

*Special Edition Newsletter*  
*May, 2001*

**From the Coordinator**

This is the time of year when we take great pride in recognizing those students who have achieved major distinctions and awards in Russian and East European Studies. Once again, more national scholarship awards have been won this year by students engaged in Russian/East European language and area study than in any other comparable regional studies program on campus. Slowly the word is spreading to students and colleagues in the ASU Honors College and the Office of National Scholarship Advisement that there are significant opportunities awaiting students who make a serious commitment to Russian/East European language and area study.

One of the launching pads for student distinction continues to be the annual summer Critical Languages Institute (CLI). This year we have been greatly encouraged by the receipt of the largest amount of external grant support (\$29,000) ever awarded to the Consortium for the CLI. This increase in ACLS and SSRC funding will make possible instruction in elementary- and intermediate-level Macedonian, Serbian/Croatian, and Tatar. In 2002, elementary Armenian will also be added to the CLI. News of the importance of these CLI offerings and the waiver of all tuition costs for CLI courses is slowly beginning to spread across the ASU campus. Please take the opportunity to remind your students and friends of this unique national opportunity.

Finally, let me express a word of thanks to all those colleagues and students who have participated in the many REESC events this year--brown-bag seminars, the book sale cosponsored by the Russian Club, honors and graduate thesis defenses, receptions for honored colleagues and visiting scholars, REESC

personnel and ad hoc committee meetings, and the list goes on. Carol Withers and I extend to all of you our appreciation for your efforts, and wish you a very productive summer.

**SKB**

**Graduate Defenses**

**Agnes Kefeli-Clay** (History) defended her doctoral dissertation, "Krišhen Apostasy: Popular Religion, Education, and the Contest over Tatar Identity (1856-1917). Kefeli-Clay is also the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Faculty Women's Association and the Michael Steiner Memorial Award for Best Dissertation from the History Department.

**Jeffrey Gaydish** (History) will defend his master's thesis, "*Old Swakopmund Reexamined*," a postcolonial evaluation of German labor mobilization practices.

**Honors Thesis Defenses**

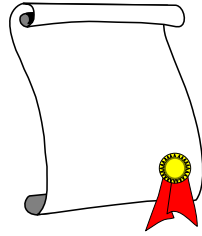
**Jennifer Danielson** (History, CLI and UKIM study abroad participant), "The History of Commercial Bankruptcy Law in the Republic of Macedonia."

**Maren Curtis** (Italian, CLI and UKIM study abroad participant), "Coming out of the Darkness: Priorities for Rehabilitating Electricity Infrastructure in Yugoslavia."

**Lydia Pyne** (History), "The Shtetl and Modern Nationalism."

## Certificate Students

The graduating seniors listed below have completed the requirements for a REESC certificate.



**Maren Berenika Curtis**  
(Italian)

**Dwight Joseph Brown** (Russian)

**William David Gunn** (Russian)

## Russian Language Awards

The Russian language section presented awards in a ceremony earlier this week.

**Danielle Ross** (Russian & History) –  
Outstanding Freshman

**Tina Consentino** (Russian) – Outstanding  
Continuing Student

**Dwight Brown** – Outstanding Graduating  
Student

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## NSEP Recipients

**Andrew Cocchia**, who learned to speak Tatar at the Critical Languages Institute, will spend a year at Kazan State University in Tatarstan. He plans to study how the recent shift from the Cyrillic alphabet to Latin script may establish an autonomous Tatar culture and politics not dominated by Russia. Soon to graduate in economics and Russian, Cocchia plans a career in international government service.

**Wendy Coursen**, a sophomore in mass communication with minors in Spanish and East European studies, studied Croatian at the institute. She will enroll in ASU's program at the University of Saints Kiril and Metodij in Skopje, Macedonia. Coursen plans to do research on the privatization of the Macedonian media and how the need for private funds affects editorial policy and the public's perception of media reliability.

**Collin Raymond**, a math and economics junior, will study the restructuring of Asian financial institutions while he interns with the director of the Agricultural Bank of Mongolia, the country's largest bank. Enrolled in intensive language and

culture classes in Mongolia's Institute of Finance and Economics, Raymond will study the effects of the country's privatization. He plans a career in international finance with the World Bank.

**Eric Strachan**, a Ph.D. student in Political Science, will be studying Russian and Tatar at Kazan State University. His research will look at political relations between center (Moscow) and periphery (Tatarstan) in the Russian Federation. This is a particularly vital concern with regard to Tatarstan insofar as the 1994 bilateral treaty negotiated between Moscow and Tatarstan allows the republic to exercise considerable political autonomy from the central government, and Tatar now enjoys equal status with Russian as an official language of the republic.

Congratulations also to **Eric Meringer**, graduate NSEP awardee. Although Meringer's work is in Latin America, we are recognizing him as an honorary REESC advisee.

## Other Awards

**Janna Hunt** (History) received the ASU History Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Studies for a Continuing Major. Janna will be a student in the 2001 CLI.

## UKIM Exchange

The University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij has approved the nominations submitted by REESC for the academic year 2001-2002. Exchangees attend classes and conduct research at UKIM. A stipend is awarded to cover living expenses during the stay.

**Adnaan Ahmed** will be working with Dr. Violeta A□koska, Faculty of Philosophy to survey the discipline of history as practiced in the Republic of Macedonia. The project will require collaboration with the Institute of National History, including tracing the origins of the institute, its history, and its evolution over the years.

**Wendy Coursen** will work with Dr. Pande Lazarevski at the Institute for Social and Political Research. During the exchange program Coursen will conduct research on the media in transition for her honors thesis.

We are pleased to announce that **Emilija Georgievska** and **Ljljana Kalinic-Ordev** are the UKIM exchangees for AY01-02. Both are linguists and will be working in the English Department at ASU.

### **Faculty Applause!**

Special kudos to **Ileana Orlich**, Department of Languages and Literatures, who teaches Romanian and coordinates the summer study abroad program in Cluj. She is the recipient of the First Annual ASASU (Associated Students of Arizona State University) Centennial Professorship Award. It is the first time that ASASU has given this award to recognize student-centered teaching dedication. She has also received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Award to present a paper, "Political Subversion in the Romanian Fiction of the Cold War Period," at a conference in

Romania focusing on American/Romanian Relations During the Cold War Period  
**Summer 2001 CLI**

For the first time ever, **REESC** has received external grant support for all languages offered this year during the Critical Languages Institute. The American Council for Learned Societies is providing funding for Macedonian and Serbian-Croatian instruction and the Social Sciences Research Council is providing support for instruction and fellowships for Tatar language students.

There are still spaces available in the Macedonian, Tatar and Serbian-Croatian classes. Please send any interested students to the REESC office for additional details.

