

Newsletter

Spring 2000

From the Coordinator

This has been a year of transition in REESC operations. Despite her formal retirement at the end of June, Pat Nay continued to work on Consortium projects well into November. Since then, Carol Withers, the new REESC academic associate, has brought her own special energy and leadership to Consortium projects. We are very fortunate to have experienced such a smooth and efficient transition in REESC programming. Congratulations again, Pat, and a warm welcome to you, Carol!

It is a pleasure to call your attention to three announcements in this edition of the newsletter that reflect the strength and maturity of REESC programming. First, the annual summer Critical Languages Institute, which will mark its eighth consecutive year of operation in 2000, has this year expanded into the finest language institute of its kind in the southwest. Not only have we made arrangements to field our regular elementary Tatar course, even in the face of the temporary absence of talented ASU instructor Agnes Kefeli (who will be off in Kazan for the summer), but our language offerings in Macedonian and Serbian/Croatian have already begun to enroll students from across the nation. The addition of summer study abroad language programming in Romania (Cluj) and in Russia (Moscow) combine to make this a national model for intensive summer study of underrepresented languages. It has not always been easy to maintain this summer programming. We have been dependent upon external funding from the Social Sciences Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, as well as the good will of our own College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. But, the remarkable record of our CLI graduates--recipients of 15 Fulbright-Hays and National Security Education Program awards for overseas study in the past seven years--has finally brought the kind of national recognition the program clearly deserves. Kudos to all our fine CLI faculty and students!

Second, please note the announcement of the town/gown collaboration launched by the Consortium early in January 2000. Ever since fall of 1998, when the Consortium collaborated in a World Learning bankruptcy training project involving Macedonian court officials, we began to sense the potential for joint training efforts involving ASU scholars and expert local Phoenix jurists, development officers, and financial consultants, many of whom have spent considerable time working with privatization and democratization efforts in southeastern Europe. In a January 10 meeting held on the ASU campus and attended by Ruth Jones (Executive Assistant to ASU

President Coor) and Ronald Barr (ASU Associate Vice President for Research), as well as several community and REESC representatives, this town/gown collaboration was formally launched with a focus upon training efforts involving the rule of law and related financial and property issues. We are currently preparing an updated feasibility statement to highlight the training experiences able to be offered under terms of this town/gown collaboration.

Finally, we have at last launched the Spring 2000 Brown bag lunch hour discussions, to be held on occasional Tuesdays, at 12:40 p.m. Featured speakers will include some of our visiting Fulbright scholars, as well as Professor Mykhailo Kirsenko (University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy), and Alexander Agadjanian (Moscow visiting professor in the ASU Religious Studies Department). Join us whenever you are free, and have a good semester!

Critical Languages Institute

REESC will again host the Critical Languages Institute in summer 2000. The CLI dates are June 5th – July 28th. Registration forms are available from REESC, the Department of Languages and Literatures, and on the web. Proposals were submitted to SSRC to fund instruction in Elementary Tatar and to ACLS for Elementary Serbian-Croatian and Elementary and Intermediate Macedonian. Once again, Carol Switzer in Summer Sessions generously has provided matching tuition waivers for the CLI courses and the Ohrid Practicum in Macedonia.

Fridays will include cultural awareness activities for all CLI students and other interested faculty and students. Films, music, poetry, dances, and other events will be planned.

Outside of CLI, students are able to take advantage of Study Abroad Programs in Romania (see Ileana Orlich) and in Russia (see Sandy Couch).

Personnel Committee Elections

Affiliated REESC faculty should have received a ballot for the REESC Personnel Committee election. Five tenured faculty are elected to serve a two-year term. PC members review and provide evaluations for REESC faculty during probationary, tenure, and promotion proceedings, and provide an annual evaluation for the REESC Coordinator and Academic Associate. If you have not already done so, please return your ballot to Carol Withers today.

Town & Gown/University of the Next Century

As an outgrowth of World Learning training programs that REESC has organized, there is now a strong core of community people who have ties to Eastern Europe and are interested in linkages with ASU. One of the focal points of the ASU University of the Next Century project is growing interdependencies between the University and its various non-campus constituencies and partners. Following a January 10 meeting with community participants, including Judge Charles Case, Attorney Ilene Lashinsky, and Consultant Peter Morrow, the Consortium was charged with preparing a "feasibility statement" for town-gown training cooperation. That statement is being readied, and can be viewed in draft in the Consortium office.

Mary Choncoff Lecture

We are pleased to welcome Todor Džepreganov as this year's Mary Choncoff lecturer. Dr. Džepreganov will present a lecture, "The New Macedonian Question Since 1991," on February 11th. Džepreganov is a senior research scholar at the Macedonian Institute of National History and comes to us also as this year's designated Soros Foundation Fellow.

Please see the calendar of events for additional details. Light refreshments will be served, so we ask that you RSVP to REESC if you are able to attend.

World Learning Seminars

REESC organized a training seminar for delegates from the Macedonian Bar Association in November. Working closely with Cynthia Zwick from the Arizona State Bar and Attorney Ilene Lashinsky, delegates spent two weeks learning how the Bar Association in Arizona is organized. An action plan was developed with specific suggestions for restructuring their own Macedonian Bar Association. Visiting delegates were particularly interested in issues of continuing legal education and in the financial aspects of the Arizona State Bar.

REESC has been invited to submit a proposal that could bring two groups of delegates from Bosnia and Hercegovina to Phoenix in March and April to study local tax issues.

The World Learning projects bring significant benefits to REESC and ASU. The projects strengthen ties by working with community leaders in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The seminars build bridges to colleges, departments, and administrators that may not have regular interaction with REESC. Faculty and students affiliated with REESC are drawn into the training efforts. **Lupko Spasovski**, Ph.D. student in English from Macedonia, was translator for the delegates from the Macedonian Bar Association. **Lupko** and **Olivera Horwath** will be project assistants/translators for the Bosnian visitors.

Funding Opportunities

REESC has submitted a number of proposals for external funding, including a Title VI U.S. Department of

Education Foreign Language and Area Studies grant. We are also seeking internal Graduate College funding for a research conference in AY2000/2001. Steve Batalden and Eugene Clay will be the organizers; the theme will be "Reconceptualizing Religious Identity: Christianity and Islam in Modern Eurasia."

In order to get funding announcements to you as soon as possible, we will post them on the e-mail list as they become available rather than sending them as attachments to the newsletter. If you have a proposal and would like assistance with it, please contact Carol Withers.

Faculty News

Victor Agadjanian's article, "Post-Soviet demographic paradoxes: Ethnic differences in marriage and fertility in Kazakhstan," was published in the *Sociological Forum*: Vol. 14.

Stephen Batalden's article, "Religious Property Restitution in the Balkans: Denationalization and Resacralization in the Period of Transition," was published in the *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* (Vol. 14/15, 1998/1999). He will present a lecture, "The Old World Roots of Eastern European Immigration to the United States," in a session jointly sponsored by the Polish, Czech and Slovak, and Jewish Genealogical Societies in January.

David Damrel is now on a tenure-track line in Religious Studies. Congratulations Dave!

Rolfs Ekmanis was named a "Commander of the Three Stars" by the President of Latvia. This is the highest Latvian distinction, awarded for his work in promoting Latvia's literature and culture in his capacity as critic and editor.

Aleksandra Gruzinska was a recipient of the 1999 American Romanian Academy Award in recognition of her distinguished contribution to the advancement of scholarship in the sciences and humanities in the spirit of the exchange of values and ideas. She edited a volume, *Essays on E.M. Cioran (Rasinari 1911-Paris 1995)*, which was published in 1999 by ARA Publications. She translated, with Murray Sirkis, *Diverse Thoughts on Man* by Antoine Pecquet, which was published by Peter Lang Publishing. She is editor of the ARA Newsletter.

Ann Hibner Koblitz's publication, *Science, Women and Revolution in Russia*, a volume in the Women and Science series by Harwood Academic Publishers/Gordon Breach, is due out in the early spring.

Ileana Orlich chaired a session and presented a paper, "Portrayal of the Romanian Woman/Peasant Character in Ag>rbiceanu's *Fefelega*," at the 1999 MLA conference. She has two entries to be published in the 2000 edition of the *Dictionary of Literary Bibliographies on Eastern European Writers* and has an article, "At War with the Past, Uneasy with the Future: 'Diary of an Apartment Dweller,'" in *Analele, Universitatii Din Craiova*, a Romanian journal published in Romanian, English and French.

Andrew Smith participated in the concept formation and writing of a successful INTAS grant (International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union) titled "Correlates of Extinction Risk for Central Asian Biodiversity" and funded for EUR 146,500 over two years. INTAS is an independent association formed by the European Community and based in Brussels; Smith, as a US academic, could not formally be on the grant and his contribution will be supported by IUCN - The World Conservation Union, one of the cooperating organizations on the grant. The grant calls for integration of the system currently used by the Central Asian republics for identifying and listing threatened and endangered species into the global quantitative framework developed by IUCN and its Species Survival Commission. This work will lead to a scientifically rigorous system for assessing the threat of extinction faced by species at the national and regional scales in Central Asia. The project includes facilitated workshops, development of spatially-explicit threatened species databases, capacity building and enhancement of NIS government policy towards biodiversity at a time of rapid change in attitudes towards the environment in the region."

Christy Turner was awarded, by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, a two-year grant to continue bioarcheological work on late Pleistocene Siberian cave deposits. This work is intended to identify how humans and animals processed game animals for food and fabricational purposes.

Spring sabbaticals: Sandy Couch and Peter Horwath from the Department of Languages and Literatures.

Russian Presidential Management and Entrepreneurs Team

The Morrison School of Agribusiness and Environmental Resources has arranged a visit by the Russian Presidential Management and Entrepreneurs Team to the ASU campus in February. **Eric Thor** has extended an invitation to REESC faculty to meet with the participants at a reception in his home. For additional information please contact Sandra (727-1249).

Student News

Todd Katzner, ASU graduate student in Biology, has recently completed his third summer of field research at the Naurzum Zapovednik in north-central Kazakhstan. He has been supported by a US Environmental Protection Agency Fellowship, the Russian and East European Studies Consortium at ASU, and several other ASU and off-campus organizations. Recent results from his work have been presented at professional scientific meetings in the US, Mexico, and Eastern Europe.

Kameron Kerger, an undergraduate honors Russian and History major, received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Citizen Scholar Award to work with the Kosovar refugee community in Phoenix. Kameron started teaching English to local refugees from Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, and Kosovo, and her effort expanded into a full-time outreach to 25 families, helping them fill out applications, registering the children for school, and finding health care. She is compiling a refugee assistance handbook. She will be honored on January 26th as the first person to receive ASU's Student Servant-Leader Award at the Martin Luther King celebration breakfast. Kudos to Kameron!

Five ASU students affiliated with our CLI and Study Abroad Programs have applied for NSEP funding: undergraduates **Sean Smith** and **Wendy Gerster**, and graduate students **Joseph Doggett**, **Todd Katzner** and **Debra Neill**. We wish them success.

ASU Visitors

The fall semester again included visits from international scholars. Alla Boldyreva, from Moscow State Linguistic University, presented a lecture, "Budgetary Problems in Russian Higher Education." Alexei Bodrov, Rector, St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute in Moscow, met with faculty and theological leaders in the Phoenix area to discuss cooperative projects. Mykhailo Kirsenko presented a brown bag talk in January, during his visit from Ukraine. Alexander Agadjanian, visiting professor, is teaching courses this spring in the ASU Religious Studies Department.

Remaining on campus for the spring semester are visiting Fulbright professors **Tetiana Balabushevych**, from Ukraine, and **Dmitrije** and **Eleni Buzarovski**, from Macedonia.

E-mail Lists and Our Web Site

It's not your imagination – we're using e-mail more often and depending less on paper announcements. It saves us money – no printing/copying costs – and it gets the news out faster. We will continue to send flyers of events to be posted so we can attract an audience that may not be part of our list. If you have information that you would like distributed to the list(s) -we now have REESC faculty, graduate students, certificate students, ASU faculty with research interests in the area, and a local community list – please send me a note and I will forward it.

Eddie McNally, REESC graduate assistant, is updating the web page regularly. The CLI application form is now on the web. The calendar of events will be maintained throughout the semester. In addition to making information available to more people, it can enhance recruiting efforts if prospective students see an active schedule, presentations by faculty, and regular visits by international scholars. If you haven't visited the web site recently, please do so <www.asu.edu/ipo/reesc>. If you would like to suggest

additional information to be added to the web page, or links that might be useful for students, researchers, and the community, please advise Carol Withers.

Phoenix Art Museum

The Phoenix Art Museum has scheduled an exhibit, "Painting Revolution: Kandinsky, Malevich and the Russian Avant-Garde" for April 1-July 2, 2000. REESC faculty who will be leading ArtBreak talks are **Robert Oldani, Paul Zygas, Lee Croft, and Stephen Batalden**. Additional information is available on the Phoenix Art Museum web site <www.phxart.org>.

Preliminary Spring Calendar of Events

In addition to announcing events on the e-mail list and mailing flyers to departments on campus, the web site now includes a link for REESC events. This will enable us to reach a larger potential audience and may also enhance our recruitment efforts. Please note that the calendar is preliminary – you may wish to contact REESC to confirm events of particular interest to you.

January

Tuesday, 1/25; 12:40, MU Hohokam

Mykhailo Kirsenko, Professor at the University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy and at the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine; "The Presidential Elections of 1999 and the Prospects for Ukraine"

Saturday, 1/29, 9:00am, MU Ventana

Stephen Batalden; "The Old World Roots of East European Immigration to the United States"

February

Friday, 2/11; 7:00 pm, MU Alumni Lounge

Todor Ćepreganov, Mary Choncoff Fellow, distinguished research scholar in the Macedonian Institute of National History, and professor in the ASU Study Abroad at UKIM program; "The New Macedonian Question Since 1991"

Tuesday, 2/15; 12:40, LL 316

Alexander Agadjanian, visiting professor in the Religious Studies Department at ASU, with Ph.D. from Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies; "The Putin Phenomenon and the Russian Presidential Election"

March

Tuesday, 3/21; 12:40, LL 316

Dmitrijie Buzarovski, visiting Fulbright professor from Macedonia, ASU School of Music
The Radomir Psalms, an original musical composition

Spring business meeting – to be announced

April

Wednesday, 4/12; 12:40

Eleni Buzarovska
title t.b.a.

Thursday, 4/13 – "Art and Russian Composers of the Early 20th Century," Robert Oldani, at the Phoenix Art Museum; noon and again at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, 4/20 – "Abstraction and Construction in Russian Painting," Paul Zygas, at the Phoenix Art Museum; noon and again at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, 4/25

Tetiana Balabushevych
title t.b.a.

May

Thursday, 5/4 – "Poetry and Paintings," Lee Croft, at the Phoenix Art Museum; noon and again at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, 5/11 – "The Russian Avant-Garde and the Religious Revival of the Early 20th Century," Stephen Batalden, at the Phoenix Art Museum; noon and again at 7:00 pm.

Need to Reach Us?

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