



Russian and East European Studies Center

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REESC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005

From the REESC Director

Hearty fall greetings to all friends and affiliates of the Center. This past summer brought significant changes to our operations, and major new opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation. As you will note from the appointments announced below, there have been major staffing changes in the REESC office, and I am very pleased to be able to add this note of welcome to **Ariann Stern-Gottschalk** and **David Brokaw**, as well as to our new graduate assistants—all of whom are also introduced below. As you will see, Ariann is overseeing the Critical Languages Institute and working closely with me in the development of our USDE Title VI applications. David will be co-project director on our State Department educational partnerships with Yerevan State University and the University of Sarajevo, and will also be handling most communications with faculty affiliates. Susan Edgington, who continues part-time as our business manager, joins me in welcoming these valuable new colleagues to the Center.

To highlight one of the major interdisciplinary opportunities noted below, I am particularly pleased to be able to share with you the news of the “public policy partnership” that has been launched with the Moscow State University Faculty of Public Administration (MGU/FGU). Early this fall the Center received three-year funding (\$207,000) from the U.S. Agency for International Development in Moscow to incubate a public policy research capacity at MGU/FGU. While building upon prior public administration partnerships with the University of Pristina and Yerevan State University, the project also draws heavily upon the efforts of **Thomas Catlaw**, **Robert Denhardt**, and others from the ASU School of Public Affairs who have launched joint publication programs with colleagues at MGU/FGU. A formal agreement between the Center and

MGU/FGU was signed in Moscow this past June. The project will feature joint research projects on a variety of issues involved in workforce development, and will draw upon the research interests of a number of our REESC affiliates as well as the Morrison Institute and the new ASU Institute for Social Sciences Research. As some of you may have noticed in the most recent issue of *Problems of Post-Communism*, Blair Ruble (Director, Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies) and Stephen Hanson (Director, Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, University of Washington), in their article “Rebuilding Russian Studies,” have called the development of academic and non-academic “sustainable partnerships” the most critical agenda item facing Russian studies in the United States. It is in that spirit that we particularly welcome this new partnership with Moscow State University. SKB

New Appointments and Departures

With the start of the Fall 2005 semester, REESC bids a fond farewell to long-time assistant director, **Carol Withers**, who has moved to her new home in the ASU Institute for Humanities Research where she will be the assistant director. Carol has served the Russian and East European Studies Center with distinction for six years during a period of sustained growth in external funding for the Center’s research and training programs. Carol will remain an affiliate of the Center.

As we send our best wishes to Carol upon her departure, we also welcome **David Brokaw** as the newly appointed REESC assistant director. David comes to us from Cincinnati, Ohio, where he received an M.B.A. in international business from the University of Cincinnati in 1993. David also received an M.A. in Russian Literature from Ohio

State University in 1997. Most recently, he has been serving as program administrator for the Cincinnati-Ukraine Partnership and the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project.

Effective with the 2005 Critical Languages Institute, **Ariann Stern-Gottschalk** has assumed direction of the CLI as one of our REESC assistant directors. Ari received her M.A. degree in Russian from the University of Arizona and her Ph.D. in Russian linguistics from UCLA. She comes to the CLI from her position as a program manager for the UCLA Language Materials Project. Ari's hire follows the departure of **Danko Sipka**, who served for three years as REESC research associate professor before his promotion to professor in the ASU Department of Languages and Literatures. Welcome Ari, and congratulations Danko!

The Center's 2004-05 graduate assistant, **Bryan Moore**, has been accepted into the Ph.D. Program in the Department of Education and will be leaving his post as GA in the REESC office. Among the other skills that Bryan brought to the Center, his talented design and management of the REESC website will be particularly missed. This fall he is teaching a course on computer technology in the classroom for the ASU College of Education.

Two new graduate assistants will also be joining the REESC staff. **Veronika Li**, a second-year master's student in the Global Technology and Development Program at ASU Polytechnic, comes to us originally from Central Asia and has her undergraduate degree in business administration from Tashkent State Technical University in Uzbekistan. She has traveled extensively in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. **Nathan Belois** is a second-year master's student in the linguistics program. His language studies have included advanced study of Polish and other Slavic languages, including work in our own CLI. Nathan is originally from upstate New York and took his undergraduate degree in English literature and creative writing from Geneseo State University.

Finally, the Center is pleased to have been awarded one of the 2005-06 fellows from the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict Undergraduate Research Fellows Program. **Steve Cottam**, a baccalaureate major in Religious Studies and a CLI student of Armenian who participated in the Yerevan Practicum this past summer, is one of three Religious Studies majors awarded the prestigious fellowship. In his case the fellowship is for work with REESC's State Department-funded educational partnership with the University of Sarajevo in the field of

religious studies. The CSRC Undergraduate Research Fellows Program focuses on providing a rich interdisciplinary atmosphere for student development. Students accepted into the program work directly with a faculty member on current research projects involving religion and conflict. Fellows also have an opportunity to meet with visiting scholars, attend special lectures, compete for research, travel, and conference funds, and qualify for three credit hours and a stipend of \$500. Congratulations, Steve, and welcome to the Center.

Igal Halfin Guest Lecture, October 21

Igal Halfin, senior lecturer in the Department of History at Tel Aviv University and currently a visiting professor at Princeton University, will be presenting a guest seminar on Friday, October 21, at 1:00 p.m. in the Maxine and Jonathan Marshall Conference Room (ECA385). The seminar topic is "Marxism as a Secularized Religion: Hermeneutics of the Soul and Bolshevik Terror." Halfin is a leading scholar of Soviet history, with special focus upon the secularized religious origins of Marxism. The Halfin lecture, cosponsored by REESC, is part of the Colloquia Series of the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict.

University of Sarajevo Educational Partnership

The Center is currently administering a three-year educational partnership with the University of Sarajevo (UNSA) 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. Launched with a symposium in Sarajevo in March 2005, the educational partnership will continue in the spring 2006 semester with the arrival of seven colleagues from Bosnia and Hercegovina (BH) for a semester-in-residence at ASU. The seven BH scholars will be attending classes in the 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 professors in religious studies will participate during the 2006-07 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's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Project Director Batalden and

Religious Studies Department Chair **Joel Gereboff** will be returning to Sarajevo in November to participate in the selection of the seven candidates for the spring 2006 semester-in-residence program.

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 (BECA), the project is working with colleagues in Armenia in the development of a new master's degree program in public administration at YSU. This fall, as the new MPA program at YSU admits its first MPA class, two ASU colleagues from the Sociology Department are teaching at YSU—**Victor Agadjanian** and **Cecilia Menjivar**. The project is also sponsoring this year the Armenian translation and publication of Robert Denhardt's highly regarded work on public organization, *Theories of Public Organization* (4th ed.). Heading up the translation project is CLI Armenian instructor **Siranush Khandanyan**.

ASU-UKIM Academic Exchange

REESC is pleased to announce the opening of applications again this fall for the 2006-07 ASU-UKIM academic exchange program. The ASU-academic exchange with the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij (UKIM, Skopje, Macedonia) is the longest unbroken academic exchange between a Balkan university and an American counterpart. Graduating seniors, graduate students, and ASU faculty interested in conducting stipended research in Macedonia are urged to contact REESC offices. The deadline for submission of names to UKIM is in January 2006, but completed applications for the program should be submitted to REESC offices by November 15.

ASU's 2004-2005 UKIM exchangee, **Robin McCord**, science professor at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, gave a seminar presentation at the Center this past April on higher education in the Balkans. Robin's UKIM exchangee counterpart at ASU, **Elena Gradiski-Lazarevska** of the UKIM Law Faculty, conducted research at ASU on comparative anti-trust issues and legislation. She has recently been promoted to full professor at UKIM. Congratulations Professor Gradiski-Lazarevska!

The UKIM 2005-06 exchangee **Ilo Trajkovski**, professor of sociology, will be arriving at ASU for the spring 2006 semester. Professor Trajkovski will

also be delivering the Choncoff Endowed Lecture in Balkans Studies in February 2006. An announcement and invitation to the Choncoff Lecture will follow by separate letter.

REESC Receives USAID-Moscow Contract

As noted above, the Center has received funding from the Moscow bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development for a "public policy partnership" with the Moscow State University's Faculty of Public Administration. Under terms of the award, the partnership will help to launch the MGU Faculty of Public Administration's new Center for Public Strategies (TsGOS, Tsentr gosudarstvennykh i obshchestvennykh strategii). Joint research projects on workforce development will include preparation of a web-based "Workforce Information System," and separate policy research projects on labor migration into Russia from the "near abroad," and on unemployed nuclear scientists in Russia's ten nuclear cities. In February 2006, MGU project staff will join their ASU counterparts for a seminar on public policy research to be conducted on the ASU campus in cooperation with the School of Public Affairs, the Morrison Institute, and the Institute for Social Science Research. REESC affiliates will recall that **Alexander Polunov**, a professor at the MGU Faculty of Public Administration and one of the participants in the public policy partnership, presented a guest lecture at the Center in September 2004. Polunov will be returning with his colleagues in February 2006.

Kosovar World Learning/USAID Seminar

The Center has received a \$37,000 contract from World Learning/USAID to conduct a training seminar on "Judicial and Justice System Reform" for seven leading Kosovar jurists who will be coming to Arizona State University in the last two weeks of October 2005. The delegation will include the administrator of the Supreme Court, a leading parliamentary deputy, a close aide to President Ibrahim Rugova, and several sitting judges. The seminar will work with the Educational Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court, administrators of the Superior Court of Maricopa County, and leading Arizona judges, including the Center's own adjunct faculty member, **Judge Charles Case, II**, of the U.S. District Bankruptcy Court. REESC affiliate **Shahin Berisha**, professor of math and science at GateWay Community College, will be serving as a facilitator on the project.

Critical Languages Institute

The 2005 summer Critical Languages Institute was the largest and most successful CLI to date, enrolling more than fifty students in five less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia (Albanian, Armenian, Macedonian, Polish, and Tatar). Another dozen students participated in three overseas August practicums. One of the more positive indirect results of the summer CLI is a substantial increase in the number of undergraduates and graduate students interested in application for NSEP fellowships for overseas study. More than twenty students have been meeting with REESC mentors since early September to ready competitive NSEP and Fulbright applications. Thanks go to all those REESC faculty affiliates who have been assisting in scholarship advisement. If you know of a student interested in applying for fellowship support to participate in one of our academic-year study abroad programs in Tatarstan/Russia, Poland, Armenia, Albania, Macedonia, or Serbia & Montenegro, it is not too late for them to enter the NSEP competition. The internal ASU application deadline for undergraduate and graduate NSEP Fellowships has been extended this year to January 2006. Please e-mail Ariann Stern (Ariann.Stern@asu.edu) if you have questions about the process or the deadlines.

The picture is similarly encouraging for the forthcoming 2006 and 2007 CLI budgets. The Institute has received more external instructional support for the 2006 CLI than for any previous year. The 2006 CLI will feature instruction in first- and second-year Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), first- and second-year Macedonian, first- and second-year Eastern Armenian, and first-year Albanian, Polish, and Tatar. It is not too early to encourage students to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Finally, the 2005 CLI was marked by significant donor contributions for much-needed student scholarship support. The generous outpouring of support from the Polish-American community made possible the inauguration of Polish instruction in the CLI. Vital travel support was offered to all students participating in the Yerevan Practicum from The Melikian Fund. And, for the first time this year, the Paulsen IDEA (Professor Emeritus George Paulsen's "International Distinguished Engagement Award") was offered to the winner of that CLI competition, **Michael McIntyre**, an ASU political science graduate student. To all the contributors to these important scholarship programs we extend our sincere appreciation.

Major Fellowship and Grant Deadlines

For details regarding the following major grant and fellowship opportunities, consult the websites of the agencies below. The deadlines are as follows:

ACLS Southeast European Fellowships: Nov. 10, 2005
IREX Fellowships: Nov. 15, 2005
IREX Short-term Travel Grants: Feb. 1, 2006
Kennan Institute Short-Term Grants: Dec. 1, March 1, June 1, & Sept 1
NEH Fellowships: May 1, 2006
NEH Faculty Humanities Workshops: April 7, 2006
National Security Education Program (NSEP External, **Not** the Internal, Deadlines):
Graduate Fellowships: January 30, 2006
Undergraduate Fellowships: Feb. 10, 2006
SSRC Dissertation and Pre-dissertation Fellowships: Nov. 15, 2005

Spring 2006 REESC Newsletter

The spring 2006 *REESC Newsletter* will feature special sections on REESC and CLI alumni. If you are an alumnus/alumna of Arizona State University in the Russian/East European field or have taken coursework in the Critical Languages Institute, please take a moment to let us know where you are and what you are doing. Our address is immediately below.

The spring newsletter will also feature a section on recent faculty publications. Please send citations for inclusion to Nathan.Belois@asu.edu. Many thanks.

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