



inflections

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Burch Seminar Returns to Vienna, Bosnia-Herzegovina to Investigate Role of International Organizations



Burch Seminar students at OSCE headquarters in Vienna

This summer a group of fourteen UNC-CH undergraduate students and one graduate student accompanied Dr. Robert Jenkins, director of the UNC-CH Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies, to Vienna and Bosnia-Herzegovina as members of the Burch Field Research Seminar. The students spent six weeks in Vienna and two weeks in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including trips to Mostar, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Livno, and Dubrovnik, Croatia. The purpose of the seminar was to explore the role that international organizations play in European secu-

urity and in the reconstruction process in the post-conflict Balkans. A central focus was the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE), which has its headquarters in Vienna. During the seminar, students took classes on international relations, European security, and the breakup of and international intervention in Yugoslavia. Class work was coupled with field observation, which consisted of meetings with a wide array of international organizations, including the OSCE, the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime,

the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Helsinki Committee. According to Dr. Jenkins, a large part of the seminar's value lies in the fact that in addition to class work, "students actually get to see international organizations in action."

One of the highlights of the trip occurred when students met with UNC-CH alumna Lynne Whiteheart (MA RUES 2002), who was working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. She organized a tour of the canton of the Livno region, offering students the opportunity to interact with members of the international community, including a number of young Bosnians working for international organizations in the area. Whiteheart noted that, "for students interested in the work and operations of international programs, the Burch seminar is quite valuable be-

cause it allows students to see all aspects of operations."

Lily West, a junior journalism and political science major who participated in the program, echoed Whiteheart's sentiments. "It was valuable because it exposed us to a part of the world that we do not always have the chance to explore on campus," said West. "The opportunity to do actual hands-on research in the region allowed me to gather material that ultimately ended up in my final paper for the course. The seminar is a unique and valuable opportunity that should be taken advantage of by all students."



Murray McCullough, head of the European Commission Office, Mostar, meets with Burch Seminar Students/photo by Robert Jenkins

Events

Profs. Carol Flath from Duke and Christopher Putney of UNC have received a Robertson Grant to support a year-long project commemorating the centennial of Anton Chekhov's death. During the **Year of Chekhov**, all interested students, faculty, and members of the community, are invited to participate in a series of events, culminating in a conference to be held in April, 2004. On Thursday, November 6th, there will be a screening at Duke of *Vania on 42nd Street*, an adaptation of Chekhov's play by Andre Gregory, Wallace Shawn, and Louis Malle. Time and location to be announced. For more information, send email to Prof. Flath flath@duke.edu or Prof. Putney crputney@email.unc.edu.

Milada Vachudova, assistant professor of political science, will deliver a talk entitled "The European Union, the Balkans and Turkey: Can 'Soft Power' Bring Stability and Democracy?" on October 14th at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.

On November 6th, 12-2 p.m., in John Lindsay Morehead II Lounge, Johnston Center, **Professor Thomas Cooper**, visiting lecturer in Hungarian Culture in the UNC-CH Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, will offer a lively introduction to the marvelous "second language" of Hungary - the musical masterpieces of its world-famous composers. He will talk briefly about the distinctions and innovations of Hungarian music, both folk and classical, and then perform excerpts from works by Ferenc Liszt, Bela Bartok, and Zoltan Kodaly. World View's upcoming symposium, "**Globalization:**

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2nd-Year MA Students Spend Summers Abroad



Will Bettmann on the shore of Lake Baikal near the village of Bolshiye Koty with three other participants of the Tahoe-Baikal Institute

Tahoe-Baikal Institute

Will Bettmann spent the summer with the Tahoe-Baikal Institute (TBI), an organization founded in 1990 with the broad goal of helping to preserve Lake Tahoe in California and Lake Baikal in Siberia. Bettmann took part in TBI's annual summer environmental exchange, in which approximately 10 participants from countries in the former Soviet Union and 10 participants from North America spend five weeks in each country examining various environmental issues.

Bettmann said his favorite part of the the program was the cultural exchange aspect. "We had a great time together as a group, and we managed to get a lot of work done. We also sang and swam a lot," he said. Part of the summer exchange every year includes the completion of a two-week project with small

groups in each country. Bettmann's project at Lake Baikal involved an analysis of the forests in a nature preserve along the south-east

corner of the lake, a project which relates directly to his thesis on forestry in Siberia.

Bettmann said there were significant differences between the American and Russian sides of the program, but that each was useful and interesting. "In Tahoe, our project was a little more scientifically rigorous. We were working with GIS, surveying equipment, and biological concepts that some of the participants with science PhDs were probably more comfortable with. At Lake Baikal, we spent a lot of time on our own projects, walking through the woods."

Leto u Beogradu

This summer Amanda Jacobson spent eight weeks in Belgrade, Serbia, with side trips to Novi Sad and Obrenovac, a suburb of Belgrade. Jacobson studies federalism, politics, and history of the former Yugoslavia and the Balkans. Her thesis, which focuses on federalism in Serbia,

was one of the reasons she decided to go to Belgrade. The other reason was language study and immersion.

In Belgrade, Jacobson took Serbian classes at Azbukum language school. She commented, "At first Belgrade was much better than I expected. I lived in an apartment in downtown Belgrade. It was a remarkably safe city. I walked around many nights by myself. However, after the first



Old Belgrade from the Sava Bridge/ photo by Amanda Jacobson

month I began to notice some of the problems that Serbia is facing in trying to rebuild itself politically, socially and economically. There are a lot of infrastructure problems, such as a lack of ATMs, city planning projects that have not been completed and restaurants with no customers. There are also many ruined buildings from the NATO bombing of Belgrade in 1999 that Serbia still does not have the money or man power to rebuild. It was depressing to see a beautiful old building next to one which had been destroyed.

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Beograd (from page 2)

“Despite this, the people of Belgrade and Serbia are wonderful, friendly and generous, always willing to stop and talk. I encountered no animosity when people found out I was American. In fact, they were more curious than anything else. One acquaintance even asked if I would come back to America and tell people that the Serbs did not hate them in hopes that Americans would develop a positive rather than negative image of Serbs. My experience is not one I will soon forget.”

Poland’s Return to Europe

Scott Griffin spent two weeks touring Poland observing the mood of the nation right before it held its national referendum on joining the European Union. “It’s amazing to see how much Poland has changed in the 10 years since my first visit there,” said Griffin. “It’s also encouraging to see the level of debate and public engagement on this issue, from street demonstrations to full-blown media campaigns. I think this bodes well for the future of the Polish Republic.” Griffin divided most of his time between Warsaw, Krakow and Gdansk and included some time for sightseeing. He noted, “one of the most interesting excursions was a visit to

the birthplace of Polish composer, Frederic Chopin, which included an afternoon concert of the composer’s music.”

Evaluating Poland’s Response to the Conflict in Iraq

John Surface spent three weeks of his summer in Poland, catching up on old contacts made from working in education there for seven years. During his trip, he was fortunate enough to be introduced to several senators in the Polish Sejm and interview them regarding their views on Polish foreign policy and the consequences of openly siding with the United States in the dispute over the Iraq conflict.

Surface noted that Senator Zbigniew Romaszewski, a representative of the Law and Justice Party who also works with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, portrayed the decision as realpolitik. He explained that the strong support given the US on the UN resolution was actually in direct conflict with Polish domestic public opinion and the personal views of most Polish politicians. He went on to state that the decision to disagree publicly with the French and many of the other European states was a platform from which to express the Poles’ strong discontent with the EU over the man-

ner in which the accession process was being imposed and the conformity demanded by Brussels in matters of foreign policy.

Moving Together Through Moscow and Vladimir

Jeffrey Long spent his summer studying Russian in Vladimir, a city on Russia’s historic Golden Ring. He studied Russian from the end of May until the beginning of August and then spent his remaining time in Russia travelling and conducting research for his



“I’m worse than whom?” Jeff Long outside the Moscow offices of Moving Together/photo by Konstantin Lebedev

master’s thesis, a project which will examine the well-financed, pro-Putin youth movement, “Idushchie Vmeste,” or Moving Together. Moving Together has garnered a significant amount of press attention recently for demonstrations against such Russian authors as Vladimir Sorokin, Victor Pelevin and

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What It Means and How to Teach It, will be held at the Kenan-Flagler Business School on October 20-21. Title VI Centers, including CSEEEES, are co-sponsoring the program. General sessions will help define the broad issues of globalization and breakout sessions will focus on global education initiatives throughout the state and the country. The primary audience will be K-12 and community college educators, but others are welcome to register (\$135 per person). To learn more or register, visit the World View website at: www.unc.edu/world.

A **Czech film series** will run throughout the 2003-04 academic year at UNC-CH. The series is organized by Prof. Laura Janda. For information visit: <http://www.unc.edu/~lajanda/Czconv-film.html>.

For information about upcoming events sponsored by the UNC-CH Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures see <http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavdept/spektakl.html>.

Announcements

A new book by **Edna Andrews** (Director of CSEEEES at Duke), *Conversations with Lotman: The Implications of Cultural Semiotics in Language, Literature, and Cognition*, was published by the University of Toronto Press as part of the series Toronto Studies in Semiotics and Communication

Sam Baron (UNC-CH Emeritus Prof. History) had his article “Anatomia izhi i ee razoblachenie” in *Otechestvennaia istoriia*. He pre-

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sented two lectures at the University of Washington, Seattle in May 2003. Along with Cathy A. Frierson, he edited *Adventures in Historical Research: Reminiscences of American Scholars from the Cold War to the Present*.

Carol Flath (Slavic Languages and Literatures, Duke) has won Duke's Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for 2003. Her article "Anna Karenina: Translation, Literalism, and the Life of Art" appears in the latest issue of *Tolstoi Studies Journal*.

In Moscow, from May 14-15, 2003, **David N. McNelis** of the Carolina Environmental Program participated in an international workshop designed to address problems associated with the management of spent nuclear fuel and the selection of a site for its storage. The workshop was sponsored by Transmutation Technologies and hosted by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Jerry D. Saye (Library and Information Science) returned in July from a six month stay in Ljubljana, Slovenia as a Fulbright Scholar. While he was there he taught at the Department of Library and Information Science and Book Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Sharon Kowalsky (History) published an article, "Who's Responsible for Female Crime: Gender, Deviance, and the Development of Soviet Social Norms in Revolutionary Russia," in the July 2003 issue of *The Russian Review*. She received a Quinn Fellowship from the UNC History Department for 2003-2004 to complete her dissertation, "Making Crime and Sex Soviet: Women, Deviance, and the Development of Criminology in Early Soviet Russia."

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New MA Students at the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies

Ben Foster



Ben Foster graduated in 2001 from the University of Kentucky with a B.A. in Russian and Modern Literature. He spent the fall semester of 2000 in St. Petersburg studying language, and has since lived in New York City and Lexington, KY. His interests have shifted westward, as he is currently studying Czech and Hungarian and focusing his studies in the political and social disciplines. He married Angella in July of this summer.

Jessica Herzog



Jessica Herzog is a 2003 graduate of Penn State University, where she earned a BA in history and women's studies. After studying abroad in Budapest, Hungary during her junior year, Jessica decided to pursue her interest in Central European history further by researching women's participation in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution for her undergraduate thesis. Excited to be able to study Hungarian at UNC, she plans to continue studying women's issues in the area.

Polina Kozak



Polina Kozak grew up in St. Petersburg, Russia. She attended Russian State Pedagogical University for three years, majoring in English and minoring in German. This past year, she received a BA in Russian

from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to UNC, Polina spent her summer in Northern Virginia learning about cable television and creating promotional presentations for the Russian World television channel. During the summer, she also wrote an article on weapons of mass destruction and terrorism under the supervision of Dr. Gerrold Post of George Washington University, which she hopes to see published soon.

Li Ma



Li Ma is from the Jiang Su province in the south of China. In 2001 she graduated from Peking University with a BA in Russian language and literature and then went on to get an MA in linguistics from the same university. Li also has a double major in economics. Her research will most likely be linked to the Russian economic situation.

Sara Slye



Sara Slye has a BA in Russian studies from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. She has been to Taiwan, Russia, and Spain in pursuit of language acquisition, but her family lives in the Carolinas. At UNC, she plans to work toward an MA in Russian Studies with a concentration in International Law. Sara has two miniature pinschers.

Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies Receives New NRC Grant

The Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian & East European Studies is pleased to announce that it has again received a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) grant for the 2003-2006 period. The Center received \$266,149, for 2003-2004, with similar levels expected in the following two years of the grant. The Center also received \$456,000 for 2003-2004 for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. The grant makes it possible for each campus to award eight FLAS fellowships for the aca-

demical year award and an additional four fellowships for summer study. The FLAS awards also continue for the final two years of the grant cycle.

At UNC, the grant offers support for a new faculty position to teach Russian and/or post-Soviet politics, with a joint appointment in the Departments of Political Science and the Curriculum in International and Area Studies. A search to fill the position is currently underway. UNC will also sponsor the spring 2004 visit of Dr. Miroslav Vanek, Director of the Center for Oral History at the Institute of Contemporary His-

tory, the Czech Academy of Science. Dr. Vanek will be teaching a seminar, "Political Elites, Opposition, and Youth at the End of Czech Communism: Using the Oral History Method."

CSEEEES will work toward meeting Title VI teacher training priorities by assisting World View, including a spring 2004 seminar for teachers and administrators, and the International Social Studies Project at UNC. Among other projects aided in the 2003-2004 year will be a Serbo-Croatian language textbook project by Professor Ivana Vuletic and a con-

ference organized by Professor John Pickles on the impact of the global apparel industry in Eastern Europe.

At Duke a series of conferences are planned for 2003-2004: "Internationalizing the Curriculum," "Turkey's Role in the New Security Environment in the Near East," "Economic and Political Liberalization in Post-Communist Regions," and "Media and Democracy." Also to be supported are seminars on "Art and Dissidence," "Polish Culture," and "Globalization and Urban Spaces."

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Victor Yerofeyev, authors *Moving Together* claims have denigrated Russian culture. Long commented, "In addition to the chance to improve my Russian, the highlight of my trip was definitely the opportunity to meet with members of *Moving Together* in both Moscow and Vladimir and to begin to understand how this organization views its role in Russian society."

International Conflict Processes at MGIMO

Major Jeff Jennette spent a month in Moscow from May to June at the Mos-

cow Institute for International Relations (MGIMO). He and 11 other UNC students, attended the POLI 149 International Conflict Processes class jointly taught by Professor Tim McKeown of UNC's Political Science faculty and Professor Oleg Barabanov of the Russian Institute for Security Studies. The students also attended a course on political culture in Russia. While at the school, the students were able to attend a session of the Russian Duma and a speech by President Hu of China on the topic of Russian-Chinese cooperation. During their stay in Russia, Major Jennette and the group were able to visit St Petersburg for the 300th anniversary celebration, and

to see many of the museums and sights of Moscow. The students got to experience Russian culture by living in the dorms with other international students from the former Soviet Republics, and by making new friends. For those who already spoke Russian, the trip was a chance to improve their language skills, and for those with little or no background in the language it was a crash course in basic survival Russian. Major Jennette also took a 34 hour train trip to visit friends in Yoshkar-Ola, the capital of the Mari-El Republic. Jeff says, "getting out of Moscow lets you see the REAL Russia, not just Moscow."

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R. Stockton Butler (MARUES2001) contributed to a General Accounting Office report entitled "Weapons of Mass Destruction: Additional Russian Cooperation Needed to Facilitate U.S. Efforts to Improve Security at Russian Sites." He is currently working on a project examining U.S. efforts to eliminate weapons-grade plutonium production in Russia and recently returned from a site visit to the closed city of Sverdlovsk in Siberia.

Nick Ganson (History) received ACTR, UNC Off-Campus, and Fulbright Fellowships to conduct research in Russia and Ukraine on his dissertation project, a study of the famine of 1946-47.

Marko Dumancic (History) received a special commendation from the summer language institute at Middlebury College awarded to the best student in level-seven Russian.

UNC-CH and Duke Celebrate 300 Years of St. Petersburg



Professor Beth Holmgren, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, reads a selection at "An Evening in St. Petersburg."/photo by Jeff Long

On September 19-20, the UNC-CH and Duke Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures celebrated the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. Duke sponsored a multidisciplinary conference, "St. Petersburg: Three Centuries of Music, Art, Literature and Culture," which included roundtable panels on St. Petersburg's contributions to literature and the arts, investment and commerce, and the Russian educational system and research. A concert of Russian music, with leading U.S. and Russian musicians, capped off activities at Duke. The conference concluded at UNC with "An Evening in St. Petersburg," a celebration during which UNC and Duke faculty and students read a variety of selections from Russian literature commemorating St. Petersburg. The readings spanned the city's entire history, ranging from Friedrich Christian Weber's "The Founding of St. Petersburg" to Joseph Brodsky's "A Guide to a Renamed City." A series of images of the city provided a backdrop for the readings. Melissa Kotacka, a graduate student at UNC who helped to organize the evening, said, "I think Saturday's program went very well and was a great way to wrap up the week's events. It was a collaborative effort and everyone who helped put it together was quite pleased."

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