Building a Russian Flagship Center

New federally funded center will expand language learning options at UW-Madison

By Alec Luhn
Web and Publications Assistant

Beginning in fall 2010, UW-Madison will host a federally funded Russian Flagship Center to allow undergraduate students to acquire professional-level Russian language skills.

In March 2010, the National Security Education Program (NSEP) at the U.S. Department of Defense selected UW-Madison to host the center as part of its Language Flagship initiative, awarding the university a three-year grant of nearly $1 million. The new center will offer a program designed to enable students of all majors to achieve a superior level of proficiency on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages scale. In addition to four years of Russian language classes, Flagship students will take courses on Russian culture and participate in extracurricular activities such as a Russian-language residence hall floor.

Even after studying abroad in Russia for a semester, most U.S. undergraduate Russian learners finish college with an Intermediate Mid level command of the language. This is only enough Russian to get along on a "basic survival level," said Karen Evans-Romaine, the director of the UW-Madison Russian Flagship Center and an associate professor of Slavic languages and literature. "What the Russian Flagship Center will be able to do is allow students who are motivated and capable to develop the ability … to read, write, speak and listen, to function on a professional level" in settings such as a convention or press conference, she added.

UW-Madison joins four other Russian Flagship centers and a total of 23 other Language Flagship centers in the U.S., each of which facilitates the study of a language critical to U.S. competitiveness and security, according to the Language Flagship Web site. The center hopes to eventually recruit 20 students each year.

The selection of UW-Madison to host a center speaks to the breadth and strength of the existing course offerings related to Russian language and culture at the university. "We already bring in one of the strongest language programs [through the Slavic department] and one of the strongest area studies programs through the CREECA faculty," Evans-Romaine said.

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For more information about the Russian Flagship Center, please see russianflagship.wisc.edu.

The Flagship Center management team is, from left, Wendy Johnson, Karen Evans-Romaine, Dianna Murphy, and Anna Tumarkin.

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New Slavic prof brings valued talents
Flagship Center director Karen Evans-Romaine also Pasternak scholar, musician

"To help students gain proficiency in Russian is an incredibly inspiring task."

Karen Evans-Romaine, who heads the prestigious Davis School of Russian Fulbright program in Russia, directed organizations and monitored Soviet television performances and enjoyed playing Rachmaninoff. As a researcher at a think tank and ballet historian, she has written a book on Boris Pasternak. In addition, she has also authored a Russian textbook to approach Russian language and culture inside for two days as pro-parliament deputy and political science while commencing their study abroad programs. CREECA director and professor of sociology Ted Gerber, UW-Madison, has published a paper "Beyond Corruption: An Assessment of Russian Law Enforcement's Fight against Human Trafficking" in the winter 2010 issue of Demokratizatsiya.

Undergraduate students

Congratulations to Russian major Cecilia Luegenbeil, who received a CREECA Russian Scholarship Lauded Anet. Flagship Continued from page 1

Flagship students, however, will allow UW-Madison to expand students’ options for the study of Russian both inside and outside the classroom. To help all students at the center achieve the required four years’ worth of Russian language instruction, a new year-long intensive program will teach students the same amount of material as is normally covered in two years of coursework. Beginning in 2011, intensive programs in second- or third-year Russian will be offered over the summer.

Students in the program will also take a year-long culture course and a senior capstone seminar in Russian, as well as individual small-group tutorials. In addition, students will write Russian-language research papers in their major discipline and major their work with a one-credit Russian-language component. CREECA will work with the Russian Flagship to introduce small-group tutorial Russian language models to area studies courses in political science, history, sociology, and geography in which students will read and discuss course materials in Russian.

According to Evans-Romaine, area studies centers like CREECA will play an important role in the teaching of Russian language components, as well as continuing to provide area studies expertise. For example, in fall 2010 CREECA director and professor of sociology Ted Gerber and a group of Russian interest group (FIG) called “Russia in the Contemporary World” that will allow students to examine Russia from the fields of sociology and political science while learning about the laboratory of the Russian language. The FIG cluster will include a core Sociology course in population and society in contemporary Russia, together with “Introduction to Comparative Politics” (Polisci 108) and “Introduction to Comparative Politics and Political Science” (Polisci 206). In addition, UW students have participated in Language Flagship programs in the past. Evans-Romaine hopes that course offerings like those included in this FFIG and other area studies courses will spark an interest in the Flagship Center.

Although UW students have participated in Language Flagship programs in the past, these were previously restricted to post-baccalaureate students. Michael Baumann, a Russian major who graduated in spring 2005 and spent this past year as a Foreign Affairs officer in the State Department, had completed the Russian Flagship program in St. Petersburg in 2006-07. In 2006, the Language Flagship began implementing undergraduate programs, of which the new UW center is one.

With UW-Madison’s new center, undergraduate students will be able to complete a capstone year abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia. The program at St. Petersburg State University will offer a language sequence in political science and economics in the fall and one in literature and culture in the spring. Capstone students will have approximately 80 contact hours of Russian language use per week, in comparison to the 40 contact hours on most study abroad programs.

“(The capstone year abroad) is focused on aspects of the language not usually taught on a study abroad program,” Evans-Romaine said.

Finally, students in the Flagship program commit to participating in extracurricular activities organized by the Flagship Center’s management team and affiliated faculty. Russian outside the classroom is vital for developing skill in the language, Evans-Romaine explained. To this end, a Russian language dinner will offer a Russian-language immersion experience to interested students beginning in September 2011. The dinner will be a part of UW-Madison’s International Community, located in Adams Hall.

Students who complete the Flagship Center curriculum will receive a certificate from NSEP. The center also hopes to arrange a certificate from UW-Madison certifying completion, Evans-Romaine said.

CREECA is a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center. It was established in 1993 to unite the efforts of many nationally and internationally known experts in their fields.
Faculty

As part of her recent sabbatical project, Halina Filippovich (Slavic) has developed a new course, “Critical Issues in Representing the Holocaust in Poland,” which she plans to offer in the spring 2011 semester. The course will initially be offered under the rubric “Topics in Slavic Literature and Culture” as Lit Trans 234/Slavic 245. Additionally, Professor Filippovich was named an Honored Instructor by students living in University Housing for the spring 2010 semester.

Also named an Honored Instructor for spring 2010 was Karen Evans-Romaine (Slavic). Read more about Professor Evans-Romaine and the new Russian Flagship on page two of this issue.

Faculty associates and on-campus affiliates


In fall 2010, REJECAS M.A. alum David Dietmann (Assistant Director, Center for East Asian Studies) will teach a course titled “Islam in China” (East Asian Area Studies 301), focusing on the Muslim populations of China’s Northwest and beyond.

Off-campus program associates

Joseph Peschko (Slavic, UW-Milwaukee) was awarded an NEH/ACTR/NCEER Collaborative Research Grant for a project to be carried out in spring and summer 2011 with Igor Pilshchikov of Moscow State University, the journal Philo- logia, and the Russian on-line “Fundamental Digital Library of Russian Literature and Folklore” feb-feh.ru. The research partners will work with colleagues at the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) to compile and publish a digital scholarly edition of the archive of the “Green Lamp,” an underground literary society to which Alexander Pushkin belonged.

In addition, our colleagues in the Slavic Languages Program at UW-Milwaukee (UWM) have other department-wide news to share: In collaboration with the UWM Graduate Certificate in Translation Program, the Slavic Languages Program is launching a new curricular initiative in 2010-2011 which will serve as the foundation for a proposed undergraduate degree track and certificate in Russian-English language translation. This program is designed specifically for heritage and native speakers of Russian, who comprise roughly 20% of students taking Russian at UWM, with the aim of expanding their ability to communicate on their native or native-like proclivities in Russian. As part of this initiative, two new positions are being offered in fall 2010 at UWM: Introduction to Literacy for Native and Heritage Speakers (Russian 210) and Introduction to Translation (Russian 499).

Donald Pienkos (Political Science, UW-Milwaukee) reports that the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Polish Studies Committee, whose members also include UWM professors Michael Mikols (Slavic), Neal Pease (History), and Winston Chu (History), will serve as the local (Milwaukee) host for the 68th annual national meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America. This interdisciplinary scholarly association, headquartered in New York, sponsors the quarterly journal Polski Roku: On April 13, 2010, Professors Pease and Pienkos were featured guests on Wisconsin Public Radio to discuss the tragic plane crash that killed Poland’s president and many other top political and military officials.

Randall Poole (History, College of St. Scholastica) announces the publication of A History of Russian Philosophy, 1830-1930: Faith, Reason, and the Defense of Human Dignity (Cambridge University Press, 2010), which Poole edited together with G.M. Harnsburg. Professor Poole contributed the chapter “Volodymyr Vernadsky’s Philosophical Antropolo- gology: Autonomy, Dignity, Perfectionability.” Other CREECA scholars who contributed to the collection include Judith Deutsch Zurn (Slavic, UWMadison) and Marcia Elsbeth Fawcett (Politics). The book will be launched at the Social Science Research Council 32nd Annual Appointments Ceremony.

Colleen Lacey (Slavic) received the Stanley F. and Helen Balcerzak Award from PolishNer, the Polish Women’s Cultural Club of Milwaukee. Foundered in 1953, PolishNer is dedicated to promoting knowledge and appreciation of Polish culture among Milwaukee and Polish Americans and sponsors a variety of programs that highlight the richness of Polish culture.


Graduate students

Congratulations to Maria Belodubrovskaya (Communication Arts), who has been awarded a 2010-2011 Andrew W. Mel- lon/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship for her dissertation on the Soviet Cinema under Stalin and the Failure of Power.

Ryan Goodwin (REJECAS) plans to spend the spring 2010 semester at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan.

In April 2010, Justin Krawitz (Music) worked with Czech-American composer Karel Husa on Husa’s “Piano Sonata No.1.” Born in Prague in 1921, Husa has garnered an array of prestigious awards throughout his career, including a Pulitzer Prize and the Grawmeyer Award. Krawitz presented a performance of Husa’s Piano Sonata No.1 at the 32nd Annual Appointments Ceremony, held at the Social Science Research Council. In March 2010 and has been invited to per- form the work at the 32nd Annual Appointments Conference in Ljubljana in October 2010 in a session titled “Another Slav in Paris: Karel Husa on Husa’s “Piano Sonata No.1.”

The government of Kazakhstan has supported thousands of students in their studies outside of the country. With construction of the New University of Astana (also known as Nurendar University University, named after the country’s president), Kazakhstan hopes to provide students with a world-class, English-language education in their home country.

The university is modeled after top uni- versities around the world, including other institutions with the university has signed similar partnerships. These include University College London and several lead- ing U.S. universities, including Carnegie-Mel- lon, Harvard, and Duke.

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Faculty

UW News & Updates

UW-Madison News

The following is a reprint of a press release issued March 4, 2010 by University Communications

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Aslan Sarinzhapov, CEO of JSC New University of Astana, and additional members of a Kazakh delegation with UW-Madison Chancellor Biddy Martin in signing a contract for partnership March 4 in Bascom Hall.

The contract pledges that UW-Madison, through the Division of International Studies in cooperation with the College of Letters and Science, will undertake a feasibility study to develop models for a School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the New University of Astana. Uli Schamiloglu, chair and professor of Russian, Slavic, and East European languages, will include that will offer other UW faculty and staff.

“We are honored and delighted to be selected, Kazakhstani universities as they embark on establishing a new university to bring the benefits of education to their peo- ple and the entire region, rooted in the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea,” says Gilles Bousquet, dean of International Studies and director of the International Institute.

UW-Madison is the only university in the United States teaching the Kazakh language. Its Central Asian Studies Program includes fac- ulty, staff, and other resources dedicated to the study of Kazakh history, literature and culture.

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Faculty

Directors of University of Wisconsin-Madison

UW partners with Kazakhstan university

UW to develop models for New University of Astana under contract for partnership

Since the March 2010 contract for part- nership was signed, Professor Schamiloglu has encouraged the university with administrative officials to the New University of Astana for a site visit in April. Fol- lowing that, the members of the delegation千亿国际体育下载-iisf.com has suggested similar partnerships. These include University College London and several leading U.S. universities, including Carnegie-Mel- lon, Harvard, and Duke.

--- Compiled by CREECA staff
For 10 years interdisciplinary course has been adding breadth to study of Europe

Slavic 254 teaching assistant Naomi Olson leads a discussion of Matthew Collin’s book about a Serbian pirate radio station, Guerilla Radio.

“The course material covered a wide breadth of topics and individual movements and there truly is something for everyone to get excited about.” – Freshman Nell Koring

The challenge to students who take an interdisciplinary survey course such as 254 is how to synthesize material from so many different presenters. Naomi drew upon her own training as a literary scholar and encouraged students to employ the training they are receiving in their own major departments.

“Ultimately, one of the main goals of an undergraduate education is to prepare students, and undergraduates are phenomenal.”

By Jennifer Tishler
Associate Director

Georgians come to see distance learning tech

Info specialists from Republic of Georgia visit Madison

The educators, who represented a cross-section of Georgian institutions of higher education, including the Georgian Institute of Public Administration and Chavchavadze State University (both in Tbilisi), Telavi State University in eastern Georgia, and the Georgian Ministry of Education, also received a working demonstration of the next generation of distance education technology: a CISCO TelePresence room at the MATC Westside Campus ( pictured above).

CRREECA partnered with NTC staff members to set up meetings and training sessions for the delegates in Madison on March 10-11. During their visit to Madison, the Georgian educators consulted with staff in the Division of Continuing Studies and the School of Education at UW-Madison, including CRREECA faculty member Mark S. Johnson (Educational Policy Studies). The group learned about the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPe) and participated in a demonstration and seminar with the “Games, Learning and Society” working group at the School of Education. They learned about asynchronous distance education courses taught at UW-Madison, saw samples of televised lecture courses that were broadcast on Wisconsin Public Television between 1993-2004, and viewed new online courses that utilize a combination of streaming audio and video.

By Jennifer Tishler
Associate Director

From March 5-13, 2010 Northwestern Technical College (NTC) in Wausau, Wisconsin hosted a delegation of six information technology and media specialists from the Republic of Georgia who came to Wisconsin under the auspices of the Open World Leadership Center to learn about distance learning, new media, and information technology in higher education.

CRREECA and the Open World Leadership Center visit Madison.

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Continued on next page

Evans-Romaine (continued from page 2)

moving up to direct the college’s Davis School of Russian. Her time at Middlebury helped Evans-Romaine to formulate a philosophy to which she continues to adhere in planning the Russian Flagship Center at UW-Madison. In both settings, the overarching goal includes creating a community of Russian learners and promoting Russian language use outside the classroom.

Since she stepped down from her position at Middlebury and joined UW-Madison as an associate professor of Slavic languages and literature in August 2009, Evans-Romaine has found the Slavic department to be a “family-friendly place in every sense.”

“My colleagues have been wonderful and supportive since before my arrival,” she said. “The faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates are phenomenal.”

At the same time, Evans-Romaine retains several ties to fellow Michigan alumni. Alumni (and former Madison professor) Ben Rifkin (College of New Jersey) had first asked her to teach there. “I believe that this phenomenon is unique – Freshman Nell Koring

and Russian studies, are the common passions for teaching, and for Russia and Russian studies, are the common elements that brought us together,” she said.

Nonetheless, Evans-Romaine doesn’t believe that this phenomenon is unique to the “Michigan mafia.”

“I see many of the same features in my current graduate students here at UW-Madison, and those graduate students and PhD alumni from UW-Madison with whom I worked at Middlebury,” she explained. “I see great things coming from our UW grad!”
Russian folk artists play Wisconsin

Zolotoj Plyos brings rich musical tradition to audiences in Madison and McFarland

By Jennifer Tishler

Associate Director

On Friday, April 16, 2010, the prolific and talented Russian folk ensemble Zolotoj Plyos returned to UW-Madison with an all-new program of instrumental and vocal folk music. This is the fourth time that Madison-area audiences have been able to enjoy the virtuosity, spirit, and humor of Alexander Solovov, Elena Sadina, and Sergei Gratchev, all graduates of the Saratov Music Conservatory.

On the morning of April 16, the musicians journeyed to McFarland High School, accompanied by CREECA outreach coordinator Nancy Heingartner. Before an enthusiastic crowd of about 500 students and teachers, the musicians gave a rousing performance of Russian folk music. This is the fourth time that Zolotoj Plyos has returned to UW-Madison with an all-Russian folk music program.

The musicians also demonstrated a wide variety of instruments, including an accordion, the three-stringed balalaika, and percussive instruments not normally associated with Russian folk music, including a Belgian soprano saxophone and a simple piece of plastic which Sadina holds up to her mouth to produce a bird call.

The appearance of Zolotoj Plyos was organized by the Slavic Department Graduate Student Organization, with assistance from CREECA and the Russian Student Association. Generous financial support was provided by Associated Students of Madison.

McFarland social studies teacher Bruce Fischer says that the group's performance on the part of students to tease out what was important, but if you're willing to put in the work, it's the only really effective approach. I think ultimately guest speakers require more work on the part of students to tease out what is important, but if you're willing to put in the work, I think this style of teaching is the most illuminating.

The course “Russia: An Interdisciplinary Survey” will be offered in spring 2011, with “Eastern and Central Europe: An Interdisciplinary Survey” returning in spring 2012.

Slavic 254 Continued from page 4

D

by East and Central Europe.

Students attend Day in East & Central Europe

In addition to its strong program of undergraduate and graduate courses, CREECA hosts a variety of events and activities designed to bring the rich cultural and historical traditions of East and Central Europe to the UW-Madison campus. Juniors, seniors, and teachers from Reedsburg Area High School, Madison's East High School, West Allis Central High School, Oregon High School, McFarland High School, and As-sumption High School in Wisconsin participated in this fun and educational event.

Zolteti Longinovic, Chair of UW-Madison's Department of Slavic Languages, said the stage with his keynote address titled, "Our Dark Legacy: The Vampire Legend in East-Central Europe." Afterwards, students were divided into small groups and spent the next two hours attending break-out sessions on a wide variety of topics. Presentations ranged from "Food and Hospitality in The Balkans" to "An Introduction To Polish Music: Hip-Hop, Rap, Reggae, and Chopin." Other presentations included "Studying Abroad in The Czech Republic," "Ethnic Conflict, Estonia-Style," "Hungary 101," "An Introduction to Klezmer Dance," "Teaching High School in Peace Corps-Bulgaria," and "Human Trafficking in Eastern Europe."

CREECA is grateful to the many volunteers who shared their time and expertise for this event; presenters included UW-Madison faculty members, undergraduate, and graduate students, as well as community members. Day in East and Central Europe wrapped up with a rollicking dance party fueled by the beloved local klezmer band Yid Vicious.

"The students had a great experience," said one teacher of the day's events. "They were enhanced by all the workshops they were exposed to ... I liked the mix of culture, history, and contemporary issues."

More photos from "Day in East and Central Europe" can be viewed at creeca.wisc.edu/outreach/photos.html. Presentations from the event may also be accessed at creeca.wisc.edu/otherevents.html.
News and photos from CREECA community partners

UW-Madison professor emeritus Senn honored at Lithuanian celebration

On February 16, 2010, Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities (MVSC) held its annual commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day at the Concourse Hotel in downtown Madison. The keynote speaker was Alfred E. Senn, UW-Madison professor emeritus of history.

CREECA director Ted Gerber read a proclamation from Madison mayor David Cieslewicz announcing February 16, 2010 as Alfred Erich Senn Day in recognition of Senn's scholarship and his service to the university, city, and state.

The evening opened with a performance by the Shumi String quartet, which played several pieces by Lithuanian composers, including a hymn written by the director of the Kaunas Symphony Orchestra specifically for this event. Following introductory remarks by MVSC president Milda Aksamitauskas and CREECA outreach coordinator Nancy Heingartner, CREECA director and professor of sociology Ted Gerber read a proclamation honoring Alfred Senn, professor emeritus of history at UW-Madison; a Soviet and American veteran speak at the commemoration. Inset: Senn on Alfred E. Senn Day.

Clockwise from above: Two veterans laugh during the "Victory in Europe" commemoration; UW-Whitewater professor of history and CREECA program associate Elizabeth Hachten prepares for her opening remarks at the event. CREECA director Ted Gerber reads a mayoral proclamation honoring Alfred Senn, professor emeritus of history at UW-Madison; a Soviet and American veteran speak at the commemoration. Inset: Senn on Alfred E. Senn Day.

Event commemorates U.S. and Soviet veterans on anniversary of V-E Day

On the afternoon of May 8, 2010, the Russian Educational Association, in partnership with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, sponsored “Victory in Europe – 65 Years Later.” This commemoration of the end of World War II in Europe examined the role of the Soviet army in ending this great conflict, as well as the cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States during the war.

The program, which attracted a crowd of 150, featured remarks by Elizabeth Hachten, associate professor of history at UW-Whitewater, reminiscences by American and Russian veterans of the war as well as Russian civilians who survived the incredibly difficult home front conditions, and performances of wartime songs and poetry.

To learn more about the Russian Educational Association, please visit http://www.russianedu.org/

Social workers travel to Ukraine to present info about mental illness

From May 10-20, 2010, social workers Donna Ulteig and Mona Wasow traveled to Ukraine, where they delivered several presentations on the topic of serious mental illness (SMI) to audiences at five psychosocial rehabilitation and community centers serving populations affected by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

The visit was sponsored by the Madison-based NGO Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S. (FOCCUS), which supports the community centers by providing education and training and by allocating grants to fund programs for children and families. Ulteig and Wasow spoke to audiences at the community centers about various facets of serious mental illness, including an historical overview of SMI, a description of the main illnesses and their treatments, and prospects for educating the public and professionals in Ukraine about SMI.

Wasow is clinical professor emerita in the UW-Madison School of Social Work and Ulteig is employed as a psychosocial therapist at Psychiatric Services, SC in Madison. To learn more about FOCCUS and its ongoing projects, please visit http://www.friendsofchernobylcenters.or.

V-E Day photos courtesy of the Russian Educational Association

Photo by Csanád Siklós

Photo by Gediminas Vidugiris