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CREECA

THE CENTER FOR RUSSIA, EAST EUROPE, AND CENTRAL ASIA

University of Wisconsin - Madison

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*Newsletter of the Center for
Russia, East Europe, and
Central Asia:*

210 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Drive
Madison WI 53706

Phone: (608) 262-3379
Fax: (608) 890-0267
Email: info@creeca.wisc.edu
Find us on the Web at:
www.creeca.wisc.edu



“World Cultures Day”

New Outreach Event A Great Success!

By Lara Kain

CREECA Outreach Coordinator

On October 19th, 2005 WIOC (Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium) held the first annual World Cultures Day. WIOC, a consortium of the eight UW-Madison and two UW-Milwaukee area studies programs, provides resources and expertise on world areas to K-12 teachers, post-secondary educators, businesses, the media, and the community at large. Modeled after UW-Madison's Language Institute's highly successful World Languages Day, World Cultures Day is a pilot project targeted to a middle school audience. It is designed to better acquaint students with the world's regions, peoples and cultures through hands-on demonstrations and activities. About 100 7th grade geography students attended this year's event. The students participated in large- and small-group activities on a variety of sessions led by UW-Madison faculty, staff and students and Madison community members.

The day started off with the UW-Madison Capoeira club giving a high energy large group demonstration of the Brazilian martial art, Capoeira.



Students learn the Brazilian art of Capoeira

Local Madison group Atmevu led by Edi Gbordzi presented West African Drumming which was also popular among the students.



Two members from Atmevu in between sets

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What's Happening at CREECA?

Dear Friends of CREECA,

The fall 2005 semester proved to be a busy one at the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia!

Likely the greatest accomplishment for us was the completion of our Title VI application for the next grant cycle. We anticipate learning the outcome of this competition in June, and remain hopeful of continued funding.

We were all busy with a full event schedule this fall. These events included a number of fascinating academic lectures, a "Bulgarian Bebop" concert (see page 9), a Children's Literature Celebration (see page 5-6), and our first World Cultures Day (see cover story).



Ivo Papasov (left) and Yuri Yunakov (right) appeared in Madison for a November concert hosted by CREECA



A group of M.A. students discuss the finer points of graduate student life at the CREECA fall reception

This semester we look forward to one of our flagship outreach programs "Day in Central Asia and the Caucasus," an event for area high school students to learn about the culture, language, arts, and politics of the region. In addition to this event, we have a very exciting lineup of speakers, films, and concerts open to the public. (For event schedule, see page 4)

We at CREECA wish you all the best for the spring semester and we hope to see you at our upcoming events!

With kind regards,

The CREECA Staff

CREECA is a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center. It was established in 1993 to unite the efforts of two longstanding University programs—Russian and East European Studies and Central Asian Studies. CREECA consists of roughly 100 members including many nationally and internationally known experts in their fields.

Cover Story Continued

Then students broke up into small groups and attended two consecutive half-hour sessions on such topics as Russian language, Kabuki theater, Javanese dance, Turkish culture, and Arab pop music. Bucky Badger made a surprise visit to the group during lunch, to the extreme delight of the students. All pretense of adolescent coolness was instantly lost as excited screaming and high five-ing of Bucky ensued.



No UW event is ever complete without a cameo appearance from Bucky Badger. The World Cultures Day students gathered around for a Bucky paw-shake.

The day ended with two more large-group demonstrations: Indian dance led by Kripa Baskaran and a lively presentation from Madison's own *Narodno!* specializing in East European folk dancing.

To learn more about World Cultures Day or any other CREECA Outreach Events, please contact Lara Kain at outreach@creeca.wisc.edu

CREECA to Co-sponsor Conference on the Legacy of Chernobyl

The legacy of the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine twenty years ago this April will be the subject of a conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The conference, to be held March 23-25, 2006, at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required.

The conference will examine the ongoing psychological and social effects of the disaster and how the response of governmental and nongovernmental organizations has changed over time to address the evolving nature of the disaster. The conference will also examine the legacy of Chernobyl in the United States, including disaster relief training and practice as well as the efforts of local and regional NGOs to aid and train populations in the affected lands.

An exhibit of photography entitled "Chernobyl-Twenty Years, Twenty Lives" will be on display at the Red Gym Art Gallery (716 Langdon Street, Second floor) for the duration of the conference. The conference is being sponsored by the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta, Canada; and FOCCUS, the Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S.

For more information, contact CREECA Outreach Coordinator Lara Kain at outreach@creeca.wisc.edu. Additional information, including a registration form, is available on the conference's Web site at <http://www.wisc.edu/creeca/chernobyl2006/index.html>

Spring 2006 Events!

Tuesday 02.21.06

“Peoples of the Far North in Contemporary Russia”

Patty Gray, University of Alaska-Fairbanks

4 pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

Friday 02.24.06

“The Politics of a Name in the Northern Caucasus: the *Alan* Controversy”

Victor Shnirelman, Kennan Institute

12 pm, 336 Ingraham Hall

Monday 02.27.06

“Remnants of Tribalism and Regionalism in Kyrgyzstan”

Anvar Mokeev, University of Wisconsin-Madison

4 pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

Friday 03.03.06

“National Cleansing: Retribution against Nazi Collaborators in Postwar Czechoslovakia”

Benjamin Frommer, Northwestern University

4 pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

Thursday 03.09.06

“Changing National Narcotics Control Policy to Improve Pain Relief: Focus on Romania”

Karen Ryan & David Joranson

Comprehensive Cancer Clinic, UW-Madison

12 pm, 336 Ingraham Hall

Wednesday 03.22.06

Concert

Kyrgyz Cultural Performances--*Manas*

Central Asian Residency Project

8 pm, Great Hall; Memorial Union

Thursday 03.30.06

“The Paradoxes of Mickiewicz”

Roman Koropecy, UCLA

4 pm, 1418 Van Hise Hall

Thursday 04.06.06

Film: “The Kidnapped Bride”

Fatima Sartbaeva

7 pm, Location TBA

Friday 04.07.06

“Where is Dramaturgy Located?”

Michael Lupu

Guthrie Theater Senior Dramaturg

4 pm, 4010 Vilas Hall

Monday 04.10.06

“The Legacy of Mozart in Metternich’s Galicia”

Lawrence Wolff, Boston College

4 pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

Tuesday 04.11.06

Film: “Show Me The Way To Go Home”

Alexis Pogorelskin,

University of Minnesota-Duluth

7 pm, 1111 Humanities Building

Monday 04.17.06

“Does Privatization Hurt Workers?”

John Earle, Upjohn Institute

for Employment Research

4 pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

Wednesday 04.26.06

“Policy ‘Bilingualism’: Mongolian Reactions to International Reform Pressure in Education”

Gita Steiner-Khamsi

Columbia University

4 pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

Tuesday 05.02.06

“Mandates, Parties, and

Dissent: The Effect of Electoral

Rules on Party Cohesion in the

Russian State Duma 1994-2003”

Jana Kunicova, Cal Tech

12 pm, 336 Ingraham Hall

Find up-to-the-minute details about CREECA events at www.creeca.wisc.edu or contact Event Coordinator, Alisha Kirchoff at events@creeca.wisc.edu

CREECA Feature

CREECA Hosts Author for 2005 International Children's Literature Celebration**By Lara Kain***CREECA Outreach Coordinator*

CREECA sponsored Russian children's author Tatiana Zunshine at the fourth annual UW-Madison conference devoted to international children and young adult literature. This celebration was held Saturday, November 19, 2005 on the campus of UW-Madison. The conference is sponsored by the Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium (WIOC), a consortium of federally-funded Title VI centers, including CREECA and seven others within the UW-Madison's International Institute.



*Author & Publisher
Tatiana
Zunshine
discusses
her book
with area
elementary
school
children at the
Governor's
Mansion in
Madison*

Tatiana Zunshine was born and raised in the Soviet Union. Her first writing experience was a three-year letter writing campaign on behalf of her dissident husband, imprisoned for so-called anti-Soviet activity. After the Soviet authorities allowed Zunshine and her family to emigrate to the United States, she extensively toured the U.S. promoting human rights.

The conference, an interactive workshop for K-12 educators, librarians, students, and children's literature enthusiasts, featured three prize-winning authors in addition to Zunshine: Uma Krishnaswami, Yuyi Morales, and Pegi Deitz Shea. The authors discussed their cultures, their craft, and why they chose to focus on international stories for children. Zunshine became interested in children's books after her son Phillip was born in 1990. While reading books to him, she became fascinated by storytelling and what makes a good story. Tatiana told the group why she chose to retell a very famous Russian tale. She explained how she used to tell "The Turnip" (*Repka*) from memory every night to her son, in order to give him a connection to his Russian culture. She quickly realized how much he loved this story and she wanted American children to enjoy it just as much.

A Little Story About a Big Turnip was published in 2004. For information about other books about Russia for children, visit: www.pumpkinhouse.com/

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The Children's Literature Celebration is an annual event sponsored by the various resource centers at UW-Madison and the Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium. For more information about this and other related outreach events, please contact CREECA Outreach Coordinator, Lara Kain at (608) 265-6298 or outreach@creeca.wisc.edu

Student News

Monica Basche, a Russian major in the Slavic Department, received a \$5,000 Benjamin Gilman Study Abroad Scholarship for study in Saint Petersburg during the Spring 2006 semester.

Victoria Thorstenson, a Ph.D. student in the Slavic Department, was awarded the J. Thomas Shaw prize for best conference paper presented at the WI-AATSEEL Conference in October. Her prize was accompanied by an award of \$250.

Erik McDonald (Slavic) has two book reviews forthcoming.

A. Green and Stanislav A. Shvabrin (Lewisburg: Bucknell UP, 2005). Slavic and East European Journal 50.2 (2006, forthcoming).

Review of Temira Pachmuss, ed., Thought and Vision: Zinaida Hippus's Letters to Greta Gerell (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2004). Slavic and East European Journal 49.3.

Congratulations, Erik!

On November 17th, 2005, **Amy Forster-Rothbart**, a Ph.D. student in the Political Science Department, presented a briefing on Kyrgyzstan at the Sequoia branch of the Madison Public Library. More than 20 community members turned out to learn of Amy's experiences as an election observer with the OSCE.

* * *

CREECA wishes to congratulate **Randy Rembrandt** who completed his Masters Degree in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) in December. Randy has since moved to Washington D.C. with the intent of working for an international NGO. We wish Randy all the best in his future endeavors!

Congratulations also to **Anna Senarslan!** Anna, a Ph.D. student in the department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, was awarded the Dana-Allen Dissertator Fellowship in the Humanities for the academic year 2006-2007. The fellowship provides for a one-year stipend, plus tuition and fringe benefits. Anna will be appointed a Dana-Allen Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities and will participate in the scholarly activities for the Institute. These activities consist primarily of a biweekly seminar and a weekly scholarly lunch. Both the seminars and the lunches are held in the library of the Institute, in the Washburn Observatory. Each year, the Institute houses 25-30 research fellows selected from the UW-Madison campus, other campuses of the UW system, and colleges and universities from across the United States and abroad. Anna is currently in Baku, Azerbaijan on a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship conducting research on women ashigs (minstrel poet storytellers).

* * *

CREECA is always interested in sharing news about its students and their accomplishments. If you are a student with news to share, or if you know of a UW-student who deserves to be recognized in the CREECA Newsletter for their work, please contact Associate Director, Jennifer Tishler (assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu) to submit an entry for our student news page.

Community & Alumni Updates

Folk Ball Festival 2006!

All members of the CREECA community are cordially invited to participate with fellow folk arts enthusiasts from across the Midwest in the folk arts workshops and dance parties of the 18th annual Folk Ball Festival weekend to be held March 3-5 at the Memorial Union. Centerpiece events are the evening-long live music dances Friday and Saturday in Great Hall offering a variety of folkdance bands from around the Midwest: Bulgarian bagpipe and drum, Finnish-American polkas and schottishes, Yiddish klezmer music, Serbian kolos, the contemporary sound of Reptile Palace Orchestra. Saturday workshops introduce participants to folk dances of Romania (featured instructors Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion), Serbia, Finland, and Argentina. Three sessions highlight the folkways of Lithuania — workshops in dance and song and a general culture session. Sponsored by the Madison Folk Dance Club with generous assistance from CREECA, the Folk Ball is largely funded by voluntary contributions of participants at festival events. Come and enjoy a weekend of folk festivities!

For more information about Folk Ball Festival 2006 or Madison's Narodno! Dancers, please contact:

Michael Kuharski

608-241-3655/mk@mailbag.com

<http://plantpath.wisc.edu/~tdd/folkball.htm>

Shonin Anacker (REECAS, 2004) recently began a new position in the Geography Division of the Census Bureau. This position involves drawing and revising all the internal borders in the United States. Although not a position directly related to Shonin's background in Russia or Central Asia, he credits his degree and the geography classes from UW as being helpful with his work at the Census Bureau, as with time, he will likely be able to participate in the many international programs of the Census Bureau. Such programming includes initiatives such as helping other countries develop and improve their geographic initiatives.



Our alumni are leaders in higher education, government service, and non-governmental organizations. Whether you were a FLAS fellow, received an undergraduate or graduate area studies certificate from us, participated in a CREECA summer internship, received an MA in REECAS, or were just a regular at the CREECA lecture series, we want to hear from you! We invite you, our CREECA alumni to keep us informed of your work experience, academic achievements, professional accomplishments, and career goals. Also, please consider joining our Alumni Network to answer questions and share your experiences with our current students.

Please send news of your recent accomplishments to Jennifer Tishler at assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu

Outreach

feature story continued from page 5

The day before the conference, on Friday, November 18, all of the authors participated in outreach activities, visiting Madison area schools. The authors were also welcomed by First Lady Jessica Doyle and school children at the Governor's Mansion. The authors' books have been included in the fall book list of Mrs. Doyle's "Read On Wisconsin."



Wisconsin's First Lady, Jessica Doyle, follows along with a Lakeview Elementary School Student while Tatiana Zunshine reads her book aloud for the group

During Tatiana's visit she went to the Governor's Mansion where she read *A Little Story About a Big Turnip* out loud to an eager group of second graders from Lakeview Elementary school in Madison. Then the children asked Tatiana many questions

about growing up in Russia. Our visit to the Governor's mansion ended with a Russian language lesson prompted by the students. Our second school event was at Midvale Elementary in Madison where Tatiana read her book to a very excited group of Kindergarteners and first graders. Tatiana donated to the school library copies of *A Little Story About a Big Turnip* and *Silly Horse*, from her publishing company. Both of these books were beautifully illustrated by Russian artist, Evgeny Antonenkov.

For more information about the 2006 International Children's Literature Celebration visit www.wioc.wisc.edu.

New Documentaries at the CREECA Lending Library:

- Lonely Planet Globe Trekker- Destination Russia** (2004) *Russia*
- Lonely Planet Globe Trekker- Destination Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan** (1997) *Central Asia*
- Beyond Our Borders-Ukraine** (2004) Grades 6-10 & up *Ukraine*
- Beyond Our Borders-Russia** (2005) Grades 6-10 & up *Russia*
- The Collapse of the Aral Sea Ecosystem** (2004) *Central Asia*
- The Children of Ivan Kuzmich** (1997) *Russia*
- People's Century-Communism: The Promise and The Reality Soviet Union, China, Cuba**
- Siberia: Land of the Future** (2005) *Russia*
- The Fall of Berlin** (1945) *Germany*

Events & Outreach

Bulgarian Be-bop Rocks Madison...

By Alisha Kirchoff, CREECA Event Coordinator

In the midst of their whirlwind 24 city U.S. tour, Bulgaria's most famous gypsy band made a two-day stop in Madison. On November 9th, 2005, Yuri Yunakov, Ivo Papasov, Neshko Neshev, and Salif Ali, accompanied by Carol Silverman and Kalin Kirilov, played at the Wisconsin Union Theater to a large and enthusiastic audience.

In all fairness, it is difficult to hear this group's interpretation of Bulgarian "wedding music" and not be enthused. The repertoire for their tour, entitled "Together Again: Legends of Bulgarian Wedding Music," combines Balkan Folk music with rock and jazz, while incorporating themes from Gypsy, Turkish, and Indian music.

The concert began with toe-tapping rhythms, continued with heart-bouncing syn-copation, and was infused with a cultural force enhanced only by members of Madison's own folkdance group, *Narodno!* spontaneously dancing in the aisles. After the first set,



the performance began to feel less like a concert, and more like a group of old friends gathering for a party.

The explosive sound of this group is nothing short of electric, and we at CREECA were honored to have them as our guests again at UW for their latest tour.

For more information about this group, future tours, or to purchase their CD, please visit: www.traditionalcrossroads.com

Also New to the CREECA Lending Library:

Feature Films

The End of Saint Petersburg, DVD, Director: Vsevolod Pudovkin & Mikhail Doller (co-director) 1927

Deserter, DVD Director: Vsevolod Pudovkin, 105 minutes. 1933

CD's

Together Again, Legends of Bulgarian Wedding Music –(2005)

Books

Nuclear Legacy, Students of Two Atomic Cities (2000)

Nations in Transition- Ukraine (2005)

Nations in Transition- Central Asia (2004)

Events & Outreach

...and McFarland!

By Lara Kain

Outreach Coordinator

The Yuri Yunakov Ensemble participated in a CREECA outreach visit to McFarland High School the day after their concert. A group of 125 music and social studies students attended this 90 minute presentation in their school's choir room. The six musicians sat in chairs at the front of the room with the animated and excited students tightly packed in semi-circle rows around them.

The presentation began with a very up-tempo and attention-getting traditional song which intrigued the students and engaged them from the start. After the musical introduction to Bulgarian folk music, Dr. Carol Silverman explained to the students some of the background and history of the Roma people and this group's particular interpretations of Bulgarian music.



The ensemble fields questions from the students about the history of and inspiration for their music

The students' interest was definitely sparked when she explained that this particular fusion of Bulgarian folk with modern music such as rock and jazz was outlawed in communist Bulgaria and that in the 1980's some of the musicians in the room had actually gone to jail and received death threats for playing this music.

The musicians played a few more songs and then, alternating between playing and talking, each explained how he became a musician and his experiences as a Roma musician in Bulgaria. The presentation ended with a folkdance lesson. Dr. Silverman was successful in encouraging about 10 of the students to get up in front and learn a Bulgarian folkdance performed at weddings. After the bell rang and the students continued on with their day, the principal of the school treated the musicians to a unique American cultural experience of their own: school lunch in the cafeteria with 300 students! After enjoying their cafeteria meal the musicians thanked the principal and vice principal for their hospitality and we all headed back to Madison.



Getting a cultural experience of their own, Yuri Yunakov (right) and Kalin Kirilov (left) enjoy a school lunch in the cafeteria

Faculty & Affiliate Updates

UW Faculty News:

An article by **Halina Filipowicz (Slavic)**, "Where Is Gurutowski?", has been translated into Italian and published in Italy in the volume *Jerzy Grotowski* (Corazzano: Titivillus Edizioni, 2005), trans. and ed. Marina Fabbri, Renata Molinari, Janusz Degler, and Grzegorz Ziolkowski.

Manon van de Water (Theatre & Drama) gave a lecture "Tussen LEF en NEP: Russisch theater 1917-1929" for the HOVO Lecture Series at the Erasmus Universiteit, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on November 4, 2005.

News From Our Affiliates:

Two new titles were published this fall in the Minnesota Mediterranean and East European Monograph series:

Church and State in Late Imperial Russia: Critics of the Synodal System of Church Government (1861-1914) By John D. Basil.

War and Cultural Heritage: Cyprus After the 1974 Turkish Invasion By Michael Jansen
The first part of Jansen's book discusses the question of cultural destruction in Iraq.

For more information on the Mediterranean and East European Monographs, feel free to contact Series Editor, Professor Theo Stavrou (Stavr001@tc.umn.edu)

Michael J. Mikos (Foreign Languages and Linguistics) of UW-Milwaukee co-directed the VI Workshop on Translation at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, December 5-9, 2005.

Tomasz Inglot (Political Science), Minnesota State University-Mankato, co-organized an international conference entitled "Fighting Poverty and Reforming Social Security: What Can Post-Soviet States Learn from New Democracies of Central Europe?" at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars on June 10, 2005. An edited volume from the conference will be published by the Wilson Center in February 2006.

On November 30, 2005, the Department of Political Science, Minnesota State University-Mankato, hosted the former leader of Solidarity, the former President of Poland and Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Lech Walesa for a lecture and discussion.

Drs. Angela and Donald Pienkos received the Mieczyslaw Haiman medal from the Polish American Historical Association at the annual PAHA national meeting on January 7, 2006. The award is in recognition of their continuing and significant scholarly contributions to the study of the people of Polish heritage and is the highest award made by the Polish American Historical Association.

Angela and Don Pienkos received their doctoral degrees in 1971 from the University of Wisconsin, in History and Political Science respectively. Angela studied under Dr. Michael Petrovich, and Don's mentor was Dr. John Armstrong. Together they are the authors or editors of nine books and over fifty scholarly articles.

We at CREECA congratulate them on their life-long commitment to the region!



CREECA
210 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Dr.
Madison WI 53706

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CREECA STAFF:

Director

Kathryn Hendley
director@creeca.wisc.edu

Associate Director

Jennifer Tishler
assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu

Outreach Coordinator

Lara Kain
outreach@creeca.wisc.edu

Financial Specialist

Maki Raymo
finance@creeca.wisc.edu

Events Coordinator

Alisha Kirchoff
events@creeca.wisc.edu

Website and Technology

Noah Buckley-Farlee
webmaster@creeca.wisc.edu

Office Assistant

Laura Weigel
info@creeca.wisc.edu

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University of Wisconsin Foundation
U.S. Bank Lockbox
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