



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**W**e celebrate this spring our new identity as The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies at ASU.

The renaming honors two of the Center's great friends and benefactors, Gregory and Emma Melikian, whose \$1 million contribution to the Center will expand research and scholarship opportunities for faculty and students working with the languages and peoples of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.



Emma and Gregory Melikian

Many of you know the Melikians from the historic San Carlos Hotel in downtown Phoenix and their contributions to the Armenian Cultural Center in Scottsdale, but the philanthropic work of Emma and Gregory covers a broad range of activities, from the arts and opera to immigrant education and advancement. Their support for Center programming, begun six years ago as The Melikian Fund for advancement of Eastern Armenian language and cultural studies, has been a source of inspiration for everyone in Eurasian and East European studies at ASU.

Our challenge now is to be wise stewards of this legacy of support for international studies. At a dinner honoring them in January, both Emma and Greg Melikian commented on the importance of "global engagement" and cross-cultural study, especially the study of less commonly taught languages, at this moment in the history of the United States. This is the vision we need to keep before us as we expand our programming and enrich the lives of our students.

We are proud to salute Greg and Emma in this, our first newsletter since the renaming of the Center. Congratulations to both of you and to your wonderful family as we join you in advancing The Melikian Center.

— SKB

## CLI NEWS

Summer is the perfect time for students to learn new languages and travel abroad, and the ASU Critical Languages Institute is the perfect way for them to do it!

Since 1991 the Critical Languages Institute (CLI) has offered summer language and study abroad programs in the less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. This summer the CLI is offering more languages at more levels than ever before, with intensive, eight-week courses in Elementary Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Tatar, and Uzbek and in Intermediate Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Macedonian, and Tatar, and a six-week, six-credit course in advanced mastery Albanian.

The 2007 CLI summer program runs from June 4 to July 27 on the Tempe campus of Arizona State University. Classes are held daily from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday through Friday with cultural sessions in the afternoons. Students earn eight credits for the courses and all tuition is waived.

In August the CLI offers students of Albanian, Armenian, BCS, Macedonian, and Polish the opportunity to continue their studies on three-week practicum programs abroad while earning an additional two tuition-free credits. These special study abroad programs, running from July 30 to August 17, combine intensive immersion language instruction with cultural opportunities during in-country travel.

2006 was a banner year for the CLI. Enrollment was up, with 60 students attending summer sessions and a record 25 traveling abroad on practicum programs. In addition, the CLI was one of a handful of programs funded by the American Council of Learned Societies to pilot an advanced mastery course (Albanian in the case of the CLI).

With funding from the 2006 Fulton Challenge the CLI presented the Paulsen International Distinguished Engagement Award to four outstanding students. The Fulton Challenge also increased scholarship funds for CLI Armenia practicum participants and provided the first CLI overseas scholarship funds for students participating in practicum programs to Albania, Macedonia, Poland, and Serbia.

Five 2006 CLI students are now continuing their studies in Yerevan, Armenia, and Kazan (Tatarstan), Russia. A sixth student

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|----------|--|
| March 29 | Mary Choncoff Lecture<br>"The Macedonian<br>Immigration Narrative"<br>George Mitrevski<br>7:30 p.m., Coor 4403   |
| April 11 | Center Affiliates Meeting<br>12:30 p.m., Coor 3301   |
| April 18 | "Kosovo after the War"<br>Ramiz Livoreka,<br>12:30 p.m., Coor 3301   |
| May 14   | "Cross Cultural Disability<br>Services in Armenia & US"<br>Parzanush Lambaryan, MD<br>9:00 a.m., Matthews Center |

## MAJOR FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT DEADLINES

- Kennan Institute Short-Term Grants:  
June 1, Sept 1, Dec. 1
- NEH Fellowships:  
May 1, 2007

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has a fellowship from the ACTR-ACCELS Southeastern European Program to study in Macedonia, where he is also serving as the Melikian Center's UKIM exchangee for 2006-2007. Three CLI students are currently finalists for Fulbright fellowships to Albania, Bosnia, and Macedonia and another is a Truman Scholarship finalist.

## MELIKIAN CENTER NEWS

### 2007 CHONCOFF LECTURE

George Mitrevski of Auburn University delivered this year's Mary Choncoff Memorial lecture: "The Macedonian Immigration Narrative: From Here to There -- And Back" at the Center in March.

Mitrevski received his B.A. in Russian from SUNY Stony Brook and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Russian/Slavic from The Ohio State University. He is now an associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Auburn University where he has taught courses on Russian language and culture since 1983. In the spring of 1997, he was a Fulbright Teaching Fellow in Skopje, Macedonia. His research interests focus on Macedonian literature and folklore, on computational linguistics, and on corpus linguistics.

### ASU TEAMS UP WITH UNIVERSITY OF PRISTINA TO REFORM ACCOUNTANCY EDUCATION

The Melikian Center has embarked on a three-year, \$350,000 project to transform accountancy education at the University of Pristina (UP) in Kosovo. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development through the Higher Education Development program. Collaborating on the project are the ASU School of Accountancy, GateWay Community College (GCC), the CARANA Corporation, and the Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo.

ASU Accountancy School director Charles Christian, GCC's Shahin Berisha, and Melikian Center director Stephen Batalden traveled to Pristina in March to launch the program before an enthusiastic crowd of over 500 Pristina students.

The first phase of the project includes the translation of fundamental texts on auditing and taxation into Kosovar Albanian, a task the Center expects to complete by the end of the year.

Over the next few months the Center will be working to identify and recruit qualified students for ASU's intensive one-year Master of Accountancy and Information Systems (MAIS) degree. Students will begin their MAIS studies, augmented by a special seminar on international accounting standards, in 2008.

Upon completing their degrees, this new generation of Kosovar degree holders will return to Pristina to assume instructional leadership in a revised and revitalized UP baccalaureate accountancy program.

### SARAJEVO PARTNERSHIP

Syllabi developed by seven visiting scholars from Bosnia and Hercegovina—Amel Alic, Sead Fetahagic, Nedžad Grabus, Vuk Miljanovic, Amra Pandzo-Djuric, Entoni Seperic, and Zilka Siljak-Spahic—have been included in a proposal for a new M.A. program in

religious studies at the University of Sarajevo. The proposal has been accepted by the Sarajevo Faculty Senate.

Later this year ASU faculty will conduct seminars and oversee the implementation of the new academic program in Sarajevo.

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.

### YEREVAN PARTNERSHIP

The Center has completed the final year of its project with Yerevan State University (YSU) to develop a new YSU master's degree program in public administration (MPA). This project was supported by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

In October 2006 a product of this project, the Armenian translation of ASU School of

## 2007 MARY CHONCOFF LECTURE

# "The Macedonian Immigration Narrative: From There to Here — and Back"



### Professor George Mitrevski, Auburn University

George Mitrevski (Ph.D., Ohio State University) teaches Foreign Languages and Literatures at Auburn University. His research interests include Macedonian literature and folklore and computational linguistics. He was born in the village of Podmochani (Подмочани), Macedonia, and tries to spend time each summer in Macedonia with people from the village.

Thursday, March 29  
7:30 p.m.

Coor Hall Room 4403

reception follows

<http://melikian.asu.edu/events.php>

*Immigrants' stories are defined not by why they left home (there are only two reasons: persecution or lack of opportunity), but by how they left. For immigrants returning home the situation is reversed: how they returned is less interesting than why. In his presentation Mitrevski explores the hows and whys in narratives of Macedonian immigration and return.*

Public Affairs Director Robert Denhardt's widely used work on public organization, *Theories of Public Organization*, came off the presses.

The Melikian Center also arranged for the translation into Armenian of other English-language materials on public administration. The compilation was made available on CD-ROM exclusively to the YSU MPA graduate students and faculty. Partnership participants Vahagn Aglyan, Gayane Buniatyan, Aram Karapetyan, Seryozha Khachatryan, Anna Maksudyan, Alexander Markarov, Gohar Shahnazaryan, and Aghasi Yenokian contributed translations to the reader.

### MOSCOW PARTNERSHIP

In 2005 the Center received a \$200,000 grant from USAID Moscow to form a partnership with the School of Public Administration (SPA) at Moscow State University for the purpose of building a think tank for policy research on workforce information and to create the Russian Workforce Information System (RWIS), an online resource for policymakers, employers, NGOs, and researchers.

In 2006 Melikian Center director Stephen Batalden traveled to Moscow to review the progress of the work on the project. While in Moscow Batalden also presented on the ASU Institute for Social Science Research's Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) program at "Public Administration in the Twenty-First Century: Traditions and Innovations," an international conference hosted by the SPA.

Work proceeds on the project as SPA continues to develop the RWIS.

### MACEDONIA EXCHANGE

This academic year the Center sent Political Science Ph.D. student Michael McIntyre to the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij (UKIM) in Skopje, Macedonia, as part of its ongoing exchange program with the university. The ASU-UKIM program is the longest unbroken academic exchange between a Balkan and an American university.

McIntyre is using his time at UKIM to research Macedonia's compliance with NATO and EU standards for appropriate defense behavior among prospective member-states.

In the other direction, the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij has nominated Marija Janeva-Mihajlovska, professor of English Phonetics and Phonology in the Faculty of

Philology, for the 2007/2008 UKIM exchange. Janeva-Mihajlovska is working on a textbook, *A Modern English Grammar*. She intends to incorporate into her text research she will perform during her stay at ASU.

### AFFILIATE NEWS

The new book by **Emil Volek** (Languages and Literatures) *Znak, funkce a hodnota: Estetika a sémiotika umění Jana Mukařovského v proudech současného myšlení* has received extensive reviews in *Česká literatura*, *Svět literatury*, and *SEEJ*, among others.

**Dan Fellner** (Journalism) spent the spring 2006 semester teaching journalism and public relations at Moldova State University as a Fulbright Scholar. While living in Chisinau, he wrote a series of articles about Moldova for the Arizona Republic. Fellner returned to Moldova for the spring 2007 semester on a Fulbright renewal grant. He also has previously taught at universities in Latvia and Lithuania.



Dan Fellner in Latvia in 2001, during a previous stint as a Fulbright scholar

**Lee Croft** (Languages and Literatures) has authored the first book in the Biography Series of the new Institute for Issues in the History of Science. *Nikolai Ivanovich Kibalchich: Terrorist Rocket Pioneer* is the first biography in English of the explosives technician for the "People's Will" party, responsible for the assassination of Tsar Aleksandr II in 1881. While in prison awaiting execution, Kibalchich designed the first rocket-powered human-piloted flying device, thus becoming a "terrorist rocket pioneer."

**Aleksandra Gruzinska** (Languages and Literatures) published a paper, "E.M. Cioran and Constantin Noica: An Epistolary Dialogue Between Two Romanian Writers in the Cold

### IN MEMORY OF DORA BURTON

We regret to report that Melikian Center Affiliate Dora Burton passed away this March.

Born in 1922, Dora was educated as a medical doctor at the prestigious I. Pavlov Leningrad Medical Institute. After serving in a medical capacity during the three-year Nazi siege of Leningrad during World War II, she was evacuated to Tashkent in 1944.

After the war she made her way to the United States, where she married and had a daughter, Irene.

In Seattle with her pharmacist husband and daughter, determined to devote herself to "the positive side of life," she left medicine and enrolled in the University of Washington, when she earned a Ph.D. in 19th Century Russian Literature.

Dora joined ASU in 1976. She taught Russian and Russian literature here for 27 years, retiring at the age of 81. In 1991 she won the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Quality Teaching Award.

Dora's legacy is large and she will be missed.

War Years," in *Connections. European Studies Annual Review of the Rocky Mountain European Scholars Consortium*. (Available online at [http://europe.byu.edu/connections/vol2\\_2006.pdf](http://europe.byu.edu/connections/vol2_2006.pdf)).

**Josef Brada** (Economics) spent most of 2006 as a co-chair of the Macedonian Blue Ribbon Commission, a panel of Macedonian and international economists charged by the UN Development Program with creating recommendations for improving Macedonia's economic performance.

Brada also developed a program with ASU's Czech partner, the Prague University of Economics, in which 22 ASU students took introductory international business courses in Prague.



Finally, with co-editors Mariusz-Jon Radlo and Wojtek Bienkowski, Brada published *Reaganomics Goes Global* last year.

**Eugene Clay** (Religious Studies), **Laurie Manchester** (History), and **Agnes Kefeli Clay** (Religious Studies) received a \$15,000 seed grant from the ASU Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict for a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to explore the potential for conflict and cooperation among Christians, Muslims, and the secular Russian state.

**Agnes Kefeli Clay** (Religious Studies) has been awarded an IREX fellowship to pursue research on her project on "Islamic Education, Religious Revival, and the Contest over Tatar Identity, 1800 to the Present."

She was invited to Princeton University this year to read: "From Death to the Eschaton: Tatar Eschatological Manuals and Their Readership in Imperial and Contemporary Russia."

In September Kefeli Clay read "The Passion of Zuleykha: Ideal Women in Al-Rabghuzi's 'Tales of the Prophets'" at the annual meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society at the University of Michigan.

In November she presented "Current Transformations of Islamic Education in Tatarstan and Former Soviet Republics" at the Middle East Studies Association's 40th anniversary meeting in Boston.

**Cliff Shultz** (Agribusiness Marketing) is co-PI for a USDA-funded project to explore trade and socioeconomic development among Greece, Romania, the countries of the former Yugoslavia, and the United States.

Several students and professors from the ASU Morrison School of Management and Agribusiness visited the Balkans in September to conduct field research. An overview of the longitudinal project is available at: <http://agb.poly.asu.edu/balkans/>

**Danko Sipka** won the Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2006.

Over the summer he held seminars at the Warsaw School of Social Psychology, and gave invited lectures at University of Belgrade and at the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Sipka published a dictionary, *Leksicka lista 2* in Belgrade, and he performed linguistic and cross-cultural research in Poland, Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia.



**Mimi Kessler with Valerii Khrokov on expedition north of Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Jeanette Owen** (Languages and Literatures) left ASU in December for a position with American Councils for International Education.

Regents' Professor Emeritus **Christy G. Turner II** and his wife **Olga Pavlova**, retired translator and interpreter for the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, spent the summer of 2006 in Siberia.

Turner and Pavlova spent the time working on their book about bone damage caused by humans and hyenas in Siberian archaeological and paleontological sites of the late Pleistocene.

The pair made two trips into the field, first to the Altai Mountains near the Mongolian border and then to an archaeological district named Kurtak, upriver from Krasnoyarsk. In Kurtak they examined recovered stone tools, some possibly 400,000 years old, and 5,000 pieces of animal bones.

*Please send faculty affiliate news and publication citations to [melikiancenter@asu.edu](mailto:melikiancenter@asu.edu).*

## STUDENT NEWS

**Steven Gillen**, a '93 Russian and East European Studies Certificate recipient and an alumnus of the '92 and '93 CLI program, is currently serving as the Political Officer at the Embassy of the United States of America in Minsk, Belarus.

**Mimi Kessler**, a graduate student in the School of Life Sciences, is participating a project involving the endangered Great Bustard in Central Asia. Mimi received a three-year NSF Predoctoral Fellowship this year. She complemented this with an IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Fellowship for work in Kazakhstan and Russia, and a NSEP Boren Graduate Fellowship for language studies in Mongolia.

Mimi is exploring the potential to integrate Great Bustard conservation biology with land-use planning.

"War in Slovenia: Doctrine and Defeat" by ASU alumnus and Ph.D. candidate at Boston College **Robert Niebuhr** appeared in the September issue of the *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*. Niebuhr presented "Yugoslavia: The Final Showdown" at the Annual Great Lakes History Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan last year.

*Beginner's Serbian and Beginner's Croatian*, which he co-authored with Aida Vidan, are expected to appear this year. Niebuhr has also signed a book contract *United States Passport to Croatia: A Travel Guide*.

*Please send student news to [melikiancenter@asu.edu](mailto:melikiancenter@asu.edu).*

## STAFF NEWS

We would like to welcome our new Research Administrator, **Kathleen Evans-Romaine**, our new Accounts Specialist, **Michael McLendon**, and this year's graduate assistant, **Diana Potapenko**.

**Evans-Romaine** (Ph.D., University of Michigan) was technology manager for the Middlebury Russian School from 2001-2006 and Assistant Director of the Ohio University Institute for Applied and Professional Ethics from 1998-2006. Evans-Romaine has published and presented papers in linguistics (phonetics and speech perception) and computer science (artificial intelligence and case-based reasoning).

**McLendon** has worked in Accounts Payable, the ASU Travel Office, and most recently as an instructional specialist for the Advantage financial system Helpline. This is all valuable experience that we will put to use immediately.

**Potapenko** is the Center's graduate assistant. Diana is a first-year Ph.D. student in European history with emphasis on Eastern Europe and Russia. She received her undergraduate degree from Eastern Washington University.



**The Great Bustard**