

## **REESC Newsletter** **Spring 2002**

### **REESC Spring Meeting**

The Consortium will hold its annual spring business meeting on Wednesday, March 27 at 2:30 p.m. Agenda and meeting place will follow. Mark your calendars.

### **From the Coordinator**

As you will note from several items in the spring newsletter, one of the significant accomplishments of the Russian and East European Studies Consortium has been the establishment of major new study abroad opportunities in the region. In addition to our longstanding program in Macedonia, for which we have just signed a new agreement with the International Center for European Culture/Euro-Balkan, we now have set in place study abroad programs in collaboration with Kazan State University (Tatarstan, Russia) and Yerevan State University (Armenia). Consortium affiliates also administer summer programs in Cluj (Romania) and Moscow (Russia). Our Critical Languages Institute features August practicum opportunities in Ohrid (Macedonia), Yerevan (Armenia), and Novi Sad (Yugoslavia). This programming has involved in each instance close collaboration between ASU faculty and colleagues at host institutions overseas. We are fortunate to be able to build upon the regional experience of our own faculty in this effort. I want to take this occasion to express my own appreciation and that of our students for these important new opportunities. Our students are surely the greatest beneficiaries.

In that same connection, let me urge all REESC faculty to publicize these opportunities to our students. The experience of study abroad is life-changing, and invariably is counted by students to be the most important part of their undergraduate or graduate experience. We need to encourage more of our students to avail themselves of these opportunities for concentrated study in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. This year four undergraduate students and two graduates have applied for fellowships from the David Boren National Security Education Program. The NSEP fellowships provide full funding for overseas study in non-West European regions of the world. Such funding sources mean that ASU students need not be financially blocked from obtaining support for their overseas study. Given the

strength of our programming and the opportunities for financial support, the time has come for far greater encouragement of study abroad from all students interested in Russian and East European studies. I look for your cooperation in spreading the word to that effect.

Finally, by way of postscript, you will note in these pages that the Critical Languages Institute (CLI) begins again in June—the tenth consecutive year of externally funded training in less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The new Armenian language offering is obviously the latest addition to a program that has now secured national recognition for instruction in underrepresented languages. The ASU Summer Sessions has been very generous this year in waiving **both** the tuition and fees for the CLI. The CLI is a hidden gem of the ASU Summer Sessions program. Be sure that our students know about this opportunity.

Best wishes for a productive spring semester. **SKB**

### **Critical Languages Institute**

REESC is currently accepting applications for the summer 2002 Critical Languages Institute (CLI). The Institute will begin **June 3** and last through **July 26**. The CLI will offer Macedonian, Tatar, Armenian, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. **Ljupko Spasovski, Danko Šipka, and Agnes Kefeli-Clay** will return to teach Macedonian, Serbian/Croatian and Tatar. Following the eight-week Critical Languages Institute, language practicums will be held in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia (Serbian/Croatian) and Ohrid, Macedonia (Macedonian) and Yerevan, Armenia (Armenian).

Armenian (Eastern) will be offered for the first time this summer. **Dr. Arousiak Gevorkian**, professor at Yerevan State University, will be the visiting Armenian professor for the Critical Languages Institute (2002). She will also serve as the resident director of the Yerevan Practicum (July 29-August 16, 2002).

Applications are available through Carol Withers in the REESC office (204A Social Sciences) and on the REESC web site at <http://www.asu.edu/ipo/reesc>. Applications are

due on April 30. For students wishing to register for a practicum, a \$300 deposit is requested by Summer Sessions by February 5, but we will continue accepting deposits after the deadline. CLI and practicum applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

In a related item of good cheer, **Stephen Batalden** and CLI Macedonian instructors **Eleni Buzarovska**, **Ljiljana Mitkovska** and **Marija Kusevska** are mentioned in Margaret H. Beissinger's article "Teaching South Slavic Languages: A Survey of Textbooks and Reference Works" (609-27) in *The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages and Cultures* (eds., Olga Kagan and Benjamin Rifkin).

### 2002 Mary Choncoff Lecture

**Dr. Jovan Donev** will give the 2002 Mary Choncoff Lecture on Friday **February 1, 7:30 p.m.** He will present "The Domestic and International Ramifications of the Macedonian Crisis of 2001" in the Memorial Union Turquoise Room (208F). Dr. Donev is chair of the board of directors of the Open Society Institute-Macedonia as well as a Senior Research Scholar at the Institute of National History. He also serves as director of the International Center for European Culture: Euro-Balkan.

### Mary Choncoff Fund

Many thanks go to the following individuals who contributed to the Mary Choncoff Fund for Macedonian-American Understanding and Exchange.

**Sotir and Athena Nitchov**  
**Carl Philips**  
**Chris and Joyce Choncoff**

We are sad to report that the sister of Mary Choncoff, **Lillian Roberts** (mother of David R. Roberts and trustee of the David R. Roberts Memorial Fund), a frequent contributor to the Mary Choncoff fund, passed away this month. Our deepest sympathies go to her family and friends.

### Events

**Balkan Symposium.** Scholars and businesspersons from several Balkan countries, as well as from other European countries and from universities around the US, will convene **February 13 at 9:00 a.m.** to discuss development trends in southeastern Europe. Topics include agribusiness and enterprise development, food consumption patterns, retail evolution, European integration, American perspectives on regional trends and other topics that emerge during the day's events. The Symposium will be held in the Union Building, on the ASU East Campus. Coffee will be served at 8:30 a.m.; lunch will be served approximately at noon.

Please note there will be a \$10.00 fee for lunch. Contact **Jill Olson** ([jill.olson@asu.edu](mailto:jill.olson@asu.edu) or 727-1586) for reservations. For details about the program, please contact **Dr. Clifford Shultz** ([atcjs@asu.edu](mailto:atcjs@asu.edu) or 727-1242) or <http://www.east.asu.edu/balkans>.

**Religion and Nationalism-An Interdisciplinary Conference** sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies is **February 16-18, 2002** in Computing Commons 120. Nationalism has a complex relationship with religion. Recent theorists, including Ernst Gellner, Benedict Anderson, and Eric Hobsbawm, have suggested that nationalism is ultimately inimical to religion; as the national community became increasingly the dominant form of the world order, religious communities declined in social and political significance. Yet today religion clearly plays an increasingly significant role in conflicts and political struggles from Sri Lanka to Bosnia.

This conference brings together two distinguished scholars who have written extensively on the relationship between religion and nationalism, Professors **Scott Appleby** and **Peter van der Veer**, with ASU faculty members, to explore diverse aspects of this important and complex topic. For more information about the conference contact the Department of Religious Studies at 965-7145 or [RelStudy@ASU.edu](mailto:RelStudy@ASU.edu)

On **Wednesday, April 10 at 3:30 pm** in 212A Social Sciences, **Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter** (California State Polytechnic University) will present "The Search for Society in Russian Enlightenment Theater" as part of the Department of History's Public Colloquium Series: *Identity in History*. Dr. Wirtschafter (Ph.D., Columbia University, 1983) is working on a monograph dealing with the introduction of West European Theater into Russia in the eighteenth century. Her publications on the system of social estates (*sosloviia*) in Russian history are well known to Russian scholars both in the United States and abroad.

### Study Abroad

Arizona State University and REESC, in conjunction with Yerevan State University (YSU, Armenia), will begin offering study opportunities at YSU in 2002. A three-week practicum at the conclusion of CLI, as well as semester and academic year study abroad programs, will enable students to continue Armenian language instruction and take classes in modern Armenian history and culture. More information about this program is available through the REESC web site.

A new agreement has just been signed for administration of the ASU study abroad program in Skopje, Macedonia. That program will now be administered by the International Center for European Culture: Euro-Balkan.

## ASU Linkage with the University of Prishtina



(Left to Right: Dennis Hoffman, Matthew Bourque, Nancy Roberts, But Driton, Jeffrey Chapman, Robert Denhardt, Driton Balaj, Leon Malazogu, Stephen Batalden)

The first delegation of faculty from the University of Prishtina in Kosova arrived in January to take part in a linkage program between ASU and the University of Prishtina. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by REESC. A three-day orientation was organized to acquaint them with curriculum processes, hiring, promotion and tenure of faculty, and budgeting at a large institution of higher education.

Those arriving for the spring 2002 semester from the University of Prishtina: Theranda Beqiri, But Dedaj, and Driton Balaj teach economics and business management at UP; Teuta Murati, and Leon Malazogu are affiliated with the newly introduced program in public administration at UP. The grant, which will run through August 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 the world of academia from a student's perspective. During the semester the delegates will observe classes in either business management or public affairs, receive computer training, and have the opportunity to strengthen their English language skills where appropriate. The delegates will return to the University of Prishtina with syllabi they have developed for new courses that will be introduced into the University of Prishtina curriculum.

**Nancy Roberts**, ASU Department of Economics is the project facilitator for business management; **Robert Denhardt**, ASU School of Public Administration, is the project facilitator for public administration. **Shahin Berisha**, faculty member at GateWay Community College, serves as a liaison between ASU and UP and will lead the distance learning component of the project.

As part of the project, three new graduate assistants were hired. **Robert Niebuhr**, an MA student in Central and East European history and an alumnus of CLI (Serbian/Croatian), and **Matthew Bourque**, an MA student in the School of Music studying Music Theory, are working with the delegates. **Ebru Erdem**, whose specialties include second language acquisition, pragmatics and discourse analysis, is currently working on her Ph.D. in Rhetoric/Composition and Linguistics at Arizona State University. She is working with the delegates on their English skills. **Rodney Ito**, computer cluster manager, leads the computer skills sessions.

## Student Achievements

**Khaja Adnaan Ahmed**, history major and REESC certificate student, was offered a \$5,000 scholarship from the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG, Blagoevgrad) to conduct research for his honors thesis on the topic of history as a discipline in Bulgaria.

In September 2001, **Todd Katzner**, a graduate student in the Department of Biology, participated in the *International Workshop on Global and Regional Issues for Redlisting of Threatened Species in Central Asia* in Gazalkent, Uzbekistan. The workshop involved members of the SSC (Species Survival Commission, IUCN—The World Conservation Union) Redlist Program, international and local specialists from governmental agencies, academia, and non-government organizations responsible for bio-diversity conservation policy throughout central Asia. The workshop was funded by INTAS (International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union; a EU initiative), and included collaboration with IUCN and Imperial College, UK. The in-country host was the Institute of Zoology of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences. A National Security Education Program (NSEP) fellowship and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) funded Katzner's participation. Katzner wore two hats at the workshop -- as a bio-diversity expert familiar with central Asia (his dissertation research concerns a unique community of eagles at the Naurzum Zapovednik, Kazakhstan), and as a translator.

**Danielle Ross**, history and Russian major, CLI Tatar alum, and REESC certificate student, has passed the Foreign Service Exam and will participate in the "oral assessment" phase of the process in San Francisco in February.

**Eric Strachan**, Ph.D. student in political science, is currently studying at Kazan State University in the Tatarstan Republic of Russia on an NSEP research fellowship. Eric's major focus is on language training, specifically Russian and Tatar. However, he is also conducting research on problems of regional integration and federalism facing the Russian Federation and is

beginning one-on-one consultations with several of the political science faculty at KSU.

**NSEP Applicants.** Each year we encourage students who have studied a language in the Critical Languages Institute or expect to do so in the coming summer to apply for external funding to support research and study abroad. ASU applicants applying for National Security Education Program fellowships for academic year 2002-2003 include: Danielle Ross (Tatarstan), Terrence O'Neil (Armenia), Kerry Pace (Russia), James Wolfe (Russia), Anne Fredrickson (Russia), and Elizabeth Papp (Ukraine).

### Faculty & Community Affiliates' News

**Josef Brada**, Department of Economics, lectured in Prague, Czech Republic, under the Fulbright Senior Lecturer program in November-December 2001. He was affiliated with the Prague University of Economics where he gave a series of lectures on international business and consulted with the faculty on curriculum issues. Josef Brada gave a paper entitled "Real and Monetary Convergence between the Transition Economies and the EU: A Rolling Co-integration Approach" at the Meetings of the Allied Social Sciences Association in Atlanta in January 2002.

**Dora Burton**, Slavic Section of the Department of Languages and Literatures, is making the transition to retirement. She will teach part-time through Fall Semester 2002.

**Lee Croft**, on sabbatical leave as the Slavic Section coordinator of the Department of Languages and Literatures, received notification that the anthology *The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages and* (eds., Olga Kagan and Benjamin Rifkin) has won a national award from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) as the "best book in the area of language pedagogy" for 2001. The editors received the award Dec. 27, 2001 at the national AATSEEL convention in New Orleans. Lee Croft has an article in the anthology, "Mnemonotactics and Linguistic Iconicity" (135-167).

**Rolf Ekmanis**, Slavic Section of the Department of Languages and Literatures, continues to build upon his ties with the Latvian Academy of Sciences and the University of Latvia. Two years ago the University of Latvia asked him to become a permanent member of a doctoral dissertation committee in the area of literature. He edits and contributes articles, book reviews, interviews, and marginalia to *Jauna Gaita*, a Latvian-language quarterly (with English summaries) devoted to literature and the arts. Ekmanis contributed several articles to the Twentieth-Century Eastern European Writers series of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* (edited by Steven Serafin and published by Bruccoli Clark Layman Book) and *South Slavic and Eastern European Writers* (ed. Vasa D.

Mihailovich). He has, also, updated previously published articles for the new edition of the *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century* (ed. Leonard S. Klein).

**Peter Horwath**, German Section of the Department of Languages and Literatures, will be presented the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art on Friday, February 1 by the Deputy Consul General of Austria.

**Karen Lemiski**, recent ASU history Ph.D. and colleague in the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, will present a paper at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediterranean Studies Association Conference in Granada, Spain, in May 2002. Her paper is entitled, "Sending a Letter to Byzantium: The Imperial Russian Mail Service to Mount Athos."

**Laurie Manchester**, will be teaching **HST 436: The Soviet Experiment** in the fall 2002 semester. She participated in the roundtable "Incorporating Orthodoxy into Russian History Survey Courses" at the AAASS Convention in November. Manchester's review of Laura Engelstein's *Castration and the Heavenly Kingdom: A Russian Fairy Tale* was published in the *Journal of Modern History* in September 2001 (vol. 73, no.3).

University Libraries granted **Michael Markiw**, ASU Slavic librarian, a sabbatical leave to study Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian at the summer 2002 Critical Languages Institute.

REESC affiliates who participated in the annual American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies conference in November 2001 include **Alexander Agadjanian**, **Stephen Batalden**, and **Laurie Manchester**.

### University of Ss. Kiril & Metodij Exchange

**Ljiljana Kalink-Ordev** is the spring semester exchangee from the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij. Ljiljana is working in the Department of English on a project looking at Macedonian and English bilingualism, biculturalism, and language proficiency among Macedonian immigrants in the United States.

We are still accepting applications from ASU faculty or students who may wish to conduct research at UKIM for a semester or the 2002-2003 academic year. Please contact Carol Withers for additional information. Such research appointments carry a full monthly stipend from UKIM.

### Call for Papers

**E.M. Cioran: Philosophy and Themes, Genre and Style, A Special Session.** Aleksandra Gruzinska, French Section of the Department of Languages and Literatures, will chair this special session at the RMMLA (Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association) 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, October 10-12, 2002. RMMLA is an

independent branch of the MLA. You may send a 300 word proposal and 50 word abstract by March 1, 2002 to Dr. Gruzinska, Department of Languages and Literatures ([gruzinska@asu.edu](mailto:gruzinska@asu.edu)).

### **REESC Alumni**

**Maren Curtis** attended "The Future of the Balkans," a conference hosted by the SAIS Swiss Foundation for World Affairs. She also had a temporary job interpreting from English to Macedonian at a conference on religious liberty sponsored by The Catholic University of America & Brigham Young University. Maren recently accepted a position at ICF Consulting as a Junior Residential Energy Efficiency Analyst.

**Jeffrey Gaydish**, 2001 history M.A. graduate and former NSEP fellowship holder, has accepted a position in Seoul, Korea as an ESL instructor. He has also been informed that he has passed the Foreign Service Exam.

**Timothy G. Riley** published "Resources for Teaching Polish" (589-609) in *The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages and Cultures* (eds., Olga Kagan and Benjamin Rifkin).

After defending his M.A. thesis in history in 1999, **Brian Zarzecki** went to Michigan State University to study Amharic. Brian then moved to Philadelphia to work for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) as a computer/contract specialist. Since April 2000, he has been a civilian specialist working in Washington, DC for the US Air Force.

**N.B.** Please keep the REESC office informed of updated news on graduates in the Russian/East European area.

#### **Need to Reach Us?**

<http://www.asu.edu/ipo/reesc>

Stephen Batalden, REESC Coordinator

([stephen.batalden@asu.edu](mailto:stephen.batalden@asu.edu))

Carol Withers, REESC Academic Associate

([carol.withers@asu.edu](mailto:carol.withers@asu.edu))

Anne Fredrickson, REESC Graduate Assistant

([anne.fredrickson@asu.edu](mailto:anne.fredrickson@asu.edu))