

REESC Newsletter Spring 2003

From the Coordinator:

Established in 1984 by the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), the Russian and East European Studies Consortium (REESC) began as a faculty interest group with a small operations budget (a sub-account within the history department) and half-time faculty research associate line for support of a university academic exchange with the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij (UKIM). The UKIM line was assigned to the Consortium because the academic exchange, which had begun as an extension of the Tempe Sister City linkage with Skopje, had no permanent home. The Consortium had no regular staffing.

Since that rather modest beginning in 1984, the Consortium has grown to include more than thirty ASU faculty and community affiliates. In addition to expanded programs of international academic exchange and study abroad, REESC now houses its own baccalaureate certificate program. Its annual summer Critical Languages Institute is one of the nation's premier programs for less commonly taught language training. Two endowment programs (the Choncoff Fund for Macedonian-American Understanding and Exchange, and the Melikian Fund for Armenian Language and Culture) have greatly enriched ASU offerings in Russian and East European studies. For ASU students this coordinated programming has yielded an unmatched record of international scholarship awards, examples of which are again noted in the pages of this newsletter. More than fifty NSEP, Fulbright, and Marshall fellowships have been awarded to REESC-affiliated students since the inception of the Consortium. Alongside these regular programmatic functions, the Consortium now conducts an expanded program of institutional research, this year administering more than \$750,000 in external REESC grants and contracts. REESC staffing has also grown accordingly.

In recognition of the development of Russian and East European Studies at ASU, CLAS Dean David Young this year encouraged the Consortium to seek "center" status within the university. While center status is yielding no new budgetary support during

this difficult period of state deficits, the new status will regularize the Consortium as a unit within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. REESC will also participate in the college initiative now under discussion for coordinated international programming within a new "ASU School of Global Studies." On March 10, the CLAS Faculty Senate gave unanimous approval to the proposal for REESC center status. The implications of this development for the Consortium will be at the top of the agenda of the spring REESC affiliates meeting. Please join us on March 25 for that important session.

Critical Languages Institute

We are pleased to announce special language learning opportunities again this summer for students in the 2003 ASU Critical Languages Institute (CLI). The CLI (<http://www.asu.edu/cli>) provides annual summer language courses for less commonly taught languages, followed by three-week immersion practicums at affiliated institutions in the target countries, as well as a semester or academic-year study abroad program at our partner universities.

This summer we shall offer introductory **Albanian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Macedonian, Armenian, and Tatar** at the Arizona State University main campus (Tempe, AZ), from June 2 to August 1, 2003. In the summer of 2004, we plan to offer intermediate-level BCS while also adding Polish to our offerings.

CLI eight-credit-hour intensive courses come with a generous tuition waiver that generates more than \$1000 in savings for each enrolling CLI student. CLI students pay only a \$300 application fee. **Both the length and content of our courses enable FLAS, Fulbright, and other fellowship support funds to be used by graduate students pursuing summer language training in the CLI.** In addition to the tuition waiver, a limited number of fellowships are available for students enrolling in Armenian and Tatar. We have simplified the CLI application procedures. Students may register on-line at <http://www.asu.edu/clas/reesc/cli/onreg.htm>. Please encourage students and friends to consider intensive language study this summer in the CLI.

As a regular feature of its summer session, the CLI provides topical workshops and one-on-one tutorials for those preparing grant proposals to study and conduct research abroad. For dozens of CLI graduates, these tutorials have yielded remarkable success in NSEP, Fulbright, Marshall, and other fellowship competitions. CLI graduates have also now joined the U.S. Foreign Service or have taken international positions with major corporations.

Reform of Slavic Languages Curriculum

The Russian baccalaureate degree and course offerings in Slavic languages were the subjects of major curricular reforms introduced last fall. You will note in the new 2003-04 *ASU General Catalog* that the prefixes SLV, BCS, and MAK have also been added to the Department of Languages and Literatures (DLL). What used to be called the "Russian Section" of DLL is now the "Slavic Section." In particular, please note the introduction of two new courses in the curriculum: "Computational Linguistics of Slavic Languages" (<http://www.asu.edu/clas/reesc/asucomp>); and "The History of Slavic Languages" (<http://www.asu.edu/clas/reesc/asugh>). These curricular changes include an expanded set of hybrid courses featuring on-line exercises and course materials. See, for example, the on-line features of "Russian Conversation and Composition" (<http://www.asu.edu/clas/reesc/asugh>). For other on-line CLI resources now being generated under the leadership of Professor Danko @ipka, consult the CLI Website (<http://cli.la.asu.edu>).

Welcome!

In January 2003, **Shahin Berisha**, a faculty member in math and science at GateWay Community College and facilitator for the ASU educational partnership with the University of Prishtina, was appointed a REESC adjunct faculty member.

REESC Grant Activity

REESC has submitted several grant applications for technology-based research and international linkages. In collaboration with **Victor Agadjanian**, associate professor of sociology, REESC applied for a U.S. State Department grant to facilitate linkage between ASU and Yerevan State University (YSU). Agadjanian served as liaison between ASU and YSU in developing the exchange linkage. A second State Department university linkage project has been submitted by **Danko @ipka** (research associate

professor and CLI associate director) for collaboration with the Warsaw School of Social Psychology and the Polish Academy of Sciences. REESC/CLI offices have also submitted two proposals for National Science Foundation support in the category of IT/Research. In February, REESC was awarded a USAID/World Learning grant to host thirteen Croatian Water Managers for a two-week seminar in Tempe. The Croatian delegates are expected to arrive this summer.

Student/Alumni News

Upon return from Mongolia as an NSEP fellow in AY2001-2002, **Collin Raymond** coauthored a proposal submitted to the World Monuments Fund for inclusion of the more than 1000 Buddhist Lamisaries damaged and destroyed during Soviet occupation of Mongolia. This spring Collin



Raymond shown here with CLAS Dean David Young

was awarded the prestigious Marshall Scholarship for graduate study in Great Britain. In February, he was one of twenty undergraduates to be named to *USA Today's* 2003 All-USA College Academic First Team.

Elizabeth Papp, REESC Graduate Student, has been selected by the U.S. State Department for its summer internship at the U.S. Embassy in Kiev, Ukraine. She will be departing for Ukraine at the end of the spring semester.

Brooke Waldron, history major, has been accepted into the interdisciplinary Russian and East European Studies M.A. program at Kansas University. Waldron is a finalist for FLAS fellowship support at KU.

Jeff Gaydish, ASU history M.A. graduate, recently returned from Korea where he was teaching ESL to elementary school students. He has traveled extensively through South Africa, Austria, and Croatia.

Robert Niebuhr, REESC graduate student and CLI alumnus, has been accepted into the doctoral program in history at Kansas State University for fall 2003.

NSEP 2002-2003 awardees **Anne Fredrickson** (history graduate student) and **Kerry Pace** (geology

undergraduate) continue their studies and research in Moscow, Russia. **Terry O'Neil** (history undergrad) continues his study abroad at Yerevan State University in Armenia.

Kameron Kerger, REESC Certificate graduate, has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force after completion of training in military intelligence at Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas.

Hans Risser, CLI Macedonian alumnus and graduate student at Monterey School of International Studies, is currently a Fulbright Fellow in Macedonia at the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij where, in addition to continuing his Macedonian language study, he is investigating the peace process culminating in the Ohrid Accords of 2001.

Student Scholarship Updates

The following students have applied for NSEP fellowship support for 2003-04: **Robert Niebuhr** (Serbia), **Elizabeth Papp** (Ukraine), **Ian Kushner** (Tatarstan, Russia), **Heather Millican** (Croatia), and **Kyle Burns** (Czech Republic). We are delighted that **Robert Niebuhr** (Croatia), **Wendy Coursen** (Macedonia), and **Danielle Ross** (Kazakhstan) have been notified that they are finalists for Fulbright Fellowships for 2003-04. Danielle Ross is also a finalist for a Mellon Fellowship.

Faculty and Community Affiliates' News

Ilene Lashinsky, REESC adjunct faculty member and mentor for NSEP fellows in Macedonia, has been appointed by President Bush to the post of U.S. Trustee for the State of Arizona. Formal induction ceremonies were held on March 11.

Danko @ipka, CLI Associate Director, has published the following in book format: *Enigmatski Glosar. Dio 1. Osnovni oblici* [Crossword Puzzle Glossary]; *Kurmanji Kurdish – English Glossary; Dictionary of Serbian, Croatian, and Bosnian New Words; Obratni enigmatski glosar. Dio 1. Osnovni oblici* [Reverse Crossword Puzzle Glossary]; *Demokracja a interes narodowy w ujmowaniu sytuacji politycznej: przyklad wojny w dawnej Jugoslawii* [Democracy and National Interest in Interpreting a Political Situation: An Example of the War in the Former Yugoslavia]; *Program nastave srpskohrvatskog (srpskog, hrvatskog i bosanskomuslimanskog) jezika* (Poznan).

@ipka also has presented the following in refereed conferences or journals: "Internal and External

Lexical Dynamics: A Cultural Cognitive Account"; "A Decisionist Model of Slavic Morphology" (with Nenad Konar); "Slavic as a Source and Target Language in NeuroTran® Sentence Translation"; "Ka'i mi ka'i kako da te izvedem" [Tell me how to derive you].

@ipka will also attend the National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) conference in May 2002 and deliver a paper entitled "On-line Delivery for Serbo-Croatian: Tailoring Technology to the Learner."

Paul Zygas (Professor of Architecture) hosted his Excellency, Vygaudus Usackas, Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, during his visit to Arizona. On March 13, Usackas spoke to REESC faculty and students on "Lithuania's Entry into NATO and the European Union." A reception was also held for the visiting ambassador at the Zygas home. Zygas is the honorary Lithuanian consul general for the state of Arizona.

Ileana Orlich, Languages and Literatures, has published a book and journal article respectively: *Silent Bodies: Re-Discovering the Women of Romanian Short Fiction*; and "Agirbiceanu's 'Fefelega': The Making of a Romanian Icon." Orlich presented the paper "Mad Voices in the Forest," at the Modern Language Association Conference, New York (December 2002). Orlich also presented at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference held at the University of Alabama the paper "The Political Role of the Romanian Avant-garde in 20th-Century Europe."

In cooperation with **Eric Thor**, ASU East, Ms. Rodica Evtuhovici (from Moldova) presented a paper as part of a travel grant to the World Congress for Agribusiness and Food Management entitled "Conflict Resolution during Turbulent Times." More information is available at www.ifama.org.

Cappella Romana held its first event of 2003 entitled "New Year's in Old and New Rome." A collaboration between Ioannis Arvanitis, chant scholar and performer from Athens, Greece, and **Alexander Lingas**, ASU School of Music. The program, co-directed by Arvanitis and musical director Alexander Lingas, presented medieval music that has not been recorded in any form anywhere in the world. The recordings will be edited and prepared in CD format for release in 2004. More information on Cappella Romana is available from the REESC Website, or directly at www.cappellaromana.org.

Comment [CW1]:

Stephen Batalden (Professor of History; REESC Coordinator) will lead a week-long invitational seminar on Balkan studies, July 8-12, at the annual University of Illinois Summer Slavic Laboratory.

ASU-UKIM Exchange

Ognen Marina continues through the spring semester as UKIM faculty research associate in residence at ASU. Marina is conducting research in the ASU School of Architecture, focusing on architectural patterns, processes, and scale in human environments. Marina has also generously donated *Macedonia: On Old Maps* to the REESC library and has participated in several REESC/CLI programs. Note Ognen Marina's presentations in the attached REESC spring schedule of events.

We would like to encourage students or faculty who wish to conduct research at UKIM as part of the exchange program to contact Carol Withers as soon as possible. The appointment carries a full monthly stipend from UKIM, and offers an exciting opportunity to experience modern Macedonian culture.

Mary Choncoff Fund

The 2003 annual **Choncoff** lecture was held on January 30. **Nikolina Kenig** (Institute of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, UKIM) presented the lecture, "*The Power(lessness) of Gender Identity in the Balkans*," to a large and appreciative audience.

It is a pleasure to announce that Ilene Lashinsky and Dr. Nick Rizos have been added to the Board of Trustees for the Mary Choncoff Fund. Congratulations!

We would like to thank all those who have generously contributed to the Choncoff Fund, helping both to grow the endowment (which assists visiting Macedonian scholars) and host the annual Mary Choncoff lecture. In particular, we note this year the donations in memory of long-time Choncoff friend and supporter, Luba Rizos, who passed away in January 2003 three weeks prior to the annual Choncoff event. The Luba Rizos Memorial contributors to the Choncoff Fund include the Dambensko Benevolent Society of Toronto, Canada; Dr. Donald Nelson; Havasu Regional Medical Center; and William and Barbara Blissenbach. Contributions to the fund were also received from Sotir and Athena Nitchov; and Donald and Vy Armour.

Events

We are pleased this semester to be sponsoring lectures by visiting guests as well as REESC faculty and students. This semester's activities include a presentation by a visiting Latvian Fulbright scholar, a visiting Kyrgyz scholar, and the Lithuanian ambassador to the USA. Note also the roundtable discussion on higher education in the Balkans today. Please note the full schedule on the last page of this newsletter.

Please check our website at www.asu.edu/reesc for last-minute time and room changes.

Study Abroad

REESC and CLI are working toward an agreement that would facilitate a semester or academic year study-abroad program with the University of Novi Sad in Serbia.

Existing opportunities for students wishing to study abroad include summer practicums in Novi Sad (Serbia), Yerevan (Armenia), Ohrid (Macedonia), and Tirana (Albania), as well as semester or academic-year studies at Kazan State University (Tatarstan), UKIM (Macedonia), and Yerevan State University (Armenia). Students can tailor a program to their particular needs.

ASU-UP Linkage

The third delegation of faculty from the University of Prishtina in Kosova arrived in January to participate in the linkage project between ASU and UP funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Administered by REESC, the program includes ASU faculty members **Nancy Roberts** from the Department of Economics and **Barbara McCabe** from the School of Public Affairs. Roberts and McCabe serve as project facilitators for the business management and public administration delegates respectively. **Shahin Berisha**, faculty member at Gateway Community College, serves as the liaison between ASU and UP and coordinates the distance learning component of the project.

Matthew Bourque, an MA student in the School of Music studying Music Theory, is working with the delegates as a graduate assistant. **Illya Riske**, is serving as the ESL instructor for the group. As part of the grant, the American English and Culture Program (AECPP) offers on-site English language classes at UP

for students and faculty in public administration and business management. Riske worked in Prishtina as part of that aspect of the grant during the fall 2002 semester. Currently **Maria Sulli** and **Lena Felder** serve as ESL instructors at UP. **Rodney Ito**, Social Science computer cluster manager, leads the computer skills sessions.

The spring 2003 delegation from the University of Prishtina (UP) includes: **Fatmir Sejdiu, Arben Dermaku, Sefadin Blakaj, Ibrahim Gashi, and Arsim Bajrami.**



REESC hosted three other UP scholars for two weeks in the beginning of January. **Bernard Zeneli, Edmond Beqiri, and Sabahudin Komoni** all came to ASU to focus on issues in American university administration. Zeneli is currently head of the UP Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and Beqiri was recently named dean of UP Business School in Peja.

Professor Victor Friedman, Balkan linguist from the University of Chicago, visited ASU in December 2002, as project evaluator for the ASU-UP linkage.

The REESC State Department grant, which will run through August of 2003, enables a small number of promising scholars from Kosova to visit ASU for semester-long visits. The goal is to incorporate new curriculum materials and additional learning and teaching techniques into the classroom at UP, and to observe the way ASU responds to community needs and develops critical community-university relationships. By studying side-by-side with American students, the delegation sees U.S. higher education from the student's perspective. During the semester the delegates observe classes in either business management or public administration, receive computer training, and have the opportunity to strengthen their English language skills. The delegates return to UP with syllabi they have developed for new courses that will be introduced into the University of Prishtina curriculum.

Recent ASU-UP News

It is a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of former UP delegates at ASU who have assumed positions of leadership in Kosova. **But Dedaj** has been appointed regional manager and head of the Prishtina office for World University Services (WUS), Austria. WUS is funded by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Prishtina office under Dedaj is supporting three new programs: a course development program, a center for excellent projects, and the "brain gain program." More information is available on the projects at the WUS Website: <http://www.wus-austria.org>.

Teuta Murati has been at the Kosova Research and Documentation Institute since July 2002 where she works as project coordinator. Her research focuses on Institutional Structures and Public Policy Legitimation in Kosova. Murati is also involved in the institute, *Facing the Past: An Oral History Program*. Murati is a professional board member at the *Kosova Institute for Policy Development and Research*, headed by fellow UP delegate to ASU, **Leon Malazogu**. Malazogu and Murati are preparing policy papers dealing with administration and governance in Kosova.

Besim Ilazi and **Ilir Dugolli** both served as interpreters and project facilitators for a grant to provide management training at the Kosova Electric Company (KEK). The problems facing KEK are enormous. REESC helped to arrange a management training consultancy in January 2003 during which twelve KEK division managers worked to establish a realistic business plan for 2003.

Besim Ilazi has also recently opened two internet cafés in Kosova and become involved in a large Internet Service Provider (ISP) project near Prishtina.

Ramiz Livoreka is currently expanding his teaching capabilities at UP to include English-language sources, and will collaborate with faculty from the University of Amsterdam during his planned stay in the Netherlands during the coming months.

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