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# CREECA

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FALL 2008

Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia

VOL. 16 ISSUE 1

## PUTTING YOUR MAJOR TO WORK

*Recent UW Grad Noah Buckley-Farlee Shares His Experiences*

Noah Buckley-Farlee graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in spring 2006 with majors in political science and Russian. After graduation he first worked at Epic Systems in Verona, Wisconsin. Since May 2008, he has been working at the Center for Economic and Financial Research (CEFIR) in Moscow.

Although some of my friends and family were a bit confused when I decided to move to Russia, most of them understood. They saw it as a continuation of my previous experiences abroad and my interest in Russia that developed over the years. Those who didn't quite get my motives were just further exasperated by my apparent lack of concrete plans. I knew that I was moving to Moscow, and I had many ideas about what I wanted to do. But when it came down to it, I had no job waiting for me, no apartment, and no idea how long I would be abroad or where my travels would take me. I had a one-way ticket to Russia and a three-month visa -- and that was good enough for me.

Since arriving in Moscow in May, I've been able to engage in fantastic work that utilized all manner of

knowledge I acquired at UW-Madison. I have spent the past four months working at the Center for Economic and Financial Research (CEFIR), a research institute associated with the New Economic School (NES) in Moscow. The project I have been working on is a World Bank-funded survey of Russian bureaucrats about their experiences with and opinions about implementing business regulation reforms.

Coordinated by well-regarded Russian economist and NES professor Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, this project is a large research effort that will help us gain a better understanding of how effective legislative efforts have been to create a freer business climate in Russia. Over the next few months, we will get detailed data from each of 1500 face-to-face interviews with officials in 20 regions -- from Moscow to Sakhalin. For this purpose we developed 6 multiple-choice questionnaires tailored to fit the respondent's duties and covering officials from 7 different agencies, including fire and tax inspectors. From this, we hope to glean information on how they view these efforts at reform, how their work has changed and what it is like



*Noah Buckley-Farlee enjoys more peaceful times in Georgia.*

implementing this legislation, and what, if any, impact the reform has had on corruption.

My participation in this project at CEFIR has included many tasks, but all of them have tested and expanded all of the skills I gained in my political science and Russian language courses at Madison. The work environment is entirely in Russian, and the dense and twisted bureaucratic language in which our questionnaire had to be crafted was a new facet of a language I have been studying for many years. This project's research topic is at the forefront of the field of political economy, and the atmosphere of academic research at CEFIR is lively and rigorous. Whether translating our questionnaires into English, sifting through Russian legislation, or applying some critical

thinking as we sharpened and pruned the questionnaires, I was able to utilize and test all manner of linguistic, cultural, and political experience about Russia that I gained in my years at Madison.

Getting the opportunity to take part in a project like this one at political science. Not only did he put me in touch with those working on the project when I arrived in Moscow; it was also his course, "Transitions to the Market" (Poli Sci 612), that laid the groundwork of my knowledge of post-communist political economy. It is this foundation that has given me valuable insight into the efforts of countries like Russia to reform their command economies and single-party rule into functioning market-based, democratic structures -- this survey of bureaucrats is a

*...continued on page 3*



# Letter

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Ted Gerber  
CREECA Director

Dear friends of CREECA,

I hope that you all enjoyed the summer and that the fall 2008 semester has gotten off to a great start for you. Of course, summer ended with momentous events in the part of the world we study. As many of us were either preparing for classes or trying to catch a last bit of relaxation, we were gripped by news reports of military conflict between Russia and Georgia. Since one of CREECA's objectives is to educate members of the university and local communities about our neck of the world, we were pleased to organize a panel discussion on these events, just as CREECA did following the September 2004 hostage crisis in Beslan, Russia. About 70 people attended a lively and sophisticated session on the afternoon of September 9, entitled "Conflict in the Caucasus: A Panel Discussion on Georgia." I would like to thank our panelists, Robert Kaiser, David McDonald, and Uli Schamiloglu, as well as our moderator, Kathie Hendley for making the event such a success. We are fortunate to have faculty available to comment publicly on the larger implications of dramatic stories as they unfold in our part of the world, and we will certainly organize similar events as events dictate. If you were not able to attend this event, I encourage you to listen to the recording on our Web site, where this and other CREECA lectures are archived.

We are also fortunate to have a stellar staff in the CREECA office. We are delighted that two familiar faces have once again joined the CREECA team. Laura Weigel has returned from her Boren NSEP scholarship in Moscow to share events coordinator and office coordinator duties with the ever-reliable Drago Momcilovic. Maki Raymo has resumed her position as Financial Specialist after spending a year in her native Japan. Once again we will enjoy the benefits of their experience, particularly since they are replacing two valuable staff members who have left us: Matthew Maus graduated from the UW in May 2008 and Jean Hennessey has now retired "for real" after graciously stepping in to handle our finances last year. Let me also extend a special welcome to our brand new Web and communications assistant, Tarah Haack, who is busily preparing a complete overhaul of the CREECA Web site. Do not be surprised when one day soon you go the site and find a new and much improved design! Finally, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the outstanding work of Jennifer Tishler, our associate director, and Nancy Heingartner, who hit the ground running when she became our outreach coordinator last fall. I can think of nothing more vital to the success of CREECA than the contributions of these staff members.

I would like to take a moment to call your attention to an initiative that CREECA has undertaken in cooperation with our partner centers at the University of Kansas and the University of Texas: Emerging Perspectives Working Paper Series. Graduate students are invited to submit papers to the series. Submissions that pass muster in a formal peer review process will be officially listed in the series and made available on the Web. This is a great opportunity for graduate students to receive feedback at a relatively early phase of the development of a paper and to get their research quickly into the public domain (lest they be scooped!). I urge faculty in all social science and humanities fields to call their graduate students' attention to this opportunity and encourage them to submit their papers in progress. For more information, see <http://www.crees.ku.edu/~emergingperspectives>.

As this issue of our newsletter goes to press, our fall lecture series is well underway. I hope to see you at our Thursday lectures and the many other exciting CREECA activities on the calendar.

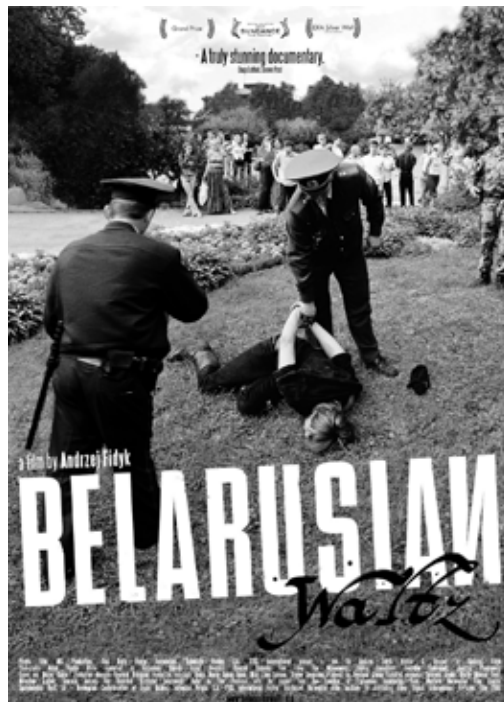
# Screening & Discussion Event Offers Poignant Look at Belarusian People

On Tuesday, August 5, CREECA and Wisconsin Public Television collaborated on a screening and discussion of the film *Belarusian Waltz* by noted Polish filmmaker Andrzej Fidyk.

Part of the popular PBS series "POV," *Belarusian Waltz* follows the life and work of Alexander Pushkin, a performance artist and dissident whose public stunts earn him hostility from police and consternation from his family.

Ted Gerber, professor of sociology and CREECA Director, facilitated a post-screening discussion with the audience, who actively debated the film's contradictions, touching on issues of Belarusian nationality, the possibility for rebellion in a country where the majority of the population supports the dictatorship, and the depiction of women in the film.

According to Bryce Kirchoff, outreach specialist for Madison's WHA, "Wisconsin Public Television is pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with CREECA for this event. Extending the value of broadcasts by engaging audiences in discussions about issues that matter is a central part of our mission, and is something that was absolutely achieved at the August screening."



*Polish filmmaker Andrzej Fidyk documents the life of Alexander Pushkin in Belarusian Waltz.*

*...continued from Cover*

look at the continuation of these very reforms.

My experience over the past four months has developed new skills and given me an insight into the operation of cutting-edge research in political economy. This will be invaluable as I apply to PhD programs in political science and as I develop my own research in the future. The project even took me to Tbilisi, Georgia, where, just days before the war broke out in South Ossetia, I presented on the goals and methodology of our survey to the International School of Economics at TSU (ISET) and a development group from USAID who have an interest in learning these same sorts of things about the business climate and regulatory burden in Georgia. Once the final report and analyses are finished and delivered to the World Bank in the next few months, I can think about picking up a return ticket and figuring out what to do and where to go next.

*On August 3, 2008, Noah journeyed to Tbilisi, Georgia, in order to give a presentation on his research project and to obtain a new Russian visa. When warfare erupted between Russia and Georgia on August 7, Noah was caught in a tense and difficult situation, but managed to return to Moscow by way of Yerevan, Armenia. To read more about Noah's Georgian adventures, and his life in Moscow, check out his blog:*

*<http://andronik.wordpress.com>.*

## Ukrainian Delegations Visit Madison

June was a busy month in Madison for Ukrainian affairs. First, on the morning of Thursday, June 5, CREECA sponsored a working meeting for a team of educators and NGO leaders from the Sumy region of Ukraine. The delegation had come to Wisconsin as part of a USAID Community Connections Professional Program in order to learn more about programs developed in the United States that encourage a healthy way of life for young people, such as projects in nutrition, smoking cessation (or prevention), and sex education. The ten delegation members met with Amy Forster Rothbart (doctoral candidate in political science), Brienna Perelli-Harris (formerly a postdoctoral fellow with the Center for Demography and Ecology), and David Nordstrom (a former Fulbright lecturer in Kyiv, Ukraine) to discuss strategies for promoting public health in Ukraine today.



*Nancy Heingartner (left) and Jennifer Tishler (center) receive gifts from Alina Cherniakova (right), a member of the USAID Ukrainian Delegation.*

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# CREECA Faculty Respond to Russia- Georgia Conflict

The briefing "Conflict in the Caucasus: A Panel Discussion on Georgia" attracted a large and enthusiastic audience of students, professors, and community members on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

Professors David McDonald (history), Robert J. Kaiser (geography), and Uli Schamiloglu (languages and cultures of Asia) provided an analysis of the geopolitical implications of the Georgia-Russia conflict. The session, moderated by Professor Kathryn Hendley (law/political science) provided an overview of the conflict by each of the speakers, followed by time for questions and discussion from members of the audience.

Among the topics raised during the session were issues of bias in various media accounts of the conflict, the role of US foreign policy, prospects for NATO expansion in the region, and Russia's assertion of its sphere of interest in the so-called "near abroad." Observed David McDonald, "This is [Russia's] reassertion of a claim to [a] concrete interest in the area. This means that the Russian government has a strong interest in keeping track of who's playing in their back yard and who isn't. And you cannot play in their back yard with impunity."

An audio recording of the panel discussion, together with other archived lectures, is available on the CREECA Web site: <http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/resources/lectures.html>.



*Professor David McDonald (center) engages with audience members during the panel. Photo by Kris Ugarriza.*

cinematheque

POLISH  
film festival



November  
21-23

## Mark Your Calendars for the 18th Annual Polish Film Festival

On November 21-23, the Polish Student Organization will sponsor the 18th Annual Polish Film Festival at the UW-Madison Cinematheque. The three-day festival will bring innovative new Polish films to Madison.

Over the years, this event has proven to be extremely popular, with students, faculty, and community members of Polish heritage joining foreign film enthusiasts to fill the screening room to capacity.

CREECA is proud to once again be a co-sponsor of this popular and important event. All films will be shown in room 4070 Vilas Hall, 821 University Avenue.

For information about titles and screening times, please visit the Cinematheque Web site:

[http://cinema.wisc.edu/series/2008\\_fall/festival.htm](http://cinema.wisc.edu/series/2008_fall/festival.htm)

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# FACULTY PROFILE

## Francine Hirsch

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By Drago Momcilovic  
EVENTS & OFFICE COORDINATOR

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Francine Hirsch was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of History at UW-Madison in 2005. Since then, Professor Hirsch has been developing several research and teaching interests, and has been busy at work preparing articles and a new book for publication.

Her latest book project, about the Nuremberg trials of November 1945, details the Soviet Union's contribution in developing a legal framework of the International Military Tribunal. Much of the work for this new manuscript draws from research that she conducted for her recent article, "The Soviets at Nuremberg: International Law, Propaganda, and the Making of the Postwar Order," which appears in the June 2008 edition of *American Historical Review*.

In addition, Professor Hirsch has been recently honored with several awards for her previous book, *Empire of Nations* (Cornell, 2005), including the Herbert Baxter Adams Book Prize of the American Historical Association in 2007 and the Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in 2006. The book was also a co-winner of the Council for European Studies Book Award in 2006. Professor Hirsch also won the Dorothy and Hsin-Nung Yao Teaching Award from the History Department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and continues to teach courses in the history department about the history of the Soviet Union, history of the idea of human rights, and comparative world history.

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## NewsLab Russia: An Important New Resource for Students and Scholars of Postcommunist Russia

CREECA has launched an exciting new resource for students and scholars of postcommunist Russia: NewsLab Russia, an online digital archive of Russian television news. Part of NewsLab Eurasia, a broader effort to archive the news in post-Soviet states, NewsLab Russia utilizes new technology to make Russian news broadcasts available for analysis and classroom use. In its first year of operation, NewsLab Russia archived the main evening news broadcast on Russia's three national television networks (NTV, Channel One, and Rossiya) during a period that encompassed the 2007 Duma elections, the nomination of Dmitri Medvedev to succeed Vladimir Putin as president, and the 2008 Russian presidential election. Established with support from the University of Wisconsin-Madison International Institute, the Department of Political Science, and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) at the University of Texas at Austin, NewsLab Russia aims to be a valuable resource for scholars in the social sciences, as well as teachers and students of world languages.

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Further information about NewsLab Russia, including registration instructions and a link to the archive itself, is available at:  
[www.creeca.wisc.edu/newslebeurasia](http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/newslebeurasia).



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# 2008 Teacher Workshop Addresses Islam in Russia and the NIS

By Nancy Heingartner  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

From June 25 through June 27, 2008, CREECA held its annual teacher workshop. This year's topic was "Islam in Russia and the Newly Independent States." Fourteen teachers from around Wisconsin participated. Presentations by UW-Madison faculty members and graduate students, as well as by faculty from other Midwestern institutions, addressed the vibrancy and diversity of Islamic history and practices in this critical world region.

Uli Schamiloglu, professor in Languages and Cultures of Asia and chair of the UW-Madison Central Asian Studies Program, opened the workshop with a keynote address highlighting some of the major geopolitical trends in Central Asia since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and how these trends have influenced Islam in the region. This was followed by an overview to the basic tenets of the Islamic faith by Ovamir Anjum, a senior fellow at the UW-Madison Lubar Institute for Abrahamic Religions. Anna Oldfield (PhD LCA 2008), now a postdoctoral fellow at Hamilton College, gave an engaging multimedia presentation on religion and music in Azerbaijan, highlighting the survival of Islamic practices in Azerbaijan despite their repression during the Soviet period. The final lecture of the day was on curricular resources on Russia, the Newly Independent States, and Islam that are available to teachers. After a long information-packed day, participants and presenters alike were very ready to socialize and network over a delicious buffet dinner at the Casbah Mediterranean Restaurant and Lounge.

Michael Khodarkovsky, professor of history at Loyola University, began Thursday's session with a talk entitled, "Why Is There No Switzerland in the North Caucasus: Some Thoughts on Empire, Religion, and Identity." Ted Gerber, CREECA's director and a professor of sociology, then presented "Cauldron of Terrorism or Bowl of Kasha? A View of the North Caucasus Based on Survey Data." In the afternoon, Professor Schamiloglu gave a presentation called, "The Deepening Split between Islam and the West: New Challenges for the U.S.," followed by a visit to the Center for Instructional Materials and Computing, where Jim Jonas led an interactive session on Internet resources available to teachers. Thursday evening, our group was treated to a presentation and performance by Talant Mawkanuli, the former associate director of the Central Asian Interactive Listening Series, and David Dettmann, a master's student in Russian, East European, and Central Asian studies. Talant and David spoke on a variety of cultural-religious issues affecting Central Asia, including the Kazakh Islamic wedding ceremony, which they illustrated with video clips. Talant and David, both accomplished

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## UW, WPR Launch "Inside Islam"

*Inside Islam: Dialogues and Debates* is a new media initiative that seeks to challenge misconceptions and stereotypical perceptions about Islam and Muslims worldwide through a collaboration between UW-Madison's nine area and international studies centers, Wisconsin Public Radio, and the public. Drawing on the UW's longstanding strength in international studies and WPR's pioneering international news and global cultural affairs talk show, *Here on Earth: Radio without Borders*, Inside Islam creates a public forum for positive and constructive sharing of knowledge about Islam through innovative use of new media. CREECA is contributing to this endeavor by producing informative Web resources on Islam in Russia, Central and East Europe, and Central Eurasia.

The first radio program on "Heavy Metal Islam" aired on September 25, 2008. A related digital story, produced by **Fatima Sartbaeva**, addresses the link between music and Islam in Kazakstan. Both of these resources can be found on the Web site [www.insideislam.wisc.edu](http://www.insideislam.wisc.edu), which will be expanded throughout the year as new information is added.



David Dettman plays the pipa at the 2008 Teacher Workshop.

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musicians, delighted the group with their prowess on a variety of Central Asian instruments. It was a wonderfully low-key but informative end to the day.

Friday morning, Russell Zanca, associate professor of cultural anthropology at Northeastern Illinois University, gave the final lecture of the workshop, "The Nature of Islam in Today's Central Asia." After that, we had a tour of the Cooperative Children's Book Center, which boasts the richest collection of children's literature in the country. The workshop culminated with presentations by the Wisconsin teachers on how they plan to incorporate the knowledge they gained during the workshop into their classrooms.

Not only did teachers talk about their own ideas, but they solicited suggestions and input from their peers. Several teachers commented that this workshop had provided a rare opportunity to interact in a meaningful way with committed, engaged Wisconsin teachers from other schools. Said one of the participants, "Networking [opportunities were] awesome – so much to learn from others of all walks of life." Other teachers were pleased with the relevance of the workshop material to their classes. One teacher commented that the workshop went "beyond what I expected – I thought I was just here to learn about Islam, but it went much further and I have a plan to implement in the fall."



Participants of the 2008 annual Teacher Workshop.



- The next summer teacher workshop will be held June 22-26, 2009. CREECA and the Center for European Studies (CES) will collaborate on a five-day program of presentations, discussions, and networking to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Stay tuned for more information in the next CREECA newsletter. Interested teachers are encouraged to contact Nancy Heingartner ([outreach@creeca.wisc.edu](mailto:outreach@creeca.wisc.edu)) for more information.

► As reported in the English-language newspaper, "The St. Petersburg Times," **Daniel Jakubowski** (BA 2004) is part of a team of native speakers teaching advanced English to Russian clients at the Orange Language Center in St. Petersburg ("Language Learning Popular as Ever," Feb. 26, 2008). Daniel, who majored in Political Science, completed third-year Russian at Madison and first went to Russia three years ago. "I'm planning to extend my contract for at least one more year because I like it here," Daniel says.



► After completing a major in Russian language and literature, **Jennifer Ede Sarokin** (BA 2005) earned an MA in linguistics from Belarusian State University in Minsk. Jennifer has returned to the Madison area and is now working as a freelance interpreter and translator.

► **Damian Wampler** (MA in REECAS, 2005) lives in New York City, where he works as a recruiter for the Peace Corps.

► **Anna Oldfield** contributed the essay "Let's Drink Blood Like It's Sherbet!?: Aşiq Samira's *Misir?*" to the essay collection *Resounding Pasts: Essays in Literature, Music, and Cultural Memory*. The collection, forthcoming from Cambridge Scholars press, is edited by CREECA events coordinator and English Ph.D. student **Drago Momcilovic** and also features an essay on the film music of Balkan film maker Emir Kusturica.



# Baltic Studies Summer Institute

CREECA will host the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) in the summer of 2009 (June 15-August 7, 2009). BALSSI offers intensive Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian language courses as well as a cultural enhancement program which introduces students to the rich world of Baltic history and culture.

Elementary Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian language courses will be offered, as well as lectures (in English) on Baltic history and culture and a rich program of cultural events related to the Baltic lands.

BALSSI is sponsored by a consortium of eleven US universities and receives additional support from the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. For further information about BALSSI 2009, please contact Jennifer Tishler, CREECA associate director, at: [assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu](mailto:assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu), 1-608-262-3379.

## *In Memoriam* Khayrulla Ismatullaev (1937-2008)

By Uli Schamiloglu  
CHAIR OF CASP & PROFESSOR IN LCA

Khayrulla Ismatullaev, a former associate lecturer in the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, passed away on Sunday, August 24, 2008.

Dr. Ismatullaev taught Uzbek language and culture at Indiana University beginning in 1990 and since 2003 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He published a widely used series of textbooks for teaching Uzbek and was working on many important projects at the time of his death. He is also remembered as a popular emigre scholar of and commentator on Uzbek culture and politics.

He was laid to rest in the Muslim cemetery of Highland Memory Gardens outside Madison Wisconsin following services at the Islamic Center of Madison.

Khayrulla Ismatullaev was a highly valued and respected member of the Central Asian Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a great patriot of Uzbekistan (and, he might have added, Turkistan). He will be missed his colleagues, students, family, and friends.

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Later that month, FOCCUS (Friends of Chernobyl Centers U.S.) hosted a delegation of five people from communities in Ukraine severely impacted by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster: Boyarka, Borodyanka, Korosten, Ivankiv and Slavutich.

Participants were chosen as part of the national Open World program designed to provide professional and cultural experiences to emerging, young, professional leaders.

The five delegates represented community centers, hospitals, and government agencies that receive support from FOCCUS. Their twelve-day visit focused on public health and prevention and the critical role of citizen and corporate involvement in the health of a community and its citizens.

CREECA, which has a long-standing partnership with FOCCUS, supported the delegation by co-sponsoring an

Open Town Meeting on Chernobyl on the evening of June 27, which attracted over 40 people. Members of the delegation answered questions from the audience about the current

living situation in Ukraine, especially in those areas still experiencing the after-effects of Chernobyl. As part of this program, CREECA also supported a photography exhibition on Chernobyl, which was developed by Madison photographer Michael Forster Rothbart and which premiered at a reception sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church.

For further information about FOCCUS or to request a presentation or get

involved in their activities, contact **Norma Berkowitz:** [njberkow@wisc.edu](mailto:njberkow@wisc.edu), telephone: (608) 231-3198. Visit FOCCUS on the Web at: [www.friendsofchernobylcenters.org](http://www.friendsofchernobylcenters.org).



*Delegates spent an hour with State Senator Mark Miller (center), discussing the importance of citizen participation in effective democratic government.*



# Faculty and Staff News & Updates

► **David Danaher**, associate professor of Slavic languages and literature, co-edited the 2007 collection *Perspectives on Slavic Literatures* with Kris van Heuckelom



of the University of Leuven. The collection, published in Amsterdam by Pegasus, contains David's contribution "Cognitive Poetics and Literariness: Metaphorical Analogy in Anna Karenina." In 2007, David also published an article (in Czech) entitled

"Introduction to Cognitive Grammar" for a reader on linguistics published by Prague's Charles University and an article in *Slovo a smysl [Word and Sense]* (8) entitled "Framing Václav Havel." His contribution to a festschrift on the theme of "Teaching Havel" is also forthcoming. See his website <http://cokdybysme.net/publications.html> to download these and other publications.

► Having recently been tenured and promoted to associate professor in the Department of Political Science, **Scott Gehlbach**

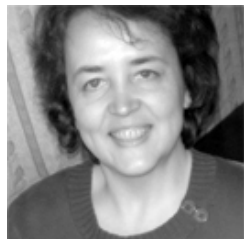


published his book *Representation Through Taxation: Revenue, Politics, and Development in Postcommunist States* through Cambridge University Press (Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics).

► Congratulations to **Andrew Reynolds**, who has been tenured and promoted to associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature.



► CREECA would like to welcome (back) **Irina Shevelenko** to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Slavic Department. Irina, who was a visiting assistant professor in the department 2000-2001, has returned to Madison as a new tenure-line assistant professor. A specialist in Russian Modernism, Irina has published widely on Marina Tsvetaeva and Boris Pasternak and has launched a new research project called *Modernism as Archaism: Nationalism and Archaizing Aesthetics in Russian Modernism*.



► **Wendy Johnson**, outreach coordinator and coordinator of the Central Asian Interactive Listening Series (CAILS) project at UW-Madison's Language Institute, is pleased to report that ten new lessons in Kazak are now available online at the CAILS website at [www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu/cails](http://www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu/cails). The project is directed by Professor Uli Schamiloglu of the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia. Ten lessons in Uzbek are expected to be completed by next summer.



► On a related note, former CAILS associate director **Talant Mawkanuli** presented the conference paper "Cross-Language Training: Developing Turkic Multimedia Instructional Material Online" on April 25, 2008 at the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages conference.



► **Michael J. Miklos**, professor of foreign languages and linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, received the prestigious Order of Merit from the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in Poland on August 7, 2008. Michael also published the article "Towards a History of Polonistyka in the United States and Canada," which appears in *The Polish Review* (LIII, 2, 2008).

## Student News & Updates

► CREECA M.A. student **David Dettman** once again this year promoted the Turkic languages and cultures of Central Asia with a presentation to area high school students at the Language Institute outreach program World Languages Day on April 22, 2008.

► CREECA undergraduate certificate candidate **Alec Luhn** is studying abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia for the 2008-09 academic year. He has earned several scholarships to fund his year abroad, including awards from the Department of History, Department of Journalism, Honors Department, and the International Academic Programs office. Alec also recently won the History Department's Curti Prize for his essay, "The Moon Hoax: Interpreting Falsehood in the Penny Press." Finally, he recently started the blog "Eagle and the Bear" to share his cultural impressions and international commentary from Russia. The blog can be found at <http://eagleandthebear.wordpress.com>.

► Congratulations to doctoral candidate **Heather Sonntag** (LCA), who was awarded a University Dissertator Fellowship by the Graduate School for the fall 2008 semester.

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# Foreign Language and Area Studies 2008-09 Fellows

CREECA wishes to congratulate the following recipients of the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for summer 2008 intensive language study and for foreign language and area studies during the 2008-09 academic year. FLAS fellowships are awarded on the basis of a competitive application process to graduate and professional school students who are enrolled in a program that combines modern foreign language training with international or area studies. Applications for summer 2009 and the 2009-10 academic year will be available on the CREECA Web site in November 2008.

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## *Summer 2008 Intensive Language Study*

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Sara Brinegar (history) – Intermediate Azerbaijani, Indiana University

Jacob Fleming (geography) – Advanced Russian, Indiana University

Laura Heideman (sociology) – Intermediate Croatian, University of Kansas program in Zadar, Croatia

MayaLisa Holzman (history) – Advanced Russian, Indiana University

Charitie Hyman (anthropology) – Intermediate Ukrainian, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv

Ellen Polglaze (Slavic) – Advanced Russian, Middlebury College

Ryan Tvedt (theatre and drama) – Intermediate Russian, Indiana University

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## *FLAS Fellows for the 2008-09 Academic Year*

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Paul Bakken (sociology) – Third-year Russian

Heidi Herschede (sociology) – Second-year Czech

MayaLisa Holzman (history) – First-year Polish

Matt Larson (REECAS) – Second-year Serbo-Croatian

Claire Schuchard (REECAS) – Second-year Uzbek

Stephanie Richards (Slavic) – Second-year Czech

Odette van Velsen (Slavic) – Second-Year Serbo-Croatian

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## Congratulations from CREECA!

Several May 2008 graduates also completed the undergraduate certificate in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS). Congratulations to Courtney Byelich (English/history), Peter Friedericks (Russian language and literature), Jane Gelfand (nutritional sciences), Benjamin Harguth (political science/international studies), Daniel Sislo (political science), and Alison Syre (economics/political science).

Congratulations to **Steve Lied** and **Orrin Viner**, who earned master's degrees in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) in spring 2008. Steve and his family have returned to Macedonia, where he continues his work with Millennium Relief and Development Services Development Corporation (see "CREECA Newsletter" Vol. 15, Issue 3). Orrin is currently working for the Wisconsin National Guard, and expects to be redeployed to Iraq in spring 2009.

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# Russian and East European Studies at UW-Milwaukee

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee continues in its mandate to introduce students to our areas of the world through the continuing work of the university's Russian and East European Studies Committee. The committee, established in 1970 and chaired this year by Assistant Professor Joseph Pescio of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, currently directs a certificate program in Russian and East European Studies, which they have offered since 1972. The members of the committee are Professor Philip Shashko and Associate Professor Neal Pease of History and Professors Shale Horowitz and Donald Pienkos of Political Science.

In addition, UW-Milwaukee's Polish Studies committee, formed in 1979 and chaired this year by Professor Pienkos, welcomes a new associate member into its ranks, Assistant Professor Winson Chu of History. Other members of the committee are Associate Professor Pease and Professor Michael Mikos of Foreign Languages and Linguistics.

Along with their scholarly publications and other contributions to their particular disciplines, members of both committees play active roles at the university and in the community. Learn more about these activities at <http://www4.uwm.edu/>.

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## Congratulations to Recent CREECA- Affiliated PhD Recipients

**Patrick Michelson** received his PhD in history in December 2007. Patrick taught "Russia: An Interdisciplinary Survey" in spring 2008 and is an honorary fellow with CREECA for the 2008-09 academic year, as he continues his research on the creation of the modern religious self in imperial Russia, 1801-1917.

**Anna Oldfield** received her PhD in Languages and Cultures of Asia in May 2008. She began her new position as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and a postdoctoral fellow in Asian Studies at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Anna's forthcoming book, *The Women Ashiqs of Azerbaijan: Tradition and Transformation*, is the first to study women bards in the Caucasus.



*Anna Oldfield received her diploma at the May 2008 graduation ceremony for PhD students, accompanied by her proud adviser Professor Sarah Atis (LCA).*

## EVENTS SCHEDULE



# FALL 2008

*We welcome suggestions from our faculty and students for speakers in the Thursday CREECA lecture series. Please send recommendations for the spring 2009 lecture series to Jennifer Tishler ([assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu](mailto:assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu)).*

### **Sunday, October 19, 2008**

*The Lazarus Project*

Aleksandar Hemon, Author

4 p.m. Promenade Hall

Overture Center, 201 State St.

### **Thursday, October 23, 2008**

*The Problems of Formation of Cultural*

*Identity in Modern Kazakhstan*

Gulnara Dadabaeva, UW-Madison

4 p.m. 336 Ingraham Hall

### **Thursday, October 30, 2008**

*Russian Drama and Theatre Today:*

*A Time of New Transitions*

John Freedman, Moscow Times

4 p.m. Mitchell Theater

Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave.

### **Friday, October 31**

*"What Is Russian Orientalism?"*

David Schimmelpenninck van

der Oye, Brock University

3:30 p.m. Curti Lounge

(5243 Humanities Bldg.)

### **Thursday, November 6, 2008**

*Accidental Dissidents: Yugoslav Avant-*

*Gardes and Social Realism*

Tatjana Aleksic, University of

Michigan

4 p.m. 336 Ingraham Hall

### **Monday, November 10**

*Leo Tolstoy in his Correspondence with*

*Nikolai Strakhov: A Philosophical*

*Dialogue on Faith*

Irina Paperno, UC-Berkeley

4:00 p.m. 1418 Van Hise Hall

### **Thursday, November 13, 2008**

*Within Two Tyrannies: Soviet Academic*

*Refugees of World War II*

Marina Sorokina, Russian Academy of

Sciences Archive

4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

### **Thursday, November 20, 2008**

AAASS Conference: No Lecture

### **Thursday, November 27, 2008**

Thanksgiving Break: No Lecture

### **Thursday, December 4, 2008**

*Explaining the Russian Mortality*

*Paradox*

Michel Guillot, UW-Madison

4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

### **Thursday, December 11, 2008**

*Bucky on Baikal: A Trans-Siberian*

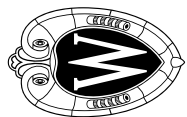
*Adventure with the W.A.A.*

Jennifer Tishler, UW-Madison

4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

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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.



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Contributions to the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia are always appreciated. If you wish to support CREECA, please send your contribution to:



Please indicate that it is intended for CREECA.  
For more information about making a gift to CREECA,  
please contact **Betsy Liotus** at the UW Foundation.

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