



inflections

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 2003 VOL. 8, NO. 2

UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke Celebrate Chekhov

During the 2003-2004 academic year, UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke are commemorating the centennial of Russian writer

Anton Chekhov's death with the celebration, "Chekhov Centennial

and Beyond 2004." The centennial is to be marked by conferences all over the world, including Moscow, Warsaw, Germany, and the US. The Slavic communities at Duke and UNC are noting the occasion with a series of exciting events taking place throughout the academic year.

These events began on October 3, when sixty Chekhov enthusiasts attended a showing of the 1999 Michael Cacoyannis film adaptation of *The Cherry Orchard* at UNC, followed by an animated discussion from faculty and students.

They continued on November 6, when over thirty attendees watched a showing

of key scenes from three film adaptations of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya", followed by a screening of the Andre Gregor/Wallace Shawn/Louis Malle film "Vanya on 42nd Street."

In the new year, events will resume on January 10 at UNC, where amateur actors are invited to participate in

on-the-spot performances of key scenes from Chekhov's plays.

On February 21, Chekhov's legacy in English will be the subject of a special session of the Blackburn Literary Festival at Duke, with Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Morgan, and Chekhov specialists from the scholarly community taking part.

In addition, during the first week in March, Chekhov's famous story "The Lady with a Dog" will be the focus of a special celebration, with duelling scholars from

both UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke participating in the event.

The spring semester celebration will culminate in a conference at UNC and Duke on April 2-4, sponsored by the UNC-Duke CSEEEES,

the Robertson Scholars Collaboration Fund, the Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures at UNC-CH and Duke, the Blackburn Literary Festival, and the Duke Office

- See Chekhov Page 3 -

MA Students Present Theses at Piedmont Slavic Colloquium



Major Jeff Jennette speaks about the conflict in Chechnya during the Piedmont Slavic Colloquium.

On December 7, Major Jeff Jennette and Annie Bland, second-year MA students in Russian and East European Studies at the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, presented their master's theses at the Piedmont Slavic Colloquium.

Jennette's thesis,

"Conflict Resolution in Chechnya: The Security Dilemma and Ripeness," explored the Russian military's involvement in Chechnya and possible outcomes of the conflict. According to Jennette, the conflict is not presently ripe for resolution, that is before resolution can be achieved, the dynamics of the conflict must change.

Bland's thesis, "Russian Criminals are the Best in the World: Russian Organized Crime in Brighton Beach Through the Eyes of *Novoe Russkoe Slovo*," focuses on the way in which *Novoe Russkoe Slovo*, the main Russian language newspaper

- See Piedmont Page 3 -



Image/Vtheater.net



Image/Vtheater.net

The Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) will hold its forty-second annual conference on March 18-20, 2004 in Roanoke, VA. SCSS is the oldest and largest affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Its purpose is to promote scholarship, education, and in all other ways to advance scholarly interest in Russian, Soviet, and East European studies in the southern region of the United States. Every year for over 40 years, SCSS has sponsored a conference, bringing together the finest scholars in the country in an intellectually challenging yet friendly atmosphere. For information regarding the conference or how to join SCSS, contact Harold Goldberg (hgoldberg@sewanee.edu) or visit the SCSS homepage at <http://www.sewanee.edu/faculty/goldberg/scss/>.

On March 10-11, 2004, World View and CSEEEES will hold a seminar on Eastern Europe at UNC-Chapel Hill. With a primary audience of K-12 and community college educators, the program will help participants better understand the region and incorporate Eastern European topics into classroom teaching. Registration is \$135 per person. Please visit the World View website at <http://www.unc.edu/world/> for more information.

Announcements

The Hampton Press published *Business as Usual: Continuity and Change in Central and Eastern European Media*, edited by **David L. Paletz** (Duke, Political Science) and Karol Jakubowicz.

- See Announcements page 3 -

Putin vs. the Oligarchs Kicks Off International Education Week



Jonathan Weiler discusses Mikhail Khodorkovsky's recent arrest.

On November 17, at a public discussion hosted by CSEEEES, Jonathan Weiler, Adjunct Professor of Russian and East European Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, spoke about the recent arrest of Yukos Oil CEO, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, and the implications of his arrest for larger political developments in Russia. Professor Weiler discussed three possible explanations for the arrest. First, he suggested

that Khodorkovsky is guilty of serious crimes and that his arrest is an attempt by Russian President Vladimir Putin to demonstrate that the rule of law is active and strong in Russia. Second, he explored an explanation that posits Khodorkovsky's arrest as a reaction to his recent forays into Russian politics, suggesting that Khodorkovsky may have crossed a line drawn by Putin at meetings with Russia's oligarchs in 2000 that essentially enabled the oligarchs to keep their fortunes in exchange for staying out of politics.

Finally, Weiler ex-

plained that some analysts have understood the arrest as an anti-market attack, that is, an attempt by Putin to crack-down on independent economic activity that he cannot control. He went on to discuss the impact that this event will have on Russian politics in general and more specifically on the recent parliamentary elections and upcoming March 2004 presidential elections. Weiler maintained that any criticism of the arrest will have little negative impact on Putin winning a second term in office, as this move was widely popular among the electorate.

Hungarian Specialist Joins UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Thomas Cooper, visiting lecturer in Hungarian Culture and Language recently joined the UNC-Chapel Hill department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Professor Cooper received his Ph.D. in comparative literature and central Eurasian studies from Indiana University in April 2003. His dissertation compared the work of nineteenth century Hungarian author Zsigmond Kemeny with authors such as Fedor Dostoyevsky, Henry James, and Virginia Woolf.

Prior to his study at Indiana, he spent a year



teaching English literature at Debrecen University in Hungary. He also spent a Fulbright year and then a Fulbright-Hayes year at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. He has held FLAS fellowships in Hungarian and Romanian. Cooper is interested in translation theory and he is currently planning a comparative project that will examine the

literatures of the territories of the former Habsburg empire and the way in which language reform occurred during the nineteenth century.

At UNC, he is teaching the newly offered Hungarian language cycle as well as the courses "Romanticism and National Identity in Eastern Europe," and "A Cultural History of Modern Hungary." Cooper, who received his undergraduate degree in comparative literature from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1994, said, "I'm thrilled to be back at UNC, specializing in what I was prepared to teach. I couldn't imagine being in a better situation."

SEELRC Welcomes Visiting Scholars

Dagmar Divjak

During a six month stay at UNC-Chapel Hill funded by the Belgian National Science Foundation, Dagmar Divjak is working with Professor Laura Janda at the Slavic and East European Language Resource Center, a Title VI center at CSEES devoted to developing language acquisition materials. Divjak received an MA in East European Languages and Cultures from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium in 1997. Since October 2000 she has been working on a dissertation in

Russian linguistics within the framework of cognitive grammar. She is interested in linguistic categorization, and more specifically, in how complex situations are expressed in Russian, and how the form of the expression relates to the way human beings experience and categorize these situations. According to Divjak, this human perspective on complex situations can be studied on two levels: on the coarse-grained level of constructions that make it possible to present an experience in different ways, and on the fine-grained level of lexical elements that are

used in those constructions to specify the experience.

Sung-ho Choi

Sung-ho Choi is an Associate Professor in the Russian Department at Chungbuk National University in Korea, where he teaches Russian language and linguistics. As a visiting scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill, he is conducting research on Russian morphology, specifically on the synchrony and diachrony of Russian declension. Choi is also working under the direction of Professor Laura Janda.

Announcements

In May 2003, **Laura Janda** (UNC, Slavic Languages and Literatures) was awarded the A. Ronald Walton Award for a Distinguished Career in the Teaching of Less Commonly Taught Languages by the National Council of Organizations for Less Commonly Taught Languages.

On December 2, **Milada Vachudova** (UNC, Political Science) participated in the "Seminar on the Czech Republic for Ambassador Designate William Cabanis" sponsored by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the U.S. Department of State and held in Arlington, Virginia.

Dom Plekhanova in St. Petersburg has requested Emeritus Professor of History **Sam Baron** (UNC) to submit papers relative to his long-time research on G. V. Plekhanov. The papers are to be catalogued in a section of Baron's documents relating to Plekhanov and published in the journal *Istoricheskii arkhiv*.

A History of Women's Writing in Russia published by Cambridge University Press (2002) and edited by Adele Barker and **Jehanne Gheith** (Duke, Slavic Languages & Literatures) was awarded the 2003 Heldt Prize for the best book in Russian and East in Russian and East European Studies.

Paula Michaels (UNC Ph.D. in Russian history) was recently awarded the 2003 Heldt Prize for the best book in Russian and East European Studies written by a woman.

Gregory Taff (UNC Ph.D. candidate, Department of Geography) is currently in Riga, Latvia on a Fulbright Fellowship. He is conducting research for a project studying how land use has changed in Latvia's Gauja National Park since Latvia's independence and subsequent privatization of over 80 percent of the Park.

Piedmont (from page 1)

in the Brighton Beach Russian community in New York City, has represented Russian organized crime. In her thesis, Bland argues that "the newspaper's romanticization of and fascination with the topic only perpetuates Russian organized crime."

After graduation, Jennette will work in Tajikistan, continuing his service as a Foreign Area Officer in the US Army. Bland plans to move to New York City to find work with an organization involved in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Chekhov (from page 1)

of the Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies. World-famous Moscow Chekhov scholar Vladimir Kataev will be joined by other internationally known specialists, as well as faculty, graduate students and undergraduates to discuss Chekhov's legacy. Events will include scholarly and creative papers, a Chekhov-themed dinner, a scene-writing competition and performance of dramatic episodes from Chekhov's works, and a book-discussion group. All members of the academic, literary, and dramatic communities are encouraged to

submit proposals for papers of no more than twelve pages in length for the conference. Creative as well as scholarly work is welcome, including imitations and parodies of Chekhov's plays and stories. People interested in presenting dramatic performances of monologues are encouraged to contact the organizers of the conference. Proposals should be sent by February 15, 2004, to Professor Carol Flath (flath@duke.edu) at (919) 660-3140 or Box 90259, Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literature Duke University Language Bldg. 310 Durham, NC 27708.

Duke Adds Russianist to History Department



Anna Krylova,
Assistant Professor
of History, Duke
University

Russian historian Anna Krylova joined the department of history at Duke University this fall.

Professor Krylova comes to Duke after

teaching at the University of South Carolina and the Institute of Eastern European History at Tuebingen University in Germany. She received

her Ph.D. from John Hopkins in fall 2000. Her dissertation examined Soviet modernity in life and fiction in the 1930s. Professor Krylova is a cultural historian whose work seeks to deconstruct mentalities and ways of thinking to ascertain how social events are understood and interpreted. Her research explores the various layers of cultural production. Her article, "Beyond Spontaneity-Consciousness Paradigm: 'Class Instinct' as a Promis-

ing Historical Analysis," will appear in the spring 2003 issue of *Slavic Review*. At Duke, Professor Krylova teaches classes on Russian history, including a class, "Stalinism and Nazism," that investigates the different conceptions of class and race in Germany and Russia and how these conceptions influenced cultural policies. She looks forward to working with Duke's students and being a part of its open and active academic community.

UNC at Chapel Hill Center
223 E. Franklin St. CB# 5125
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5125

www.unc.edu/depts/slavic
tel: (919) 962-090; fax: (919) 962-2494
email: slavic@email.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

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. *inflections* is a quarterly publication of the Joint Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies. Editor: Robert M. Jenkins; Managing Editor: Jeffrey Long

Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies
223 E. Franklin Street
Campus Box 5125
UNC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5125