



# *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.

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## Students explore role of international organizations in the former Yugoslavia



Mumukshu Patel and Luisa Rodriguez, two of the Vienna Burch Field Research Seminar students, pose below a Communist-era statue at Statue Park in Budapest./photo by Mumukshu Patel

This summer a group of 17 UNC-CH undergraduate students led by Dr. Robert Jenkins, Director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies, spent the summer in Europe examining international intervention in the Balkans. The students, as participants in the Vienna Burch Field Research Seminar,

focused on the role of international organizations – particularly the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – in implementing peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

During the nine-week trip, the group regularly attended ambassador-level Permanent Council meetings and met with senior staff from the OSCE, which is headquartered in Vienna. In addition to the time in Vienna, the group spent 11 days in Bosnia-Herzegovina meeting with representatives of OSCE, the United Nations, the Office of High Representative, and SFOR (the NATO-led stability force in the region). The

officials they met deal with issues ranging from elections to security to return of refugees and displaced persons. Amanda Wilson, a junior journalism major, said the seminar made her think outside the boundaries of Western Europe, and also about the implementation of a peace accord, such as the one in the Balkans.

“For all of us, it made us want to look deeper into the way things work once a peace agreement is signed,” said Wilson. “Before, I thought that signing was the end point.

Now, I see it as the very, very beginning.”

Wilson said one of the highlights of the trip for her was a short trip to Budapest, which she described as “funky and beautiful, with a Turkish flavor, but Viennese architecture.” Wilson was able to visit a Roma-run radio station in Budapest and based her final project in the course on that visit.

Jenkins said one of the highlights of the seminar was

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## Professor briefs State Dept.

By Scott Griffin

Dr. Milada Anna Vachudova, an Assistant Professor of Political Science at UNC, took part in a conference organized by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research on September 10 in Washington, D.C. The con-

ference, entitled “The European Union: The Road Not Yet

Taken,” was designed to solicit the views of nongovernmental specialists and allow for discussion between these specialists and government officials from agencies



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## P2 | people and events

The theme of this year's **Slavic and East European Language Resource Center Summer Institute** was "Slavic and East European Languages: Acquisition, Techniques, and Technologies." The institute, which was held at Duke from July 8 to 17, 2002 is held annually and functions as a much-needed forum for language instructors to share experience and ideas.

The institute is directed by **Edna Andrews**, professor of Slavic Linguistics and Cultural Anthropology, and Director of CSEES and SEELCR at Duke, and **Laura Janda**, professor of Slavic Linguistics and Director of SEELRC at UNC-CH. For information on the 2003 institute, contact project coordinator, **Meredith Classon** at 919-962-0901.

**Suzie Crate**, a CSEES Fellow who completed her dissertation *Cows, Kin and Capitalism: The Cultural Ecology of Viliui Sakha in the Post-Socialist Era* last year, accepted a post-doctoral position at Miami University in Ohio. She co-organized a symposium there which ran from Oct. 24 - 26, 2002, entitled "Russia's Environment: Prospects and Possibilities." Keynote speakers included Alexsey Yablokov, president of the Center for Russian Environmental Policy, Moscow, and Vera Mischenko, president of Ecojuris, an NGO in Moscow working on environmental issues.

## *New Faces*

### Introducing the new Russian & East European Studies MA students

#### John Surface

John Surface has just returned from seven and a half years in Poland, exhausted but enlightened.



The original idea was to teach English as a volunteer for WorldTeach and the Polish Ministry of Education for two years, however life in Nowy Dwor

Gdanski in 1995 proved to be intriguing enough to make it worth a longer stay. Two years at the University of Gdansk led to an offer to take on the role of Director of the American School of Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot. Over the next four years, John led the school through the legal procedure of becoming a non-profit organization. "Not a journey for the gentle and pure of heart." John travels these days accompanied by his wife, Anna, a lecturer of English from the University of Gdansk, and a seven month old daughter Julianna - who likes North Carolina just fine.

#### Amanda Jacobson

Amanda Jacobson was born in Boston, MA, and lived there until attending Hollins College in Roanoke, VA, from 1994-1998.



She graduated with a BA in History and then moved back to Boston where she worked for a publishing company editing history

and other social studies books for three years. For the past year, she has lived in Pittsburgh, PA., attending the University of Pittsburgh's Summer Slavic Language Institute for both Bulgarian (2001) and Serbo-Croatian (2002).

Amanda has come to UNC to study the attempts at federalism in former Yugoslavia and other parts of Eastern Europe. She enjoys skiing, dancing, theatre and films.

#### Scott Griffin

Scott Griffin graduated from UNC-CH in 1997 with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Russian Language. He graduated from UNC again in 2000 with an MA in Journalism and Mass



Communication. Afterward, he ran a web design firm in Asheville, N.C., for two years. Scott is now focusing on issues in Polish foreign policy.

#### Jeff Long

Jeffrey Long graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1998 with a double major in history and government.

After graduation, Jeff spent two years teaching English and studying Russian in Vladimir, Russia. This past year, Jeff worked for the International Research & Exchanges



Board (IREX), assisting with a number of academic exchange and institution-building initiatives. At UNC, Jeff plans to explore his interest in modern Russian history.

#### Jeff Jennette

Jeff Jennette is a 1991 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He has served in Germany, Texas, Kentucky, and Kuwait as an Armor and

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# International

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Jeff Jennette

Cavalry Officer. He has also served as the first Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation in the Republic of

Moldova, and traveled the Trans-Siberian Railroad from Moscow to Vladivostok. He has been married to his wife Amy for 8 years, and has 2 sons, William and Ethan.

## Will Bettmann

Will Bettmann just completed his undergraduate work at Utah State University in journalism, with a minor in Russian. Prior



to his two years at USU, he had been in southern Utah for six years, primarily working with at-risk teenagers. While there, he

met his wife, Aly, with whom he has two daughters, Mackenzie, 6, and Zoe, 2. Will first started studying Russian at Connecticut College 15 years ago, and lived in St. Petersburg for four months in 1990. He is interested in exploring environmental issues in Russia since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

hearing the different approaches and perspectives from various organizations. He said there were often suspicions and exaggerations about what other organizations were and were not doing.

In addition to the questions of cooperation and competition, students did coursework on the break-up of Yugoslavia and looked at how the Dayton Peace Accord is actually being implemented. Jenkins noted that the OSCE does not have the money the European Union does, or the military might of NATO, but that the OSCE's membership includes 55 countries, stretching from "Vancouver to Vladivostok."

The group traveled extensively in Bosnia-Herzegovina, spending time in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Mostar. Jenkins said Bosnia was very scenic, with rugged mountains and river valleys and an interesting mix of cultures and religions. He also noted that there were many visible reminders of war. Wilson said she bought a guidebook to Mostar, and realized as she walked around the city just how many of the buildings had been destroyed.

The seminar will be offered again next summer, an indication of its success. Jenkins said the students were exposed to the "kind of knowledge you could never get from reading a paper on the subject," and that he was looking forward to leading the seminar again.

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## Professor

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such as the State Department, the CIA, and the National Intelligence Council.

Vachudova spoke about the challenges posed by EU enlargement during a one-hour session that included discussion with the audience. Dr. Neill Nugent from Manchester Metropolitan University also participated in the session, which was moderated by Jonathon Davidson from the European Commission.

By December, the EU will conclude negotiations that will

allow up to eight post-communist candidates full membership. Vachudova spoke about the advantages of enlargement for the existing members of the EU and for the candidates. She said enlargement will bring a net increase in economic prosperity for both old and new members. The existing members may also benefit from the EU gaining greater clout as a geopolitical actor. For their part, the new members will also benefit from gaining a voice in EU decision-making at the end of the long and difficult process of qualifying for EU membership. This process afforded them

little voice, although it did help strengthen the democratic and economic reforms they began in 1989.

Vachudova said that she noted a good deal of skepticism among the government officials who tended to see the EU as an institution in crisis. Vachudova acknowledged that there is some gridlock in the EU, but noted the tremendous progress that has been made over the last decade including the adoption of a single currency (the Euro) and the fact that the EU is poised for such a substantial enlargement.

## P4| people

Slavic Department Professor **Laura Janda**, founder of the Russian and Eastern European Studies MA program, and **Anne Keown**, doctoral student and Russian language instructor, have just returned from the third annual Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association Conference in Turku, Finland. Laura is president of the SCLA and was pleased with the growth of the organization and the “fabulous” quality of the conference. Both presented papers on their current research, Laura on the semantics of verbal aspect in Russian, Anne on the polite and informal usage of ‘you’ in the Polish language.

Laura then journeyed to Tambov, a provincial university city on an overnight train’s ride from Moscow, where she presented her ideas to a gathering of Russian scholars interested in cognitive linguistics. Laura noted that, “it was fascinating to see how the two bodies of academic thought, in isolation from each other, have developed very similar linguistic concepts.” Her final destination was Moscow itself for several days of lectures in general linguistics at the Languages Institute, Russian State Humanities University and Moscow

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## MA Students’ Summer in Review



*Above - Annie Bland, sitting fifth from the right, and a couple of her fellow students are treated to lunch by Annie’s host family at their dacha outside Irkutsk./photo by Annie Bland.*

*Right - Jingjing Lou, front row, far left, with her fellow English teachers from the Cosmopolitan International Summer Language School, in front of a church in Novosibirsk./photo by Jingjing Lou*



### **Annie, Jingjing spend the summer in Siberia**

Jingjing Lou and Annie Bland both spent much of the summer in Siberia – Lou at a school in Novosibirsk and Bland at one in Irkutsk. Lou said she chose her program, the Cosmopolitan International Summer Language School, in part because she wanted to do more than simply study in Russia.

“I had never been to Russia before so I really wanted to go, and the expense of this program was reasonable,” she said. “Also, I wasn’t just a student at the school. I taught English to the younger kids and web design to the older ones.”

Lou said the program brings students of Russian from around the world together with local

Siberian kids between the ages of 8 and 16. She said she taught in the morning and took Russian classes in the afternoon, and that her favorite part of the program was the Siberian kids themselves.

“They were really great – smart, talented, especially in the arts like performance, dance and music,” she said. “Also, they had hope. They have been raised after the collapse of the Soviet Union. They’re the real ‘new Russians.’ They don’t have the old mentality.”

Lou also said the program was important to the local kids because many of them are from small, Siberian villages around Novosibirsk, and that the program gives them contact

with outside cultures, about which they are very curious, but not normally exposed to.

Bland also said the Siberians she came in contact with were the favorite part of her experience. Bland initially lived in the dorms at Irkutsk State Polytechnic University, but shortly after she arrived she met a Russian family who had previously hosted exchange students, and invited Bland to live with them.

“I really liked living with a Russian family,” she said. “They didn’t speak English so I was inundated with Russian and Siberian culture. They really welcomed me into their family.”

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## Siberia

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Both Lou and Bland did some traveling during the summer, including meeting each other in Irkutsk and taking the Trans-Siberian Railway to China. Bland went on a few outings to Lake Baikal, not far from Irkutsk, and also spent a week in Ulan-Ude where she said the highlights were the ethnographic museum and an old Tibetan temple called a "dodsun." Both students commented on the natural beauty of Siberia, which Lou called "a paradise except for the mosquitoes."

## Josh studies in Zagreb, Dubrovnik

This last summer, Josh Wansley participated in a Croatian immersion program facilitated by the University of Kansas-Lawrence. The program included two weeks in Zagreb followed by an additional four weeks in Dubrovnik. Classes were in the mornings, while the afternoons typically were free. For the time that he was in Dubrovnik, Josh usually spent the afternoons swimming in the beautiful Adriatic Sea. Most of the participants were also Americans, but there were also Hungarians, Germans, Italians and other nationalities.

In addition to language study in Croatia, Josh also traveled through other parts of Europe, both before and after the program. He originally flew to Vienna, where he was greeted by family of Dr. Jenkins, with whom he stayed with for a few days. From Vienna, he moved to Budapest with Jenkins and his students from the Vienna Burch Field Research Seminar. He traveled briefly in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia - including

another meeting with Jenkins' class in Sarajevo - before starting language study in Zagreb. After a six week stay in Croatia, he traveled to Innsbruck, Austria before returning to Chicago from Vienna.

## Norm monitors missiles in Russia

Major Norm Litterini served a four week tour of duty as a U.S. Arms Control Monitor with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). In this capacity, he served as a treaty compliance monitor at the Votkinsk Portal Monitoring Facility, Votkinsk, Udmurtia in the Russian Federation. The purpose of the U.S. presence there is to observe Russian compliance with the START-1 treaty at the missile production factory located there. This opportunity not only served to increase familiarity with the execution of international arms control agreements, enhance language capabilities, and to provide an opportunity to observe living conditions in the central part of Russia, but also provided additional manpower flexibility to DTRA in undertaking its missions. DTRA is among the many agencies that represent future duty possibilities for Major Litterini.

## people

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State University. Anne also traveled further, to Krakow and Prague to conduct research on her doctoral thesis. She found her hosts at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow to be particularly accommodating. Mirek Vanek, a guest lecturer this October in Chapel Hill, was also of great assistance in recruiting interviewees for her research in Prague.

## people | P5

**Donald J. Raleigh** published "*Zalozhnik proletariata: Otryvki iz vospominanii A. A. Minkha*" (Hostage to the Proletariat: Passages from the Memoirs of A.A. Minkha) (Saratov: Saratov University Press, 2001). Publishing the volume was made possible thanks to a grant that Saratov University received from the Soros Foundation's "Open Society" program.

**David M. Olson and William E. Crowther** edited *Committees in Post-Communist Democratic Parliaments: Comparative Institutionalization*, which is being published this fall by Ohio State University Press.

Crowther currently directs a multi-year North Carolina exchange program with Moldova. Olson has just returned from a Fulbright at the University of Vilnius, Lithuania. Both are directors of the Parliamentary Documents Center for Central Europe at UNCG.

## events

**Professor Donna Orwin**, a Tolstoy specialist from the University of Toronto, will be giving a guest lecture sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures on Friday, **November 1st**, at 4 p.m. in Toy Lounge, Dey Hall. Her talk is titled: "The Reason Behind Tolstoy's Anti-philosophical Rhetoric."

**Piotr Sommer**, Polish poet and translator, will give a reading of his work on Tuesday, **November 19th**, at 7:30 p.m. in Toy Lounge, Dey Hall. This event is sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and is free and open to the public.

# Czech specialist joins UNC History faculty

East European historian Dr. Chad Bryant joined the UNC faculty this fall. Bryant received his PhD in December 2001 from the University of California at Berkeley. He is fluent in Czech and German, and is currently working on a book about Nazi-occupied Czech lands. More specifically, he is looking at the dialectic between state and society, and examining the question of what it meant to be and act Czech or German. Articles on the subject will appear in the Winter 2002 issues of

Slavic Review and Kudej, a Czech-language journal of cultural history.

This fall Bryant is teaching an undergraduate course on Eastern Europe from 1815 to the present, and a graduate seminar on Russian and Eastern European history. In the spring, he will teach an undergraduate course on travel in Eastern Europe, and a graduate seminar on states and societies in Eastern Europe.

Bryant said he was very happy to be at UNC.

“If I had to make a wish list of

what I wanted in a university, UNC would have just about everything on it. There’s the Slavic Center, which has great resources. There’s a community of scholars here. It’s a phenomenal location. I feel invigorated,” he said.

Bryant is also working on a project involving a Czech-German regiment that fought in Bohemia and Moravia during WWI. He said his next project would look at the history of travel and movement in Eastern Europe.

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