Dear CEERES Community,

As Acting Director during the 2008-09 academic year, I have had the chance to respond to the many exciting programming opportunities that happen at The University of Chicago at the same time that we have witnessed a year of significant challenges to the economic stability of our country.

As a Title VI National Resource Center, we have already begun to partner with departments on campus and other regional institutions to plan for the next four-year grant cycle. With many institutions facing cuts and staffing freezes, we at CEERES recognize the importance of locating diverse and fruitful collaborations within and beyond our community in order to maximize resources and continue to expand our audience. With this in mind, I write to you to welcome suggestions of creative partnerships as we begin to plan the next grant and I hand the directorship of CEERES back to Prof. Victor Friedman.

The Winter and Spring quarters at The University of Chicago endured a prolonged winter, yet enjoyed a warm intellectual and cultural climate marked by distinguished visiting speakers, ground-breaking workshops, and diverse musical experiences. Amid the line-up: The Bosnian writer, by way of Chicago, Aleksandar Hemon delighted a large audience with a reading from his forthcoming book of stories Love and Obstactles. CEERES embarked on a unique institutional and geographic collaborative workshop with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University to discuss Islam at the Edges: Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia. In a series of performances, The University community and students from all over Chicago were treated to the striking sounds of Tuva by the renown group Alash.

It is my hope that coverage of the events and research coming out of The University of Chicago and announcements of future activities contained within this issue will inspire us all to engage in the mission of educating our students and community in the complex and compelling issues of the CEERES region.

~Susan Gal, Acting Director

In Memoriam

Richard Hellie
1937-2009
Tribute on p. 15
In 2008, the Joint American-Armenian Project for the Archaeology and Geography of Early Transcaucasian Societies (a.k.a. Project ArAGATS) celebrated a decade of research in the Tsaghkahovit Plain of central Armenia. The project began as a collaboration between Ruben Badalyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Yerevan) and myself. Today, the team includes project leaders, analytical specialists, and graduate students from institutions in the United States, France, Germany, and Armenia. Our central concern is to examine three interlocking anthropological problems through the lens of the South Caucasus’s unique (pre)history: the dynamics of early village life during the Early Bronze Age (ca. 4500-3400 B.C.), the emergence of complex polities during the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1500-1150 B.C.), and the transformation of local traditions under the Persian empire of the mid-1st millennium B.C. Today, we are starting to piece together a sense of the overarching (pre)historical narrative of the region across two and a half millennia.

Our investigations in the region began in 1998 when we initiated a systematic intensive survey that ultimately covered over 98 km2 of the mountain slopes surrounding the plain. These investigations have revealed the broad contours of regional occupation with four major eras of settlement prior to the crystallization of the modern landscape: the Early Bronze Age (ca. 3500-2600 B.C.), the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1500-1150 B.C.), the late Middle Iron Age (ca. 600-200 B.C.), and the Medieval Period (ca. A.D. 300-1220). Our primary investigations have focused on the three millennia from the initial Early Bronze Age through the end of the Middle Iron Age. The remains that we encountered on survey were primarily architectural—small settlements, irrigation facilities, corrals, and above all, cemeteries. We recorded 184 cemeteries dated to the Late Bronze Age, suggesting a population density in excess of current levels. Since 2002, our research program has focused on intensive excavations at the region’s major sites, concentrating primarily on intensive excavations at the multi-component sites of Tsaghkahovit and Gegharot.

At present, the beginning of the Early Bronze Age in the Tsaghkahovit Plain is known primarily from well-preserved domestic and mortuary remains found on the upper reaches of the rock outcrop at the site of Gegharot. This occupation appears to have centered on a small egalitarian farming village. Excavations have uncovered well-preserved residential and mortuary contexts from the late 4th millennium B.C. through the early 3rd. The best preserved residential complex is a pair of rooms located on the western edge of the summit. Each room had a clay oven about which were strewn the artifactual remains of everyday life: spindle whorls for spinning thread, sickle blades for harvesting grain, obsidian tools, bronze weapons, and clay andirons. We also uncovered a contemporary collective tomb on an upper terrace of the site containing the remains of three individuals.

During the mid-3rd millennium B.C., it appears that life in the Tsaghkahovit plain was centered in small villages engaged in primarily mixed agro-pastoral production with what appears to be little evidence for social stratification. However, sometime around the mid-3rd millennium, Gegharot, and almost every other village in the South Caucasus, was abandoned, supplanted by an era of nomadic mobility and martial violence which accompanied the emergence of a radically stratified social order. For eight centuries, the archaeological record of Armenia, including the Tsaghkahovit Plain, provides only the remains of mortuary monuments—settlements virtually disappear from view. Only with the rise of fortified settlements in the mid-2nd millennium B.C. do permanent settlements reappear, ending a long archaeological hiatus in the Tsaghkahovit Plain.

The first clear evidence for socio-political complexity in the South Caucasus appears during the Late Bronze Age. The era is marked most conspicuously in the Tsaghkahovit plain by the appearance of numerous variably sized stone-masonry fortresses built atop hills and outcrops, including new fortresses at Gegharot and the eponymous site of Tsaghkahovit. Excavations from both sites have revealed evidence for an integrated series of new practices critical to the maintenance of new forms of authority, including workshops for wool and metal production and small shrines.

At Gegharot, we uncovered a particularly large
Adam T. Smith (PhD, U Arizona 1996) is Associate Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences in the College is an archeologist specializing in the Bronze and Iron Ages of the South Caucasus, Southwest Asia and central Eurasia; complex societies, state formation, and politics; archaeological theory; space and landscape; representation and aesthetics.


Prof. Smith is Co-Director of The American-Armenian Project for the Archaeology and Geography of ancient Transcaucasian Societies (http://aragats.net/), and the Treasurer of The American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (http://www.arisc.org/).

The American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) is an American Overseas Research Center being established in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Initial funding through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC, see www.caorc.org) supports an ARISC representative in Baku, Leyla Rustamli, who will be available to meet and greet US scholars as of May 4, 2009 (ARISCBaku@yahoo.com). Leyla Rustamli will be working out of the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) office at 44, J. Jabbarli Street, Caspian Plaza, 7th floor, Baku AZ1065, Azerbaijan, during the hours of 9:00-12:00 Mondays through Fridays. Ms. Rustamli will provide guidance to US scholars on basic needs to conduct their research in Azerbaijan, including information on libraries, archives, local scholars and permits. She will also be coordinating several lectures and events in Baku sponsored by ARISC. Ms. Rustamli can be reached at ARISCBaku@yahoo.com.

For more information about ARISC, visit the website www.arisc.org or send e-mail to info@arisc.org.
Hemon feels Love, no Obstacles on two Chicago visits

Aleksandar Hemon, the Sarajevo-born writer who has lived in Chicago since 1992, visited The University of Chicago campus twice this spring in anticipation of his new collection of stories Love and Obstacles.

The first event took place on February 11 at the Franke Institute for the Humanities. Slavic Department lecturer, and Hemon’s friend, Nada Petković introduced the writer, and Anthropology graduate student Owen Kohl, who is studying BCS and conducting research on hip-hop culture in the former Yugoslavia, moderated a question and answer session, following a reading by Hemon.

Co-sponsors were CEERES, The Arts Council, the College, Slavic Languages & Literatures, the Anthropology of Europe Workshop, and the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

Hemon appeared again on campus under the auspices of the Committee on Creative Writing on May 5, in the company of fellow Chicago writer Stuart Dybek. They offered a panel discussion on “Craft and the Imagination” with fiction instructor Elizabeth Crane, discussing the process of collaborative teaching, as well as the relationship between the craft of writing and the imaginative forces behind generating work. A day later, Hemon gave an encore reading from Love and Obstacles.

Aleksandar Hemon was born in Sarajevo and graduated from the University of Sarajevo with a degree in literature in 1990. He came to Chicago in 1992 on an exchange, intending to stay only a few months, but war broke out in Bosnia and Hemon remained in Chicago. By 1995, he was already writing in English, and his work soon appeared in The New Yorker, Esquire, The Paris Review, and elsewhere. His first collection of stories, The Question of Bruno (Talese/Doubleday, 2000) won the Ploughshares 2001 John C. Zacharias First Book Award, appeared on Best Books of 2000 lists nationwide, and has been published in eighteen countries.

Hemon’s writing in his debut novel Nowhere Man (Talese/Doubleday, 2002), has been compared to Nabokov’s. Nowhere Man was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His 2008 novel The Lazarus Project was a National Book Award finalist.

In addition to producing works in English, Hemon runs a biweekly column called “Hemonwood” in the Sarajevo-based magazine BH Dani. Hemon has received numerous awards, nominations and prizes, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2003 and a “genius grant” from the MacArthur Foundation in 2004.
Islam at the Edges, NIU and U. Chicago

“Islam at the Edges: Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia,” a colloquium held at Northern Illinois University on March 30, 2009, was conceived jointly by CEERES and NIU’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS). The workshop explored the concept of European-Asian continuity from a salient and innovative perspective: Europe and Asia as parts of the Islamic world.

Faculty and graduate students from the two universities, and other international partners—representing such varied disciplines as anthropology, history, linguistics and religious studies—gathered to explore the links between Europe and Asia vis a vis their peripheral position in the Islamic world. By focusing on the “edges” of the Islamic world, namely Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia, the specialists attempted to locate a new vantage point for understanding the present and past unities of Eurasia, as well as the inherent fragility of such peripheral areas of confrontation and conceptualization.

The colloquium began with a morning of scholarly papers spread across disciplines, regions, and time periods, which set the stage for panel discussions in the afternoon which tied these diversities together. A parallel session targeted toward K-16 educators offered strategies for teaching the complex and often misunderstood world of Islam in the classroom.

Originally conceived years ago by CSEAS Director Jim Collins and CEERES Director Victor A. Friedman, this inaugural colloquium was ultimately realized with Title VI NRC funding, and by a grant from the Illinois Network on Islam and Muslim Societies (INIMS), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. With the cooperation of various institutions in the United States, Europe and Asia, a series of colloquia is being planned for the next five years, as well as appropriate publications flowing from these colloquia and future research and teaching collaborations.

The following papers and topics were presented at the workshop:

**Susan Russell** (Northern Illinois University) The ‘Other Side’ of the Mindanao Conflict: Civil Society and the Struggle for Conflict Transformation in the Southern Philippines

**Shamsul Amri Baharuddin** (National University of Malaysia) At the Centre of the Edge: Southeast Asian Islam and Globalization

**Kelly Maynard** (The University of Chicago) The Albanian Diaspora in Turkey: Competing Ethnic, Religious, and Civil Identities

**J.D. Bowers** (Northern Illinois University) At the Edge of the Edge: Islam and its Role in the Cypriot Problem

**Nagasura Madale** (Capitol University, Philippines) An Anthropological Journey into the World of Islam at the Edges: Contrasting Perspectives

**Larisa Jašarević** (The University of Chicago) A Detour to Islam: Popular Health Therapies in Postsocialist Bosnia

**Edin Hajdarpasić** (Loyola University) Out of the Ruins of the Ottoman Empire: Reinterpreting the Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans

**Michael Buehler** (Columbia University) Faith-based Movements and Democracy in Southeast Asia: Indonesia and Malaysia Compared

**Francois Robinne** (Université de Provence, France) The Panthay: Transcending the Restrictive Categories “Burmese”, “Chinese”, and “Muslim”?

**Owen Kohl** (University of Chicago) The US as a Symbolic Resource for Hip Hop in Croatia
Slavic Colloquium

The University of Chicago Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures Colloquium is normally scheduled for every other Thursday. A schedule can be found at the department’s website http://slavic.uchicago.edu/.

Winter and Spring 2009 Colloquia are:


David Bethea, “The Evolution of Evolution: Genes, Memes, Intelligent Design and Nabokov”

Alice Lovejoy, “The Other Czechoslovak New Wave: Army Documentary and the Prague Spring”

Zoran Samardija, “The Ogre in the Tunnel: Nationalisms in the New Europe”


Boris Groys, “Post-Secular Religions: Between Ritual and Technical Reproduction”

Rad Borislavov, “White Rabbit, Black Rabbit: Victor Shklovsky and Soviet Biology”

Andrew Wachtel (Northwestern), “Reading Solzhensin’s ‘One Day’ in Context”

Boris Wolfson (Amherst), “By Fire and Word: Collectivizing the Novel in ‘Bol’shie Pozhary’”

Esther Peters (UChicago), “The Prophetic in Action: Gogol, Kafka, Hrabal and Writing”

Council on Advanced Studies Workshops
Winter & Spring 2009


Alison Frank (Harvard) “Imperial Trieste: Commerce, Culture, and Communities of Interest on the Habsburg Adriatic.” Russian and Modern Europe Studies Workshop.


Joerg Hackmann (University of Greifswald) “Civil Society Under Adverse Conditions? Voluntary Associations and the State in Russia’s Baltic Region (19th Century).” Russian and Modern Europe Studies Workshop.


Archil Kikodze “Georgia - Diversity and Environment: Reflections on the History, Political Geography, and Cultures of a Newly Independent State.” Anthropology of Europe Workshop.

Dan Koehler “Enchanting Protestantism: Evangelical Revivalism and Its Enemies in Modern Germany, 1871-1918.” Russian and Modern Europe Studies Workshop.


Dr. Andrea Seidler (University of Vienna) “Multilingualism and Interethnicity in the Habsburg Empire: Evidence from Literature and the Popular Press.” Anthropology of Europe Workshop.


Julie Thorpe “Exhibiting ‘Refugeedom’: The 1915 War Aid Exhibition in Vienna.” Russian and Modern Europe Studies Workshop.

Other Activities


Shen Shaomin, documentary filmmaker, screening his film “I’m Chinese,” April 6.

Arkadi Doubintchik, Russian musician in concert, April 12.


Rafia Zakaria (Indiana) “Muslim Women, the Veil and Human Rights.” K-12 Teacher Workshop, April 23.

Inna Faliks, Noontime Piano Concert, April 23.


Slobodan Naumović (University of Belgrade) “Golgotha and Resurrection: Destiny Myths, Victimization, and Nationalism in Early Serbian Cinematography,” April 27.


Irakly George Areshidze “Democracy in Georgia: Challenges and Opportunities.” May 11.

The 12th Annual Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop was held at The University of Chicago on April 24th, 2009. The following roster of international participants presented papers:

Francis Butler (University of Illinois) “Shining Objects in the Tale and Passion and Encomium of the Holy Martyrs Boris and Gleb”

Sarah Turner (University of Waterloo, Canada) “Epifanij as Writer and Editor: Some Observations on Word Order in His Zhitije”

David J. Birnbaum, Erin Alpert, Irina Anisimova, Hillary Brevig, Julie Draskoczy, Olga Klimova, Elise Thorsen (University of Pittsburgh) “Internet Publication of a Russian Festal Icon”

Christian Raffensperger (Wittenburg University) and David J. Birnbaum (University of Pittsburgh), “Mapping History: Using Technology to Showcase Medieval Familial Interconnectivity”

David Miller (Roosevelt University) “Who Chooses? The Politics of the Installation of Metropolitan Iosaf of Moscow in 1539”

Valentina Pichugin (University of Chicago) “Life of Ilya Muromets: To Be Continued”

Ann Kleimola (University of Nebraska) “The Riddles of the Dmitrov Ceramic Icons”
Albanian Linguistics given forum, new technology @Chicago

On February 28, 2009, CEERES hosted a new Albanian Linguistics Workshop at the Franke Institute for the Humanities. The workshop featured an array of young scholars presenting in the company of such senior linguists as Brian D. Joseph, of The Ohio State University and out-going editor of Language, the journal of the Linguistics Society of America; Alex Murzaku, of the College of St. Elizabeth; and distinguished University of Chicago emeritus Eric P. Hamp, who regaled the junior linguists with his characteristically thoughtful and subtle comments throughout the day-long workshop, which concluded with Hamp’s own research presentation.

Working with Visiting Lecturer in Slavic Languages and Literatures Kelly Lynne Maynard to organize the workshop, CEERES received support from the Anthropology of Europe Workshop, the Anthropology Student Association, Balkan Express Student Association, Department of Linguistics, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

The workshop also served as a pilot for newly acquired technology to record and archive campus events. Collaborating with Arno Bosse, Director of Technology in the Dean’s Office of the Humanities Division, CEERES captured the audio and the visual slideshow components of each paper presentation. Upon the conclusion of each paper, the audio and visual capture was posted directly to a blog-style conference website. The research presented at the workshop can now be viewed in perpetuity by scholars around the world at http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/albling/.

The success of this workshop is a testament to the home that The University of Chicago provides for Balkan linguistics, and in particular, the dedicated work of Kelly Lynne Maynard during 2008-09.

In order of the day, the presentations were:

Rachel Klippenstein (The Ohio State U.) “A Corpus-based Investigation of Albanian Initial Consonant Clusters”

Matthew C. Curtis (The Ohio State U.) “On /xh/ and Albanian Allolinguistics”

Alex Murzaku (College of St. Elizabeth) “Parallels between Deixis and Tense”

Jerry L. Morgan (UI Urbana-Champaign) “Nyje the Albanian Particle of Concord”

Anastasia Smirnova (The Ohio State U.) “The Meaning of the Present Tense in Albanian from a Cross-linguistic Perspective”

Eda Derhemi (UIUC) “What’s wrong with the standard Albanian we already have?”

Kelly Lynne Maynard (U. Chicago) “Samsun Albanian”

Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State U.) “The etymology of the Albanian stër- prefix”

Andrew Dombrowski (U. Chicago) “Vowel-Zero Alternations in Albanian and Morphophonological Contact”

Daniel Moore (U. Chicago) “Albanian Syntax”


Maria Bankova (U. Chicago) “Object doubling in Albanian”

Eric P. Hamp (U. Chicago) “The Suppletive Verbs jam, kam, dua, vdes”

Check it out at http://ceeres.blogspot.com
Each year the graduate students of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures organize a forum for new graduate research, which attracts papers from various disciplines across The University of Chicago, and accepts papers from young scholars at other institutions as well. The 29th Annual Slavic Forum took place May 8-9, 2009 with support from CEERES, The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Humanities Division Graduate Student Council, and Student Government.

Praising the graduate student-led forum, Slavic Department Chair Robert Bird said, “The participants were drawn from several distinct fields but the papers were all at a uniformly high level, showcasing the unity in diversity that characterizes Slavic studies.”

Following are the presenters and papers:

**Keynote Address:** Prof. Lina Steiner (The University of Chicago) “A Choice of Inheritance: Karamzin’s Sentimental Politics and Pushkin’s Turn to Prose”

**Session 1: Images of Otherness**

**Discussant:** Prof. Bożena Shallcross (The University of Chicago)

Zdenko Mandusic (The University of Chicago) How Formalists Watched Movies: Shklovsky, Pudovkin, and The End of St. Petersburg

Meghan Forbes (Columbia University) Images of America in the Letters of Bohumil Hrabal

Anna Szawara (The University of Chicago) The ‘Good Russian’ in Polish Literature and Art

**Session 2: Linguistics Panel**

**Andrzej Dombrowski** (The University of Chicago) Albanian-Slavic Contact and the Modeling of Phonological Borrowing

Petia Alexieva (The University of Chicago) Reflexive Pronouns in Russian and Bulgarian

Snezhana Zheltoukhova (University of Missouri) Paper title TBA

**Session 3: Resistance**

**Discussant:** Prof. Susan Larsen (The University of Chicago)

Leah Goldman (The University of Chicago) A Desire to Fall: Action and Ideology in Kundera’s The Unbearable Lightness of Being

Amy Garey (The University of Chicago) Aleksandr Galich: Performance and the Politics of the Everyday

**Session 4: Fathers and Sons**

**Discussant:** Prof. Robert Bird (The University of Chicago)

Clinton Buhler (The Ohio State University) Stalin on His Own Terms: Artistic Confrontation with the Stalinist Legacy

Peter Kupfer (The University of Chicago) “We can sing and laugh like children!”: Music, Ideology, and Entertainment in Soviet Musical Comedies of the 1930s

**Session 5: Identity**

**Discussant:** Prof. Sasha Spektor (University of Illinois-Chicago)

Lauren Dueck (The University of Chicago) Revealing the Devil: Reading the Apocalypse in Dostoevsky’s Demons

Cassio de Oliveira (Yale University) The Aesthetics of Modernity in Innokentii Annenskii’s “Trilistnik vagonnyi”

Yelena Zotova (University of Illinois-Chicago) Konstantin Vaginov and Mikhail Bakhtin: Envy as “Vzhivaniie”
Faculty News

Victor A. Friedman (CEERES, Slavic, Linguistics)

Publications


Media
Victor Friedman on Macedonia: the Balkanalysis.com Interview 12/14/2008

Newspaper report Makedonija beše i së ušte e centar na jazična inovacija (Macedonia was and is a Center of Linguistic Innovation), Urinski vestnik 14 March 2009, p. 17.

V. Friedman continued...

Lectures

Intersections between Linguistic and Ethnomusicological Fieldwork, Conference “From the Field to the Concert”, University of Bologna, Italy 4-7 December 2008.


Language Politics and Language Policies in the Western Balkans: Ininitives, Turkisms and EUrology, Kennedy Institute - Free University of Berlin, 11 February 2009.

On Defining the Sprachbund: Areal vs Typological Linguistics in the Balkans and Europe”, University of Potsdam, 12 February 2009.

Bucephalos as Trojan Horse: Competing Discourses of Autochthony in the Republic of Macedonia, Institute for Southeast European Studies, Free University of Berlin, 13 February 2009.

Dialectology, Typology, and Areal Linguistics, Linguistics Department, University of Manchester, 24 February 2009.

Makedonski kako slovenski i balkanski jazik [Macedonian as a Slavic and as a Balkan language], opening lecture for post-graduate students in Macedonian Studies, University sts. Cyril and Methodius of Skopje, 28 February 2009.

Makedonija i Evropa od lingvistikcha gledna tochak (Macedonian: Macedonia and Europe from the viewpoint of linguistics). Public lecture sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Filological Faculty, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje, 13 March 2009.

Božena Shallcross (Slavic)

Publications


Book review

Conference presentations:


Guest lectures


Recent reviews of her research:

Tomasz Zarycki, on Polish Encounters, Russian Identity, for Slavonic and East European Review, 2008:86/1.


The Kosciusko Foundation’s Academic Advisory Committee, member.
The University of South Carolina Book Prize in Literary/Cultural Studies Committee at AAASS, member.
A Radio interview for the CBC Radio
A TV interview for the Shaw Cable

Russell Zanca (CEERES Associate Member, Assoc. Professor of Anthropology at NEIU) was elected to the Executive Board of the Central Eurasian Studies Society.
He taught the course “Central Asia, Past and Present” at Chicago during Spring Quarter ‘09.

Staff Notes

Jeremy Pinkham, Outreach Coordinator and News Editor will be leaving the staff as of June to move to North Carolina. He reflects fondly on three years here, and wishes the CEERES community continued success.

10th Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest:
The following University of Chicago undergraduate students placed in the national contest:

Anna Jones, Third Place
Ethan Bass, Honorable Mention
Lauren Larison, Honorable Mention (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 1)

Victoria Kraft, Honorable Mention (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 2)
Tomasz Blusiewicz, Honorable Mention (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Brinton Ahlin, Third Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 4)

The National Russian Essay Contest is co-sponsored by CEERES and the College, along with other participating colleges, universities and NRCs.

2009 Summer FLAS Fellowships

Natalja Czarnecki (Anthropology) Russian
Dana Immertreu (History) Russian
Owen Kohl (Anthropology) Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
Zdenko Mandiusic (Slavic Languages and Literatures) Russian
Antje Postema (Slavic Languages and Literatures) Russian
Jason Swiecki (Slavic Languages and Literatures) Polish
Benjamin White (Anthropology) Albanian

Congratulations, Fulbrighters!
The University of Chicago newspaper The Maroon (May 12, 2009) reports that 19 UC students were awarded Fulbright fellowships for 2009-10. An impressive amount of these students will be traveling to the CEERES region to conduct their post-graduate and dissertation-level research.

Among these students is Brinton Ahlin, CEERES Project Assistant graduating with a BA in Anthropology. His award will take him to Tajikistan for his project “Migration, Consumption and the Construction of Tradition in Northern Tajikistan.” Quoted from The Maroon about his project, Brinton said “I found the confluence of cultural influences there and the nostalgia for the Soviet Union to be fascinating.” The Maroon continued, “Ahlin’s project will be a direct continuation of his BA research on the effects of mass Tajik migration to Russia. He will live with families in a village in northern Tajikistan to explicate the various social obligations and desires that affect the decisions of migrant workers and their families.”

Other students traveling to the region are:
Elizabeth Fagan (Graduate Student, Archaeology) received both a Fulbright-Hays and a Fulbright IIE for her project “Speaking Stones: Epigraphy and Landscape in the Hellenistic- and Roman-period Armenian Highland” for a ten-month research trip to Yerevan, Armenia.
Leah Goldman (Graduate Student, History) received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award for her project “Art of Intransigence: Soviet Composers’ Fight Against Censorship, 1945-1964”. From Sept 2009-August 2010, she will be doing archival research in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Isaac Freilich Jones (BA ’09, Mathematics, Economics, and Sociology) received a Fulbright US Student research grant to conduct his project “The Mongolian Stock Exchange and the Rise of a Mongolian Investor Community” in Mongolia.

Owen Kohl (Graduate Student, Anthropology) received a Fulbright IIE for his project “People, the Balkans Were Built for Rap”: Hip Hop in Regional and Global Context. He will conduct research in Zagreb, Croatia.

Sarah Krull (Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities major, Slavic minor, BA ’09) was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to be in Russia next year.
Beinecke offers student chance to connect Russia, Persia

By Sarah Galer
sgaler@uchicago.edu
UC News Office

Claire Saperstein came to the College with a seemingly disparate set of academic interests in literature, the Slavic world and Central Asia. Her drive and passion for these topics led her to an interdisciplinary major and helped her win a 2009 Beinecke scholarship.

Saperstein, a third-year in the College, concentrates in Fundamentals—the “great-books” major at the University—as well as Slavic Languages & Literatures. She also is pursuing a minor in Near Eastern Languages & Civilization.

“I had some huge questions about the uses of literature that I thought Dari (closely related to Persian) was a really beautiful language, though I didn’t study it much, so when I came to school here I started taking Persian.”

As a Beinecke scholar, Saperstein will receive $34,000 toward graduate study. Beinecke scholarships are awarded annually to about 20 students nationwide for graduate study in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Saperstein is the fourth College student in the last four years to receive the award.

Robert Bird, Chair and Associate Professor in Slavic Languages & Literatures, said, “Claire Saperstein has made the most of her abundant gifts and has continued constantly to strive for new areas and levels of knowledge. Both her academic performance and her personal conduct have been distinguished by a real wisdom and real humility, somewhat belying her years.”

Saperstein acknowledges that her unique academic interests seem a little disconnected, but insists there is more of a connection between them than most people think.

“Last fall, I went to St. Petersburg, Russia to study abroad,” she said. “One of my professors there helped me think about this more and introduced me to a woman who had done comparative Ph.D. work about a Russian writer who had lived in Persia. I’m still working on it, but a couple of my professors here in Chicago also have been quite helpful in finding points of connection between Persian and Russian literature.”

It is an area she is hoping to pursue further in graduate school with the help of the Beinecke scholarship.

“The award will help me navigate the often-treacherous waters of humanities funding, and help me keep working out the questions and ideas that brought me to Persian and Russian literatures in the first place. Also, it means I’ll get to keep reading and writing about texts I love.”

Saperstein praised the University for challenging her and enriching her studies, commending the resources available to her through the Joseph Regenstein Library, the faculty and her fellow students.

“There are so many fascinating students here,” she said. “Talking to anthropology, premed, classics, religious studies and philosophy students helps me think in ways I never would have discovered if I were cocooned in my own discipline. Most students here are really engaged in their studies and willing to talk about them.”

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

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Summer 2009
Slavic Language Program
at the University of Chicago

• All courses run 6 weeks, June 22-July 31, 2009
• Courses in Russian at the first-year and second-year levels
• Two 3-week courses in simultaneous interpretation in Russian<->English (open to students at multiple levels)
• 6 week course is equivalent to one year (3 quarters) of study in the UofC program during the academic year
• Courses will be supplemented by Chicago-area Slavic cultural offerings of food and events.

Program descriptions at:
http://languages.uchicago.edu/summerslavic

Registration and tuition details are available at:
http://summer.uchicago.edu
Singing the haunting and confounding xöömei, strumming the doshpuluur, bowing the igil, and whistling through the improbable xomus, a jaw harp, the Alash ensemble conjured the natural rhythms of their native Tuva for awed and appreciative audiences in Hyde Park on Wednesday, April 15.

During the day, Alash performed for students from six different Chicago schools, before an evening performance for a packed house in Assembly Hall in International House.

Alash is an ensemble from the Russian Republic of Tuva, a region renowned for its native instrumentation and especially for its throat-singing, called xöömei. Alash is comprised of four members - Nachyn Choodo, Bady-Dorzhu Ondar, Ayan-ool Sam, and Ayan Shirizhik - each of whom are experts in different traditional instruments and the various styles of xöömei. Another member of the group, Sean Quirk, the producer and manager, calls himself the only American full-time resident of Tuva.

University of Chicago fourth-year student Rachel Vandenbrink, and Kagan Arik, Senior Lecturer in Near Eastern Languages, himself a local multi-instrumentalist, worked with CEERES to raise money from Student Government and other sources. Jamie Bender of the Center for International Studies provided K-12 Outreach funds and secured the venerable Max Palevsky Theater of Doc Films for an afternoon school show and demonstration.

A full complement of ensemble biographies, instrument descriptions, audio clips, and educational resources on Tuva culture is available at http://www.alashensemble.com.

Kuo leads Chicago into Balkan revelry

For three days in March, John Kuo once again headed the annual Spring Festival of East European Dance and Music, held at International House each year now for 44 years.

John Kuo, himself an alum of U. Chicago, is the director of the Chicago-based Ensemble Balkanske Igre, and provides regular classes and demonstrations in the city, and to classes taught at the U of C.

This year’s fest, March 20-22, featured music and dance workshops provided by internationally-recognized masters of traditional Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbian, Turkish, and Rrom styles. Each night was capped by the electric performances of half a dozen orchestras that traveled to Chicago to take part.
Exhibit @ The Reg:
Bicentennial of Gogol

On the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Nikolai Gogol [1809-2009]
Through June 2009
Regenstein Library, Second Floor
Reading Room

Gogol is 19th-century Russia's greatest comic writer, and is also widely regarded as one of the supreme masters of Russian prose. His fame in Russia was established early in his career and his reputation has shown remarkably few fluctuations, though changing cultural viewpoints have produced radically differing interpretations of his enigmatic art. The force and originality of his imagination came to be appreciated at home and abroad, influencing many generations of writers. As Dostoevsky (or Turgenev?) is purportedly to have said—"We have all come out from under Gogol's overcoat". Kafka, for example, drew on Gogol's story "The Nose" to produce his own "Metamorphosis" and in so doing provided new terms for the understanding of his Russian predecessor.

Born in Sorochintsy in the Mirgorod district of the Ukraine, Gogol was the child of a small landowner. His formal education began in 1818 and concluded in 1828. There, Gogol nourished a sense of apartness from his fellows (his nickname was "the mysterious dwarf"), and he seems to have taken pleasure in appearing to be a different person to each of them.

In December 1828 he moved to St. Petersburg, where the largest part of Gogol's energy in this initial and most productive period of his career (which ended in July 1836 with his departure for Rome and 13 years of expatriation) was devoted to sustained experimentation in almost all the forms of authorship then current, and to cultivating acquaintance with leading literary figures, the poets Pushkin and Zhukovsky chief among them. Both lent encouragement, publically and privately, to the young author, in whom they quickly recognized a unique and exceptional phenomenon. Gogol was later to credit Pushkin with “ceding” him the ideas for two of his supreme masterpieces, The Inspector General and Dead Souls. (Donald Fanger, Handbook of Russian Literature, 1985).

Gogol published no significant works after 1842. The last decade of his life was devoted to revisions of earlier works, working on drafts and sketches, and most importantly, the second of three projected parts of Dead Souls. In 1847 he produced Selected Passages from Correspondence with Friends, a collection of homilies and personal confessions which was an abject failure with critics and the public alike. "Gradually he became almost obsessed by the idea that God no longer needed his services... and he was now entirely at the mercy of his own moral hypochondria, his fears of divine wrath and his peculiar anguish, which he tried to relieve by praying and fasting... “ (Janko Lavrin, Nikolai: A Centenary Survey. London: 1951). In February 1852, fasting and weak, he woke his servant and instructed him to burn the unpublished manuscripts of his novel. Ten days later, he—who had said that writing was tantamount to living and breathing for him—died, in the words of a contemporary, an "artist-mönk, Christian-satirist, ascetic and humorist, martyr of the exalted ideal and the unsolved riddle." (Fanger).

Featured in this exhibit are illustrations of characters and scenes from several of Gogol's greatest works—stories from Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka and Mirgorod, The Nose, The Inspector General, The Overcoat and Dead Souls.

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Library News

For new drawings, photos and an update on the construction of the Mansueto Library being built adjacent to Regenstein, visit http://mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/ and try the webcam for a live view of the progress: http://mansueto.cam.lib.uchicago.edu/view/index.shtml

Recent Notable Acquisitions:
Sistmaticheskoe sobranie zakonov RSFSR, ukarov Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo soveta RSFSR i reshenii pravitel'stva RSFSR
Soviet Cinema: Film Periodicals, 1918-1942. Part I: Journals.
Soviet Cinema: Film Periodicals, 1918-1942. Part II: Newspapers.
Russian Theater in the Early 20th Century.
Kulisty
Novaja studiia
Russkii artist
Studija
Zapiski Peredvizhnogo obschestvedostupnogo teatra
Zapiski Peredvizhnogo teatra P. P. Gaideburova i N. E. Skarsko
Zhurnal Teatra Literaturno-khudozhestvennogo obschestva
Republika Popullore Socialiste e Shqipërisë, harte topografike.
Armenian Periodicals of the Diaspora: Part III.
Lusaber (Cairo)
Pabak (Boston)
Martkos (Paris)
Tsaghik (Constantinople)
Razmik (Plovdiv)
Baner (Istanbul)
Synopsis chroniki: Codex Vaticano Slavo 2, 1344-45.
Richard Hellie, a University of Chicago professor and a preeminent scholar of medieval and early modern Russian history, died April 24. He was 71 and died in his Hyde Park home.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago.

A Chicago faculty member since 1966, he was the Thomas E. Donnelly Professor in History and chairman of the College Russian Civilization program. Richard served as Director of CEERES from 1997-2004, restoring it to Title VI status with an institutional NRC grant from 2000-2003, and a FLAS grant from 2003-2006.

Hellie wrote extensively on law, the military, and social and economic history. The University of Chicago Press honored him with the Gordon J. Laing Prize in 1984 for his book Slavery in Russia, 1450-1725. The award recognizes outstanding work by a University of Chicago faculty member. Slavery in Russia was re-published in 1998 in Russian with a new foreword for the post-Soviet era.

The book examined the enslavement of Russians who sold themselves to wealthier people to escape destitution. Russian slavery was unlike other systems, which usually consisted entirely of involuntary enslavement of foreigners.

“Slavery was Russia’s safety net, its welfare system,” he said.

He also pointed out that slavery in early modern Russia may help explain why gulag and collectivization were possible in the Soviet Union. “It may also shed some light on the origins of what many view as the peculiar nature of the Soviet-Marxist system.”

For his research he used published records, some of which he purchased while studying in the Soviet Union in 1963 and 1964. The records trace slavery from the end of the 16th century and included genealogical information.

He also wrote Enserfment and Military Change in Muscovy, a book published by the University of Chicago Press in 1972, which was awarded the American Historical Association’s Herbert Baxter Adams Prize. In 1999, Hellie published The Economy and Material Culture of Russia, 1600-1725. At the time of his death, he was completing The Structure of Modern Russian History.

Hellie was editor of The Plow, the Hammer, and the Knout: Essays in Eighteenth-Century Russian Economic History, an effort that completed a project begun by Arcadius Kahan, professor in economics and history at Chicago, who died in 1982.

“Richard Hellie was a rigorous and indefatigable researcher who produced groundbreaking and lasting massive historical syntheses on fundamental issues of early Russian history,” said Walter Kaegi, professor in history at the University. “A bibliophile, he assembled one of the largest personal collections of books on Russian history anywhere. He insisted on academic excellence. He took great pride in the achievements of his students.”

One of his former students, Peter Brown, a professor of history at Rhode Island College, said, “Richard’s joviality, humor and incisiveness mightily heartened his graduate students and so many others. His welcoming presence inspired many of us to come to South Side Chicago and stay longer than we might have intended.

“His was an unobtrusive leadership style through encouragement by example. He gave praise when it was due, but never even for a moment was he not dead-on-center, intellectually honest and blunt. Richard was equally unsparing in criticism of scholarship that he judged deficient, whether written by those who had worked under him or those who had not.”

“Richard spent most of his life at Chicago and loved the university. He was a real Chicago character,” said Sheila Fitzpatrick, the Bernadotte E. Schmitt Distinguished Service Professor in History at the University. “We all have fond memories of his originality (sometimes quirkiness) of mind and his untiring intellectual curiosity, as well as his erudition. Famous in the Russian field for his scathing book reviews, his bark was much worse than his bite. He was an unfailingly generous and helpful colleague and teacher.”

Fitzpatrick and Hellie were co-founders in the early 1990s of the Russian Studies Workshop at University, which has formed several generations of Russian and Soviet historians.

Hellie headed the undergraduate Russian Civilization sequence. He held many fellowships, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. He was editor for many years of the journal Russian History, which published a three-part tribute to him in 2007 and 2008.

Hellie received an A.B. in 1958, an A.M. in 1960 and a Ph.D. in 1965, all from the University of Chicago. He taught at Rutgers University from 1965 to 1966.

He is survived by wife Shujie; sons Benjamin and Michael; step-daughter Sara Yu and sister Margaret Huyck.

A five-part Festschrift to Richard Hellie began appearing in RUSSIAN HISTORY/HISTOIRE RUSSE in 2007.

The first two parts came out in issues 34:1-4 and 35:1-2. The Festschrift concludes with volume 36, issue 1.

Lawrence Langer and Peter B. Brown were the editors and organizers for the Festschrift which covers the entire breadth of the Russian experience from Kiev to the Soviet Union.
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