of Russia.” Clay was also selected as a fellow for an NEH institute for the sum-
erner sponsored by the New York Public
Library on: “Sources for Russian and
Soviet Visual Culture 1860-1935 Study,
Teaching and Education.”

Lee Croft and sophomore mathemat-
ics major Samuel Comi announce the
discovery of the first Russian Cyrillic
alphabetic square. A description of the
process of this discovery, “Russian
Alphamagic Squares” by Lee B. Croft
and students joined us in January 2008 as an accounts
services major, defended her Honors
thesis “on ‘Language Policy in Post-Sov-
iet Armenia.’”

Don Livingston has been promoted to
Senior Lecturer in Russian in the School
of International Letters and Cultures.
Laurie Manchester’s book Holy
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KOSOVO

President Sejdiu to visit ASU

The President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu, will visit ASU in October 2008. In 2004, Sejdiu, then a professor at the University of Pristina, spent a semester as a scholar-in-residence at ASU as part of a previous Melikian Center project. Sejdiu became Kosovo’s first president in February, 2008.

Details of President Sejdiu’s visit will be posted at http://melikian.asu.edu as they become available.

Transforming Accountancy Education at the University of Pristina

At the end of July, five Kosovar bac-caluminate graduates in business and economics ventured onto the ASU campus for a boot camp that prepared them for a year-long intensive master’s of accountancy degree in the ASU School of Accountancy. The students are in Tempe as part of a three-year partnership between Arizona State University and the University of Pristina (UP) aimed at reforming undergraduate accounting practice in Kosovo. At the center of this project is the master’s of accountancy training for the five Kosovars who will be returning to UP upon completion of their degree program in May 2009 to take teaching positions in a reformed accounting program at UP.

Adrian Alo, Arben Avdiu, Arber Hoti, Visar Peci, and Lulzim Zeka arrived early for the fall 2008 semester in order to participate in the boot camp, taught by Professors Charles Christian and Persy Mushiri. Professor Christian (former director of the ASU School of Accountancy) is also one of the lead project facilitators, along with Shahn Birishta (professor of math and science at GateWay Community College) and Melikian Center Director Steve Batalden.

In addition to the degree programs for the five Kosovar accountants, the project is funding Albanian translation and publication of accountancy and taxation texts for use in the new UP accounting program. The CLI’s Albanian language instructor, Linda Menika, is heading up the translation portion of the project.

Funding for this project ($450,000) has been provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development through Higher Education for Development.

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In April 2008, The Melikian Center, in collaboration with the Kosovo Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), secured funds from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) of the U.S. Department of State to grant a pilot to implement a comprehensive “Future Voters” project in Kosovo public schools, based on the “Kids Voting” projects in the United States. The three-year $750,000 project will target a cross-section of majority Albanian and minority Serb, Turkish, and Roma youth. The project will advance democratization and build citizenship in Kosovo by engaging young people between the ages of 12 and 18 in reasoned debate and simulated election voting on the candidates and platforms affecting the future of Kosovo’s new governmental institutions. The model for this project is the highly successful “Kids Voting USA,” first launched in the state of Arizona and expanded to more than forty states and the District of Columbia.

$207,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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In addition to classroom instruction, highlights of the summer included talks by Gregory Melikian on his experience in the European theater in WWII, Amy James Richtberger of Northern Texas & Michael Stewart ASU studying Uzbek with the CLI Dushanbe practicum.

Newhall of the University of Arizona on Central Asian architecture, Lori Malone of the CIA, Laurie Wax of IIE, Anthony Vanchu of TransTech International on teaching austronauts Russian at the Johnson Space Center, Mark von Hagen of the ASU History Department on national identity in Putin’s Russia, Adam Tanner of Reuters, on his experience as a foreign correspondent, and James Melikian, local collector of rare Armenian books and artifacts.

The annual multicultural event showcasing student talent (from violin concertos to depictions of Tatar dating rituals) was very popular, as were the weekly films and videos and talks by students and instructors on topics ranging from Islamic Law in Bukhara to pragmatics in English and Slavic.

2008/09 FELLOWSHIP

The CLI is proud to announce the following fellowship awards for the 2008-2009 academic year:

NSEP FELLOWS
• Francine Banner, Afghanistan
• Laura Dermer, Russia
• Matthew Jacobs, Bosnia-Herzegovina
• Derek Kedziora, Kyrgyzstan
• Sara Schwalm, Russia

FULBRIGHT FELLOWS
• Natalia Anker-Lagos, Tajikistan
• Emily Falkner, Slovakia

Advising sessions for the 2009-10 NSEP & Fulbright competitions begin on September 5. Please notify students of this opportunity.

Eugene Clay and Agnus Kefeli were awarded an IHR seed grant for their project “From the Volga to the Salt River: Christian and Muslim Spiritual Songs of TransTech International on
To develop the curriculum, train teachers, and oversee the development of what is being called “Future Voters of Kosovo,” the Melikian Center is working with a team of proven leaders in civic education. Marilyn Evans, the founder of Kids Voting Arizona and first president and CEO of “Kids Voting USA,” is the center’s chief of party overseeing project implementation in Kosovo. The project is lodged in the offices of KIPRED, a prominent and highly regarded Kosovo NGO that has extensive involvement in local election monitoring. KIPRED’s director of special projects, Ilir Dugolli, will serve as the main KIPRED on-site facilitator for the project. Dugolli earlier spent a semester working at ASU. The project builds off a series of significant Department of State and USAID projects undertaken by the Melikian Center in Kosovo beginning in 2001.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

**Religious Studies in Sarajevo**

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the new M.A. program in Religious Studies (MARS) at the University of Sarajevo’s Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies (CIPS) had its first year of full operation with graduate students enrolled in the program. The MARS program at CIPS grows out of the Melikian Center’s three-year State Department educational partnership with the University of Sarajevo in the field of religious studies. In the last year of the funded partnership, several Melikian Center faculty affiliates have been offering seminars in the MARS program.

Prof. Alexander Agadjanian, faculty affiliate in the ASU Department of Religious Studies, was the first center affiliate to travel to Sarajevo to offer instruction in the MARS program. In October 2007, he presented lectures for a course on “Religion, Violence and Conflict Resolution.” Prof. Stephen Batalden, director of the Melikian Center and professor in the History Department, participated in the opening ceremonies for the MARS program in September 2007, and then returned in April 2008 as course leader for a seminar entitled “Religion and Nationalism in Southeastern Europe.” Prof. Joel Gerboff, chair of the ASU Department of Religious Studies, traveled to Sarajevo in May 2008 to lead a seminar on religion and social justice. In November 2008, Alexander Agadjanian will return to the Sarajevo MARS program to direct a seminar on contemporary critical theory and religious studies. This Melikian Center educational partnership has been made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

**Faith & Community Exchanges**

In January 2008, The Melikian Center hosted a delegation of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian community leaders from Bosnia and Herzegovina for a three-week seminar, which successfully engaged the religious leaders from southeastern Europe with their counterparts in Arizona. The syllabus for the seminar drew the Bosnian religious leaders into sustained discussions of civil society issues confronting the faith communities of Arizona. The visits included working sessions with the local Catholic diocese, with the Jewish community, and with local Muslim leaders. Highlights of the visit included the two forums on “A Common Word” held at the Armenian Cultural Center in Scottsdale and in Coor Hall on the ASU Tempe campus. “A Common Word” is the landmark document penned by 138 international Muslim clerics calling for reconciliation with other faiths within the Abrahamic tradition. Participating Bosnian delegates evaluated highly the presentation by Professor David Kader of the ASU Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law on the “free exercise” clause and the “non-establishment” clause of the first amendment of the U.S. constitution. There was also a riveting session held at the law offices of Lewis & Roca, which addressed the landmark “sanctuary” trials involving Arizona religious communities in the mid-1980s. The “sanctuary” session featured the main pro defense lawyer for the religious communities, long-time Lewis & Roca partner Peter Baird, and one of the jailed defendants, the retired pastor of Southside Presby-

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In June 2008, a seven-member delegation from Arizona travelled to Bosnia and was able to participate in an eleven-day seminar similar to the one held in Arizona, including visits to the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities of BiH. Participating in the Arizona delegation were the Rev. Jan Flaaten, executive director of the Arizona Ecumenical Council; Ms. Jannah Scott, policy advisor on faith and community initiatives for Arizona governor Janet Napolitano; Pastor Warren H. Stewart, Sr., senior pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix; Imam Saba-hudin Ceman, presiding cleric of the Islamic Community of North Phoenix; Marey Lee, faculty associate in the ASU Religious Studies Department; Rebecca Bostic, Xavier High School teacher and reporter for the diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Sun; and Professor David Kader of the Sandra Day O’Connor Law School. Highpoints of the visit included working sessions at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, at the Inter-religious Council of BiH, and at the Jewish Community of Sarajevo, this last capped by a viewing of the Sarajevo Haggadah at the BiH National Museum. The Arizona delegation was more included in a ritual observance at the Sufi center in Blagaj, paid visits to Serbian Orthodox and Catholic monasteries in Herzegovina, and attended a performance of religious music by the celebrated Pontanina Choir, an internationally recognized choir, representing all three Abrahamic traditions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Melikian Center Assistant Director David Brokaw and Professor Stephen Batalden accompanied the Arizona delegation.

**MULTI-REGION Development Assistance & Job Creation**

The Melikian Center recently completed an evaluation of the impact on job creation of U.S. Government aid

Shepherd University patterned after the Morrison center, successful new public policy research initiatives for Arizona governor Napolitano, and policy advisor on disseminating public policy research, a meeting with Mayor Phil Gordon, discussions about border cities with city officials from Nogales, Arizona, and a session with officials of the town of Guadalupe, Arizona. The ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy Research was instrumental in planning the two-week seminar. Morrison Institute director Rob Melnick and assistant director Nancy Welch led a two-day session on disseminating public policy research. In May, Stephen Batalden, Rob Melnick, and Melikian Center faculty affiliate Victor Agadjanian paid a reciprocal visit to Moscow State University to meet with colleagues and present papers at the ASU SPA sixth annual international conference on disseminating public policy research.

**CLI + ROTC**

This summer the ASU Critical Language Center opened its doors to ROTC cadets from across the nation as part of the National Security Education Program’s “ROTC Language and Culture Training” project. With $500,000 in funding for the 2008 and 2009 CLI sessions, the CLI+ROTC project (“CLI+” for short) is ASU’s contribution to a 12-university effort to

* CLI + students visiting the fortress in Hisar, Tajikistan, July 2008

**Programs in the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.**

Applying data models suggested by a review of the literature to survey data gathered in Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, and Macedonia, the year-long investigation found that for most of the post-Soviet period it was possible to document a significant positive effect of U.S. assistance in the medium term. More interestingly, the report identified factors affecting the impact of aid, including: location, timing, and size of enterprise receiving assistance.

These findings will be featured in a panel at the 2008 conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. The ASU study was headed by Professor Josef Brada of the W. P. Carey School of Business. “Assessing the Impact of U.S. Government Assistance on Job Creation” was made possible by a $275,000 award from USAID through Higher Education for Development.

**Public Policy & Labor Migration**

In February 2008, the Center welcomed three colleagues from the Moscow State University (MSU) School of Public Administration (SPA) for a two-week intensive seminar, “Public Policy Issues Relating to Migration in Arizona and Moscow.” Sessions included a two-day mini-seminar on disseminating public policy research, a meeting with Mayor Phil Gordon, discussions about border cities with city officials from Nogales, Arizona, and a session with officials of the town of Guadalupe, Arizona. The ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy Research was instrumental in planning the two-week seminar. Morrison Institute director Rob Melnick and assistant director Nancy Welch led a two-day session on disseminating public policy research.

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Sarajevo’s Center for Interdisciplinary Religious Studies in Sarajevo

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CIPS), traveled to Sarajevo in December

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Russians in the ASU program study Russian, Tajik, Tatar, or Uzbek for eight weeks at the CLI, then travel to Tatarstan (Russia) or Dushanbe (Tajikistan) for in-country training. In 2008, 14 cadets participated in the Tajik and Uzbek programs. Seven participated in the Russian and Tatar programs.

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autumn 2008 page 3

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2008/09 FLTA FELLOW

Please join us in welcoming Odilbek Kattaev as this year’s Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant. He is a native of Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Odilbek will be teaching elementary and intermediate Uzbek and leading the ASU Russian table for the next year. When he is not teaching, Odilbek will be studying History and Educational Psychology at ASU.

Odilbek’s background is in second-language instruction. In Uzbekistan he teaches English to Koredan, Iranian, and Turkish students attending Westminster University in Tashkent and the Tashkent International School. Odilbek says he is looking forward to teaching ASU students his native language. If for no other reason, he says it will be a great luxury to be able to teach students with whom he shares a common language.

If you have not yet met Odilbek, please drop by Coor Hall 4461 (or come to Russian conversation hour) and introduce yourself.

Eugene Clay and Agnes Kefeli were awarded an IHR seed grant for their project “From the Volga to the Salt River: Christian and Muslim Spiritual Songs

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

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• Laurie Dermer, Russia
• Matthew Jacobs, Bosnia-Herzegovina
• Derek Kedziora, Kyrgyzstan
• Sara Schwalm, Russia

FULBRIGHT FELLOWS

• Natalia Anker-Lagos, Tajikistan
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Advising sessions for the 2009-10 NSEP & Fulbright competitions begin on September 5. Please notify students of this opportunity.

2008/2009 MAJOR FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant/Program</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kennan Short-Term Grants</td>
<td>Feb 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSERC Undergraduate Fellowships</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEH Documenting Endangered Languages</td>
<td>Feb 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEH Summer Stipends</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEH Teaching Dev.</td>
<td>May 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title VII Travel</td>
<td>Sep 1, Dec 1, Mar 1, Jun 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEH Digital Humanities</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEH Collab. Research</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSRC Diss. Fellowships</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACLS E European Fellowships</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IREX Fellowships</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>IREX Indiv Adv Research</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACLS Indiv Summer</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSEP Grad Fellowships</td>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACLS Camp/Travel</td>
<td>May 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IREX Travel</td>
<td>Jul 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IREX Short Term</td>
<td>Aug 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSP Undergrad Fellowships</td>
<td>Sep 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCEER Programs</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Nov 1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dec 1</td>
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James Bichlerberg University of Northern Texas & Michael Stewart ASU studying Uzbek with the CLI Dushanbe practicum
of Russia.” Clay was also selected as a fellow for an NEH institute for the summer sponsored by the New York Public Library on: “Sources for Russian and Soviet Visual Culture 1860-1935 Study, Teaching, and Education.”

Lee Croft and sophomore mathematician major Samuel Comi announce the discovery of the first Russian Cyrillic alphabetic fragment. The third-order array (74, 59, 92; 70, 72, 54; 52, 94, 70) has several unique properties and is also the first non-Roman-alphabet alphanagram square. A description of the process of this discovery, “Russian Alphamagical Squares” by Lee B. Croft and Samuel Comi has been accepted for publication in the next issue of WORD WAYS: The Journal of Recreational Linguistics.

Agnes Kefeli received one of the 12 Library of Congress Kluge fellowships. She continues her work on matters related to Islam in Tatarstan.

Alekandra Grznińska’s book New Interpretations in the History of French Literature: From Marie de France to Beckett and Cioran was published by Edwin Mellen Press.

In Fall 2008, the ASU Dmin is the winner of the 2008 ASU Dmin Faculty/Staff News award for her project "Nation-Building in Eastern Europe". Her thesis project, "Kids Voting USA," was published by Dunwoody Press.

Elena Bashmakov, finance major, is the winner of the 2008 ASU Dimitri Krioukov Memorial Translation Contest.

Steven Cottam, history and religious studies major, defended his Honors Thesis on “Ecumenism and the Armenian Apostolic Church.” Steven, who also ran track for the Melikian Center, is pleased to welcome Kyle Cowden to the staff. Kyle joined us in January 2008 as an accounts specialist. Before coming to the Center, he was an accountant in the ASU Financial Services office. He received a B.S. in accounting from DeVry University in Phoenix and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management in Scottsdale.

STUDENT NEWS
Once again Professor Lee Croft of the School of International Letters and Cultures has set a standard for collaborative research publication with his students. Their recently published work RUS-SIA: The Missionaries’ Tales features essays by Croft and students Andrew T. Gunn, Christopher D. Johnson, Eleonora Tian, Daniel C. Legler, Heathhy Nhyrht, S. Zachary Tanner, and Travis Webb.

Natalia Anker-Lagos, has received a Fulbright fellowship to study in Tajikistan in 2008/09. She was designated an American Council of Teachers of Russian “National Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate,” and won the ASU Libraries Student Book Collecting Contest for her collection of books on Tatar language and politics. In defense of her 2008 Honors Thesis on “Jadidism in Tatarstan,” and earned a Russian and East European (REES) Studies Certificate.

Elena Bashmakov, finance major, is the winner of the 2008 ASU Dimitri Krioukov Memorial Translation Contest. Steven Cottam, history and religious studies major, defended his Honors Thesis on “Ecumenism and the Armenian Apostolic Church.” Steven, who also ran track for the Melikian Center, is pleased to welcome Kyle Cowden to the staff. Kyle joined us in January 2008 as an accounts specialist. Before coming to the Center, he was an accountant in the ASU Financial Services office. He received a B.S. in accounting from DeVry University in Phoenix and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management in Scottsdale.

FROM THE DIRECTOR
Heavy greetings and good wishes to returning faculty affiliates and friends of the Melikian Center on the opening of a new academic year. Unfortunately, the year has not begun quietly. The renewed international violence in Transcaucasia offers all of us a sober reminder of the unresolved conflicts present within the post-Soviet world. What these conflicts also serve to underscore is the importance of our research and training we undertake to advance understanding of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

I am pleased to be able to announce what is reported on at greater length below—namely, the receipt by the Center of two major new research and training grants. One of these significantly broadens the reach of the Center’s Critical Languages Institute (CLI); the other expands the range of our programming in the newly independent state of Kosovo.

The Center’s “ROTC Language and Culture” award from the National Security Education Program adds a new feature to the Critical Languages Institute’s annual training program, providing up to ten assistant professors with commonly taught language training and on-site Eurasian practice experience for twenty ASU and non-ASU ROTC cadets. The “CLI+” program, as it is called, began this summer with twenty ROTC cadets enrolled in intensive Russian, Tatar, Uzbek, and Tajik courses. Not only has the funding expanded the outreach of the CLI to ROTC cadets who might otherwise not be able to fit advanced Eurasian language training into their programs of study, but it has also broadened the range of Central Asian languages offered in the CLI. One of the immediate results of the “ROTC Language and Culture Program” has been an increase in CLI enrollment—a growth that yielded overall 2008 CLI enrollment of more than 100 students for the first time in the eighteen-year history of the CLI.

Late in April the Center also learned that its request for $750,000 in State Department funding had been approved for implementation in Kosovo of a pilot “kids voting” project. This latest Melikian Center Kosovo project builds upon existing ties with the Kosovar NGO KIPRED (Kosovo Institute for Policy Research and Development) in providing young people with an opportunity to participate in the election process with targeted school systems of Kosovo, including schools with minority Serbian, Turkish, and Roma populations. In its most recent parliamentary elections of 2007, only 46% of the registered Kosovo population voted. The Melikian Center project will also test whether, as the U.S. “kids voting” process favorably impacts adult voting behavior, the project, now called “Future Voters of Kosovo,” is already underway in Pristina, and is being administered there by Marilyn Evans, former executive director of “Kids Voting Kosovo” and founding CEO of “Kids Voting USA.” It is a pleasure to welcome Marilyn Evans to the Melikian Center.

There have been a few other staffing changes at the Melikian Center. In Spring 2008 we welcomed Kyle Cowden, an accounts assistant in the Melikian Center. He has already begun in Pristina, and is being administered there by Marilyn Evans, former executive director of “Kids Voting Kosovo” and founding CEO of “Kids Voting USA.” It is a pleasure to welcome Marilyn Evans to the Melikian Center.

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