



CSEES

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies

OSU Students Travel to Bulgaria

In the winter of 2008, Dr. Yana Hashamova taught a course on the history and culture of Bulgaria (Slavic 245F). Seventy-two International Affairs Scholars from OSU took the class and during the spring break traveled on a Study Abroad Program to Bulgaria.

The program was admirably organized by the Office of International Affairs, particularly by Debra Bermann. Dr. Hashamova and Debra Bermann were assisted by Dr. Daniel Collins, Elizabeth Angerman, Meghan Davis, and Scott Boden. In Bulgaria students visited major historical and cultural sites, had a lecture on trafficking in women by a director of an NGO (which provides services for survivors of trafficking), and met with the director and producer of a contemporary Bulgarian film, "Monkeys in Winter" (2005), which won the best Picture Award at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic. Here are the students' experiences in their own words:



OSU Students in Bulgaria
(photo courtesy D. Bermann)

"It is hard for me to classify one specific moment as the most memorable of the entire trip. If I had to choose one place as my favorite I would have to choose the Synagogue in Sofia. No synagogue I have ever been in or seen matches the one we went to in Sofia. It is an experience that I will never forget." **Benjamin Jacober**

"To me, Bulgaria was not just an opportunity to get out of the country or an "exotic" location in which to spend my spring break, it was a chance for me to learn about something different. I think the biggest eye-opening experience to me was being able to apply all of the information that I learned in class to the historical pieces I viewed. It really intensifies the learning process when you read something in a book, and then you can get up and actually see it or touch it... But learning about the Human Trafficking laws in Bulgaria really made me realize how different our two countries are, and it makes me want to do something about it." **Emma Esmont**

"When first presented with the opportunity to learn about and travel to Bulgaria, I was unsure of what possibilities and experiences lie ahead. To my pleasant surprise, Bulgaria is rich in culture and history, effectively preserving its history and becoming a part of the continuously globalizing world." **Ariel Callion**

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My most memorable experience in Bulgaria was the Rila Monastery. I had no idea what to expect as we were driving through the beautiful Bulgarian countryside, but as we turned the corner to see the entrance, I was blown away. It was one of the most amazing places I had ever seen. I was so impressed by the detail in the construction and artwork." **Kelsey Poole**



From the Director

One more academic year is winding down and the Slavic Center proudly reports that it has accomplished its goals, although more can always be achieved. Let me begin with the old news that we have a new Assistant Director, Lance Erickson, who joined us in November 2007. We are extremely excited to have Lance in the Center.

We continue to advance our priorities and the support of Less Commonly Taught Languages is one of them. In addition to funding second-year courses of languages such as Czech, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Hungarian, and Romanian, we are committed to two new languages, Uzbek and Georgian. With enormous help from the departments of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, we now support two levels (elementary and intermediate) of each of these languages. Courses taught by Drs. Liu (NELC) and Levi (new professor of Central Asian history), and Dr. Abdullaev (International Studies), as well as Drs. Breyfogle (History) and Murvanishvili (DSEELL) can complement the offerings of the two languages and create future minors/specializations in Central Asian and Caucasian Studies.

As part of our priorities, we have successfully cooperated with the Department of History and the Middle Eastern Studies Center and have seeded a new position in Central Asian History (Dr. Levi). You will learn more about him in our Fall 08 Newsletter. We have co-funded two visiting scholars, Dr. Abdullaev (from Dushanbe) teaching courses on Central Asia, the Taliban, and the Chechen War in International Studies and Dr. Shcherbak (from St. Petersburg) educating OSU students on the contemporary political situation in Russia in both International Studies and the Slavic Department. We are extremely happy to have also supported Dr. Predrag Matejic and his graduate course on Eastern Orthodoxy.

The Center's M.A. program changes were approved this May, now, making our M.A. degree more rigorous and competitive to answer the increased global demands for highly skilled specialists in our areas of the world. Our proposal for a Dual Master's Degree with the Glenn School of Public Policy has now received the endorsement of the Graduate School and will be considered at the Council of Academic Affairs (the last level of university committees).

This year, we have either solely funded and organized or co-funded and helped in the organization of several well-accepted conferences: the International and Interdisciplinary Conference Women in War (Autumn 07), the second biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture (Autumn 07), the Midwest Slavic Conference (Spring 08), and the Slavic Linguistics Society conference, to be held in June 08. More can be read about them and our projects this year in the following pages of this Newsletter.

If you have ideas for the future, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to assist you!

With best wishes for an enjoyable and productive summer,

Yana Hashamova
Acting Director

Video Conference with Ukhta

by Maria Alley



On May 6, 2008, The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures and the Slavic Center hosted a unique video conference with students from Ukhta State Technical University and the Management, Information and Business Institute, in Ukhta, Russia. This was Ohio State's first video-connection with a university in Russia. Twelve Ohio State students and fifteen students from Ukhta participated in a lively discussion in both English and Russian on a variety of topics which included university life, studying foreign languages, youth culture, and perceptions of the U.S. and Russia.

We hope that this video conference will become the first in a series of many such interesting discussions with schools in different Russian-speaking regions. Please watch for further announcements of future video conferences.



(photos courtesy R. Bias, Foreign Language Center)



International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Women in War

by Yana Hashamova
and Helena Goscilo

The Interdisciplinary Conference on Women in War at OSU, as announced in our Autumn 2007 newsletter, was successfully realized October 26-28, generating great scholarly interest. Twenty-one thought-provoking presentations were offered to over 50 attendees. The conference explored the question of gender polarization and politicization during times of war, re-thought gender identities and positions in religious and military clashes, and elaborated a discourse on the subject of motherhood and fatherhood in war, contributing to the pursuit of knowledge that can unravel problems related to violent conflicts, identities, and security. The film "Gravica" was also screened and discussed during the conference.

This conference was part of a two-conference sequence on women in war. The other part, held at University of Pittsburgh, November 30 – December 1, focused

on WWII and, geographically, Russia and Central Europe. Yana Hashamova and Helena Goscilo are editing a volume of selected essays from the two conferences and also preparing a cluster of women in war papers for the peer-reviewed journal "Aspasia".

Among the participants were:

Ajla Demiragic (Sarajevo University)
Julie Mertus (Co-Director of the MA program in Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs at American University)
Serguei Oushakine (Princeton U)
Wendy Hesford (OSU)
Trina Mamoon (University of Alaska)
Kirsten Rutsala (University of Oklahoma)
Jessica Weinhold (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Jennifer Erickson (University of Oregon)



(photos courtesy C. Becker, Mershon Center)



Drs. Hashamova and Goscilo

Study in Russia in 2009! Check out these OSU programs:

CIBER - Emerging Markets Field Study Course: Moscow (Spring Break 2009)

<http://fisher.osu.edu/centers/international-ciber>

OIA - Russian Culture and Society Program: Moscow & St. Petersburg (June 2009)

<http://oia.osu.edu>

OIA - Intensive Russian Language and Culture Program: Tomsk (Summer 2009)

<http://oia.osu.edu>

What are you waiting for?!



Visiting Lecturers Have an Impact on OSU and Columbus

by Justin Cade

Dr. Andrey Shcherbak, St. Petersburg, Russia



Dr. Andrey Shcherbak of the European University in St. Petersburg, Russia, became involved with Ohio State through a PhD candidate at the European University who had spent time at OSU as a visiting scholar. After preliminary contacts with CSEES and meeting with the former assistant director, Andrey finalized his plans to spend Spring Quarter 2008 in Columbus.

He has not noticed a significant difference so far between students at Ohio State and students at the other universities, in which he has worked, including the UK, Norway, and Russia. However, he notes with a smile that OSU students are almost always dressed in sportswear and drinking large cups of coffee on the way to class. One thing he particularly likes about OSU is that the system here is student-oriented, as opposed to the more faculty-oriented higher education system in some of the other universities, in which he has taught.

Mentioning his amazement at the sheer size of the OSU campus, he especially enjoys the Oval, which he remarks is the center of everything on campus yet still remains very clean. As far as living in Columbus, Andrey enjoys the fact that the city offers a portrait of what he calls “classical American life.” He also appreciates that he can walk around town and not be overwhelmed by crowds like in New York or Chicago. However, he is not satisfied with the public transportation system here, arguing that if one does not possess a car, it is practically impossible to get around. Andrey comments that in Russia students attend far more lectures but read and write much less than American students. He says, again smiling, that he enjoys the American system of higher education and is appreciative of the skillful, helpful and efficient OSU faculty and staff, who are always ready to help within a matter of minutes.

Moldovan Healthcare Officials Visit OSU

In April, a group of distinguished healthcare professionals and government officials from Moldova visited OSU and spoke to CSEES students and faculty about the current healthcare issues in the region. The discussion, in Moldovan and Russian so students could practice their language skills, focused on HIV/AIDS and TB control in the region.

The group consisted of the Moldovan Deputy Director of the Practical Center for Public Health and Sanitation Management, the Head of Chisinau Department of Health, the Head of Medical Services for the city of Balti, and the Manager of the Comrat Family Physicians Center in the Autonomous Gagauz region. Dr. Shu-Hua Wang, Medical Director of the Ben Franklin TB Control Program at OSU and Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, provided information about similar programs at OSU for comparison.

The group’s visit was organized by CSEES and the International Visitors’ Council of Columbus.



Dr. Kamoludin Abdullaev, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Kamoludin Abdullaev of Tajik State University in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, ended up as a visiting scholar at Ohio State in 2003 through Dr. Margaret Mills of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, with whom he worked for the Aga Khan Humanities Project for Central Asia in Dushanbe 1998-99. He has returned to Columbus on a yearly basis ever since.

Comparing OSU students with students from Yale, where he worked 2001-02, Kamoludin notes that OSU students are very motivated and curious. He is touched by students' interests in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan, noting that one of his former students from OSU, who was recently in Dushanbe on business, was able to meet with his son and go to a Tajik teahouse.

He enjoys living here and does not notice a huge difference between Columbus and many of the other U.S. cities he has visited. He agrees with Andrey about underdeveloped public transit being a major drawback of living in Columbus. Not having a car, Kamoludin feels that it is difficult to see the rest of Ohio, which he would like to do.



Also like Andrey, Kamoludin remarks that the system of higher education in Tajikistan is more faculty-oriented and less student-oriented. He has taught at several universities both in Tajikistan and the U.S. and values the student-oriented system of American higher education.

Symposium on Central Asian Security

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies along with the Middle East Studies Center hosted a panel on Central Asian Security May 23, 2008 at the Mershon Center for International Security. The two speakers were Dr. Kamoludin Abdullaev, a scholar from Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and Dr. Alam Payind, Director of the Middle East Studies Center.

Dr. Abdullaev spoke about the status of societal reconciliation following the Tajik Civil War (1992-1997) and what effects that has had on the regional security situation. Afghanistan and Tajikistan are at the heart of security concerns for the Central Asian region. One of the main issues is the Afghan drug trade, which traverses the former-Soviet Central Asian republics, including Tajikistan, on its way to Russia and Europe.

Dr. Abdullaev teaches three classes every spring quarter related to the former-Soviet periphery for International Studies, including Central Asia in World Affairs, The Taliban: Struggle for Power in Modern Afghanistan, and Nationalism in Post-Communist Russia: The Chechen War. Thanks to the International Studies Program for their continuous support! Dr. Payind teaches the class, Contemporary Issues in the Middle East for International Studies.



Faculty News

Maria Alley (DSEELL) spoke on academic careers at the first annual OSU International Careers Week.

Nicholas Breyfogle (History) co-edited *Peopling the Russian Periphery: Borderland Colonization in Eurasian History* (Routledge, 2007, in the BASEES/Routledge Series in Russian and East European Studies), to which he contributed the article, "Russian Colonizations: An Introduction." He also edited *Russian Religious Sectarianism*, a thematic issue of *Russian Studies in History*, vol. 46, no. 3 (Winter 2007-8), and published "Enduring Imperium: Russia/Soviet Union/Eurasia as Multiethnic, Multiconfessional Space," in *Ab Imperio: Studies of New Imperial History and Nationalism in the Post-Soviet Space* (Winter 2008). He presented papers at the University of Minnesota (the Immigration History Research Center and the Institute for Global Studies), the Harri-man Institute at Columbia University, and at Ohio State. He continues to work as co-editor of the online magazine *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective* <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/>, and to write his next book, "Baikal: the Great Lake and its People."

Theodora Dragostinova (History) published "Speaking National: Nationalizing the Greeks of Bulgaria, 1900-1939," in *Slavic Review* (Spring 2008). She received

an IREX Short-Term Research Grant for a research trip to Bulgaria this summer and an ACLS Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Southeast European Studies for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Yana Hashamova (CSEES/DSEEL) Published the following articles: "Imaginer l'identité sexuelle: Salvador Dali et les fantasees sur la différence sexuelle." *Gravida*. Vol. 9, no. 2. (Autumn 2006): 87-104. (part of Yana Hashamova and Charles Batson. "Dialogue autour de Dali."); "Aleksi Balabanov's Russian Hero: Fantasies of Wounded National Pride." *Slavic and East European Journal* (summer 2007): 295-312. She also co-edited a volume (with Helena Goscilo): "Fathers and Sons in Russian Post-World War II Cinema." She presented two invited talks: "Screening Trafficking: Problems of Theory and Definition." University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 2007; and "Screening Trafficking in the Balkans." Kenyon College, February 2008.

Maria Ignatieva (Theatre, OSU-Lima) published: Interview with Boris Lubimov in *Slavic and East European Performances*, (Winter 08); Glikeria Fedotova: Stanislavsky's Artistic Mother in *Slavic and East European Performances*, (Spring 2008); submitted a manuscript, *Stanislavsky and Female Actors*, to be published by the University Press of America, in October 2008.

Morgan Liu (Near Eastern Languages & Cultures) received a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad award for research in Kyrgyzstan. He also presented on academic careers at the 2008 International Careers Week.

Irma Murvanishvili (DSEELL) together with Justin Cade and **Maryann Walther-Keisel (CSEES)** presented a program of Russian and Georgian poetry about the Caucasus at OSU Library's ReadAloud program at the Wexner Center Cafe in April.

Rossen Vassilev (Political Science/UISP) His most recent publications include: "The New Class," "Iron Law of Oligarchy," "Centrism," "Monarchy," "Chinese Revolution," "Cult of Personality," "War," "Behavioral Political Science," "Opium Wars," "Individualism," "Benjamin Franklin," "Political Psychology," "The Palestine Liberation Organization," and "Civil Society" in William A. Darity Jr., ed. *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd edition, 9 vols (Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA), 2008; and "Changes in the Linguistic Status of Post-Communist Bulgaria's Ethnic Turkish Minority" in Ernest Andrews, ed. *Linguistic Changes in Post-Communist Eastern Europe and Eurasia* (New York: Columbia University Press), 2008.

Slavic Linguistics Society Conference

by Daniel Collins

On June 10-12, 2008, The Ohio State University will host the third annual conference of the Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS). SLS-3 is being co-organized by CSEES affiliates Daniel Collins, Brian Joseph, and Andrea Sims of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures. The conference has received generous sponsorship from the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, as well as from the College of Humanities, the Office of the Executive Dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, and the Departments of Linguistics and Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures.

The distinguished plenary speakers will be Henning Andersen, Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures at University of California, Los Angeles; Lenore Grenoble, Carl Darling Buck Professor of Linguistics at University of Chicago; and Peter Culicover, Professor of Linguistics at Ohio State.

In addition, there will be 23 panels on topics that span virtually every field of the Slavic Linguistics Aspectology, Balkan Linguistics, Cognitive Linguistics, Historical Linguistics, Morphology, Psycholinguistics and Language Acquisition, Sociolinguistics and Pragmatics, Semantics, Syntax, etc. SLS-3 will be a truly international gathering; the 70-odd speakers will come from universities in Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom, as well as 25 universities in the United States. The host institution is particularly well represented; there will be 16 speakers from Ohio State, including professors, graduate students, and an undergraduate student. The public is cordially invited to attend.

For further information, including a program, see the conference website at <http://slavic.osu.edu/events/yr2008/sls2008/default.cfm>.



2008 Midwest Slavic Conference

The 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference was held April 17-19, at the Blackwell Inn and Conference Center at The Ohio State University. This was the fifth consecutive year that CSEES and OSU have hosted the conference. This year's event began with a keynote address by Dr. Charles Wise, Director of the John Glenn School for Public Affairs. An opening reception followed the keynote address. Participants were also treated to a lunch presentation by University of Pittsburgh professor Helena Goscilo, who spoke on "Fluctuating Temperatures: Screening the Cold War Ex-Enemy, 1990-2005."

The 2008 conference saw a three-day total attendance of over 250 students, faculty and visiting scholars, including over 70 presenters from 28 different universities from across the Midwest and the US. Panel topics covered many disciplines including anthropology, history, linguistics, literature, political science, religion, and security policy.

Special thanks to the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, the Office of International Affairs, and the Blackwell Inn and Conference Center. We would also like to thank all the faculty who helped by chairing a panel during the conference:

Kamol Abdullaev (CSEES)
 Maria Alley (DSEELL)
 Trevor Brown (Glenn School of Public Affairs)
 Alexander Burry (DSEELL)
 Daniel Collins (DSEELL)
 Theodora Dragostinova (History)
 Yana Hashamova (CSEES/DSEEL)
 Marianna Klochko (OSU-Marion)
 Predrag Matejic (DSEELL)
 Irma Murvanishvili (DSEEL)
 Tatyana Nestorova-Mateijic (International Studies)
 Andrey Shcherbak (CSEES)
 Andrew Spencer (Germanic Languages and Literatures)



The 2009 Midwest Slavic Conference will also be held at OSU, to be organized once again by CSEES. As part of the 2009 conference, CSEES would like to announce the First Annual Slavic, East European, Central Asian, and Caucasian Short Film Competition.

This competition is designed to showcase the top short films produced by students from all Slavic, East European, and Central Asian National Resource Centers and universities/colleges throughout the Midwest. This is the perfect opportunity for students to demonstrate their language skills and artistic abilities. All entries must be created and produced by students from Slavic, East European, and Central Asian area studies and language programs. Please see additional rules and regulations in the advertisement at the back of this newsletter, and be on the lookout for a Call for Papers early this fall.





History Professor Wins ALCS Fellowship

Theodora Dragostinova (History) received an ACLS Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Southeast European Studies to complete her book manuscript, *Between Two Motherlands: Nationality and Emigration among the Greeks of Bulgaria, 1900-1949*. Her work examines multi-nationality and national indifference among the Greek minority in Bulgaria by analyzing practices of multilingualism, religious conversion, the manipulation of citizenship, and national side-switching between Bulgarians and Greeks. The instability of nationhood is examined in the context of the conflicting national agendas and competing territorial aspirations of Bulgaria and Greece in the twentieth century.

The project underscores the tensions between nationality as a form of cultural affinity and national ideology as a political doctrine: the Bulgarian Greeks considered themselves heirs of ancient Greek colonists and identified with the Greek nation, yet they had an ambiguous attitude towards the Greek state and hesitated to abandon their places of birth in Bulgaria. The minority was gradually pressured to adopt clear-cut national allegiances, and many reluctantly resettled in Greece in the post-World War One period. Only after World War Two, when the Iron Curtain separated Bulgarians and Greeks, did people lose their ability to choose identities and switch between nationalities.

The goal of *Between Two Motherlands* is twofold: to explore how belonging to a particular nationality influenced people's decision to emigrate and to ask how the experience

of displacement shaped the national affiliations of the population. The book continuously juxtaposes the official emphasis on national homogenization with ordinary people's responses to the demands of the nation-state. It follows the radicalization of the Bulgarian and Greek national priorities and uncovers individuals' uneasy adaptation to the straightforward national policies. The objective is to analyze the various national projects that were proposed, negotiated, adopted, or discarded in a period of fifty years.

Professor Dragostinova's research is based on comparative work in Bulgarian and Greek archives as well as oral history interviews. Her attempt is to inscribe the Bulgarian-Greek case in the broader context of minority politics and refugee movements in Eastern Europe in the first half of the twentieth century. Between 1900 and 1949, the Greek communities experienced peacetime marginalization, wartime persecution, attempts to guarantee their minority rights, a voluntary population exchange, and policies of assimilation. Despite these challenges, the population insisted on surviving as a minority in its places of birth and continued to push for minority rights even during the troublesome interwar years. The Bulgarian Greeks preferred to remain in their places of birth as a minority and were ready to make major compromises with their national allegiances. This behaviors shows that, despite the prevalence of national(ist) explanations of their choices, individuals did not prioritize nationality when making decisions for or against emigration.

In the examination of the evolving notions of nationhood among the Greeks, *Between Two Motherlands* detects various degrees of national commitment among the population. People's national loyalties resembled a spectrum. Most obvious were the national activists, the so-called "professional patriots," who monopolized the national discourse and whose actions are best documented in archives. Yet, even during periods of national enthusiasm, there were numerous nationally blind individuals who stubbornly stuck to their local allegiances and tried to remain unnoticed by national brokers. Finally, there were those in-between who hesitated to permanently adopt the Bulgarian or Greek national cause and who often switched sides. Ultimately, the goal of the book is to show the struggle of three generations of people to retain their murky identities and to choose identifications that best suited their personal circumstances.

Sign up for one of CSEES'
weekly mailing lists!

Monday Calendar of Events
or
Grad/Faculty CFPs, Grants
or
Jobs Postings

CSEES@osu.edu



NELC Professor Receives Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Grant for Kyrgyzstan

MORGAN LIU (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Grant for field research in Kyrgyzstan in 2009. "Central Asian Islam and Post-Soviet Societal Transformation" is the project title.

Muslims from Malaysia to Morocco are challenging the triumphalist neo-liberal consensus promoting democracy and capitalism as the unique path to stability and prosperity. These Muslims gravitate instead toward conceptions of "virtuous society" whereby Islam provides the key to a nation's most intractable problems: poverty, conflict, injustice, and corruption. It is a bold claim, indeed, for religion to shape not merely the conduct of individuals, but the very societal structures of nations. But how exactly could Islam address the systemic ills of a society, rooted as they are in entrenched attitudes and interests?

This project investigates how Muslims in Central Asia are currently articulating discourses about how Islam would ameliorate the structural problems of society. Post-Soviet Central Asia presents an opportune nexus to study this question, because it lies at the intersection of problematic liberal reforms and rapid re-Islamization since the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. in 1991. Independent Kyrgyzstan (or Kyrgyz Republic) first launched into rapid political and economic reform, but the resulting surge in inflation, unemployment, poverty, criminality, and corruption led most ethnic Uz-

beks of the republic to reject the liberal course. In light of the 2005 "Tulip Revolution" deposing President Askar Akaev for self-enrichment and crony patronage, and disappointment now with the lack of real reform under President Kurmanbek Bakiev, there is widespread belief that Kyrgyzstan could never achieve stability and prosperity until the country's structural problems are addressed.



(Photo courtesy NELC)

Meanwhile, Islam has undergone a marked resurgence among the Uzbeks of Kyrgyzstan, as observed in mosque attendance; observance of prayers, fasting, pilgrimage, and modest dress; the training of native clerics in the Middle East; and the vitality of grassroots Islamic study groups (ziyofat) where they are learning about Islam for the first time since Soviet religious repressions. Abhorring all extremism, force, and foreign fundamentalisms, these Uzbeks seek to revitalize Central Asian Islam as a peaceful means of transforming Central Asian societies from within. My

Uzbek-language fieldwork will focus on these Islamic study groups (where religion is taught and social issues are discussed), interviews with religious and community leaders (regarding private enterprise and post-Soviet socio-economic change), and ethnographic observation of mosque and everyday neighborhood life. Analysis of discourses discerns vernacular Muslim "social imaginaries" concerning justice and collective agency, aiming to contribute to scholarship on Muslim societies, postsocialisms, and societal problems as emergent complex phenomena.

This project would offer for our consideration a non-Western, non-liberal vision of good society and social justice that is both modern and Muslim in an increasingly interconnected world. This is particularly important because Central Asia is a region of the world with very few studies about what ordinary people there are actually thinking and doing. Such scholarly knowledge is necessary to enable the formulation of more contextually appropriate and successful policies for assistance to Muslims in Central Asia and beyond.

CSEES Alumni,
where are you now?

CSEES loves to hear from alumni and friends, so please let us know your latest news and where you currently live or work.

CSEES@osu.edu



Faculty Awards, Cont.

Mudrak (History of Art) awarded Fulbright Grant

Dr. Mudrak will conduct research in Kharkiv, Ukraine, beginning in October 2008. She will focus primarily on Ukrainian Constructivism— one of the most neglected areas of modern Ukrainian art history—and its major exponent, the artist Vasiliï Yermilov.

By undertaking a concentrated study of Ukrainian Constructivism, her objective is to clarify the relationship between artists and industry in Kharkiv, Ukraine's most industrialized city (and capital) in the 1920s, and, primarily, to explore the development of modern photography in Ukraine developed under the principles of Constructivism during the period of Ukrainization.

Hashamova (DSEELL) wins IREX Short Term Grant

Dr. Hashamova will work on her project: Screening Trafficking in Women: Prudent or Perilous. The noticeable increase in the production of feature films, TV dramas, and documentaries focused on trafficking in people reveals a better understanding of the problem and a broader public interest in it. All these films, however, invite closer scrutiny, for the representation of trafficking and its violence can be as perilous as it is helpful in addressing this twenty-first century Holocaust.

For the last two years the US government has initiated a film outreach campaign; US embassies around the world organize screenings of trafficking films for local audiences. However, prevention and awareness campaigns have often chosen films with questionable qualities, films that can turn away viewers rather than evoking empathy and transformation, calling for action.

Dr. Hashamova's research question is how film aesthetics create the viewer as "witness" who is open to transformation and action, or how cinematic properties invite suspicion and disbelief. In exploring the effectiveness of film representations of trafficking, Dr. Hashamova employs a two-fold approach. First, she tests public responses to trafficking films and second, she analyzes the content and cinematic properties of selected films probing the empathy response that they can generate.

Graduate Student News

Kathleen Althen (DSEELL) presented a paper titled "A Chekhovian Confession as Comedic Parody" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Epp Annus (Russian/Philosophy OSU-Newark) presented a paper on "Soviet Colonialism as Colonialism in Reverse" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Jennifer Apple (Women's Studies) was discussant on the panel "Gender in Central and Eastern Europe" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Bryan Brookes (DSEELL) presented the paper "Russian Film: *The Return*" at the Midwest Slavic Conference.

Clinton Buhler (CSEES/Art History) presented a paper on "Tengiz Abuladze's *Repentance* and Collective Trauma" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference. Congratulations to Clinton on successfully completing a dual M.A. in Slavic Studies and History of Art.

Justin Cade (CSEES) and **Terry Studer (CSEES staff)** completed a short film "Четыре милии до Грэйсланда", a Russian and Uzbek language drama with subtitles, starring many CSEES students and staff. The film was entered in the Wexner Center Short Film and Video Competition in March. The OSU premier of the film was at the DSEELL Spring Kapustnik. Justin was awarded FLAS awards for Summer 2008 to study Advanced Russian at St. Petersburg State University and for the 2008-09 academic year to study Intermediate Georgian at OSU. He presented his paper "Chechnya, Abkhazia and the Question of Separatism in the Post-Soviet Caucasus" at the Midwest Slavic Conference and intends to write his MA thesis on Abkhazia.

Andrei Cretu (DSEELL) chaired a panel on "Contemporary Romania" and presented a paper on "Bulgakov's Master and Margarita" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Matthew Curtis (DSEELL) chaired a panel on "The Evolution of the Balkan Identity" and presented a paper titled "Language and Ideology of the 1850 Vienna Language Agreement" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

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Ohio High School Olympiada of Spoken Russian

by Maria Alley

On March 17, 2008, the Slavic Department with generous support from the Center for Slavic and East European Studies hosted this year's Ohio High School Olympiada of Spoken Russian, which is organized and funded by the American Councils of Teachers of Russian. It is the oldest of all American Councils' secondary school activities dating to the 1960s.

In this competition, which is largely based on the long existing tradition of oral examinations and competitions in the Russian educational system, Ohio high school students have an opportunity to test their knowledge of Russian and meet other students of Russian throughout the state.



Twenty-one students from Start High School in Toledo, OH, competed in this year's event. This year's winner, Andrea Reany, will be traveling to Vladimir, Russia on a study abroad program along with the finalists from other U.S. regions who participated in Olympiada this year. In addition to classroom instruction in Russian language, literature and culture, students will live with host families and take part in cultural tours.

A special thank you to all volunteer participants of this year's Olympiada! It was, by all accounts, a successful and enjoyable event for both the students and organizers.



New CSEES Discussion Group

by Terry Studer

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies created the CSEES Discussion Group in Winter Quarter 2008, which aims to provide an opportunity for the interdisciplinary exchange and discussion of ideas related to Russia, the former Soviet Union (including Central Asia), Central, and South-Eastern Europe. The group proposes to examine concepts such as (national, ethnic, religious, and gender) identities, citizenship, democracy, security, empire, and post-communist legacy. In light of recent conflicts in the Balkans and Central Asia, the group will consider how to talk about the responsibility of the humanities and social sciences in encouraging a (renewed) debate about the nature and origin of social bonds, a debate that makes possible better political responses to new challenges: for instance, in the modern clash of religions and the ghettoizing of communities.

The topic for the Winter Quarter discussion group was *The Veil*, and the group discussed several articles related to women's issues in Muslim populations in Central Asia and the Balkans.

The topic for Spring Quarter was *Minorities and States: Central Asia, Russia, and the Balkans*. All of the discussion group meetings so far have been well attended by both faculty and students. The quarterly discussion group meetings will continue in Fall Quarter 2008.

If you would like more information about the discussion group and would like to participate please contact us at csees@osu.edu.



Graduate Student News, Cont.

Xinran Dong (DSEELL) presented a paper entitled "Requests in Academic Settings in Russian" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Svitlana Drahaieva-Turovska (DSEELL) presented on screen representations of sexual and ethnic minorities (MELUS Conference, OSU) in March 2008. She chaired a panel on "East European Literature" and presented a paper on "Othering Russia in a Graphic Novel or How to Please an International Audience" at the Midwest Slavic Conference. Sveta also gave a talk on Shklovsky's device 'estrangement' in cinema (International Conference on Narrative, University of Texas at Austin) in May.

Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky (CSEES) presented a paper entitled, "Women's Participation and Societal Attitudes toward Feminism in post-Soviet Russia and Ukraine," at the Midwest Slavic Conference. She also received FLAS awards to study Advanced Russian in St. Petersburg, Russia this summer, and to study Intermediate Uzbek for the 2008-09 academic year at OSU.

Carolyn Smith Keller (Sociology) defended her thesis "Gender-Related Policies and Unequal Pay in Central and Eastern Europe: How Effectively has the European Union Shaped Policies and Practices for the New Members?" in May, which she also presented at the Midwest Slavic Conference. This summer she will be going to Warsaw to participate in OSU's "Central and Eastern Europe in Comparative Perspectives" study abroad. She was also awarded a FLAS to study Polish in Krakow this summer. Carolyn received an Office of International Affairs grant for her dissertation research in Central Europe.

Eileen Kunkler (CSEES) presented a paper titled "Elegy for Kosovo and Muslim Identity in Yugoslavia" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference. She will also be interning with the U.S. Department of State in Russia this summer.

Seth Lewis (CSEES) presented a paper entitled "Between the Bear and the Dragon: Assessing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Future Strategic Impact" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Matthew Luby (CSEES) presented a paper on "When Bollywood Met Bolshevism: Understanding the Popularity of Indian Cinema in the Soviet Union" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

George Lywood (History) will present a paper at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists, (Vancouver, BC) in June entitled "From Russia's Orient to Russia's Riviera: The Black Sea Coast through early Tourist Guidebooks". He was also awarded an Office of International Affairs grant for his dissertation research in Russia.

Brian Martin (CSEES) presented papers titled "On the Allegiance of J. Robert Oppenheimer" and "Beyond Weimar-Russia: Putin as Imperial Revanchist" at the Midwest Slavic Conference. He also received FLAS awards to study Advanced Russian at Saint Petersburg State University this summer and to study Intermediate Uzbek for the 2008-09 academic year at OSU.

Mark Nuckols (DSEELL) received his Ph.D. in Slavic Linguistics in December 2007. He gave a paper, "Transitivity in Czech and Russian: The Animacy Paradox," at the AATSEEL Annual Conference in Chicago later that month. He

gave another paper, "Sins Against Slovak or How to be un-Bohemian in the Nineties," at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Olha Rudich (DSEELL) chaired a panel on "Gender in Central and Eastern Europe" and presented a paper on "Gender Identity in Abram Room's Film *Bed and Sofa*" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Daria Safronova (DSEELL) presented a paper titled "The Book of Fyodoy and the Book of Varlam: Revelations of Truth in Non-Fictional Writings of Fyodor Dostoevsky and Varlam Shalamov" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

Douglas Shaffer (CSEES) presented a paper on "The Rose Revolution: Georgia's Chance for Democracy" at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference.

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies would like to congratulate the following students for completing their M.A. in Slavic and East European Studies:

Amy Baker
Clinton Buhler
Daniel Gray
Seth Lewis
Matt Luby

Congratulations!



Film Additions to CSEES Library

Documentaries/English Language

Extreme Engineering: Sakhalin Oil and Ice
 Michael Palin's New Europe – (2007) Travel in 20 countries including Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Transdnester, Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and the former East Germany
 Unsolved History: KAL-007 – Documentary
 World War II: The Complete History – Documentary, 10 DVD set

Czech (with English subtitles)

Black Peter (Cerny Petr) - (1963) Comedy
 Valerie and Her Week of Wonders (Valerie a Tyden Divu) – (1970) Horror

Hungarian (with English subtitles)

Little Vilma (Kisvilma) - Director's autobiography
 The Rebellion of the Straw Men (Szalmabábok Lázadásá) – Fairytale

Romanian (with English subtitles)

Furia – (2002) Comedy

Students, faculty, and the general public are encouraged to borrow (free of charge) any of our 2,000+ film titles. A complete list of films is available on the CSEES website.

Russian (with English subtitles unless otherwise noted)

12 – (2007) In Russian without subtitles. Drama
 Archangel- (2005) In English and Russian with subtitles. Spy thriller.
 Brother 2 (Брат 2) - (2000) Now with English subtitles
 Daywatch (Дневной дозор) – (2005) Science Fiction/fantasy
 Eastern Promises – (2007) In English, Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian. Crime drama.
 Iris Effect, The – (2005) In English and Russian. Drama
 Italian, The (Итальянец) – (2005) Drama
 Mongol (Монгол) – (2007) Historical epic
 Roads to Kotelbel, The (Коктебел) - (2003) Drama
 Swordbearer, The (Меченосец) – (2006) Drama/science fiction

Tajik (with English subtitles)

Transfiguration (Digarguna) – Documentary on Tajikistan

Mark Soderstrom (History) was recently awarded an IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities grant and a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant to support 12 months of research in archives in Russia and Siberia. His dissertation will investigate the place of Siberia in the Russian empire, particularly during the first half of the nineteenth century. He also received an Office of International Affairs grant for his dissertation research.

Nicholas Starvaggi (CSEES) is finishing his second year of graduate studies toward a Dual M.A. in Slavic Studies and Public Policy and Management with the Glenn School of Public Affairs. He presented an early version of his research on Belarus at the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference in a paper entitled "Prospects for Democracy in Belarus: Is Another Color Revolution a Possibility or a Pipe Dream." Nicholas also received FLAS awards to study Advanced Russian this summer in St. Petersburg, and for Elementary Polish for the 2008-09 academic year at OSU.

Susan Vdovichenko (DSEELL) presented a paper titled "Gender, Nationalism, and Violence in *Before the Rain*" at the Midwest Slavic Conference.

Ryan Walker (DSEELL), Graduate Teaching Assistant 3rd year, was a Graduate Representative to the Undergraduate Committee from July 2006 through August 2007. He presented a paper at the Midwest Slavic Conference and will be Resident Director for the Tomsk, Russian Study Abroad Program 2008.



Emerging Markets Field Study Course Visits Moscow

by James Kinard

Every Winter quarter the Fisher College of Business offers MBA program electives titled “Emerging Markets Field Study” courses. The course meets for ten weeks and then travels to the country being studied over spring break for a ten day field study. For the first time in its ten year history, the EMFS course this winter focused on Moscow, Russia as a destination. Professor Jim Kinard taught the course and traveled to Russia without going to Tomsk, his usual, actually invariant, destination for 15 years of previous trips.

Nineteen students registered for the class including one non-business college student, Amy Baker. Amy is a CSEES master’s student who learned something about business in Russia but was an invaluable language expert for the group. None of the other eighteen students had previously been to Russia, so the average Russian language skill level in the group was near zero.

To round out the group of 22 who made the trip, Prakash Mulchandani, a senior lecturer in accounting with substantial international business career experience before coming to Fisher to teach, and Maria De Gregorio, the administrative lead for the Fisher EMFS trips and also experienced in international business, attended the classes and traveled to Russia. (This Winter there were a total of four EMFS elective classes going to Istanbul, Hong Kong, and Bolivia in addition to Moscow.)

The focus of the trip was business in Russia, usually from the viewpoint of a U.S. multinational corporation. The

group visited with McDonald’s, ConocoPhillips, Boeing, Ernst and Young, and Grief (an Ohio company) that fit this perspective. In addition, with Amy’s contacts in Moscow, the group secured a visit to Alfa Bank, the largest non-government bank in Russia. The U.S. Commercial Service and the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia rounded out the visits for the group. Several speakers visited the class during Winter quarter including Lance Erickson, assistant director of the Slavic Center. Lance’s several years of work experience in sales and management with a Chicago-based dental equipment and services company was a very interesting case study for the class.



EMFS Students on Red Square and meeting with McDonald’s Corporate Office. (photos courtesy K. Kennedy and J. Kinard)



The non business agenda items included a bus tour of the city (Moscow State University, Great Patriotic War memorial, Christ the Savior Cathedral, Red Square, G.U.M., the Kremlin, the Armory Museum, and St. Basils Church). Lenin was not receiving visitors and the Bolshoi Theater is under renovation so the group missed these two important visits. The Tsar’s cannon symbolizes the recent Russian reassertion of its place on the international scene whether one thinks of gas supplies to Europe through Ukraine or its recent criticism of the NATO membership candidate list including former Soviet bloc countries. Separate

trips to Ismailovsky Park bazaar and the Novodevichy Monastery and Cemetery were also part of the cultural events.

As always, Moscow is an interesting city with many sights to see, some unanticipated.



CSEES P-12 Outreach Recap

by Terry Studer

The 2007-08 academic year has been a busy time for CSEES Outreach. All of the CSEES outreach materials have been cataloged and made available on the CSEES website (http://slaviccenter.osu.edu/p_12_outreach_home.html). Pictures of the items contained in the Outreach Boxes, which are available for P-12 teachers to borrow for their classrooms, are available online. We have also added many new outreach materials to our inventory including books, foreign language newspapers, and presentations.

There have been several major outreach events held by CSEES over the last year. In December CSEES hosted Columbus Blue Jacket players Sergei Fedorov, Nikolai Zherdev, and Rostislav Klesla, who met at OSU's Crane Café with local elementary school children who speak Russian, Ukrainian, and Czech. The hockey stars played games with the kids, signed autographs, and even shared a cake celebrating Sergei Fedorov's birthday.

In January, CSEES helped the Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA) celebrate with Ded Moroz and plenty of Russian candy. In March, CSEES, along with the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, hosted the High School Russian Olympiada. High School students from the Toledo-area competed for awards at the national level.

In April, CSEES paired up with the OSU Ukrainian Club and FRUA to do a Pysanky decorating event for kids who have been adopted from Russia and Ukraine. In May, CSEES visiting lecturer Andrey Shcherbak visited the Upper Arlington Senior Center and gave a presentation on Putinism in Russia.



In addition to community outreach events, CSEES has also been involved in school visits to both the Columbus-area and as far away as Madison, Ohio. CSEES has given presentations on studying abroad, careers in Slavic Studies, and Russian sports just to name a few. In May, Dr. Predrag Matejic visited The Graham School in Columbus and spoke on Orthodox Christianity.

The CSEES Outreach Team is working to put together more presentations and lesson plans for teachers to access for their classrooms. As these new materials become available they will be posted on our website. Downloadable PowerPoint presentations on various topics and regions within our geographic area will be available soon for teachers to access to supplement their lesson plans. Photographs of some recent outreach events can be found on our P-12 Outreach website.

If you are interested in the Outreach Team visiting your school to give a presentation or you would like more information about available teacher resource materials please contact us at csees@osu.edu or (614) 292-8770.





CSEES' First Annual International Careers Week

The first annual International Careers Week was held May 12 - 16 in cooperation with all five Area Studies Centers, the Office of International Affairs, and the Foreign Language Center. This event consisted of a different panel discussion each night and was open to the entire OSU student body. It is vital that students interested in international careers begin the process early and focus special attention on language and cultural study of their region of interest.

Monday was an "Introduction to International Careers" with presentations from Lance Erickson (CSEES), Janet Stucky Smith (East Asian Studies Center's Institute for Japanese Studies), Melinda Wightman (Middle East Studies Center), and Erin Galloway (Office of International Affairs). Students with an interest in working overseas were given ideas on how to prepare for their desired careers, how to locate internship

and job opportunities, and a brief discussion of the various sectors in which students can work internationally. Approximately 75 students participated in opening night.

Tuesday's focus was "Careers in Intel" with recruiters from the CIA's Open Source Center and Directorate of Intelligence presenting. Students learned about opportunities with both agencies and how they can prepare for these careers by attaining strong language and culture skills, studying abroad, and completing internships. 72 students attended this event and many had the opportunity to formally interview the following two days.

The "International Nonprofit Careers" night (Wednesday) featured presentations from Laura Joseph (Center for African Studies), Connie De Jong (Arts Scholars Program) and Randy Dineen (Arts and Sciences Career Services). Approximately 40 students learned how they can make use of their language skills and international experience working with international NGOs.

Career Focus: Internships

One of the Slavic Center's main objectives is to help students secure careers which make use of their strong language skills and international experience. As such, a new emphasis has been placed on the importance of building resumes through internship experience. This option may not be as easy as a summer relaxing on the beach or taking a few language classes, but the rewards are well worth the time and extra effort. Here are a few options that students may want to consider:

State Department: The U.S. Department of State internship program, where students spend a summer or longer interning at a U.S. Embassy overseas, is an excellent option for students interested in government work. These internships provide wonderful opportunities to gain experience working behind the scenes within the U.S. Government and help strengthen the students' skill set and resume. In addition, students are able to live and work overseas, where they can improve their language skills and

learn more about the host culture firsthand. Placements are available at many embassies worldwide and in many cases, students can be paid or at least receive housing assistance for the duration of the internship. For students interested in a career with the Foreign Service, these internships can be invaluable experiences and help significantly when taking the Foreign Service Exam. CSEES will offer an information session on State Department internships in October to help prepare students for the November 1st deadline (for summer 2009 interns). For more information on specific internship opportunities, please visit <http://careers.state.gov/students/>.

CIA: For students considering a career in Intelligence, many encounter roadblocks when applying for full time employment following graduation. One of the best ways to get your foot in the door with the Intel Agencies is through an internship program. Many of these are paid and require two summers. For more information visit www.cia.gov.



On Thursday, the Foreign Language Center in Hagerty Hall hosted the third annual Foreign Language Center's Career Night. Over 17 organizations had recruiter booths available for students to gather additional information and submit resumes. A roundtable discussion followed with a group of professionals describing how languages are an integral part of their everyday jobs. Rebecca Bias (Foreign Language Center) and Carol Robison (Center for Latin American Studies) participated in this discussion.

Friday was "Careers in Academia" night and included a discussion of what students can do to prepare for graduate study and how to build their CVs. Presentations were given by Morgan Liu (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures), Melinda Wightman (Middle East Studies Center) and Maria Alley (Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures).

With over 200 students participating in International Careers Week, it is apparent the event filled a profound need. CSEES and the other Area Studies Centers will continue to provide career services to students at OSU and plans for 2008-09 are already in development.

We would like to thank all the students, faculty, and staff who helped make this event such a great success: Arts and Sciences Career Services, Arts Schol-

ars Program, Center for African Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for International Business Education and Research, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, East Asian Studies Center and Institute of Japanese Studies, Foreign Language Center, Middle East Studies Center, the Office of International Affairs and Study Abroad, and the Younkun Success Center.



Department of Energy: For students with an interest in nuclear nonproliferation, the U.S. Department of Energy offers the Nonproliferation Graduate Program, which is a year-long internship that pays over \$40,000. For more information visit <http://ngp.pnl.gov>.

Nonprofit Organizations: Students interested in non-profit work have numerous options to intern with NGOs working with democratization, human rights, trafficking and abuse, microfinance and development, just to name a few. It can be more difficult to secure funding for some of these positions, but the practical experience gained is well worth the sacrifice. For more information on opportunities with NGOs, please visit the CSEES website.

Internships are excellent opportunities for all students, undergraduates and graduates, so see what is available for your area of interest and let's get to work!

Upcoming Career Events 2008

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| September | Resume Workshop for Incoming M.A. students |
| October | State Department Internship Panel |
| November | Networking Skills Workshop |
| December | Interview Skills Workshop |



OSU Ukrainian Club's Busy Year

The Ukrainian Club, led by President Diana Laluk and faculty advisor Dr. Myroslava Mudrak, was busy in its first year back from hiatus. Highlights of the year include a Ukrainian movie night, a Psyanky demonstration for adopted children from Russia and Ukraine (as well as another demonstration for students on the Oval), and one of the most popular booths at the Taste of OSU. Officers for 2008-09 will be Valerie Szepiwdycz (President), Damian Hruszkewycz (Vice President/Treasurer), and Lesia Pawlyszyn (Vice President/Secretary).

Congratulations to the new officers and sincere thanks to Diana and the entire group!



The Ukrainian Club demonstrates their cooking skills at the annual Taste of OSU (photo courtesy V. van Buchem) and meets with students on the Oval.



OSU Russian Club Update

OSU's Russian Club was extremely active during the 2007-08 academic year. Led by president Kelsey Willingham and faculty advisor Dr. Daniel Collins, as well as graduate advisor Bryan Stout (CSEES), the Club hosted quarterly events such as a Russian dis-cothèque, Russian Cuisine Night, regular game nights and various other activities. Officers for 2008-09 will be Sasha Kutsovskaya (President), Vladimir Sharkov (Vice President) and Robert Stang (Secretary/Treasurer).

Many thanks to Kelsey and the group for so many wonderful activities throughout the year, and we look forward to a busy 2008-09 with Sasha and the other new officers.



The Russian Club hosted a Victory Day celebration in the courtyard of Hagerty Hall.

LOOKING FOR A JOB? DON'T
KNOW WHERE TO GO FOR
FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION?
TRYING TO TRAVEL/STUDY
ABROAD AND DON'T KNOW HOW?

[HTTP://SLAVICCENTER.OSU.EDU/](http://slaviccenter.osu.edu/)

YOUR SLAVIC SOURCE FOR
SLAVIC RESOURCES!



CSEES welcomes new Assistant Director

by Maryann Walther-Keisel

In November 2007, the Slavic Center welcomed Lance Erickson as our new assistant director, succeeding Luke Wochensky who left to work in St. Petersburg, Russia, earlier Autumn Quarter.

Lance received his B.A. in Political Science and Russian and East European Studies from the University of Illinois, and his M.A. in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He comes to us from Indiana University where he served as Academic Advisor and Assistant Director for Student Services since 2005. In addition to his administrative experience, he has spent considerable time working in Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Kazakhstan in the private sector.

His knowledge of National Resource Centers through his work at Indiana, as well as his contacts with business and government agencies have already enhanced the Slavic Center's operations. His genial personality, boundless energy and determination to ensure each of our graduate students leaves OSU with an internship or a job have made an impact already.

Добро пожаловать, Lance!

Yiddish Theater Comes to OSU

The Ohio State-Michigan rivalry comes to the stage. But this time, the cheers are in Yiddish! "Laughter in Three Languages: English, Yiddish and Yinglish", a Yiddish Theatre performance by alumni Dorothy and Reuben Silver, took place May 22, 2008.

"Laughter in Three Languages" is a GOAL (GO Global, Go Local) event and tells the humorous story of a recent Yiddish-speaking immigrant who stumbles upon an OSU-Michigan football game and cheers for both sides! The play is a unique format of theatrical storytelling, using Yiddish, English and a blend of both languages—Yinglish. "We translate every story immediately from Yiddish to English," Dorothy Silver said. "So, the play and the jokes are totally understandable to people even if they don't speak Yiddish." The 85-minute performance also details the humor, frustration and achievements of the immigrant experience in the United States.

"The immigrant experience is a historic part of this nation's life and is relevant to all audiences," Reuben Silver said. "After all, we all came here from somewhere else in the world." The show is sponsored by the Students of Yiddish in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Department of Theatre and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures.



CSEES MA student Seth Lewis enjoys some Uzbek cuisine.

OSU Celebrates Navruz

Uzbek Professor Hulkar Matchanova and the Uzbek classes hosted the first annual Navruz celebration this March in Hagerty Hall, complete with authentic Uzbek cuisine, music and decorations. Thanks to Hulkar for the extraordinary food and to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures for their support. CSEES looks forward to celebrating this spring festival on an annual basis.

Acting Director

Yana Hashamova

Assistant Director

Lance Erickson

Office Coordinator

Maryann Walther-Keisel

Outreach Coordinator

Terry Studer

Office Assistants

Cari Mullinax

Anastasia Patoka



FIRST ANNUAL SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, CENTRAL ASIAN AND CAUCASIAN SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Rules: Pieces must be independently produced by current students, no longer than 20 minutes in length, and shot between April 20, 2008 and February 1, 2009. All films must be in a Slavic, East European, Central Asian, or Caucasian language and include English sub-titles. Entries must be submitted on DVD. All entries must be received by February 1, 2009.

Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top rated entries and will be showcased during the 2009 Midwest Slavic Conference.

	Send entries by mail to: CSEES 303 Oxley Hall 1712 Neil Avenue Columbus, OH 43210	Questions: csees@osu.edu
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2009 Midwest Slavic Conference

The Ohio State University

April 16-18, 2009

Center for Slavic and East European Studies303 Oxley Hall
1712 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210-1219

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