CREECA
THE CENTER FOR RUSSIA,
EAST EUROPE, AND CENTRAL ASIA
University of Wisconsin - Madison


By Lara Kain
CREECA Outreach Coordinator

CREECA held its annual summer teacher workshop, co-sponsored by the Center for European Studies, during the week of June 19-23, 2006. Twenty-two teachers from around the state of Wisconsin and two from Illinois joined us for this week-long exploration of citizenship and identity issues in the “new Europe.” The workshop was open to any K-12 teachers from any discipline, but attracted mostly high school social studies teachers. During the week, teachers attended lectures and discussions led by University of Wisconsin faculty and scholars from around the nation; they also participated in sessions on curriculum resources. The workshop included ample time for curriculum development so that teachers could design new and updated lessons for their classrooms on the theme of citizenship and identity. Examples of these lesson plans have been posted to the Web. Please take a look at them on CREECA’s Web site: http://www.creeca.wisc.edu.

The workshop began on a festive note Monday night with a delicious buffet at the Casbah Café, giving teachers and speakers time to network, socialize and discuss the topics presented that day. Under the broad theme of citizenship and identity in the “new Europe” we discussed comprehensive topics such as the implications of changing borders and boundaries of the EU on identity and what it means to be “European,” as well as case studies of specific countries or ethnic groups. For example, three of the speakers gave the teachers a “big picture” view of identity and citizenship. Robert Kaiser, a professor of

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I am delighted to be able to share some extraordinarily good news with the CREECA community. Over the summer, we learned that our center had been refunded by the Department of Education for another four years. We were thrilled by the news and, to be honest, a bit relieved. As always, our dreams outpaced the reality of the funding; we have had to make some tough programmatic choices. But the funds provided will allow us to continue with our current pace of activities and to introduce some new programs in the coming years.

Many people within the CREECA community deserve thanks for assisting in the preparation of the grant proposal. Most important among them are the members of the staff from last year. Jennifer Tishler, CREECA’s Associate Director, who managed the process of preparing the document, deserves the lion’s share of credit for our success. Lara Kain, our Outreach Director, provided valuable and creative input on the portions of the grant dealing with outreach. Maki Raymo, our Financial Specialist, made sure that we were living within our budgetary means. And our office staff from last year, Alisha Kirchoff and Noah Buckley-Farlee, both of whom have now graduated and moved on to other endeavors, were critical in getting the final document put together. In addition to the CREECA staffers, many of you across campus provided much-needed assistance. I will resist the temptation to name names fear of leaving people out, but rest assured that we are appreciative of the contributions that everyone made.

The coming year promises to be jam-packed with activities. Many of you have already begun to attend our lecture series, held regularly on Thursdays at 4pm in 206 Ingraham. We will be continuing this series during the spring semester and hope that more of you will be able to adjust your schedule to be able to attend. We are always eager to get input from our friends in the CREECA community about possible speakers and other events you would like to have on campus. So please don’t be shy! Share your ideas with us!

Kathie Hendley

“Emerging Perspectives”

Three National Resource Centers are collaborating on a new working paper series to highlight the best research completed by graduate students in Russian, East European, Central Asian, and Caucasus studies. CREECA and its peer centers at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Kansas invite all graduate and professional school students at those universities to submit original research papers to “Emerging Perspectives: Working Papers on Eastern Europe and Eurasia.” Submissions to the series should be approved by the student’s faculty advisor, and then will be subject to blind review. The “Emerging Perspectives” series will serve to provide a forum for additional feedback and discussion as students prepare their articles for journal submission or expansion into larger manuscripts. Accepted papers will be available electronically and in hard copy. For more information, please contact Jennifer Tishler at assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu.

New MA Students

CREECA welcomed three new students into the MA program in REECAS in fall 2006. David Dettmann, who is furthering his expertise in the politics, history, and culture of Central Asia, is studying Uzbek. David is also working on the Central Asian Interactive Listening Series through the UW-Madison Language Institute. Steve Lied comes to Madison with extensive experience with development projects in Southeastern Europe, primarily in Albania and Macedonia. He is interested in Balkan history, literature, politics, and religions and is studying Turkish. Orrin Viner previously served in Iraq and Kuwait as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. With a primary focus on politics and security issues of the former Soviet Union, Orrin is studying Uzbek and Russian. We would also like to welcome back to the MA degree program Anne Lance, who returns to Madison to complete her degree—with an emphasis on Central and East Europe—following a three-year hiatus in the Czech Republic. Anna, already proficient in Czech, is studying Serbo-Croatian.
geography at UW-Madison, spoke on “Geographies of Inclusion and Exclusion in the New Borderlands of the EU,” tracing how the accession of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the EU has impacted the ethnic Russian population there. Lowell Barrington, an associate professor of political science at Marquette University discussed the role of international organizations in the “new Europe” in his talk, “Citizenship in Transition.” Mark Miller, professor of political science and international relations at the University of Delaware, suggested that those setting immigration policy in the US could learn from Europe’s experience in his talk “Migration and Europe: Past, Present, and Future.”

Then we delved deeper to examine these issues in sessions such as the panel “Understanding the French Riots,” led by UW faculty members Gilles Bousquet, dean of the Division of International Studies, Laird Boswell, a professor of history, and Dominique Brossard, an assistant professor of journalism and mass communication. Birgit Brander Rasmussen, an assistant professor of English, gave an analysis of the Danish cartoon controversy. Ian Hancock of the University of Texas Austin, a world renowned expert on the Roma, delivered an exciting lecture titled “The Gypsy Image and Romani Reality.” In addition, two UW graduate students lectured on the subjects of their research: Jessica Brown, PhD candidate in sociology, spoke on gender politics in Germany in a session titled “Reproducing Citizens: Migrant Women in the new Germany.” Lauren McCarthy, PhD candidate in political science, gave a presentation on the topic of human trafficking in Russia and East Europe. Other topics discussed were Muslims in Europe and gender politics in Romania. Now the teachers faced their most monumental task of the week: taking all of the new knowledge and information they had acquired, “digesting it,” as one teacher put it, and creating materials for their classrooms that will increase their students’ knowledge of contemporary Europe.

To learn more about this and other CREECA Outreach Events, please contact Lara Kain at outreach@creeca.wisc.edu

Haggerty Museum of Art
Marquette University
13th and Clybourn Streets
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

For more information, visit:
http://www.marquette.edu/haggerty
April 26, 2006 marked the twentieth anniversary of the explosions at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, the most serious accident in the history of the nuclear power industry. To examine the legacy of Chernobyl two decades later, a conference was held on March 23-25, 2006 titled “Chernobyl Here and Now: Global Engagement, Local Encounters.” The conference, which was co-sponsored by CREECA, Friends of Chernobyl Centers, US (FOCCUS) and the Stasiuk Center for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta, aimed to raise awareness of the Chernobyl accident not as a distant or historical phenomenon, but as one whose repercussions are still being felt here and now. Speakers examined various actors in the response to Chernobyl, from local grassroots movements to international organizations and NGOs. Evelyn Bromet (SUNY-Stony Brook) discussed the ongoing psychological effects of the disaster in the affected areas as well as the difficulty of distinguishing scientific findings from pseudoscience that is frequently reported in the popular media as fact.

Stephen Webster, from International Disaster and Emergency Response Associates, discussed Chernobyl in the larger context of disaster management.

Several of the participants noted the range and diversity of viewpoints presented. In one panel discussion, eyewitnesses to the disaster and its aftermath, including UW-Madison student Vika Vinarsky and her father Vladimir, recalled their family’s personal experience of the evacuation following the explosion. Looking ahead to the future of Chernobyl, Andrew Sowder, a physical scientist in the International Security and Nonproliferation Bureau at the U.S. Department of State, spoke about ongoing efforts to construct a new confinement shell over Chernobyl unit 4, a complex model of engineering as well as international cooperation. Professor David Marples (University of Alberta) gave a reassessment of the Chernobyl accident and the official Soviet response, drawing on newly-released KGB documents.

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The conference represents a long-term collaboration between CREECA and FOCCUS, which works to strengthen recovery efforts of individuals and communities in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine that have been severely affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The President of FOCCUS, Norma Berkowitz, served on the UW School of Social Work faculty in teaching and administrative positions for over 25 years and now her retirement activities are focused on her work with Chernobyl. In addition, the conference would not have been possible without generous support from the Stasiuk Center for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta. This program was also part of the A.W. Mellon Interdisciplinary Workshops in the Humanities, sponsored by the Center for the Humanities at the UW-Madison with support from the A.W. Mellon Foundation.

The conference Web site contains an annotated bibliography of Chernobyl resources, including the 2005 “Chernobyl Forum” report as well various responses to that document.

www.creeca.wisc.edu/chernobyl2006

Twenty Years Since Chernobyl: Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Continue

By Dan Miner-Nordstrom, MSSW  
Dan completed the master’s program in the School of Social Work in May 2006.

The Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, where I live with my wife and daughter, has the distinction of being the capital most affected by the social, health, and environmental costs of Chernobyl. It makes sense, after all, since the infamous nuclear power plant is located just 60 miles north of our city center. This explains why Kyiv was chosen to host two large, but very different, conferences in April 2006 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

First, the anti-nuclear conference presented research showing that while the highest concentrations of radioactive fallout from Chernobyl are located in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine, the majority of fallout by total volume landed outside the borders of the former Soviet Union.

Just two blocks away, a high-level conference was also convened to suggest ‘moving on’ from the disaster. Attendees included President Viktor Yushchenko, and other dignitaries.

Meanwhile, the Chernobyl site continues to wait for international funding and political will in support of a $768 million shelter that will enclose all of reactor number 4 in steel, and prevent further contamination from the current containment shell, or ‘sarcophagus,’ which is starting to show signs of collapsing.

On my visit to the land around Chernobyl, I saw horses and wild boars, as well as beautiful forests that were dense with life. I also visited villages which are being repopulated by retirees who are willing to risk their health in exchange for living in their home region.

There are many anecdotal reports about health and genetic problems in the population affected by Chernobyl. More research needs to be done in order to establish whether these rates are abnormally high, and if they are, then we should look more seriously at specific prevention measures – for example, teaching people how to limit their exposure to radiation from the environment.
Victor Gorodinsky, the Slavic Languages cataloger and the director of UW Russian Folk Orchestra, served as the 2006 conductor at the Balalaika and Domra Association of America annual conference in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. To learn more about this event, please visit www.bdaa.com.

The UW-Madison Language Institute has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support CAILS, the Central Asian Advanced Interactive Listening Series, a project directed by Uli Schamiloglu (languages and cultures of Asia). Other key members of the project include Dianna Murphy of the Language Institute and Talant Mawkanuli, who brings to CAILS a wealth of experience in the Turkic languages of Central Asia.

In spring 2007 Manon van de Water (theatre and drama), will be offering a graduate-level seminar on Twentieth Century Russian Theatre. The seminar, which will focus on theatrical developments in the Soviet Union and Russia from 1917 to 2000, will meet Tuesdays from 11:00-2:15. For more information, please contact Professor van de Water (mvandewa@wisc.edu).

CREECA would like to extend a welcome to Brienna Perelli-Harris (sociology), a postdoctoral scholar in the Center for Demography. Brienna, who received her doctorate from the University of Michigan, is researching fertility and marriage in contemporary Russia and Ukraine.


In July 2006, Judith Kornblatt (Slavic) gave a lecture on Isaac Babel and Russian Jewish Identity at the Summer Greenfield Institute sponsored by the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.

Tomasz Inglot, an associate professor of political science at Minnesota State University-Mankato, became Director of the International Relations Program at that campus in fall 2006. This is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program with approximately 100 majors and extensive area studies course offerings in Europe (East and West), Russia and the neighboring states, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

CREECA wishes all the best to Margaret and Mark Beissinger who have left UW to take up positions at Princeton University. As part of the CREECA diaspora, Margaret and Mark continue to remain in touch with colleagues and friends in the Madison community.
Congratulations go out to several bachelor of arts recipients who completed the undergraduate certificate in REECAS in the past months. Kinga Litwiniuk graduated in December 2005 with majors in history and Italian. Y Paul Sussman (communication arts) and Peter Bowlus (political science) graduated in May 2006. Y Sussman has begun a two-year term of service in the Peace Corps, teaching English at a secondary school in Ukraine. Our August 2006 graduates were Andrew Grant (geography) and Marianna Smirnova (political science and Asian studies). Andrew studied in China in summer 2006 and from there put both his major and his certificate to use in a “voyage through Eurasia” starting fall 2006. Marianna is studying international public affairs in the LaFollette School of Public Affairs.

Congratulations to Andrew Kushner (Vladimir, Russia) and Benjamin Harguth (Hungary) who are recipients of David L. Boren National Security Education Program Undergraduate Scholarships for Study Abroad.

In May 2006 Karina Silver and Rachel Howard both earned master’s degrees in international public affairs from the LaFollette School and also completed the graduate certificate in REECAS. Rachel has relocated to Washington, D.C., where she works for CET Academic Programs as the Prague Programs Manager.

Caroline Baker (REECAS) completed her MA in August. During the summer of 2006, Caroline studied second-year Urdu at the South Asian Summer Language Institute, having received a FLAS from the Center for South Asia. Next she packed her bags for Russia, where she is studying advanced Russian through the Russian Language Flagship program at St. Petersburg University. During her studies in the REECAS MA program, Caroline was an enthusiastic volunteer for “Day in Central Asia” and other outreach events, sharing her knowledge of Uzbek language, life, and culture. We at CREECA congratulate Caroline on her accomplishments and wish her all the best in her further endeavors!

Caroline Baker (REECAS)

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows for Summer 2006 Intensive Language Study

Jane Pickell (Slavic) and Betsy Mulet (Slavic)
Russian; Middlebury College

Gabriel Lyon (REECAS)
Uzbek; Indiana University

Rachel Howard (LaFollette) and Antonella Caloro (Slavic)
Russian; American Councils (ACTR/ACCELS)

William Eichmann (anthropology)
Hungarian; Debreczen Summer School

Erik McDonald (Slavic)
Polish; Jagiellonian University

FLAS Fellows for the 2006-07 Academic Year

Bradley Moore, Christine Fojtik, and Nadine Zimmerman (history); Czech

Melissa Miller and David Houston (Slavic); Serbo-Croatian

Molly Thomasy (Slavic); Polish

Nicole Kraus (sociology); Russian

CREECA-affiliated students and alumni are doing amazing, innovative things all over the world. If you would like to share your story with our community, we at CREECA would love to hear it. For more information, or to write an article for our newsletter, please contact Associate Director, Jennifer Tishler at assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu
Recent Additions to the CREECA Lending Library

**Documentary Series: Gender Montage 2003: Paradigms in Post-Soviet Space**
Produced by the Open Society Institute. All titles in this series are VHS.

**Live Containers** – Tajikistan (Orzu Sharipov/2002/26 min.)
Women attempting to feed their families use their bodies as containers for trafficking heroin.

**Hack Workers** – Uzbekistan (Furkat Yavkalkhodzhaev/2002/20 min.)
Banished by their families and society, these women are doomed to the slave market and to widespread violence.

**Red Butterflies Where Two Springs Merge** – Kyrgyzstan
(Gaukhar Sydykova and Dilia Ruzieva/2002/14 min.)
An elderly traditional rug maker from a remote village becomes a community leader and internationally-recognized celebrity for her artistic vision.

**Silk Patterns** – Mongolia (Uranchimeg Nansalmaa/2003/26 min.)
While Mongolian girls receive high levels of education, many end up as sources of cheap labor.

**Wishing for Seven Sons and One Daughter** – Azerbaijan (Ali-Isa Djabbarov/2002/26 min.)
Patriarchal families favor boys, not girls. The use of ultrasound technology to design the “ideal” family is shown in this film.

**Beauty of the Fatherland** – Estonia (Jaak Kilmi and Andres Maimik/2001/51 min.)
Two Estonian women—a beauty pageant organizer and a Girl Scout troupe leader—seemingly opposed, yet both promote the same stereotypes of patriarchy and nationalism.

**Invisible** – Georgia (Liana Jakeli/2003/26 min.)
In an isolated Georgian minority community, most Azeri girls leave school by age 14—some already married, some facing worse fates.

**Tomorrow Will Be Better?** – Lithuania (Monika Juozapaviciute/2003/39 min.)
Four Lithuanian women—a political scientist, a small business owner, an actress and a farmer—at varying levels of success.

**Power: Feminine Gender** – Ukraine (Nina Rudik and Vlad Gello/2003/22 min.)
Traditionally active in family life and business, women’s political participation in independent Ukraine becomes purely decorative, with the introduction of European-style democracy.
Documentaries

*The Children of Siberia* - Latvia/Russia
by Dzintra Geka 2001 53 minutes
Russian and Latvian with English Subtitles

*Greetings from Siberia* - Latvia/Russia
by Dzintra Geka 2004 67 minutes
Russian and Latvian with English Subtitles

*Genghis Blues* (1999)

Feature Films

*Kidnapping Caucasian Style* (1970)
*Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears* (1978)
*Operation Y & Other Adventures of Shurik* (1964)
*The Cranes are Flying - Criterion Collection* (1960)

Books

*A History of the Romani People* (Grades 4 - 6)
by Hristo Kyuchukov, Ian F. Hancock, Khristo Kiuchukov

*My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary*
by Nadja Halilbegovic (Grades 6 and up)

*My Name Was Hussein* (Pre-school - Grade 3)
by Hristo Kyuchukov, Khristo Kiuchukov, Allan Eitzen (Illustrator)

*Teenage Refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovnia Speak Out* (Grade 7 and Up)
by Valerie Tekavec

*Zlata’s Diary: A Child’s Life in Wartime Sarajevo, Revised Edition* (Grade 7 and up)
by Zlata Filipovic

*If you have any suggestions for future additions to the CREECA lending library, or would like to register to use library materials, please contact Outreach Coordinator, Lara Kain, at outreach@creeca.wisc.edu or visit our website at www.creeca.wisc.edu*
CREECA Co-Sponsors Exhibitions at Chazen Museum of Art

*Alexander Archipenko: Vision and Continuity*
Through November 26, 2006

The works of one of the twentieth century’s most innovative sculptors, Alexander Archipenko (1887-1964), are featured in *Vision and Continuity*. Archipenko was born in Kiev, Ukraine where he studied painting and sculpture at the Kiev Art Institute until 1905. Archipenko exhibited with Picasso, Fernand Léger, Georges Braque, and the Duchamp brothers. While living in France, the artist created several groundbreaking sculptures featured in this exhibition. His invention of sculpto-painting solidified his reputation as the most important sculptor of the time.

The exhibition *Vision and Continuity* features some sixty-five sculptures and sculpto-paintings and has been organized by the Ukrainian Museum, New York, with the cooperation of the Archipenko Foundation. The Chazen Museum is the only Midwest venue for this traveling exhibition, so this is a very special opportunity for UW–Madison students, staff, and faculty, as well as the general public, to experience the work of Alexander Archipenko. The educational programming offered in conjunction with the exhibition will help make the work on view more vibrant for museum visitors. Barbara C. Buenger, UW–Madison professor of art history will present a lecture “A Short History of Europe and Cubism” on Thursday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m.

*Russian Lacquer Boxes: A Narrative Tradition from the Frederick C. Seibold Collection*
November 18, 2006 through January 14, 2007

This exhibition will feature a selection of twentieth-century Russian lacquer boxes from the private collection of UW–Madison alum Frederick C. Seibold and will showcase the work of artists of central Russia who rely on icon-painting and visual story-telling in creating these small, highly decorative papier-mâché boxes. This unique art form represents the best of Russian epic stories, fairy tales, literary works, and historical events, as well as episodes from everyday life, full of poetic, heroic, or comic moments. The tradition of lacquer boxes in three villages of Central Russia—Palekh, Mstyora, and Kholui—originated in the early twentieth century when, following the profound revolutionary change in the country, these ancient centers of icon painting managed to reinvent themselves and gained international recognition as unique schools of applied and decorative art. The Palekh school is the most renowned among the three traditions for its high artistic standards, refined flowing style and drawing and painting, and generous application of gold paint. About half of the boxes in the exhibition are decorated by Palekh artists. The boxes coming from Kholui are more rooted in the Russian folk art tradition—they exude an unmistakable feeling of wonder and joy at the beauty of the world. Two artists in this exhibition represent the Mstyora school, known for a bright, colorful palette and clarity of expression. Darya Vassina, doctoral candidate in the UW–Madison department of sociology, will present a public lecture on the exhibition on December 14.

The museum will offer docent-led tours of both exhibitions by appointment to schools, community groups, and regional organizations.

For more information, visit http://www.chazen.wisc.edu
**November**

11.02.06  4 p.m.  
206 Ingraham Hall  
*Retreat from Europe? Illiberal Populism and Homophobia in Latvia*
Katrina Schwartz - University of Florida

11.09.06  4 p.m.  
206 Ingraham Hall  
*Representation Through Taxation: Taxability and the Political Economy of Post-Communism*
Scott Gehlbach - University of Wisconsin-Madison

11.30.06  4 p.m.  
206 Ingraham Hall  
*The Role of Courts in Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan*
Alexei Trochev - Queen’s University

**December**

12.07.06  4 p.m.  
206 Ingraham Hall  
*Engineering Victory: United Russia in 2007*
Regina Smyth - Indiana University

12.14.06  4 p.m.  
206 Ingraham Hall  
*Forging an Alternative Academic Career after Graduate School*
Mary Petusewicz - Stanford University

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**Workshop Series on Research in the Russian Archives**

Dr. Marina Sorokina  
Senior Researcher  
Russian Academy of Sciences

Sponsored by the Brittingham Fellow Program, the Mortenson-Petrovich Chair in Russian History, the Department of History, and CREECA

- **Monday, October 30**  3:30-4:45  
  Research in the Russian Archives: Focus on Imperial Russia

- **Monday, November 6**  3:30-4:45  
  Research in the Russian Archives: Focus on the USSR and the Russian Federation

- **Monday, November 13**  3:30-4:45  
  Research in the Russian Archives: The Current State of Humanities and Social Science Research in Russia

All workshop sessions will be held in the Humanities Building in Room 2653

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**End-of-Semester Reception**

*Immediately following Mary Petusewicz’s talk on December 14th*

Please join us for a reception to celebrate the end of the semester with members of the CREECA community as well as our students, staff, and faculty. Beverages and light refreshments will be provided.
Contributions to the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia are always appreciated. If you wish to join in supporting CREECA, please send your contribution to:

University of Wisconsin Foundation
U.S. Bank Lockbox
P.O. Box 78807
Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

Please indicate that it is intended for CREECA. For more information about making a gift to CREECA, please contact Kevin Krapf at the UW Foundation by email (Kevin.Krapf@uwfoundation.wisc.edu) or at (608) 890-0946.