

call for contributions

Slavic Languages Announces Launching of Fund to Support Czech. The November Fund was launched in December 2002 with a gift from an anonymous donor.

The Fund's mission is to support the teaching of Czech language, literature, and culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It was created as an open fund with the understanding that active efforts to increase the initial donation would be undertaken by the faculty in Czech at UW-Madison.

In this spirit, the initial donor has agreed that anyone contributing \$200 to the fund by September 1, 2003 will be listed among the Founding Members of the fund. In keeping with T. G. Masaryk's notion of "small-scale work," the fund also welcomes contributions of any amount.

All contributors will be gratefully acknowledged as Supporters of the Fund. Further information regarding the fund's mission, a listing of current founding members, and instructions on how to make a donation are available via the website at

<http://palimpsest.lss.wisc.edu/~danaher/czechfund/>.

All donations to the November Fund are tax-deductible! For more information, contact David Danaher.



Russian Folk Orchestra

Play authentic Russian folk instruments such as the balalaika or the domra! All instruments, music, and costumes are loaned to you free of charge.

For more info, contact **Victor Gorodinsky** at vfgorodi@wisc.edu.

<http://www.wisc.edu/creeca/rfo/rfo.htm>

CREECA News

vol. 11, no. 1

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Fall 2003

News from Central Asian Studies

By Uli Schamiloglu, Chair



The Central Asian Studies Program (CASP) was established in 1990 as a discipline-based program for the study of greater Central Asia (embracing the Turkic/Muslim areas of Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Black Sea region, the Volga region, Xinjiang, Afghanistan, and related areas). It is well known to all that in 1993 the CASP entered into cooperation with the Russian and East European Studies Program to found CREECA as a successful Title VI Center which co-sponsors and supports many of the activities of the CASP. What is less well known, however, is that since the establishment of the CASP the

UW-Madison has become a leading institution nationally in the awarding of degrees in the study of Central Asia through departments such as History, Political Science, and, most recently, Languages and Cultures of Asia. This became even more apparent after the events of 9/11.

Even before the establishment of the CASP, the UW-Madison had gained international prominence in this field through five international conferences on Central Asia in the mid-1980s and early 1990s, organized by Kemal Karpat. In October 1996 the CASP began hosting an annual Workshop on Central Asian Studies organized by Uli Schamiloglu. The new Central Eurasian Studies Society (cess.fas.harvard.edu) was founded as a result of these annual meetings in Madison, and in 2000 the workshop became the annual conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society. Since 1996 the UW-Madison has hosted seven consecutive meetings of this workshop or conference, with close to 100 papers presented in each of the past two years. Beginning this year the annual conference will rotate among various universities in the interest of strengthening inter-institutional cooperation in this field nationally. This year's CESS meeting will take place October 2-5, 2003 at Harvard University and future meetings are scheduled to take place at Indiana University-Bloomington (2004), the University of California-Berkeley (2005), the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (2006), and the University of Washington-Seattle (2007) before returning to the UW-Madison in 2008.

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By Robert J. Kaiser



Welcome back to campus and to another very full year of activities at the Center! I wanted to let you all know that we were successful in getting refunded for another three years, and at a significantly higher level than in previous grant cycles. Thanks for all your assistance in helping to put the grant application together, and for all your contributions to research, teaching and service in the area which made the grant application exceedingly easy to write. Thanks also to the tremendous effort put into the process by Rita Krueger and the CREECA staff to help make certain that we were a shoo-in for refunding.

During the upcoming year, in addition to our support for ongoing area studies activities, we have been given permission to hire an Outreach Coordinator on a more permanent basis, which should allow us to enhance the range and depth of our outreach activities. In the coming years we will be providing support for two additional less commonly taught languages: Tajik and Uzbek, as well as continuing our support for Polish, Kazak, and Azeri. We will be entering the third year of our MA program, and have five incoming CREECA MA candidates who will join us this Fall.

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to two new faculty members who are joining the CREECA community: Ted Gerber in Sociology and Scott Gehlbach in Political Science. At a time of essential hiring freezes campus wide, we have done exceptionally well to strengthen the area studies program with such fine scholars in these two critical fields. In upcoming newsletter issues, and in the CREECA lecture series in the not-too-distant-future, I trust you will all be learning more about them!

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Religion the Subject of 2003 Teacher Training Workshop

By David Weber

This past June, one of CREECA's signature events, the annual Teacher Training Workshop, was held at UW Extension's Pyle Center in Madison. With the co-sponsorship of the Center for European Studies and the backing of the Department of History, CREECA was proud to present "Religion and Religiosity in Socialist and Post-Socialist Europe," a weeklong interactive workshop between teachers, UW and visiting faculty, and other speakers on the history and development of religion in Europe, Russia, and Central Asia and its growing importance in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union and socialism.

This year's workshop brought together over a dozen energetic elementary, middle school, high school, and special education teachers from Wisconsin and Minnesota. The purpose of the workshop was to share experiences on teaching our regions to students of various ages and backgrounds, developing classroom curricula using materials presented in talks by area experts, and available through the UW libraries, CREECA, and the other Title VI area studies centers on campus, and eliciting suggestions from the teachers who use our resources on how to improve our materials and services.

As in previous years, scholars from UW were joined by professors and experts from around Wisconsin and the nation in providing not only basic information through lecture, but also by providing advice and being available for consultation with the teachers as they developed their curricula. This year's schedule included:

Prof. Laird Boswell, Director, UW-Madison Center for European Studies; Religiosity in Contemporary Europe.

Prof. Brian Williams, UMass-Dartmouth; Religiosity in the Former Soviet Union and Islam.

Prof. Jennifer Hedda, Simpson College (Indianola, Iowa); Orthodox Christianity.

Rabbi Andrea Lerner, UW Hillel; Judaism.

Prof. Brian Porter, University of Michigan; Polish Catholicism.

Catherine Plum, UW-Madison, German Protestantism.

The Workshop began with a dinner reception for speakers and participants at Kabul Restaurant, and in addition to lectures included group and individual consultation time with invited speakers and the screening of films on Orthodoxy and Sufism from CREECA's lending library.

Each year CREECA offers a workshop on a different topic relating to our regions. Past workshops have focused on the aftermath of Chernobyl, the post-Soviet transition, central and east European folklore, and education. The CREECA Teacher Training Workshops serve a dual need, enabling the Center to fulfill part of its outreach mission as a federally funded Title VI National Resource Center, and serving as a means for Wisconsin educators to fulfill their state-mandated continuing education. The CREECA workshops are 1-credit special summer courses offered in conjunction with a variety of UW departments and programs, and are offered tuition-free to interested educators (tuition waiver subject to residency requirements).

Student news

Seniors **Kevin Murphy** and **Allison Arlt**, both are Majors in the Russian Department, as well as **Svetlana Kimayeva**, a student in International Studies, for their participation in the Stanford University Democratic Partners US-Russian Leadership Summit. This year's program was held on the Stanford University Campus on April 4-11. Congratulations to these students for such an honor!

Graduate Students in the Slavic Department have also received some significant honors lately. **Shannon Donnally** was awarded L&S Teaching Prize Fellow for 2003, and **Kathleen (Kat) Scollins** was presented with the UW-Madison Award for Early Excellence in Teaching. Otlichno!

Alex Diener has recently published the article "National Territory and the Reconstruction of History in Kazakhstan" in Eurasian Geography and Economics Volume 43, Number 8 2002. He has also provided a guest lecture in the History or Central Asia Course here at UW and presented a paper at the New Orleans AAG. Diener is affiliated with the UW Department of Geography. A Congratulations to him and his recent publication!

The Student Organization Office has selected four recipients for the "Excellence In Student Organization Leadership Awards" for the Spring Semester 2003, among these four winners is **Kevin Murphy**. The award recognizes students who have excelled in the leadership of a student group on campus, students who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for the position that they were appointed, elected, or self-selected. Kevin is being recognized for his work with the Slavic Club and Russian Table.

Congratulations to **Laura Brandt** who received a fellowship to study abroad in Moscow next year from the National Security Education Program. We also extend our recognition to **Theresa Crossfield**, **Jocelyn Rafferty**, and **Maya Bringe**, NSEP alternates for study abroad in Russia as well. There were a total of 5 NSEP awards to UW-Madison students and 3 UW-Madison students were named alternates for the NSEP award. Of the total of eight awards and alternate selections, the Slavic Department had four individuals recognized. This is more than any other department on campus.

Congratulations to the Academic Year 03-04 FLAS students: **Shonin Anacker** (CREECA MA), **Benjamin Jens** (Slavic), **Brian Minier** (Slavic), **Adam Moore** (Geography), **Anna Senarslan** (LCA), **Valarie Thomas** (La Follette), and **Cherie Wolter** (CREECA MA).

Congratulations to students completing the MA: **Carl Holtman**, **Karie Pieczynski-Tayfun**, **Kaitlin Bellerose**.

And last but not least, CREECA would like to welcome the incoming MA students, **Cisco Bradley**, **Steve Johnson**, **Randy Rembrandt**, **John Venham**, and **Damian Wampler**.

Attention CREECA Students:

Language Tables and Slavic Club will be starting up in September!

For more information check the web @

<http://www.wisc.edu/creeca/students/langtable.htm>

Faculty News

Benjamin Rifkin, Professor in the Slavic Department, attended a conference at Duke University entitled "Global Challenges for US Higher Education" in January, 2003. Professor Rifkin presented a paper at this conference he co-authored with colleagues from the Center for Applied Linguistics. The Paper will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

Events Calendar**Sunday, August 24**

Duvo - Hungarian Folk Music
7:30-10:00 p.m.
109 Union South

Friday, September 5

"War and International Law in the Shatter Zone of Empires, 1863-1917: The Russian Perspective"
Peter Holquist
Cornell University
2:30 p.m.
Curti Lounge, Humanities Building

Tuesday, October 7

Public Lecture - "Heritage Learning"
Olga Kagan
UCLA
4 p.m.
Location TBA

Monday, November 3

Catherine Alexander
Goldsmiths College,
University of London
4 p.m.
206 Ingraham

Tuesday, November 4

Yuri Yunakov Ensemble
6-11 p.m.
109 Union South

For the latest schedule of events, please visit our online calendar at:
<http://www.wisc.edu/creeca>

A Major Event For Slavic Majors

By Alisha Kirchoff

If you ask any undergraduate in the Slavic Department at UW-Madison to describe their experience in the program, there will likely be one recurring theme in their responses. Almost all the students in Slavic will note the sense of camaraderie and community within the department, not just among the students, but also among the graduate students and faculty. This fact was never so evident as it was at this year's Slavic Major's Party.



Last year's Russian Major's Party evolved into a Slavic Party this year when it expanded to include students of Polish. Dr. Ewa Miernowska and her group of first year students performed a play authored, directed, and produced themselves. A group of advanced students of Polish regaled the audience with a reading of an extended poem by Tuwim.

Students of Russian also came out in full force at the event. With a musical performance by graduate student Shannon Donnally of "Moscow Nights" and "Katiushka" on the hand bells started the evening while graduate student Amanda Baldwin charmed the audience with her vocal rendition of "Mne nravitsa" and "Esli u vas". One of the evening's most notable performances was Jean Hennessey and

Professor Judith Komblatt's tribute to Gogol (on his birthday no less!) with their version of Act 5, Scene 5 of *The Inspector General*. Capping the evening was graduate student Christopher Syrnyk's spirited and ironic recitation of Russian poetry that both engaged and amused those in attendance.

Over all, the evening was a smashing success. Underscored by the spinning of mad tracks by DJ Nikolai Isaev, and Master of Ceremonies, Professor David Danaher keeping performances on schedule and the evening on track, good times were indeed had by all. As our Slavic Community continues to grow and change, one thing that appears as though it will remain is the conviviality among those in the department.

Mentoring Site Brings World of Languages Together

By Alisha Kirchoff

They come from all disciplines, they come from all backgrounds, they come from all departments. Many speak German or Spanish. Others know Japanese or Russian, or even Gaelic. Some are foreign students and others plan to study abroad. What they all have in common is a desire to connect with others in Madison who share their language skills and interests. "The concept is simple," explains Bryant Walker Smith, coordinator of the new LangXchange.org website. "You choose the languages that you know, and the languages that you want to learn or practice, and the site matches you with other users. You can then get in touch with these matches for mentoring or conversation practice."

Smith says he is amazed by the positive reaction to the free site. "The folks who have contacted me have been genuinely excited. They see a real need for a service like this. Of course, the numbers are also impressive—over 75 in just two weeks. But I know that we can reach thousands more. People in all disciplines are learning languages because it's the smart thing to do."

LangXchange.org is affiliated with the UW-Madison chapter of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience. IAESTE helps UW engineering and science students work abroad and hosts international interns in Madison. "LangXchange makes sense," says local IAESTE president Andrew Stevens. "Conversation is run and we can all be teachers and learners." Smith agrees, "LangXchange has a straightforward message: speak up."

For more information about LanXchange, visit <http://www.langXchange.org> or contact Bryan Walker Smith directly at bryansmith@wisc.edu

Families of Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA)

Madison Chapter meets at St. Dennis Church, 413 Dempsey Road.

Meetings on the third Friday of odd-numbered months (Jan, March, May, etc.)
6:30-8:00pm.

Childcare and snacks provided.

For more information call Mary at 608-249-5478

McDonald Keynotes International Education Conference

By Professor Dean Bowles

Professor David McDonald, Professor of Russian History, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Athletics, and CREECA faculty kicked-off the International Education Conference with his talk on "Russia and the U.S: What Every Kid Ought to Know but the Textbooks Don't Tell Them." McDonald's remarks stressed that elementary and secondary curricula should teach not from a Cold War-type perspective, which he noted emanated from 19th Century British colonial policy, and more from how Russians have seen themselves through the continuity of their own history. His discussion was well received and stimulated discussion throughout McDonald's follow-up breakout session with a smaller number of teachers and instructional leaders.

Dean W. Charles Read of the School of Education and Dean Gilles Bousquet of International Studies and Programs and Director of the International Institute led off with some opening remarks and gave awards and thanks to over 25 Wisconsin educators who have made significant contributions to international education in Wisconsin's elementary and secondary schools.

Significant contributions were also made by Professor Mark Pollack, Political Science, who spoke and shared instructional resources on "The EU and Bridging the East-West Divide in Europe;" Professor Uli Schamiloglu, Languages and Cultures of Asia, who participated on a panel that discussed "The Diverse World of Islam;" and Alenka Halova, Ph.D. student in Special Education, who discussed the "Transformation of Education in the Czech Republic."

The 1st annual International Education Conference for K-12 teachers and instructional leaders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was a huge success. About 150 teachers and academics participated in the March 21-22 conference at the Pyle Center on the UW campus. The Conference was organized by UW Emeritus Professor Dean Bowles; planned by a committee including representatives from UW, teachers, and instructional leaders throughout Wisconsin; and sponsored by the UW-MSN School of Education and Department of Educational Administration, CREECA and the UW-MSN Title VI programs, UW-MSN International Institute, UW-MIL Latin American and Caribbean program, WEAC, Department of Public Instruction, Friends of International Education, and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Fulbright Association.

More information on the March 21-22 Conference can be found at the Conference website: <http://www.education.wisc.edu/edadmin/iec> or by contacting Professor Dean Bowles at bowles@education.wisc.edu.

Cover Story - Continued

In addition to hosting national events, since 1995 the CASP has been hosting an annual Nawriz Central Asian New Year cultural event. This ancient holiday with Iranian origins coincides with the vernal equinox, which marks the beginning of spring. It celebrates the beginning of the new agricultural cycle and involves many elements symbolizing rebirth, fertility, love, beauty, and happiness in the New Year. Each year faculty, staff, and students have been working together to offer the university community a taste of Central Asian food and hospitality. Last year's event showcased the addition of Persian to the languages and cultures of Central Asia being taught on the UW-Madison campus.

Last year brought several new activities in the CASP. The first is that we have initiated a new Central Asia Lecture Series. Last year there were approximately ten speakers in the series, and we hope to be able to continue this series in the future. Second, Languages and Cultures of Asia-History 265 was taught last spring with a large interdisciplinary component in order to develop an interdisciplinary course for Central Asia that parallels the interdisciplinary courses that have been taught in the past for Russia and for Eastern Europe. (This was funded in part by a grant from the Innovation Fund of the Office of International Studies and Programs.) Finally, on April 29 the CASP hosted Central Asia/Caucasus Day, an outreach activity for high school students organized by CREECA.

With the addition of new faculty interested in Central Asia in several departments, the complete integration of courses in Central Asian languages and cultures into the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia in 1998 (which resulted in new B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. programs in Central Asian languages), the success of our Central Asian language programs, and the new national prominence for the Central Asian region, Central Asian Studies at the UW-Madison is in better shape than ever before. I hope that as we pursue new options for developing the CASP there will be more good news to report in the future.



Professor David McDonald
(Photo Courtesy of UW History Dept.)