



inflections

The newsletter of the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Durham and Chapel Hill, NC.

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Southeast Europe Forum Inaugurated

ON APRIL 21, the Southeast European Studies Association (SEESA) concluded its inaugural conference held at UNC-CH with a roundtable of distinguished scholars under the chair of Robert Greenberg (UNC-CH).

Susan Woodward (CUNY-Grad Center) noted that in addition to nation building and integration into the European state system, the states of Southeast Europe face the imposing challenges of fiscal crisis and bankruptcy. John Treadway (Univ. of Richmond) reviewed recent developments in Montenegro, including the new agreement between Montenegro and Serbia. Ekaterina Nikova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) offered a dualistic perspective that noted both the legacies of “twisted socialist development”



Onur Yildirim of Middle East Technical Univ., Ankara

and the fact that the distance from the West could be measured in decades rather than eternity.

A number of specific points that aid the understanding of the region, like the culture of grievance and grudges and the importance of Diaspora, were made by Victor Friedman (Univ. of Chicago). A lively discussion followed, with much focus on the roles of Europe and the United States in the future of Southeast Europe.

About 100 people from a dozen countries attended the two-day conference April 20-21. In addition, the 13th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore was held in tandem April 18-20.

Nebojsa Bjelakovic of Carleton University in Ottawa, who delivered a paper on “Rec-



John Treadway (University of Richmond) speaks at the panel discussion while Susan Woodward (CUNY) looks on.

conciliation, Truth, and Justice in the Post-Yugoslav States, reported that “I think we all felt at home during the conference. I can not say that I was at that

many conferences but this one was so far the most relaxed and warm in terms of environment, yet the papers and ideas presented were interesting and discussions stimulating.”

On a similar note, Tanya Ivanova, a graduate student at Ohio State University, said “I was able to meet so many people and to listen to extremely interesting papers during those 3 days in Chapel Hill! I think this was a great opportunity for graduate students like me who wish to get familiar with a scholarly work of a high level.” □

Russian Ambassador speaks on bilateral relations

IN A SPEECH AT UNC on April 24, the Russian Ambassador said that September 11 marked a genuine turning point in relations between Moscow and Washington.

The next goal, said Ambassador Yury V. Ushakov, is to “make sure our joint fight against terrorism is not just an episode in Russian/American relations

but the beginning of a true relationship and friendship.” Speaking on the topic of *U.S./Russian Relations Before and After September 11th*, Ushakov also claimed that Russia was the first country to experience modern terrorism—at the hands of Chechen terrorists.

Ushakov began by recollect-

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Conference takes on Russians at the movies



Edward Tiryakian (Sociology, Duke University) visited the EU in Brussels in connection with the subject of EU expansion in East Europe, and its bearing on state policy in the Baltic states toward ethnic minorities. He went on to visit Estonia and Latvia April 10-19 to meet with social scientists working on related questions of ethnic and national identity.

Jerry D. Saye, Professor at UNC's School of Information and Library Science, has been named Fulbright Scholar to Slovenia for 2002-2003. He'll be teaching at the University of Ljubljana in the Department of Library and Information Science and Book Studies, Faculty of Arts.

The Duke-UNC Slavic and East European Language Resource Center (SEELRC) received a second award from Title VI (US Dept of Education) covering the period from 2002 to 2006. SEELRC, which has existed since 1999, is the first and only national Language Resource Center for Slavic and East European languages, as designated and funded by the US Dept of Education.

RUSSIANS IN HOLLYWOOD, a conference that focused on the work of Russian émigrés during the heyday of Hollywood, was held on April 12th and 13th at UNC. Professor Beth Holmgren of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature spearheaded the project, which was funded by the Dean's Office, the



Beth Holmgren

Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, and the UNC-Duke Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies.

Olga Matich launched the

conference with her lecture *Russians in Hollywood/Hollywood on Russians*, which discussed the role of those Russians who had been forced to flee to the U.S. after the Revolution because of their noble birth. Here their social ranking was of no importance, and so they were "proletarianized." Ironically, these actors found themselves playing the role of Russian nobles. They relived their past lives through the eyes of the great Hollywood directors, who often claimed to know more about Imperial Russia than the Russians themselves.

Oksana Bulgakowa's lecture *From Europe to Hollywood: Transformation of Russian Stereotypes* was next on the agenda. Holmgren rounded off the daytime events by turning to a lighter subject with her lecture, *Cossack Cowboys, Screwball Stalinists: The Russians in Hollywood's Genres*, focusing on the representation of Russians in comedies and musicals.

The conference reconvened Saturday morning for a screening of *Male and Female*, directed by Cecil B. DeMille and starring Gloria Swanson. The film tells the story of an upper class British family which becomes stranded on a desert island. On the surface it had nothing whatsoever to do with Rus-

sia. However, in his lecture, *Nationalizing the Villain: On Hollywood Types with Russian Names*, Yuri Tsivian talked about how such silent films took on new meanings under the Soviets. Instead of banning foreign films, as was the policy until 1922, the Soviets created a committee



Yuri Tsivian

that re-edited foreign films so they could pass muster. As editors changed captions and cut whatever they felt like, a movie could take on a new, perhaps even opposite meaning. The rich British family of *Male and Female* became American millionaires, and their servants were Russian royalty who had fled from the Soviet Union and who were getting what they deserved, for what could be worse than working for privileged Americans? Sadly, the re-edited version of this movie no longer exists, but Tsivian was able to reconstruct it by reading contemporary reviews. □

SEMESTER IN REVIEW

FROM PAGE 1

Russian Ambassador

ing his personal experiences on the morning of September 11th. He recalled that the phone call he made to Moscow that morning was the shortest he had ever made to the home office. “Watch CNN!” was all he said.

Ushakov said he believes that Russian and American attitudes toward the current situation in the Middle East are a testimony to our improved relationship. He explains that during the Cold War, we would have had conflicting approaches, but today we have similar goals. The ambassador said that Moscow no longer feels any jealousy toward the U.S., and the Russian administration is in full support of Secretary of State Colin Powell and his mission.

In the future, Ushakov hopes to improve trade relations between the two countries, for as of today the Russian Federation is the 31st most important trading partner for the U.S. He claimed that Russia has taken many steps to make its economic environment more investor friendly, pointing to the R.F.’s impressive economic growth over the last three years. His goal is to have the U.S. officially recog-

nize the R.F. as a market economy and to be accepted by the World Trade Organization. Before he was ambassador to the U.S., Ushakov was the ambassador to the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Bosnian Group Visits

ON APRIL 5th, students and faculty from the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies met with Bosnian business men and women traveling on a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

The group was seeking to promote small business development in Bosnia, as well as to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to the region. While at UNC, the visitors also attended a conference at the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. In the discussion at the Center, the group was interested in hearing opinions about the role of the international community in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in exchanging ideas about possibilities for economic development there. The Triangle was the last stop on the visitors’ tour, which

also included Washington, DC, Seattle, and Atlanta. While in the area, the group was hosted by the International Visitors Council of Raleigh.

Romanian Delegation Arrives

A DELEGATION of six professors from Romania visited the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies on April 25th to learn about the UNC educational system as part of a World Bank-sponsored trip. They also met with faculty from the Economics Department, the UNC Libraries, and the School of Social Work. Harvard and MIT are next on their agenda before returning to their home institution, the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, which focuses on cybernetics, statistics, and economics.

At the meeting, Dr. Robert Jenkins gave an overview of American higher education and fielded many questions. The delegation was particularly interested in the admissions process, the distribution of bureaucratic jurisdiction, and day-to-day university affairs such as class size and pedagogical devices, as well as to hear about students’ experiences. □

FROM PAGE 2

The Directors of SEELRC are **Laura Janda** at UNC and **Edna Andrews** at Duke. The cardinal purpose of SEELRC is to improve our national capacity to teach and learn Slavic and East European languages by supporting teacher training, research, material and technology development, and the establishment of a sophisticated, easily accessible information dissemination network.

SEELRC is guided by a national policy committee composed of outstanding scholars in the field of Slavic linguistics in the US, who oversee the realization of various projects. Among these projects are creation of technologically enhanced pedagogical materials for Slavic and East European languages, a 10-day annual summer institute for instructors, *Glossos*, a peer-reviewed multilingual electronic journal dedicated to linguistic research and language pedagogy, and sponsorship of significant national and international conferences in the field. Samples of some of these projects and other information about SEELRC can be viewed at www.seelrc.org.

Recent Grads

of the UNC Russian and East European Studies MA Program

Claire Horn

Thesis: Is it Just “Hot Air”? Russia’s Participation in the Climate Change Regime (Advisor: Douglas Crawford-Brown)

The Russian Federation, a fossil fuel producing country, is actively involved in the Kyoto Protocol, an accord aiming to limit fossil fuel consumption.



This paradoxical stance is explored through an investigation of the actors involved in Russian climate policymaking. The roles and motivations of the president, ministries, businesses, environmental groups and international community are discussed, as well as the interactions of these groups during the negotiations on the Protocol.

Lynn Whiteheart

Thesis: Coordinating Ambiguous Mandates in the Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Advisor: Robert Jenkins)



The Dayton agreement was signed in 1995

and laid out numerous tasks and objectives for international organizations to assist domestic officials in reconstructing multi-eth-

nic political and social institutions. However, the agreement did not specify how the organizations were to coordinate among themselves and with local officials to achieve these objectives. Building upon my experience as an intern with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the thesis reviews the evolution of the international organizational strategies and the importance of property laws in refugee and displaced person return.

Mike Ashford

Thesis: From Ideology to Pragmatism: The Shift in Russian Views Regarding Ballistic Missile Defense (Advisor: Eric Mlyn)



The changing Russian views towards ballistic missile defense are examined over three periods: the beginnings of BMD (1950s – early 1980s), the debate over the Strategic Defense Initiative (mid 1980s – early 1990s), and the debate over NMD (early 1990s – present). Based on this analysis, I suggest a gradual change has occurred amongst the Russian/Soviet leadership from an ideological to pragmatic approach regarding a U.S. national missile defense system. As a result, the U.S. has an opportunity to develop a system that does not threaten Russia, something which would be in both countries’ best interests.

Emily Fleming

Thesis: Kde Domov Můj? A Study of Czech Émigrés of the Communist Era (Advisor: Milada Vachudová)



Utilizing interviews, memoirs, and data

from secondary sources, this study’s objective was to determine who decided to emigrate from communist Czechoslovakia and what motivated them to leave. This study assesses what émigrés’ expectations were at the time of their departure and how they behaved once in the West. This study also examines reasons individuals did or did not decide to return after 1989.

Bill Hein

Thesis: Prestige and Provincialism: the Shifting Boundaries of Slavic Identity in Macedonia (Advisor: Robert Greenberg)



The struggle for the loyalty of the Slavic inhabitants of Macedonia beginning in the late 19th century presents at least one major quandary. Out of one Slavic mass developed people with identities as disparate as Greek, Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Serbian. The factors of prestige (desire for a prestigious identity and social mobility), provincialism (preference for local rule and communication in the vernacular), and religious tradition are used to explain these changes.

NEW FACES

Susan Crate

Susan Crate recently received her PhD from the Ecology curriculum at UNC and will be teaching a course based on her



dissertation *Cows, Kin and Capitalism: The Cultural Ecology of Viliui Sakha in the Post-Socialist Era*. Crate also received her MA from the UNC department of Folklore in 1994 for her thesis *Dance of Life, Circle of Life: Ahyokhai as the Sakhas' Emergent Voice*. For this work, Crate researched the Yhyakh festival in Siberia, documenting songs, stories, dances and other aspects of the culture of the Sakha people. In the summer of 1991, Crate photographed the cultural and natural heritage of Lake Baikal for Sierra Club Books. She is fluent in both Russian and Sakha.

Next fall, Susan Crate will be offering a course entitled *Cultures and Environments of Asiatic Russia* (RUES 199/ENST 100). The course will be offered through the Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies and Carolina Environmental Program. The course will provide both a general understanding of the contemporary plight of indigenous peoples around the globe and an histori-

cal, cultural, and ecological analysis of the peoples and environments of Asiatic Russia. Although the post-Soviet indigenous experience is in many ways unique, it also shares much common ground with other post-colonial peoples across the world. Through readings, discussions, and lectures students will examine through case studies how the processes of colonialism, modernization and globalization have affected indigenous peoples in general and the peoples in Asiatic Russia.

Chad Bryant

EAST EUROPEAN historian Dr. Chad Bryant will be joining the UNC faculty next fall. Dr. Bryant received his PhD in December 2001 from the University of California at Berkeley. Bryant's dissertation, *Making the Czechs German: Nationality and Nazi Rule in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1945*, was also the subject of the lecture he delivered here last winter. During the lecture, Bryant explained the nebulous nature of nationality for some groups living in Czechoslovakia during this period. Bryant calls these people "amphibians" because they were able to change their national identity according to the demands of the current government, thus

improving their own lives.

Previous courses that he has taught include *Everyday Communism in Eastern Europe* and *Globetrotters: A History of Travel in the Twentieth Century*. Besides being fluent in Czech and German, Dr. Bryant is studying Polish. In the fall he will be teaching History 204D, *Topics in Russian History*.

Major Norman P. Litterini



Major Norman P. Litterini joined the Russian and East European Studies

MA program at UNC. Originally from Pittsburgh, he is a graduate of West Point in the Management Science/Systems Engineering Subtrack. He served two tours as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, and one tour with the 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea. He was designated as a Foreign Area Officer and later promoted to the rank of Major. In this capacity, he served at the Marshall Center, Garmisch, Germany, with a stint as liaison officer to the Russian forces in Bosnia, and finally, as the Moscow organizer for the Partnership for Peace Consortium Conference in June 2001. This was the first NATO conference ever held in Russia. Norm is married to Lara Hopper of Clarksville, Tennessee, and has one son, Stephen, six months. □

CONGRATULATIONS

The Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies is proud to congratulate two of our affiliated faculty members as recipients of major UNC teaching awards.

ELEONORA MAGOMEDOVA, lecturer in the department of Slavic Languages and Literature received one of the five Tanner Faculty Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Eleonora is one of our finest assets in Russian language instruction and is well loved and appreciated by her students.

DONALD J. RALEIGH, professor of Russian History, received one of the four Teaching Awards for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction. Don is a great champion of the study of our area of the world within our university and beyond, and he is also an invaluable member of our Advisory Board.

Congratulations to Eleonora and Don, and to all of our affiliates for continued achievement in Slavic and East European studies.

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