



Photo by Carrie Roy

BALSSI students, instructors, and administrators on the University of Wisconsin campus, summer '09.

BALSSI brings Baltics to Madison

By Nancy Heingartner
 CREECA OUTREACH COORDINATOR AND
 BALSSI PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Baltic Studies Summer Institute, BALSSI, offers students in the U.S. the only domestic opportunity for intensive study of the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian languages during the summer. Founded in 1993, BALSSI is sponsored by a consortium of American universities and rotates regularly among the sponsoring institutions. In summer 2009, under the direction of Tom DuBois, professor of Scandinavian studies, UW-Madison was the enthusiastic host of this impressive program.

From June 15th until August 7th fourteen dedicated students and three intrepid instructors (Piibi-Kai Kivik—elementary Estonian, Dzidra Rodins—elementary Latvian, and

Daiva Lirvinskaite—elementary Lithuanian) spent four hours a day in class and more time on their own studying and preparing lessons. The intensive pace of classroom learning was supplemented by a series of Baltic-related lectures and cultural programs including films from all three countries. Lectures were given by Robert Kaiser, UW-Madison professor of geography, “Post-Soviet Borderlands as Diaspora Spaces: The Case of Setomaa, Estonia,” Alfred Senn, UW-Madison history professor emeritus, “What Is Lithuania?,” Rudra Vilis Dundzila, Harry S. Truman College, City Colleges of Chicago, professor of hu-

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Every gift enables CREECA to do something we could not otherwise have accomplished, whether it's support for undergraduate and graduate students, an additional lecture, or a course development grant.

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For more information about making a gift to CREECA, please contact **Ann Dingman** at UW Foundation (608-265-9954, ann.dingman@uwfoundation.wisc.edu).

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Letter from the director



By Ted Gerber
CREECA DIRECTOR

Dear friends of CREECA,
I hope that the fall semester has been productive and enjoyable for all of you. Now that (alas) winter is almost upon us, it is a good time to look back at some of the major events that CREECA has sponsored since last spring. During the summer of 2009, we hosted the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), which provided courses in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian along with a series of cultural events. I want to acknowledge the efforts of Tom DuBois, professor of Scandinavian studies, who played a leading role in getting BALSSI to Madison and served as faculty director. The other major CREECA event of the summer was our teacher workshop on the theme of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (co-sponsored by the Center for European Studies). The annual teacher workshops are one of our most important outreach activities, and this year we lived up to the high standard we have set in the past, in terms of providing a program that was both stimulating and useful for the teacher participants. I will take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to Nancy Heingartner, CREECA's outreach coordinator, for her tireless efforts organizing both BALSSI and the summer teacher workshop at the same time. Nancy's energy and determination were indispensable to the success of these programs. Nancy also deserves kudos for bringing to our campus Jonas Bendiksen's photo exhibit, "Satellites" during the fall 2009 semester. The exhibit remains at the Porter Butts Gallery at the Memorial Union

until November 10: if you have not yet had the chance yet to view these stunning photos of peripheral areas of the former Soviet Union, I encourage you to do so.

Some of you may have noticed new faces in the CREECA office, and that of course means some familiar faces have moved on. Laura Weigel, our events coordinator last year, completed her bachelor's degree with majors in Russian and international studies in May 2009 and continued in what has become quite a tradition of CREECA student staff finding exciting jobs in the field: she is currently working in Russia as a recruiter for the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX), at the American Councils for International Education, which means she is based in Moscow and makes frequent trips throughout the Russian Federation. Tarah Haack, who as our webmaster last year did an outstanding job in revamping CREECA's Web site, received her bachelor of science degree in life sciences communication. We wish both of them success in their new endeavors. We are very fortunate to have found two great replacements for Laura and Tarah. Naira Ovsepyan, who has joined the team as office coordinator, is majoring in political science, international studies, and Russian. Alec Luhn, just back from a year studying and working abroad in Russia, has taken over as web and publications assistant. I am very impressed by the enthusiasm and efficiency with which they have jumped in to these positions, and their efforts have been vital to the smooth functioning of the CREECA office despite the departures of their predecessors. Julia Vasylenko, who has now shifted from office coordinator to events coordinator, and Maki Raymo, our financial specialist, round out the staff, and I am grateful to them for their fine work in keeping the ship running so tightly.

I also have the pleasure to welcome new members of the faculty and teaching staff to the CREECA community at UW. Mark S. Johnson has joined the Department of Educational Policy Studies in the UW School of Education as an assistant professor. Look for the full profile of Johnson's research on

higher education in the former Soviet Union in this newsletter. Karen Evans-Romaine, now an associate professor of Russian in the UW Slavic department, specializes in early 20th Century Russian poetry and German-Russian literary relations. Katja Favretto, a new assistant professor in political science, has conducted research in the former Yugoslavia. We are also fortunate that Marzhan Arenova has come to us from Kazakhstan to take the position of lecturer of Kazakh in the department of Languages and Cultures of Asia. I hope you will introduce yourselves to these new members of our community and help them feel at home in Madison.

Our lecture series continues to take place on Thursdays at 4:00 pm, and this year we have had strong turnouts to our diverse program. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming lectures, and in particular at our end-of-semester reception, which will take place on December 10 following Professor Robert Kaiser's presentation on "Estonia's Bronze Night: Reassembling the Event."

It is impossible to acknowledge all the impressive accomplishments of CREECA students, faculty, and staff, but I do want to offer congratulations for some especially noteworthy recent achievements. Two of our graduate students, MayaLisa Holzman (history) and Nikki Kraus (sociology) received international field research awards from the Division of International Studies (you can read about how they used these awards on page 4). Manon van de Water was promoted to professor in the Department of Theatre and Drama. Jennifer Tishler also received a much deserved promotion to the rank of associate faculty associate, in recognition of her remarkable job in teaching, advising, and providing leadership, oversight, and support in everything the center does.

In closing I would like to note that CREECA appreciates private support from alumni and friends. Gifts of any size help make possible outreach events, lectures, and cultural programs, curriculum enhancements, book and media collections, and other activities of the Center.

EVENTS SCHEDULE 2009



FALL ♦ WINTER

We welcome suggestions from our faculty and students for speakers in the Thursday CREECA lecture series. Please send recommendations for the fall 2010 lecture series to Jennifer Tishler (assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu).

Thursday, November 5

Tatar Spiritual Songs and Death Rituals
Agnès Kefeli-Clay, Arizona State University
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

Thursday-Saturday, November 5-7

The Wall Came Down: On the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall
The 42nd Wisconsin Workshop
Pyle Center, please see german.lss.wisc.edu for details

Thursday, November 19

Political Selection and Persistence of Bad Governments
Konstantin Sonin, New Economic School/CEFIR in Moscow
11:45 a.m. 336 North Hall

Thursday, November 19

Russia's Resource Curse
Konstantin Sonin, New Economic School/CEFIR in Moscow
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

Friday-Sunday, November 21-23

Polish Film Festival, Cinematheque
4070 Vilas Hall, please see cinema.wisc.edu for details

Thursday, December 3

A Portrait of Soviet Woman as Citizen Soldier: Theoretical and Interpretive Challenges from the Eastern Front
Anna Krylova, Duke University
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

Thursday, December 10

Estonia's Bronze Night: Reassembling the Event
Robert Kaiser, Professor and Chair of the UW-Madison Department of Geography
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

Following the lecture on December 10, please join us for a small reception to celebrate the end of the semester. The reception will be held in 210 Ingraham Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Save the Date!

March 16, 2010, 8:30 a.m. - noon
Day in Central and Eastern Europe
Mini-conference for high school students, teachers
Great Hall, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St.

June 21-24, 2010
"Security and Conflict in Russia and Eurasia"
A workshop for K-12 educators
Sponsored by CREECA and Global Studies
Madison Concourse Hotel, 1 W. Dayton St.

CREECA is a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center. It was established in 1993 to unite the efforts of two long-standing 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.

nal communications highlighting the need for education among girls and youth with the GARF radio propaganda broadcasts directed specifically to partisans.

As my month in Moscow drew to an end, I realized that the documents in GARF, RGASPI, and the Komsomol archive had pointed me in a new, unanticipated direction. My research continues to explore gender, nationality, and identity as major components of partisan propaganda and political work among the local population. However, I believe that studying how the partisan movement and the Komsomol employed youth and women for political education among the partisans and underground Communist Party groups will make a fascinating contribution to investigating how the government apparatus mobilized populations in occupied territories to preserve Soviet power.

I am extremely grateful to the Division of International Studies and CREECA for providing me with this opportunity to experience archival work, establish contacts in the Moscow archives, and increase my competitiveness for future fellowship applications. Incorporating the exploratory research I conducted this summer, I am currently writing my master's thesis on the mobilization of youth and women in the partisan movement for political work in German-occupied territory during WWII. Despite the long and unwieldy working title of the project, I plan to continue pursuing these questions in my dissertation and return to the archives with a better understanding of the archival system.

Kraus Continued from page 5

of Kazan, a center of Tatar culture, for several days, and later to travel briefly to St. Petersburg. These experiences broadened my sense of the variety of attitudes in Russia and allowed me to collect a more varied sample of news reports. This preliminary work will assist me in applications for future dissertation funding, to narrow my research questions, and to flesh out the kind of work calling out for study in Russia today. All of the parties involved—human rights workers, government officials, international NGOs, and especially those who fall victim to racism and violence—deserve attention; only by studying such social phenomena can we hope to understand it and find solutions.

CREECA alumni group

CREECA students and alumni are invited to join the new “CREECA Alumni Group” on **LinkedIn.com**. We’re building a network of current and former UW-Madison students affiliated with the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) to network, share information on jobs and internships, and learn about employment opportunities.



All current students or alumni of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with interests in Russian, East European and/or Central Asian Studies are welcome to join. Visit <http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/alumni.html> for more information.

Master’s students welcomed to CREECA

CREECA is pleased to welcome four new students into its interdisciplinary master’s degree program in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) in fall 2009. **Rebecca (Becca) Schultz** graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a major in Russian. She is interested in the politics and culture of Russia and East Europe and is taking Serbo-Croatian. **Ryan Goodwin** comes to us from Portland State University, where he studied both Russian and Turkish. With an interest in the media and in

the intersections of Turkic and Slavic languages, Ryan is now learning Kazak. Returning to UW-Madison is **Jonathan Krause**, who took classes here as an undergraduate student and graduated from Western Carolina University with a major in political science. John wants to pursue issues of democratization in Afghanistan and is studying Pashto. **Daniel Cline** graduated from Bard College. He is continuing his study of Russian at UW and is furthering his exploration of the connections between Russian history and literature.

Johnson Continued from page 3

Although Johnson admitted he never thought he’d return to UW-Madison, he said the chance to come back to “one of the leading communities of experts” on the former Soviet Union has once again inspired him. Johnson is currently teaching Educational Policy Studies 675: “Introduction to Comparative and International Education” and will be teaching EPS 600: “United States International Education Policy and Public Diplomacy” in the spring. He’ll be proposing a course, most likely for spring 2011, on education in Russia and Central Eurasia. With this class, Johnson can finally teach students about the work he’s been doing for 20 years, allowing him to combine the research and teaching sides of his profession. “I’ve always been kind of going in two different directions,” he said. “Now—and I’m really just now seeing the beauty in this—I am able to put the two together.”

News & Updates Continued from page 9

Kentucky) – Elementary Latvian **Debra Raver** (ethnomusicology, Indiana University) – Elementary Lithuanian **Eric Seufert** (Slavonic and East European Studies, University College, London) – Elementary Estonian *FLAS Fellows for 2009-10 Academic Year* **Roberto Carmack** (history) – First-year Kazak **Jacob Fleming** (geography) – Second-year Kazak **Melanie Getreuer** (political science) – Third-year Russian **MayaLisa Holzman** (history) – Second-year Polish **Colleen Lucey** (Slavic languages and literature) – First-year Polish **Jacob Mays** (mechanical engineering) – Fourth-year Russian **Bartosz Szkatula** (international public affairs) – Fourth-year Polish

Foreign relations through education

Mark Johnson returns to alma mater with specialty in Russian educational policy

By Alec Luhn
WEB AND PUBLICATIONS ASSISTANT

The two decades that Mark S. Johnson, a new assistant professor of Educational Policy Studies at the UW-Madison School of Education, has spent studying Soviet and Russian educational policy have been marked by diverse moments of inspiration.

One such moment occurred in Russia amid the economic turmoil of the early ‘90s; Johnson was there during the fall of the Soviet Union and the subsequent regime of drastic reform, researching changes to the Russian education system as they unfolded.

“The Russian university professors’ and prospective teachers’ dedication to their calling, even with no heat, really made a profound impact on me,” Johnson said. “In freezing-cold university buildings, they were having passionate discussions about history and pedagogy.”

In much different circumstances, Johnson had been similarly inspired by his teachers during his time as an undergraduate at UW-Madison. A Madison native, Johnson graduated from UW-Madison in 1984 with honors in history, having also studied the Russian language. Here Johnson was impressed with the quality of teaching, especially the tutelage of nationally renowned Russian history professor Michael B. Petrovich, who invited honors students, including Johnson, to his home for discussion sections. The “intellectual dynamism” of the history department inspired Johnson to attend graduate school at Columbia University, where he received an MA in 1987 and a PhD in 1995 in Russian and Soviet history, as well as a certificate in Russian, Eurasian and Eastern European studies from the Harriman Institute. “I’ve always been interested in U.S.-Russian relations, but the discipline that engaged me the most was history,” Johnson said.

In conjunction with his specialty in Soviet and post-Soviet education, Johnson has traveled frequently for research and consultation work in educational policymaking, visiting over 40 Russian universities in 20

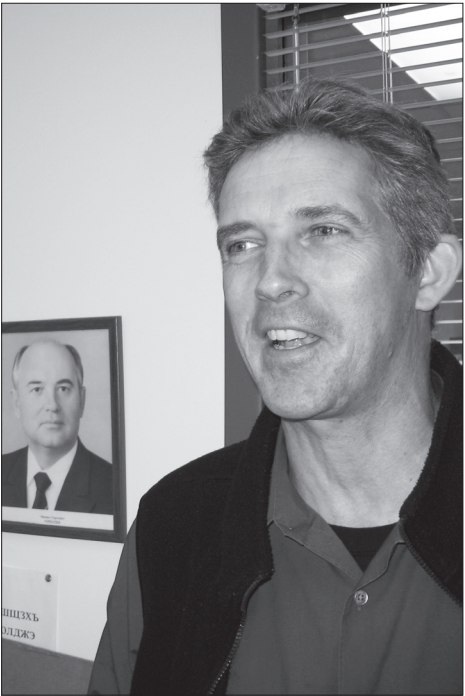


Photo by Alec Luhn

Faculty Profile

different cities. He has also worked in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. Most recently, he has published two articles related to a National Bureau of Asian Research project on conditions of higher education in Azerbaijan and Central Asia, as well as a series of articles on Russian higher education in cooperation with the Carnegie Corporation and the Eurasia Foundation.

In light of his research findings and advising experience, Johnson has joined with other education specialists over the years to promote a variety of policy changes. For example, the research Johnson conducted on the value of alumni programming that would give students from the former Soviet Union who studied in the U.S. support to implement their own programs upon returning to their home universities helped this kind of alumni programming survive in Washington, Johnson said. “I like to think that over the 15 years I’ve been actively involved in this area, I’ve contributed to, both in Russia and in the U.S., a generation of cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in higher education,” he said.

Continued on page 10

CREECA welcomes new faculty members

CREECA is pleased to extend a warm Wisconsin welcome to four new faculty and academic staff members in fall 2009.

Besides **Mark S. Johnson**, an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies, new faculty have joined the departments of Slavic Languages, Political Science, and Languages and Cultures of Asia.

Karen Evans-Romaine, formerly of Ohio University, is an associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. A scholar of the Russian Silver Age, specializing in Boris Pasternak, Professor Evans-Romaine is also a leading figure in the realm of Russian language pedagogy, and served as the director of the Davis School of Russian, Middlebury College from 2003-2009.

Katja Favretto, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, received her PhD in Political Science from UCLA in January 2009. Her research, which focuses on crisis bargaining, international conflict management and third-party intervention in international disputes, has examined the Italian-Yugoslav dispute over the port city of Trieste and the Serbian-Albanian conflict over the Kosovo province.

Marzhan Arenova is a new lecturer in the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, where she teaches first-through third-year Kazak language. She holds a doctorate in linguistics from the L.N. Gumilev Eurasian National University in Astana, Kazakhstan and has extensive experience teaching both Kazak and English.

Look for more in-depth coverage of our other new scholars in coming issues of the “CREECA Newsletter.”

Venturing into Moscow archives

History graduate student researches gender in WWII Soviet partisan movement



Photo courtesy of MayaLisa Holzman

By MayaLisa Holzman
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

I arrived in Moscow in June 2009 with the aim of conducting exploratory research for my master’s thesis regarding identity, power dynamics, gender, and nationality in the Soviet partisan movement on the Eastern Front of the Second World War. I additionally hoped to discover a dissertation topic amidst the declassified WWII documents.

The opening of the former Soviet archives in the early 1990’s provided scholars with the opportunity not only to reexamine and reevaluate our knowledge of Soviet history, but also to pose new questions and to tell new stories based upon previously unknown archival sources. In my first two years at UW-Madison, I have been fortunate enough to meet numerous historians who have conducted research in the former Soviet archives, including Marina Sorokina, a senior researcher in the Russian Academy of Sciences Archive who was in residence in Madison in fall 2008. I listened to their warnings of mistakes made, noting their successes and failures, hoping that their advice somehow prepared me for the actual experience.

Therefore, upon receiving a graduate student international field research award, I viewed my impending foray into the Russian

archives as a preliminary test for my chosen career. Despite the assurances of my advisor, Francine Hirsch, that my purpose was exploratory in order to become familiar with the system and increase my competitiveness for future grant proposals, I nevertheless viewed my first day of research with increasing anxiety. The fact that I had spent the past year studying Polish and forgetting Russian did not help me feel confident in

my ability to interact with exhausted archivists who deal with a barrage of foreign visitors each June and July.

At UW-Madison, I have been fortunate enough to meet historians who have conducted research in the former Soviet archives ... I listened to their warnings, hoping that their advice somehow prepared me for the actual experience.

However, instead of encountering the legendary cranky *babushki* rumored to yell at American scholars, I found the staff at the first archive I visited, GARF (Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Rossiiskoi Federatsii, or State Archive of the Russian Federation), energetic, professional, and surprisingly patient, contrary to the horror stories. After we resolved a few issues and communication problems regarding my entry pass, I spent about a week at GARF reading a collection of special radio programs created between 1942 and 1943 and intended specifically for partisans. However, it was at RGASPI

Editor’s note: In spring 2009 graduate students MayaLisa Holzman (history) and Nicole Butkovich Kraus (sociology) were awarded international field research awards from the Division of International Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Both MayaLisa and Nikki traveled to Moscow in summer 2009 to conduct exploratory field and archival research and to foster connections with scholars in Russia.

(Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi arkhiv sotsial’no-politicheskoi istorii, or Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History) that I began to formulate new research questions based upon the documents I located within the *fond* (archival holdings) for the Central Headquarters of the Partisan Movement (TsShPD). For nearly seven hours a day, I sat in front of a microfilm reader, often experiencing headaches and tedium. Despite the unglamorous nature and difficulties of reading microfilm, I quickly became excited upon finding documents pertaining to the question of women in the partisan movement, reports of immoral activity among partisan commanders and efforts to reeducate them, and the need for mass political propaganda among non-party members and the local population, concerns rarely referenced in the secondary literature.

On the days that RGASPI was closed, I rode the metro to the southern district of Moscow to RGASPI’s reading room for the history of the Komsomol and youth organizations. After testing my ability to articulate my project verbally in Russian first during a phone conversation and then in an interview with the head archivist, I was excited to find a very lucrative set of documents concerning special operations and political work among Komsomol members and youth in occupied territories and in partisan divisions. I became fascinated by memos from partisan leaders regarding the role of girls in the movement and their efforts to mobilize youth for political work. Moreover, I began to perceive a potential comparison between these inter-

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News & Updates

UW-Madison faculty, academic staff, and honorary fellows

Ipek Yosmaoglu, assistant professor of history, is spending the 2009-2010 academic year as a fellow in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ.

Virginia Martin, an honorary fellow in the Central Asian Studies Program, co-authored an article (with Talant Mawkanuli): “Nineteenth Century Kazak Letters to the Russian Authorities: Morphemic Analysis and Historical Contextualization,” Central Eurasian Studies Review Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring 2009), pp. 21-28.

In June 2009, **Jennifer Tishler**, associate director of CREECA, led a half-day “Introduction to Russian Orthodox Art and Architecture” as part of UW-Extension’s College Days.

Kemal H. Karpat, professor emeritus of history and director of the Center for Turkish Studies at UW-Madison, was awarded the Turkish Grand National Assembly’s highest Parliament Honorary Award of 2009 for his outstanding achievements in the international arena and contributions to Turkish and Ottoman studies. This prize is the highest honor bestowed in Turkey to successful scholars and scientists.

Alfred E. Senn, professor emeritus of history, has been working on an edited version of the diary of American diplomat Robert W. Heingartner. Heingartner (grandfather of CREECA outreach coordinator Nancy Heingartner) served as American consul in Lithuania, 1926-1928, and as consul in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1928-1939 and kept a diary from his arrival in Lithuania until the end of 1937. Heingartner’s observations on Lithuania, with an introduction and commentary by Professor Senn, will be published as a book, *Lithuania in the 1920s: A Diplomat’s Diary*, in 2010.

Graduate students

Lauren McCarthy, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, has written an article “Sravnitel’nyi analiz praktiki ross-

iskikh i amerikanskikh pravookhranitelnykh institutov v protivodeistvii torgovle liud’mi” (“A comparative analysis of Russian and American law enforcement practices on human trafficking”) in *Vne tolerantnosti: Torgovlya liud’mi i rabskii trud: novie etamorfozy starykh predstavlenii i novie metody protivodeistviya* published by the Far Eastern State Economic University, Vladivostok, 2009.

Naomi Olson, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, was awarded a HEX (Humanities Exposed) grant by the UW-Madison Center for the Humanities. Naomi is organizing a literature discussion group with inmates at the Oakhill Correctional Institution in Oregon, Wisconsin.

Katie Weigel, graduate student in Slavic Languages and Literature, has been awarded a Lapinski Fellowship for Polish Studies for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Alumni

Viktoria Ivleva received her PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature in May 2009. Vika teaches Russian at Vassar College.

Anna Tumarkin successfully defended her dissertation in the Slavic department in August 2009. Anna continues in her capacity as Language Program Director in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, where she also teaches and advises students in the Russian and Polish majors.

Congratulations to recent graduates **Matthew Larsen** and **David Dettmann**, who earned master’s degrees in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) in May 2009, and to **Claire Schuchard**, who earned her REECAS MA in August 2009. Matt is currently a sales associate for the language-learning software Rosetta Stone. David is the new acting assistant director for the UW-Madison Center for East Asian Studies, where he is responsible for outreach and also teaches a class on Islam in China.

Several May 2009 graduates also completed the undergraduate certificate in REECAS. Congratulations to **Ryan Carpenter** (psychology), **John Clements** (political science), **Megan Horvath** (English), **Maoria Kirker** (history), **Devon Piernot** (cartography and geographic information systems), and **Holly**

Schumacher (anthropology). Ryan taught English in Bosnia in summer 2009 and is currently applying to graduate programs in clinical psychology. Devon is a GIS and Web developer for the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Foreign language and area studies 2009-2010 fellows

CREECA would like to congratulate the following recipients of the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for summer 2009 intensive language study and for foreign language and area studies during the 2009-2010 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 area or international studies. Applications for summer 2010 and the 2010-2011 academic year FLAS will be available on the CREECA Web site by mid-November 2009.

Summer 2009 Intensive Language Study
Jacob Fleming (geography) – Advanced-Intermediate Russian, London School of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Heidi Herschede (sociology) – Advanced-Intermediate Czech, Summer School in Slavonic Studies, Masaryk University, Brno
Charitie Hyman (anthropology) – Advanced-Intermediate Ukrainian, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv
Nikki Kraus (sociology) – ACTR Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program, Moscow
Naomi Olson (Slavic languages and literature) – ACTR Summer Language Program for Russian Teachers, Moscow
Emily Sellars (political science) – Elementary Tajik, Indiana University
Katie Weigel (Slavic languages and literature) – Advanced Russian, Middlebury College
Thanks to contributions from other FLAS-granting campuses, CREECA was able to make several awards to graduate students at the 2009 Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI).
Zachary Kelly (Russian and East European Studies, Indiana University) – Elementary Estonian
Karen Kinslow (geography, University of

Continued on next page

manities and comparative religion, “A Poplar Stood by the Roadside”: A Sojourn with Baltic Myths, Songs, and Spirituality,” and Paulis Lazda, UW-Eau Claire, professor of history, “The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia.” The cultural programming included a welcome picnic on June 15 sponsored by the Madison community organization Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities, a field trip to Eesti Maja (Estonian House) in Riverwoods, IL on June 20, a July 23 dance demonstration by Žaibas, the local Lithuanian dance troupe, a visit to the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago and to Grand Duke’s Lithuanian Restaurant in Summit, IL on July 25, and a farewell picnic on August 6.

Ten of the 2009 BALSSI participants were graduate students, two were undergraduates, and two were community members. The student participants hailed not only from UW-Madison, but from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of Kentucky, St. Olaf College, Indiana University, Ohio State University, and University College, London. In general, the students and instructors alike were very pleased with their BALSSI experiences at UW-Madison. Noted some of the students:

“I am really surprised and happy [by] how much we were able to cover in such a short time. I went from barely speaking/ knowing anything about Latvian just 8 weeks ago to feeling comfortable enough to continue on with it. I am grateful for this experience.”

“I never thought I could have learned this much about a language [Lithuanian] over just one summer. I’m extremely pleased with this course.”

“The language skills I garnered from BALSSI will be invaluable to me when I’m in Estonia”

CREECA is grateful to UW-Madison’s Department of Scandinavian Studies, our consortium partners, Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities, the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS), the American Latvian Youth Association, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Lithuanian Foundation for their support of BALSSI 2009. In summer 2010, when UW-Madison will again host BALSSI, we look forward to offering courses in elementary and intermediate Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian. For information, visit the BALSSI Web site: <http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/balssi/index.html>.



Photo by Alec Luhn

Professor Robert Kaiser gives the opening remarks at the Bendiksen reception.

Photos from the fringes

By Nancy Heingartner
CREECA OUTREACH COORDINATOR

On Oct. 9, CREECA held a reception celebrating Jonas Bendiksen’s photographic exhibition in the Memorial Union, “Satellites: Photographs from the Fringes of the Former Soviet Union.” Professor Robert J. Kaiser, the chair of the Department of Geography and former CREECA director, began the event with a set of remarks drawing on his expertise in geography and nationalism in Russia and Eastern Europe. The reception honored not only Bendiksen’s striking photos, but also the dedication of the CREECA staff in bringing the work of this renowned photographer to campus.

Based in Oslo, Norway, Bendiksen photographed some of the least-known areas of the Russian Federation and Eurasia over a seven-year period. Bendiksen has already received numerous prestigious awards for his work, including the 2008 Telenor International Culture Prize, the 2008 National Geographic Photography Grant, the 2007 ASME National Magazine Award, the 2007 Freedom of Expression Foundation Grant, the 2007 Award of Excellence, Pictures of the Year

International, and the 2005 Alicia Patterson Fellowship.

While gathering materials for this collection, Bendiksen was primarily interested in the impact of rapid and sometimes catastrophic changes on the local populations. The photographs, which include a January baptism in a frozen Transdnister river, a view of the destroyed Nagorno-Karabakh town of Aghdam, a Muslim father and son praying in the back yard of their Ferghana Valley home, and Babushka Tanya, an elderly ethnic Russian woman who lives in a bombed-out apartment building in Abkhazia, do a masterful job of revealing the shared human condition of those living on the fringes of the former Soviet Union.

This exhibit would not have been possible without the support of the UW-Madison Russian Student Association, the Central Asian Student Association, the WUD Art Committee, the Anonymous Fund of the College of Letters & Science, the Alice D. Mortenson-Michael B. Petrovich Chair in Russian History, and Magnum Photos in New York.

“Satellites” is on display at the Porter Butts Gallery of the UW-Madison Memorial Union through November 10, 2009.

Prejudice, human rights in Russia

UW sociology graduate student travels to Moscow to interview human rights experts

By Nicole Butkovich Kraus
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Chain-smoking. Glancing around the room. This summer in Moscow I considered picking up these habits after finishing several interviews in which my respondent, seated across from me, spent an hour or two doing both.

Luckily, I didn’t pick up either one, but that is probably because I’m not a Russian human rights worker. I am more likely to sit at a desk looking at a set of statistics on hate crimes and migration rates than to write controversial articles criticizing the Russian government for prejudice in prosecution, unjust decisions, and looking the other way with regard to human rights violations both inside and outside the state borders. No extremist organizations are hunting me down because of my analysis of their activities or propaganda.

The state of being a human rights worker in Russia today is, as one would expect, nerve-racking. One of the major questions I have yet to answer is whether or not there is any rational reason a person would take on such dangerous and often unappreciated work. Natalia Estemirova, a Memorial worker and winner of the Anna Politkovskaya Award, was kidnapped and murdered in Chechnya this summer during my stay in Moscow. Although I never met Estemirova, I did talk to several people who had known and worked with her, and their conversations reiterated the life-and-death position in which they put themselves daily as they ask questions, document facts, and try to give voice to people who otherwise have none.

“Human rights,” as so many of my interviewees reminded me, is not really a “Russian” concept, but rather a political header under which Western regimes criticize countries for being undemocratic. Americans might scoff after reading that sentence, but there is something to this. International discussions of human rights often only gain attention when used as a weapon to criticize a particular government. We hear less about such issues in

connection with, for instance, where businesses place their investments or plan to open factories. There is a double standard, without a doubt, but this does not diminish the importance of the issues at hand.

I began my research on xenophobia and nationalism in Russia by accident. The former evolved mostly out of a sociological interest in the thoughts and actions of everyday people. Are Russians particularly xenophobic, any more or less so than other national groups? Perhaps because of the post-communist context, the mixture of ethnic groups, or the recent influx of migrant workers, this was an interesting, though rarely investigated, question.

I did talk to several people who had worked with [murdered activist Natalia] Estemirova, and their conversations reiterated the life-and-death position in which they put themselves daily as they ... try to give voice to people who otherwise have none.

Nationalism, on the other hand, gets prime time in virtually any article about the Russian government or its well-known officials. Applied to the right and left of the political spectrum, the term “nationalism” has connotations that are virtually always negative, oppressive, and, frankly, suspicious. The inherent implication is that, in building the idea of a nation, those with power use history and politics selectively to include and exclude. Following quantitative analysis of both regional and individual level factors influencing the development of xenophobic or prejudicial attitudes, it was important for me to travel to Russia to speak with people working on these issues, both in academic and activist positions.

While in Moscow, I spoke with experts



Photo courtesy of Nicole Kraus

on human rights, hate crimes, migration, and the economy from well-known organizations including the SOVA center, Memorial, Human Rights Watch, the New Economic School/CEFIR, the Kennan Institute, the U.S. Embassy, the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, the Carnegie Center, Human Rights First, and the Levada Center, among others. Major themes of our discussions included the historic and current tendency for non-Russians in the Russian Federation to be marginalized or blamed for increasing crime rates, for particular groups to be legally and illegally funneled into specific economic sectors such as construction or street cleaning, and an overall sense that in recent years, prejudice and racism have become more socially acceptable, both privately and publicly. Several of my interviewees provided me with both documents and data sources for analyzing these trends in my future work.

Because of the support I received from the Graduate Student International Field Research Award, I was able to speak with and learn from a variety of experts, in addition to collecting data from various new sources, including innumerable everyday conversations with acquaintances while in Moscow. I was also able to visit the city

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Teacher workshop '09

Examining causes, effects of tearing down the Berlin Wall

By Nancy Heingartner
CREECA OUTREACH COORDINATOR

From June 22-26, 2009, CREECA and the Center for European Studies welcomed twenty-three teachers from around Wisconsin to a workshop in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The workshop, "Looking Forward, Looking Back: Causes and Consequences of the Fall of the Berlin Wall," which was held at the Madison Concourse Hotel, brought together faculty and graduate students from a variety of fields to share their expertise on the wide-ranging and earth-shattering events of 1989 and beyond.

Professor David McDonald, Chair of UW-Madison's Department of History, opened the workshop with an informative and entertaining overview of the events leading up to and stemming from the fall of the wall. Karl Loewenstein, assistant pro-

fessor of history at UW-Oshkosh, followed with a lecture and presentation entitled, "The Perils of a Post-Stalinist World: Internal and External Policies of Nikita Khrushchev." After lunch, two graduate students from UW-Madison's German department spoke on the topic "Identity and the Arts before and after the Fall of the Wall." The final presentation of the first day of the workshop was by Maryjane Osa, assistant professor of sociology at Northwestern University, on the Solidarity movement in Poland. Dinner at the Casbah Restaurant on Madison's Capitol Square allowed participants and presenters to become better acquainted and to share their impressions of the first day of the workshop.

Day two was devoted primarily to Mikhail Gorbachev, a key figure in the events surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall and the destruction of the Iron Curtain. Alfred Senn, professor emeritus, UW-Madison Department of History, spoke

first on the role of the Baltic States in the break-up of the Soviet Union. Kathryn Hendley, UW-Madison professor of political science and law, followed with "The Domestic Russian Political Impact of Gorbachev." After lunch, workshop participants and CREECA staffers walked around the corner from the Concourse Hotel to the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum. There we met up with the participants of a summer institute on U.S. History for a presentation titled "How the Unthinkable Happened: The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the End of the Cold War," by Jeremi Suri, UW-Madison professor of history and director of the European Union Center of Excellence. Following this lecture, the two groups of teachers worked together in break-out sessions to discuss how teachers could incorporate the information gathered into their classroom curricula. The remainder of the day was devoted to independent curriculum development.

Sally Kent, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point opened the third day of the workshop with a talk entitled, "The Wars and Post-War Period in the Former Yugoslavia." Robert Kaiser, UW-Madison professor of geography, then presented, "One Wall Comes

Down and Another Rises: Bordering Practices at the Edge of Europe," a discussion of Estonian-Russian relations in the Narva region. A graduate student panel entitled, "When East Became West: Germany Divided in Unity" wrapped up Wednesday's presentations. Independent curriculum development rounded out the day.

Krisztina Fehérvári, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan, got Thursday off to an energetic start with a presentation titled, "Shabby Objects, Second Class People: How the Quality of Products Became Equated with the Quality of People after the Fall of the Berlin Wall." After a short break, Jess Clayton, graduate student in UW-Madison's Department of Political Science, led an interactive session on major developments in the European Union since 1989. This session included classroom-friendly activities, including an overview of the EU monetary system. The final presentation of the day was a les-

son plan, "One Divided by One—The Berlin Wall," by Susan Nigohosian, a teacher in the Racine Unified School District. After a showing and brief discussion of Wolfgang Becker's 2003 award-winning film, "Good-Bye, Lenin!" participants were dismissed to work more on their curricular ideas.

The final day of the workshop began with a wrap-up session led by Anne Hamilton, lecturer in political science and coordinator of the international studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. "Twenty Years in Ninety Minutes: Old Walls, Old Borders, New States, New Identities" was a masterful summary of the presentations that had preceded it. Over a catered lunch at the hotel, workshop participants gave brief presentations about their ideas for incorporating the week's materials into actual lesson plans that they will use with their students. Commented one teacher who participated in the week-long workshop: "You have taught me a great deal more regarding [the] causes and consequences of the Fall—more than I could understand on my own...The presentations made it easier and more 'real' for me. You teach me. I teach kids."

The workshop Web site is loaded with interesting articles and other resources related to the fall of the wall. Please visit it at: <http://uw-madison-ces.org/?q=node/83>.



Photos by Drago Momcilovic and Jennifer Tishler

Two teachers from Nicolet High School during a group session of the 2009 teacher workshop. Left: UW-Madison political science and law professor Kathryn Hendley discusses *perestroika*.



Teachers at the workshop welcome dinner. Twenty-three Wisconsin teachers heard lectures by faculty and grads.