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Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia

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INTERNATIONAL FIELD RESEARCH AWARDS



Editor's note: In spring 2008, the Division of International Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison launched a new competition for graduate student international field research awards. The awards are designed to enable doctoral students to conduct exploratory research abroad both to develop their dissertation topics and to be more competitive for extramural fellowships. Alexander Prishchepov, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, received funding through the first round of this initiative in order to conduct field research in Russia in the summer of 2008.

While many graduate students affiliated with CREECA conduct field research in the summer months, Alexander's work is distinguished by the time he spends in actual fields to collect his data.

"Using Satellite Images and Socioeconomic Analysis to Study Post-Soviet Agricultural Abandonment in Temperate Eastern Europe"

By Alexander Prishchepov
PH.D. CANDIDATE
FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

Jumping from the Russian off-road vehicle "Niva" and walking up to a kilometer back and forth in old farm fields encroached by birch and coniferous trees in order to collect ground reference points—this is perhaps the most appropriate way to describe my type of field work. Before that, I spent the previous winter and spring in the SILVIS lab (advisor Dr. Volker Radeloff) at the Forest and Wildlife Ecology Department, analyzing satellite images, selecting the best way to classify the scenes, digitizing

declassified Soviet military topographic maps and pretesting different methods of field data collection in the Arboretum. It felt as though I was preparing myself to go to the Moon. This is not surprising, given that each collected point in the field, by a conservative estimate, would cost about \$10, accounting only for expenses related to car rental, gas, and buying a roundtrip ticket from the USA to mother Russia. I planned to collect at least 200 reference points. As

an environmentalist I also had to consider the ecological footprint of such work, primarily the gas consumption necessary to travel between randomly placed reference points and to study those sites. Additionally I had to account for how much time it would take to collect each reference point. Changeable weather conditions in temperate European Russia during the summer, combined with

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Alexander Prishchepov in Bogoliubovo, with the cupolas of Saint-Bogoliubovo Monastery in the background.



Alexander Prishchepov conducting field work in Riazan Oblast, Russia.

Manon van de Water

By Drago Momcilovic
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR



Since she joined the UW-Madison faculty in 1997, Manon van de Water has been an innovative and engaging scholar in our campus community. Recently promoted to professor of theatre research, Manon received her Ph.D. in theatre from Arizona State University and a *doctorandus* title in Slavic Languages and Literature from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Manon specializes in a variety of fields, including Russian theatre, theatre for adults and youth, theatre and education, and the various intersections emerging between material conditions, performative practices, and meaning. Her articles have appeared in journals like *Modern Drama* and *Youth Theatre Journal*. Manon's book, *Moscow Theatres for Young People: A Cultural History of Ideological Coercion and Artistic Innovation, 1917-2000*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2006.

Manon's publication record and academic engagements are matched and even enhanced by her commitment to field and community work, particularly in Russia. She has recently returned from St. Petersburg, where she spent six days with a colleague leading workshops on drama and education for schoolteachers from Beslan, the town in the Northern Caucasus that was the site of a horrifying school hostage crisis in September, 2004. Invited by the Russian Theatre Federation, Manon led a series of workshops that taught schoolteachers new dramatic methods and scenarios to help them engage and relate to their young students back home. Manon

explains that this project addresses a critical need in the Beslan community, which was left reeling after the school siege five years ago. Even now, schools in Beslan are the sites of tense and sometimes difficult learning environments for both teachers and students. Manon also explains that teachers from that region have had a particularly difficult time, as the impact of the events of September 2004 on local educators has been overshadowed by local and international concern for the welfare and safety of the children. Indeed, many of the teachers continue to experience guilt, or have even been blamed by others, for not having done more to prevent the tragedy. Manon's workshops were intended to give teachers from the devastated town creative and engaging techniques to help them foster and maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and trust, for themselves as well as their students. Manon plans to go to Beslan to follow up with the teachers and students in the future and is currently working on an article that investigates the role of theatre and drama in volatile borderlands, such as the Northern Caucasus.

During her recent trip to Russia, Manon also participated in the "International Theatre Kingfestival," a youth festival for all ages that celebrates the power of the fairy tale as a global dramatic form. Now in its tenth year, the festival featured eighteen theatrical performances from casts and companies around the world, including South Korea, Latvia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Spain. The festival, which ran from April 25-29, 2009 in the northwestern Russian city of Novgorod,

was organized by the Novgorod Malyi Theatre and allowed different theatre troupes to compete for prizes. Manon had the distinct honor of being invited by the Russian branch of ASSITEJ, the International Association of Theatres for Children and Young People, to serve on the festival's jury, along with notable critics from Latvia and St. Petersburg and a theatre arts director from Sweden. Among the winning productions was a Bulgarian production of a two-person stage adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's "The Overcoat." Awarded the best performance for older youth, the play has had a successful global run, having been performed in nine different languages.

At times, Manon's projects are shaped by her personal interests and commitments. She recently collaborated with her teenage daughter Karlijn on the translation of a Dutch children's play by Moniek Merks, *Falling Girls*. *Falling Girls* is an enchanting scenario about three young girls who have fallen into the desert from the sky. Assisted by Karlijn, Manon translated the play in 2008; it ran under her direction at the University Theatre for three weeks in March-April 2009. Manon explains that it was an absolute pleasure working with her daughter on this project because they both brought particular strengths



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Russia's infamous lack of reliable roads, would make gaining access to villages and farm fields nearly impossible after heavy rains. Such are the greatest constraints to conducting my type of field work in Russia.

So, the question is why did I choose Russia? Why not study a world region like the tropics, so rich in biodiversity and relatively undisturbed by humans? What is unique about the European part of Russia? The answer lies in what happened almost twenty years ago when the Soviet Union collapsed. This affected all sectors of the economy, but probably the most drastic impact was in the agricultural sector. For scientists, the dissolution of the socialist bloc in Eastern Europe may serve as an "unrepeatable natural experiment," impossible to set up in nature. This "experiment" allowed me to test different hypotheses and to compare the environmental effects of different land reform strategies employed during the transition from central planning to a market-driven economy.

The post-socialist changes in land use land cover (LULC) were very dramatic. For instance, by 2000, according to conservative estimates, about 25 million hectares of arable land were abandoned in Russia alone. This amount of abandoned arable land might be compared to all arable land available in France. This situation looks problematic, given recent "neo-colonial" expansion of agricultural land utilization by China and South Korea into other countries, as well as the worldwide increase in food prices. Since 1991, Russia has become even more dependent on importing agricultural products than it was during Soviet times. By 2007, Russia became the largest importer of beef from Brazil, indirectly affecting deforestation rates in the Brazilian Amazon.

The rates of agricultural land abandonment have varied widely among the former Soviet republics. This was likely due to different land reform strategies and existing initial preconditions in each republic prior to implementing "shock therapy." However, to date there are only a few attempts to quantitatively estimate the rates of land use and land cover change (LULCC) and the factors causing LULCC among former Socialist countries in Eastern Europe.

Through my dissertation work I am trying to fill this gap.

Unfortunately, agricultural statistics provide an inefficient way to estimate real changes in LULC due to many methodological issues. One promising potential source to retrieve reliable data on LULC is to use satellite images. Recent changes in U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) policies now allow free use of any Landsat scenes available in archives. The Landsat Program is a series of Earth-observing satellite missions jointly managed by NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey. In existence for more than thirty years, Landsat makes it possible to monitor LULC around the globe. And this data allowed me to confidentially detect post-socialist LULC change, primarily agricultural land abandonment across temperate Eastern Europe.

However, each remotely sensed data classification is just a hypothesis unless classification is also statistically verified using independently collected reference data. Receiving the graduate student international field research award in 2008 from the Division of International Studies allowed me to conduct field work in four Russian oblasts or regions (Smolenskaia, Kaluzhskaia, Riazanskaia and Vladimirskaia), which complemented my analysis of post-socialist LULC change across other former socialist countries (Belarus, Latvia, and Lithuania). Since the selected study period was between 1989 and 2000 and field work was conducted in 2008 it was important to use dendroecological approaches, such as measuring tree rings and tree height of emerged tree species, to be certain that abandonment happened between 1989 and 2000. To support classification training, and to understand land use change history and the natural and socioeconomic factors driving post-socialist farmland abandonment in this region, I conducted a set of semi-structured interviews with local farmers, agronomists and leaders of privatized state and collective farms. Additionally, to support consequent modeling of the factors driving farmland abandonment, I was able to collect socioeconomic statistics at the district level from local statistical archives both in Russia's Smolenskaia oblast and in Belarus.

The preliminary results of this field work were presented in Odessa, Ukraine (August 23-28, 2008), during a NATO advanced research workshop titled "Regional Aspects of Climate-Terrestrial Hydrologic Interactions in Eastern Europe." Slides from our presentation, "Post-Socialist Land Cover Change in Eastern Europe: Detecting Agricultural Abandonment Across Several Countries," are available online:

http://neespi.org/web-content/meetings/Odessa_2008/Day_5_8_Prishchepov.pdf

The graduate student international field research award allowed me to conduct required field work, to collect socioeconomic statistical data, and to attend the professional meeting. The field work was crucial for confident mapping of farmland abandonment in Russia. The work I conducted while in Russia will be incorporated directly into the second chapter of my dissertation. Moreover, I feel that the award (and the resulting field work it funded) also made me more competitive for an extramural NASA Earth Science Fellowship I applied for this year to support my dissertation work (the results are going to be announced in the middle of May 2009). ■

Graduate students affiliated with CREECA continue to be very competitive in the international field research awards program. In the most recent competition, MayaLisa Holzman (history) and Nicole (Nikki) Kraus (sociology) both received awards for field research to be conducted in summer 2009. MayaLisa will use her award to conduct exploratory archival research in Moscow regarding the Soviet partisan movement during the Second World War on the Eastern front. MayaLisa plans to work in the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF), the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGASPI), and the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI) in order to research questions of Soviet partisan identity, power dynamics, gender, and nationality as articulated by state propaganda and partisans. Nikki will also be heading to Moscow this summer in order to continue her research on xenophobia in the Russian Federation.



The Silk Road Ensemble performs for a large crowd in the Great Hall of Memorial Union.

NOVRUZ CELEBRATION

with the

Silk Road Ensemble

On Thursday, April 2, 2009 the Central Asian Student Association (CASA), together with CREECA and the Central Asian Studies Program (CASP) welcomed the “Silk Road Ensemble” for a musical celebration of Novruz, the traditional Persian New Year which is observed throughout Central Asia to welcome spring. The artists included Shahyar Daneshgar (percussion and vocals), Noruz Mamedov (vocals, saz, percussion), Arif Bagirov (tar, saz, guitar), and Rashad Mamedov (keyboard and accordion). On the morning of April 2, the ensemble presented a lecture-demonstration at Lindbergh Elementary School on Madison’s East side for an energetic group of kindergarten through fifth-graders and their teachers. The music was unlike anything most of the children had heard before and their responses ranged from surprise to delight. They particularly enjoyed Shahyar’s fancy dance moves, as was demonstrated by their enthusiastic clapping.

That evening, the quartet played to a large crowd in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union, offering up a musical and cultural journey along the traditional Silk Road that featured numbers from Afghanistan to Turkey. Under the vocal leadership of Noruz Mamedov, the “Silk Road Ensemble” highlighted the musical heritage of Azerbaijan, including tunes like “Samani” (Novruz Greenery) and other songs that integrated traditional



Lindbergh Elementary School students enjoy the music of the Silk Road Ensemble.

instruments (saz, tar) with popular musical motifs. The celebratory atmosphere of the concert was enhanced when audience members got up to dance to their favorite songs.

CREECA is extremely grateful to David Dettmann, president of CASA, for all his work in organizing this successful event. Thanks also to Lonya Nenashev of Red Square Audio and to Professor Uli Schamiloglu, chair of the Central Asian Studies Program. The program would not have happened without the generous financial support of the Anonymous fund of the College of Letters & Science and the Associated Students of Madison. For more information on the Silk Road Ensemble, please visit www.silkroadensemble.com.

DIGITAL LIBRARY RESOURCES

News & Developments



The University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) has made available online a unique collection of English-language travel accounts by visitors to Muslim regions of the Russian Empire from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century. The earliest of these accounts is that of American George Ditson who traveled through the Caucasus in 1847. The travelogues, which have been digitized in full, constitute a small but useful collection of source material, providing rich cultural, ethnographic and geographic information. The collection may be accessed at the following link:
<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/EastEurope.IslamEurasia>

For more information on the UWDCC, please visit:
<http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu>

The World Digital Library (WDL), a collaborative project of the U.S. Library of Congress and UNESCO, has a mission to make significant primary materials available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, from various countries and cultures around the world.

The collection is divided geographically; sections on “Europe” and “Central and South Asia” feature photographs, maps, and prints from many of the lands represented by CREECA. Items on the WDL may easily be browsed by place, time, topic, type of item, and contributing institution, or can be located by an open-ended search in several languages:
<http://www.wdl.org/en/>

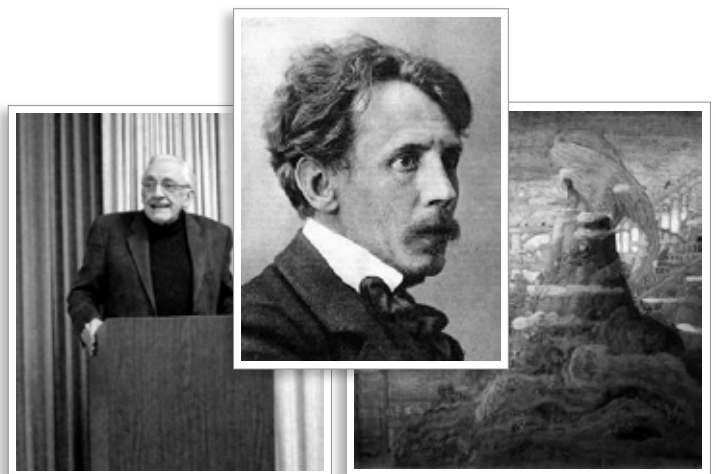
UW-Milwaukee Presents “Images of Russia and Caucasus Region 1929-1933”

As part of their ongoing work with the archives of the American Geographical Society, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s libraries scanned and digitized over 700 of William O. Field’s images for this fine collection. Visitors to the collection can browse through the images via thematic categories like “Architecture” or “Cities and Towns.”

William O. Field spent much of his life as a geographer, pioneer glaciologist, and active member of the American Geographical Society. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Field made three visits to the Soviet Union. During his time there he photographed some of the highest peaks in the Caucasus and also found time to document a variety of historical churches, towers, and settlements in the surrounding area.

The digital archive can be viewed at:
<http://www.uwm.edu/Library/digilib/georgia/index.html>

Ciurlionis Exhibit Celebrates Lithuanian Independence Day



On February 23, 2009 Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities (MVSC) organized a festive celebration of Lithuania’s Independence Day at the central branch of the Madison Public Library. Alfred E. Senn (pictured above, left), UW-Madison Professor Emeritus of History, delivered a lecture about the Lithuanian artist and composer Mikalojus Ciurlionis (1875-1911). The lecture was just one part of a month-long exhibit of posters of Ciurlionis’ work held at the Madison Public Library and sponsored by MVSC.

For more information about MVSC, including images from the exhibit, please visit <http://madisonvilnius.org>

CREECA Co-sponsors “HIV/AIDS in Eurasia” Conference

The Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia (CREECA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in collaboration with the Social Science Research Council's Eurasia Program and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) at the University of Texas-Austin organized a conference entitled “HIV/AIDS in Eurasia: Regional and Comparative Perspectives” held at the University of Texas-Austin campus April 20-21, 2009.

The timely conference featured scholars from across Russia and the United States engaged in social science research on topics related to HIV/AIDS in Eurasia. Panel presentations included discussions on topics ranging from prevention and risk behavior, government responses to the epidemic, the provision of antiretrovirals (ARVs), sexual practices and stigma to the challenges of conducting field research on sensitive topics in Eurasia, and the availability of data sources in the region. Additionally, one panel devoted to comparative perspectives on HIV/AIDS explored the connections between issues relevant to the Eurasian experience with presentations on studies conducted in India, China and Brazil.

Following opening remarks by UT-Austin CREEES Director, Tom Garza (Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies), Cynthia Buckley, professor of sociology, delivered a keynote address entitled “Time, Space and Place: How Eurasia Informs Our Understanding of the AIDS Pandemic.” Panelists included Yuri Amirkhanian and Jill Owczarzak of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, both off-campus affiliates of CREECA. Dr. Amirkhanian presented on “Social Network-Level HIV Prevention Interventions among Central and Eastern European



Alisha Kirchoff (SSRC, former CREECA events coordinator), Yuri Amirkhanian (Medical College of Wisconsin, CREECA affiliate) and Ted Gerber (director of CREECA) attend the conference.

In Memoriam

Yuri K. Shcheglov

(January 26th, 1937 - April 6th, 2009)

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and CREECA mourn the loss of Yuri K. Shcheglov, who passed away April 6, 2009 in Madison.

Professor Shcheglov, who taught in the Slavic department from 1989 until his retirement in 2007, was an internationally renowned linguist and scholar of literature and culture, especially Russian.

His detailed commentaries on the famous Soviet humorists Ilf and Petrov received wide popular and critical acclaim and have appeared in several editions.

He will be deeply missed by his colleagues and students.

At-Risk Populations” and Dr. Owczarzak on “Activism, NGOs, and HIV Prevention in Post-socialist Poland: The Role of ‘Anti-Politics.’” Wrapping up the day-and-a-half of discussion and panel presentations, CREECA Director Ted Gerber presented closing remarks that synthesized the discussion and drew together broad themes presented by the panelists.

This latest conference grew out of a partnership established by CREECA and CREEES in 2007 when the two centers co-hosted a conference on “Challenges, Choices and Context: Health Behaviors in Eastern Europe and Eurasia.” Through Cynthia Buckley’s and Ted Gerber’s involvement with the SSRC’s project on HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation (funded by the Ford Foundation Moscow), this institutional partnership was expanded to include the SSRC Eurasia Program, which provided financial and administrative support for the 2009 conference. Additional conference sponsors included the University of Texas Department of Sociology and College of Liberal Arts.

We at CREECA would like to express our special thanks to UW alumna and former CREECA staffer Alisha Kirchoff (BA 2006). In her current position as program coordinator with the SSRC Eurasia Program in New York, Alisha had primary responsibility for organizing the many details of this conference.

Copies of the presentation abstracts are available on the CREEES Web site:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/creees/outreach/symposia/>



Students have their names written in Cyrillic at the Russian table during "International Day."

International Day at Elm Lawn Elementary School

By Laura Weigel
EVENTS COORDINATOR

▼ *Elm Lawn Elementary School students proudly show completed Poland and Russia passports.*

On Tuesday, March 12th, 2009, team CREECA sent volunteers to Elm Lawn Elementary School in Middleton, for the school's annual "International Day." Each year, Elm Lawn hosts this impressive, global event to teach elementary school students about different cultures and countries around the world. In a single morning, over 550 young people make trips to the school gymnasium, visiting various tables and booths representing different countries, to learn new information and to get stamps in their handmade, kid-sized passports. The students prepare for this event months in advance, learning grade-appropriate information about the countries, and preparing questions to ask each presenter. Twenty-seven countries were represented at this year's "International Day."

CREECA had displays for two countries: Russia and Poland. Lauren McCarthy, a Ph.D. candidate in political science, and Laura Weigel, CREECA events coordinator, volunteered at the Russia station, in addition to several community members and teachers from area school districts. At the table, students learned how to write their names in Russian, looked at a Russian-language picture book of "The Incredibles," and sampled

Russian delicacies such as borsch and blini. The children also contemplated matroshki nesting dolls, pointed out Russia on the globe, and tried to answer the question, "Chto takoe Cheburashka?" ("What is a Cheburashka?"). The children were so enthusiastic, that several Elm Lawn teachers asked for their own names to be written in Cyrillic too! To add to the fun, the UW-Madison Russian Folk Orchestra arrived later in the morning for a lively performance, and the kids enjoyed dancing along to the music.



At her table, Nancy Heingartner, CREECA outreach coordinator, used pictures and small props (money, a soccer shirt) to inform the children about Poland's significance in the world. Kids learned the name of the Polish capital city, the population of Poland, some favored national dishes, and how to recognize the Polish flag.

Over 100 volunteers participated in Elm Lawn's International Day, leading the student groups on their "worldwide" tour from table to table.

A memorable and educational time was had by all!

to the collaboration—including Manon’s fluency in Dutch and her daughter’s intuitive sense of the English idioms that young girls actually use. Manon has also translated three Dutch plays for the book *Dutch Theatre for Children* (New Plays Inc., 2008) which she also edited.

With such strong commitments to both outreach and professional research, it is not surprising that Manon’s recent activities have laid some of the intellectual groundwork for new and exciting academic projects. The award-winning performance of “The Overcoat” at the Kingfestival, in particular, appealed to Manon as a potential research subject that exemplifies the many different cultural impacts a theatre piece

can have and the different meanings that can accrue from its various contexts and translations. With such projects on the horizon, Manon is interested in pursuing an in-depth study of the relationship between theatre, culture, and youth audiences on a more global scale. Tentatively titled *Theatre, Young People, and Culture: A Critical and Historical Inquiry*, the book will draw attention to the role of young people and theatre for children and youth in various theatrical cultures. Manon was granted a prestigious two-year Vilas Associate Award to conduct research for the project.

With additional professional duties on her plate – including her work as chair of the International Theatre for Young

Audiences Research Network (ITYARN), an organization founded in Norway to stimulate international research on theatre for youth – it is easy to see the depth of Manon’s investment in bringing international perspectives to bear on her work. Manon enthusiastically adds that CREECA has been an important research institution that has helped her develop and pursue her interests by offering opportunities for collegial exchange with scholars both in theatre and in Russian area studies. We look forward to watching her impressive body of work grow and flourish with these new and inspiring projects. ■

Professionalization Workshop Prepares Area Studies Grads for Job Search

On April 24-25, 2009, the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) at the University of Kansas, held a professionalization workshop for graduate students in Russian, East European, and Central Asian studies. The workshop was planned with the support of CREECA and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) at the University of Texas-Austin. Ten graduate students from the three partner centers participated, including CREECA MA students David Dettmann and Matthew Larson.

With the goal of helping area studies graduate students find employment in their desired field, the workshop included sessions on job search strategies, approaches to writing and publishing, hands-on sessions on writing cover letters, resumes and curricula vitae, and mock interviews. Guest speakers at the workshop, all University of Kansas alumni, included UW-Madison’s own Andy Spencer, Bibliographer for Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Studies, as well as Adrian Erlinger, an account manager with the international communications consulting firm PBN Company, Darrell Kendall, a program associate with the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), and Lieutenant Randy Masten from the Department of Joint,



Participants of the professionalization workshop meet at the University of Kansas.

Interagency and Multinational Operations at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In the first roundtable session, the four panelists described their jobs and their own employment history, discussing job search strategies with the student participants. Students also had the opportunity to get feedback on their resumes and CVs, and to ask the panelists about their experiences and tips for effective networking. A festive, casual gathering at a local brew pub rounded out the program. At the conclusion of the weekend, graduate student participants felt more confident going into the job market, commenting that the workshop had broadened their horizons.

According to Matt Larson, “We heard from two recent grads, both working in Washington, D.C., who had great advice about finding opportunities as well as applying and interviewing for jobs. Their insight was most useful since they had just recently gone through the process, although the other panelists had valuable contributions as well. Overall, there was a nice balance of new and experienced perspectives.” David Dettmann found especially helpful the information on how to, in David’s words, “crack the Washington, D.C. nut” and break into those jobs from schools like Kansas and Wisconsin that are remote from the nation’s capital. “The experiences of those alumni challenged the convention that you can only work in D.C. if you’ve gone to school there,” said David.

News & Updates

UW-Madison Faculty and Academic Staff

Deniz Balgamis, faculty associate in history at UW-Madison, was invited in March 2009 to give a talk entitled "Turkish Migration Studies in the U.S.: Its History, Resources and Future" as part of the Turkish Studies Symposium on "Turkish Diasporas, Turkish Communities" at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Deniz also gave a classroom talk for the university's education department entitled "The History of Turkish Migration to the U.S." in March 2009.

UW-Madison Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature **David Bethea** is coming out with a new book of essays through the Academic Studies Press in Boston, called *The Superstitious Muse: Thinking Russian Literature Mythopoetically*. Professor Bethea also gave a talk at the Slavic Colloquium at the University of Chicago on April 16, 2009, titled "The Evolution of Evolution: Genes, Memes, Intelligent Design, and Nabokov."

We are pleased to report that **Scott Gehlbach**, associate professor of political science at UW-Madison, was recently awarded a Lyons Faculty Fellow Award from the College of Letters and Science. In addition, his article "Helping Hand or Grabbing Hand? State Bureaucracy and Privatization Effectiveness," authored jointly with John S. Earle and J. David Brown, will be published in the May 2009 issue of *American Political Science Review*.

Congratulations to **Nancy Heingartner**, CREECA Outreach Coordinator! Nancy received a 2009-10 academic staff professional development grant that will be used to help fund her participation in the fall 2009 AWSA (Association of Wisconsin School Administrators) convention, where she will co-present a talk titled, "Internationalizing the K-12 Curriculum with the Help of the Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium."

Francine Hirsch, associate professor of history at UW-Madison, was recently honored with a Romnes Faculty Fellowship. Given by the Graduate School and funded by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, this award recognizes nine tenured faculty members who have attained tenure within the last four years. Professor Hirsch, author of the award-winning book *Empire of Nations: Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union*, is currently working on a project about the role of the Soviet Union in the Nuremberg trials.

Robert J. Kaiser, professor of geography, has been awarded an International Institute Faculty Contribution Grant in recognition of his outstanding service to CREECA and to the International Institute as a whole.

UW-Madison Professor Emeritus of History **Kemal Karpat** recently delivered several university lectures, including "Migrations from the Balkans to the United States" at Rutgers University (April 2009) and "Turkish Migration to the U.S." for the Turkish Studies Symposium on "Turkish Diasporas, Turkish Communities" at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (March 2009). Professor Karpat has also just published his book *Elitler ve Din* (Elites and Religion) (Istanbul: Timas, 2009).

Alumni and Off-Campus Affiliates

Anna C. Oldfield, visiting professor of comparative literature and postdoctoral fellow in Asian Studies at Hamilton College,

has just published her book *Azerbaijani Women Poet-Minstrels: Women Ashiqs from the Eighteenth Century to the Present* (Edwin Mellen Press). This work examines women *ashiqs* and their poetry, contextualizing their lives and works within discussions of the history, music, poetics, and social importance of the *ashiq* in Azerbaijan. Anna received her Ph.D. from the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia at UW-Madison in 2008.

We extend our sincerest congratulations to alumnus **Jonathan A. Grant**, currently a professor in history at Florida State University, who was recently named the 2008 Florida Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Jonathan earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1995 and specializes in Russian, Central Asian, Ottoman and Balkan history.

Professor **Lowell Barrington** (UW-Madison BA, '90), a CREECA affiliate faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Marquette University, published a new introductory comparative politics textbook in February of 2009, *Comparative Politics: Structures and Choices* (Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2010).

Students

Congratulations are due to UW-Madison graduate students **Nicole (Nikki) Butkovich Kraus** (sociology) and **Jessica Mason** (anthropology) for being awarded Title VIII scholarships to participate in the Advanced Russian Language Program through ACTR/ACCELS for summer 2009.

Brian Johnson (Slavic) received his Ph.D. in December 2008. In fall 2009, he will join Swarthmore College as a visiting assistant professor of Russian.

Bradley Moore completed his preliminary examinations for the Joint Ph.D. program in History and History of Science, Medicine, and Technology in fall 2008. He has since received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue his dissertation research on the impacts of Stalinism on public health science, discourse, and practice in the former East Germany and Czechoslovakia. The project, currently titled "Healthy Comrades: The Stalinization of Public Health in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, 1948-1956," seeks to gain a more complete understanding of the communist vision of a healthy socialist citizen, the manner in which ideology succeeds or fails in its attempts to manipulate health science, and the methods of power and influence which society and professionals still wield under totalitarian conditions.

Slavic Languages and Literature Ph.D. candidate **Molly Thomasy** was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to conduct research in Moscow during the 2009-10 academic year. Molly also presented her paper "Joseph Brodsky and the Poetics of Photography" at this year's Northeast Modern Languages Association (NEMLA) annual convention on February 26, 2009.

Anthropology graduate student and associate lecturer **David A. Weber** completed an article "Changing Sacredness and Historical Memory of Moscow's Red Square," which is forthcoming in *Studies in Slavic Culture XIII* (University of Pittsburgh).

Laura Weigel, CREECA events coordinator, has accepted a position with American Councils for International Education, as a Participant Recruiter for the FLEX program in Moscow, Russia.

SAVE the



Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company October 14, 2009

On Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 8 P.M. the Wisconsin Union Theater will welcome the Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company as part of its "World Stage Series." A dynamic folk dancing ensemble, the Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company is theatrical and full of energy. Traveling with its signature orchestra, this 85-member company is classically trained--and well-versed in Ukrainian folklore. CREECA is proud to be a presenting partner for this performance. For more information, or to purchase tickets for this performance, please visit the Wisconsin Union Theater Web site:

<http://uniontheater.wisc.edu/season/virsky.html>

cinematheque

Cinematheque's "Red Hollywood" October 2009

In October 2009, CREECA will partner with the UW-Madison Cinematheque on the film series "Red Hollywood," featuring four Soviet musical comedies of the 1930s with beloved film icon Liubov Orlova: *Happy Guys*, *Volga-Volga*, *Circus*, and *Shining Path*. The final schedule of films is not yet available. Check the Cinematheque Web Site for updates at cinema.wisc.edu.

Full mailbox?

Go green and sign up to receive the electronic version of the CREECA newsletter!

To change your subscription options, or to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact Julia Vasylenko at info@creeca.wisc.edu.

DATE !

"Satellites" Photography Exhibit September 25 to November 10, 2009

"Satellites: Photographs from the Fringes of the Former Soviet Union," by noted photojournalist Jonas Bendiksen, will be on display from September 25 to November 10, 2009 in the Porter Butts Gallery of the Memorial Union. "Satellites" is the culmination of Bendiksen's fascinating seven-year photographic journey through unrecognized countries, enclaves, and isolated communities on the periphery of the former Soviet Union. From Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Siberia, he takes us into little known places where the stark legacy of the Soviet collapse continues to evolve: Transdniester, Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh, the Ferghana Valley, the Jewish Autonomous Region, and the spaceship crash zones on the Kazakh steppes. Bendiksen's haunting photographs and text explore these restless territories' search for historical, religious and ideological identity, and form a timely look into unfinished chapters of Soviet history. CREECA is proud to sponsor "Satellites" in its Madison debut. The exhibit is made possible through the generous financial support of the Anonymous Fund of the College of Letters & Sciences and the Alice D. Mortenson-Michael B. Petrovich Chair in Russian History.



Image © Jonas Bendiksen

Day in Central and East Europe Tuesday, March 16, 2010

ATTENTION TEACHERS OF HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIORS AND SENIORS!

Day in East and Central Europe, CREECA's annual mini-conference, is coming in spring 2010.

The event will be held in the Great Hall of Memorial Union from 8:30 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. Please mark your calendars!



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East Europe and Central Asia are always
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For more information about making a gift to CREECA,
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