



Collaboration with Bluegrass Community and Technical College

by Sophia Papadimos

On April 23, 2012 Dr. Yana Hashamova and M.A. graduate student Sophia Papadimos travelled to Lexington, Kentucky to give a presentation on human trafficking entitled “Trafficking in People: Reality and Perception.” Approximately forty students attended the event at the W.T. Young Library Auditorium on the campus of the University of Kentucky. Dr. Hashamova and Ms. Papadimos would like to thank Students for Peace and Earth Justice at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, the Department of Modern and Classical Language Division of Russian and Eastern Studies and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky for sponsoring this event.

Ms. Papadimos provided a comparison on the human trafficking situation in Serbia versus how it appears in Ohio. While emphasizing the international element of the phenomenon, the presentation also shed light on the very local presence of human trafficking. In addition, Ms. Papadimos explained the importance of taking a holistic approach when combatting human trafficking. (For more information on Ms. Papadimos and her work with human trafficking, see page 6.)

Dr. Hashamova presented research conducted on students’ opinions of human trafficking in the US and Bulgaria. The research also incorporated how the media shapes these opinions. One of her most interesting findings was that American students had more sympathy for foreign victims of trafficking, while the reverse was found amongst Bulgarian students. She discussed the tendencies of the media in the United States to feature trafficked women from other countries, rather than trafficked women from the US. Furthermore, Dr. Hashamova noted that in the United States there is a belief that an individual effort can lead to the elimination of the global phenomenon of human trafficking.

“Trafficking in People: Reality and Perception” is part of the ongoing efforts of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies to collaborate with community colleges and historically black colleges and universities(HBCUs) to expand the scope of the center and provide students outside the Ohio State University with the opportunity to benefit from the Slavic Center mission. (For more information on outreach to community colleges and HBCUs, please see page 7).



CSEES Director Yana Hashamova speaks on Trafficking
(Photo by S. Papadimos)

What's Inside?

From the Director	2
History Seminar	3
Midwest Slavic	4
Film Adapatation	5
OSU Alumnus Visit	6
Educator Spotlight	7
Polish Studies	8
Assistant Director	9

From the Director

Another academic year is behind us, a year full of achievements and challenges. We continue to pursue our mission under the conditions of a reduced budget, but we have successfully navigated through these new financial difficulties and located new opportunities for our future development.

I am pleased to announce that in fall 2012 we will begin offering programs through the newly established Polish Studies Initiative, sponsored by President Gordon Gee and supported by other OSU partners. The Initiative aims to advance the interdisciplinary knowledge of Poland through study abroad and research grants, lectures, symposia, and other cultural events on campus. The inaugural lecture will take place in September and you will be able to follow all programs and grant competitions on the new website, available in August.

It is exciting that our effective collaboration with Columbus International High School (CIHS) has resulted not only in 19 students successfully completing first-year Russian but also in the highly increased interest in Russian. Next year, we will offer elementary and intermediate Russian to about 30 students. This achievement is no doubt due to our energetic and talented outreach coordinator, Jordan Peters, who is teaching the language to CIHS students.

For the ninth year, we organized the Midwest Slavic Conference and this year celebrated its 60th anniversary. Due to its continuous success, we have been able to raise funds for a high-quality conference next year as well. Our effective fundraising and collaboration with various units on campus (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, Research Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, History, Public Policy, Film Studies, and Mershon) have secured the continuation of existing programs and establishment of new ones next year. Our community will be able to take advantage of the Seminar in Russian, East European and Eurasian History; National Resource Centers Evaluation Conference; Film Adaptation Conference; and many other lectures and events.

We continue to take pride in our MA students and FLAS fellows. We have awarded 16 academic-year FLAS fellowships for next year and 9 summer ones to graduate and undergraduate students coming from the following departments and majors: CSEES, History, Slavic, Law, Philosophy, International Studies, and Anthropology. I would like to congratulate our graduating MA students and wish them success in their career development. I have no doubt that they will find suitable and exciting job opportunities. Foreign language and area studies qualifications combined with professional engagement are proven to be very useful, as a recent *Newsweek* data shows.

With deep gratitude to our sponsors and donors, I continue to seek your financial support for the healthy future of our programs! Please visit our website and click the "I-give" button.

Annual Naylor Lecture

The 15th Annual Naylor Lecture on South Slavic Linguistics welcomed Dr. Cynthia Vakareliyska (University of Oregon) presented her talk on "Action Heroes: The English NN Construction Across the South Slavic Languages." The topic of this talk was the post-1990 adoption into Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian of English-type phrases like "action hero" and "Internet store", in which a noun is preceded by another noun that acts as an adjective to modify it. These sequences of two nouns are known as N[N] constructions. They are particularly interesting because they are a major violation of fundamental Slavic grammar rules, which require that all modifiers that precede a noun have an adjective suffix. Nevertheless, almost all of the Slavic languages have adopted the modifying noun directly from English, without adding the required adjective suffix, and have translated only the second, head noun.

The talk, which is based largely on research conducted in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2008, 2010, and 2011, focuses on the mechanisms behind how and why N[N] constructions have made their way into the different South Slavic languages, and proposes a cognitive hypothesis for why Bulgarian appears to be far ahead of the other South Slavic languages in its use of N[N]'s.



Dr. Cynthia Vakareliyska

CSEES Director: Yana Hashamova
Assistant Director: Eileen Kunkler
Office Coordinator: Maryann Walther-Keisel
Outreach Coordinator: Jordan Peters
Office Assistant: Katie Hall
Office Assistant: Kelly Sklavounos
Office Assistant: Jocelyn Smith



History Seminar

The Ohio State University Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History is sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the Department of History. It is a forum where scholars may present drafts of book chapters, dissertation chapters, articles, or other work-in-progress. Papers will be circulated in advance and then discussed in a workshop-style format, with seminar participants offering questions and comments to the presenter. The seminar is open to all faculty and graduate students, whether at Ohio State or at other universities in the Midwest, and is intended to foster a sense of community among historians with similar areas of interest. Anyone with questions about the seminar should contact David Hoffmann (hoffmann.218@osu.edu).

OSU Faculty in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History:
Nicholas Breyfogle, Mary Cavender, Theodora Dragostinova,
David Hoffmann, Scott Levi, Jennifer Siegel.

Morrison Lecture

For the February 9th Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History, Dr. Alexander Morrison presented "Peasant Settlers as 'Poor Whites' in Russian Turkistan 1865-1917." Dr. Morrison is a lecturer at the University of Liverpool School of History. Dr. Morrison's research interests include Russian Colonial Rule in Central Asia, British Colonial Rule in India, and Islam in the Russian Empire. In 2008, Dr. Morrison released his monograph *Russian Rule in Samarkand 1868-1910*. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of History "Race, Ethnicity, Nation" Constellation.

Romaniello

Monday, March 26th Dr. Matthew Romaniello, Department of History at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, was the guest lecturer for the Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History. Dr. Romaniello, who received his PhD from Ohio State University in 2003, spoke on "The Elusive Empire: Kazan and the Creation of Russia, 1552-1671." His research interests include the Russian Empire's relationship with Islam, both internally with its Muslim subjects and externally with its imperial rivals. Currently, Dr. Romaniello is working on a project focusing on the consumption of tobacco as a way of uncovering Russia's global connections and cultural exchanges.

For more information about the Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian history, please visit <http://history.osu.edu/russian-east-european-urasian-seminar>

Mitchell Lecture

December 1st, 2011 Dr. Rebecca Mitchell, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at Miami University, participated in the Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History. Dr. Mitchell addressed "Patriotism, Nationalism, and the Fate of Music in Russia's Great War." Her research interests include Russian and European cultural and intellectual history and the historical interconnections between music, social, and political power structures. Dr. Mitchell's recent dissertation, "Nietzsche's Orphans: Music and the Search for Unity in Revolutionary Russia, 1905-1921," examines the interrelationship between nationalist tensions, philosophical ideals and musical life in the final years of the Russian Empire and its aftermath.

Tsipursky Lecture

On March 9th, Dr. Gleb Tsipursky, assistant professor of history at Ohio State University, Newark, addressed the Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History. The topic of Dr. Tsipursky's lecture was "Jazzin Up the USSR: Youth, Fun, and Popular Culture in the Early Cold War." He is currently writing a book about consumption and state-sponsored culture in the Soviet Union and has started researching for his next project on volunteer police in the USSR and post-Soviet Russia. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of History "Politics, Culture, and Society" and "Human Conflict, Peace, and Diplomacy Constellations."

Neuberger Talk

Dr. Joan Neuberger, professor in the Department of History at the University of Texas, presented to the Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History on April 27, 2012. Her research areas include modern Russian culture in social and political context and her teaching interests are modern Russia, nineteenth century Europe, gender, film, and visual culture. For the seminar, Dr. Neuberger discussed "Eisenstein's Books: *Ivan the Terrible* as History."

Friday, March 30th through Sunday, April 1st the Ohio State University hosted the annual Midwest Slavic Conference for the ninth consecutive year. This year the conference celebrated its 60th anniversary (see page 5) with a weekend full of exciting and intellectually stimulating events. For the first time, the Midwest Slavic Conference was hosted at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. In addition to the conference, the Slavic Center hosted the annual Midwest Slavic K-12 Teacher Workshop (see below) and the second annual Undergraduate Olympiada of Spoken Russian.

Dr. Lilya Kaganovsky (University of Illinois) opened the conference on Friday night with her keynote address «‘We are waiting for change’: *Stilyagi* [*The Hipsters*] as Past, Present, and Future.» Following the presentation, the opening reception was held in the Public Policy Forum at the Glenn School. Networking events for undergraduate students and graduate students were also held each night of the conference. On Friday night, undergraduates gathered at the reception and graduate students participated in an event on Saturday evening at Woody’s Tavern in the Ohio Union.

The 2012 conference welcomed over 180 attendees, including more than 100 presenters from 22 universities, 9 states, and 2 foreign countries. For the third year in a row, the conference saw an average of 13 attendees per panel. The Midwest Slavic Conference prides itself on the welcoming and inviting atmosphere for students from all disciplines and levels of education, illustrated by the seventeen undergraduate students who presented.

This year’s Midwest Slavic Conference Committee consisted of Joseph Brandesky (OSU Lima), Irene Masing-Delic

(DSEELL), George Hudson (Wittenberg University), and Tim Pogacar (Bowling Green State University). President of the Midwest Slavic Association is Yana Hashamova (CSEES) and Vice President is Brian Baer (Kent State University). The Slavic Center would like to thank the Midwest Slavic Association, the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, the Office of International Affairs, John Glenn School of Public Affairs, the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, Slavica Publishers, the George Kalbous Fund, and all the students, faculty and staff who helped with and participated in the 2011 event. The Midwest Slavic Conference and all associated events were made possible through U.S. Department of Education Title VI funding, along with support from the Office of International Affairs at OSU, and the Friends of Slavic.



Faculty, staff, and students listening to Yana Hashamova’s opening remarks at the 60th Midwest Slavic Conference
(Photo by C.Rankin)

Midwest Slavic K-12 Teacher Workshop

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies hosted the annual Midwest K-12 Teacher Workshop in conjunction with the Midwest Slavic Conference on Saturday, March 31st at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. This year’s theme for the workshop was “Islam Outside the Middle East.” Teachers from throughout Ohio gathered to learn about and discuss regional differences in Islam. Dr. Morgan Liu (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) began the event with a presentation about Islam in Central Asia. Sanja Kadric, a PhD student in the Department of History, then spoke on the religion in the Balkan region. Finally, Dr. Thomas McDow (History) discussed Islam in East Africa with the participating teachers. Each presenter provided the educators with resources to incorporate into their lesson plans. In addition to educating teachers about topics related to Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, the goal of the workshop is to demonstrate to K-12 teachers how and where to find reliable and engaging resources to use in their classrooms.

The Midwest Slavic K-12 Teacher Workshop is open to any pre-service or current educator in the state of Ohio. Educators also receive contact hours towards their service hours for participating in the workshop. Next year the theme for the workshop will be “The Balkans and the European Union.” For more information about the teacher workshop or any K-12 events, please contact Jordan Peters at peters.398@osu.edu.



Conference 2012

Dear Members of the Midwest Slavic Association,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, we congratulate the Midwest Slavic Association on its 60th anniversary.

The Midwest Slavic Association held its first conference at Bowling Green State University in 1952, fully twelve years before the then AAASS held its first convention. Over the years the Midwest Slavic Conference was hosted by many colleges and universities in the region, including Indiana University, Michigan State University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and University of Wisconsin. Since 2003, thanks to the generous support from the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at the Ohio State University, the Midwest Slavic Conference has found a permanent home. This is fitting, as OSU is such an important hub for our field not only in the Midwest but also in the United States. Over the past sixty years, the Midwest Slavic Conference – as one of the most active regional affiliates – has played an integral role in the development of our field and the growth of our Association. We would like to thank George Kalbous, Halina Stephan, Tim Pogacar, Jennifer Spock, Yana Hashamova, and many others for their tireless work in organizing the annual conferences. As we all know, with so many prominent institutions and scholars, the Midwest is [not only] the heartland not only of America, but also of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies!

Again, we congratulate all Midwest Slavic Conference

members for their continued dedication and contribution to the field. We wish you much success at the 60th anniversary conference. And here is to another sixty years of excellence!

Best Regards,

Judith Deutsch Kornblatt President, ASEEEES Professor and Chair, Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Diane Koenker President-Elect / Vice-President, ASEEEES Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Bruce Grant Immediate Past President, ASEEEES Professor, Department of Anthropology, New York University

Lynda Park Executive Director, ASEEEES

2013 Midwest Slavic Conference

April 5-7, 2013

The 61st Midwest Slavic Conference will be held Friday, April 5 through Sunday, April 7 of next year at Ohio State University. A call of papers will be sent in the fall. For updates on the conference, please visit the Slavic Center website slaviccenter.osu.edu.

Film Adaptation Conference

May 2013

Russian literature has inspired film directors at home and abroad for over a century, and continues to do so today. Lev Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* alone has been filmed more than twenty times for both the big and little screens. As such, *Karenina* has been played by Greta Garbo (1935), Vivien Leigh (1948), Tatyana Samojlova (1967), Jacqueline Bisset (1985), Sophie Marceau (1997), Tatjana Dubrich (2009), and later this year, Keira Knightley. In recent years, Vladimir Bortko serialized Mikhail Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita* (2005); Sergei Bondarchuk Jr. remade a version of Mikhail Sholokhov's *Quiet Flows the Don* (2006); Aleksei Balabanov offered to movie audiences Mikhail Bulgakov's *Morphia* (2008).

Adaptation: Russian Text into Film aims to provide scholars with the opportunity to examine collectively the transposition of Russian literature into cinematic artworks. The conference will confront many of the issues involved in turning narrative into narration, making the cinematic out of the theatrical, or expanding the short story into a full-length feature. Somewhere between pruning and inventing, the screenwriter and director must convert the semiotics of the word into a compelling cinematic transliteration for viewers. *Adaptation: Russian Text into Film* explores the question of what makes Russian texts adaptable and marketable for such diverse audiences. For more information on the conference, contact Alex Burry at burry.7@osu.edu



OSU Alumna Sharon Schweitzer Visits CSEES

by Eileen Kunkler

On Friday, May 11 the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures hosted a discussion by Sharon Schweitzer on international protocol and etiquette. Schweitzer, an alumna of Ohio State University, has worked as a respected lawyer in Texas for many years. During this time, she became aware of the importance of etiquette in business and advised many of her clients on proper behavior and skills for interacting with others. Following this, she went on to be certified by the Protocol School of Washington as an International Proto-



Sharon Schweitzer with her family and Slavic Center Staff
(Photo by V. van Buchem)

col and Corporate Etiquette Consultant and founded her own company in Austin, Texas, Protocol and Etiquette Worldwide. During her discussion at OSU, she gave students pointers on how to properly present and carry a business card and how to shake hands confidently and comfortably. Ms. Schweitzer also discussed cultural differences in etiquette, going over personal behaviors and gestures that are different around the world. She encouraged students to be aware of the world around them and emphasized that the importance of etiquette is not just behaving “properly,” but making people feel comfortable and at ease when working together. Following Ms. Schweitzer’s presentation, there was a reception held in her honor.

As part of her visit to Ohio State, Ms. Schweitzer and her parents were treated to breakfast at the Slavic Center to discuss the mission and activities of the center.

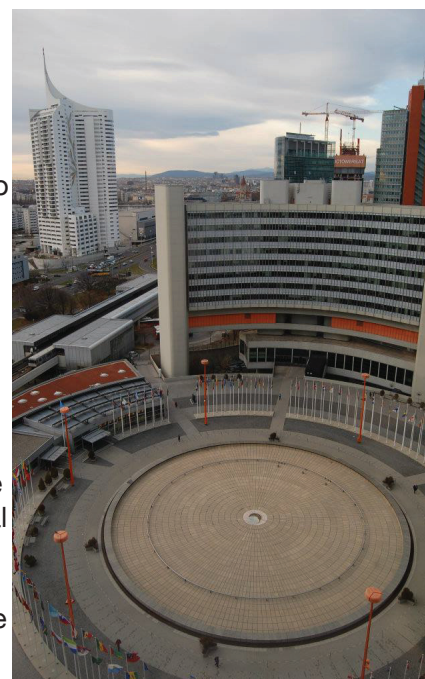
Interning with the United Nations by Sophia Papadimos

In the fall of 2011, I had the privilege of interning at the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in Vienna, Austria. UN.GIFT is the first global inter-agency initiative to fight human trafficking. It was launched in 2007 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the Organization for the Security and Cooperation of Europe, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UN.GIFT works with non-governmental organizations, businesses, governments, and the media to create new partnerships and develop effective tools to fight human trafficking.

During my time at UN.GIFT I was involved in all aspects of the organization which caused my daily routine to vary. I wrote stories for the virtual knowledge hub, interviewed national human trafficking coordinators from various countries, and I was able to attend several international human trafficking conferences. I also worked on joint programs

which assisted governments with the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation. In addition, I had the opportunity to develop a human trafficking awareness campaign for the Bahamas. It was a pilot program that worked with the private sector (Wendy’s Fast Food Corporation) and local NGOs to identify victims of trafficking and promote the local human trafficking hotline in the Bahamas. The campaign launched Friday, May 18 and for the following four weeks Wendy’s tray sheets will highlight the types of trafficking that occur within the Bahamas and who to contact if you or someone you know is a victim of trafficking.

This internship afforded me the opportunity to challenge myself and to be challenged by subject matter experts in my chosen field of study, thereby allowing me to acquire a skill set through this intensive exposure that I would have otherwise not been able to experience.



The U.N Compound in Vienna
(Photo by S. Papadimos)



Educator Spotlight: Michael Benton

by Jordan Peters

Michael Benton is a faculty member in the Humanities Department at Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) in Lexington, Kentucky. He is the co-coordinator for the English Area at BCTC and his teaching interests include American Literature, Film Studies, Humanities, and Peace Studies.

Mr. Benton is also the founder of the Bluegrass Film Society that operates a film series every fall and spring semester. Each film series features films produced in various time periods and in different regions throughout the world, including Eastern, Central, and Southeastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Previous film series have featured *Zift* (Bulgaria), *Police, Adjective* (Romania), *The Trap* (Serbia), and *Valerie and Her Week of Wonders* (Czechoslovakia). Every semester the theme for the film series changes and often screens films selected by the students in Mr. Benton's classes and the BCTC student body. The Bluegrass Film Society is also part of the Peace and Conflict Studies program at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. This academic year, 2011-2012, marks the seventh year for the Bluegrass Film Society.

A native of San Diego, California, Mr. Benton describes his favorite movies as movies that play with our perception of reality, that explore our sense of values, and question where we are heading as a culture/society. He also appreciates pictures/depictions of other ways of being and cultural perspectives.

As the instructor for the International Film Studies course at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Mr. Benton introduces students to cinema as a global

phenomenon and illustrates how it is one of the most important forms for communicating different cultural perspectives. Mr. Benton's philosophy behind selecting the films to be screened in class is to develop students' interest in films beyond Hollywood and to introduce students to cultures outside of the United States.

The Slavic Center at Ohio State University is thrilled to be supporting the hard work Mr. Benton is doing in Lexington. In the coming weeks, the Slavic Center will be donating films to the Bluegrass Film Society for Mr. Benton to include in the film series and to use for his International Film Studies class at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Additionally, thanks to a CSEES development grant Mr. Benton attended the 2012 Midwest Slavic Conference and chaired the *Cinematography: Forgotten Directors, Neglected Documentaries and Hollywood Movies as Objects of Desire in Post-Soviet Russia* panel. The Slavic Center also hopes to organize a lecture to coincide with a screening for the Bluegrass Film Society.

For more information about the partnership between the Slavic Center and Bluegrass Community and Technical College or if you are interested in getting involved with this exciting collaboration, please contact Jordan Peters at peters.398@osu.edu.

The Slavic Center will be asking for student and faculty/staff news to publish in the Autumn 2012 newsletter. If you have news you would want to be published, please email Jordan Peters at peters.398@osu.edu.

Sinclair Community College

by Jordan Peters

As part of ongoing community college outreach, the Slavic Center and Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, have formed an exciting partnership beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year. Sinclair is one of the largest and most acclaimed community colleges in the country.

The school offers over 170 academic programs and is well known for its unusually low tuition. In the fall of 2011 Sinclair broke several of its attendance records, including the enrollment of over 9,000 first-generation college students.

With the emphasis of jobs at Sinclair, the Slavic Center will participate in several careers days throughout the next academic year. Additionally, the Slavic Center will introduce a monthly lecture series at the college. Subject areas and topics are currently being developed.

The Slavic Center is also working to build similar partnerships with community colleges throughout the state.

If you are interested in being a part of the lecture series, please contact Jordan Peters at peters.398@osu.edu with your suggestions.

New Polish Studies Initiative

by Yana Hashamova

We are happy to report that we have established a Polish Studies Initiative (PSI) under the umbrella of the Center. With the sponsorship of President Gordon Gee and other partners on campus and outside (Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, the College of Social Work, CIBER-Fisher College of Business, Office of International Affairs, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Department of Political Science CONSIRT - Polish Academy of Sciences, and the John Glenn School of Public Affairs), we will advance the interdisciplinary study of Poland, support student and faculty research and study abroad, and will organize a series of events focused on Poland. We have secured funding for three years and hope that this initial work will lead to further advancement and success.

The Polish Studies Initiative will host two to three major events on campus such as guest lectures, film showings and other cultural events, and small symposia related to Poland. Additionally, the PSI will bring speakers, panels, and events with Polish themes to the annual Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State. Students studying Polish language or culture will have the opportunity to apply for grants and scholarships through the initiative to further their education on the region. This initiative will also support the many distinguished Ohio State faculty members who have research projects related to Poland. The PSI looks forward to reaching out to students of Polish heritage or students who are interested in Polish culture on campus through the Polish Club of OSU. Furthermore, the Polish Studies Initiative will cooperate with local diaspora groups, the Polish American Club and the local chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation to build a strong connection to the greater Columbus Polish community.

Dr. Yana Hashamova (Slavic Center) will serve as the director of the Polish Studies Initiative and Dr. Jessie Labov (Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) will be the faculty coordinator. The oversight committee for the PSI will include Dr. Jill Bystydzienski (Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) and Dr. Denise Bronson (College of Social Work). Jordan Peters (Slavic Center) is the staff coordinator.

The first event organized by the Polish Studies Initiative will be a guest lecture in September 2012. In August, the PSI will launch its website with more information about events, scholarships, grants, and partnerships.

Louise Shelley Lecture

by Colleen Rankin

The Slavic Center had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Louise Shelley for the annual Graduate Student Choice Speaker Series on April 19. Dr. Shelley, University Professor at the George Mason University's School of Public Policy and director of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC), is an internationally recognized expert on corruption and human trafficking in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

In addition to teaching at George Mason and directing TraCCC, Dr. Shelley has had extensive experience working in both the United States and internationally. She has served on the House Committee on International Relations, the Helsinki Commission, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the World Agenda Council on Illicit Trade of the World Economic Forum. Louise Shelley is one of the leading experts on the relationship between terrorism, organized crime, and corruption. She also specializes in human trafficking, transnational crime, and illicit financial flows and money laundering.



Speaking before a standing-room-only audience, Dr. Shelley presented on human trafficking from and within Eurasia. She spoke powerfully and simplistically about the rise of human trafficking in the region, economic factors precipitating the problem, and its distinct and shared features compared to human trafficking in other regions. She also analyzed human trafficking from the former Soviet Union to the United States through what she calls the 'natural resource model.'

The graduate students of the Slavic Center were delighted to organize and facilitate Dr. Shelley's trip to The Ohio State University. Not only was her lecture interesting and informative, but her flexibility and investment in her time at OSU allowed the graduate students to spend a significant amount of time networking and interacting with Dr. Shelley on a personal level. We hope that as the tradition of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies' Graduate Student Choice Speaker continues it will persist in bringing similar success as this year's lecture with Dr. Louise Shelley!



CSEES Welcomes New Assistant Director and Bids Farewell to the Former One

Eileen Kunkler is a graduate of Ohio State University. In 2007, she graduated with a bachelor of arts in International Studies, with minors in Russian and Italian. She went on to study at the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, graduating in 2010 with dual master's degrees. Her specialization was in contemporary Russian politics and she wrote her thesis on the evolution of groups within the party United Russia. As part of her degree, Eileen also studied the Russian and Uzbek languages. During her time at CSEES as a graduate student, Eileen interned at the Department of State in the Moscow, Russia embassy. As part of this internship, she drafted the 2008 Russian Human Rights Report. She also studied for a summer at Saint-Petersburg State University taking an intensive Russian language course. An avid traveler, Eileen has traveled around much of Europe, visiting Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, and the Czech Republic just to name a few.

The Slavic Center is thrilled to welcome Eileen back to the Ohio State community! Eileen brings new energy, enthusiasm, and ideas to the Center, ensuring that we will continue to be an important part of the Slavic and East European studies community on campus and throughout the state! Welcome, Eileen!

The Slavic Center at OSU bids a fond farewell to former Assistant Director Lance Erickson. Lance began his time with the Slavic Center in the fall of 2007. In his nearly five years with the center, he left a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. From his countless hours mentoring undergraduate and graduate students to the numerous connections he made across the Ohio State campus and the Columbus community, Lance's dedication to the Slavic Center is immeasurable.

During his time with the Slavic Center, Lance guided us through a successful FLAS and NRC grant proposal, helping the center become one of the largest FLAS centers in the country. Throughout Lance's tenure, the annual Midwest Slavic Conference grew to be the largest regional Slavic conference in the country due in large part to the professional and inviting culture that he brought to CSEES. He is responsible for the increased professionalization of staff and students affiliated with the Slavic Center.

Lance leaves Ohio State to pursue a wonderful opportunity with the Foreign Service. We wish him the best of luck in his new journey and look forward to hearing about all of his successes with the Department of State!



Incoming Assistant Director, Eileen Kunkler
(Photo by V. Van Buchem)



Former Assistant Director, Lance Erickson
(Photo by C. Rankin)

Outreach News

by Jordan Peters

*CSEES Assistant Director Lance Erickson spoke to Wittenberg University students learning Russian about career opportunities available to them using their Russian language skills and area studies knowledge.

*CSEES Outreach Coordinator Jordan Peters attended Career Day at Woodcrest Elementary School in May. Jordan talked to students in kindergarden through second career about how to become a spy. The first step in the process is to learn a foreign language, such as Russian. The youngsters learned how to count to five in Russian and to say yes and no.

*Horizon Science Academy and teacher Lin Mulay utilized one of the Slavic Center's Culture Boxes for a day long international festival held at the school. A total of 388 students attended the festival in addition to teachers, parents, and community members. The event was designed to introduce students to their peers' cultures, as a large portion of the student body are international students.

*OSU once again attended the Defense Language Institute's University Fair for the recruitment of Foreign Area Officers. CSEES Assistant Director Lance Erickson met with potential FAOs interested in attending OSU. The University Fair takes place each January in Monterey, California.

*The Slavic Center continued its outreach to students of the Fisher College of Business. Erickson also spoke on his private sector experience in Russia and Eastern Europe to students in Dr. Shad Morris' international business classes. Dr. Morris is Assistant Professor in the Department of Management and

Human Resources at the Fisher College of Business and has spent significant time in the Balkan region.

*The Russian Language class at Columbus International High School hosted its second group from the Buryatia region of Russia. This group consisted of five government officials from the region who were interested in discussing student political involvement, daily life of teenagers in the United States, and farming. The delegation also fielded similar questions from the American students about life for teenagers in Russia. Students were also shown a short video about the history and culture of Buryatia.

*After a successful first year, the Russian language program at Columbus International High School will continue. The school will add another first year Russian class for the 2012-2013 academic year. Students in the first year class this year will continue on to a second year class.

*Sunday, March 4, 2012 CSEES Assistant Director Lance Erickson gave the keynote address to the Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. The celebration was hosted by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community.

*The Russian Club and the OSU Polish Club again participated in the annual Taste of OSU hosted by the Office of International Affairs. Each group prepared delicious dishes that are most often found in their respective cultures.

Olympiada of Spoken Russian

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures again hosted the Ohio High School Olympiada of Spoken Russian and the second annual Undergraduate Olympiada of Spoken Russian.

After a one year hiatus, high school students returned to compete in the Russian speaking competition sponsored by ACTR. Eleven students from Roy C. Start High School in Toledo, Ohio, took a day off school to travel to Ohio State to participate in the event. Four students competed at the first year level, one second year student participated, and six students represented third year. At each level of competition, students were asked a series of questions about themselves in Russian, had their Russian geographical knowledge tested, memorized a poem, and read a passage and responded to questions. Students in the third year also volunteered to perform a song as a group for their judges. Thank you to Spencer Robinson for organizing the event and to the judges Lauren Ressue, Rob Reynolds, Helen Myers, and Yuliia Aloschycheva.

Seventeen undergraduate students from the College of Wooster and Bowling Green State University gathered in Hagerty Hall on Saturday, March 31st for a day of friendly Russian competition. Students participated in three rounds of competition—round one was an oral interview, for round two they memorized a poem, and in round three they prepared a short presentation on a randomly selected topic.

The Slavic Center looks forward to another successful season of Russian competition in 2013. Thank you to all students and teachers for their hard work in preparation for the olympiada!



South-Western Career Academy

by Jordan Peters

On February 7th, Jordan Peters participated in the South-Western Career Academy International Awareness Day. South-Western Career Academy is a technical school for juniors and seniors that trains students in fields such as health technology, dental assisting, materials joining, and pre-engineering. As part of their educational requirements, students are expected to complete an internship in their selected field. In preparation for the diversity of cultures, opinions, and experiences of the workplace, South-Western Career Academy invites organizations to attend its annual International Awareness Day and educate students on various cultures throughout the world.

Ms. Peters presented “A Day in the Life of a Russian Teenager” to twelve groups of approximately twenty students at the daylong event. Students were introduced to the routine of a school day, common meals, and activities for students in Russia. In addition to Russian culture, Erika Colijn, the outreach coordinator from the Center for Latin American Studies, discussed Peruvian culture with the South-Western Career Academy students. This year marks the second year that the Slavic Center has participated in the International Awareness Day.

Linthworth Alternative School Slavic Culture Class

by Julia Klochan

This fall in the Linworth Alternative School, a class on Slavic cultures was offered focusing on the Eastern Slavs of Russia and Ukraine, with a unit on their western neighbors, such as Poland and the Czech Republic. The class was quite popular, since many students in the school had been interested in that distant part of the world for some time, and it was taught by two students, a senior and a sophomore, both natives of Ukraine.

21 students out of Linworth’s population of 180 signed up for the class, although some of those weren’t able to take it because of scheduling conflicts. Most of the students taking the class were seniors, the rest sophomores and juniors, with only one freshman. Out of this only 3 had some background knowledge on the subject, but everyone was eager to learn. The students were thrilled to discover new cultures, read Russian literature, and perhaps even learn some Russian.

After an introductory unit with an overview of the history of Russia and Ukraine, a class on basic greetings in Russian, and the father of Russian literature, Alexander Pushkin, the students then went on to study Eastern Slavic culture and history in units divided by time periods.

Each unit consisted of 4 classes. The first, on the history of the time period; second on culture, famous people, and art of the time; and third an interactive class where students got to actually immerse themselves in the culture by making crafts, playing games (and being silly) watching videos, listening to music, and researching more on the subject in groups. The final class in each unit started out with a brief review “quiz” (which could be anything from an individual or group quiz to a treasure hunt, a relay race, a traditional Slavic game) and continued with a discussion of a book.

The students read 3 books in class, Dostoevsky’s “Crime and Punishment,” Pushkin’s “Eugene Onegin,” and Turgenev’s “Fathers and Sons,” and also some short stories by Tolstoy and Chekhov. At the end of the class semester, a special unit was taught on various topics of importance and interest to the students, such as music, film, important events of the 20th century, Russian language, and life in Ukraine today (which featured a video conference with a group of modern Ukrainian teenagers). Two guest speakers were featured to provide a different view on the topics covered. One of these was a refugee from the Soviet Union, Stan Prilutsky, and the other the outreach coordinator for the Ohio State Center of Eastern European and Slavic Studies, Jordan Peters, who contributed greatly throughout the whole class semester by sharing materials, giving advice, and providing support for the first-time teachers.

Fueled by the students’ interest and enthusiasm, the class worked out great. Many made friends with teenagers from another country, learned surprising new things, discovered previously unknown musical and literary masterpieces, and even learned to appreciate “their side of the world” more. Students helped out their peer-teachers by providing feedback and actively participating in the class by pitching ideas for special classes and sharing what interested them most to help the teachers provide the most relevant and engaging information. The students also learned some things that I am certain will stay with them for the rest of their life, such as Pushkin wrote poems, Peter the Great didn’t earn his nickname for nothing, and sandwiches in Russia are made with only one piece of bread.

New t-shirts from the Slavic Center



As part of our development campaign, the Slavic center will be selling t-shirts with proceeds going toward student programming and travel support for internships, research, and study abroad. T-shirts are available in S, M, L, and XL and can be purchased for \$10 at the Slavic Center office in Oxley Hall. Shirts are currently available in Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, and Serbo-Croatian. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Center for Slavic and East European Studies

303 Oxley Hall
1712 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210-1219

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