

C R E E C A

Spring/Summer

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THE

CENTER FOR RUSSIA, EAST EUROPE, AND CENTRAL ASIA

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

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Edited by Adam Goodberg



RUSSIA DAY AT UW Over 200 Descend on Madison

By Lara Kain

On April 21st CREECA sponsored its triennial Russia Day celebration, bringing in high school students from around the state to learn about all things Russian and ways to use it. This year we had 225 students and teachers from all over Wisconsin and two Russian high school exchange students. This pair of young women were thrilled to meet each other and were excited to see their peers learning about their country.



Left: Shannon Spasova plays a game while teaching students about the ethnicities in Russia. Right: Two Russian exchange students spending the year in Wisconsin, Inessa from Samara and Natalia from Ekatarinburg, chanced to meet.

The day opened with a rousing keynote titled "Russia, Russian, and Your Career" by CREECA's Ben Rifkin. He shared the great things about Russia and dispelled some common misconceptions. He then challenged students to consider how studying Russian could open up new paths for them. Students were divided into small groups and went to sessions led by UW's awesome graduates and undergraduates with Russian expertise. Each group of students attended three half-hour sessions, including, "Fun with Advanced Russian," "Why Studying Russian Makes you Cool," "Russian Fairy Tales" and "Vodka-History of a Social Problem." The students ended the day with a wonderful performance by Madison's own Russian Folk Orchestra, led by Victor Gorodinsky.

Next Spring CREECA will host Day in Central Asia, and 2007 will be Day in East Europe. Interested? Contact Lara at outreach@creeca.wisc.edu.

From Director Ben Rifkin



Dear Friends of CREECA:

The past year has been an extraordinarily successful one for CREECA at UW-Madison. We've had concerts (Silk Road, Czar's Guitars), panel discussions and brownbag presentations on breaking news from the region (including briefings on Beslan, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan), films (including the film series "Slavic Views of World War II: Then and Now"), and lectures (including "The American Photos of Il'f and Petrov," "Minorities in the Wars of Yugoslav Succession," and "Domestic Violence and Sexual Health in Central Asia"). The center staff have revitalized our website, communications system, and newsletter, and our new outreach coordinator has run several successful events in just six months on the job with us. We at CREECA hope that you, our members, friends and readers, have been watching the changes and have been pleased, as well. This year is also a sad one, for CREECA, as we say goodbye to Professor Jason Wittenberg (Political Science), leaving UW-Madison for UC-Berkeley, and Professor Alison Frank (History), who will be on a leave of absence at Harvard. It is a particularly poignant moment for me because after 15 years on the faculty of UW-Madison, I am leaving for a position at Temple University. It has been a great privilege to serve the CREECA community throughout my tenure at UW-Madison, but particularly in this past year in my capacity as CREECA director. I wish all of you the very best in the coming years and extend my congratulations to the incoming director, a true CREECA veteran, Professor Kathryn Hendley of the Department of Political Science and the Law School. I will look forward to watching for more CREECA successes on the website and newsletter from my new perch in Philadelphia.

Benjamin Rifkin

Outgoing Director of CREECA



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 (REES), and Central Asian Studies. CREECA consists of roughly 100 members including many nationally and internationally known experts in their fields.

UW Boasts Strong Slavic Library

By George Andrew (Andy) Spencer
Bibliographer for Slavic, East European and
Central Asian Studies
262-0343 aspencer@library.wisc.edu

Memorial Library has been collecting materials from and about Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union since the early 1920s, with intensive systematic collecting beginning in the late 1950s. The centerpiece of Memorial Library's Slavic and East European collection is the Michael B. Petrovich Slavic and East European Reading Room, located on the second floor of the library, which contains basic reference works on Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, including bibliographies, serial indexes, library catalogues, archival guides, statistical handbooks, encyclopedias and language dictionaries.

The Slavic, East European, and Central Asian holdings in Memorial Library now total in the neighborhood of 400,000 titles, more than 330,000 of which are in the languages of the region, together with more than 50,000 titles in English or other West European languages about the region. Memorial Library currently has active subscriptions to over a thousand journals from or about the region, and paper copies of 19 newspapers in local languages (plus 3 in English which focus on the region), including 11 in Russian, 3 in Polish, 2 in Lithuanian, 1 in Serbo-Croatian, 1 in Belarusian and 1 in Tatar.

The Russian collection, which comprises more than 200,000 titles (including more than 8,000 periodical titles), is the most extensive portion of the Slavic collection. However, besides its strength in Russian materials, Memorial Library has substantial collections in most other languages of the region as well. For example, the collection contains more than 40,000 Polish language titles, including more than 2,000 Polish language periodicals. For Serbo-Croatian, the collection has more than 23,000 titles including nearly 1,400 periodical titles. The collection also has substantial holdings in Czech (more than 7,000 titles), Romanian (nearly 10,000

titles), Bulgarian (more than 7,000 titles), Ukrainian (approx. 5,500 titles), Hungarian (approx. 3,500 titles), Lithuanian (approx. 3,500 titles), and Latvian (nearly 5,000 titles) and smaller but significant collections in Estonian, Slovak, Slovene, Belarusian, Macedonian and Albanian.

Altogether, our collection in the major Central Asian languages (Kazakh, Uzbek, Tatar, Azeri, Tajik, Turkmen, Uighur and Mongolian) consists of over 2,000 titles including 128 periodicals, and UW continues to actively add to this collection. Memorial Library also has smaller holdings in many of the other Turkic languages of Central Asia and the Russian Federation such as Karakalpak, Chuvash and Bashkir.

In addition to hard copy materials, the Library provides online access to many electronic resources, including full-text and citation databases, bibliographies, electronic journals and electronic versions of Russian newspapers, namely "Russian Newspapers," an on-line searchable database of 63 Moscow and St. Petersburg newspapers and the "Universal Database of Russian Social Sciences and Humanities Journals" which provides access to 71 scholarly journals. The Library also subscribes to the "Universal Database of Russian and CIS Statistical Publications" which provides access to nearly a hundred statistical publications. In addition, the Library subscribes to the "Central and East European On-line Library" (CEEOL), a full-text database of 143 scholarly journals published mainly in Eastern Europe and also to the abstracting database ABSEES (American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies).

The Slavic, East European and Central Asian collections all continue to be developed with new purchases, exchange materials and gift donations. Suggestions from faculty, staff and students for book purchases are always welcome and actively considered and may be submitted via the web-site form at: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/services/purchase.htm> or by contacting the Slavic, East European and Central Asian Studies bibliographer directly.

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Bulletin Board

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Serbo-Croatian Table

Has taken the summer off.
See you back in the fall!
mantic@students.wisc.edu

Central Asian Language Table

Will meet May 6th to end the season.
Uli Schamiloglu: uschamil@wisc.edu

Chamber Music with a Bang!

Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society will perform its summer chamber music festival entitled "United Nations," in Madison, at Taliesin in Spring Green, the Stoughton Opera House, and the Mineral Point Opera House. Running from July 22 through August 7, it will feature three different programs entitled *Do Svidaniya, Baby*, *Tour de France: At the Finish Line*, and *Hey Dude, Where's My Sonata?* With its diverse repertoire, mix of world-class musicians, and door prizes, BDDS will present chamber music in the approachable style that has become its hallmark. CREECA is proud to sponsor pre-concert chats for the segment *Do Svidaniya Baby*, which will feature music by Shostakovich and Prokofiev.

Tickets are \$24, \$12 for students. Season tickets (one program per week) are \$60.
Information: (608) 255-9866.

CREECA LIBRARY

Recent Acquisitions:

AELITA, 1991 DVD

This 1924 movie was the first Sci-fi effort of the USSR.

COME AND SEE, 1985 DVD

Fighting the Nazis in Belorussia--ultimate WWII film.

DIVIDED WE FALL, 2001 DVD

Hiding a young Jewish neighbor in WWII Czechoslovakia.

MODERN RUSSIAN CULTURE I-V, DVD

"A Course of Ideas and Images."

OCTOBER, 1990 DVD

Eisenstein's take of Petrograd 1917. Rich montages.

THE PLANIST, 2003 DVD

WWII interrupts Wladyslaw Szpilman's career.

STRIKE, 1999 DVD

Eisenstein's classic cinematic debut from 1925.

JOIN RUSSIAN TABLE!

Russian Table will meet through the summer, but may move its home base to the Union Terrace. Contact Kolya Isayev for info.

Michelangelo's Cafe 114 State St
5:00PM Wednesdays
russiantable@yahoo.com

POLISH TABLE

Thursdays at 8pm, Ratheskeller
Katarzyna Modzelewska
kmodzelewska@students.wisc.edu

Suzanne Popke at FRUA May 20th

The author of *Siberian Pearls: A Buryat Journey* will speak at Families of Russian and Ukrainian Adoptions (FRUA) at St. Dennis Church (413 Dempsey Road) from 6:30 - 8:00PM on Friday, May 20th. Dr. Popke has adopted three boys from Buryatia.

Info: Sue and Chris Hunt at cghunt@wisc.edu or (608) 831-3133

RUSSIAN FOLK ORCHESTRA



Rehearsals: 7-9PM Thurs. 1418 Van Hise

<https://mywebspace.wisc.edu/vfgorodi/rfo>

Next Concert: Sat. 23 July 7:30PM

Mills Hall Auditorium

Russian Festival Concert as part of the
27th Annual BDAA Convention (see pg. 8)

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Faculty News

MARGARET BEISSINGER (Slavic) spent the year in Princeton working on conference papers, articles, and her book on traditional musicians in southern Romania. She will again be on leave next year in Berlin continuing to work on the book. She was elected Representative for the Section on Lesser Taught Languages in the Delegate Assembly of the Modern Language Association as well as Vice President (President Elect) of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies and Vice President of the Southeast European Studies Association.

MARK BEISSINGER (Political Science) will be a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin for the academic year 2005-2006, where he will be working on a project entitled "Contemporary Empires: Imperialism and the Politics of Identity in a World of Nation-States."

PETER BLOCH (Forest Ecology & Management/Land Tenure Center) has two new grants pending. The first is as a CGES Collaborative Grant awarded through 2007. He is part of a group (including Robert Kaiser of Geography) that will be developing a research program, a graduate seminar and an international workshop entitled, "Paper Landscapes and Lived Landscapes: Cadastral Systems, Agricultural Restructuring, and European Union Expansion." Professor Bloch will also lead a team in assessing agricultural reform possibilities for the Asian Development Bank.

ALEXANDER DOLININ (Slavic) was awarded a Kellett Mid-Career Award from WARF. As "one of the pre-eminent scholars of Russian literature in the world," he was one of five on campus to receive the \$60,000 research award. Also, his book on Vladimir Nabokov (in Russian) was published in St. Petersburg in October and earned excellent reviews in Russian journals. His annotated edition of *Lolita* in Russian with a long introductory article (St. Petersburg: VitaNova, 2004) was also well received. Among other publications, Professor Dolinin is especially proud of an article on Tiutchev (published in Tartu, Estonia) and a chapter in *The Cambridge Companion to Vladimir Nabokov*, forthcoming in May.

HALINA FILIPOWICZ (Slavic) examines cultural and sexual paradoxes of the myth of a Polish queen who spurned amorous advances of a German prince in her most recent article, "Gender in Polish Drama, Or, What's a Good Polish Woman like Queen Wanda Doing in Plays like These?" The article appeared in a special issue of *Indiana Slavic Studies* (2004), entitled *The Other in Polish Theatre and Drama*.

TED GERBER (Sociology), recently promoted to the rank of Professor, received a Vilas Associate Award for 2005-07. These prestigious awards are made on a competitive basis by the Graduate School and include summer salary and money for research support. He recently co-authored (together with Deborah Y. Ball) an article in *International Security* titled "A Survey of Russian Scientists: Will They Go Rogue or Can Western Assistance Help Keep Them Home?" In April 2005 Professor Gerber was invited to the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, Germany, to present a lecture "Economic Crisis or Second Demographic Transition? Marriage Decline in Contemporary Russia."

FRANCINE HIRSCH (History), recently promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, just had her new book, *Empire of Nations*, published by Cornell University Press.

JEREMY SURI (History) published a chapter, "Non-Governmental Organizations and Non-State Actors," in Patrick Finney's *Palgrave Advances in International History* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005). He also received three grants: a Vilas Associate Award for 2005-2007, a WAGE Collaborative Research Grant (2005-08), and an Innovation and Development Grant from the International Institute, 2005.

Please send announcements to Jennifer Tishler: jtishler@creeca.wisc.edu

Checking In with CREECA Friends

BRENDAN LUECKE (BA '02, Russian and Spanish) is starting a master's program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

TIM MCKINNON (BA '04, Polish) is a first-year Ph.D. student of Linguistics at the University of Delaware, planning to specialize in phonology and morphology. His first year has been challenging but he is enjoying himself and looking forward to pursuing his interest in the structure of Polish in his graduate studies.

TWO GRADS WIN FULBRIGHT AWARDS

MOLLY PEENEY (Slavic) won a Fulbright IIE Grant to investigate the relations (good or bad) between Czech and Russian emigre writers in Prague in the 1920s. Her dissertation topic is about Nabokov's relationship to Soviet literature, and how his Russian novels respond to the Soviet vs. emigre polemics in the 1920s and 30s.

DAVID WEBER (Anthropology) won a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad. His working title is "Memory, Sacredness, and Public Space in Moscow: Reassertion of the Master Narrative."

PATRICK THORESEN (MBA '92), who studied Uzbek at Madison in the early 1990s, is back in Central Asia, this time as a civilian Uzbek and Russian linguist for the Army. He is coordinating the humanitarian assistance program at the Karshi-Khanabad (K-2) Airbase in Uzbekistan. Twice a week he takes a small group of soldiers off post and gives them the opportunity to meet their neighbors and do some good works.

ADAM WOJTASIEWICZ (BA '02, Polish) is a second-year dental student at the State University of New York (SUNY) - Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine on Long Island. He reports being thrown into the fire by the faculty when it comes to treating patients and being forced to think critically: "Of course we're supervised all the time, but it's hard to anticipate exactly the problems or situations you might be faced with while seeing a patient." Adam travelled in Ukraine this summer, including places like Kiev (his favorite city), Lvov, Iwano-Frankiwnsk, and Crimea.

Please send your news to jtishler@creeca.wisc.edu

CREECA FLAS RECIPIENTS

The Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship finances graduate study in foreign languages and related areas. Congratulations to the following students, who are receiving FLAS awards for the academic year 2005-2006:

Caroline Baker (REECAS) Uzbek, **John Holm** (Slavic) Polish, **Danielle Ross** (History) Uzbek, **Brenda Schuster** (LCA) Uzbek, **Naomi Bethel** (Slavic) Serbo-Croatian, **Natalie Oldani** (LaFollette) Serbo-Croatian, **Renee Buhr** (Poli Sci) Uzbek.

Four others won summer awards:

Molly Thomasy (Slavic) Russian, **Kate Vieira** (English) Latvian, **Victoria Thorstensson** (Slavic) Polish, **Stacy Milacek** (History) Russian, **Adam Goodberg** (Urban Planning) Kazakh.

AATSEEL-Wisconsin Conference
14-15 October 2005
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Abstracts for twenty-minute papers on any aspect of Slavic literatures and cultures (including film) and on issues in the learning and teaching of Slavic languages and literatures are invited for the annual conference of the Wisconsin chapter of AATSEEL.

Abstracts are due 31 August 2005.

Send abstracts (250 words) in e-mail text to:

hfilipow@wisc.edu

<http://palimpsest.lss.wisc.edu/~danaher/aatseel-wi/>

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Undergraduates

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Undergraduates... Graduate!

RICHARD ANTARAMIAN will be continuing his education with graduate studies at the University of Michigan next year.

SCOTT APPLETON will be doing an internship at the Defense Intelligence Agency at Fort Bolling in Washington, D.C. before entering the Joint Military Intelligence College there to receive his Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence. The following year he will start to work at the DIA full time .

Both Richard and Scott completed the undergraduate certificate in REECAS this semester. Congratulations!

MIKE BAUMANN will be a Flagship Fellow, studying next year at St. Petersburg University in a special program designed to bring students with advanced high proficiency in Russian to superior level.

STAYING IN SCHOOL

NOAH BUCKLEY-FARLEE will spend next year finishing his double major in Political Science and Russian and continuing to work in the CREECA office. He won a Letters and Science Honors Program Senior Thesis Grant to conduct research on Soviet Literature of the Gulag.

As a federally funded National Resource Center, CREECA has a mission to bring the university's resources and faculty expertise to teachers and students throughout Wisconsin. This fosters increased awareness of Russia, East Europe and Central Asia outside the campus community.

CREECA offers an extensive library of feature films, documentaries, slides, recorded lectures and talks (available online), and other media from and about the regions. We also distribute books and brochures on funding opportunities for instructors in addition to helpful instructional texts. All of our library items are available for borrowing, free of charge. Please contact Lara Kain for more information.

From the Desk of the President



*By Nikolai Isayev
President of Russian Table*

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

Russian parties and social gatherings have taken off in a remarkable way. Following the first Russian club party in November 2004, several different parties have sprung up that cater to different tastes. For example, now you can enjoy techno or old Russian disco or even contemporary Russian pop at different venues around Madison. This has definitely created more choices for the Russian-speaking community and brings to light the cultural diversity within the Russian speaking community itself. Here are some upcoming events:

Thursday 5/05 Release Yourself pt. 2 @ King Club (114 King St.) w/ techno and dance music.

Saturday 5/07 Russian party @ Coliseum Bar (318 E. Olin Ave.) w/ Russian disco, pop and European music.

Sunday 5/22 Russian Community Potluck @ Warner Park w/ live performances and participating Slavic businesses.

You can find more information about upcoming events at www.russianmadison.com and <http://hometown.aol.com/spetsnaz27>.

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Opportunities

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CHERNOBYL FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON IN MADISON

On Wednesday, July 13 two speakers will discuss life in Ukraine. Donna Smolyak, broadcast reporter for Ukrainian radio will report on the Orange Revolution of 2004. Ludmilla Boyko, director of the Borodyanka Community Center in Ukraine, will speak on pensioners and life on contaminated land after Chernobyl. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Chernobyl Centers (FOCCUS) and will be held at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison from 11:45 - 1:30 p.m. Reservations must be made with Norma Berkowitz (njberkow@wisc.edu) before July 6. Cost for the luncheon is \$30. Proceeds will help purchase a van for the Borodyanka center.

INTERNSHIPS at the... NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE George Washington University

Interns can expect to gain a solid body of knowledge in their project area, as well as a familiarity with the resources available for foreign policy research in Washington and how to obtain documents through the Freedom of Information Act.

Sue Bechtel -- sbechtel@gwu.edu
Fall Internships apply by July 30.
Spring Internships apply by Dec 1.

UW GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL VILAS TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

Apply for a Vilas Travel Grant for domestic or international travel to conferences or for research. Ten awards of \$1500 and 150 awards of \$600. The application will be made available in early October and is due in late October--check the website for more information:

<http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/admin/gsc>

Students must be dissertators or MFA students who plan to present their research. MFA students must be in their final year. Priority will be given to those who have not received a Vilas award.

RUSSIAN TV IN MADISON

Russian television RTVi can now be viewed by anyone on the UW-Madison campus network. It is available on the Digital Academic Television Network (<http://datn.wisc.edu/>) as an MPEG-1 stream that can be played on most computers using Quicktime. The stream may be too much for slow computers, but is available to those on the UW-Housing Resnet network and to those in Eagle Heights Apartments. Note that this will not work off-campus and may not work through a firewall.

OVER 60? Join CREECA in the Classroom. FREE!

Wisconsin residents 60 and older may audit regular lecture courses at UW schools. See <http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/services/index.html> or call (608) 263-6960 for Adult Services.

FBI Internships!

<https://www.fbijobs.com/intern.asp>

The Balalaika and Domra Association of America Present...

The BDAA CONVENTION 2005

July 17 - 24

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel
Madison, Wisconsin

For information visit <http://www.bdaa.com/>



SPRING SEMESTER PHOTO ALBUM



2-25: Dr. Elyor Karimov examines the history of Islam in Uzbekistan as a means of analysing its current state.



2-28: Alexandra Il'f almost breaks into her winning smile and overcomes the Russian habit of posing seriously for pictures. Behind her are Slavic Ph.D. candidates Kit and Molly. Alexandra, the daughter of author and photographer Il'ya Il'f and noted artist in her own right, discussed her father's trip to America in the 1930s. Her talk was co-sponsored by Slavic and organized with the generous help of Anne Fisher at the University of Michigan.



4-11: Valerie Sperling from Clark University gets quizzed by Scott Gehlbach before her talk, "Women's Organizations in Russia." Professor Sperling, author of *Organizing Women in Contemporary Russia*, described how and why most women's groups in Russia focus on administrative matters instead of constituent support.



3-10: Mark Johnson, UW Women's Hockey coach, passed around his gold medal during his talk as part of the *Miracle* retrospective of the 1980 Olympics. He scored two goals against "the Russians" in the game 25 years ago. The following day Bob Edelman from the University of San Diego led a panel with Al Senn and David McDonald discussing the context of the event. Even former UW Coach Jeff Sauer was present, recounting the defection of NHL star Sergei Federov.



4-4: Cynthia Buckley from Texas--Austin, shown here with Ted Gerber, spoke on "The Relationship Between Violence and Sexual Health in Central Asia."



3-29: Czar's Guitars, comprised of Oleg Timofeyev and John Schneiderman, performed at Van Hise Elementary School before their concert at Mills Hall that evening.

Carl Holtman's Life of Turkish Delight

In May, 2003 Carl Holtman received his MA in REECAS and embarked upon a Turkish adventure.



Istanbul has been a smokin' good time for Carl and his wife.

Greetings from Istanbul! Shortly after finishing my MA in 2003 my wife and I found ourselves embarking on what has turned out to be an 18-month Turkish adventure. So why did I choose to come here? Was it to sit around smoking the nargile (water pipe) all day whilst being entertained by belly dancers? Of course not. It is simply a matter of being lucky enough to have joined my father when he traveled to Europe on business. Those experiences ignited a spark in me. I knew that I wanted to travel and immerse myself in different cultures. OK, but why Turkey?

I began my undergraduate studies at Ohio State University as a Russian major. I chose Russian because I had taken two years of it in high school (I never was one for studying 'useful' languages). It was while taking a course on post-Soviet foreign policy during my first year at OSU that it dawned on me that learning about Turkey would open many more doors for me because of the Turkic republics of Central Asia. With the aforementioned in mind, I signed up for a course in Turkish culture during my second year. The professor for that course, Victoria Holbrook, instilled in me such an interest in Turkey that together we decided to develop an exchange

program between OSU and Koç Unıversıty in Istanbul. My first experience here was shortly after the huge 1999 earthquake. (I have always been bad luck for Turkey. The second time I came the Iraq war started. At the beginning of our current stay there were the bombings in November 2004.)

So what have I been doing here the last 18 months, besides living off my wife's generous English teaching salary? Well, there were the ten months I spent as a copy editor sans work permit for the English edition of a major newspaper with an Islamist slant. This means that even though I am the type of experienced person the CIA should hire, I will never get security clearance. That is all well and good, because it means I have an excuse to stay in Turkey (Sorry Dad, but no one will hire me in the States). I left that job in October of 2004, landing 'legal' employment as the English editor for a news organization that caters to the needs of the steel industry, Steelorbis. I am exceedingly happy with this line of work. The company is trying to expand into America, so if I ever do decide to come back stateside I could have a nice job lined up.

Have I met any interesting people here? Sure. While I have not met the Prime Minister (Recep Tayyip Erdogan), I did get to copy edit the English translation of one his speeches during the March elections. My wife and I once dined with the mayor of Beylikduzu, which is a suburb of Istanbul. The mayor was planning to go to the States so that he could meet his mayoral counterparts and get ideas for improving his city. He listened attentively as my wife and I provided him with a few ideas of our own. At the end of the night he had his personal driver take us all that way back to our house on the Asian side of the Bosphorus, a journey of at least 60km. We were flattered to be treated so graciously.

Am I crazy for picking up my Americans roots and settling in Istanbul? Sure, you have to be. Yet, once you come here and meet the people, see the history around every corner and dine on cuisine that rivals the French, you would be crazy to ever want to leave.

Chernobyl as Academic Case Study

By Vicky Christie

In the summer of 2004 I was the fortunate recipient of one of CREECA's travel grants. This allowed me to accompany Norma Berkowitz and Friends of Chernobyl Centers U.S. to Ukraine for the Journey to Chernobyl tour. Our group traveled some 17 days in Ukraine, including an on-site visit to Chernobyl and the surrounding areas. We spoke with many organizations in Kiev, from hospitals to governmental agencies, in order to understand the effects of the Chernobyl disaster.

Aside from international travels I am a professor of Communication Studies at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana, a small liberal arts college of about 700 students. (I also spent the 2002 year as a Fulbright scholar in Belarus.) In addition to teaching courses such as "The Rhetoric of Protest" and "Dissent and Organizational Communication," I chair the Humanities and Fine Arts Division, and in that capacity work on the new Environmental Studies Program. The newly created program's goal is to connect the scientific study of the environment with the humanist examination of the environment, and I am working with other professors to build the curriculum. I also teach "Organizational Communication," a course in which students examine how organizations create systems of meaning that lead to decision making about topics such as the environment. I am planning to use this experience in Chernobyl as the major case study the next time I teach the course.

After returning home from the Ukraine, I presented a paper to the National Communication Association titled, "Conflict in the Aftermath of Environmental Disaster: Chernobyl." In it I used the trip to analyze the nature of the conflict after Chernobyl, describing the conflict as ongoing and systemic. Problems such as stressed populations in both Ukraine and Belarus and also unstable governments that veer between communist-style command and control tactics, as well as a nascent understanding of democracy, all contribute to this

FOCCUS is developing a program that encourages teachers and schools to foster school interest in the complex issues arising in the aftermath of Chernobyl and to foster curriculum content on Chernobyl-related issues in science and social science curricula. Teachers who participated in FOCCUS's summer 2004 "Journey to Chernobyl" form the core of this group and were funded by CREECA and the Department of Genetics Wisconsin Teacher Enhancement Program.



Vickie Christie standing outside of the Chernobyl museum in Kiev.

example for the "Rhetoric of Protest" course, in which I ask students to understand how effective protest can be carried out on environmental issues.





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CREECA End of Year Lunch!

A Break from Exams:

Tuesday May 10th

Room 336 Ingraham Hall

12:00-2:00PM

(There will be no picnic on 5/7)

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

P.O. Box 8860

Madison, WI 53708-8860

Please indicate that it is intended for CREECA. For more information about making a gift to CREECA, please contact Chris Glueck at the UW Foundation at the above address or at (608) 265-9952.