

## Russian and East European Studies Center

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### REESC NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

#### *From the REESC Director*

One of the challenges confronting the Russian and East European Studies Center this year has been to interpret in its own programming the significance of ASU President Michael Crow's "design imperative" for "global engagement" in the new American university. As we work together to meet this challenge, I thought it might be helpful to reflect on how the Center may already be providing some helpful "signposts" (*vekhi*) for this proposed "global engagement."

First of all, as reflected in our welcome this spring of seven talented religious studies scholars from Bosnia and Hercegovina (BiH, see below), one of the signposts for the new "global engagement" surely must be that of far greater internationalization of our own campus. The REESC educational partnership with the University of Sarajevo, funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of State Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau, is offering an important signpost for such internationalization. Not only have the visiting semester-in-residence scholars brought renewed international focus within the ASU Department of Religious Studies, but their participation in regular REESC and Religious Studies seminars has also enriched the intellectual environment for all of us. As you will note below, the BiH scholars are only part of the significant international presence generated by REESC programming this spring. The visit in February of a five-member delegation from the Moscow State University Faculty of Public Administration, including MSU/FGU **Dean Aleksei Surin**, and the presence of our visiting exchange scholar from the

University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij (Skopje, Macedonia), **Professor Ilo Trajkovski**, have served as further signposts in this vital ongoing internationalization of the university.

Second, the REESC Critical Languages Institute (CLI) is now demonstrating the strategic national significance of its work with less commonly taught languages (LCTLs) of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. In December 2005, when ASU President Crow joined one-hundred other college and university presidents attending President Bush's launch of the "National Security Language Initiative (NSLI)," the CLI had already readied its own "capability statement" in response to the initiative. Although it remains unclear whether there will be any new federal funding to support the NSLI, the externally funded CLI summer institute and the CLI response to broader strategic initiatives confirm the importance of our work with LCTLs as a core investment in "global engagement." Not to be forgotten, CLI graduates continue to be the largest single contingent of NSEP and Fulbright applicants on the ASU campus—a particularly fitting signpost of "global engagement."

Finally, as we prepare for the late-March campus visit and consultancy of **J. Brian Atwood**, dean of the University of Minnesota Hubert Humphrey Institute and administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Clinton administration, REESC is cautiously setting forth a new signpost for "global engagement" by expanding the university's role in international development. This is not a role that is new to REESC. From the 1990s, the Center administered with USAID/World Learning support a series of U.S.-based professional

development training projects. These efforts expanded to overseas development work, when in the summer of 2005, a new “public policy research partnership” was funded by USAID for work with the Moscow State University Faculty of Public Administration. While the role of universities in international development has not been without controversy, especially dating from the Vietnam War era, universities remain an important and largely untapped resource for international development research and training. As we explore together this potentially important “signpost” in “global engagement,” I encourage you to join us for the meetings noted below with Dean Brian Atwood.

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### ***Fatmir Sejdiu Named President of Kosovo***

One of the spring 2003 ASU semester-in-residence participants in the REESC educational partnership with the University of Pristina, **Professor Fatmir Sejdiu**, has been named president of Kosovo. Sejdiu’s election from within the Kosovo parliament at the end of February followed the death from lung cancer of longtime Kosovar President Ibrahim Rugova. Professor Sejdiu, a member of parliament from the LDK Party, will be leading the Kosovar delegation to the international “final status” talks on the future of Kosovo. While at ASU, Sejdiu participated in seminars in the School of Public Affairs where he prepared syllabi for the new program in public administration then being launched by the University of Pristina. The ASU-University of Pristina educational partnership, 2001-2004, was part of a wider effort to build capacity in the fields of business management and public administration at the University of Pristina. We wish all the best to our colleague, Fatmir Sejdiu.

### ***Kosovar World Learning/USAID Seminar***

Our thanks to all who helped to make the World Learning/USAID seminar on “Judicial and Justice System Reform” a success in October 2005. Special thanks to the Center’s own faculty affiliate, **Dr. Shahin Berisha**, professor of math and science at GateWay Community College, who served as facilitator for the project; and to **Charles Case II**, U.S. District Bankruptcy Court judge and REESC adjunct faculty member, who conducted one of the sessions with the visiting delegation. The delegation, composed of members of the Kosovo Supreme Court, as well as leading parliamentary and government representatives, worked with Arizona jurists at the federal, state, and local courts in addressing issues related to the independence of the judiciary.

### ***Linkage Project with Yerevan State University***

The Center is in the third year of its linkage project with Yerevan State University (YSU). Supported by the State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), the project is working with colleagues in Armenia in the development of a new master’s degree program in public administration at YSU. Two REESC faculty affiliates from the Sociology Department, **Professors Victor Agadjanian** and **Cecilia Menjivar**, recently returned from a fall 2005 semester of teaching at YSU. The first class of YSU MPA graduate students was admitted into the program in the fall of 2005. One of the final products of the ASU-YSU linkage will be the Armenian translation and publication of ASU School of Public Affairs **Director Robert Denhardt’s** widely used work on public organization, *Theories of Public Organization* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). The translation is advancing rapidly under the direction of CLI Armenian instructor **Siranush Khandanyan**. Publication will follow this summer in Yerevan.

### ***Dean J. Brian Atwood to Visit ASU***

**J. Brian Atwood**, dean of the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and former administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will be visiting ASU for a three-day consultancy, March 26-29. His address to ASU students and faculty will be on Monday evening, at 6:40 p.m. in Coor Hall 184, on the topic, “USAID and International Development: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.” That evening talk is free and open to the public. He will also be consulting with ASU faculty working groups regarding international development projects and USAID funding. Those wishing to meet with Dean Atwood should contact REESC offices (965-4188). Dean Atwood will also be speaking about his work with USAID to a dinner gathering of community leaders who have special interest in international programming on Tuesday evening, March 28. A full itinerary of the Atwood visit is available in REESC offices.

### ***University of Sarajevo Educational Partnership***

The Center is currently administering a three-year educational partnership with the University of Sarajevo in the field of comparative religious studies. The goal of the linkage is to encourage mutual academic exchange and curricular development in the academic study of religion. Seven BiH scholars—**Amel Alic, Sead Fetahagic, Nedzad Grabus, Vuk Miljanovic, Amra Pandzo-Djuric, Entoni Seperic,** and **Zilka Siljak-Spahic**—are attending classes in

the ASU Religious Studies Department and preparing syllabi in anticipation of the launching of the University of Sarajevo's new academic program in religious studies—a program that will be housed in the University of Sarajevo Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies (CIPS). Following the semester-in-residence program, ASU religious studies professors will participate during the 2006-2007 academic year in reciprocal team-taught seminars at CIPS. The ASU-University of Sarajevo educational partnership is supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

### ***ASU-UKIM Academic Exchange***

#### **Choncoff Endowed Lecturer/UKIM Exchangee.**

The 2005-06 faculty research exchange scholar from the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij (UKIM), **Professor Ilo Trajkovski**, delivered the annual Mary Choncoff Endowed Lecture in Balkan Studies, March 6, to a capacity audience of students, faculty, and interested community supporters. The title of Trajkovski's lecture was "Civic Education and Civil Society in Southeastern Europe: The Case of Macedonia." Professor Trajkovski, who is resident this semester in the ASU School of Global Studies, has been a leader in the development and evaluation of internationally sponsored civic education programs in Macedonia. He will be providing the Center with a text edition of his presentation. Those interested in obtaining a copy of the lecture, please contact REESC offices.

**2006-07 Exchange Participants.** UKIM Vice Rector Suturkova has corresponded with REESC offices regarding the 2006-07 exchange, welcoming ASU assistance in identifying academic fields that might offer the greatest prospect for future funded collaborative research. UKIM is prepared to tie its selection of future candidates to the most promising agendas for collaborative research. REESC affiliates seeking international collaboration for an ongoing research project are encouraged to contact REESC Director Batalden, who is fashioning a response to this UKIM offer.

Meanwhile, the Center is pleased to nominate as the 2006-07 ASU exchange candidate to UKIM **Michael McIntyre**, a Ph.D. student in the Political Science Department who has also been a student in the CLI Albanian program. McIntyre, who is this year studying in Romania, will be enrolled in the CLI Macedonian program this summer prior to his departure for Skopje. Michael McIntyre was also the winner of the 2005 George E. Paulsen IDEA (International Distinguished Engagement Award) for

the CLI student with the most well articulated proposal for overseas study tied to CLI training.

### ***Moscow Scholars Visit ASU on USAID Partnership Project***

As noted above, the Center has received funding from the USAID Moscow offices for a "public policy research partnership" with the Moscow State University Faculty of Public Administration. The target field of the research partnership is on issues of workforce development. Under terms of the award, the partnership will help to launch the MGU Faculty of Public Administration's new public policy research center, the Center for Strategic Innovations (TsSI, Tsentr strategicheskikh innovatsii). Joint research projects on workforce development will include preparation of a web-based "Russian Workforce Information System," and separate policy research projects on labor migration into and within Russia and on unemployed nuclear scientists in Russia's ten nuclear cities. In late January 2005, MGU project staff arrived to join their ASU counterparts for a seminar on public policy research conducted in cooperation with the School of Public Affairs, the Morrison Institute, and the Institute for Social Science Research.

During the visit of the Moscow delegation, Moscow State University Faculty of Public Administration Dean Aleksei Surin proposed to President Michael Crow an expanded strategic inter-university partnership, specifically to include a triangulated relationship with a Chinese university. ASU CLAS Social Sciences Division Dean Alan Artibise and Project Director Stephen Batalden will make a return visit to Moscow State University in the latter half of May 2006.

### ***Critical Languages Institute***

The 2006 summer Critical Languages Institute will be the largest in its history, offering introductory-level courses in six less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia (Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian [BCS], Macedonian, Polish, and Tatar). Intermediate-level courses will be offered in Armenian, BCS, and Macedonian. Students also have the opportunity to participate in practicums in Albania, Armenia, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, and Poland. This year, eleven undergraduate and graduate CLI students have applied for NSEP fellowships for overseas study. A hearty thanks again to all those REESC faculty affiliates who have assisted in the work of scholarship advisement.

## **Major Fellowship and Grant Deadlines**

For details regarding the following grant and fellowship opportunities with near term deadlines, consult the websites of the agencies below:

Kennan Institute Short-Term Grants: March 1, June 1, Sept 1, Dec. 1  
NEH Fellowships: May 1, 2006  
NEH Faculty Humanities Workshops: April 7, 2006

## **REESC/CLI alumni.**

**Jaimie Boyd**, 2005 ASU baccalaureate graduate in anthropology and former CLI student, is studying at Durham University, UK pursuing the M.Sc. degree in paleopathology. Jamie spent the summer of 2005 in Giecz, Poland excavating a medieval cemetery.

**Joseph Giles**, CLI graduate in Macedonian, has been admitted to the ASU College of Law.

**Ian Kushner**, 2005 ASU baccalaureate graduate in history and NSEP undergraduate fellow to Uzbekistan in 2004-05, has accepted a position as Central Eurasian Desk Officer for the U.S. Marine Training Education Command at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia. Ian is responsible for cultural and linguistic training programs for outbound U.S. Marine personnel to Uzbekistan and other parts of Central Asia.

**Allison (Bryce) Paap** has been working for the Farm Credit system in California for over five years. She recently agreed to help facilitate an 18-day seminar in March on agricultural lending for a Credit Union in Zaporozhzhia, Ukraine. The program is sponsored by an Agribusiness Development NGO called Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs ([www.cnfa.org](http://www.cnfa.org)).

**Collin Raymond**, former NSEP undergraduate fellow to Mongolia, is currently in Ukraine. A Marshall Scholar at the London School of Economics, he completed his M.S. degree in international economics at the LSE, and is currently working on two development projects in Ukraine. At the same time, he has been working with the Tibet Foundation to launch the GIS descriptive project on Mongolia's 1000+ Buddhist lamaseries, all but three of which were destroyed by the Soviet Union in the 1930s. He will be returning to the U.S. for Ph.D. studies in economics in the fall of 2006.

Please be sure to send in alumni news to REESC offices (see our contact information below).

## **REESC Faculty Affiliate News**

**Nancy Roberts**, REESC affiliate in the Economics

Department of the W. P. Carey School of Business, was awarded a Fulbright travel grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for travel to the University of Pristina in November 2005. While in Kosovo, Dr. Roberts participated in a seminar with UP faculty who had been scholars in residence at ASU during the ASU/UP linkage program. Traveling at the same time to Kosovo were two other REESC-affiliated Fulbright travel awardees funded for collaboration with the University of Pristina—ASU Social Sciences Computer Cluster Specialist **Rodney Ito** and **Professor Robin McCord** of the Science Division at Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

**Danko Sipka**, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures in the Department of Languages and Literatures, announces the introduction of the Polish prefix (POL) in the spring 2006 course catalog. A generous donation from the Polish American Congress made possible the second successful offering of a Polish course, which in turn enabled the introduction of the Polish prefix.

Dr. Sipka has been working on the learner-centered task-based language instruction project (see <http://www.asusilc.net/lctli>), creating on-line resources for BCS, Polish, and Russian.

See Danko Sipka, "Content-centered resources for the West Balkans." In R. Jourdenais, & S. Springer (eds.), *Content, tasks and projects in the language classroom: 2004 conference proceedings* (pp. 123-129). Monterey, CA: Monterey Institute of International Studies, 2005.

Please send other REESC faculty affiliate news and publication citations to REESC offices below.

## **REESC Office Staff**

REESC graduate assistant Veronika Li is shortly expecting her first baby, and is no longer with REESC. We wish her the very best. Remaining with the office are Nathan Belois, graduate student in linguistics, and Steve Cottam, an undergraduate student majoring in religious studies and history.

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