



NEWSNET

News of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

NEW PRESIDENTS IN CENTRAL ASIA: WILL LIFE IMPROVE FOR THE AVERAGE PERSON?

Kelly M. McMann, Case Western Reserve University

The death of Turkmenistan's President Saparmurat Niyazov in December 2006 and the ouster of Kyrgyzstan's president Askar Akaev in March 2005 forced the issue of leadership succession in Central Asia from the realm of expert speculation into the domain of inter-elite struggle.¹ These transfers of power were extraordinary events for the region, where, thanks to restrictions on opposition politics and formal extensions of their rule, presidents typically remain in office for more than a decade. Yet to what extent can change in the "Belyi Dom" improve life in the average *dom* in any of the countries of Central Asia? Citizens regularly encounter representatives and institutions of the national governments, so transfers of power could substantially affect their lives. However, weak political oppositions and powerful presidencies make dramatic transformations unlikely.

Encounters with the Government

To Central Asians, national governments are conspicuous in both their presence and, paradoxically, in their sometimes unexpected absence. Average citizens deal with border guards, tax authorities, and state enterprise bosses; however, they also encounter illegal border crossings, organized crime operations, and unpaid state benefits. The latter encounters remind them that their current national governments are not providing the social order or benefits that the Soviet state did. Examining recent developments related to

borders, livelihoods, welfare, and Islam illustrates how national governments, through their presence and absence, affect average citizens.

Borders

Since independence, Central Asians have increasingly encountered their national governments when they have attempted to cross borders. In Turkmenistan, citizens traveling between districts have been obliged to stop at checkpoints where government officials may question them, examine their identification cards, and search their cars. For the hundreds—or perhaps thousands—of individuals fleeing violence in Andijan, Uzbekistan in May 2005, the country's border with Kyrgyzstan became a lifeline. For the millions of shuttle traders and labor migrants in Central Asia, border experiences have an impact on their livelihoods. A trader in car parts from Kazakhstan described to me how she has had to pay border officials when returning from purchasing trips in Russia; her loan officer provided a letter stating that she cannot pay bribes because the capital is not her own, but most border officials have not been receptive.²

The trend in the last three months in the region has been toward national governments facilitating border crossings instead of hampering them. For example, in Turkmenistan residents no longer need to stop at checkpoints when traveling between districts, reportedly as

continued on page 2

<i>New Presidents in Central Asia: Will Life Improve for the Average Person?</i> , Kelly M. McMann.....	1
2007 National Convention Pre-Registration Form	8
<i>Meeting the Challenges of the Global University through Study Abroad</i> , Jason Merrill	9
News from AAASS	15
Report from the AAASS- AATSEEL Joint Committee on Language Training	15
Scholars' Network.....	17
Publications	21
News from AAASS Affiliates	22
News from AAASS Institutional Members.....	24
Personages.....	26
Library and the Internet News.....	28
Welcome New Members.....	29
Calendar	30
Index of Advertisers.....	30

part of the reform efforts of the new president, Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov. The governments of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan agreed that citizens will no longer need visas to visit the neighboring country for 60 days or less.

Yet easing of restrictions does not tend to make travel easier or stem illegal activities at the borders. Policy changes have not undermined the economic incentives for border guards to take bribes and for their superiors to overlook the practice. Likewise, traders are still motivated to cross illegally. They save time and money by paying lower fees to local residents to take shortcuts across makeshift bridges or roads. For example, in the Uzbekistani village of Suratash, near Kyrgyzstan's Kara-Suu bazaar, "residents have built an access road, set up a concrete barrier, and even outfitted a few local men with fatigues. They gather 100 Uzbek soms, or a little less than 10 U.S. cents, from each person wishing to cross..."³

These policy changes are part of a long-term pattern of easing travel after restricting it in response to unrest, but it is unclear whether the relaxation of border controls will be long-lasting. The former visa requirement between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan was a reaction in 2000 to a second year of violent attacks in each country. The governments attributed the incidents to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), an organization which aims to establish a caliphate in the Ferghana Valley, shared by Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan also mined its border in response to this violence, making crossing at illegal points potentially deadly for traders, and destroyed illegal border checkpoints into Kyrgyzstan following the May 2005 violence in Andijan.

In addition to periodic unrest, economic concerns are an ongoing incentive for countries to restrict border crossings. Governments fear that citizens of neighboring countries will purchase subsidized goods, work for lower wages, or traffic in illegal goods. Near the end of 2006, the government of Kazakhstan announced plans to erect a 45-kilometer fence in the Southern Kazakhstan Region along the border with Uzbekistan to reduce the flow of smugglers.

Livelihoods

In addition to shuttle traders and labor

migrants, Central Asians in other occupations contend with the national government when trying to make a living. Entrepreneurs typically try to avoid the government, whereas state employees are often in the position of beseeching the state for their wages.

Entrepreneurs find that border guards are not the only government officials likely to demand bribes; corruption is also rampant among officials granting business licenses, fire and sanitation inspectors, and the tax police. Government regulation of business is a means for officials to augment their salaries and to stamp out political opposition. For example, during the summer following the violence in Andijan, the government forced private taxi drivers to join a state enterprise as a means to reduce entrepreneurial ventures and the accompanying political activity.⁴ The interaction between entrepreneurship and activism has been a growing concern for the government. The chain of events leading to the May 2005 violence in Andijan began with the imprisonment of 23 local businessmen on dubious charges of Islamic extremism.⁵ The likely reasons for their persecution were their economic success and charitable activity in the region.

Delayed and unpaid wages in state enterprises, coupled with limited employment opportunities and sometimes a lack of initiative, leave state employees in Central Asia in the position of entreating the government for their salaries. A middle-aged man in Kazakhstan described to me how he endured five years of working for free at the state water company before finally ending his 23 years of service. When I met him he was hurrying off to pursue three employment leads he had received from the city employment office.⁶

There are important exceptions to the generalization of entrepreneurs avoiding the government and state employees seeking it out. In Kyrgyzstan, entrepreneurs have called for government officials to combat organized crime, which has reportedly increased with the instability that followed the 2005 coup. In Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan, those state employees forced to pick cotton—many teachers, doctors, and nurses—may well prefer to avoid the government at harvest time.

The proportion of citizens who avoid or seek out the state in each country depends roughly on the size of the entrepreneurial and state sectors. The size of these sectors, in turn, has been affected by the national governments' economic policies. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have liberalized prices and trade and privatized small firms and land, thus enabling small- and medium-sized businesses to proliferate, while the 1992-1997 civil war in Tajikistan delayed similar efforts in that country. State enterprises have remained more important in Uzbekistan, where the government has sought to maintain many of the Soviet-era economic institutions. In Turkmenistan, the Niyazov government tried to maintain strict control over the economy. President Berdymukhammedov has promised significant change, including promotion of small- and medium-sized businesses and privatization.

Welfare

Paradoxically, the national government is perhaps most conspicuous when it comes to the absence of state services. Residents of a provincial town in Kyrgyzstan pointed to the piles of garbage in their streets, explaining to me that the government no longer collects the trash, as it did in the Soviet era.⁷ A villager in Kazakhstan gave me a tour of the village, leading me past the former state farm, which once guaranteed employment to 780 individuals but now "employs" only 11 without pay; the hospital that now charges for all services and no longer provides medicine, ambulance service, or overnight care; the school that now requires parents to pay for textbooks, heat, and building materials; and the promised day care center where construction has ceased.⁸ The reduction in state services can be attributed to the collapse of the Soviet economic system, the chaos of transition, rampant corruption, and the countries' economic choices.

In the near future the promise of improvements in state benefits seems greatest in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The government of Kazakhstan has the opportunity to use oil revenues to increase the standard of living. So far, with the exception of a new pension program, reforms to improve citizens' welfare have been scant. As the Minis-

ter of Labor and Social Protection described the government's philosophy to me in 2001, "People should become less accustomed to state paternalism...Oil prices could fall, so we need to diversify the economy before taking on more responsibility."⁹ Perhaps indicating a shift to greater responsibility, in February 2007 President Nursultan Nazarbaev announced that oil revenue would be targeted to welfare beginning in 2008. Approximately 900 million USD will be used to establish 100 hospitals, increase child subsidies, and augment pensions.

In Turkmenistan, the standard of living fell so precipitously under Niyazov that President Berdymukhammedov has the chance to significantly improve citizens' welfare. Residents of Turkmenistan have endured an eviscerated educational system that emphasizes Niyazov's own philosophy (the Ruhnama), medical care that provides false diagnoses to hide infectious disease rates, shortages of flour, and severe travel restrictions. They have also experienced the delayed wages, reduced state benefits, unemployment, and severe political repression that can be found elsewhere in Central Asia. On the campaign trail, Berdymukhammedov stated that he intended to maintain Niyazov's policies, but he also promised to rebuild the educational system, promote study abroad, pay wages on time, increase salaries, restore pension payments, and widen Internet access.

There is no guarantee, however, that either Nazarbaev or Berdymukhammedov will carry out the promised reforms.

Islam

Central Asians who practice Islam increasingly experience government regulation.¹⁰ In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, the governments restrict religious study abroad and informally monitor mosques. The governments of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have introduced more stringent controls. In Uzbekistan, citizens are prohibited from receiving private instruction in Islam and from wearing religious dress in public.¹¹ The government dictates the content of imams' sermons and employs secret informants to report on

continued on page 4

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illegal Islamic activity. And in January, residents of Andijan faced new restrictions: observers can no longer pray in their workplaces and youths are prohibited from attending public prayers at mosques. In Turkmenistan, Niyazov forced imams to preach the Ruhnama, effectively making it the only belief system that could be publicly practiced in the country. President Berdymukhammedov has not announced religious reforms.

Ironically, even non-observant Muslims face possible repression in the campaign to control Islam. Security forces play a growing role in government regulation of Islam; although their target is officially limited to the small number of Islamic radicals in the region,¹² citizens who do not belong to radical Islamic groups or even practice Islam are at risk. This is especially true in Uzbekistan, where the campaign has been most extensive and coordinated. Officials charge their critics with Islamic extremism in an attempt to stifle opposition; corrupt police officers plant false evidence of radical Islam and then demand bribes in return for dropping charges; and individuals make false accusations of Islamic extremism to settle personal grievances. Those caught up in the campaign then face torture to extract their confessions, sham trials, and horrific prison conditions.

There is a risk that these abuses in Uzbekistan could spread: in the summer of 2006, Kyrgyzstani security forces expanded their campaign to include hundreds of raids in southern Kyrgyzstan. They also participated in a joint operation with Uzbekistani security forces that resulted in the killing of Muhammadrafiq Kamalov, a moderate imam of a mosque in Kara-su, Kyrgyzstan. Kamalov had criticized the government and had permitted members of the illegal radical group Hizb ut-Tahrir to worship at his mosque; however, he publicly rejected the group's aim to establish an Islamic caliphate in Central Asia.

Potential for Change

Central Asians' encounters with their governments are typically aggravating and sometimes frightening. The chances that presidential succession will significantly improve life for citizens in any of the countries are slim because

of the strength of the executives and weakness of the oppositions. Dramatic transformations would likely require new presidents interested in reform but not personal enrichment. Furthermore, these individuals would need personal networks to help implement policies, since governmental institutions might not have the capacity to do so.

Advocates of reform exist within countries' opposition forces, but they have difficulty coming to power through elections or extraconstitutional means. Free and fair elections are the exception in this region, where government officials use state media, legal technicalities, threats to economic livelihood, and trumped up criminal charges to undercut their opponents. They also distribute state resources and pressure local notables to sway voters. Ongoing government repression, infighting, and the absence of popular support have also weakened opposition groups, making it difficult for them to take power.

In Tajikistan, the opposition has been under government attack, as evidenced by the 2005 jailing of Democratic Party leader Mahmadrusi Iskandarov on corruption and terrorism charges, and has suffered infighting, as illustrated by splits in his party and the Socialist Party. The popularity of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan has declined since it fought against current President Imomali Rakhmon's forces in the civil war and gained cabinet posts as part of the peace treaty.¹³ The long illness and death of party leader Said Abdullo Nuri from cancer in August 2006 further weakened the organization. The enervated opposition ineffectually boycotted the November 2006 presidential elections, which brought another victory for Rakhmon.

In Uzbekistan, the opposition has suffered a wave of severe repression since the violence in Andijan. The government of Uzbekistan has arrested political opponents, including leaders of the opposition movements Sunshine Coalition and Birluk.¹⁴ The leader of the Erk Party, Muhammad Solih, has expressed an interest in running in the possible presidential election at the end of 2007; however, he has been in exile for more than a decade in order to avoid serving an extended prison term

for extremism. His lengthy overseas residency legally bars him from the race and potentially reduces his support among voters. Radical organizations also do not seem to be particularly strong now. There is little conclusive evidence that the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan is currently operating in the region; it was severely weakened during fighting with U.S. forces in Afghanistan in 2001, and its leader Tahir Yuldosh now resides in Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan. The goal of establishing a caliphate—promoted by both the IMU and the Hizb ut-Tahrir—has not won widespread support.

In Kazakhstan, government repression has impaired the opposition. Bolat Abilov, co-chair of the Nagyz Ak Zhol Party, is on trial for embezzlement and fraud from business dealings in the early 1990s, and his co-chair, Altynbek Sarsenbayev, was murdered in early 2006, possibly for political reasons. This pressure helps account for the splintering of opposition movements and the surfeit of parties. Two new parties emerged in the second half of 2006, each similarly focused on the benefits of market reform.

A more likely scenario for presidential succession than the rise of a reformer from the opposition is the ascent of an insider, as occurred in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. In Kyrgyzstan, popular demonstrations forced Akaev out, yet essentially one of his own took power. Kurmanbek Bakiev was leading opposition deputies in the national parliament immediately prior to becoming interim president; however, he had served in Akaev's administration from its beginning until 2002, when he resigned as prime minister. President Berdymukhammedov of Turkmenistan was also a member of the ruling elite; he was serving as the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers at the time of Niyazov's death and had held various ministerial-level positions for a decade.

The strength of the Central Asian executive positions would make it difficult for an opposition figure or reformist insider to effect significant change. The constitutions afford the presidents considerable influence over

continued on page 6

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the parliaments and judiciaries, so it would be difficult for these institutions to hold the presidents accountable.¹⁵ Consequently, even those with reformist intentions might succumb to the temptation to enrich themselves and repress their critics.

In Kyrgyzstan, President Bakiev has maintained his powers despite his campaign promise to reduce executive authority and the assertiveness of the parliament, relative to other Central Asian legislatures. He agreed to a reduction in presidential authority in November to end a new round of street protests; however, he then inserted amendments into the compromise constitution at the end of the year to return power to the executive. In Turkmenistan, it is too early to evaluate whether Berdymukhammedov is genuinely committed to reform, but citizens seem to be hopeful. One resident of Turkmenistan commented that “The mood in the country since Niyazov’s death is one of thaw...It’s not like the thaw of the 1960s, where people went out into the streets with guitars. But now, there is more of a feeling of optimism.”¹⁶

Although the constitutions grant the Central Asian presidents authority

relative to other national governmental institutions and the right to appoint local executives, it is not clear that they have the capacity to effectively implement policy throughout their countries. To the extent that presidents have influence outside the capitals, it might be a result of informal networks based on kinship, birthplace, school, and ethnic ties more than formal institutions.

For this reason, new presidents will need to co-opt former executives’ networks, appoint members of their own network, or quickly establish their own network if they do not have one. In Kyrgyzstan, Bakiev has struggled to mobilize supporters from his home region Jalalabat to counter a series of street protests in Bishkek. Since the spring of 2006 opposition elites and their regional networks have held demonstrations to protest Bakiev’s failure to carry out most of his promised reforms. In Turkmenistan, Berdymukhammedov may have a clientelist network that enabled his relatively long tenure in government, despite Niyazov’s frequent purges, and his ascent to the presidency.

Who’s Next?

The selection of the new presidents in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan gives

weight to expectations that informal politics rather than formal institutions will drive leadership succession in the remaining countries of the region. In Kyrgyzstan, the immediate chain of events leading to Bakiev’s rise began March 24, 2005, when protestors spontaneously took the Belyi Dom after nearly a month of demonstrations concerning questionable parliamentary elections. Akaev fled the country, enabling opposition leaders to extra-constitutionally take power. The new parliament approved Bakiev as acting prime minister and president, and 89 percent of voters selected him as president in a July election. The election results are viewed as legitimate despite some irregularities.

Following Niyazov’s death from heart failure in December 2006, Berdymukhammedov and the head of the Presidential Guard, Akmurat Rejepov, orchestrated the seizure of power in Turkmenistan. The speaker of the parliament, the constitutionally designated acting president, was fired and arrested, and the People’s Council changed the constitution and elections laws so that Berdymukhammedov could serve as interim president and then run in a presidential election. The February election was widely viewed as rigged; 99 percent of the electorate voted and nearly 90 percent of the ballots were cast for Berdymukhammedov.

The weakness of formal rules in the region means that we have little idea how transfers of power will occur in the remaining countries of Central Asia. Presidential elections are expected in Kazakhstan in 2012, in Tajikistan in 2013, and in Uzbekistan by the end of 2007. Only Tajikistan’s President Rakhmon will lawfully be able to run in the next election, after which he will be prohibited. However, presidents of all three countries have in the past used techniques such as constitutional amendments and referenda to extend their rule, and they could possibly do so again. Manipulation of the electoral rules might not matter anyway; so far transfers of power in the region have primarily been driven not by elections but by a coup, natural death, and, in the case of Tajikistan, civil war.

What is more certain than how power will be transferred is the im-

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Translated and annotated by Charles S. Kraszewski, with a foreword by Prof. Piotr S. Wandycz, *A Diplomat in Dachau* (258 pp., ISBN 0-940962-68-39), is available for purchase at the price of \$17.95 from PIASA in New York. Checks can be made payable to PIASA, 208 E. 30th St., New York, NY 10016.

minence and impact of presidential succession. Additional transfers of power could occur in the near future because of the presidents' ages. President Islam Karimov is 69 and rumored to be ill; Nazarbaev is 66; Rakhmon, the youngest of the remaining leaders, is 54. When transfers of power do occur in Central Asia, the weakness of the opposition and the strength of the presidencies suggest that life will not dramatically improve for average citizens. Hopefully, the actions of Presidents Bakiev and Berdymukhammedov will belie this conclusion. ♦

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NOTES:

1. I thank Adrienne Edgar, Dmitry Gorenburg, John Heathershaw, Larry Markowitz, Madelyn Medeiros, Scott Radnitz, Ed Schatz, and Sarah Tremont for their feedback on an earlier version of this article.

2. Author's interview, Kazakhstan, June 7, 2001. Interviews cited in this article are part of a project funded with grants from the International Research and Exchanges Board, the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

3. Daniel Sershen, "Kyrgyz, Uzbek Authorities Still Working on Visa-Free Travel Arrangement," EurasiaNet, November 29, 2006. Available at www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav112906a.shtml.

4. "Entrepreneurs in Andijan Facing Stifling Scrutiny," EurasiaNet, July 19, 2006. Available at www.eurasianet.org/

[departments/civilsociety/articles/eav071906.shtml](http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/civilsociety/articles/eav071906.shtml).

5. In response to a popular uprising in protest of the dubious charges, the government killed perhaps as many as 750 men, women, and children. International Crisis Group, "Uzbekistan: The Andijon Uprising," Asia Brief No. 38, May 25, 2005.

6. Author's interview, Kazakhstan, June 11, 2001.

7. Author's visit, Kyrgyzstan, spring and summer 1997.

8. Author's visit, Kazakhstan, summer 2001.

9. Author's interview, Kazakhstan, May 21, 2001.

10. Many Central Asian Muslims do not practice Islam, even if they live in countries where the government has allowed greater freedom of religion. Surveys conducted by the International Crisis Group (ICG) in 2003 found that, for example, 45 percent of respondents who identified themselves as Muslim in Tajikistan and 40.3 percent in Kyrgyzstan prayed rarely or never. ICG warns that the results should be "treated with some caution"; however, the fact that

the percentages were not closer to 100 is informative. The International Crisis Group, "Is Radical Islam Inevitable in Central Asia? Priorities for Engagement," Asia Report No. 72, December 22, 2003.

11. The law on religion excludes clerics from the religious clothing ban.

12. Estimates of the number of radicals are often based on government arrests of alleged radicals; however, this approach is highly problematic considering that the governments make false charges of Islamic radicalism.

13. The last name of the president of Tajikistan was Rakhmonov; he has dropped the Russian ending "ov."

14. The coalition's full name is My Sunny Uzbekistan.

15. Compared to other Central Asian constitutions, the constitution of Tajikistan does not grant the executive as much influence over the national legislature.

16. "Turkmen Citizens Use Presidential Election as Opportunity to Speak Out," EurasiaNet, February 13, 2006. Available at www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav021307.shtml.

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MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE GLOBAL UNIVERSITY THROUGH STUDY ABROAD

Developing a Multi-Disciplinary Study Experience in Russia for All College Students

Jason Merrill, Michigan State University

Few Russian programs would say that they are not interested in raising student participation and their profiles on campus. While there has been a significant rise in foreign language enrollments in recent years, not all Russian programs are seeing a corresponding interest in their offerings; numbers at many institutions have remained essentially flat or even decreased.¹ In the face of growing competition from languages such as Arabic and Chinese and increasing demands on university budgets, it is imperative that Russian programs develop ways of attracting students and demonstrating to university administrations that what we do is vital to the educational mission of the twenty-first century university.

One effective response to this challenge lies in something we have been involved in for years: study abroad. Universities increasingly speak of having a global presence and preparing students for the global economy of the twenty first century. In 2005, the National Bi-Partisan Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program recommended allocating resources to increase the number of students who study abroad by five times, to one million a year.²

Students have long recognized this trend, and the number of U.S. students studying abroad has increased dramatically, from slightly under 100,000 in 1996-97 to over 200,000 in 2004-05.³ Each year an increasing percentage of these students choose a non-traditional, non-English-speaking country.⁴ While in 2006, Russia fell out of the top twenty most popular destinations, the number of U.S. students studying there has rebounded significantly after a substantial dip that lasted for most of the 90s.⁵

The benefits of study in another country are well documented.⁶ Certain major areas of study, however, send very few students abroad. For

example, majors in Engineering and Math and Computer Science account for only 2.9% and 1.7%, respectively, of all students who study outside the United States.⁷

These are only some of the majors that represent a large, untapped source of potential students for study abroad opportunities. Establishing cooperative study abroad programs between language programs and these academic units may be mutually beneficial, especially at institutions whose administrations increasingly emphasize (and reward) new international experiences for undergraduates and enriched interdisciplinary work among departments.

At Michigan State University (MSU), study abroad is considered an essential part of the university's educational mission, and in 2004-05 we sent 2,385 students abroad, second only to New York University's 2,611.⁸ The Russian faculty has joined with colleagues in Civil Engineering to co-direct a multi-disciplinary program in Volgograd. Over the years, it has become one of the largest study-abroad programs on campus.⁹

Both units share program responsibilities. The budget and travel arrangements are handled by the Civil Engineering department, and the Russian faculty sets the cultural program and is responsible for the language students and their courses and living arrangements. Both departments are involved in recruitment and in negotiations (on- and off-campus) regarding the program. This unusual arrangement allows us to better accomplish our core mission and in fact enhances our programs by offering students and faculty new opportunities for teaching, research, and collaboration.

Every year, about two weeks after the spring semester, Michigan State's Volgograd study abroad program

sends approximately seventy students and ten faculty members to Russia in three groups, each of which is led by an MSU faculty member or graduate student affiliated with the program. The groups spend three to four days in St. Petersburg and roughly the same amount of time in Moscow seeing the major sights of each city and attending operas, ballets, and other cultural events.

One challenge the group leaders face is moving groups of twenty to thirty students, most of whom do not speak Russian, around the two capitals. Security is a primary concern for such conspicuous groups. Students learn quickly what kind of behavior is needed in a large city (and expected in a large group) and for the most part cooperate well. Group leaders stay in constant contact with each other by cell phone and work together to resolve the inevitable crises that occur.

The groups move on by train—itself an event for many students—to Volgograd, the program's academic base. For over five weeks, the Russian language students stay with host families and take intensive language classes at the Volgograd State Technical University; the other students live in a Volgograd hotel located across the street from the Volgograd State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering (VSUACE), where they take classes in English taught by faculty from MSU or affiliated universities, including VSUACE.

At the end of the academic session, over half the students take advantage of an optional three-day trip to Prague before returning home. Except for those who stay longer in Russia or Europe, students are back in the United States by the first week of July, which still allows them time to take classes in most second summer sessions or to work summer jobs.

continued on page 10

All courses other than Russian language are taught in English; almost all of our non-language students would not participate otherwise. They usually have busy schedules with little time for electives, and would have to study Russian for several years before they would be prepared to take their subject courses in Russian. Furthermore, since strict national accreditation requirements require course content to match exactly what is taught on campus, coordinating courses is more straightforward with English-speaking instructors familiar with our educational system.¹⁰

In Volgograd, despite the intensive academic schedule, the program tries to maximize students' interaction with Russia and Russians. The program maintains an active schedule of excursions (e.g. Mamaev Hill and the Panorama Museum) and cultural events such as operas, ballets, and concerts.

English-speaking students from VSUACE are hired to act as guides for the students on these formal events and also mix informally with students when they sample the Volgograd nightlife. The guides' participation

adds an important layer to the students' experience, because they are able to interact with Russians their own age who are interested in getting to know their American peers. Meeting young Russians with whom they share common interests is an eye-opening experience, and many strong friendships between Russians and Americans are formed during our stay. Program evaluations suggest that all our students learn much about Russia and that their stay in Russia has a significant impact on them.

Basing the program in Volgograd has several positive aspects beyond furthering our relationship with the institutions mentioned above. While prices there are increasing, the cost of housing and feeding students there is less than it would be in Moscow or St. Petersburg. Despite having a population of just over one million, Volgograd feels like a smaller city and has much less of a foreign presence than larger Russian cities. Its shape (it is a narrow city that stretches for over seventy kilometers along the Volga) makes it an easy city for students to negotiate.

One of the unusual features of the program is the wide range of majors it attracts; the largest constituencies are from Civil Engineering and Russian, but every year students from other majors such as Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Criminal Justice, Education, International Relations, and Mathematics participate. No one group dominates the program. Varied course offerings, including courses in mathematics, statistics, and civil and mechanical engineering, in addition to the usual offerings in Russian language and culture, are naturally an important part of creating this diversity. The program's offerings emphasize basic, required courses that will appeal to wide audiences and to target interested groups. For example, the introductory Calculus sequence is required for many majors, while first-year Russian was added to allow certain students to complete their language requirement in one summer.

A variety of courses is necessary because study abroad now means more than the traditional junior year abroad; only 35.8% of those who go abroad do so during their junior year;¹¹ in fact, at

MSU over 61% of those who studied abroad in 2005-06 were seniors.¹²

Offering the program during the summer session is important for attracting many majors who have busy schedules during the academic year and see summer as the only possible time to squeeze in such an experience. The same, of course, is true of faculty. Nationwide, since 1993-94 the percentage of students studying abroad during the summer has increased from 30.9% to 37.2%, which is barely below the 37.5% who study abroad for one semester, a number that has remained unchanged over the last eleven years.¹³

Offering courses that targeted groups need when they need them is only part of selling the program to students who may not have otherwise thought of studying abroad.¹⁴ We also emphasize the many advantages to studying abroad. In Volgograd, few classes have over ten students, so those from a large state university can have a different experience with much more interaction between student and teacher. In fact, students and instructors eat together and live side by side in the hotel, and office hours take place at all times of the day in various settings.

We emphasize to potential participants that Russia is an area deemed critical to national security and is one of the most important expanding markets in the world. Those who work and study in Michigan are particularly aware that the economy is becoming more globalized, and we remind them that while any study abroad experience will set them apart from competitors, anecdotal evidence from our graduates suggests that time spent in Russia will stand out on any résumé.

At many institutions, taking courses in the summer, even abroad, can work out to be less expensive than studying during the academic year, and by earning summer credits students can often graduate a semester early and land on the job market six months ahead of their peers. The program prides itself on being one of the least expensive of the summer programs at MSU, and its affordability—helped by our location—is another selling point with students.¹⁵

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we emphasize the fun nature of this life-changing experience, which is

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confirmed by the many program veterans still at MSU, more than a few of whom participate a second time.

The program's courses are taught by instructors from MSU or affiliated universities that also send students on the program, such as Albion College, Northwestern Michigan College, Northern Michigan University and McMaster University. The instructors enjoy the close, intensive interaction with students and the experience abroad.¹⁶

The recruitment of faculty members is challenged by the fact that participation in study abroad is not valued in all disciplines as much as it is in the humanities, and this attitude is especially evident in the sciences. Faculty with grants at research universities are not likely to want to teach in the summer, certainly not long-term. Faculty from smaller, more teaching-intensive colleges or universities are more likely to be willing and able to commit to teaching every summer.

On the other hand, we have been able to build into this program opportunities for engineering faculty to combine research work with the study abroad experience. For example, a recent NSF-funded project established an international partnership of environmental engineers and membrane scientists from two U.S. research universities, two research centers in France, and three institutions in Russia and Ukraine to investigate and understand water technology challenges in geographically and culturally diverse settings. This project became part of the Volgograd study abroad program in 2006 through an Environmental Engineering education module that was run in Kiev, Ukraine at the National University of Kiev Mohyla Academy. The project has been spun-off as a separate study abroad program in Kiev for 2007 that will contain both research and cultural components, but we continue to search for similar initiatives.¹⁷

Our program began in the late 1990s as a small exchange between VSUACE and MSU but has steadily grown; this growth has been accomplished internally and externally. Within the university we have added selected groups (and the courses their majors need), although these additions are not always permanent. From 2002-

2004 the program included Building Construction Management majors, and in 2004 and 2005 students from the College of Education participated. In both cases the relationship was weakened because of the demands summer teaching placed on faculty from those fields. Our current collaboration with Mathematics is going well, and we are always open to working with new academic units and focusing on their needs.

Outside the university, we have invited students and faculty from other institutions to participate in the program. From 1999 to 2002, engineering students and faculty from Michigan Technological University traveled with MSU students to Russia. In 2003, students from Northwestern Michigan College joined our program; this contingent has grown and in 2006 included two faculty members and eight students, with more anticipated in 2007. In 2006, McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) joined the program, another affiliation that holds promise for future growth and collaboration. Finances and credit transfer are two of the larger challenges to linking with others; since MSU directs this program, affiliated universities pay the program based on their number of students, who enroll at MSU as life-long education students and then transfer their credits back to their home institution.

As our program has expanded we have also turned to other universities in Volgograd. The Russian system that was based on institutes—many of which have now become universities—required that we branch out and make contacts with programs appropriate for the students we have and the courses we need to offer. It made more sense academically for the language programs to be moved to the Volgograd Technical University (the former Polytechnic) and the education classes, when offered, are taught through collaboration with Volgograd State Pedagogical University. We have hired several guest lecturers from Volgograd State University and we are negotiating with Volgograd State Medical Institute about possible collaboration with our medical school at MSU. This wide range of associations with other institutions, both here and in Russia, is one of the unique features of our program.

Our Russian program benefits in many ways from this collaborative effort. In terms of concrete enrollment numbers, each year we do see a handful of students from the previous summer sign up for Beginning Russian, and some do eventually double major with Russian. The other benefits are less tangible but perhaps more important. Placing our relatively small language program (8-12 students a summer) within a larger program allows us to focus on teaching issues and not worry constantly about how to make a language-focused program work in terms of minimum student enrollment numbers. The language classes and homestays work out to be less expensive than the hotels and engineering classes, which allows us to maintain a good language program with small classes. Alignment with a better-funded and higher profile program such as engineering affords us opportunities we could not have with a stand-alone program.

This program creates opportunities for teaching that simply could not occur on campus or in a traditional language-only study abroad program. The Russian faculty offer two Humanities courses: a survey of Russian culture and an exploration of the Great Patriotic War. Both start at MSU before departure and then connect closely with the excursions in all three cities.

The Russian Culture course emphasizes experiential learning with visits to museums, historical sites, concerts and cultural events. In 2006, a concert pianist from Moscow who is associated with MSU conducted two weeks of presentations and lectures in the class that were capped by a piano and poetry performance for all program participants. Using MSU's CODEC interactive labs for distance learning, this course has included as many as 16 students from other universities.

Upon students' arrival in the former Stalingrad, the course on the Great Patriotic War becomes exclusively experiential learning, with excursions, guest lectures, documentary films, and memoirs making up most of the content. A key assignment in this course is an interview, in which students ask American friends or family members and residents of Volgograd the same

continued on page 13

Grants for Research & Language Training in Russia, Eurasia, & Southeastern Europe

Funding available through American Councils from U.S. Department of State (Title VIII), National Endowment for the Humanities, U.S. Department of Education (Fulbright-Hays), and Institute of International Education (IIE) grant support.

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Title VIII Research Scholar Program

Awards of \$5,000 - \$25,000 for field research in Russia, Southeastern Europe, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

Title VIII Combined Research & Language Training Program

Awards of \$5,000 - \$25,000 for 10 hrs/week of intensive language training in addition to field research in Eurasia. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

Title VIII Special Initiatives Fellowship Program

Fellowships of up to \$35,000 for field research on policy-relevant topics in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

Title VIII Southeastern Europe Language Program

Support for one to nine months of intensive language study at major universities throughout Southeastern Europe. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

National Russian Flagship Program

Intensive, nine-month language training with stateside and overseas components for U.S. students who wish to attain "distinguished" or "superior" (ILR 3, 3+, 4) Russian-language skills. Deadline: January 31.

NEH Collaborative Research Fellowship

Fellowships for post-doctoral scholars. Awards up to \$40,000 for four to nine months of humanities research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Proposals must include plans to work with at least one collaborator in the field. Deadline: February 15.

Summer Program for Russian Language Teachers

Full support for university and secondary school teachers of Russian to study in Moscow for six weeks. Graduate students are also encouraged to apply. Deadline: March 1.

Contemporary Russia Program

Five-week summer area-studies program at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Open to university students and professionals at all levels of Russian-language proficiency, including those with no prior language training. Deadline: March 15.

For more information on eligibility and applications, contact:
American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS
Russia and Eurasia Outbound Programs
1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 833-7522; Email: outbound@americancouncils.org

questions about the war, and then compare the answers in a lively and eye-opening discussion.

Our active involvement in this successful program demonstrates to the administration that the Russian program is pro-actively helping to realize the university's vision of the twenty-first century global university.

The first step in organizing a similar program is to identify campus groups or individual faculty members with whom you might collaborate and discuss with them the benefits of creating a program that includes their students and yours. Many universities encourage the development of new programs by providing grants for site visits.

Potential Russian host institutions, which benefit financially and in terms of visibility from partnering with foreign institutions, often can be found through colleagues, both in Russian and in other disciplines. Especially on larger campuses, it is surprising how many faculty members with Russian connections work without any contact with the Russian program.

If an exchange is arranged with the Russian institution, their students can study in the U.S. and increase diversity on our campuses. Several graduate students from VSUACE are currently working toward degrees at MSU; most of them work with the program providing vital logistical support, including coordinating on campus recruitment meetings and arranging visas and airline tickets for our large groups.

Once groups are ready to travel, it is important to recall that "*pervyi blin komom*" [the first pancake comes out lumpy]; we all know that student groups and Russia both have a penchant for providing the unexpected, and leaders of course need to be flexible and to take good notes for planning the next year's trip. Organizing such a trip is a large amount of work, but it is truly rewarding, for our faculty, our students, and our Russian program. ♦

Jason Merrill is Assistant Professor of Russian at Michigan State University, where he teaches Russian language, literature, and cinema, and a humanities course on Eastern European literature and film. His research interests include

Russian Symbolism, especially the works of Fedor Sologub, and Russian cinema. He has been involved in the Volgograd study abroad program since arriving at MSU in 2002.

NOTES:

1. The last major Modern Language Association survey of enrollments covers the period from 1998 to 2002; see "Foreign Language Enrollments in United States Institutions of Higher Education, Fall 2002" by Elizabeth B. Welles, available at <http://www.adfl.org/resources/enrollments.pdf>.

2. <http://newsroom.msu.edu/site/indexer/2573/content.htm>.

3. See "Opendoors 2006 Fast Facts" at http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/file_depot/0-1000000/0-10000/3390/folder/50084/Open+Doors+2006_Fast_Facts_FINAL.pdf.

4. <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=89252>.

5. See <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=89252> and http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/file_depot/0-1000000/0-10000/3390/folder/56369/Russia+2006.doc.

6. http://www.transitionsabroad.com/publications/magazine/0403/benefits_study_abroad.shtml.

7. Social Sciences lead with 22.6%, while Foreign Languages send 7.5%. "Opendoors 2006 Fast Facts." Targeting groups such as Engineering and Math can also have positive effects on gender diversity; while women outnumber men almost two to one in overall study abroad (65.5% to 34.5% - see <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=89220>), these disciplines, in our experience, contribute far more males than females to the program.

8. <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=89230>.

9. David Prestel (prestel@msu.edu) is the Russian Director, and Thomas Maleck (maleck@msu.edu) is the Civil Engineering Director. Our program website is <http://msuabroadinrussia.com>.

10. The two humanities courses that the Russian faculty teach in the program have a significant "survival" language and culture portion that counts for over a third of the final grade. It is also our opinion, however, that insisting on being associated with only Russian-language courses in Russia will minimize any Russian program's potential influence; on the other hand, reaching out to additional parties interested in Russia can only help us have a wider impact on our students and institutions.

11. <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=89220>.

12. <http://studyabroad.msu.edu/contact/factstable.html>.

13. One semester and summer term are by far the most popular lengths of study abroad. Our program is also fewer than eight weeks long, which is the category that has seen the largest percentage growth, from 1.7% to 8% of all students who study abroad. See <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=89222>.

14. See <http://www.russianda.org/why-russia/statistics/> for reasons why Russia is attractive to science students and faculty.

15. A breakdown of this year's costs can be found at <http://studyabroad.msu.edu/programs/russtrans.html>.

16. Engineering and Mathematics instructors are required to cover the same material in their courses that would be taught in the same class on campus; the five-week semester in Volgograd can mean that the classes proceed at a fast pace, but the constant exposure to instructors and additional opportunities for office hours and extra help it provides somewhat compensate for this pace. Whenever possible (in courses such as CE 449 Highway Design), instructors do try to compare Russian and U. S. approaches to civil engineering and other disciplines.

17. The co-directors of the Kiev program are David Prestel (Russian; prestel@msu.edu) and Volodymyr Tarabara (Civil and Environmental Engineering; tarabara@egr.msu.edu).

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NEWS FROM AAASS

AAASS Main Office News

The AAASS office is happy to welcome Lidia Gajewska Davis, born on February 22, 2007. Jolanta Davis, AAASS Web and Publications Coordinator, is the proud mom. Congratulations, Jolanta!

2007 AAASS Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana

The 39th National Convention of the AAASS will be held at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana, from Thursday, November 15, 2007 through Sunday, November 19, 2007. If you are interested in learning more about the wonderful city of New Orleans and its history, please see the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau web site: www.neworleanscvb.com.

The AAASS special group rate for convention participants is \$169 per night for single or double room. We also have a limited number of rooms set aside for graduate students at a special rate of \$99 per night. If you are a graduate student seeking a room at the special rate of \$99, please email Wendy Walker, Convention Coordinator, at walker@fas.harvard.edu with a photocopy of your student ID. She will give you the correct code to use when you book your room. Please be sure to include complete contact

information in your request. You will need to make your own reservations once Wendy gives you the code. Please note that the student rooms are **almost sold out**.

AAASS attendees may book using this link: <http://cwp.marriott.com/msyla/2007aaassconvention>, which is also posted on our website. The link will automatically plug in the group rate of \$169 per night single or double. Telephone reservations may be made by calling 1-800-654-3990. You must say you are with Slavic Studies to receive the discounted rate of \$169 plus tax per night.

Registration Deadlines and Fees

The registration fees for the 39th Annual Convention are as follows:

Please note early registration deadline: If you register by **August 17**, the fees are as follows: AAASS Member—\$100; Non-Member—\$150; Student or Income under 20K—\$25; Non-Member Student or Income under 20K—\$35.

If you register after August 17 but before October 12, the fees are as follows: AAASS Member—\$120; Non-Member—\$170; Student or Income under 20K—\$30; Non-Member Student or Income under 20K—\$40.

If you do not pre-register by **October 12**, you must register on site. On Site Regis-

tration fees will be: AAASS Member—\$150; Non-Member—\$200; Student or Income under 20K—\$40; Student or Income under 20K—\$50.

Please avoid long lines and extra expense by pre-registering. We accept personal checks, MasterCard, and Visa. Please be sure to write clearly—your name badge will be generated using the information you provide on your registration form.

Audio Visual Equipment Requests

All requests for audio visual equipment must be received by **August 1, 2007**. Please note that we will not provide PowerPoint equipment—it is too expensive to rent. We only provide up to \$100 worth of equipment (normally the cost of a slide/overhead projector and screen) and we will bill the panel organizer for any equipment requests over that amount. If you miss the deadline, you will have to contact the audio-visual company at the hotel to arrange for your equipment and pay for it.

Correction

The listing of 2007 AAASS Committees in the March *NewsNet* mistakenly listed Kristen Hill as ex officio, ABSEES Editor for the BDC Subcommittee on ABSEES. Irene Kolchinsky is now filling this position. ♦

REPORT FROM THE AAASS-AATSEEL JOINT COMMITTEE ON LANGUAGE TRAINING

The mission of the AAASS-AATSEEL Joint Committee on Language Training is threefold:

- To educate colleagues in Slavic studies about developments in language pedagogy relevant to Slavic and East European studies and to encourage dialogue among colleagues from all branches of our discipline in order to broaden the scope of activity in the language classroom;
- To provide young scholars in all Slavic and East European studies disciplines with the best possible language training necessary for good teaching and scholarship;
- To work toward interdisciplinary collaboration in the study of Eastern and Central Europe and Central Eurasia.

In 2006, the AAASS-AATSEEL committee did not meet formally; however, its members (William J. Comer, University of Kansas;

Karen Evans-Romaine, Ohio University; and Benjamin Rifkin, Temple University) have been in regular e-mail contact.

Our most important recent task has been soliciting regular contributions on various aspects of language study relevant to faculty across disciplines for the AAASS *NewsNet*. In 2006, the committee invited Dan Davidson, Bryn Mawr College Professor of Russian and director of American Councils for International Education (formerly known as ACTR/ACCELS), to contribute a piece for the AAASS *NewsNet* on the NSEP/Flagship initiative for Russian language training at U.S. universities in the Flagship consortium and in a special academic-year program at St. Petersburg University. The most recent contribution to the *NewsNet* by invitation from this committee appears in this issue on page 9. Its author, Jason Merrill, Assistant Professor of Russian at Michigan State University, will be taking over for Benjamin Rifkin on the committee. ♦

—Karen Evans-Romaine

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SCHOLARS' NETWORK

This column offers scholars and institutions conducting a large-scale research or survey an opportunity to announce their project to others and to request input and information.

ASEC Call for Papers

The Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture, Inc. (ASEC) announces its second biennial conference to take place in Columbus, Ohio, October 5-6, 2007, and is pleased to invite papers for its multi-disciplinary conference on the theme "Centers and Peripheries: Interaction and Exchange in the Social, Cultural, Historical, and Regional Situations of Eastern Christianity."

Papers may deal with any historical period or with contemporary issues and come from all disciplines including anthropology, cultural studies, history, literary criticism, linguistics, sociology, and religious studies. The conference aims to explore the interactions between and among different religiously-defined communities within the Eastern Christian traditions, and the interactions and exchange between Eastern Christian communities and other religious groups and traditions.

Conference sessions will be held at the Blackwell Hotel and Conference Center with accommodations at the nearby Holiday Inn on the Lane. The conference will include two days of panels plus a keynote address. Panel proposals of three presenters plus chair/discussant are preferred, but individual papers are also encouraged.

Please send panel and paper proposals with abstracts of 100-200 words for each paper, and a short CV for each participant, to Russell Martin at martinre@westminster.edu. All proposals must be received by May 31, 2007.

Registration is \$40 and participants must be members of ASEC, Inc. by the time of the conference. Fees are waived for students and faculty of The Ohio State University with current university identification. Dues are \$10 per annum (\$5 for graduate students); dues (made out to ASEC Inc.) for 2006 and 2007 may be sent to Lucien Frary, Rider University, 2083 Lawrence Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

The conference is co-sponsored by ASEC, Inc. and The Ohio State University's Center for Slavic and East European Studies, Resource Center for Medieval Slavic

Studies, the Hilandar Research Library, the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, and the Center for the Study of Religion.

For more information, contact martinre@westminster.edu or jennifer.spock@eku.edu.

Call for Papers: "Interpreting Emotion in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia"

Ralph and Ruth Fisher Forum
June 19-21, 2008

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Organizers: Mark Steinberg (History, *Slavic Review*) and Valeria Sobol (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

The 2008 Ralph and Ruth Fisher Forum will be held at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, beginning on the evening of Thursday, June 19 and concluding Saturday, June 21, 2008, on the topic of "interpreting emotion in eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia." This conference will be a multidisciplinary exploration of emotion and its cultural representations in eastern Europe and Russia from the 19th century to the present, especially in public life, as well as a critical consideration of how we approach the study of emotion.

Only relatively recently have scholars begun to study systematically and deeply emotional perception and expression as not merely "private" inward feeling but as ways of interpreting and judging the external world and acting in it. We are seeking proposals for papers that explore both questions of method and particular histories, ethnographies, and cultural expressions of emotion.

Topics that might be examined, for example, include emotions and political culture, emotions and gender, emotions and the body, emotions and the public sphere, and individual emotions such as love, anger, shame, and melancholy. Historians, literary scholars, art historians, anthropologists, sociologists, musicologists, psychologists, and other disciplines are encouraged to propose papers.

Please send proposals for papers (maximum 1 page) and a brief CV to steinb@uiuc.edu and vsobol@uiuc.edu by May 31, 2007 (you may also contact us with questions). Subject to funding, the organizers expect to be able to cover participants' expenses for travel and lodging.

Moscow "Panorama" Center Seeks Partners

The Moscow Publishing and Research Center "Panorama" (<http://www.panorama.ru/>), headed by renowned Russian political publicist and archivist Vladimir Pribylovsky, is one of Russia's oldest independent research groups on current CIS affairs. The various publications and electronic tools that "Panorama" has produced over the last fifteen years have been among the most comprehensive and reliable information resources for journalists, analysts, and researchers (for example, <http://www.labyrinth.ru/>).

Previously, "Panorama" has cooperated with a variety of Russian and foreign partners, including the Russian government, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation.

Due to a lack of new projects and contracts, "Panorama" is threatened to close by summer 2007. Mr. Pribylovsky is therefore looking for potential partners and customers in the following fields in which "Panorama" has developed special expertise: political organizations in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus; Russia's political, economic, and social elites; new Russian youth movements; recent changes in Russia's electoral law and procedures; concentration and separation of powers in the RF; the Kremlin; nationalism and xenophobia; the Soviet "informals" movement in 1986-91; and other novel political and social developments in contemporary Russia.

If you would like to explore opportunities of possible cooperation with "Panorama" (whether short- or long-term), please write, in Russian, to Vladimir Pribylovsky at anticompr@yandex.ru.

continued on page 18

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(In Russian; edited by Efim Melamed and Mark Kupovetsky.)

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Research Project on Nation-Building in Southeastern Europe

The international research project "New and Ambiguous Nation-building Processes in Southeastern Europe," funded by the Volkswagen-Stiftung (Germany) and the Austrian Science Fund, examines post-1945 nation-building processes in four Southeast European countries from an historical-anthropological perspective: the Bosnian, Macedonian, Moldovan, and Montenegrin nation-building efforts.

Under the leadership of the Institute for East European Studies at the Free University of Berlin and the Department for Southeast European History at the University of Graz, 18 scholars do research on the problems of the project.

More information on the project is available at <http://www.oei.fu-berlin.de/projekte/nation-building/index.html>

Russian-East European Metadata Survey

Miranda Remnek (co-chair, AAASS Digital Projects Subcommittee) is currently conducting a Russian-East European Metadata Survey in preparation for a presentation entitled "Digital Text Projects in Eastern Europe: Promoting International Interoperability" at Digital Humanities 2007.

The survey seeks to gather information from selected Russian and East European institutions and digital centers on their current metadata practices and potential for international resource discovery; over twenty digital initiatives are being contacted.

The survey will remain online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=438323679058> until May 26, 2007; however, later submissions from additional project managers will be most welcome. Contact mremnek@uiuc.edu.

U.S. Department of State Conference on U.S.-Soviet Relations in the Era of Détente, 1969–1976

The U.S. Department of State will hold a scholarly conference on October 22–23, 2007, on U.S. Relations with the Soviet Union in the Era of Détente, 1969–1976.

The conference will be hosted by the Office of the Historian in the Bureau of Public Affairs, and will take place in the new George C. Marshall Conference Center at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

The conference will feature keynote presentations on U.S.-Russian relations by Department of State principals and com-

ments from former diplomats and senior scholars from both the United States and Russia.

The conference will also include scholarly sessions that complement the forthcoming release of *Soviet-American Relations: The Détente Years, 1969–1972*, a joint documentary publication undertaken by the Office of the Historian of the U.S. Department of State and the Historical-Records Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Program Committee invites proposals for original papers dealing with the geopolitical and strategic implications of détente from 1969 to 1976. The Committee particularly encourages those submissions that draw on recently opened archival collections. Possible themes might include, but are not limited to:

- The development of the concept of "linkage" and its implementation
- The U.S.-Soviet dialogue relating to the war in Vietnam
- U.S.-Soviet relations and international security, including the Agreement on the Prevention of Nuclear War and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)
- U.S.-Soviet relations and the Middle East, including the 1973 October War
- Détente and Europe, including Germany and Berlin, Mutual Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR), and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the Helsinki Accords
- The development of triangular diplomacy among the United States, the Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China
- U.S.-Soviet relations and the Third World, including southern Africa
- Economic, cultural, ecological, and scientific issues in U.S.-Soviet bilateral relations
- Détente and U.S. domestic politics, including the critics of détente

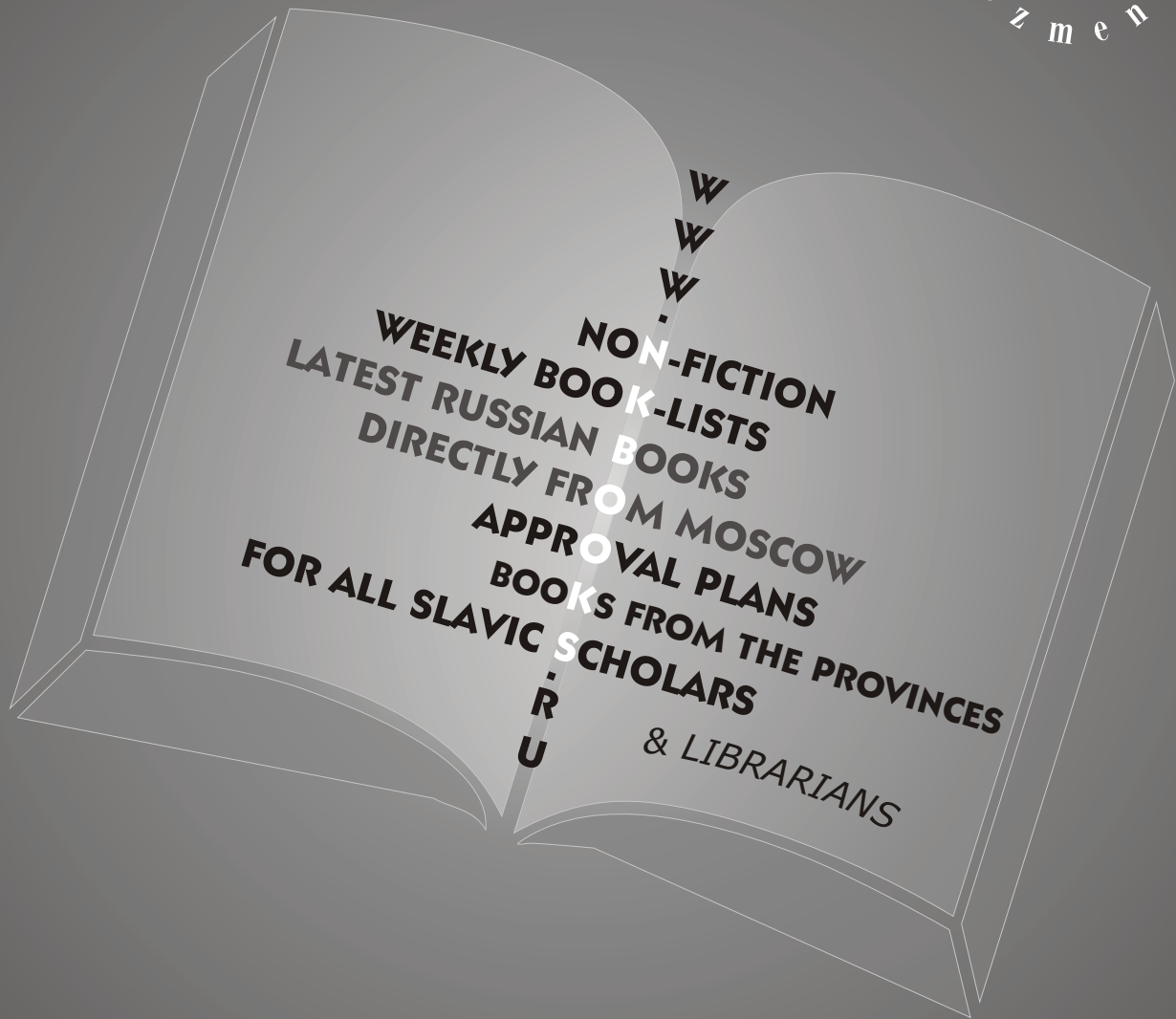
The Program Committee may form panels loosely by historical period (1969–1973; 1974–1976) or by theme, and potential contributors may wish to focus their topics accordingly.

Paper proposals (abstract and CV) should be sent, via e-mail or fax, before June 1, 2007 to: Dr. Amy Garrett, Program Committee Chair, Office of the Historian, e-mail: garrettac@state.gov; fax: 202-663-1289. ♦

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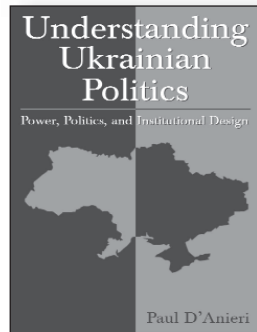
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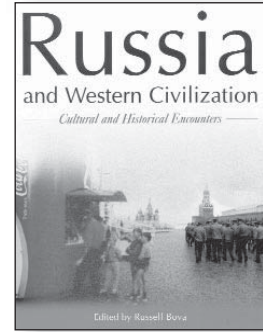
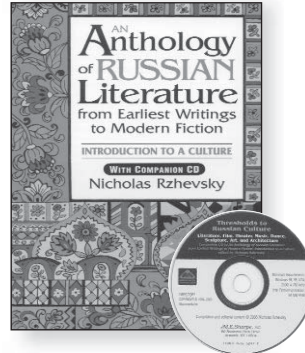
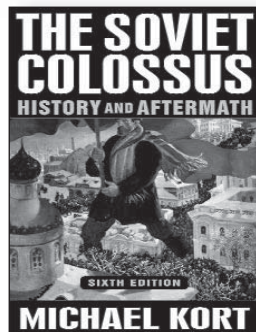
— Scott Kenworthy, Miami University of Ohio

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PUBLICATIONS

Access to East European and Eurasian Culture: Publishing, Acquisitions, Digitization, Metadata, a volume of essays edited by Miranda Remnek, is forthcoming from Haworth Press.

Black Lebeda: The Famine Diary of Kazan Supervisor J. Rives Childs, 1921-1922, edited with an introduction and bibliographical essay by Jamie H. Cockfield, was published in May 2006 by Mercer University Press.

The Currency of Socialism: Money and Political Culture in East Germany, by Jonathan R. Zatin, has been published by Cambridge University Press. By analyzing a seemingly mundane aspect of economic planning—money—*The Currency of Socialism* offers a new interpretation of the collapse of East Germany and German unification. It argues that shortages were caused by a deep-seated antipathy to money, rather than rigid prices, and shows how the depreciation of the East German mark turned into a repudiation of communism.

D-Day in the Pacific: The Battle of Saipan, by Harold Goldberg, focuses on a decisive battle between American and Japanese forces that took place in June 1944 on Saipan, one of the Mariana Islands (Indiana University Press, 2007).

Destination in Doubt: Russia since 1989, by Stephen Lovell, was published by Zed Books in 2006. The book offers a concise discussion of some of the big questions arising from the history of Russia's recent past.

Dostoevsky: The Scandal of Reason, by Maria Nemcova Banerjee, is a meditation on Dostoevsky's critique of the primacy of reason, focusing on a close reading of *Notes from the Underground* and *The Brothers Karamazov* (Lindisfarne Books, 2006).

The Fiction of Tadeusz Konwicki: Coming to Terms with Post-War Polish History and Politics, by Katarzyna Zechenter, examines, for the first time in English, the literary work of Tadeusz Konwicki, one of the most popular and widely translated twentieth-century Polish writers whose prose reflects post-war Polish history, politics, and Sovietization. (The Edwin Mellen Press, 2007).

Gender, Sex, and the Shaping of Modern Europe: A History from the French Revolution to the Present Day, by Joshua Sanborn and Annette Timm, has been published by Berg Publishers.

The Ghost of Freedom: A History of the Caucasus, by Charles King, is scheduled for publication by Oxford University Press in February 2008. The book offers an interpretive history of the Caucasus, both north and south, from the late eighteenth to the early twenty-first centuries. Themes include the malleability of political and social boundaries, Russian imperialism and "resistance," the rise of a Caucasus of the imagination, and the legacies of the Soviet system.

The first of a 3-volume critical edition of *Kniga stepennaia tsarskogo rodoslovia* under the general editorship of N. N. Pokrovskii and Gail Lenhoff has been published by *lazyki slavianskoi kul'tury* (April, 2007).

Letters from Heaven: Popular Religion in Russia and Ukraine, edited by John-Paul Himka and Andriy Zayarnyuk, was published in 2006 by University of Toronto Press.

The Many Faces of Sacha Baron Cohen: Politics, Parody, and the Battle over Borat, by Robert A. Saunders, is forthcoming from Lexington Books, a division of Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. in 2008.

New Poems by Polish poet Tadeusz Rozewicz, translated by Bill Johnston, was published by Archipelago Books in March 2007.

Die sozialistische Lebensweise: Ideologie, Gesellschaft, Familie und Politik in Bulgarien (1944-1989), by Ulf Brunnbauer, discusses societal policies in socialist Bulgaria with a focus on the strategies of the party-state to render everyday life "socialist," and analyses the impact of these policies on social practices and identities. The main topics of the book are family and reproduction policies, labor relations, and the politicization of daily life (Vienna: Boehlau, 2007).

Terror and Democracy in the Time of Stalin: The Social Dynamics of Repression, by Wendy Goldman, will be published this spring by Cambridge University Press.

Focusing on unions and factories, the book explores the organizational and social dynamics of the terror and the issue of mass participation.

The Unknown Gulag: The Lost World of Stalin's Special Villages by Lynne Viola, was published in April, 2007 by Oxford University Press.

Vampire Lore: From the Writings of Jan Louis Perkowski was published by Slavica Publishers at the end of 2006, bringing together Jan Louis Perkowski's collected works on Slavic vampirism.

"Vopros voprosov": Pochemu ne stalo Sovetskogo Soiuzna?, by Stiven Koen (Stephen F. Cohen), has been published in Moscow and St. Petersburg by AIRO-XXI Publishing House. It is a critical study of various explanations of the end of the Soviet Union, including the thesis that the system was unreformable. ♦

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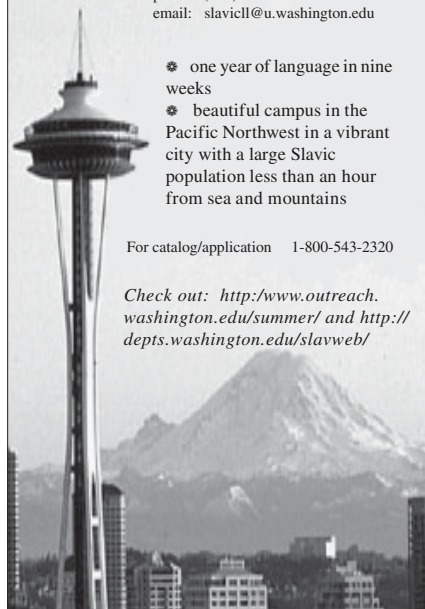
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NEWS FROM AAASS AFFILIATES

Elections for the **Central Eurasian Studies Society** closed on April 5, 2007. The new CESS officers will be: Laura Adams, President; Edward J. Lazzarini, President-Elect; and Alexander Knysh, Past President. The new Executive Board will include Scott Levi, Douglas Northrop, Gulnara Aitpaeva, Anara Tabyshalieva, Philippe Foret, and Deniz Kandiyoti.

The Executive Board has also elected four new Honorary Members to the CESS. The CESS is very pleased to honor these distinguished and ground-breaking scholars: C. Edmund Bosworth (University of Manchester, emeritus); Boris Anatolevich Litvinskii (Russian Academy of Sciences); Vladimir Aronovich Livshits (Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, emeritus); and Morris Rossabi (Queens College, CUNY).

The CESS Board elects Honorary Members who have made an important and substantial contribution to the development of scholarship in some field of Central

Eurasian studies, whose legacy may include important findings, defining theories, and sustaining institutions. Honorary Members enjoy free membership for life. They are encouraged to apply their experience and scholarly weight toward advancing the Society's efforts to strengthen scholarship in this field.

The **Czechoslovak History Conference** recently changed its name to **Czechoslovak Studies Association** in an effort to better describe its purpose, which according to its by-laws is "to express interest in Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and successor states, and all its peoples within and without its historical boundaries; to encourage scholarly study of the history, politics, and culture of these states; to represent this interest in relation to other organizations and institutions; and to collaborate with scholars and institutions having similar aims."

The Thirty-First **Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference** will take place on March 29, 2008 at New York University. Dr. Anne Lounsbury will be the president of this conference. Paper and panel proposals should be sent to Dr. Mary Theis, the Executive Secretary of MASC, by December 14, 2007. Please use her home email address: marytheis@mac.com. Hard copies may be sent to Dr. Mary Theis, Department of Modern Language Studies, Kutztown University, PO Box 730, Kutztown, PA 19530. Proposals should include the title, a very brief abstract, the surface and email addresses and institutional affiliation of the presenter, and all requests for technical support.

The **Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA)** will hold its 65th Annual Meeting on June 15-16, 2007 at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The opening plenary session, moderated by Prof. Piotr S. Wandycz, will focus on "Germany,

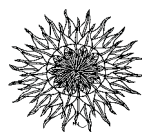


Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute 2007

June 25 to August 17, 2007

For more information contact:

Tamara Nary, *Program Administrator*
Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute
34 Kirkland Street
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
E-mail: huri@fas.harvard.edu



Language courses:

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Intermediate Ukrainian - Yuri Shevchuk
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Application Deadlines for HUSI 2007:

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Foreign students requiring a U.S. visa -
No later than *Friday, April 27, 2007*
All other applications - *Friday, May 25, 2007*

Literature, Linguistics, and Politics courses:

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Theorizing Ukraine: Politics, Theory, and Political Theory - Alexander J. Motyl

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Poland and the Czech Republic: Getting Away from the Past." More than twenty sessions and panels will be presented at this multi-disciplinary conference on Polish and Polish-American Studies. The full program can be found on PIASA's website www.piasa.org For further information, contact Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Executive Director, attgromada@mindspring.com

PIASA's Eight Awards presentation has been scheduled for Sunday, November 18, 2007, at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York City. The following Awards will be presented: the Oskar Halecki Polish History Award, the Bronislaw Malinowski Social Science Award, the Waclaw Lednick Humanities Award, and the Casimir Funk Natural Science Award. Information regarding nominations can be found on PIASA's website.

PIASA Books and The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America is also pleased to announce the publication of Mieczysław Grabiński's *A Diplomat in Dachau*. This is the first English translation of Grabiński's gripping autobiographical account of his internment by Nazi authorities at the outbreak of the Second World War, and his subsequent imprisonment in the fearsome concentration camp at Dachau. Translated and annotated by Charles S. Kraszewski, with a foreword by Prof. Piotr S. Wandycz, *A Diplomat in Dachau* is available from PIASA in New York.

After many years of service, Faith Wigzell has retired as editor of *Folklorica*, the journal of the **Slavic and East European Folklore Association (SEEFA)**. *Folklorica* thanks Faith for her leadership and her dedication. *Folklorica* has grown under Faith's leadership and the editorship will now be shared by Roy Robson of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and Natalie Kononenko of the University of Alberta. Jason Merrill, of Michigan State University, continues as book review editor. Please send article submissions to Roy Robson at r.robson@usip.edu. Questions about the availability of past issues, access to the SEEFA/*Folklorica* website, and other technical matters should be addressed to Natalie Kononenko at natalie.k@ualberta.ca.

Volume 15 of the Journal of the **Society for Armenian Studies** has just been released. It contains seven articles and twenty-two book reviews. For subscription information, please contact the SAS Secretariat

at barlowd@csufresno.edu or by phone at 559-278-4930.

The Society for Armenian Studies also formed its 2007 Executive Council, headed by President Richard Hovannisian (UCLA); Vice-President George Shirinian (Zoryan Institute); Secretary Ara Sanjian (U of Michigan, Dearborn); Treasurer Hovann Simonian (USC), and advisors Anahid Aramouni Keshishian, Vahram Shemmasian Robert Krikorian, and Ara Sanjian. For membership information, please contact the SAS Secretariat at barlowd@csufresno.edu or visit the SAS website at <http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/sas/index.htm>.

The **Southern Conference on Slavic Studies** held its 45th Annual Meeting in Montgomery, Alabama from March 22-24, 2007. Approximately 78 members attended the meeting, which was hosted by the University of Auburn-Montgomery. SCSS thanks Lee Farrow, the local arrangements host, for doing a great job to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

SCSS also elected new officers for 2007. Frank Wcislo will serve as president, Louise McReynolds is president-elect, and Sharon Kowalsky and Jeff Jones

were chosen for the Executive Council.

The undergraduate winner of SCSS's student paper contest was Jennifer Harkins, University of Mississippi (Dr. Valentina Iepuri), for "The Social Position of Women in Russia: The Role of Mothers and Women in the Russian Family."

The graduate award went to Emily Baran, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Dr. Don Raleigh), "Communism or Armageddon?: Representations of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Press, 1954-1985." The award, named in memory of long-time SCSS supporter Betty Wheeler, carries a prize of \$250.

The membership agreed to begin awarding an annual prize of \$500 for the best book published in Slavic studies by a member of the Southern Conference.

Roy Robson's proposal for an annual panel on Russian philosophy/religion to be sponsored by his journal *Symposium: A Journal of Russian Thought* was accepted. The papers will be published as partial proceedings of SCSS. Contact r.robson@usip.edu for details. The Executive Council and business meeting accepted offers from Emory University and the University of Virginia to host meetings in 2008 and 2009. ♦

Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History

Volume 8, no. 2 (Spring 2007)



MICHAEL C. PAUL
Secular Power and the Archbishops of Novgorod

REBECCA GOULD
Transgressive Sanctity

MADHAVAN K. PALAT
Casting Workers as an Estate in Late Imperial Russia

Ex Tempore: Back to the Future? Social History and Soviet Society

MARK EDELE
Soviet Society, Social Structure, and Everyday Life

JEAN-PAUL DEPRETTO
Stratification without Class

Review Essays

CHERIE WOODWORTH
The Venerated Image among the Faithful

THEODORE R. WEEKS
The "Jewish Question" in Eastern Europe

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Kritika is dedicated to critical inquiry into the history of Russia and Eurasia. The quarterly journal features research articles as well as analytical review essays and extensive book reviews, especially of works in languages other than English. Vols. 1-7 (2000-2006) and subscriptions for vol. 8 available from Slavica: \$95 institutions; \$40 individuals; \$30 students and gifts to Russia and Eastern Europe. AAASS discounts: see www.slavica.com/journals/kritika/aaass.html.

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NEWS FROM AAASS INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

The **Eurasia Program, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)** is pleased to announce its upcoming 2008-2009 Title VIII activities, including individual fellowships, institutional grants, dissertation workshops and training seminars.

Eurasia Program Title VIII Fellowships serve to expand and strengthen the field of Eurasian studies through the support of research, writing, advanced-training, and curriculum development. All fellowships are intended to support work on or related to the New States of Eurasia, the Soviet Union and/or the Russian Empire, regardless of the applicant's discipline within the social sciences or humanities. These fellowships are offered across four categories: Pre-Dissertation Training, Dissertation Write-Up, Postdoctoral Research, and Teaching. Additional information about these fellowships, including eligibility criteria and award details, can be found at <http://programs.ssrc.org/eurasia>, where 2008-2009 applications will become available by September 1, 2007.

Summer Language Institute Grants provide funding for universities planning to offer

summer language instruction in one or more languages of the New States of Eurasia. Funding is intended to enhance the ability of recipient institutions to provide fellowships to promising students and to support cultural activities and supplement administrative costs. Preference will be given to institutions that offer the promise of ongoing programs. Please consult our website for application procedures and deadlines.

Dissertation Development Workshops cater to graduate students at all stages of their write-up work (including students who have only recently submitted their dissertation prospectus and those individuals already planning to defend their dissertations). The workshops offer approximately 10 graduate students the opportunity to receive feedback from a group of peers and to benefit from the combined expertise of 5-6 leading faculty mentors in a small interdisciplinary environment. Details on all upcoming workshops will appear on our site as these become available.

Indiana University Professors Henry Coo-

per (Slavic Languages and Literatures) and Paul Foster (Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region/Slavic Languages and Literatures) have been appointed to work on a Strategic Languages and Cultures Task Force at IU. Through their efforts, the university has received preliminary notification that it will receive a grant from the Institute of International Education under the National Security Education Program, established by the Department of Defense. With the grant, the Task Force will create a pilot program—the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Strategic Languages and Cultures Program (SLCP). The grant will allow IU to award 25 ROTC cadets scholarships for training in strategic languages and cultures. Mr. Gene Coyle, a retired CIA officer and now an adjunct professor at IU, has been designated director of the pilot program.

Training will consist of intensive summer study at IU's 2007 Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages, followed by an academic year of training at either IU or the cadet's home institution, including the opportunity to enroll in IU's distance education language classes (Pashto, Tajik, Uzbek, and Uyghur). The SLCP also involves a seminar specifically for ROTC cadets, which focuses on the importance of language and culture training and knowledge in the conduct of military, security, intelligence, and policy operations. The strategic languages covered by this program will be Arabic, Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Pashto, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uyghur, and Uzbek. For further information, please write to rotcslcp@indiana.edu

The **Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES)** invites applications from U.S. and foreign scholars who need to be in residence in Washington, D.C. for their research and writing on topics related to Europe, Eurasia, the cold war, and/or the interconnections between history, politics and international affairs in Europe and/or Eurasia. Senior scholars, post-doctoral scholars, and students working on their dissertations in the fields of political science, history, international affairs, economics, sociology, anthropology, and language and literature are eligible to apply. Applicants should have funding from elsewhere, such as a fellowship or a university sabbatical. Scholars may be in residence at IERES for

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Helena Gosciolo and Beth Holmgren, eds. *Poles Apart: Women in Modern Polish Culture (Indiana Slavic Studies, vol. 15)*, 167 p., 2006 (ISBN 0-89357-335-3), \$24.00.

This anthology turns a spotlight on the careers, works, and reception of Polish women in the visual and performing arts. Spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, the essays problematize gender and address female creativity from its perspective while examining the nexus of issues confronted by highly visible female professionals in an unavoidably politicized context: namely, the devaluation or diffusion of gender politics in a "minor" country obsessed with national oppression.

Mirosław Żuławski. *Opowieści mojej żony/Tales of My Wife*, iv + 238 p., 2006 (ISBN 0-89357-326-4), \$24.95.

A reader for the intermediate to advanced learner of Polish with notes and a glossary by Oscar E. Swan.

Olga Mesropova. *KinoTalk: Russian Cinema and Conversation*, x + 182 p., 2006 (ISBN 0-89357-324-8), \$22.95.

This cinema-based language textbook introduces advanced and high-intermediate students of Russian to 11 prominent Russian films of the 1990s. The

chapters focus on the films' vocabulary, contents, and cultural implications, stimulating classroom discussions within and beyond the context of each film.

Eva Eckert. *Stones on the Prairie: Acculturation in America*, iv + 415 p., 2006 (ISBN 0-89357-316-7), \$33.95.

A case study in the acculturation of peasant-immigrants from Bohemia and Moravia, addressing the historical sources of the emigration in the Czech Lands and tracing the immigrants' acculturation in Texas over four generations. Tombstone messages, historical and linguistic, frame the cultural history of an ethnic group that is now fully assimilated.

Milka Hubenova, Ana Dzhumadanova, and Milka Marinova. *A Course in Modern Bulgarian, Parts 1 & 2*, 582 p., 2006 (ISBN 0-89357-328-0), \$39.95.

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<http://www.slavica.com/>

a period from one month to one year. Visiting scholars at IERES will have office space and library privileges and will be encouraged to participate in events at IERES and to make a presentation on their work while at IERES. Interested scholars should send their CV, a 2-page description of their research project (including why a residency at IERES would be beneficial, such as to consult with GW faculty, use area archives, or conduct interviews), and the proposed dates of residency to gzalasky@gwu.edu. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. For more information about IERES, please visit: www.ieres.org

The **Kennan Institute** at the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** offers Research Scholarships to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States). Policy-relevant proposals are particularly welcome. Research proposals examining topics in Eurasian studies are eligible as well. The Research Scholar grant offers a stipend of \$3,000 per month, research facilities, word processing support, and some research assistance. Grant recipients are required to be in residence at the Institute in Washington, D.C., for the duration of their grant.

Research Scholarships are available to academic participants in the early stages of their career (before tenure) or scholars whose careers have been interrupted or delayed. For non-academics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected. Eligibility is limited to the post-doctoral level for academic participants, although doctoral candidates in the process of completing a dissertation may apply (the dissertation must be successfully defended before taking residence at the Kennan Institute).

One round of competitive Title VIII Research Scholar selections is held per year. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 1. Decisions on appointments will be made in February; grantees are able to commence their appointments as early as July. In past years, the Kennan Institute awarded Research Scholarships to one in eight applicants.

The Research Scholarship Program is supported by the Russian, Eurasian, and East European Research and Training Program of the U.S. Department of State (Title VIII). Continuation of the Research Scholarship Program in 2007-2008 is contingent on future funding.

Applications can be downloaded from the Institute's web site at www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan. To request a print application or for further information, please contact Megan Yasenchak by phone at 202-691-4100, by fax at 202-691-4247, by email at megan.yasenchak@wilsoncenter.org, or by mail at: The Kennan Institute, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004-3027.

Kennan Institute Short-Term Grants (up to one month's duration)

The Kennan Institute offers Short-Term Grants to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States), and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C., area. Policy-relevant research is preferred. Academic participants must either possess a doctoral degree or be doctoral candidates who have nearly completed their dissertations. For non-academics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected.

Short-term Grants provide a stipend of \$100 per day. The Kennan Institute cannot

provide office space for Short-Term scholars. Travel and accommodation expenses are not directly covered by this grant. There is no official application form for Short-Term Grants. The applicant is requested to submit a concise description (700-800 words) of his or her research project, a curriculum vitae, a statement on preferred dates of residence in Washington, D.C., and two letters of recommendation specifically in support of the research to be conducted at the Institute. All of these materials may be submitted via e-mail except for the letters of recommendation. The letters should be sent, with signature, either by fax or post. Applicants should also note their citizenship or permanent residency status in their materials. Applications should be submitted in clear dark type, printed on one side only, without staples.

Grant recipients are required to be in residence in Washington, D.C., for the duration of their grant. Four rounds of competitive selection for Short-Term Grants are held each year. Closing dates are December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. Applicants are notified of the competition results roughly seven weeks after the closing date.

continued on page 27

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PERSONAGES

Dmitrii Belkin of Humboldt University, Berlin and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt, received the Professor Bernard Choseed Memorial Fellowship of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (New York City), and a Fall 2007 Research Fellowship of the Remarque Institute at New York University, for his monograph project "From Law to Legality: Jewish Legal Culture in the Ukraine, 1905-32."

Terry D. Clark, professor of political science and director of the graduate program in international relations at Creighton University, was the recipient of the 2007 Dean's Award for Scholarship in the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences.

Zvi Gitelman of the University of Michigan, has been appointed a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Beth Holmgren has been appointed a Professor in Duke University's Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies.

Michael Kemper, formerly of St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY, was appointed

professor and chair of Eastern European Studies at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Christina Kiaer has won an American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship for 2007, for her project "Socialist Realism as Modern Art: Aleksandr Deineka as Case Study."

Charles King of Georgetown University was recently promoted to the rank of Professor in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and the Department of Government. He is also completing a three-year term as chairman of the School of Foreign Service faculty.

Stephen E. Medvec was promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science at Holy Family University in Philadelphia, PA in February 2007. He is also the founder and chapter sponsor of the Pennsylvania Alpha Nu Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society in Social Sciences.

Paula Michaels of the University of Iowa received a Frederick Burkhardt Residential

Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars from the American Council of Learned Societies. She will use the grant to spend the 2008-09 academic year in residence at the National Humanities Center, where she will complete her current book project on the history of the Lamaze Method of childbirth.

Joanna B. Michlic has accepted the position of Associate Professor and the Helene and Allen Apter Chair in Holocaust Studies and Ethical Values at Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA. She will be starting her new job in August 2007.

Jacqueline M. Olich was named Associate Director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEES) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in February 2007.

Kelly O'Neill, currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the History Department at Harvard University.



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Mitchell A. Orenstein has been appointed the S. Richard Hirsch Associate Professor of European Studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC.

Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby received a Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (in collaboration with Vera Kuznetsova and Yelena Minyonok) for a digital critical edition/virtual folklore archive entitled "The Russian Folk Religious Imagination." She

also received a Fulbright Fellowship in support of this project for 2008.

Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozeva (Ph.D., Kliment Ohrid U., Sofia) joined the faculty of the University of Kansas Slavic Department in Fall 2006 as a specialist in West Slavic languages and literatures.

Rex A. Wade, Professor of Russian History at George Mason University, has been awarded the special rank and title of "University Professor."

IN MEMORIAM...

Dora Burton, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Languages and Literatures at Arizona State University (ASU), passed away on March 3, 2007. She taught Russian and Russian literature at ASU for 27 years before retiring in 1993.

Elliott D. Mossman, Professor of Russian Literature at the University of Pennsylvania from 1968-2006 and editor of *Slavic Review* from 1992-1996, passed away March 16, 2007. ♦

News from AAASS Institutional Members, *continued from page 25*

U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and non-Americans are eligible for Short-Term Grants, although funding for non-American applicants is limited. Approximately one in three American applicants and one in six non-American applicants are awarded Short-Term Grants in each of the four competition rounds.

The Short-Term Grant Program is supported by the Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the former Soviet Union (Title VIII) of the U.S. Department of State and the Kennan Institute endowment. Continuation of the Short-Term Grant Program in 2007-2008 is contingent on future funding. Non-U.S. citizen Short-Term grant winners must be outside of the U.S. before coming to Washington, DC to accept the grant in order to be issued a J-1 Visa. J-1 Visas cannot be issued to individuals in the U.S. on a different visa. Please send all application materials to: The Kennan Institute, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-3027. For more information, please e-mail edita.krunkaityte@wilsoncenter.org, call (202) 691-4100, or fax (202) 691-4247. More information on this grant programs can be found at www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan.

The **Russian and East European Institute (REEI)** at **Indiana University** is pleased to announce that Professor Padraic Kenney will join the Department of History in Fall 2007. Professor Kenney comes to IU from the University of Colorado. The author of several books and studies, Professor Kenney is currently working on a transnational comparative study on political prisoners in

modern states, with a focus on Poland, Ireland, and South Africa. Professor Kenney's teaching areas include Modern Eastern and Central Europe, Poland, and Comparative Communism. He also serves as the President of the Polish Studies Association, an affiliate of AAASS.

Travel services specifically for students and educators are now available from **The School of Russian and Asian Studies**. These services will eventually be a comprehensive self-service shop for Russian visas, domestic train tickets, local tour operators, hostels, and more. Currently visas and Trans-Siberian tickets are available, with more services planned to be launched soon. See www.sras.org > Travel Resources > Travel Services for more info. SRAS welcomes any and all feedback!

A new non-credit online Russian history course at the **University of Wisconsin-Madison** features an exclusive collection of lectures by UW Russian historian Michael Petrovich (1922-1989). The Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) is supporting this new initiative by the Division of Continuing Studies, the Department of History, and the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

Petrovich recorded hundreds of hours of lectures during his four decades of teaching and they have been rescued from the archives and digitized to create "Russian Civilization: The Revolutionary Movement to the Cold War." During the six-week online course, which is geared to the general public, students experience a master teacher at work as they explore Russian history from 1881 to 1959. Current UW faculty members David McDonald (history), Francine Hirsch (history), Kathryn Hendley (political science), and Jennifer Tishler (CREECA/

Slavic) introduce select Petrovich lectures, sharing their modern take on Russia's complex history.

A historian specializing in Russian and Balkan studies, Petrovich taught at UW-Madison from 1950 to 1987. He was a pioneer in the development of multimedia audiovisual education, and many of his lectures were taped and aired on public television in Wisconsin. Petrovich died in 1989. In 1997, CREECA initiated the digitization of a small part of the Petrovich archival material, in order to acquaint a new generation with his multimedia college courses in Russian history. In 2005, a former student established an endowed chair in his name. To listen to an introductory lecture from the course, given by David McDonald, the current Alice D. Mortenson-Michael B. Petrovich Professor of Russia History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, please visit <http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/petrovich/index.html>. Links to online registration for the course may also be found on that site.

The **Woodrow Wilson Center's Cold War International History Project (CWIHP)** is pleased to announce the publication of CWIHP Working Paper No. 55, "Cutting the Gordian Knot: The Post-WWII Egyptian Quest for Arms and the 1955 Czechoslovak Arms Deal," by Guy Laron (Hebrew University of Jerusalem). The working paper and documentary appendix can be downloaded at the "publications" link at <http://cwihip.org>. The Working Paper is part of a new CWIHP initiative on "The Cold War in the Middle East." For further information, contact the Project at coldwar@wilsoncenter.org. Over the coming months, CWIHP will publish a wealth of newly obtained and translated documents from the former Communist bloc and other archives on the Middle East on its website at <http://cwihip.org>. ♦

LIBRARY AND THE INTERNET NEWS

The editor of the "Library and the Internet News" is Allan Urbanic, the Librarian for Slavic & East European Collections at UC Berkeley. He is also the moderator of the listserv SLAVLIBS, whose members include nearly 300 librarians, archivists, and students who work with Slavic collections from around the world, and recently co-edited the Guide to Slavic Collections in the United States and Canada. You can contact him at: aurbanic@library.berkeley.edu. The full column from the current issue, with working links, is also available on the AAASS page "Additional Resources," <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/resources.html>.

Russian Imperial Corps of Pages Online Exhibition Catalog

The catalog from an exhibit held several years ago at the Bakhmetieff Archive of Russian History and Culture of Columbia University is available at: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/exhibitions/pages/>. The site contains many images from the archive's collection, with historical background provided by the curators.

"The Corps of Pages was a privileged military school reserved for sons of noblemen and high-ranking officers. It was founded in October 1802 by Alexander I in St. Petersburg. Except by personal appointment of the Emperor or as a son of a Major-General killed in action, admission was only by a difficult competitive examination. Only the sons or grandsons of those in the top three levels of the Table of Rank were eligible to apply. All graduates were assigned to the imperial regiment of their choice. A small percentage of graduates entered the diplomatic or civil services."

The exhibition was prepared by Tanya Chebotarev, curator of the Bakhmetieff Archive, and Marvin Lyons, Executive Secretary of the Vorontsov Palace and Corps of Pages Memorial Trust.

[Reported by Vera Beljakova, Johannesburg]

Book of Russian Idioms

M.I. Dubrovin has created an online book of Russian idioms illustrated by V.I. Tilman. It can be accessed at <http://idioms.chat.ru/>. The book "is intended primarily for English speaking students of Russian who have a knowledge of the essentials of Russian grammar and are familiar with a basic Russian vocabulary." (from the Preface). Each entry contains the idiom in the original Russian, an illustration dramatizing its meaning, a transliterated version of the idiom and an explanation of its meaning. In some cases, similar idioms are suggested.

[Reported by Josh Wilson, Asst. Director, The School of Russian and Asian Studies (sras.org)]

Basic Multilingual Dictionary Online

A dictionary which can translate words between English, Belorussian, Polish, and

Ukrainian is available at <http://slovnky.org/>. The dictionary's portal is designed in the minimalist style of Google and the search engine appears to return a translation (sometimes several), without the regularly expected grammatical apparatus or interpretations. This seems odd since the portal bills itself as an "explanatory" dictionary. Perhaps this is an indication that the dictionary is still in an early stage of development.

[Reported by Iryna Prykarpatska; editorial comments by Allan Urbanic]

Source for European Documents through a Wiki Community

EuroDocs is a portal to European primary historical documents available at: <http://eurodocs.lib.byu.edu>. While it began with Western European countries, it has recently expanded to include all of Europe. As a gated Wiki, EuroDocs relies for its data on historians, archivists, librarians, and others who are aware of the primary sources of a given European country in facsimile, transcription, or English translation and who can weave them into the portal (in a chronological order for each country).

Please consider this a call and an invitation to join the EuroDocs family to help build primary historical documentation online for the European country or countries of your choice. You can request a password by e-mailing eurodocs@byu.edu, after which you are invited to contribute as few or as many links to historical documents online as you like. Alternately, you can send links or other information to the wikimaster at the same e-mail address. Thanks for any help you can give, now or later.

[Reported by Richard Hacken; relayed by Marta Deyrup]

Slavic Digital Text Workshop 2007

The University of Illinois, as part of its Summer Research Laboratory, will present the workshop *From Medieval Texts to Geo-Cultural Data (GIS): Applications in Slavic Studies for Scholars and Librarians*. This year the Digital Text Workshop will be held Saturday, June 9-Tuesday, June 12, 2007, to coincide with the start of the SRL on June 11. It will follow immediately after *Digital*

Humanities 2007 (<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dh2007/>), which will take place June 2-8. The theme of the workshop is broad, and will introduce some basic techniques that underpin the application of technology in the humanities and social sciences. Humanists generally employ text encoding strategies, while social scientists employ GIS (Geographic Information System), but these two approaches are increasingly intertwined. The workshop will attempt to introduce both current practice and future possibilities.

The workshop is structured in two parts: presentations (Days 1 and 2) and lab instruction/hands-on opportunities (Days 3 and 4). It will begin with general introductions to both approaches: text encoding and GIS. It will continue with more detailed presentations on encoding medieval texts in Slavic studies, during which registrants will learn about (1) Document analysis and DTD or schema design, and (2) selected applications. On the second day, registrants will learn more about the notions underpinning geographic markup and GIS in its various applications. The day will conclude with a brief survey of current text/GIS initiatives in Slavic studies of all periods, including medieval texts.

On the last two days, registrants will move to a lab environment and receive more instruction and hands-on opportunities during which students will work with sample texts using a popular software package known as <oxygen/>. These sessions will include (1) (In-depth) Document analysis, (2) XML markup or encoding, and (3) Web publication techniques using XSLT (Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations). Finally, additional GIS instruction/hands-on opportunities will also be available.

The workshop is open not only to scholars but also to librarians (who, as indicated by the expansion of GIS positions in libraries, are increasingly called upon to assist faculty in the application of these various methodologies).

Prof. David J. Birnbaum (U of Pittsburgh) will again serve as the main workshop presenter.

[Reported by Miranda Remnek (UIUC)] ♦

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The AAASS is pleased to welcome all of its brand new members! The following are all of the Association's new 2007 members who have joined through April 17.

Alpert, Erin	Hirst, Samuel J.	Pastva, Joelen Michelle
Antley, Jeremy	Horbal, Bogdan	Paulovicova, Nina
Avrekh, Mikhail	Horne, Cynthia Michalski	Payne, Daniel Paul
Aydinyan, Anna	Howard, Rachel	Payne, Steven Timothy
Bailey, Scott Christopher	Howard, Robin Lynnette	Perelli, Brienna G.
Ballinger, Pamela Lynn	Hsia, Ke-chin	Perelmutter, Renee
Balter, Katya	Hughes, Jillian Leane	Perunovic, Sreca
Barbieri, Sara	Ilchuk, Yulia	Peschio, Joseph
Bartman, Christi Scott	Ingram, Robert C.	Phlipot, Constance Ann
Belyi, Alexander	Iskakova, Erika	Pratt, Daniel Webster
Bjelic, Dusan Ilija	Ivanitskaya, Lana V.	Pravilova, Ekaterina
Blanton, Thomas	Iveljić, Iskra	Proskourin, Oleg
Bloch, Elina	Jackson, Jeffrey W.	Proskurina, Vera
Blume, August Gerard	Johnston, Timothy Paul	Raab, Nigel A.
Boeck, Elena	Jones, Zachary Ray	Radeva, Mariya
Bojko, Martha	Kanin, David B.	Ringdal, Kristen
Boliari, Natalia	Kaufman, Andrew D.	Robarts, Andrew Richard
Bourougerdi, Bradley Jahan	Kerlova, Martina F.	Rochtchina, Julia
Bowman, Rebecca LeAnne	Kindraka-Jensen, Monica F.	Romanenko, Katerina
Caldwell, Craig H.	Kokobobo, Ani	Ruby, Scott Douglas
Caton, Diane	Kolinsky, Markian P	Sacko, David H.
Chakars, Janis	Kotlica, Sonja	Sakarya, Hulya
Chakars, Melissa Andrea	Koziy, Nataliya	Salvo, David
Chang, Felix Bang-Chihng	Krylova, Natalia Vladimirovna	Sanchez, Oscar
Chukur, Anna	Kuhns, Katherine M.	Savranskaya, Svetlana Vitalievna
Clybor, Shawn Eric	Kuzmic, Tatiana	Schwartz, Matthias
Cowley, Marcie Katherine	Kveberg, Gregory Raymond	Sharipova, Liudmyla
Crowder, Ashby	Lee, Robert E.	Shilova, Trina V.
Curdts, Soelva	Lodge, Kirsten	Steinbrueck, Karin
Deak, John D.	Lohsen, Andrew Todd	Stolarski, Christopher Ian
Dean, Megan Dianne	Lomasz Flesch, Sara	Suziedelis, Saulius Augustinas
Demoskoff, A. Joy	Lyon, Philip Wilson	Szuba, Dawid
Dickmeyer, Christine	Magdo, Zsuzsanna	Tatsuo, Nakami
Driagina, Viktoria V.	Makowiecka, Maria H.	Thomas, Peter J.
Dumancic, Marko	Markowski, Michal Pawel	Thomas, Molly J.
Fay, Ashley Michael Cornell	Marlow, Jennifer Lynn	Tidrick, Heather Marie
Fedorova, Lioudmila	Martin, William	Tverdohleb, Evelina
Finch, Ray C.	McCullaugh, Marcy Elisabeth	Ufberg, Ross Eli
Finder, Gabriel N.	McGrath, Nicole	Van Vliet-Leigh, Katherine Johanna
Fiske, Nancy Ellen	Menzoff, Julius Andrew	Vasecka, Michal
Frost, Robert Ian	Mikhailova, Julia V.	Vassileva, Elena
Gaffney, Patrick Daniel	Minkova, Yuliya	Vesselinov, Elena
Geist, Edward Moore	Mitchell, Rebecca Anne	Vincent, Charles A.
Gilbert, Leah Elizabeth	Moreno, Andrew Joseph	Vovchenko, Denis Vladimirovich
Gnoinska, Margaret K.	Muravitsky, Tamara Alekseevna	Westrate, Michael Thomas
Gunn, Christopher	Neofotistos, Vasiliki	Whitehead, Cameron E.
Hajdarpasic, Edin	Neznamova, Elena	Wiggins, Kathleen Cameron
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Hartmann, Ulrike	Nowak, Katrina Noelle	Young, Jennifer
Hartzok, Justus Grant	Olsen, Jon Berndt	Zadorozny, Mark
Hidic-Demirovic, Ramajana	Paczkowski, Andrzej	Zankina, Emilia Alexandrova

CALENDAR

2007

May 26–28. Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. For more information, see: www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/conference.html.

June 8–10. Seventh Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe, 'The Baltic Region between Germany and Russia. Dependence and Independence—Past and Present,' Nordost-Institut Lüneburg (near Hamburg), Germany. For more information, see: www.ikgn.de/en.cbse_2007.htm.

June 15–16. 65th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA), Georgetown University, Washington, DC. For more information, see: www.piasa.org.

June 25–28. Fifth International Congress of the Society for Romanian Studies, Ovidius University,

Constanta, Romania. For more information, see: www.huntington.edu/srs/constantia2007.htm.

July 9–13. Seventh biennial meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) 'Responding to Genocide Before It's Too Late: Genocide Studies and Prevention,' Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. For more information, contact the IAGS Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Steven Jacobs, e-mail: sjacobs@bama.ua.edu.

August 2–4. First regional ICCEES European Congress, 'Transcending Europe's Borders—The EU and Its Neighbours,' Germany, Berlin. For more information, see: www.iccees-europe.de.

August 30–September 2. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. For more information, see: www.ap-sanet.org.

September 14–16. Third International Congress of the Rusyn Language, at the Pedagogical University of Cracow. For more information, contact: ukr.chair@utoronto.ca.

September 12–15. European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) Tenth Conference on Central Asia: Sharing Experiences and Prospects, The Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. For more information, see www.escas.pz.nl.

October 5–6. Second biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture, Inc. (ASEC), Columbus, OH. For more information, contact martinre@westminster.edu or jennifer.spock@eku.edu.

October 18–21. Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Eighth Annual Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. For more information, see: http://cess.fas.harvard.edu/CESS_Conference.html.

October 22–23. U.S. Department of State Conference on U.S.-Soviet


Relations in the Era of Détente, 1969–1976. For more information, see: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/70893.htm>

November 15–18. The 39th National Convention of the AAASS, New Orleans, Louisiana, New Orleans Marriott.

2008

March 20–22. 46th annual meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. For additional information contact Harold Goldberg (hgoldber@sewanee.edu) or Matt Payne (mpayn01@emory.edu).

March 29. 31st Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference at New York University. For more information, contact Mary Theis at maryetheis@mac.com. ♦



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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS.....	12
Beloit College	32
Cambridge University Press	5
EastView.....	14
Georgetown University	26
Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute	22
IDC Publishers.....	16
Kozmenko Booksellers	19
Kritika Historical Studies.....	23
M.E. Sharpe.....	20
Middlebury College.....	3
National Coalition of Independent Scholars.....	10
Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA)	6
Project Judaica	18
School of Russian and Asian Studies (SRAS)	25
Slavica Publishers	24
Sokol Tours	30
University of Washington	21
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.....	7



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American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), established in 1948, is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, scholarly society and is the leading private organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about Russia, Central Eurasia, and Eastern and Central Europe.

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NewsNet (ISSN 1074-3057) is published five times a year (January, March, May, August, and October). AAASS members receive *Slavic Review* (the AAASS quarterly of Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies), and *NewsNet*. Affiliates receive only *NewsNet*. Institutional members receive two copies of each publication. Membership is on a calendar year basis. Individual membership is open to all individuals interested in Slavic Studies and the study of the non-Slavic peoples of eastern Europe and Eurasia. Institutional membership is open to all education related organizations in the field of Slavic and Eurasian studies.

Subscription to *NewsNet* is \$25.00 for U.S. subscribers and \$40 for non-U.S. subscribers. Single copies are \$5.00 each. To subscribe or order back issues, contact Luke Zentner. Back issues are available up to two years only.

Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: AAASS, 8 Story Street, 3rd floor, Cambridge, MA 02138.

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For-profit institutions & foundations.....	\$400
Premium Membership.....	\$600

Members living overseas, add \$35.00 for shipping. Members living in Canada or Mexico, add \$20.00 for shipping. Affiliate members living outside the U.S., add \$15.00 for shipping.

Submission of materials

Announcements submitted to all regular columns are published free of charge. Articles are usually solicited by the AAASS, however, *NewsNet* occasionally publishes unsolicited material. All submissions should be e-mailed to: newsnet@fas.harvard.edu.

Advertising

Appropriate ads are accepted for *NewsNet* on a space-available basis. The AAASS reserves the right to decline advertisements which fail to meet the scholarly, non-political standards of the organization.

Ad sizes and Advertising Rates

Ad size	Size in inches (horizontal x vertical)	Price
Full Page	7 x 9½.....	\$400
2/3 of a page (vertical).....	4 ⁵ / ₈ x 9½.....	\$275
Half page (horizontal)	7 x 4½.....	\$250
1/3 of a page (vertical).....	2¼ x 9½.....	\$160
1/3 of a page (horizontal)	4 ⁵ / ₈ x 4½.....	\$160
1/6 of a page	2¼ x 4½.....	\$120

Multiple runs discounts

The following discounts are available for ads placed in consecutive issues or for multiple ads in the same issue. No agency discounts.
 2 ads..... 10% off the total order price
 3 ads..... 15% off the total order price
 4 ads..... 20% off the total order price
 5 ads..... 25% off the total order price

Format

Ads, in black and white only, can be submitted as camera ready copy (using as few screens and photos as possible), film (2400 dpi or 150 lpi right reading, emulsion down), or in electronic format (eps, tiff, or pdf). Ads sent as files should be set-up for the actual size that it will print. All images should be high resolution. Photos should be at least 300 dpi and line art scans should be at least 600 dpi. If there is anything that bleeds, it must be 1/8" or greater. When creating your PDF file for print, please make sure your Distiller Settings are set for "Press Optimized," which ensures that all fonts will be embedded and images will stay high res. Send a print out of the final file as well. Ads that exceed the dimensions specified below will be returned with a request to resize.

Deadlines for all submissions (ads, articles, and announcements)

January issue—1 December; March issue—1 February; May issue—1 April; August issue—5 July; October issue—1 September

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