Pyclik

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