



# *inflections*

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## **CEP faculty study Caspian Sea**

This tale might sound familiar. A combination of things—storm surges, nutrient loading and pollution from nearby cities—is choking the life out of an important waterway. Carolina researchers strive to explain just what’s going on. North Carolina’s Neuse River, right? Not by a continent. This time it’s the Caspian Sea.

Faculty members from the Carolina Environmental Program (CEP) will co-sponsor an environmental research workshop in Moscow this October. Working with the Russian Academy of Sciences and scientists from neighboring countries, CEP researchers will develop an agenda for future research in the Caspian Sea area. Some of what they’ve learned while working on the Neuse River should come in handy.

“Quite a number of factors contribute to the degradation of the Caspian Sea,” said David McNelis, CEP’s associate director of research programs.

Oil spills and industrial waste are two of the most obvious. Sea level has risen about 8 feet since 1978, flooding valuable farmland and oil refinery pipelines. The Caspian Sea covers some of the largest untapped oil reserves in the world. That’s causes tensions to run high among the five neighbors: Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan. Perhaps the biggest obstacle to cleanup efforts will be political issues: boundary disputes and whether a 750-mile long body of water qualifies as a lake or a sea. That’s why McNelis has enlisted Doug Crawford-Brown, professor of environmental educational programs.

Crawford-Brown’s background in environmental risk analysis will help researchers see the bigger picture. In the Caspian Sea, polluting the environment also is a matter of international security.

“I might rank dumping waste into the Caspian Sea as environmental damage or as an action that would cause an international conflict,” Crawford-Brown said. “We’re going to try to find a way those societies can think about environmental issues as ways to settle their conflicts.”

McNelis said a project in the Caspian Sea shows how environmental research has changed in recent years. In the past, he said, most of the work was divided into narrow fields. “Modeling tools and computational skills now available allow us to attack these problems on a broader scale,” he said. “We recognize that environmental problems require an interdisciplinary approach.”

The CEP involves faculty in 29 different departments—from the School of Public Health’s Environmental Resource Program to the Kenan-Flagler Business School. Research in the Caspian Sea may involve public policy experts as well as faculty with experience in international relations.

“Our interest is in putting together the best interdisciplinary team we can,” McNelis said.

This article first appeared in the Aug. 18, 1999 edition of the *University Gazette* as a contributed piece provided by Graduate Studies and Research, written by Christopher Hammon and edited by Neil Caudle.





### North Carolina educators learn about the new global order

This fall North Carolina K-12 and community college educators will explore how they can teach their students about current global issues and what it means to be part of a multicultural society. Teams of teachers, principals, and administrators will develop actions plans for their classrooms, schools, and school districts during two fall events organized by World View, an international program for educators at UNC-CH. The first event is a seminar on Central and Eastern Europe—"Ten Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall"—on October 14-15, with Gerhard Weinberg, an eminent World War II historian and Kenan professor at UNC-CH, as the keynote speaker. This seminar will be followed by World View's second annual symposium, "The New Global Order," on November 4-5, where Robert Ingram, Chief Executive of Glaxo Wellcome plc, will give the keynote address.

The October seminar will focus on the global changes that have occurred in Central and Eastern Europe in the past ten years and their effects on education, health, religion, economics, and politics. The focus of the November symposium will be the new global order and the changes it brings to North Carolina classrooms.

This is the second annual symposium organized by World View, a program launched last year in UNC-CH's Center for International Studies. It aims to help educators understand global issues and what they mean for students and communities. World View also helps link educators on all levels with UNC-CH's international studies organizations and the resources they offer.

For more information, call 919-843-8938. All members of the education community are invited to attend.



### Ten Years After: Reflections on the Changing Lives & Work of Artists in Post-Communist Europe

During the fall semester 1999, Duke University will present a series of special events designed to examine what has changed in the lives and work of artists from the former Soviet bloc and the former Yugoslavia in the decade following the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. The series will bring to campus a number of artists from these regions to join with curators, critics and scholars in readings, screenings, lectures and discussions.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

For more information contact Rob Sikorski  
Tel. 684-2867, [r.sikorski@duke.edu](mailto:r.sikorski@duke.edu)

### Readings, Lectures, and Other Events

- Until 10/17** Installation by conceptual artist Ilya Kabakov (Russia) "Boat of My Life" at DUMA
- 9/24** Reception and lecture by Ilya Kabakov, DUMA, 6-9 p.m.
- 10/4** Presentation by Ale Najbrt (Czech Republic), leading graphic artist and editor of *Raut*, leading arts magazine in Eastern Europe, East Duke Building, Room 108, 4 p.m.
- 10/22** Talk and reading by Martin Šimečka (Slovakia), author of *The Year of the Frog*, which won the L.A. Times Best First Novel Award and the Pegasus Award (The Mobil Corporation), Rare Books Room 108, 5 p.m.
- 10/28** Reading by Dubravka Ugrešić (Yugoslavia/Netherlands) from her novel *The Museum of Unconditional Surrender*, followed by a reception, Rare Books Room, 5 p.m.
- 11/9** Reading by Angela Krauß (Germany) from her new book *Milliarden neuer Sterne*, Rare Books Room, 5 p.m. Please note that the reading will be in German, the discussion in German and English.
- 11/22** Poetry reading and discussion by Tomaž Šalamun (Slovenia). Numerous volumes of his works are translated into English, including *The Selected Poems of Tomaž Šalamun*, *The Four Questions of Melancholy*, Rare Books Room, 5 p.m.

### Films

Mondays, 8 p.m. at Griffith Film Theater. For more detailed information see the UNC Center web site at [www.unc.edu/depts/slavic](http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic).

- 9/27 **Pigs, dir. Wladyslaw Pasikowski (Poland), 1992, 110 m.** Exciting Hollywood-style action/crime film with an Eastern European twist.
- 10/4 **Tito and Me, Goran Markovic (Yugoslavia), 1992, 118 m.** An entertaining *Wonder Years*-style comedy about a 10-year-old boy, Zoran, who is infatuated with Yugoslavia's leader, Marshall Tito.
- 10/18 **Prisoner of the Mountains, Sergey Bodrov (Russia) 1996, 99 m.** Adapted from Leo Tolstoy's short story "Prisoner of the Caucasus" to the Chechnyan War.
- 11/1 **Underground, dir. Emir Kusturica (Yugoslavia), 1995, 192 m.** Winner of the Golden Palm at Cannes in 1995, a controversial and surrealistic tour-de-force tracing fifty years of Yugoslav history from World War II to the Balkan War.
- 11/8 **Before the Rain, dir. Milcho Manchevski (Macedonia), 1994, 113 m.** A moving portrayal of ethnic violence spilling over into Macedonia and London and the desperate to preserve love and decency.

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### CALLS FOR PAPERS

NEGOTIATING CULTURAL UPHEAVALS: ICONS, MYTHS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF CULTURAL MEMORY IN MODERN RUSSIA, 1999-2000  
April 14-15, 2000  
Ohio State University

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at Ohio State University has issued a call for papers for its April 2000 conference. This conference will examine the various types of "bridges" that have been and are being constructed to close the gulf produced in Russian society between new and old traditions that have isolated thousands from their traditional cultural environments. The objective of this interdisciplinary conference is to examine these bridges, their builders, and the ideas upon which they are founded

For submission of abstracts and further information contact:

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### VIEWS FROM WITHIN: ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON POST-COMMUNIST CULTURE AND SOCIETY

February 11-12, 2000  
Columbia University

Soyuz, The Research Network for Post-Communist Cultural Studies, and The Harriman Institute of Columbia University invite abstracts for their annual Symposium. Presentations may be from any discipline (anthropology, sociology, folklore, political science, history, etc.) and may focus on any aspect of social life, but must be based on extended field research, and should explore the particular power of ethnography for post-communist studies.

Submit abstracts by email to:

Bruce Grant  
Swarthmore College  
bgrant1@swarthmore.edu

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### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Woodrow Wilson Center and the Kenan Institute has posted information regarding forthcoming funding opportunities.

Woodrow Wilson Center Fellowships for 4-10 months duration. Twenty fellowships awarded annually.

Application Deadline: October 1, 1999

Kenan Institute Research Scholarships for 3-9 months duration, specifically for scholars "in the early stages of their careers (before tenure) or for scholars whose careers have been interrupted or delayed."

Application Deadline: October 1, 1999

Kenan Institute Regional Scholar Program for 6 months duration. These are for individuals from the Newly



