A Letter from the Director

After a busy summer, we are welcoming an even busier fall in Chicago. Already in the middle of a full season of programming, we are planning for an active year at CEERES. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new faculty, students, and scholars of the CEERES region at The University of Chicago. You can meet some of those people in the pages of this newsletter, and we hope to meet many more of you at our events this year. As CEERES contributed to many new projects last year, so our community has grown as well, embracing a large number of educators and community members in the greater Chicago area. It is our hope in this second year of our Title VI grant to continue to expand our connections and develop new partners in our community, and we welcome your participation and communication.

CEERES got off to a highly visible start—literally—this fall with the opening of “Time and the Sacred”, a photography exhibit of the work of Panče Velkov, an artist and cultural and architectural preservationist from the Republic of Macedonia, whose images strikingly portray his country’s sacred Orthodox Christian and Muslim heritage in sites that date back to the 11th century. These photographs are on display in the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel until December 24, 2007. We hope you will have a chance to view the exhibit, and please contact us if you wish to purchase a catalog ($10).

CEERES supported the 8th meeting of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association October 12-14, which drew participants from the Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Norway, Poland, Russia, and the UK, as well as the US, and we are planning for many more workshops and conferences this year that will appeal to a broad range of disciplines and audiences. We will be supporting the Midwest Russian Historians Workshop (Feb. 29-March 1, 2008), the Third University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology Conference (May 1-3, 2008), and a symposium on Andrei Tarkovsky (May 2-3, 2008). We will also host a larger, interdisciplinary conference entitled “Climate Change and Social Change in Siberia”, just as Chicago comes out of its yearly deep freeze, April 4-5, 2008.

We are also pleased that CEERES continues to strengthen its commitment to community and K-12 and college outreach. To that end, we have been expanding our listserv with the addition of an E-Bulletin, and we have added a “blog” feature on our website (ceeres.blogspot.com) to better share announcements and information and to highlight the great number of opportunities for learning about issues in our region. We are also in the planning stages of teacher-training and student workshops that we will be able to offer in the coming year; and we are always happy to arrange for speakers and other collaborative activities at local schools and colleges.

Warm wishes for the rest of the season.

~Victor A. Friedman, Director
Pushkin's narrative poem *Poltava*, written in 1828, ushered in a new period in the poet's creative life. In September of 1826, the Emperor Nicholas I, whose ascent to the throne was marked by the suppression of the Decembrist uprising, recalled Pushkin from exile. After a legendary tête-à-tête at the Chudov Monastery in Moscow, he granted the poet access to the state archives, as well as exemption from regular censorship. "The tsar took me into his service," Pushkin would later explain to his friend the publisher P.A. Pletnev, adding that this was an unusual kind of service which did not coincide with any of the traditional forms of gentry service envisioned by the "Table of Ranks." Pushkin's mission was to dedicate his genius to Russia. Urged by his ideological advisers, including the poet Vassily Zhukovskii, diplomat Sergei Uvarov, and the Metropolitan Filaret, Nicholas I saw as one of his most urgent tasks the development of a strong sense of Russian national identity and national culture, on a par with other leading European cultures. Consequently, Pushkin was charged with the task of becoming a national bard. To use the language of the romantic intellectual circle *Lovers of Wisdom*, with whom Pushkin became close in the late 1820s, the poet came to be seen as Russia's national "genius," whose work not only expressed the spirit of the Russian people, but also uncovered the metaphysics of Russia's historical destiny.

Pushkin accepted this task by writing a poem "Stanzas" ("Stansy"), in which he compared Russia's new ruler to his ancestor, Peter the Great, expressing hope that Nicholas' reign, which began with a series of bloody reprisals against the Decembrists, would nonetheless end up glorious. This poem provoked anger among some of Pushkin's friends from his pre-Decembrist liberal years. For example, in his poetic pamphlet *Staratia byl'" ("Old Tale"), Pavel Katenin presented an allegory in which Pushkin was compared to a cunning Byzantine poet-castrato singing praises to the Prince Vladimir Monomakh and his Byzantine wife Anna, whereas Katenin himself was disguised as a "Russian bard" who had once celebrated the battles and sang at the feasts of his comrades, but who refuses to praise Prince Vladimir, because the latter has betrayed the Russian customs by taking a Byzantine wife and assuming a Byzantine political style. As Yuriy Tyut'ianov has suggested, Katenin's poem à double entendre accused Pushkin of becoming a renegade, who had betrayed the Prometheus spirit of his earlier poetry by embracing the Empire, which for Katenin was synonymous with Byzantine-style tyranny.

Was Tyut'ianov correct in suggesting that Pushkin's 1828 poem "Reply to Katenin" was the poet's only response to Katenin's accusation? I believe that *Poltava*, published in the same year, can also be read as a coded polemic with Katenin and other old liberals who had found themselves completely at odds with Nicholas' regime and did not understand Pushkin's attempts to cooperate with it. Pushkin, however, earnestly embraced an optimistic vision of Russia's political and cultural future. Thus *Poltava* could be read as Pushkin's attempt to create a "foundational narrative" for the Russian nation-state, which began to emerge under Nicholas I. In fact, it was Pushkin's long-term ambition to compose a Russian national epic or *poema*. In this sense, *Poltava* reflects Pushkin's long-term interest in romantic nationalism and historiography, which Pushkin first imbibed in his reading of Mme de Staël in the 1810s. This interest deepened in the late 1820s, when he befriended a number of proto-Slavophile intellectuals, including Ivan Kireevskii, who inspired Pushkin to think of Russia's future in messianic terms.

As Hannah Arendt has argued, a foundational narrative always refers back to some prior historical or legendary event, establishing a genealogical ancestry for the new world order. In order to legitimize Octavian's newly restored Empire, Virgil tells the story of the legendary Aeneas's escape from Troy, his journey to Italy and successful conquest of the Italians. Likewise, in attempting to compose a Russian national *poema*, Pushkin turns to Peter the Great's most glorious battle – the battle of Poltava. According to Pushkin, this battle not only launched Russia as a European superpower; it actually signaled the birth of a "young Russia" – a nation no longer fettered by its "Byzantine" past and facing a glorious future.
The development of national identity and culture were central to Nicholas I’s ideological agenda. From this point of view, Pushkin’s attempts to draw parallels between the new tsar and his glorious ancestor—first in the 1826 “Stanzas” and then in Poltava—appear less disingenuous than Katenin found them to be. In these works Pushkin imitates Seneca, one of his favorite authors in the 1820s and 30s, by assuming the persona of a sage who disguises his advice to the ruler as a panegyric. Both “Stanzas” and Poltava foreground the idea of mercy, which after July 1826—the date when the Decembrists were sentenced to death or to Siberia—became one of Pushkin’s central themes. As Hannah Arendt has argued in The Life of the Mind, in order to establish a new beginning—a true novus ordo seclorum—one has to extend forgiveness to old enemies and give up rancor. This is precisely the message that Pushkin communicates in ll. 301-309 of Canto Three, which depicts Peter’s feast after his victory at Poltava. This scene, which portrays Peter honoring Swedish captives as his teachers in the art of war, recalls the ancient epic topos of the hero’s magnanimous reconciliation with his enemies.

Peter is feasting. His gaze is proud, clear and full of glory. And his royal feast is beautiful. Cheered by his army, in his tent He treats his commanders and his enemy commanders, He honors his glorious captives, And raises his festive cup To the health of his teachers. (III, 301-309)

The magnanimous Russian ruler is contrasted in this poem with Mazepa, Peter’s political opponent and Poltava’s anti-hero. Moreover, the sharp contrast between Peter and Mazepa offers a clue for understanding Poltava as a coded polemic with Katenin and other Decembrist sympathizers, who could not understand Pushkin’s new pro-imperial stance. To be sure, Pushkin’s intellectual evolution from a Byron-inspired libertarian into a sage who instead of rebellion chooses to cooperate with and guide the Emperor was by no means simple or straightforward. Poltava’s stylistic and generic heterogeneity reveals the underlying tension between the pro-imperial or “Petrine” point of view on the future of the Russia nation and the anti-imperial, libertarian perspective shared by the Decembrists as well as the younger Pushkin. At first sight, Pushkin’s poem seems to fall into two almost separate stories: a “Byronic” narrative poem centered on Mazepa, his young beloved Maria, and her father Kochubei, and an “imperial” epic centered on Peter, which belongs to the tradition that David Quint has linked to Virgil. However, by examining this dialectic, we can grasp a more unified perspective, which, I shall argue, characterizes Pushkin’s mature outlook.

For most contemporary readers, it was clear that the “Byronic” plot, focused on the figure of Ivan Mazepa— who served as Peter the Great’s viceroy (or Hetman) in Ukraine until 1709, when he joined the side of Peter’s enemy Charles XII of Sweden (allegedly) in order to create an independent Ukrainian state—alluded to the figure of another poet, who had made Mazepa a hero of several of his works, namely the Decembrist Kondratii Fyodorovich Ryleev. In his popular narrative poem Voïnarowski and several of his dumy, narrative poems modeled on Ukrainian traditional epic songs, Ryleev celebrated the Ukrainian heroes who had fought for the independence of their Cossack land, which for Ryleev symbolized the first Slavic republic. Ryleev’s execution in July of 1826, followed by his “civic death,” placed a ban on his poetry. By tackling one of Ryleev’s favorite topics, Pushkin restores Ryleev’s memory as a poet. However, in addition to commemorating his old friend and colleague, Pushkin also offers a thoroughly critique of Ryleev’s ideological position.

In the essay “Refutation of the Critics,” Pushkin explains that he was inspired to write a poem about Mazepa after reading Ryleev’s Voïnarowski, in which Mazepa plays a brief but very significant role. For Ryleev, Mazepa is the ideal man of action, a selfless patriot dedicated to the cause of Ukrainian freedom. However, Pushkin explains that it was not Mazepa’s patriotic zeal—a quality Ryleev attributed to all those heroes whom he wanted to present as modern Catons and Brutuses—but rather Mazepa’s private behavior, overlooked by Ryleev, that gave him an idea for his own work. First of all, Pushkin was intrigued by the story of the old Hetman’s romance with his goddaughter. Maria’s passion for the sixty-nine-year-old Hetman, which reminded Pushkin of Desdemona’s passion for Othello, was a perfect poetic topos, which Pushkin as a love poet simply could not pass by. At the same time, Pushkin was shocked to find out that Mazepa, who had claimed to be a chivalrous European, did not hesitate to cruelly avenge himself against Maria’s father Kochubei, after the latter had denounced Mazepa’s anti-Russian conspiracy to the Tsar. When Peter, who distrusted Kochubei’s denunciation, allowed the Hetman to arrest his enemy, Mazepa beheaded his former friend and ally. Moreover, before the execution, Mazepa tortured Kochubei both in order to find out where the latter had hidden his treasure and simply to humiliate him.

In Poltava Mazepa is presented as a villain who harks back to Shakespearian villains. On the other hand, Kochubei’s “sinful daughter” is depicted as the hapless victim of her blind passion. While Maria deserves our sympathy, Mazepa stands indicted as a
demonic egotist, concerned only with his success and unable to
give himself fully even to love. In the midst of his passion for Ma-
ria, he plots the execution of her father and the ruin of her entire
clan. Mazepa’s soul, says the poet, is cold and inscrutable: “Who
can descend to the bottom of the sea, covered with immutable
crime? Who with a searching mind can penetrate the fatal depth/of
the insidious soul . . . ?” (I, 203-207).14

In his portrayal of Mazepa, Pushkin dwells on the dangerous
political consequences of egotism. Pushkin’s Mazepa is far from
a virtuous citizen capable of leading a republican crisis. He
is rather a quintessential usurper and impostor, like Grigori
Otrep'ev in Boris Godunov or Pugachev in The Captain’s Daughter.
According to Montesquieu, “virtue” is the foundational prin-
ciple of the republican state. Pushkin, on the other hand, shows that
Mazepa is a man without virtue—a brilliant opportunist, who
believes in nothing but his own star and whose allegiances are
changeable. While Ryleev was so eager to believe in the Ukrainian,
and in general, Slavic, democratic traditions that he compared this
Cossack leader to a freedom-loving Roman, Pushkin, using the
same historical documents as Ryleev, came to regard Mazepa as a
dangerous opportunist and a tyrant in the making.15 From Push-
kin’s point of view, rampant egotism is the inseparable companion
of ambition, which often motivates political activism, especially
in republics. But when a ruler’s egotism is also accompanied by
vices such as Mazepa’s—greed, lasciviousness, and, above all, lack
of compassion—the country he tries to rule is doubly cursed. It is
not difficult to draw political conclusions from this psychological
sketch, which Pushkin presents in order to counter Ryleev’s heroic
image of Mazepa and to undermine Ryleev’s republican ideal-
ism. As Pushkin suggests, revolutions that seek to establish a just
political order often end up serving the selfish ends of parvenus
like Mazepa or Napoleon. Furthermore, “the Napoleon complex,”
which often disguises itself as passionate commitment to the na-
tion, tends to attract naïve enthusiasts like Maria, making them
unwitting instruments in the schemes of ambitious manipulators.

I think that the story of Maria lends itself to be interpreted as
an allegory of the Decembrist fiasco. As Pushkin had argued in
his essay “On National Education,” the instigators of the upris-
ing were neither power hungry nor demonic egotists. Rather, they
were hapless victims of political idealism, who underestimated
the potentially grave consequences of their coup.16 What the
Decembrists failed to realize, according to Pushkin, was that in a
country that lacked solid republican traditions, political instability
could only unleash another “Pugachevchina.” Thus Canto Three
of Poltava begins with an ominous image of the “people’s war”:
“The flame is blazing/ The bloody dawn of the people’s war is
rising...” (III, 43-47). Only the arrival of Peter’s troops and the
ensuing battle in which Mazepa and Charles XII are defeated re-
stores peace to a land contaminated by violence. Thus the Petrine
Empire emerges as an antithesis to pernicious individualism and
anarchy. According to Pushkin’s post-1825 view, Slavic
nationalism can flourish only under the aegis of a mighty northern
Empire—“v grazhdanstve severnoi derzhavy.”

Poltava’s dialectical structure, which strives to reconcile two
very different poetic styles with varied ideological perspectives,
namely the Prometheus romanticism championed by the Russian
followers of Byron, including Ryleev and the younger Pushkin,
and the old-fashioned tradition of “imperial epics,” also allows us
to catch a glimpse of two competing visions of Russian national-
ism. The Decembrists’ ideology was indebted to contemporary
European liberalism and envisioned Russia’s political transforma-
tion along the lines of modern European liberal democracies. The
alternative vision, which Pushkin developed in the course of his
polemic with his Decembrist friends and precursors, endorsed the
empire. However, in Pushkin’s imagination, the Petrine Empire
stood for something completely different from an autocratic tyr-
anny in the Byzantine style. It is important to remember that the
most prominent themes of Poltava are forgiveness and new begin-
nings. Calling on the new Tsar to show mercy and magnanimity,
the poet displays his own idealistic belief in humanness as the only
true foundation of a just social order. It is not politics, says Push-
kin, but humanity, that will be the road to a Utopian new Russia.

Notes:
2 A.S. Pushkin, Polnoe sobranie sochinenii (Moscow-Leningrad, 1941) 14: 198.
5 B. Tomashvskii, “Pushkin i narodnost’,” Pushkin (Moscow-Leningrad, 1961) 106-153. 120.
8 Arendt, 214-217.
9 This motif recalls the famous scene of magnanimous reconciliation
between Achilles and Priam in the final book of the Iliad. Quint reminds
us that among modern imitators of ancient epics, Macpherson resorts to
the same motif. There is a similar scene of reconciliation between Fingal
and Swaran in the Poems of Osian. David Quint, Epic and Empire
10 Ibid.
11 Polnoe sobranie sochinenii 11: 160.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid. 11: 158.
14 Polnoe sobranie sochinenii 5:25: “Kto snidet v glubinu morskuiu,/ Pokrytuiu nedvizhno l’dom?/ Kto ispytuiuschim umom/Proniknet bezd
na rokovuiu/Dushi kovarnoi? . . . mozhets razgadat’ . . . dushi kovarnoi”
15 Pushkin’s and Ryleev’s main sources were A.N. Bantysh-Kameskii’s History of Malorossiia and Father G. Koniskii’s Istoria rusov.
16 Polnoe sobranie sochinenii 11: 43-47.
CEERES Exhibits at The Rock

Time & the Sacred

photographs from the Republic of Macedonia by Panče Velkov at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel

Time and the Sacred, an exhibit of photography by Macedonian artist Panče Velkov, opened at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel on September 28, 2007. The photographs feature unique and intimate images of sacred sites in the Republic of Macedonia, an environment in which Christianity and Islam have coexisted for more than six centuries.

The exhibit runs Sept. 28 – Dec. 24, 2007 and is open to the public 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. An extension of the exhibit is being shown as part of the Slavic and East European Collection on the 2nd floor of the Regenstein Library.

The Republic of Macedonia holds a significant place in the world’s sacred histories. Possessing one of the most distinct collections of icons in the world after those in Moscow and Sinai, Macedonia is home to some of the most notable medieval monasteries and churches in the Balkans. Among the significant sacred artifacts in Macedonia are fresco paintings in monasteries and churches that are considered to be some of the most important sacred art in the western world before the 13th Century.

Macedonian sacred heritage is not limited to the Christian tradition. This multicultural country also possesses a vital Ottoman heritage with many of the most important mosques, baths, and caravan inns outside of Turkey. The Christian and Muslim sacred heritages of the Republic of Macedonia constitute a uniquely well-preserved whole, but these significant works are not well known and are poorly documented. “What is immediately evident from the photos is the diversity of sacred heritages in the region... Mosques, churches, and monasteries have endured side by side for centuries in Macedonia—a rare and unique example of coexistence in Europe and in the whole world. The sacred places in Macedonia do not exist by themselves, apart from the people; people are present there as well and therefore these sites represent a unique example of living heritage,” says Velkov.

“The selection of the holy sites in these photographs is my personal choice, and it is not my intention to present the most significant and precious temples in Macedonia from either a historic or an artistic perspective.”

With the support of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Velkov’s objectives are to investigate the complex issues related to the meaning and the future of the sacred heritage of the Balkans. The exhibition was presented for the first time at the National Fine Arts Gallery in Skopje in July 2005.

The opening reception featured a introduction by Panče Velkov entitled “Photographing Heritage: Art or Documentation?”, which can be viewed on the CHIASMOS archive at http://chiasmos.uchicago.edu. Lenore Grenoble, newly appointed Associate Chair of the Slavic Department, gave opening remarks.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by CEERES, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, and the Franke Institute for the Humanities. For more information, call 773-702-0866 or write to ceeres.uchicago.edu.

A catalog of Time and the Sacred is available for purchase from CEERES at $10 per copy.

Profile of the Artist

Panče Velkov is Macedonian, and works as an artist, academic, teacher, and cultural preservationist. He has a PhD from the Grand French School for Applied Arts and Sciences in Paris, and has held faculty positions at Ohrid Summer University, and the South Eastern European University at Tetovo. In 1998, he founded the Macedonian Association for Heritage Education, Promotion, and Valorization based in Skopje. Velkov received a Fulbright in 2005 to be a visiting scholar and lecturer at the Graduate School for Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania.

Much of Dr. Velkov’s work is done to preserve Macedonian cultural heritage. To this end, he has been awarded grants from the Council of Europe, Ford Motor Company, and the World Monuments Fund for preserving, researching and teaching the heritage of Macedonia. He is about to begin teaching at the School of Architecture at the American University in Skopje.

In his work as an artist, Velkov’s photography has been shown in exhibitions across Europe and the United States. Through his photography, he explores the intersection of the modern and the traditional – a theme that runs throughout the images of “Time and the Sacred.”
Eurasia @ Chicago
The conference climate heats up.

“Climate Change and Social Change in Siberia”, an interdisciplinary workshop, will take place at the University of Chicago, April 4-5, 2008. This workshop will bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines (anthropology, linguistics, musicology and environmental science) to explore the inter-relationships between culture, language and environment in Siberia and to investigate ways for the academic community to respond to the accelerating pace of change.

Climate change and its influence on the social, cultural, and political dimensions of the North is an area of critical societal importance in our time. Nowhere is this clearer than in Siberia, where ecosystems and peoples are experiencing unprecedented change as this region warms and as globalization alters traditional ways of life. While the links between language, culture and land may not be obvious to outsiders, they are deeply embedded in the daily life of Siberian indigenous peoples. Those Siberian natives who maintain their language (and there are some 30-40 languages represented in the region) also maintain traditional culture, including music and art forms, and they are generally at least in some part animistic/shamanistic. Similarly, for many groups sound and music form part of a spiritual relationship with the natural environment that has endured in the face of social and political challenges. Language, culture, and the relationship to the land have been key parts of a fragile and yet tenacious Siberian indigenous identity.

These traditional relationships are threatened with catastrophic changes owing to global warming and resulting pressures of globalization. While some resources—such as caribou herds and natural lakes—are already vanishing, the combination of newly available resources and navigation routes that result from the global warming means that not only will greater economic development occur in the North but also a host of strategic and security issues will arise. Both will inevitably result in an influx of outsiders, and all of this threatens indigenous human and natural ecosystems in the North in unprecedented ways.

Funding and support for the conference are provided by CEERES, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Norman Wait Harris Fund, and the Program on the Global Environment.

The 3rd University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archeology will be held May 1-3, 2008. The theme this year is “Regimes and Revolutions: Power, Violence, and Labor in Eurasia Between the Ancient and the Modern”.

Recent decades have witnessed a turn in anthropological archaeology away from top-down accounts of elite power. In their stead, society and politics have come to be theorized within community organizations and more diffuse locations of authority. But the contemporary politics of Eurasia’s independent states cautions against an archaeological about-face.

The modern politics of Eurasia challenge us to disentangle social and economic transformations from political ones and to probe not only the archaeology of social lives within communities but also the politics that ordered these lives, whether egalitarian, despotic, charismatic, bureaucratic, or traditional. This conference will examine the instruments of power, the semiotics of legitimation, and the mobilization of labor in the constitution of politics from prehistory to today.

The University of Chicago Conferences on Eurasian Archaeology bring together graduate students and senior researchers from institutions across North America, Europe, and Asia. Organized and run by the graduate students of the University of Chicago, each conference centers on a theme that is intended to encapsulate a broad set of pressing issues in the field. The conferences also provide a forum for sharing new data, testing original ideas, and developing cross-cultural conversations that will forward the next decade of research in Eurasia.

There is no registration fee for the conference.

Financial support for the University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology conference is provided by CEERES, the Marion and Adolph Lichts tern Conference Fund, and the Norman Wait Harris Memorial fund.

More information can be obtained by contacting Charles Hartley at chartley@uchicago.edu.
Examining Tarkovsky, a symposium on Boris Godunov

In 1983 acclaimed Russian film director Andrei Tarkovsky staged Modest Mussorgsky’s opera Boris Godunov at the Royal Opera House, at the invitation of conductor Claudio Abbado. This was Tarkovsky’s only opera production and only his second staging at all; it came at a crucial time in his creative life, when he was exiled from the USSR. In addition, the 1983 Boris Godunov was a landmark event in the convergence of cinema and opera. In particular, critics noted Tarkovsky’s innovative adaptation of cinematic style in stage and lighting design.

The task of the public symposium is to gather and present all the available information on Tarkovsky’s production of Boris Godunov, with a series of detailed presentations with extensive responses by discussants and public discussion, concluding with a round table discussion.

This symposium is organized by Prof. Robert Bird, Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and will be held May 2 and 3, 2008, at The Franke Institute.

Authors Speak at Chicago

Two writers came to CEERES and The University of Chicago this fall to talk with us about their new books and how they came to write them.

Heather Roberson, a writer from Missouri, now based in New York City, co-authored the graphic novel Macedonia: What does it take to stop a war?, along with Harvey Pekar, the reknowned comics writer of the autobiographical American Splendor and film of the same name. Macedonia is based on Roberson’s research on peace studies that she conducted in Macedonia while looking at the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Not only is the illustrated book (with art by Ed Piskor) a fascinating travelogue full of interesting characters, including Heather herself, it’s also a great tool for understanding the processes that helped the Republic of Macedonia avoid all-out civil war and the challenges that remain to keep that peace. See http://macedoniathebook.com for information on the book, and to read Roberson’s blog about peace issues. You can also visit the CEERES website, ceeres.uchicago.edu, to find a radio interview conducted at WHPK 88.5 FM Chicago, while Heather was visiting.

Steve LeVine, journalist on Central Asian affairs and oil spoke on his new book The Oil and the Glory, November 1, 2007, for World Beyond the Headlines (http://internationalstudies.uchicago.edu/wbh.shtml). The Oil and the Glory is the story of the divisive pipeline politics among Caspian states, the authoritarian Kremlin, and the West, which desperately needs access to the region’s energy resources—a modern day version of the 19th Century’s Great Game. Steve LeVine was based in Central Asia and the Caucasus for 11 years, starting two weeks after the Soviet collapse through 2003. He ran The Wall Street Journal bureau for the eight-nation region, and before that covered it for The New York Times. He is currently writing a new book on Russia that, among other things, will explain its string of high-profile murders.

LeVine actively blogs on Russian and Central Asian affairs on his website http://oilandglory.com/.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 29-March 1, 2008
2008 Midwest Russian Historians Workshop will be held at the Franke Institute for the Humanities. See http://ceeres.uchicago.edu/MRHW_2008.html

March 8, 2008
Patrice Dabrowski (Harvard University), on “Discovering” the Carpathians: Episodes in Imagining and Reshaping Alpine Borderland Regions, at the Franke Institute for the Humanities, 4:30PM.

April 4-5, 2008
Workshop: “Climate Change and Social Change in Siberia”, at The Franke Institute for the Humanities. See p. 6

April 11-12, 2008
The 28th Annual Slavic Forum, organized by the graduate students in the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures. The event will take place at The University of Chicago.

April 24, 2008
The University of Chicago will host the 11th Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop.

May 1-3, 2008
The 3rd University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology, “Regimes and Revolutions: Power, Violence, and Labor in Eurasia Between the Ancient and the Modern.” See p. 6

May 2-3, 2008
Symposium Andrei Tarkovsky’s Boris Godunov. The event will take place at The Franke Institute for the Humanities. See this page.

All event details are subject to change. Check the CEERES website, ceeres.uchicago.edu, for confirmation. For details on activities, contact the CEERES office at ceeres@uchicago.edu or call 773-702-0875.
**Lenore Grenoble** joins the Chicago faculty as the Carl Darling Buck Professor in Linguistics, Slavic Languages & Literatures and the College.

Grenoble studies and has published articles on Russian language and structure, specifically in the areas of discourse and conversation analysis, deixis and verbal categories. She also works extensively on the study of endangered languages and contact linguistics. Her fieldwork focuses primarily on indigenous languages in Siberia and the North, with an emphasis on the Tungus languages.


She has come to the University from Dartmouth College, where she has been on faculty since 1987. There she served both as chair of the program in linguistics and cognitive science as well as associate dean of the humanities.

Grenoble earned a B.A. from Cornell University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Slavic linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley. [from *The University of Chicago Chronicle*, Sept. 20, 2007, Vol. 27 No. 1]

**Thomas Ginsburg**, who joins Chicago as a Visiting Professor of Law, focuses on comparative and international law from an interdisciplinary perspective. He holds B.A., J.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. One of his books, *Judicial Review in New Democracies*, (Cambridge University Press, 2003) won the C. Herman Pritchett Award from the American Political Science Association for best book on law and courts in 2004, and he has authored or edited four other volumes. Ginsburg serves as co-director of the Comparative Constitutions Project at the University of Illinois and has consulted with numerous international development agencies and foreign governments on legal and constitutional reform, most recently working in Montenegro, Tajikistan and with the Iraqi Constitutional Reform Commission. Before entering law teaching, he served as a legal advisor at the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, The Hague, Netherlands.

**Elissa Helms** is a Visiting Scholar this year with the Department of Anthropology. She is on leave from her position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender Studies at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. Before CEU she studied and taught at the University of Pittsburgh, where she completed her PhD in Anthropology in 2003. Elissa's research focuses on gender, ethno-nationalism, and activism in postwar and postsocialist Bosnia-Herzegovina; while at Chicago she will be working on her book manuscript currently entitled *Beyond Victims and Peacemakers: Gender, Nation and Women's Activism in Post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina*. Helms is also co-editor, with Xavier Bougarel and Ger Duijzings, of the recent book, *The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Postwar Society*. Elissa has been involved with Bosnia since 1993-4 when she spent two years living and working with Bosnian refugees in Croatia. This continued in Bosnia itself with more NGO work in Mostar and then research with women's NGOs in Sarajevo and Zenica. She has also lived in Prague, Vienna, and now Budapest, unwittingly making a tour of the former Habsburg Empire.

**Susan Larsen** has joined the Slavic Department as visiting assistant professor for the 2007-2008 academic year. She will be offering seminars for graduate students and advanced undergraduates on gender and sexuality in Russia, 20th-century Russian theater, Russian popular culture, contemporary Russian culture, and violence in Russian film and fiction. Larsen is currently completing a book on girls’ culture in imperial Russia, but she also writes regularly about gender and national identity in contemporary Russian culture, particularly in film. Her publications also include articles on Russian theater and translations of two plays, Andrei Platonov’s *Hurdy-Gurdy* and Nikolai Koliadà’s *Slingshot*. When Slingshot was produced at the San Diego Rep, Larsen also served as rehearsal interpreter for Russian director Roman Vitiuk and his English-speaking cast. She received her Ph.D. from Yale with a dissertation on the poetics of performance in the novels and plays of Mikhail Bulgakov.

**Adam Zagajewski**, poet, novelist, and essayist, has joined the faculty of the Committee on Social Thought. He is one of Poland’s most renowned contemporary poets. Among his collections are *Pragnienie* (Kraków: 1999); *Ziemia ognista* (1994); *Jechać do Lwowa* (1985); *Sklepy mięsne* (1975); and *Komunikat* (1972). His book of poetry in English include *Mysticism for Beginners* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1997. Translated by Clare Cavanagh); *Tremor* (1985, translated by Renata Gorczyński); and *Canvas* (1991, translated by Renata Gorczyński, B. Ivry, and C. K. Williams). He is also the author of a memoir, *Another Beauty* (2000, translated by Clare Cavanagh) and the prose collections, *Two Cities* (1995, translated by Lillian Vallee) and *Solitude and Solidarity* (1990, translated by Lillian Vallee). Among his honors and awards are a fellowship from the Berliner Kunstlerprogramm, the Kurt Tucholsky Prize, a Prix de la Liberté, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.
Tara Zahra joins The University of Chicago as Assistant Professor of East European History. She comes to Chicago from Cambridge, MA, where she was a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows from 2005-2007. She received her Ph.D in History at the University of Michigan in 2005, and a BA from Swarthmore College in 1998. Zahra is interested in transnational and comparative approaches to the history of Modern Europe. The focus of her research and teaching is Eastern and Central Europe (the Habsburg Empire and Successor States). Zahra is particularly interested in nationalism; the history of childhood, gender, and the family, and the history of war and occupation. Tara Zahra’s first book, *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948*, will be published by Cornell University Press this year. *Kidnapped Souls* is a study of German and Czech nationalist mobilization around children from the Habsburg Empire to the Nazi Occupation. Zahra is working on a project on displacement and the family in Europe between 1933-1951, and finishing a comparative study of national classification in Alsace-Lorraine and in the Bohemian Lands in the aftermath of World War I.

Kati Proctor is the new student assistant at CEERES. A third year undergraduate in the College, she is studying Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She took two years of Armenian and is currently starting her first year of Georgian. She has been to Armenia three times, the last trip with Habitat for Humanity. Proctor keeps herself busy with classes, being involved in many activities on campus, including Student Government the Armenian Student’s Association, and playing the violin. Kati has also just joined the campus a cappella group Unaccompanied Women. We are very happy to have her working in our office.

**Associate Members of CEERES**

Alongside the new faces at The University of Chicago, we are pleased to welcome a number of scholars of our region as Associate Members of CEERES. These scholars encompass a variety of academic and personal backgrounds in the study of the CEERES region, and they are located throughout the state and region. As Associate Members, these scholars are now a part of the larger resource network that CEERES fosters as a National Resource Center.

The new Associate Members are:

**Yuson Jung** (Independent Scholar). Dr. Yuson Jung is an Independent Scholar now residing in Chicago. She has recently completed her Ph.D. in Social Anthropology at Harvard University, 2007. The title of her dissertation is “Consumer Lament: An ethnographic study on consumption, needs, and consumer complaints in postsocialist Bulgaria.” Her research interests include the Balkans, East Europe and the EU, relations with East Asia, consumerism and consumption, globalization, and the politics of everyday complaining.

**Ronald Pope** (Illinois State University). Dr. Ronald Pope is Associate Professor of Russian Politics at Illinois State University in Normal, IL, and is the founder and president of Serendipity: Russian Consulting & Development, Ltd, which runs a variety of non-profit educational and cultural teaching and outreach programs in Vladivorm, Russia, and its sister city Normal, IL., including an American English & Culture school, and an intensive Russian language program.

**Tamara Sivertseva** is an Independent Scholar now residing in Chicago. Dr. Sivertseva studied Economics at Moscow State University, and received her Ph.D. from the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Oriental Studies, where she was a Senior Fellow until 2002. The title of her dissertation was “An Approach to the System Analysis of Social Processes in Central Asia and the Caucasus”, 1997. She has been a Fellow at George Mason University, Notre Dame, Johns Hopkins, and United States Institute of Peace, and received an award from the MacArthur Foundation for her project “Life of Women in Akhazia, Dagestan and Kyrgyzstan,” 1994.

**William Benton Whisenhunt** (College of DuPage). Dr. Whisenhunt has a Ph.D. in History from University of Illinois at Chicago, and is Professor of History at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL. He is the co-author with Marina Swoboda of *A Russian Paints America: Pavel Svinin’s Impressions of Early Nineteenth Century America*, Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2008; and co-editor with Steven A. Usitalo of *Russian and Soviet History: From the Time of Troubles to the Collapse of the Soviet Union*, Rowan and Littlefield, 2008. Dr. Whisenhunt is leading a study-trip to Russia during Summer of 2008. He is also presenting “Stars and Stripes: Ivan G. Golovin’s Views of Antebellum America” at the Bicentennial of Russian-U.S. Relations conference in Moscow in November 2007.

**Russell Zanca** (Northeastern Illinois University) specializes in Central Asian studies, including collective farm economy and society, the history of collectivization in Uzbekistan, culinary practices, Islam, and human demography. Zanca has conducted most of his field research in Uzbekistan since the early 1990s. His current book, *Everyday Life in Central Asia* which is co-edited with Jeff Sahadeo was just published by Indiana U. Press. Zanca is currently finishing his own ethnography, entitled *Big Cotton Plantations: Uzbeks after Socialism* which will be published by Thomson Wadsworth.

**Terase Zimmer** (University of Chicago Associate) holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins, and an M.A. from Harvard’s Davis Center for Russian Studies. As a political scientist, Dr. Zimmer’s work focuses on the political relationship of the central Soviet government to its Central Asian periphery. Recently, she has been a Research Associate at The Education Alliance at Brown University, and, before that, Communications Director for The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. Currently, Dr. Zimmer serves on the Board of Directors for Court Theater and the Women’s Board at The University of Chicago. She is the wife of Robert J. Zimmer, President of The University of Chicago.
Slavic Cognitive Linguists Converge at Chicago

The 2007 Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Conference was hosted by The University of Chicago, October 12-14, 2007. Funding and support for SCLC-2007 was provided by The Center for the Study of Languages, The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Department of Linguistics, and CEERES.

Full details and abstracts can be found at http://languages.uchicago.edu/scla/

Keynote Speakers:

William Croft (Professor of Linguistics, University of New Mexico): “A twodimensional conceptual analysis of lexical aspect.”

Mark Turner (Institute Professor and Professor and Chair of Cognitive Science, Case Western Reserve University): Conceptual Blending in Language

Lawrence Zbikowski (Professor of Music University of Chicago): “Birds, Spinning Wheels, Horses, and Sex: Painting Images with Music”

Conference Presentations:

Daria Bębeniec (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland): “On the semantics of Polish do. A minimal-specification approach”

Steven Clancy (University of Chicago): “Discretely continuous: How semantic maps affirm the intuitions and assertions of Cognitive Linguistics”

David Danaher (University of Wisconsin, Madison): “A Frame Approach to Havel”

Andrew Dombrowski (University of Chicago): “A New Balticism in Old Novgorod”

Lenore Grenoble (University of Chicago): “Cognition and Conversation: Evidence from Russian”

Christian Hilchey (University of Chicago): “Perfective Doublets in Czech”

Alina Israeli (American University): “The Russian particle i”

Laura Janda (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and University of Tromsø) and John Korba (UNC-CH): “Russian Aspect: From Theory to Pedagogy”

John Korba (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): “The Development of Overt Aspectual Marking among Biaspectual Russian Verbs”

Stela Manova (University of Vienna): “On the Nature of Derivational Morphology: Suffix Homophony and Closing Suffixation”

Junghee Min (University of Chicago): “Analysis of the –sjà passive of Russian ‘governing’ verbs as a conceptual integration”

Tore Nesset (University of Tromsø): “Metaphorical walking: Russian идти as a generalized motion verb”

Elena Paducheva: “Locative and Existential Meaning of the Russian by”

Anna Pleshakova (University of Edinburgh): “Frame пройтиstve and ideology: Adapting to new sociocultural reality via conceptual blending”

George Rubinstein (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): “On Sounds Emitted by Inanimate Objects in Russian”

Alexei Shmelev: “Patience, tolerance, perseverance, and suffering in the Russian linguistic conceptualization of the world”

Dorota Sikora (Nancy-Université, France): “May an Event Approach Be Useful in Dealing with Polish Motion Verbs?”

Mateusz-Milan Stanojević and Renata Geld (University of Zagreb): “Epistemic distance in Croatian: the case of the I-participle”

Sabine Stoll (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany) and Roland Meyer (Universität Regensburg, Germany): “Pro-drop in Russian child language and child directed speech”

Sabine Stoll (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany) and Stefan Gries (University of California, Santa Barbara): “The acquisition of Russian aspect: How to measure development?”

Recent Activities


Contemporary Russian authors reading: Maria Galina, poet, novelist, and essayist; Leonid Kostyukov, a sharp-witted fiction writer, poet, and essayist; Ekaterina Taratuta, a social scientist and fiction writer; and Sergey Soloukh. October 12, 2007.

Adam Zagajewski, Polish poet, novelist, essayist, and Professor in The Committee on Social Thought, gave a reading for the Poem Present series, October 24, 2007. See http://poetics.uchicago.edu/events.html.


Teachers, Discover Russia!

CEERES is pleased to announce an opportunity for educators to travel to Russia and develop innovative materials to bring back to school districts and classrooms.

2008 Fulbright-Hays GPA Short-Term Seminar in Russia
“Discovering Russia: Challenging Stereotypes and Media Myths”

June 19- July 23, 2008 [Tentative Program Dates]:
June 19–23 Pre-departure workshop at The University of Chicago
June 24–July 21 Seminar in Russia

CEERES, in conjunction with faculty at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal, has submitted a grant application for a Fulbright–Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) to lead a short-term seminar in Russia on “Discovering Russia: Challenging Stereotypes and Media Myths” for maximum fifteen K-12 educators. The seminar will take place mainly in the historic cultural city of Vladimir, Russia, followed by trips to Murom, St. Petersburg, and Moscow. The seminar will be preceded by a curriculum development workshop/predeparture orientation to be held at The University of Chicago campus.

Although the Fulbright-Hays GPA grant for this program is still pending (expected notification date: March 2008), we are proceeding with the participant application for the seminar to Russia. Please be aware that the proposed seminar is contingent on the grant funding approval.

Application Deadline: February 22, 2008 (postmarked)

For more information, please contact 773-702-0866, email ceeres@uchicago.edu, or write to: CEERES 5835 S. Kimbark Ave., Rm 323 Chicago, IL 60637

Outreach Spotlight

Berta Arias—Professor of World Languages and Coordinator for International Education, and for Self Instructional Languages at Joliet Junior College, in Joliet, IL—is a tireless promoter of international education. At an innovative community college—in fact the oldest community college in the U.S.—her goal is to internationalize the curricula of the many programs available to students at JJC, many of which would not seem to offer an obvious global perspective, e.g., computer sciences, veterinary medicine, horticulture, and nursing. In July, Dr. Arias was elected Executive Chair to the Illinois Consortium for International Studies & Programs (ICISP).

Under the leadership of Dr. Arias, JJC is the recipient of a U.S. Department of Education Title VIa grant. The project is entitled “Africa, Southeast Asia & Asia: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understanding World Views”, and the purpose is to develop programming that takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding world views in these three world areas identified by faculty surveys as currently neglected or underrepresented.

Each summer, Arias puts together a summer institute for her faculty to learn about international issues and regions. This year, JJC chose to learn about the complex issues surrounding what is now a new Europe. She contacted CEERES, and together we developed this year’s “Institute on Europe: European Identities and the EU”. The institute, which involved 20 of her faculty, detailed issues such as the expansion of the European Union, nationality and ethnicity, international security policy, and the Balkan conflicts of the 90's. The six sessions that made up the Institute on Europe have been recorded and can now be accessed as podcasts so that teachers may utilize these talks for their own learning, or to share in their classes. These podcasts are being made available at the CEERES website, ceeres.uchicago.edu.

CEERES applauds Berta Arias’s efforts to globalize her institution. And as a K-12 and College outreach center, CEERES is excited to continue working with schools to put together teacher training possibilities.

CHIASMOS
the University of Chicago: International & Area Studies Multimedia Outreach Source

Recent CEERES contributions to multi-media archive

Many past and future CEERES events can be shared, re-lived, seen for the first time, and used in the classroom using CHIASMOS: The University of Chicago Area and International Studies Multimedia Outreach Source. CHIASMOS is found on the web at http://chiasmos.uchicago.edu.

Recent CEERES events in 2007 already available for viewing are:

The discussion with the artist Panče Velkov, “Photographing Heritage: Art or Documentation?” at the opening of his photo exhibit “Time and the Sacred” at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, Sept. 28.

A talk given by Robert Amsterdam, legal defense counsel for Mikhail Khodorkovsky, for World Beyond the Headlines: “Preparing for the Post-Putin Period,” Oct. 2.

Accolades

Paul Friedrich (Professor Emeritus in Anthropology, Linguistics, Slavic and Social Thought) was awarded the Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal by the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association, October 9, 2007.

Victor A. Friedman (Slavic, Linguistics, CEERES Director) is the recipient of the “Sts. Cyril and Methodius” University of Skopje Gold Plaque Award for Contributions to the field of Macedonian studies, 13 August 2007; and was awarded an Honorary doctorate, University “Sts. Cyril and Methodious” of Skopje, 17 August 2007.

Susan Gal (Anthropology) was elected Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Yuri Tsivian (Film Studies) received an ACLS Digital Innovation innovation fellowship for his project “Cinematics: An Open-Access Interactive Website Designed to Collect, Store, and Process Scholarly Data about Film Editing Across the History of Cinema.”

Alan Yu (Linguistics) was selected as a Fellow at the Franke Institute for the Humanities, 2007-08.

Peter Kupfer (Ph.D. student, Music) received International Research and Exchanges Board Fellowship for 2007-08.

Ji Eun Song (Ph.D. student, Slavic) received a Whiting Dissertation Fellowship.

Kinga Maciejewska (Ph.D. student, Slavic) received the Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Polish Studies from the American Council for Polish Culture.

Rachel Rossner (Ph.D. student, Art History) received American Council’s South-Eastern Europe Research Scholar Fellowship; and a Fulbright-Hays to study in Croatia, Montenegro, and France.

Ashlee Gabrysch (B.A. Slavic, Spring 2007) has been awarded the 2007 Millard Pierce Binyon Prize for Distinction in Humanistic Pursuits in the College Community.

John Sylak (B.A. student, Linguistics, Slavic) was named a 2007 Beinecke Scholar, for his linguistic study of less commonly taught languages. See p. 14 for story.

2007-08 FLAS Awards
Kathryn Duda (Slavic), Russian
Owen Kohl (Anthropology), BCS
Maureen Marshall (Anthropology), Russian
Daniel Pratt (Slavic), Czech
Antje Postema (Slavic), BCS
Nelly Samoukova (Anthro), Polish
Andrey Shlyakhter (History), Polish
Tatiana Tchoudakova (Anthro), Uzbek

Faculty News

Philip V. Bohlman (Music) presented the talk “Translating Herder Translating,” at Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, April, 2007, and at Cambridge University. March, 2007. He also performed with the New Budapest Orpheum Society–VIVO Institute for Jewish Culture at the Illinois Humanities Festival and The University of Chicago.

John R. Perry (NELC, Emeritus Professor of Persian) recently published:
Co-editor, History of Persian Literature, Vol. 7: Persian Literature in the Subcontinent (Bibliotheca Iranica)


Invited talks:
“Recollections of ‘Pem’ and ‘Cam’, with shahrâshubs,” at the Symposium in Honor of S. Tanvir Wasti, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, 9 November 2006.

Sheila Fitzpatrick (History) was Visiting Professor in the Department of History, University of Sydney, July-August 2007.

Publications:

Presentations:

Victor A. Friedman (Slavic, Linguistics, CEERES Director) recently published:


Published Interview:
Viktor Fridman stana počesen doktor na nauki, Interview by Nevena Popovska, Utrinski Vestnik. 18/19 August 2007, p. 16.

Lectures:


Balkanskaja lingvistika: vedenie (in Russian: Balkan linguistics, an introduction 2 parts).
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 26 May, 29 May 2007

Evidenciál’nost’ v balkanskih jazykah i na kazahskom jazyke (in Russian: Evidentiality in the Balkan languages and in Kazakh, 3 parts) 30 May-1 June.

The Konikovo Gospel and Macedonian Identity in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries/Konikovskoto Evangeli je i makedonski identitet kon krajot na XVIII i početkom na XIX vek (paper written in Russian: Guentchéva. Louvain: Peeters. 2007. 351-376.

Faculty News continued on p. 13...
Faculty News Continued...

V. Friedman continued...

English and delivered in Macedonian), Workshop on the Konikovo Gospel, University of Helsinki, 6-7 June 2007.


On Speaking Terms: Language Politics, Language Policies, and Language Ideologies in the Recent Balkans, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center Noontime Scholars Lecture Series, 27 June 2007.

Balkan Languages in the Western Balkans: Minorities as Majorities and Majorities as Minorities. Eleventh International Conference on Minority Languages, University of Pécs, Hungary 5-6 July 2007.


Conference “Contemporary Albanian Philology: Achievements and Perspectives” on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Department of Albanian Philology at St. Petersburg State University, 26-29 September 2007.

Other activities:
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Moderator, Balkan Studies Training Workshop for Junior Scholars, June 2007
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty: Guest Professor, May 2007
Evaluation of Summer Workshop in East European and Slavic Languages elementary and intermediate summer courses in Georgian, Kazakh and Uighur for SSRc’s Eurasia Program, 18-20 July 2007.


Language and political space. IN Peter Auer and Jurgen Erich Schmidt (eds.) Language and Space, Mouton deGruyter. 2007.

2007 Language and globalization IN Andre Gingrich, Fernand Kreff (eds) Globalisation Face-to-Face. (German edition).


Interview with Susan Gal, Anthropolis 2007 (31).


Invited Lectures:
Master Class in Gender Studies to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Department of Gender Studies at the Central European University, Budapest

Richard Hellie (History) presented:
“Sex, Slavery, and Power in the Russian Institutions of Slavery and Serfdom.”

International Conference “Sex, Power, and Slavery: the Dynamics of Carnal Relations Under Enslavement” at the Indian Ocean World Centre of McGill University, Montreal, April 19, 2007.


Angelina Ilieva (Slavic) presented:


Jason Merchant (Linguistics) published:

Adam T. Smith (Archeology) published:

Presented:
“Prometheus Unbound: Geographies of Transgression and Archaeologies of Authority in the South Caucasus.” Stigler endowed lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 2007.


Dr. Turner is now Assistant Professor of Russian and East European Studies in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Waterloo.
Student & Alumni News

Georgeta Dragoiu (BA ’06, International Studies) has taken a job with the World Bank in the Finance, Private Sector, and Infrastructure Department.

John Merchant (Ph.D., Slavic, 2007) has taken an adjunct assistant professorship in the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature at the University of Iowa.

Rachel Rossner (Ph.D., Anthropology) Invited Lecture at Moderna Galerija in Zagreb, Croatia, entitled “Umjetnost Vlaha Bukovca i Jaroslava Cermaka.”


Publication: “‘The ecessionists are the Croats. They’ve been given their own pavilion…’: Vlaha Bukovac’s Battle for Croatian Autonomy at the 1896 Millennial Exhibition in Budapest,” Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide, vol. 6, no.1 (2007).

Joanna Trzeciak (Ph.D., Slavic, 2005) published a translation of Wislawa Symborska’s poem “The End and the Beginning” in 100 Great Poems of the Twentieth Century, had translations of Polish poet Tadeusz Rozewicz accepted by Norton Publishers. Dr. Trzeciak was a fellow at the Newhouse Center at Wellesley College in the spring semester of 2007.

Alina Wyman (Ph.D., Slavic) defended her doctoral dissertation with honors, “The Task of Active Empathy: Scheler, Bakhtin and Dostoevsky.”

Gretchen Bakke (Ph.D., Anthropology) defended her doctoral dissertation, “Contemporary Slovene Art and Artifice.”

A Knack for Lak

Linguistics concentrator wins Beinecke scholarship
By Julia Morse

College third-year John Sylak received an e-mail on Friday, April 20, that he said has changed his life.

“Ultimately, winning this scholarship means I will have a better opportunity to achieve my goals and aspirations in graduate school and for the rest of my life,” said Sylak of learning he had been named a 2007 Beinecke scholar. “It certainly made for a great weekend!”

Sylak, whose concentration is in Linguistics with a minor in Slavic Languages & Literatures, will receive $2,000 immediately and an additional $30,000 for graduate study.

Beinecke scholarships, which fund graduate study in the arts, humanities and social sciences, are awarded annually to no more than 20 students nationwide. Sylak is the second Chicago student in two years to receive the scholarship.

Sylak said he came to Chicago with a well-established interest in language, but his time in the College has helped him hone his interest into a passion.

“I really love studying lesser-known languages,” said Sylak, who studied Vietnamese in high school and who has focused on Russian while in the College. “Chicago is one of the best places to learn languages that are uncommon and unusual.”

In addition to studying Russian, Sylak has recently found a love for Lak, a language, that is spoken in the Caucasus Mountains in Russia and by about 150,000 people worldwide, he said. Although he began studying Lak in spring 2007, Sylak said it is one of the most important academic experiences he has ever had.

“Lak has incredible and complex verb conjugation, and a really interesting sound inventory,” he said of the language, which will be the focus of his bachelor’s thesis next year.

Before he graduates from Chicago in 2008, Sylak said he hopes to take an East Asian language course and “continue to take advantage of the extraordinary faculty at the University.”

The Beinecke scholarship program was established in 1971 to honor wealthy brothers Edwin, Frederick and Walter Beinecke, who are best remembered for the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library donation they made to Yale University in 1963.

Exhibits

“European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O.J. Sopranos.” An important collection of early printed maps, atlases, and sea charts that trace the changing view of the Ottoman world from the Age of Discovery to the 18th century. In conjunction with the Chicago-wide Festival of Maps. This exhibit is at the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago, 1155 E. 58th St., from November 2, 2007 to March 2, 2008

“Time and the Sacred,” photographs of sacred Orthodox and Muslim spaces in the Republic of Macedonia by Pance Velkov. See p. 5 for more information. The main exhibit is located in the West Transept of the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5860 S. Woodlawn Ave., until Dec. 24, 2007, open daily 8am–4pm. An extension of the exhibit is being shown as part of the Slavic and East European Collection on the 2nd floor of the Regenstein Library, 1100 East 57th St.

Exhibits continued next page...
FLAS!
Graduate funding

Time to start thinking about graduate funding for summer and academic year study next year. The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships available through CEERES, made possible by Title VI of the U.S. Department of Education, provide tuition and stipend for two types of graduate study to University of Chicago students: intensive summer language study, and full academic year support.

CEERES is approved to offer FLAS awards in the following languages: Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Uzbek. (Note: It is possible to get permission to give awards for other languages spoken in the CEERES region, particularly for summer awards, on a case-by-case basis).

Applications for 2008-09 will be available on-line by the end of November on the Office of Graduate Affairs website: http://grad-affairs.uchicago.edu.

An information session for FLAS is scheduled for January 9, 2008 in Classics 110 at 4 p.m. Before then, students can contact Brooke Noonan, brookec@uchicago.edu. She is available to discuss FLAS and other funding opportunities, and can be found in Administration Building, Room 225.

Exhibits Continued...

Kateřina Šedá, “It Doesn’t Matter”, Jan. 6 - Feb. 10, 2008, The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, 5811 S. Ellis Ave., 4th Floor. Czech artist Kateřina Šedá’s primary media are her friends, family, and community of her native town Liščí. Šedá uses performance, staged activities, and public interventions to reactivate social concourse as it is the basis for a sense of self predicated on group identification. The Society presents It Doesn’t Matter, a series of over 600 drawings executed by Šedá’s 77-year-old grandmother, cataloging in size and type the various tools and supplies sold through the Brno hardware shop her grandmother managed for over thirty years under communism. While therapeutic in intent, the result is a profound reflection on memory and subjectivity as expressed through, rather than in spite of, alienation.

Other Grant Opportunities

Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO) Fellowships
Provides fellowships to US scholars and professionals for overseas research on contemporary political, economic, historical, or cultural developments relevant to US foreign policy. IARO applications and supporting materials are available on the IREX website at www.irex.org/programs/iaro/index.asp and applications are due November 15. Questions may be addressed to the IARO Program Staff at IARO@IREX.org or by calling (202) 628-8188.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant for Collaborative Research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia
NEH grants provide up to $40,000 for four to nine months of research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia for U.S. post-doctoral scholars. For more information and an application: for projects in Eurasia: Outbound Programs, American Councils for Interna-
tional Education: ACTR/ACCELS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone: (202) 833-7522, website: www.americancouncils.org, email: outbound@americancouncils.org, for projects in Central and Eastern Europe: Program Officer, NEH Collaborative Humanities Fellowship NCEEER, 2601 Fourth Ave, Suite 310, Seattle, WA 98121, phone (206) 441-6433, website: www.nceeer.org, email: dc@nceeer.org. Application deadline is February 15, 2008.

Job announcement

Associate Director, West European Studies Center, University of Indiana
Master’s degree in a related field required. Interested applicants should consult the Indiana University Human Resource Services website at http://jobs.indiana.edu/ for on-line application procedures.

STUDY ABROAD
Chicago Slavic Studies entre dans Paris

Beginning Winter quarter 2008, the College at The University of Chicago will offer a new study abroad option that has drawn students to Slavic Languages and Literatures from a wide range of majors. The Europe East and West program at the University’s Center in Paris recognizes and celebrates the role of the city of Paris as a historic and continuing cultural, economic and political magnet for vibrant Eastern European émigré communities, as well as the many contributions that these émigrés have made to Parisian cultural life.

Program participants take three courses illuminating significant cross-cultural topics, each compressed into three weeks and taught by Chicago faculty. The 2008 inaugural program will be taught by Professors Bozena Shallcross, Robert Bird and Malynne Sternstein. Students also take a French or Russian language course throughout the ten weeks.

As with all programs at Chicago’s Center in Paris, “Europe East and West” is enhanced by visits to museums, film viewings and other cultural experiences within or in the vicinity of Paris. A particular highlight of this program is a trip to an east-European capital such as St. Petersburg, Krakow or Prague, designed to amplify and add perspective to the concept of East-West cultural tensions and exchange. This program is open to all students beyond their first year in the College and does not require previous study of French.

Robert Bird, faculty director of the program, will also host a conference in Paris on February 1, 2008 on the topic “The Journey from St. Petersburg to Paris: The Russian Emigration.” For more information about the Europe East and West Program in Paris and the possibility of your participating in it, please contact Sarah Walter, Study Abroad Program Coordinator (Harper 207A; 834-3753; scw@uchicago.edu).
Photographs by Pance Velkov documenting Orthodox Christian and Muslim sacred spaces in the Republic of Macedonia

Rockefeller Memorial Chapel
5850 S. Woodlawn Ave.
University of Chicago

Duration:
Sept 28-December 24, 2007

Daily:
8:00AM-4:00PM

Free and open to the public.

Questions? (773)702-0866 or ceeres@uchicago.edu

Sponsors
The University of Chicago
Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel
Franke Institute for the Humanities
WHPK 88.5FM Chicago