



Beyond Little Vera

Women's Bodies, Women's Welfare

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies and The Ohio State University are pleased to announce the publication of "Beyond *Little Vera*: Women's Bodies, Women's Welfare in Russia and Central/Eastern Europe," **Ohio Slavic Papers**, volume 7, edited by Angela Brintlinger and Natasha Kolchevska, Columbus, Ohio, September 2008.

This peer-reviewed volume comprises ten papers from the 2005 and 2007 AWSS interdisciplinary conferences and was co-sponsored by the Slavic Center. As Natasha Kolchevska states in her introduction, "Women in Transit(ion)," through the publication of this volume the editors hope "to highlight the changing landscape for women of various generations in post-Soviet space as reflected in a cross section of current cultural, anthropological, and sociological studies ... and to offer a balance to the often sensationalized media coverage of gender (especially when it comes to trafficking and commodification of women) by presenting the issues in a more scholarly light."

The biennial AWSS conference brings together scholars from all over the world. The 2007 conference, partially funded by the Slavic Center utilizing U.S. Department of Education Title VI funding, provided an invaluable opportunity for graduate students and junior scholars to interact during panels and free time with more experienced colleagues. The camaraderie that ensued over the several days of the conference made the scholarly aspect that much more enjoyable.

The resulting interdisciplinary study offers new possibilities in the field of Slavic research. Dr. Angela Brintlinger (DSEELL) comments, "The volume - the first of its kind, very interdisciplinary and featuring both new and senior scholars - came together nicely and I am immensely proud of it. It was particularly important to me that we send the articles out to referees and get it distributed by Slavica, both of which make it a much more valuable venue for publication for junior faculty."




From Beyond Little Vera: Advertising in Western Ukraine (photo courtesy M. Murney)

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The volume is distributed by Slavica and is available via mail as well as at the upcoming AWSS conference. The 2009 event will be held in conjunction with the Midwest Slavic Conference in Columbus in April. For more information please visit the Slavic Center website.

From the Director



On December 4 2008, the TV channel Russia aired a Q&A session Putin conducted with Russian citizens. Over one million questions were screened for the program and not one was considered hostile to the Prime Minister. In three hours, he addressed over 70 inquiries, which ranged from the economic crisis to Russia's relations with the

U.S. Western media and some Russian blogs noted that Putin, not Medvedev, ran the show. One question, however, that was neither asked nor answered seems to baffle everyone: Would Vladimir Vladimirovich return to the presidency? Twentieth-century Russia surprised the world several times and it is obvious that the future—whatever it holds—promises nothing less.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, an in-depth study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia becomes imperative. It is very important that a Research Institution like OSU mobilize its talent and resources to foster responsible interdisciplinary research on and teaching about these vital regions of the world. Dedicated to the production of knowledge by supporting area research, promoting curricula, and organizing diverse programming activities, CSEES continues to invite exciting speakers, to host various symposia and conferences, and to fund Less Commonly Taught Languages.

CSEES has already created a respected profile nationally and internationally through a series of successful and widely publicized conferences. They have significantly increased the interaction with scholars nationwide as well as academic communities in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia and it is important that we provide the necessary structure and means to continue organizing them. Information on our upcoming lectures and conferences follows on page 5.

To enhance the flow of ideas between American and international scholars, CSEES ought to maintain its relationships and affiliations with educational institutions and universities from the regions and seek new ones. Closer ties to East European, Russian, and Central Asian institutions advance a more active exchange of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and scholarly knowledge. This summer, general agreements with several universities and institutions in the Balkans were signed for mutual research projects and consultation (advising) of students. Guaranteeing easier access to internships, direct contacts were also established with Russian NGOs and business companies.

In order to be a successful Title VI area studies center, it is crucial for us to submit a competitive grant proposal (Fall 09) and secure funds for the next cycle. OSU ought to vigorously promote its leading role in the creation of interdisciplinary knowledge about Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia not only in the Midwest, but in our national economy of knowledge. I invite all of you to present to us innovative and exciting projects, which can enhance our proposal and make it a winning one!

Yana Hashamova
Acting Director

Thank You Dr. Stephan

by Maryann Walther-Keisel

The Slavic Center wishes to express our deep appreciation to Dr. Halina Stephan for her dedicated leadership as director for the Center from 2001-2008. Dr. Stephan, currently on leave from OSU, still holds positions as professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Research Associate at the Mershon Center. With characteristic diligence, enthusiasm and graciousness, Dr. Stephan arrived at the Center and within a year gave it a complete physical facelift. She presided over two successful Title VI grant application cycles in 2002 and 2006.

During her 7-year tenure she led the Slavic Center to achieve many distinguished accomplishments including the initiation of our Uzbek language and Central Asian program; the creation of Slavic 700, the introductory seminar for the Slavic Studies MA program; and the acquisition of OSU as the permanent site of the annual Midwest Slavic Conference beginning in 2004. During Dr. Stephan's time as Center Director she advised and served on the MA exam or thesis committees for 35 CSEES graduate students. The Center faculty, staff and students thank her for her many years of service to us and the university and wish her well in her current endeavors.





Perperikon and Bulgarian Archaeology

The renowned Bulgarian archaeologist Dr. Nikolay Ovcharov spoke at OSU on his recent findings at Perperikon and on the general state of archaeology in Bulgaria. Over 30 students, faculty and members of the community came to listen to Dr. Ovcharov discuss the significance of excavating the 3,000 year old Thracian site with its possible connections to the legend of Orpheus.

The Bulgarian Club at OSU was instrumental in helping to promote this event, with special thanks going to President Lubka Ilieva and Vice President Boyan Alexandrov.

Dr. Ovcharov's visit was funded in part through U.S. Department of Education Title VI funds and was co-sponsored by the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Dr. Nikolay Ovcharov

Filming Russian Lassie

On December 2nd, Professor Alexander Prokhorov of the College of William and Mary gave a presentation on the image of service dogs in Soviet and Post-Soviet film. Dr. Prokhorov spoke to CSEES and DSEELL students about Dzhulbars, Mukhtar and other famous canine characters.

Students from the Modern Russian Film classes posed questions and demonstrated their knowledge of the field by remarking on other famous dogs in Russian films such as *White Bim Black Ear*, and *Four Cabmen and a Dog*, just to name a few. (available for loan through the Slavic Center)

Dr. Prokhorov's visit was funded through U.S. Department of Education Title VI funds and was co-sponsored by Kenyon College.



Dr. Alexander Prokhorov, College of William and Mary

CSEES Alumni News

Daniel Gray is pursuing a MBA degree at the OSU Fisher College of Business.

Seth Lewis is currently doing analytical research at OSU.

David McVey has returned from Russia to pursue a Ph.D. with the Slavic Department at OSU.

Katherine Scodova joined the Peace Corps and will be stationed in Eastern Europe.

Daniel Sells works full time as a Russian translator for Hannes Snellman in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Terry Studer is an analyst for the U.S. government.



Faculty and Students Represent CSEES and OSU at AAASS Convention

November 20-23, Philadelphia, PA

Thursday, 20 November

Panel: Gender and Empire in the Caucasus

Presenter: **Kristin Collins** (History)

“Stealing Brides: Relations between Russians and Caucasians”

Discussant: **Nicholas Brenton Breyfogle** (History)

Presidential Plenary Session

Revisiting the Gender Question: Scholarship, Exchange, Experience

Participant: **Yana Hashamova** (CSEES)

Friday, 21 November

Panel: Aspects of Slovene Identity: New Research by Young Scholars in the Field

Chair: **Carole Rogel** (History)

Panel: Chekhov in Film: Adaptations and Intertexts

Presenter: **Alexander Burry** (DSEELL)

“Uncle Vanya in Australia: Michael Blakemore’s ‘Country Life’”

Panel: Countercultures vs Subcultures: Now and Before

Discussant: **Jessie Labov** (DSEELL)

Panel: Imperial Russian Diplomacy

Chair: **Jennifer Siegel** (History)

Panel: Stalin’s Gulag: History and memory

Chair: **David L. Hoffmann** (History)

Panel: Russian Literature and Music

Discussant: **Alexander Burry** (DSEELL)

Saturday, 22 November

Panel: Re-bridging Political Science and Cultural Studies: The Scope and Limits of Interdisciplinarity in the Study of Contemporary Russia

Presenter: **Ted Hopf** (Political Science)

“Novel Foreign Policy Studies”

Panel: Moving People and Borders: World War II in Eastern Europe

Presenter: **Theodora Dragostinova** (History)

“The Changing Dynamics of Occupation: Bulgaria in World War II”

Panel: Reading Images of Women and War in the Nineteenth Century

Chair: **Nicholas Brenton Breyfogle** (History)

Panel: New Perspectives on the “Great Terror”: Stalinist State Violence in the Late 1930’s

Presenter: **David L. Hoffmann** (History)

“The Conceptual Origins of Stalinist State Violence: Social Categorization and Social Excision”

Panel: Syntax-Semantic Interfaces in the Balkans

Presenter: **Anastasia Smirnova** (Linguistics)

“Cross-linguistic Perspective on Embedded Tense: Evidence from Balkan Languages”

International Visitors Frequent OSU

CSEES continues to host international visitors to Columbus and OSU on a regular basis. These events provide students and faculty the opportunity to network with experts from the region and practice their language skills. Most visits are arranged in cooperation with the Columbus Council on World Affairs, the Columbus International Visitors Council, the Columbus League of Women Voters, and the OSU Office of International Affairs.

Over the summer CSEES welcomed a group of leading politicians from Bulgaria, including a member of the European Parliament from the GERB party. CSEES and OIA hosted a group from Macedonia, including the Ambassador, to discuss potential cooperation. CSEES met with

a group of journalists from Azerbaijan to discuss freedom of the press issues. A group of local politicians from Ukraine also visited OSU to discuss the politics of tourism.

High level meetings continued this autumn with a group of Ukrainian politicians in connection with the League of Women Voters. Finally CSEES hosted a group of finance ministers from Georgia to discuss the latest developments in the Georgian economy following the recent Russian-Georgian conflict.

These workshops and meetings provide excellent opportunities for CSEES students and faculty to remain up to date on the most recent developments from the region.



Panel: Is There a Feminist Press in Central/Eastern Europe? Women's Voices in the Contemporary Media

Participant: **Yana Hashamova** (CSEES)

Participant: **Jessie Labov** (DSEELL)

Panel: Chernyshevsky at a Crossroads

Chair: **Angela Brintlinger** (DSEELL)

Panel: Defending a Cultural Heritage: The Work of the Bilingual Journal, "Duh Bosne/Spirit of Bosnia"

Presenter: **Snjezana Buzov** (NELC)

"Reading and Listening to Bosnia Two Ways"

Panel: New Research in Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics: Contact and Change

Presenter: **Matthew Curtis** (DSEELL)

"The Albanian Perfect in its Balkan Context"

Panel: Folk-Mythic Conceptions

Presenter: **Daria Safronova** (DSEELL)

"The Sacred and the Cursed: Russian Bathhouse as Locas in Rituals, Songs, Fairytales, and Spells"

Panel: Labored Identities: Gender, Communism, Cinema

Presenter: **Maruta Zane Vitols** (History of Art)

"Juris Podnieks' Soviets and the 'Phallacy' of Gender Equity in the Glasnost Era"



(photo by R. Kennedy at GoPhila.com)

Upcoming Events 2009

January 2009

*Lecture: Maria Ignatieva (OSU-Lima) "Chekhov and the Moscow Art Theater 1898-1904"

February 2009

*Lecture: Brian Baer (Kent State) "Other Russias: Homosexuality and the Crisis of Post-Soviet Identity"

*CSEES Discussion Group "Post-Communism and/or Post-Colonialism"

April 2009

*Midwest Slavic Conference and Wajda Film Retrospective

*Association for Women in Slavic Studies Conference

*Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop 2009

May 2009

*Second Annual International Careers Week

*Georgian Conflict Roundtable



FLAS Recipients

Academic Year 2008-09

Igor Brin (Law) Beginning Romanian

Justin Cade (CSEES) Intermediate Georgian

Joseph Castleton (CSEES) Advanced Russian

Scott Clayton (Law) Beginning Romanian

Shannon Conrad (Sociology) Beginning Polish

Timothy Dempsey (CSEES) Beginning Uzbek

Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky (CSEES) Intermediate Uzbek

Eileen Kunkler (CSEES) Advanced Russian

Matthew Lakes (CSEES) Intermediate Uzbek

Scott Legler (Business) Beginning Uzbek

Brian Martin (CSEES) Intermediate Uzbek

Laurie Reitsema (Anthropology) Beginning Polish

Carolyn Smith (Sociology) Beginning Romanian

Nicholas Starvaggi (CSEES) Beginning Polish

Ann Wilson (CSEES) Beginning Uzbek

Summer 2008

Ellen Bunker (DSEELL) Beginning Czech
Olomouc, Czech Republic

Justin Cade (CSEES) Advanced Russian
St. Petersburg, Russia

Robert Calhoun (Art History) Advanced Russian
Moscow, Russia

Emily Erken (Music) Advanced Russian
St. Petersburg, Russia

Thaddeus Fortney (DSEELL) Beginning Polish
SWSEEL at Indiana University

Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky (CSEES) Advanced Russian
St. Petersburg, Russia

Kevin Herzner (Germanic L & L) Beginning Polish
SWSEEL at Indiana University

Kirk Jorgensen (DSEELL) Intermediate Polish
Krakow, Poland

Matthew Lakes (CSEES) Advanced Russian
Tomsk, Russia

Brian Martin (CSEES) Advanced Russian
St. Petersburg, Russia

Michael Nichols (DSEELL) Beginning Macedonian
SWSEEL at Indiana University

Sarah Orr (DSEELL) Advanced Russian
SWSEEL at Indiana University

James J. Pennington (DSEELL) Beginning Czech
SWSEEL at Indiana University

Nicholas Starvaggi (CSEES) Advanced Russian
St. Petersburg, Russia

CSEES would like to thank
the **Graduate School** at **OSU** and the
U.S. Department of Education for their
continued support of FLAS.

Thanks to their assistance, CSEES continues
to offer one of the largest FLAS programs
in the U.S.



CSEES Welcomes New MA Students

Joseph Castleton is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a B.A. in Russian and minors in political science and music. He lived for two years in St. Petersburg, Russia as an LDS missionary, spent two months in Ukraine working on a public health campaign, and interned with the World Health Organization in Geneva. He also taught English in Taiwan for six months. Joseph is interested in Sino-Russian relations and the role of the SCO in world affairs.

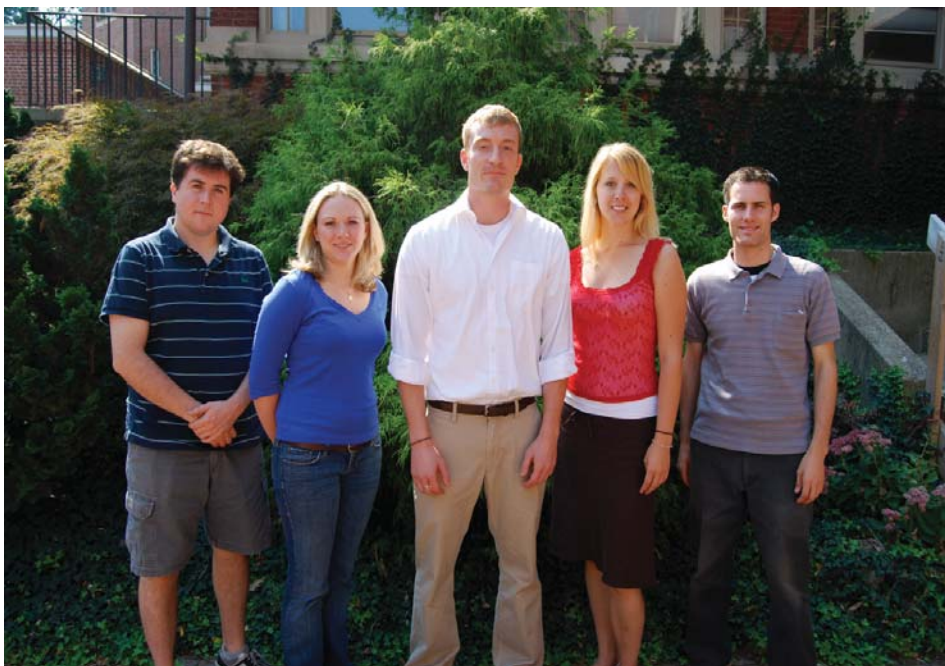
Timothy Dempsey graduated from Juniata College in 2004 with a B.A. in Russian and International Studies. He worked as a Program Specialist for the Library of Congress' Open World Program in Washington, DC. He later studied and then worked in St. Petersburg, Russia, with American Councils' Russian National Flagship Program. Tim speaks Russian and is studying Turkmen and Uzbek.

Lauren Ovchinnikov returns to OSU, where she received her B.A. in Russian and Scandinavian Studies. She spent one year studying at Moscow State University in Russia. Lauren is interested in combining Slavic and Folkloric Studies for future comparative and linguistic research.

Shannon Potter graduated cum laude from the University of Northern Colorado in 2004 with a B.A. in psychology and a minor in music. She spent most of the past two years teaching in the Czech Republic. She is interested in human rights in Central/Eastern Europe, and she is studying Czech and elementary Russian.

Justin Wilmes joins CSEES from Miami University. He graduated magna cum laude with honors with a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.A. in Russian language. Justin worked for a year as a computer consultant before accepting a Fulbright fellowship to teach English at a university and do research in Novosibirsk, Russia. He is studying advanced Russian language and has a particular interest in Russian literature.

Ann Wilson earned degrees with honors in International Studies, Russian Studies, and Slavic and East European Studies from West Virginia University. She has traveled to Hungary, Estonia, Poland and Russia, where she interned with the U.S. Department of State at the Embassy in Moscow. Ann is interested in Russian language, culture and politics, as well as Uzbek.



From L to R: T. Dempsey, A. Wilson, J. Wilmes, S. Potter and J. Castleton
(photo courtesy V. van Buchem)



CSEES Welcomes



Jessie Labov
Assistant Professor
Department of Slavic and East European
Languages and Literatures
Ph.D., New York University

Professor Labov received her Ph.D. from the Department of Comparative Literature at New York University with the dissertation, "Reinventing Central Europe: Cross Currents and the Émigré Writer in the 1980s."

As a comparatist (comparativist), her field of study is extensive, dealing with 20th century Central and South-eastern European literature and film from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and the countries of the former Yugoslavia. This includes the intellectual history of former dissidents in emigration, transatlantic publishing during the Cold War, as well as the role of Jewish culture in Central European identity.

Prior to her time at The Ohio State University, Professor Labov taught courses at Stanford University on topics concerning underground literature and unofficial cultures. This winter she will be teaching the course, "The Austro-Hungarian Grotesque."

AWSS Conference

April 16-18, 2009

The Blackwell Inn and Conference Center
The Ohio State University



Scott Levi
Assistant Professor
Department of History
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

Professor Levi's research focuses on the socio-economic history of early modern, pre-colonial Central Asia. In addition to multiple journal articles, book chapters and other publications, Professor Levi has authored *The Indian Diaspora in Central Asia and its Trade, 1550-1900* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2002) and he has edited *India and Central Asia: Commerce and Culture, 1500-1800* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007).

His current projects include a co-edited (with Ron Sela of Indiana University, Bloomington) anthology of Central Asian primary sources, and a history of the Khanate of Khoqand (1799-1876) that seeks to connect the Khanate's rapid rise and fall to larger Eurasian and global historical patterns.

Levi says, "I'm happy to have added two new courses to the OSU History Department curriculum: 'The Mongol World Empire' and 'Islamic Central Asia'. I've been very impressed with the quality of students here at OSU, and thrilled with the substantial interest that they've demonstrated in Central Asian history."



New Faculty to OSU



Andrea Sims
Assistant Professor
Department of Slavic and East European
Languages and Literatures
Ph.D., The Ohio State University

Professor Sims received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from The Ohio State University in 2006 with the dissertation "Minding the gaps: Inflectional defectiveness in a paradigmatic theory." She completed her undergraduate degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Sims' research interests include synchronic and diachronic morphology, inflectional defectiveness, paradigmatic structure, and dialect contact.

She works primarily on Croatian, Russian, and Modern Greek, though she is also interested in Albanian. Most recently, she has been learning about agent-based modeling and information theory.

Professor Sims most recently taught at Northwestern University as the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow. Her teaching interests include morphological theory, research methods in linguistics, the structure and history of the Slavic languages, language and identity (esp. gendered language), and the sociology of language.



Jennifer Suchland
Assistant Professor
Department of Slavic and East European
Languages and Literatures
Department of Women's Studies
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Professor Suchland received her Ph.D. in Government and Gender Studies from the University of Texas at Austin with a dissertation titled "Democratic Citizenship, Sexual Difference and the Postcommunist Russian State."

Dr. Suchland recently commented on the potential for academic development at OSU, stating, "I am beginning to grasp all of the exciting possibilities and opportunities for intellectual growth at OSU. After my first term here, I also think that this is a great place for interdisciplinary scholars."

Currently, Professor Suchland is teaching the Slavic 700 seminar "Introduction to Slavic Studies" and will be assisting with the upcoming Association for Women in Slavic Studies conference to be held at OSU in April 2009.

Midwest Slavic Conference

April 16-18, 2009

The Blackwell Inn and Conference Center
The Ohio State University

**Proposal deadline February 1st!*



Modern Russian Culture Trip to Moscow

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures is offering a short-term study abroad program to Moscow, with a focus on modern Russian culture and society. This program was established and is directed by CSEES Acting Director Yana Hashamova, with CSEES continuing to support with staffing and funds.



The program will take place after Spring Quarter of 2009, from June 23 to July 5, and students will experience everyday life and visit sites of major artistic, cultural, and historical importance. In order to be eligible, students must complete Russian 235 (modern Russian culture) and maintain a GPA of at least 2.7. Students will also receive 8 credit hours of Russian 697 after completion of the trip.

The application deadline is February 1, 2009, through the Office of International Affairs. For more information, contact Susan Vdovichenko (vdovichenko.1@osu.edu).



Student Organizations Remain Active

The newly formed Bulgarian Club at OSU has been active during its first year. Under the leadership of President Lubka Ilieva and Vice President Boyan Alexandrov, the group has been busy recruiting new members and making their presence known on campus. The club has held numerous planning sessions, a Bulgarian movie night, and assisted with the visit by Bulgarian archaeologist Nikolay Ovcharov. (see page 3) The group will offer Bulgarian food at Taste of OSU this January and plans to perform a Bulgarian dance during the event.

It has also been a busy quarter for the Russian Club. New President Alexandra Kutsovskaya along with graduate student advisor Justin Cade and new faculty advisor Ludmila Isurin have continued the progress made the past few years and continue to grow the organization's membership. The club will follow its success at the Student Involvement Fair with a Russian food table at Taste of OSU. The group has also been active with Russian game and tea nights, the Slavic film series and blood drive. The club has also created an official Ohio State University t-shirt in Russian that is for sale for only \$10 with all proceeds going to support the Russian Club. The shirts are available in scarlet or gray.

The Ukrainian Club has been extremely active this year and continues to build upon the successes of 2007-08. New President Valerie Szepiwycz and Vice President Damian Hruszkewycz continued to recruit students to join the group at LangFest and other events on campus. The group helped with the Slavic Blood Drive and is planning an East European Night at the Cleveland Cavaliers in December.

With the fine example set by these student groups, the Polish students have decided to join the fray and are in the process of officially starting a Polish Club at OSU. Efforts thus far have focused on recruitment and paperwork for making the group official, but we are confident that the club will make an impact under the guidance of faculty advisors Magdalena Gruszczynska and Jessie Labov.

Be on the lookout this winter as these student organizations join forces and host a unified Russian and East European disco on campus.

If you would like to know more



Interning at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow

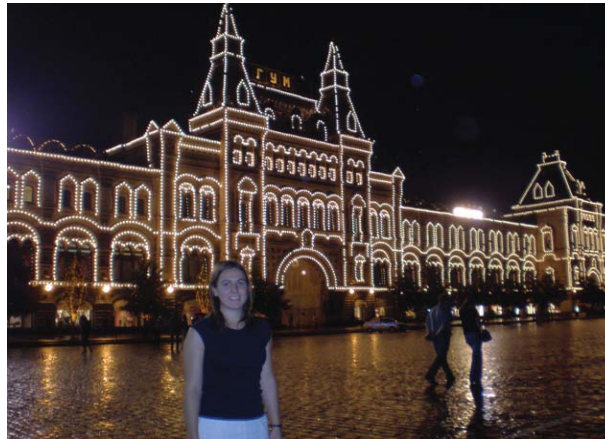
by Eileen Kunkler

This summer I worked as an intern in the Internal Political section of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia. This internship proved to be a valuable experience for me in terms of gaining knowledge about domestic Russian politics and work experience. By reading newspaper articles everyday and attending press conferences, I got a view of Russian politics and government that is hard to get in the classroom.

Typical job responsibilities included writing read-outs from press conferences to send to one's section, writing cables, and helping around the office.

While an internship with the State Department may not be as rewarding in terms of improving your language skills, it is an excellent opportunity to see if a career in the foreign service is right for you, a good way to get work experience, and to network and meet people.

Now I hope to use the knowledge I gained this summer to develop a thesis about the political clubs of United Russia as I finish my dual degree in Slavic Studies and Public Policy over the next two years.



CSEES Discussion Group

by Thaddeus Fortney

The CSEES Discussion Group 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.

Previous topics include **The Veil** (Winter '08) with several articles related to women's issues in Muslim populations in Central Asia and the Balkans; **Minorities and States - Central Asia, Russia, and the Balkans** (Spring '08); and **Slavic Diaspora and Displaced Identities** (Autumn '08) with a discussion of Alexandar Hemon's book **Nowhere Man**.

The topic for Winter '09 will be **Post Communism and/or Post-Colonialism**. Details can be found on the CSEES website. If you would like more information about the discussion group and would like to participate please contact us at csees@osu.edu.



Outreach News

CSEES continued its busy outreach program through the summer and into autumn, fulfilling its commitment to students and the public throughout Ohio and the Midwest.

***CSEES** staff and students visited schools and community groups to present on current events, including the recent Russian-Georgian conflict. CSEES presented to the retirement communities at the Delaware Senior Center, First Community Village, and Kensington Place.

***CSEES** is currently collaborating with Grandview High School to prepare a group of students to visit Moscow and St. Petersburg in spring 2009. The students will be taught basic Russian conversational skills as well as background on Russian culture, geography, history, and politics. This will be teacher Joe Hecker's second trip to Russia.

***The** outreach team is working with Maria Alley and the Slavic Department to improve Russian resources available to local schools in Ohio. A renewed effort is being placed on the High School Olympiada with the intent of making the 2009 competition one of the largest to date. The team is also working on creating language podcasts, which would be available for use by anyone through the CSEES website.

***CSEES** and DSEELL continue to work on new technologies and opportunities available through videoconferencing. CSEES is organizing

P-12 schools in Ohio to videoconference with schools in Russia and Eastern Europe. These new avenues for communication will allow students from both sides to gain a better understanding of each other's culture, and should create new friendships and dialogues.

***CSEES** continues to be active on the OSU campus as well. The annual Fall Welcome Reception saw a large number of over 110 students, faculty and staff who enjoyed reacquainting with one another over food, refreshments and music, played by the talented Jayne Allison. Additionally the outreach team has promoted CSEES at several campus-wide events: OSU Welcomes the World at the RPAC; LangFest and the Student Involvement Fair on the Oval; and the OIA Study Abroad Fair. CSEES will once again participate in the annual Taste of OSU event this January, helping to support our student organizations that will be selling Bulgarian, Georgian, Russian and Ukrainian food.

***CSEES** staff participated on a new project by the Foreign Language Center to create a DVD for incoming freshmen promoting foreign language and international opportunities available to students at OSU. This DVD (*Expand Your World: Learning Languages and Cultures at Ohio State*) promotes numerous languages from the CSEES region. These DVDs are available free of charge through the Foreign Language Center and CSEES office.

***CSEES** has also continued its close relationship with the Columbus Blue Jackets professional hockey team. In cooperation with the Foreign Language Center, CSEES helped organize the *Czech Mates*, a Czech cheering section funded through the generous donation of the Czech Blue Jacket players, including Rostislav Klesla. The players donated over 40 tickets to Opening Night for our enthusiastic group of Czech students and friends. In addition, the group generously donated 15 tickets to most home games and will hold a Meet and Greet to meet the players in February. *Czech Mates* is a wonderful opportunity for students studying Czech to practice their language by cheering in Czech at

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:

Daniel Sells
Bryan Stout

Congratulations!



Film Additions to CSEES Library

English

Cities of the Underworld: Secret Soviet Bases and Stalin's Lair - History Channel
 Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall - History Channel
 Stalin Declassified - History Channel

Russian

Alexandr Nevskaya Bitva - Action/Drama (2008)*
 Alive - War (2006)
Belorusskiy Vokzal - Drama (1970)*
 Bumer - Crime/Drama (2003)
Gruz 200 - Drama (2007)*
 Finding Dzhulyinka - Documentary (2004)
 5 Evenings - Drama (1978) (new to DVD)
 4 - Drama (2007)
Istoriia russkogo flota - Documentary (1993)*
 The Island - Drama (2006)
My iz budushchego - War/Drama (2008)*
 Zhest - Drama (2006)

Hungarian

Vakvaganyok - Drama (2001)*
Roncs film - Comedy (1992)*
 It's Time (Ido Van) - Drama (1986)
 Deliver Us from Evil - Drama (1979)
 Stop Mom Theresa - Comedy (2004)
Presszo - Comedy (1998)*
 Football of the Good Old Days - Comedy (1973)
 The Golden Man - Drama (1962)
 Real Circus - Comedy/Action (2005)
Lovagias Ugy - Comedy/Romance (1937)*
 Konyec - Drama/Comedy/Crime (2007)
Tokeletes család - Comedy (1942)*
 Damnation - Drama (1988)
Europa Expressz - Action (1999)*
Nertelen Hosok - Musical (1982)*

Ukrainian (in English)

Harvest of Despair - Documentary (2004) (new to DVD)

*Titles in Italics do not contain English subtitles.

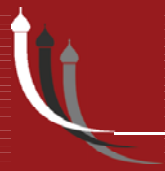
Students, faculty, and the general public are encouraged to borrow (free of charge) any of our 2,000+ film titles. A complete list of films is available on the CSEES website.

the games, and it provides a fun activity that should help raise interest in the language and increase enrollments. It is also a great opportunity to network with members of the local Czech community. We express our deepest thanks to the Blue Jacket players (Rostislav Klešla, Jan Hejda, Jiri Novotny, and Jakub Voracek) as well as Katherine Furman and the entire CBJ Community Relations Team for their generosity and consideration.

**Do toho
 Blue Jackets!**



(photo courtesy K. Sobul)



CSEES Development Drive for Travel Support

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies calls on all former students, faculty, and friends for help supporting our programs and current students. There are many areas in which our students are not funded and we would like to address these concerns through your generous and continued support.

One such area of need is travel support for students for language study, internship opportunities and conferences. Title VI funding currently restricts travel funds for language study to only graduate students and U.S. citizens. With a large number of undergraduates studying languages overseas, CSEES hopes to begin offering summer scholarships to help defray costs for travel, which should create opportunities for additional undergraduate students.

In addition to travel funds for language study, CSEES hopes to offer support for students (both undergraduate and graduate) pursuing internship opportunities. These internships, often unpaid, are of the utmost importance for our students to help solidify their practical skill sets and build their resumes.

CSEES would also like to provide partial conference travel support for both undergraduate and graduate students to encourage more OSU students to present their research at national and international conferences.

Through your support, we can help fund these students and increase the number of CSEES and DSEELL students studying, working and presenting overseas. Any and all contributions are welcome and we ask that you designate these donations for "Travel Funds." Please specify if you prefer the funds be used for undergraduates or graduates, or for language study, conference support or internships. For more information, please contact CSEES.

Thank you for your support!

Career Focus: Foreign Service

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 preparing for the career search as early as possible. We will include a section on careers in each upcoming newsletter. Our first area of focus is the U.S. Department of State, where students can travel the world as representatives of the U.S. government.

Internships: 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 student's 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 some 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 provide invaluable experiences and help significantly when taking the Foreign Service Exam.

CSEES hosted an information session on State Department internships in early October to help prepare students for the November 1st deadline (for summer 2009 interns). CSEES MA student Eileen Kunkler spoke to students about her experience at the embassy in Moscow in 2008 (see page 11 for details). J. Michael Houlahan, a career Foreign Service Officer, provided students details on his 20+ year career that included posts in Eastern Europe and South-east Asia.

Also in October CSEES co-sponsored a discussion with Dick Combs, former Foreign Service Officer who served in



Slavic Blood Drive Gives Back to the Community

The Slavic Center hosted the first annual Slavic Blood Drive with support from the American Red Cross, The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, the Bulgarian Club, the Russian Club and the Ukrainian Club. Originally planned to coincide with the Slavic Halloween Party and Vampire Talk by Dr. Daniel Collins, the blood drive was moved to OSU-Michigan Week due to scheduling concerns.

The Slavic Blood Drive had two goals. First, it is important for CSEES and DSEELL students to give back to Columbus and those less fortunate, and we want to encourage students to take the time to perform such acts of community service. Second, local blood banks have been facing severe shortages and this blood drive helped fill an acute need before the holiday season.

Students helped by donating both their blood and their time, with several students volunteering to work the tables and assist with the event. In the end the Slavic Blood Drive raised 53 productive units, far exceeding the original goal of 35 units set by the Red Cross.

According to Deborah Carvalho of the Columbus Red Cross, "This was one of the best drives we have held at Hagerty Hall. The volunteers were great and we would love to work with them again."



Valerie Szepiwycz (President) and Diana Laluk (former President) of the Ukrainian Club volunteer at the Slavic Blood Drive (photo courtesy V. van Buchem)

Moscow at the height of the Cold War. Mr. Combs also recently authored a book, *Inside the Soviet Alternate Universe*, portraying his experiences at the Moscow Embassy, which he discussed with the International Affairs Scholars and CSEES audience.

Our goal is to have at least 10 OSU students interning at embassies next summer. This will result in more OSU students living and working overseas for a summer. The opportunity will also provide students the chance to gain valuable work experience while immersing themselves in a foreign culture. Be sure to check back in the spring newsletter to see if we met the goal!

For more information on specific internship opportunities with the State Department, please visit <http://careers.state.gov/students/>.

Sign up for one of CSEES' weekly mailing lists!

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

CSEES@osu.edu

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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 Studies

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