A Letter from the Director

After a productive and eventful year in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, where I was conducting research with support from the Guggenheim Foundation and Fulbright-Hays for my new project on multilingualism in contemporary Macedonia, I am happy to be back at CEERES. Our autumn quarter has already seen many wonderful academic and cultural events sponsored and co-sponsored by CEERES, and we are preparing for a rich schedule of programming in winter and spring.

I wish to thank my colleague Professor Susan Gal, the Mae & Sidney G. Metzl Distinguished Service Professor in Anthropology, Linguistics and the College, for taking over as CEERES’ Acting Director. Professor Gal did a wonderful job of guiding CEERES forward, and all of us at CEERES are thankful for her stewardship of, and her contribution to, the center over the past year.

I also wish to welcome our new Outreach Coordinator, Andrew Graan, currently ABD in the Department of Anthropology at Chicago and soon to defend his doctoral dissertation “Watching the World Watch: News Media and the Everyday Politics of International Oversight in Post-Conflict Macedonia.” Mr. Graan has brought a welcome infusion of expertise and enthusiasm to his new job, and we all are enjoying working with him.

This autumn has found us at an exciting time as we prepare our grant proposal for another four-year term as a Title VI National Resource Center. The preparations have given us the occasion to see how much we have been able to accomplish in the past four years. We have expanded CEERES activities on the University of Chicago campus; we strengthened our collaborations with other area centers and departments, both at Chicago and at peer institutions; and we have vastly broadened our community outreach, especially in the area of K-12 education. Most importantly, we have managed to develop a real community of faculty, students and associates, of scholars and friends, who all contribute to the value of our pursuits and aid CEERES in its mission of disseminating and creating knowledge. This time of reflection has greatly encouraged creativity in our planning for the next four years, and we look forward to maintaining and enhancing our abilities to produce and contribute to important conferences, workshops, and events as well as building greater capacities at the University of Chicago in general; creating yet stronger and more varied collaborations with our peers; and forging even more extensive relationships with local schools, cultural institutions, and the communities in Chicago and beyond.

This issue of CEERES News highlights several of our recent and ongoing activities toward these ends. CEERES was proud to support the Bukharan Cultural Night (14 October 2009) organized by the University’s Central Asian Studies Society. The event introduced both area grade school students and University community members to Ensemble Maqam, a New York based ensemble dedicated to the folk and religious musical traditions of Uzbekistan and of the Bukharan Jews. We also worked together with the University’s Center for International Studies to make possible “With Immediate Effect”: The Events of 1989 Revisited (4-7 October 2009), a roundtable and film series centered on this important anniversary. In addition, CEERES helped sponsor the 9th International Conference on Greek Linguistics (29-31 October 2009) and also the 7th Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies, held at the University of Utah (5-7 November 2009). And now, as Chicago winter descends and the days grow short, we look forward to our upcoming, international conference New Histories of Modern Art: The East European Avant-Gardes, which will be held at the University 4-6 February 2010.

In conclusion, I also am pleased to highlight CEERES’ growing presence on the internet. In the next year we are planning to debut a newly designed website, and with it will come a greater array of audio and video recordings of CEERES events, using the latest cutting edge technologies, as well as a larger selection of online resources for scholars and educators. And, as always, we hope to hear your ideas on promoting CEERES’ mission and to see you at our upcoming events.

-Victor A. Friedman, Andrew W. Mellon Professor; Director, CEERES
Discourse on East European Art Warms up the Chicago Winter

The University of Chicago will host a two-day symposium, “New Histories of Modern Art: The Eastern European Avant-Gardes,” on February 4-6, 2010. In light of recent scholarship and new critical methodologies that have invigorated the study of modern and contemporary art from Eastern Europe, we think it timely to reconsider both the classical avant-garde period and the subsequent neo-avant-gardes. Rather than rehearsing the scholarship from the 1970s through the 1990s that first addressed the interwar period in Eastern Europe, we believe it important to question the historiographical assumptions (and the scholarship based on them) in light both of the second avant-gardes from the post-1989 era and of the emergent approaches of visual studies that have reconfigured the practice of art history in the museum and the university. Thus, we have organized the conference to highlight new perspectives and to stimulate lively debate. Toward this objective, the program accommodates both informal discussion and a more formal set of presentations. Finally, the topics suggested and those invited to address them are intended to prompt new thinking and to stimulate lively debate. Toward this objective, the program accommodates both informal discussion and a more formal set of presentations. Finally, the topics suggested and those invited to address them are intended to prompt new thinking and to promote vibrant exchange rather than to shore up established positions or consolidate accepted views. Bringing together younger and senior scholars, museum and academic professionals, as well as art and architectural historians from Europe and the United States to address the varied avant-gardes in and from Eastern Europe will afford a breadth of viewpoints and an exchange of perspectives that can lead to genuinely new histories of modern art.

We are expecting that each of our speakers will take an intellectually daring perspective or raise provocative issues that challenge prevailing paradigms in order to ensure a vibrant, innovative discourse to take stock of the current field of modern art in Eastern Europe and discuss new directions for the future. We look forward to a truly exciting and spirited symposium which will produce an emergent discourse of new thinking about the history, and even the concept, of Eastern Europe.

Detailed information, including the roster of speakers, will be available at our website: ceeres.uchicago.edu. However, the draft agenda is the following:

**February 4th, 2010**
Keynote Address: “Challenging the Paradigms in Eastern European Art”
Steven Mansbach (U of Maryland)

**February 5th, 2010**
Day One: New States, New Realities, New Art
Morning Session:
Karel Šrp (Prague City Gallery)
Carmen Popescu (New Europe College, Bucharest)
Malynne Sternstein (U of Chicago)
Eva Forgacs (Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA)
Anna Brzyski (U of Kentucky)

Afternoon Session:
Dubravka Djurić (Singidunum University, Belgrade)
Irina Genova (New Bulgarian University, Sofia)
Janis Kreslins (Royal Library, Stockholm)
Atanas Botev (Artist, Skopje)

**February 6th, 2010**
Day Two: New Avant-Gardes, New Modernisms, New Art? The 2nd Post-Imperial Period, 1989-
Morning Session:
Matthew Jackson (U of Chicago)
Miško Suvaković (University of Arts, Belgrade)
Juliana Maxim (U of San Diego)
Sven Spieler (UC-Santa Barbara)

Afternoon Session:
Roundtable Discussion
**ANNA LISA CRONE (1946-2009)**

Anna Lisa Crone spent her life in Russian literature, generously imparting to others her vast knowledge, wisdom and guidance. She will be sorely missed by her family, her colleagues and the scores of students whose lives she has blessed.

Born in Brooklyn on 9 June 1946, Lisa was raised in North Carolina and graduated from Goucher College in 1967. After receiving her Ph.D. from Harvard in 1975, Lisa came to the University of Chicago in 1977. For thirty years she was the life of the program in Russian literature, directing almost twenty dissertations. Lisa taught through 2006, when she was forced to focus on her battle with cancer, but she remained active as a scholar and as the director of several dissertations.

Lisa was a wide-ranging scholar of Russian and Slavic literature and language. Her first monograph, published in 1978, was an innovative literary study of the Russian philosopher Vasilii Rozanov; entitled *Rozanov and the End of Literature: Polyphony and the Dissolution of Genre in Solitaria and Fallen Leaves*, it opened a new chapter in the study of Russian philosophical discourse. In 2001 Lisa published *My Petersburg/Myself: Mental Architecture and Imaginative Space in Modern Russian Literature*. Her final years were devoted to a monograph on the philosophies of eros in Russian modernism. Her friends will ensure that her final works reach the printed page.

Lisa was a dedicated and innovative teacher of both language and literature. Lisa received a Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1985, and in 2000 she was recognized for her graduate teaching by both the University of Chicago and the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. In 1979 she founded Slavic Forum, an annual graduate-student conference, which for the twenty-ninth time this May showcased the work of graduate students from universities as far afield as Virginia and Yale. In 2006 the Slavic Forum reunited many of her students and colleagues in a celebration of her career. The proceedings of this conference were edited by three of her students and published in 2007 as *Poetics, Self, Place: Essays in Honor of Anna Lisa Crone*, a fitting tribute to the breadth and energy of her intellectual interests.

Lisa is survived by her husband Vladimir Donchik, her daughter Liliana, and her sisters Laurel and Moira.

**MILTON EHRE (1933-2009)**

Milton Ehre, long-time Professor of Russian literature in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago, passed away at his home in River Forest, Illinois, on 30 June 2009. Born in 1933, Milt received his BA from the City College of New York in 1955 and embarked on a career as a school teacher. In 1966 he received an MA in Russian at Columbia University and continued on to receive his Ph.D. from Columbia in 1970. By this time he had already spent three years on the faculty of the University of Chicago, where he earned promotion to Associate Professor in 1972 and Professor in 1981. He retired from the University in 2002. In 1973 Milt also published his first book *Oblomov and His Creator: The Life and Art of Ivan Goncharov*, for which V. S. Pritchett (writing in the New York Review of Books) praised Milt’s “close knowledge of Russian critical writing and his observation of the detail of Goncharov’s impulses and methods as a novelist.” Milt’s second book, published in 1986, was *Isaac Babel*. In addition to these two books and a score of major essays, Milt was also an accomplished translator, publishing many translations of Russian poetry in addition to his 1980 book *The Theater of Nikolay Gogol* (co-translated with Fruma Gottschalk) and the 1992 volume *Chekhov for the Stage*. Throughout his illustrious career Milt held two Fulbright-Hays fellowships and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Philosophical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Guggenheim Foundation. He was a member of the editorial board of the Slavic and East European Journal. An avid participant in the humanities core curriculum, in 1999 Milt was awarded the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Milt is survived by his wife Roberta, his daughters Joelle and Julieanne, their husbands Peter Henderson and Hans Detweiler, and his grandchildren Milo Henderson and Esther and Avi Detweiler. Services were held at noon on Friday, 3 July, at Oak Park Temple at 1235 N. Harlem, Oak Park, IL 60302.
Current Research in Political Science

Prof. Stanislav Markus

For Russia, the rule of law, secure property rights, transparent corporate governance, and a strong civil society have been rather elusive goals. The conventional wisdom holds that under Putin’s administration (2000-2008), Russia failed on these fronts, as the Kremlin reasserted itself. A timeless Russian anekdot summed up the mood nicely: “What is the best way out of the Russian crisis? – Sheremetyevo International Airport.”

My research suggests a more complicated (and interesting) picture, in particular regarding Russia’s business associations and their interaction with the state, the internal governance of large companies, as well as the security of property rights. The research has been conducted through personal interviews in Russia (with company executives, politicians, association directors, lawyers, and other experts), as well as a large-scale survey of medium and large-size firms.

Let us focus on business associations in this overview. Three such organizations rose to prominence during Putin’s first tenure. These associations are: RUIE (Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs), OPORA, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As cross-sectoral, federal organizations encompassing hundreds of thousands of firms across Russia, these associations have played an important role in the adoption of new laws and in providing a formal forum for state-business interaction at the top level of government. The landscape for state-business dialogue looked fundamentally different in the 1990’s, as highlighted by the histories of RUIE and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The RUIE originated from the Scientific-Industrial Union of 1990, then a base for ‘liberal communists’ in the enterprise directors’ corps. RUIE’s most ambitious project of the 1990’s, the creation of a political party in 1994, failed. At the end of the decade, workers were bussed to RUIE’s congress meetings to generate an image of importance, Potemkin village style. By 2003, however, RUIE enjoyed an $80 million budget (similar to a typical Russian ministry at the time), two-thirds of which was spent on policy projects. The Union founded its own top-caliber Expert Institute; before the 2004 presidential election, over one director participated in international programs in conjunction with several government ministries. After meeting with Putin in 2001, OPORA submitted to the Presidential Administration a document listing the state offices involved in extortion masked as legal inspections. OPORA submits regularly its analysis of complaints from individual firms to the Presidential Administration, the Highest Arbitrage Court, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and the General Procuracy. More spectacularly, in 2005, OPORA scored several victories against the powerful (and much-loathed) regulatory agencies. The Minister of Internal Affairs, Nurgaliev, signed the order On Regularization Of Police Inspections Of Entrepreneurs while the Procurator General, Ustinov, signed the order on Supervision Of Implementation Of Laws On Protection Of Entrepreneurs’ Rights. In effect, both documents streamlined the internal
control over low-level police administrators responsible for business predation while ratcheting up punishments for misconduct.

As always, interpreting any empirical developments in Russia requires caution. The rise of organized business paralleled the government’s witch hunt of the ‘oligarchs,’ and the demise of Yukos. Yet the institutionalization of the state-business dialogue compared with the 1990’s is unmistakable. What could be the reason for such development? It turns out that, despite its powerful image, the Kremlin finds itself challenged when it comes to controlling Russia’s vast bureaucracy. My case studies of legislative reforms show that it was in the interest of the Presidential Administration to empower organized business so as to put pressure on the recalcitrant ministries and regional state organs. So, paradoxically, the Kremlin reached out to business associations while aiming for greater consolidation of the policy-making process and better enforcement. Business associations have provided a much-needed (though certainly imperfect) check on Russia’s infamous bureaucracy which is a welcome development. The empowerment of organized business, however, stands in stark contrast to the weakening of other sectors of Russia’s civil society.

The other dimensions of my research similarly convey Russia’s increasing legality on the one hand, which, on the other hand, develops for rather idiosyncratic reasons with unclear sustainability prospects. So, the corporate governance of Russia’s big business improved during Putin’s first tenure, as evidenced by more transparent accounting, better treatment of external shareholders, etc. Naturally, this is good news. Yet one likely reason for the dynamic (in addition to firms’ desire to attract finance) is that big business was seeking to attract powerful Western allies (hedge funds, media, governments, etc.) in order to protect itself against the resurgent Kremlin. Two things are clear overall: Russia will never get boring – or simple to understand.

Profile

Stanislav Markus recently joined the University of Chicago’s Department of Political Science as an assistant professor. Prof. Markus comes to Chicago from Cambridge, MA, where he was an Academy Scholar at Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs in 2008. Prior to that Prof. Markus held a Max Weber Fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He received his Ph.D from Harvard University’s Department of Government in 2009, and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002. Prof. Markus is interested in questions pertaining to political economy, rule of law, and post-communist politics. His research aims to answer how rule of law emerges in the economic sphere, particularly in the areas of corporate governance and property rights. Markus has done extensive research in Russia and Ukraine.

Dispatches From the Field

by Leah Goldman

Leah Goldman is a Ph.D. Student in the Department of History. This spring she was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award for her project “Art of Intransigence: Soviet Composers’ Fight Against Censorship, 1945-1964.” From September 2009-August 2010, she will be doing archival research in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Leah writes to CEERES from Moscow.

“...the story from here is that I arrived about two months ago, and after the usual adventures of settling in, I started working at RGALI (Russian State Archive of Literature and the Arts) and GARF (State Archive of the Russian Federation). I am finding plenty of interesting documents relating to classical music censorship in the Soviet Union in the postwar era. I also plan to do some research at RGASPI (Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History) and RGANI (Russian State Archive of Recent History), which both contain Communist Party documents, and at GTsMMK (State Central Museum of Musical Culture, also called the Glinka Museum). In the spring, I’ll spend a month in St. Petersburg gathering more information at the St. Petersburg branch of RGALI, and enjoying the scenery! Fortunately, the archives are only open during regular business hours, so I have also been enjoying spending evenings and weekends going to concerts, plays, museums, and open-air markets. There is always more to see and do in Moscow! I’m having a wonderful time immersing myself both in my research, and in the language and culture of this country.”

Leah Goldman (right) with friend along the banks of the Moskva River
Announcing the CEERES Outreach Library

CEERES is proud to announce its new Outreach Library. Through the CEERES Outreach Library, educators from the Chicago area can borrow books, films, and other learning materials concerned with Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia. These items can be incorporated within classroom activities or used in curricular development. In particular, our collection includes materials that are targeted to school-aged children and that address current events.

Some featured items in the Library are:

• Footsteps Through Russia, a boardgame that leads players through the joys and struggles, hardships and opportunities of daily life in Post-Soviet Russia.

• Russian Feminism: Twenty Years Forward, a documentary film that recap the Russian feminist movement, highlighting both successes and new challenges.

• Girl of Kosovo, by Alice Mead. This book for young readers puts a human face on the Kosovo War by focusing on an interethnic friendship between two young girls.

• The Oil and the Glory: The Pursuit of Empire and Fortune on the Caspian Sea, by Steve LeVine. A recent, current events book that explores how the Caspian Sea region has been transformed by international political and commercial interests following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

A full catalog of our holdings, as well as guidelines for borrowing, can be found at: http://ceeres.uchicago.edu/k12/lib/index.htm.

RECENT TEACHER WORKSHOPS

“Fun and Practical Activities for Teaching Polish and Russian”: Reaching Out to Area Foreign Language Instructors

On a relatively warm Saturday morning in early October, CEERES was pleased to offer a teacher workshop on Russian and Polish language pedagogy for teachers in Chicago area schools. The workshop was co-sponsored by our partners at Chicago Public Schools’ Office of Language and Cultural Education and the University of Chicago’s Center for International Studies.

University of Chicago Language Instructors, Dr. Joanna Kurowska and Mr. Erik Houle, led the workshop entitled, “Fun and Practical Activities for Teaching Polish and Russian,” and shared their experiences as teachers of Polish and Russian. As promised by the workshop’s title, Kurowska and Houle addressed key problems that confront foreign language instructors, such as how to incorporate the target language into class activities and instruction, how to get students involved and how to keep them focused, how to motivate students by making language learning fun, and how to prepare activities and exercises in a language class. Our workshop leaders also reviewed some of the language instruction resources currently available and demonstrated how they could be integrated into the classroom.

Following Kurowska’s and Houle’s presentations, all workshop participants exchanged their own ideas and strategies for teaching Russian and Polish, sharing both problems that they had confronted in the classroom as well as potential solutions for them. Overall, the workshop was a tremendous success.

For both CEERES and the OLCE, it was a special pleasure to have gathered together so many of the CPS teachers of Russian and Polish. The workshop was thus a wonderful occasion for community-building among this relatively small, but tremendously dedicated group of educators.

It was also a sign of the success of CPS support for world languages education. Indeed, while it may not be known to most Chicagoans, Russian is taught in several CPS schools, and two charter high schools, Noble College Prep and Pritzker College Academy, even require that their students study at least two years of Russian. Furthermore, Chicago’s Roosevelt High School will be hosting this year’s regional Olympiada for Spoken Russian, an event that CEERES and our colleagues at Indiana University and the University of Illinois will co-sponsor.

The workshop concluded with a “working lunch.” While we enjoyed a selection from the Polish kitchen, we traded ideas for future teacher workshops that can appeal to teachers of Russian and Polish in Chicago schools. After such an invigorating morning, we at CEERES certainly look forward to future collaborations with the OLCE to reach this splendid group of educators.

TEACHER WORKSHOP ON UKRAINIAN ART, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

Coming in January!

CEERES, along with the Center for International Studies, has been working with Chicago’s Ukrainian National Museum and the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art to prepare a day-long teacher workshop dedicated to the exploration of Ukrainian art, history, and culture. Sessions will include curricular development that places Ukraine within a “World Cultures” paradigm as well as Ukrainian inspired arts-and-crafts activities for the classroom. In addition, the workshop will feature a presentation on Ukrainian history and on the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide perpetrated under Stalin. Educators’ Guides and Student Materials will be included.

The workshop will be held in Chicago’s own Ukrainian Village neighborhood and will feature visits to both the Ukrainian National Museum and the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art.

Details will be available at http://ceeres.uchicago.edu/k12.
Ensemble Maqam Shines at the Bukharan Cultural Night!

Ensemble Maqam, with members originally hailing from Uzbekistan, is a Queens-based musical group that features the folk and religious songs of Bukhara’s Jewish Community. On October 14th and 15th, the student-led Central Asian Studies Society (in conjunction with International House, the Center for International Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Student Government, the Middle Eastern Studies Students Association, and, of course, CEERES) brought Ensemble Maqam to the University of Chicago to headline the “Bukharan Cultural Night,” an event dedicated to the poetry, music, dance, and food of Bukhara, the renowned city of the Silk Road, that is located in today’s Uzbekistan.

Held in the Assembly Hall at International House, the Bukharan Cultural Night drew a full house, attracting University members as well as many enthusiasts from the broader community. Ensemble Maqam delighted young and old with classic songs from Bukhara and the surrounding areas.

The following morning, Ensemble Maqam returned to the University of Chicago, this time to conduct a music and dance workshop. Filling the Max Palevsky Theater, about 300 students from nearby high schools attended the workshop, as group members introduced the students to the rich history of Bukhara’s Jewish Community, explained the process of making musical instruments, and, of course, lead students through musical and dance numbers. The highlight of the workshop came when students were asked to put their dance lessons to the test. A flood of highschoolers joined the group on stage, dancing along with the group’s energetic music.

Both events owe much to Claire Saperstein, a fourth year in the College and the president of the Central Asian Studies Society, who led the initiative to bring the group to campus. The hard work and dedication of CIS Outreach Coordinator Jaime Bender also ensured the success of the workshop for area high school students.

CEERES is proud to have supported each event, which provided a special opportunity to share the little known music and culture of Bukharan Jews with our own Chicago community.

Chicago High School Students Go to Russia

In April 2010, students and staff from St. Gregory the Great High School, located in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago, will take the ultimate field trip: a spring break trip to Russia. The group, which includes four students who were selected through a thorough application process, and two faculty members, Mr. Frank Edgeworth, a fulltime volunteer teacher and Ms. Breanne Goldman, a 2008 CEERES Fulbright award recipient, will travel to Vladimir, Murom, and Moscow.

The purpose of the trip is to establish a greater understanding of Russian culture, history, and education, and to develop friendships between Russian and American counterparts. At the core of this student exchange trip is the sharing of information about education, daily life, and culture of American (in particular, St. Greg’s) students and the students at School Number 10 in Vladimir. Students will create videos and social networking sites about education, culture, and life in America with their peers in Vladimir, who will then share their information about life in Russia with St. Gregory students. Though not all are traveling to Russia, many SGHS students and staff will participate in the video sharing portion of this exchange program. While in Russia, students will visit several high schools to study the similarities and differences between American and Russian education and students, visit culturally and historically significant landmarks, and learn firsthand the value of cross-cultural exchange as they live with host families.

Upon their return, students and staff will conduct an all-school assembly, where they will share their stories and experiences, and where they will encourage others to visit this region of the world. As a result of their trip, students will develop the necessary networking skills to host Russian students in fall 2010.

When asked about what he is most looking forward as he travels to Russia, senior Brian C. replied, “Meeting the students and learning about the schools there,” while junior Latia S. commented, “I’m hoping to learn how to speak Russian and to learn more about the culture.” Richard O., though “excited to participate in Russian holidays and culture,” is “most nervous about the different societal rules and the (really long) plane ride.” Several members of the group have never left the country—or even Chicago—so this trip is a fantastic way to learn about a culture unlike their own. Indeed, the experiences that St. Gregory students and staff will have while in Russia will more than make up for the (really long) plane ride.
In 2008, Ryan Erickson, a 4th year in the College and a current student worker at CEERES, began translating newspaper articles from Georgian and Russian as a way to keep his burgeoning skills in those languages active. On a whim, he decided to post them to a blog. Little did he know that this self-assigned homework would place him at the center of information flows during the South Ossetia War between Georgia and Russia that broke out in August of that year.

Ryan’s interest in Georgia began with an unexpected opportunity. During the spring quarter of 2007, he learned from a friend that the University of Chicago’s Orthodox Christian Fellowship was sponsoring students to travel to Georgia where they would volunteer in a hospital during the 2007 summer break. Although at the time he could not speak a word of Georgian and had only a limited sense of the country’s history or even the geography of the Caucasus, Ryan jumped at this chance to visit another part of the world.

During this first visit to Georgia, to put it simply, Ryan fell in love with the place. The people he met and Georgia’s warm hospitality immediately captured his heart. This proved especially true once his intensive courses in the Georgian language began to pay off, and he could move beyond the limited experiences available to most tourists and short-term visitors. As the summer was drawing to a close, Ryan therefore decided that his few months in Georgia had not been long enough. After a short visit to the US in late summer—just enough time to visit his family and register for a leave of absence—Ryan returned to Tbilisi resolved to stay there for at least the next nine months. He arranged a host family to stay with, contacted his tutor in Georgian to continue his lessons, and with a lingering interest in a pre-med major, he enrolled in Tbilisi State Medical University.

Ultimately, Ryan found that TSMU did not quite suit his needs, and so after several months of living and studying in Georgia, he decided to shift course. By this point, Ryan was comfortable with his Georgian language skills. He had taken one Russian course during his first year at the U of C, and so he decided to advance his Russian to the next level. Ryan thus sought out language schools that offered intensive courses in Russian. Then, as now, it was difficult and costly for Americans to secure visas to Russia. Moreover, both St. Petersburg and Moscow are notoriously expensive places to live. So, Ryan enrolled in a program to study Russian in Kyrgyzstan. Ryan explains, “Although Kyrgyz is spoken throughout the country and especially in the countryside, in the capital, Bishkek, Russian still dominates, so it provided the immersion environment that I was looking for, and I was able to enjoy the extraordinary beauty of Kyrgyzstan, a country of mountains.” A highlight of his time in Central Asia was a trip he took with some friends along the Pamir highway. This road—one of the world’s highest—connects Bishkek to Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. Along with breathtaking views, Ryan and his comrades were introduced to the unfamiliar world of food products derived from yaks and their milk.

When Ryan returned to the States in July 2008, he did not want to lose the language skills that he had developed over the past year. He therefore gave himself the assignment of translating news articles into English from both Georgian and Russian, with the only criterion being that they address current events in the Caucasus. Furthermore, he decided to start a blog to host the results: “Exercises in Translation” at tarjimani.blogspot.com. (‘Tarjimani’ is Georgian for translator.)

Early on in this project, he began to see signs of looming conflict in Georgia, e.g., reports mentioning gunfire along the border of South Ossetia and Georgia proper. (South Ossetia, technically a province of Georgia, has had de facto autonomy since a 1991-1992 war ended in a stalemate.) When Georgian forces moved into the disputed province on August 7th, 2008, Ryan wanted to make sure that the English-speaking world had access to reports emerging from both sides of the conflict.

Erickson Profile continued on pg. 9
Student Life

Slavic Studies in Paris

College students spanning a range of majors will join Professors Yuri Tsivian, Robert Bird and Lina Steiner this winter at the University of Chicago Center in Paris under the auspices of the “Europe: East and West” study abroad program. Now entering its third year, this Slavic Languages and Literatures sequence explores the longstanding and multi-faceted connections between Russia, Eastern Europe and France, with special attention to Paris as the adoptive home of Russian and Eastern European émigrés.

Program participants take a series of three courses, each compressed into three weeks and taught by Chicago faculty. In 2010, Professor Tsivian’s course will examine three distinct periods in twentieth-century Russian cinema, including the powerful Russian émigré filmmaking that took place in France in 1927. With Professor Bird, students will consider how the Cold War political atmosphere contributed to the noir aesthetic in films and fiction of the 1950s, the ways in which this Cold War Noir affected science fiction in the 1960s, and the impact of these traditions in contemporary European fiction and film. The ten-week program will conclude with Professor Steiner’s course on hybrid identities, focusing on the works of Slavic artists and writers who spent much of their lives outside of their native cultural or linguistic milieus. Previous study of French is not required, though students will take a French class while in Paris.

As with all programs at Chicago’s Paris Center, “Europe: East and West” is enhanced by cultural experiences in and around Paris. A particular highlight of this program is a trip to an east European capital (Krakow in 2010), designed to 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. For more information, contact Sarah Walter, Assistant Dean for International Education (Harper 207A; 834-3753; scw@uchicago.edu), or visit http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu.

Ryan Erickson Profile, Continued

As we all now know, Russian troops moved into South Ossetia in response to the Georgian advance, and quickly routed the Georgian forces. The war ended with an August 12th ceasefire. A story that began as one about the Georgian military was thus eclipsed by a story about fears of Russian expansionism. Feeling that the US news coverage of the conflict was eliding or simplifying many important points, Ryan felt compelled to present other perspectives on the conflict. Diligently, then, over the month of August 2008, Ryan translated and posted to his blog over 150 news articles from the Georgian and Russian press related to the war.

In consequence, Ryan’s blog ceased to be a mere “exercise in translation,” and instead it emerged as a vital source of information about the South Ossetia War. During and after the fighting he was contacted by several journalists, and his blog was singled out by Wired.com as an important and unique news source on the conflict. Moreover, the blog received a large number of visitors with IP addresses located in Washington, DC and northern Virginia.

Ryan returned to Georgia for three months last summer, working for International Orthodox Christian Charities, a humanitarian NGO that was serving people displaced by the war. Although Ryan expected to discover Georgia changed by the conflict, he immediately sensed that the Georgia he had fallen in love with was still present. He notes one humbling experience that testifies to everyday, Georgian generosity: while he was delivering food to a conflict-affected village, one family offered him a meal that they had prepared with the meager supplies available to them. Initially, knowing their difficult circumstances, he felt that he could not accept their hospitality, but then he realized that giving was their way to feel normal, their way of being Georgian.

As Ryan finishes his final year of college, he continues to translate news articles on his blog. After graduation, Ryan plans to return to Georgia to work in the country’s NGO sector.
The 7th Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies was held this year at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on November 5-8, 2009.

The conference brought together an international group of scholars—including linguistics, anthropologists, literary scholars, and historians—all united by their research interests in the Republic of Macedonia. Begun in 1991, and held every three years thereafter, this conference presents a one-of-a-kind opportunity for scholars whose work focuses on topics related to Macedonia to share and comment on one another's work.

This year the conference was organized by Prof. Jane Hacking, chair of the University of Utah's Department of Languages and Literature.

The presentations were as follows:

**Session 1:** Victor Friedman, Chair
Maksim Karanfilovski (Ss. Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje) Za nekoi funkcii na imperativot vo makedonskiot jazik i vo drugite slovenski jazici
Wayles Browne (Cornell University) Asymmetrical learnability and decisions in standardization: The Bulgarian and Macedonian Case

**Session 2:** Christina Kramer, Chair
Victor Friedman (University of Chicago) Balkanskiot lingvistichki sojuz vo Makedonija Denes
Marjan Markovikj (Ss. Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje) Zamenkite vo aromanskiot ohridski govor (formi i funkcii)
Andrew Dombrowski (University of Chicago) On vowel contraction in Macedonian

**Session 3:** Jane Hacking, Chair
Eric Prendergast (UC-Berkeley) Pragmatic dimensions of Macedonian object reduplication
Elena Petrovska (Ss. Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje) Markers of evidentiality in Macedonian
Grace Fielder (University of Arizona) Authenticity and sociolinguistics of Macedonian

**Session 4:** Grace Fielder, Chair
Liljana Makarijowska (Krsite Misirkov Institute of Macedonian Language) Tugijo-jazichnite vlijanija vrz makedonskiot leksichki sistem (sovremeni sostojbi)
Christina Kramer (University of Toronto) Riddles from the archives
Katerina Veljanovska (Krsite Misirkov Institute of Macedonian Language) Frazemite vo jazikot na mediumite

**Session 5:** Elena Petrovska, Chair
Emilija Crvenkovska (Ss. Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje) Jazikon crkvenoslovenskite zapisi od Makedonija vo vremeto od Vizantiskata Imperija do Osmaniskata Imperija
Bill Darden (University of Chicago) Greek articles vs. Slavic relatives in the Strumitski Apostol and other early Slavic texts

**Session 6:** Loring Danforth, Chair
Vasiliki Neofotistos (SUNY-Buffalo) Alexander the Great and mythic homelands
Andrew Graan (University of Chicago) On doing nothing: Epidemic unemployment and urban sociality in Skopje, Macedonia

**Session 7:** Vasiliki Neofotistos, Chair
Philip Shashko (UW-Milwaukee) Tasos Kostopoulos on Macedonia and the Slavs in Greece: When a forbidden language speaks truth to power
Katherine Nastovski (York University) Between nationalism and solidarity: Assessing the KKE’s post-war positioning of the Macedonian National Liberation Struggle

**Session 8:** Philip Shashko, Chair
Loring Danforth (Bates College) Refugee children from the Greek Civil War
Mary Rossova (Toronto) From Trnaa to Toronto: The life story of a dete begalec
Traian Dimitriou (Toronto) A Macedonian child in a Greek technical school

**Session 9:** Masha Belyavski Frank, Chair
Michael Seraphinoff, The life and art of Atanas Kolarovski, a master performer and teacher of Macedonian folk dance
Maja Jakimovska-Toshich (Institute of Macedonian Literature) Medieval route of the Secret Book
Jordan Plevnes (Paris) Makedonsko-amerikanskite teatarski mostovi

**Session 10:** Michael Seraphinoff, Chair
Loreta Georgievskaja (Institute of Macedonian Literature) Makedonskiot roman i procesite na tranzicija
Masha Belyavski-Frank (DePauw University) Roast lamb and rakiya: Motifs of food and drink in contemporary Macedonian short stories
Lidija Kapusevska-Drakulevska (Krsite Misirkov Institute of Macedonian Language) Vavilonsko sharenilo na glasovi (makedonskata literatura vo periodot na tranzicija)
Recent Activities

Allan Sekula, “Polonia and Other Fables” Photography Exhibit at The Renaissance Society, June 20 to December 13.

Workshop On Electronic Resources For Slavic & East European Studies, by June Farris, Bibliographer for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, October 14-15.

CEERES Affiliates Speak at Humanities Day, October 24.

Robert Bird, “The Fall of Communism (Twenty Years On)”

Philip Bohlman and Christine Wilkie Bohlman, “Music Drama of the Holocaust - Performance and Lecture”

Tamra Wysocki-Niimi, “Adventure in the Caucasus: Capturing and Creating Video Materials for Teaching about Georgia”

The 9th International Conference on Greek Linguistics at International House, October 29-31.


“With Immediate Effect” — The Events Of 1989 Revisited

Roundtable with the Consuls General of Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Poland, November 4.

Film: Rabbit à la Berlin, November 5.

Film: After the Velvet Revolution, November 6.

Film: 12:08 East of Bucharest, November 7.


Council on Advanced Studies Workshops
Fall 2009

Anthropology of Europe Workshop: “Europe’s Vanguard at the EU’s Margins: The Making of Active Youth in Lithuania” by Marina Mikhaylova (U. Chicago)

The Language Variation and Change Workshop: “Hermann Grassmann: What He Did for Linguistics” by John Ohala (Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley)

The Late Antiquity and Byzantium Workshop: “The Medieval Origins of Modern Chronology: Confusion - Crisis – Resolutions” by Carl Philipp Emanuel Nothaft (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität)

Modern European and Russian Studies Workshop: “Hiring Shamans; Ordering Drums: The Economics of Ethnography in Siberia” by Julia Fein (U. Chicago)


Politics, Communication and Society Workshop: “Sentimental Kritika: Hazardous Dialectics and Deictics of Accountability in Socialist Secular Criticism” by Jonathan Larson (University of Iowa)

The Language Variation and Change Workshop: “The Geography of Linguistic Complexity” by Johanna Nichols (Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley)

Modern European and Russian Studies Workshop: “Getting Personal: On Subjectivity in History” by Sheila Fitzpatrick (U. Chicago)

The Human Rights Workshop: “Ottoman Barbarities, Greek Rights and the Orientalist Imaginary of Liberalism” by Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud (U. Chicago)

Ethnoise! and the Anthropology of Europe Workshop: “Serbian Musical Dialects: A Survey of Local Traditions and Regional Influences” by Dr. Dimitrije Golemovic (Professor and Chair of the Department of Ethnomusicology in the Faculty of Music Arts, University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia)

The Medicine, Body and Practice Workshop and the Anthropology of Europe Workshop: “Surviving” and the Limits of Experience: Health Anxieties, Obituary Gatherings, and Popular Politics at the Bosnian Market” by Larisa Jasarevic (U. Chicago)

Poetry & Poetics Workshop: “Pindaric Temporality in German and Russian Romanticism” by Boris Maslov (U. Chicago)


Language Variation and Change Workshop: “Vowel Harmony Loss in West Rumelian Turkish” by Andy Dombrowski (U. Chicago)

Language Variation and Change Workshop: “Balkan Sprachbund Features in Samsun Albanian” by Kelly Maynard (CEERES)
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New Faces @ Chicago, 09-10

New Faculty

BORIS MASLOV joins the Department of Comparative Literature in Fall 2009 as an Assistant Professor. A native of Saint Petersburg, he received both his B.A. (Classics and Slavic) and his Ph.D. (Comparative Literature) degrees from UC Berkeley. His dissertation, which focuses on the evolution of Archaic Greek lyric genres, draws on the methodology of the Russian school of historical poetics. Maslov is currently working on a series of studies on the conceptual history of the Christian East. He has published articles on Old Russian stikhi pokaiannye, formulas in Tyutchev’s poetry, narrative poetics of Leonid Dobychin, and on Nabokov’s Dar.

RYAN ERIKSON is a Fourth-Year student in the College majoring in Chemistry, and a student assistant this year at CEERES. Though he is pursuing a degree in the sciences, his true passion is the Caucasus, particularly Georgia. He has spent over a year living in Georgia where he studied Georgian. This last summer, he was in Georgia as an intern for an international NGO where he assisted in relief efforts following last year’s war. In his free time, Ryan likes to watch Georgian sitcoms and translate Georgian and Russian news articles for his blog “Exercises in Translation.”

LARISA JAŠAREVIĆ is a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago Department of Anthropology with research interests in Bosnia-Herzegovina and European Postsocialism. Her doctoral research looks at Bosnian social and cultural practices of gifting and debting in the demonetized postsocialist economy. In particular, her work shows how these practices intertwine anxieties about health with tactics that circulate and generate forms of wealth. With the attention to the intimate exchanges of health advice and remedies as well as exchanges of gifts, commodities, and promises of money, her research traces popular trajectories that regularly lead from the marketplaces to the medical sites of conventional, traditional, and alternative therapy and outline in the process historically particular forms of living and being political.

OWEN KOHL Under the auspices of a Watson Fellowship in 2002-2003, Kohl began preliminary ethnographic research on global manifestations of hip hop social practice in France, Senegal, Croatia, Russia, and Mongolia. Since 2006, Kohl has been enrolled as a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology. His planned dissertation project focuses on communities of hip hop musicians in Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and seeks to analyze how regional creative ideologies intersect with broader political and generic concerns. Beyond research, CEERES, and anthropology, Kohl’s passions also extend to filmmaking, at-home DJing, and consuming broadcasts of Boston Celtics basketball.

ANDY GRAAN is the new CEERES Outreach Coordinator. He is also a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Anthropology. His soon-to-be-defended dissertation is entitled Watching the World Watch: News Media and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention in Post-Conflict Macedonia. The dissertation analyzes the cultural politics of international intervention in Macedonia following the 2001 conflict: tracing the circulation of public discourses through news media and political speech, the work connects Macedonian political actors’ struggles to command public authority to the “politics of recognition” that characterized post-conflict democratization and Euro-Atlantic integration. He is very happy to have joined the CEERES’ zadruga and to pick up where his predecessor, Jeremy Pinkham, left off.
NEW ELECTRONIC DATABASES
- **Current Digest of the Post-Soviet Press, 1949-current**
- **Linguistic Bibliography Online**
  This database covers all disciplines of theoretical linguistics, both general and language specific, from all geographical areas, including less-known and extinct languages, with particular attention to the many endangered languages of the world. Among the main categories are Indo-European Languages, Caucasian Languages, and Eurasian Languages. (N.b., it is the electronic version of “Linguistic Bibliography for the Year….“)

NEW LIBRARY WEB PAGE FOR LINGUISTICS
There is a new Library web page for General Linguistics: http://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/linguistics. It includes links to many sources which include significant amounts of Slavic, East European and Eurasian material. You can also get to the web page by using the A-Z link under Research Guides by Subject on the Library’s home page.

RECENT NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS
- **Assassination of Russian Prime Minister Pyotr Stolypin, 1911: A Collection of Documents = Materialy po ubistvu P. A. Stolypina v sentiabre 1911 goda: Arkhivnye dokumenty. 4 reels [DK254.S595 A77 1911 3rd Floor Microforms]**
- **Early Russian Cinema: The Russian Cinematographic Press, 1907-1918. Part III. 21 titles [not yet cataloged]**

NEW SERIAL TITLES
- **Cultures d’Europe centrale (Paris) v. 1-2001- [AZ638.5.A1C85]**
  - **Istoricheskii vestnik (Nal’chik) v. 1- 2005- [DK511.C2I757]**
  - **Linguistica Copernicana (Torun) v. 1-2009- [P9.I49]**
  - **Politiko-filosofskii ezhegodnik (Moskva) v. 1-2008-. [JA74.5.P646]**
  - **Vestnik Obozhevatel’ia Drevnei Russi (Moskva) 2002- [PG3001.V48]**
  - **Zinziyer: Sankt-Peterburgskii literaturno-khudozhestvenny zhurnal (SPb) 2005-**

RUSSIAN SATIRICAL JOURNALS PUBLISHED DURING THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1905-1907
The Library’s Special Collections Research Center has now finished cataloging a previously “hidden” collection—Russian satirical journals—which number 110 titles in 378 issues. It has been cataloged as a single collection at FDK262.R9 (located in Special Collections Rare Books). To see a list of the individual titles, search the online catalog by the call number or by the title given in the heading above. To see a list of the individual titles, search the online catalog by the call number or by the title given in the heading above. Researchers can make arrangements to use this collection by logging in at http://forms.lib.uchicago.edu/lib/aon/aon.php, visiting SCRC in person (130 Regenstein) or by calling 1-773-702-8705.

WOMEN & THE FAMILY IN THE POST-SOVIET STATES & EASTERN EUROPE: SELECT LIST OF RECENTLY ACQUIRED TITLES
The 2009 installment of this on-going bibliographic can be found on the Slavic web page at: http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/su/slavic/wofam6_09.pdf

Submitted by June Pachuta Farris, Bibliographer for Slavic, E. European and Central Eurasian Studies, The University of Chicago Library

Complete event details can always be found at ceeres.uchicago.edu

January 27
Prof. Lynn Haney (Sociology, NYU) will present at the Anthropology of Europe Workshop Details: cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/antheur/

February 4-6
New Histories of Modern Art: The East European Avant-Gardes
An International Symposium See page 2.

March 19-20
45th Anniversary Spring Festival A Folkdancing Extravaganza
International House Details: ihouse.uchicago.edu

May 8-9
30th Annual Slavic Forum
Franke Institute for the Humanities Details: slavic.uchicago.edu/
Accolades

Victor A. Friedman (Slavic and Linguistics) received the Krste P. Misirkov Lifetime Achievement award from the Ramkovski Foundation-Macedonia, for his contributions to Macedonian scholarship. Awarded in Skopje, Macedonia on 7 September 2009.

Malyne Sternstein (Slavic) was awarded the 2009 Llewellyn John & Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Kabir Tambar (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) received the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Award for his essay, “Paradoxes of Pluralism: Ritual Aesthetics and the Alevi Revival in Turkey.”

Faculty News


Türkiye’nin Balkan Roman Ağızları Üzerine Etkisi [Turkish: Turkish influence on Balkan romani dialects]. Conference Türkiye’nin Balkan Dilleri Üzerine Etkisi [Turkish influence on the Balkan languages]. Skopje, Macedonia, 29 May 2009.


Lectures:

Ideologija na ezika i ezikova praktika v regiona na Balkanite [Bulgarian: Linguistic ideology and practice in the Balkans]. Department of Anthropology, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, 28 April 2009.


Closing promotion speech for Deloto na akademik Viktor Fridman [Macedonian: The work of academician Victor Friedman]. Macedonia Academy of Arts and Sciences, Skopje, 14 May 2009.

Albanian Admirativity, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, The Ohio State University, Columbus, 3 August 2009.


Joanna Kurowska-Młynarczyk (Slavic) published:

“Poem”; “tsunami”; “On piety”; “No Doubt”; “Coming here”; and “That Bird”). Concise Delight Vol. 1, No. 1., pgs. 88-9

Kurowska-Młynarczyk also held a poetry reading on July 21, 2009 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.


Tolga Esmer (Ph.D. Student, History) defended his dissertation, “A Culture of Rebellion: Networks of Violence and Competing Discourses of Justice in the Ottoman Empire, 1790-1808” and joined Central European University’s Department of History as an assistant professor.


Andrew Sloin (Ph.D. Student, History) defended his dissertation, “Pale Fire: Jews in Revolutionary Belorussia, 1917-1929,” and now has a visiting professorship in Jewish Studies at Earlham College.

Kabir Tambar (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) defended his dissertation, “Stones of Karbala: Sectarian Dimensions of Secularism in Turkey,” and began an assistant professorship in the University of Vermont’s Department of Religion.

Jeremy Walton (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) defended his dissertation, “Horizons and Histories of Liberal Piety: Civil Islam and Secularism in Contemporary Turkey.” He now teaches in New York University’s Department of Religion as an assistant professor/faculty fellow.


Larisa Jašarević (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) was awarded a Starr Lectureship from the Department of Anthropology to reach her course, “Reading Ethnographies: Healing Practice/Political Disorders.”

Owen Kohl (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) was awarded a M.A. for his thesis, “CROnnect: The Shifting Value of ‘the US’ and ‘the Balkans’ in Hip Hop in Croatia.”

Marina Mikhaylova (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) received a Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship from the U of C Division of Social Sciences for her dissertation, “Nation-State and the Politics of Youth in Contemporary Lithuania.”

Nelly Samoukova (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) won a Provost’s Summer Grant to conduct preliminary research for her project, “The Post-Soviet Body in Crisis: Healing and Medicine in Contemporary Russia”

Tatiana Tchoudakova (Ph.D. Student, Anthropology) was awarded a Dissertation Fieldwork Grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation for her project, “The Institutionalization of Tibetan Medicine in Post-Soviet Buryatia.”

Natalja Czarnecki (Anthro) Georgian
Kathryn Franklin (Anthro) Armenian
Nicholas Hudac (Slavic) Czech
Owen Kohl (Anthro) BCS
Kevin Lowry (Anthro) Russian
Louisa McClintock (Sociology) Polish
Erin Pappas (Anthro) BCS
Antje Postema (Slavic) Russian

Natalja Czarnecki (Anthro) Georgian
Kathryn Franklin (Anthro) Armenian
Nicholas Hudac (Slavic) Czech
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