

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hearty greetings to students, faculty affiliates, and friends of the Melikian Center at this opening of a new academic year. For the Melikian Center this is a year of major staffing transitions. Dr. Ariann Stern resigned as director of the Critical Languages Institute late last spring to assume a position of leadership in the Indiana University Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages.

The CLI directorship has been ably filled by Kathleen Evans-Romaine, who formerly served as the Melikian Center's research administrator. Kathleen received her Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Michigan. Following three years of work in Moscow, she spent several years as technology manager for the Middlebury Russian Summer Language School before joining the Melikian Center in 2007. While serving as the Center's research administrator, she taught second-year Russian in the CLI and launched "CLI+," ASU's contribution to the National Security Education Program's "Global Officer" language and culture training program for ROTC cadets and midshipmen. Kathleen's tenure as CLI director has begun with the most successful of our summer language institutes to date. Congratulations Kathleen! We wish you continued success as CLI director.

The Melikian Center is temporarily without the services of its highly valued financial manager, Susan Edgington. Susan will be on medical leave for much of the first half of this academic year. We miss her greatly, and wish her a speedy post-operative recovery. During her absence, Kyle Cowden, our accounts manager, will be assisting with some of the tasks routinely handled by Susan. On one other note of transition, the Center has been fortunate to operate with strong college support, notably from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Executive Dean Alan Artibise, who served

formerly as the Social Sciences Dean of the College. Unfortunately, Alan will be leaving ASU later this fall to assume the position of provost at the University of Texas, Brownsville. It has been a pleasure to work with Dean Artibise, and we wish him well in his new appointment in Texas. The Center is experiencing stronger because of Dean Artibise's leadership.

Finally, we welcome the arrival later this fall of Ara Paul Barsam, who has been appointed to an initial three-year term as associate research professor in the Melikian Center. Ara received his baccalaureate degree from Tufts University and his Ph.D. from Oxford University in the field of religion and ethics. He worked briefly as a consultant for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and lectured in the Faculty of Theology at Yerevan State University before assuming a position with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Armenia in 2004. With USAID, Ara has been both a communications officer and program manager, overseeing major U.S. research and development projects in Transcaucasia. Ara will begin his work at the Melikian Center this fall on November 1. The fall meeting of Melikian Center faculty affiliates, tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 6, will serve as an occasion for welcoming Ara Barsam to ASU and the Melikian Center.

The Melikian Center staff is rightly regarded as among the finest in the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. While there may be some temporary dislocations as these staffing transitions take effect, it is my sense that the Melikian Center's instructional and research missions will be even more ably managed in the months ahead.

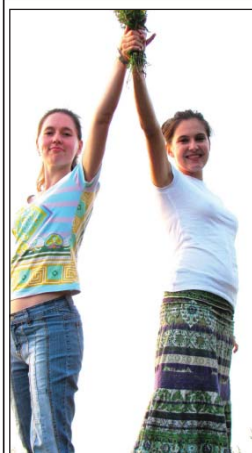
With this newsletter, the Melikian Center offers a new supplement—feature articles by returning Center student fellows who write about their study abroad experience. Enjoy!

-- Stephen Batalden

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CLI 2009 PHOTO CONTEST



Dilyara Sharifullina and Aygul Fatkykhova of the CLI study abroad program in Russian win the 2009 photo contest for their interpretation of Vera Mukhina's sculpture "Worker and Collective Farm Worker." Aygul and Dilyara struck this pose in celebration of a soccer victory by ASU practicum participants over a team fielded by their hosts in the village of Klyashevo.

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CLI NEWS



The summer of 2009 marked an exciting expansion in CLI programming. Instruction was offered in eight less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia (Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Macedonian, Russian, Tajik-Persian, Tatar, and Uzbek). Sixteen class sections at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced level were taught by world class instructors from throughout Eastern Europe, Eurasia, and the United States. The June 8 – July 31, 2009 CLI featured for the first time advanced coursework in third-year Russian and important innovations in the Tajik program. The Tajik program is now more broadly identified as the Persian (Tajik, Farsi) program because instruction in Farsi orthography, grammar, and vocabulary augments the curriculum at both the beginning and intermediate levels.

CLI enrollment also exceeded previous records. 129 students attended CLI offerings, including 46 students who participated in the CLI's signature August practicum in host countries where CLI languages are spoken. CLI students attended August practicums in Sarajevo, Tirana, Yerevan, Kazan, and Dushanbe. For the first time, CLI study-abroad programs reached their maximum capacity (in Dushanbe and Rus-

sia). Throughout the summer, CLI language courses were augmented by daily cultural events, including presentations by Melikian Center faculty affiliates Robert Oldani (music), Brian Gratton (history), and Dan Fellner (journalism). This summer marked the launch of the first performance by the CLI chorus, the first joint dance evening (with the Phoenix Folk Dancers and the ASU Dance Department), a series of evening "feasts" featuring the cuisines of the CLI regions, an expanded film series focusing on contemporary issues, as well as presentations by James Melikian on his collection of illuminated manuscripts and by Gregory Melikian on "How I Announced the End of World War II."

This was the second summer featuring the CLI+ program for ROTC cadets. Thirty-six ROTC cadets joined in regular CLI intensive language work, augmented by cultural programming and August overseas study. The CLI has been named a national training hub and has begun forging "training links" as part of the ROTC Global Officer program, or "Project GO." Beginning this September, ASU and Michigan State University launched a joint training program for Uzbek designed to bring students to functional fluency in two years through a coordinated progression

of distance learning, summer institutes, and study abroad. Project GO is a Department of Defense-funded initiative bringing together the National Security Education Program, 14 U.S. universities, the Defense Language Office, and the Army, Air Force, and Navy ROTC programs to promote global awareness and language proficiency among future military officers. Cadets in the ASU program study Russian, Tajik-Persian, Tatar, or Uzbek for eight weeks at the CLI, then travel to Kazan, Tatarstan (Russia) or Dushanbe, Tajikistan for three weeks of in-country training. In August 2009, 16 cadets studied in Tajikistan, and 20 in Kazan in the ASU program.

Project GO is expanding rapidly, from a core of four universities in 2007 to 14 in 2009. As the program grows, it is restructuring from a collection of independently functioning training centers to a small number of language-specific "hubs," of which the ASU CLI is one, working closely with regional and national partner universities. Project GO at ASU is directed by CLI Director Kathleen Evans-Romaine and is funded by a three-year, \$750,000 grant from the National Security Education Program administered through the Institute of International Education

VISITING SCHOLARS

Uzbek and Pashto at ASU



The Melikian Center is pleased to announce the fall 2009 arrival of two visiting Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs)—Umtul Ayesha from Pakistan (on right in photo), and Zebo Muradimova from Uzbekistan (on left). Their arrival and residence in the Melikian Center is making possible specially arranged courses in Pashto and Uzbek in academic year 2009/2010. Students interested in enrolling in first- or second-year Pashto or Uzbek should contact Kathleen Evans-Romaine immediately (Kathleen.Evans-Romaine@asu.edu; or tel. 480-965-4188). Please alert your students to this unique learning opportunity in Pashto (the most commonly spoken language of Afghanistan) and Uzbek. The Center will be sponsoring special presentations by the two visiting Fulbright Fellows later in the semester.

JFDP Fellow Presents Choncoff Lecture

The 2009 Mary Choncoff Endowed Lecture in Balkan Studies this year featured one of three visiting Junior Faculty Development Program fellows in residence at the Melikian Center. Dr. Ana Lazarevska, a member of the Technology Faculty of the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij (Skopje, Macedonia) delivered the March 19 lecture, entitled “The Challenge of Kyoto for Macedonia: Climate Change and Sustainability in Southeastern Europe.” Dr. Lazarevska,

who was a spring 2009 JFDP fellow in the ASU School of Sustainability, is preparing a follow-up National Science Foundation proposal in cooperation with the Melikian Center and the Consortium for Science Policy and Outcomes (CSPO) testing the effectiveness of “cap and trade” formulas functioning within the Kyoto Protocol.

In addition to Dr. Lazarevska, two other JFDP fellows were hosted by the Melikian Center in the spring 2009 semester. Artan Balaj, an artist-in-residence at the ASU School of Art, was a visiting JFDP fellow from Kosovo, and Zorica Trajkova, a linguist from Macedonia, was a JFDP fellow affiliated with the Critical Languages Institute and the English Department’s program in “Teaching English as a Second Language.” The Junior Faculty Development Program is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, and administered by the American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS). JFDP fellows work closely with faculty mentors from host universities in the United States expanding their knowledge in their respective fields of study and informing U.S. faculty and students on education in their home countries. This is the third year that the Melikian Center has served as the campus host for JFDP fellows at ASU.



JFDP Fellow Artan Balaj at the Getty Museum May 2009

PROJECT UPDATES

KOSOVO

Prishtina Accountancy Partnership Extended

Funded by a \$450,000 award from Higher Education for Development/USAID, the 2007-09 Melikian Center partnership with the University of Prishtina in the field of accountancy has been extended through 2010. Five Kosovar graduate students-- Adrian Alo, Arben Avdiu, Arber Hoti, Visar Peci, and



ASU professor Charles Christian launching the accountancy project in Prishtina

Lulzim Zeka—were funded under terms of the partnership for graduate training leading to the Master of Accountancy in the ASU School of Accountancy. They graduated from ASU in May 2009, and have returned to Kosovo to assume instructional roles in the new University of Prishtina Department of Accountancy. The UP Department of Accountancy, which is newly accredited, is accepting its first baccalaureate students into the new program beginning this fall. ASU School of Accountancy Professor Charles Christian and Melikian Center Director Stephen Batalden joined USAID-Kosovo Mission Director

Patricia Rader in addressing the official launch of the new UP Department of Accountancy in Prishtina on May 22. The extension of the project was granted for the purpose of translating and publishing Albanian editions of significant accountancy textbooks. The first such textbook prepared under terms of the grant, Hansen & Mowen, Cost Management: Accounting and Control (Thomson Learning, 2007), was translated by CLI Albanian instructor Linda Meniku, and will be issued in September.



Fatmir Sejdiu, President of Kosovo, receiving the ASU Distinguished Global Leadership Award from Vice President Bud Rock (photo: Tom Story)

President Sejdiu Visits ASU

Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu was awarded the first ASU Distinguished Global Leadership Award at a February 23 ceremony in the ASU Memorial Union attended by more than 300 university colleagues, members of the local Albanian-American community, and friends of the Melikian Center. The award, conferred by ASU Vice President for Global Engagement, Anthony “Bud” Rock, recognized Dr. Sejdiu both as a distinguished ASU alumnus who spent a semester-in-residence at the Center in 2003 and as an international statesman. The visit of President Sejdiu preceded the Kosovo President’s meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington, DC. Albanian-Americans and other friends of the Melikian Center attending the ASU reception for Dr. and Mrs. Sejdiu contributed more than \$1,500 to a Melikian Center scholarship fund for the Albanian program in the Critical Languages Institute.



“Future Voters of Kosovo” Looks to November 15 Elections in Kosovo

Funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the U.S. Department of State, the Melikian Center’s “Future Voters of Kosovo” project is preparing Kosovo students for parallel youth voting in the forthcoming Kosovo local elections scheduled for November 15. Patterned after “kids voting” campaigns that began in Costa Rica and now function in more than forty states in the U.S., “Future Voters of Kosovo” is training students aged 13-18 in the cities of Prishtina and Gjiljan to participate in parallel elections run by students in polling stations adjacent to adult polling locations. Students voting in the “Future Voters of Kosovo” elections must be accompanied by an adult who then votes in the regular November 15 local elections. The pilot Melikian Center project in participatory youth democracy is being led in Prishtina by Marilyn Evans, former CEO and founding president of Kids Voting USA, in collaboration with the Kosovo Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED). Speaking of the Future Voters civic education curriculum and the students’ involvement in election preparations, Evans called the project “one of the finest youth programs imaginable for building citizenship as well as increasing adult voter turnout.” Kosovo media are following closely how students vote in comparison with their parents. Stay tuned for the November 15 election results!

BOSNIA/KOSOVO

Faith Communities and Civil Society

In collaboration with the Arizona Ecumenical Council, the Melikian Center has been conducting an exchange of religious and civic (NGO) leaders between Arizona and predominantly Muslim regions of southeastern Europe. The citizens exchange project, “Faith Communities and Civil Society,” is funded by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. In 2008, the exchange featured reciprocal visits and seminars for participating Bosnian and Arizona leaders.

In the current year, visits have featured Kosovar and Arizona religious and NGO leaders. In January 2009 the Melikian Center hosted a delegation of Muslim and Christian community leaders from the Republic of Kosovo for a three-week seminar, which engaged the religious leaders from southeastern Europe with their counterparts in Arizona. The syllabus for the seminar drew the Kosovar religious leaders into sustained discussions of legal and civil society issues confronting the faith communities of Arizona. The visits included working sessions with Tucson Roman Catholic diocesan, Jewish community, and local Muslim leaders. In May 2009, an 11-member delegation from Arizona traveled to Kosovo and



Fr. Sava (Janjic) meeting with ASU delegation at Decani monastery, Kosovo

Macedonia for a two-week seminar similar to the one held in Arizona. Pictured in the attached photo is one of the highlights of the visit to Kosovo—a half-day meeting with minority Serbian community leader and Decani Monastery abbot, Fr. Sava (Janjić).

FACULTY NEWS



Victor Agadjanian (Professor, School of Social and Family Dynamics). In December 2008, Prof. Agadjanian was awarded the newly established Ellen Elizabeth Guillot

International Distinguished Professorship. His recent publications include the following coauthored works: “Eager to leave? Intentions to migrate abroad among young people in Kyrgyzstan” (International Migration Review 42 [3], 2008: 620-651); “Reproduction in Upheaval: Crisis, Ethnicity, and Fertility in Kazakhstan” (Population Studies 62 [2], 2008: 211-233); and “Nuptiality in Soviet and Post-Soviet Central Asia” (Asian Population Studies 4 [2], 2008: 195-213).



Stephen Batalden (Melikian Center Director and Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies). Prof. Batalden was awarded the 2009 Gary S. Krahenbuhl Difference

Maker Award by the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



Lee Croft (Professor of Russian and Faculty Head for German, Romanian and Slavic Languages, School of International Letters and Cultures). Prof.

Croft announces the publication of the latest “Capstone Publications” book, *Not to Perish: The Articles of an American Professor of Russian*. Prof. Croft has co-authored this book with ASU Russian students Andrew W. Abbott, Alicia C. Baehr, Jeremy Ecton, Jon Harris, Patrick J. Heuer, Vadim S. Kagan, Kyle M. Kucharski, Jaime R. Nielsen, Megan Plachecki, Shane C. Sarlo, Eric D. Strachan, and Shamella Tribble. All of these co-author baccalaureate graduates are pursuing exciting postgraduate careers (medicine, law, business, teaching, military, etc.).



Dan Fellner (Faculty Associate, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication; Faculty Member, Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communications,

ASU Polytechnic Campus). Prof. Fellner taught a one-week intensive course in public relations at the Fulbright International Summer Institute (FISI) in Tryavna, Bulgaria, in August 2008, and returned again in 2009. His course was attended by more than 30 students and professionals from 12 different countries. FISI is an academic and cultural program created by the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission in 2002 that offers courses in a wide variety of subject areas.



Brian Gratton (Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies). Prof. Gratton, an immigration historian and co-PI on a study of religious tolerance in

Bosnia and Herzegovina, is directing the project, “Refuge & Rejection,” an on-line site for work by humanists on refugees, as well as several other funded projects noted in the website, www.asu.edu/clas/asuhistory/Funded-Projects/RR.htm.



Anna Holian (Assistant Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies). Prof. Holian has joined the ranks of the Melikian Center Faculty Affiliates.

Her scholarly interests include twentieth-century Germany and Eastern Europe, migration and displacement and the history of architecture and urban planning. Her volume on displaced persons in post-World War II Germany is expected in print shortly, *Between National Socialism and Soviet Communism: The Narration of Community among Displaced Persons in Germany, 1945-1951*.

Agnes Kefeli (Lecturer, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies): Prof. Kefeli spent 2008-2009 as a Kluge Fellow at the Library of Congress researching “The Contest over Education and Civic Identity: Islam, Christianity, and Secularism in Post-Soviet Tatarstan.”

Thomas Morton (Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture): Prof. Morton was nominated for the 2007-08 Centennial Professorship for Teaching Excellence and Community Service. In addition, he received the 2008-09 New Faculty Teaching Award that is co-sponsored by the Association for the Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). He is one of three winners of this national award.

George Paulsen Sadly, we report the news of the death of George Paulsen on June 1. Prof. Paulsen was an early supporter of the Critical Languages Institute, and the originator of the CLI Scholarship IDEA (International Distinguished Engagement Awards). He was a long-time faculty member of the ASU History Department where he taught U.S. diplomatic history and the history of the U.S. Constitution. Paulsen came to ASU following

Ph.D. studies at Ohio State University. He was a World War II Naval veteran of the Pacific arena, and graduated from Hobart College upon return from World War II. George was a strong supporter of the kind of international training that is embodied in the CLI. We shall all miss him.

Laura Popova (Lecturer, Barrett Honors College). Dr. Popova directed the summer 2008 Barrett Honors College archeological study abroad program to Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Samara). During the excavation portion of the program students excavated an Early Bronze Age kurgan and a portion of a Late Bronze Age structure. This research was funded by a seed grant from the ASU Office of the Vice President for Global Engagement. In the spring of 2009, she taught an honors section of ASB 222: Buried Cities and Lost Tribes, which served as a basic introduction to archaeological work, with discussion of sites in Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and Mongolia.



Danko Šipka (Professor of Slavic Languages, School of International Letters and Cultures). Prof. Šipka published four papers and two reviews in linguistic journals in Germany, Austria, and Serbia. He gave the keynote address at the POS-3 conference in Hamburg, Germany and an invited lecture in Berlin, Germany. Joanna Dobosiewicz defended her Ph.D. dissertation under his supervision at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. The fifth volume of the Journal of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages appeared under his editorship.

Clifford Shultz (Professor and Marley Foundation Chair in the W. P. Carey School of Business and Morrison School of Management and Agribusiness). A long-time affiliate of the Center, Prof. Shultz has accepted a

position as Professor and Kellstadt Chair of Marketing in the School of Business Administration at Loyola University, Chicago. Best wishes to you, Cliff!

Emil Volek (Professor of Spanish, School of International Letters and Cultures). In May 2008, served as a visiting invited lecturer at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences. Currently working on “Voloshinov in Prague,” he recently published the article, “Literature, Aesthetics, Culture: Encounters and Missed Calls,” a response to a current MLA proposal for doing away with literature, Mukarovsky, and more.

STUDENT NEWS

Mauricio Arias (Polish, 2006): Mauricio, a student in the DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) program, was a finalist in Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Competition in Atlanta this past March.

Charlene Bashore (Polish, 2007): Charlene, who at 22 already is involved in highly sophisticated DNA research, was featured in the USA Today’s April 29 2009 issue as one of 20 students named to the All-USA College Academic First Team for exceptional intellectual achievement and leadership. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 2009 from the Barrett Honors College with a BS in Biochemistry.

Joseph Bodell (Macedonian, 2006, 2007; NSEP to Macedonia, 2007-08):

Joseph earned the Russian and East European Studies Certificate from the Melikian Center in December 2008. He is beginning this fall a master’s degree program in international relations at George Washington University.

Edward Carlin (CLI+, Russian, 2008, 2009): Edward has been appointed General Military Course Cadet Advisor for the Det 085 at the University of California, Berkeley.

Steven Cottam (Armenian, 2005, 2006; NSEP to Armenia, 2006-07): Steven has been awarded a scholarship for postgraduate studies at the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois, where he begins his work this fall.

Nick Detloff (CLI+, Tajik, 2008): Nick was promoted to Deputy Group Commander of ASU Air Force ROTC’s Mission Support Group, and will be graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force.

Filip Erdeljac (Melikian Center Graduate Assistant, 2007-08): Filip defended his M.A. thesis in history at ASU in 2009, and has been admitted into the Ph.D. program with fellowship support at New York University. He will be presenting a portion of his thesis on popular Serbian and Croatian nationalist songs at the fall convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

Tim Essam (BCS, 2007): Tim is a graduate student in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland, and is working at the World Bank on their “Economics of Adaptation



Edward Carlin leads his classmates in a pirate attack during the CLI Cultural Showcase in July.

to Climate Change” project. The study is “designed to help developing country decision makers better design climate change adaptation strategies through an improved understanding and assessment of the risks posed by climate change, the adaptation measures that can be taken to reduce the risks and/or adverse impacts, and the costs and benefits of such measures.”

Michael Freeman (Tatar, 2007): Michael earned a Russian and East European Studies Certificate from the Melikian Center in May 2009.

Tia Lynn Hicks (CLI+, Uzbek, 2008): Tia received a 2009 Army internship for work in China.

Erin Hutchinson (Armenian, 2005, 2006; NSEP to Armenia, 2006-07, Fulbright to Moldova, 2009-10): Erin has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Moldova where she will be teaching English as a foreign language at Comrat University in the heart of the Turkic-speaking Gagauz region of Moldova. She also earned a Russian and East European Studies Certificate from the Melikian Center in May 2009.

Derek Kedziora (BCS, 2006; Tajik/Persian 2009): Derek earned a Russian and East European Studies Certificate from the Melikian Center in May 2009.

Elizabeth Miller (Albanian, 2007; NSEP to Albania, 2007-08): Elizabeth was offered and declined a Fulbright Fellowship to Vietnam, deciding instead to pursue her M.A. degree in Art and Museum Studies at Georgetown University, a program she is beginning this fall. She has also accepted a curatorial assistantship at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Modern/Contemporary Art Branch of the Smithsonian Institution.

Shaina Niedermeier (Albanian, 2006, 2007; NSEP to Albania, 2007-08): Shaina Niedermeier earned a Russian and East European Studies Certificate from the Melikian Center in December 2008. In May 2009, she began her service in the Peace Corps in Armenia.



As part of their study-abroad experience, students in the CLI practicum in Kazan, Russia, work with local youth. Here they pose after participating in a talent show with students and teachers from the village of Klyashevo

Robert Niebuhr (BCS, 2002; Fulbright to Croatia, 2003-04): Robert successfully defended his doctoral thesis in modern European history at Boston College in the fall of 2008. We shall feature more from Dr. Niebuhr in a future issue of the Center newsletter.

Grace Shigetani (BCS, 2007; Fulbright to Croatia, 2009-10) successfully defended in April 2009 her honors thesis, a work on Bosnia and Herzegovina that built off her semester in residence there in 2008. She has received a Fulbright Fellowship to Croatia for 2009-10 to study the social effects of the repatriation of the Serbs displaced during the wars of Yugoslav succession, 1991-95.

Erin Traeger (Macedonian, 2002, 2006, 2007; Fulbright to Macedonia, 2007-08): Erin recently returned to Skopje, where she is a senior account manager for the software company, “Innovators.”

Charis Walikonis (Albanian 2006, 2007; Fulbright to Albania 2007-2008): During her Fulbright year, Charis researched Albanian dialectology and linguistic politics. She has now launched

MA studies in Teaching English as a Second Language at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, where she is also studying Arabic.

Wendy Zupac (BCS, 2008): Wendy has been working as a program director for Community Outreach & Advocacy for Refugees, a local non-profit that helps recently resettled refugees adjust to life in the United States. She begins her postgraduate studies at Yale Law School this fall.

FIELD REPORT: MIMI KESSLER

HUNTING BUSTARDS IN MONGOLIA

I travelled to my field site, 300 km from Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, over a two-track dirt road in search of one of the heaviest birds capable of flight – the Great Bustard. Although Great Bustards, stately grassland birds known for their unusual mating display, have declined throughout their

range in Asia, remnant populations can be found, usually in remote locales. The journey took my research team from two to three days in a van stuffed to the gills with the supplies. At our main research site in a village of about 2500 people, we were able to purchase sheep for slaughter, but “specialty” foods such as potatoes, cabbage, eggs, and margarine were hard to come by. Electricity arrived at the village last year, and average winter temperatures hover around -20 to -30°F. Our team, composed of four to eight people, lived in a one-room wooden building during the winter or a ger (yurt) during the gentler spring, summer and autumn.

Three years ago, during my first field season as a graduate student at ASU’s School of Life Sciences, I forged a collaboration with professional ornithologists N. Tseveenmyadag and B. Nyambayar in Ulaanbaatar to investigate the conservation biology of this rare species in Mongolia, to answer questions about the reasons for its decline, and to search for optimal methods for its conservation. The field crew consists of a local professional driver, D. Dorjhtürel, able to navigate the unmarked backcountry roads and fix the inevitable breakdowns with the barest of tools, D. Erdenetsetseg, a professional back-country cook, masters’ student B. Dashnyam (Dashka), local undergraduate assistants in need of field experience, myself, and the occasional visiting researcher. The working language of our team is Khalkha Mongolian, which I studied formally on my first trip to Mongolia in 2001 on an IREX Language Training Fellowship, and as a graduate student National Se-

curity Education Program Boren Fellow from 2007-2008.

Our most challenging task in the field has been the capture of individual Great



Researchers Dashnyam, Kessler, and Erdenetsetseg. (photo - Bayanmonkh)

Bustards for the attachment of satellite/GPS transmitters which will monitor the exact location of the bird and transmit it to a relay satellite, so that we can detect the bird’s habitat use patterns and migration routes. We attach these transmitters, which are a little wider and shorter than a stick of butter, to the back of the bird by way of a custom-fitted backpack. This sounded easy enough when I planned my research in my office at ASU... little did I know that it would take me my entire first field season simply to locate the populations of Great Bustard on which I would carry out research.

Capture also presented a challenge. The Great Bustards of Mongolia are incredibly wary, preferring to keep a distance of about half a mile from humans. Our team tried a number of low-risk capture methods: soft foot snares, bait, decoys, a giant net the length of three football fields, even the kidnapping of chicks in

order to capture their observant mothers (no chicks were harmed!). Of all the methods we tried, only capture at night on the bustards’ roosting grounds was successful. For months, our team worked nocturnally, pursuing these elusive birds on every overcast or moonless night.

I am glad to report that in October 2008, we attached our eighth and final transmitter to a wild bustard. Already, we have received startling results about the habits of these birds and have been able to make preliminary recommendations for conservation actions. The Great Bustard is also used by local conservation organizations as an indicator of the health of the steppe ecosystem, and as a flagship species, or symbol around which to rally interest in steppe conservation. Information

gathered by our team about this species also has implications for land-use planning and conservation projects in the region. We also share the results of our research with the public through radio interviews, curricula designed for public schools, and a popular series of educational programs for rural schoolchildren, with the aim of promoting interest in the conservation of this and other bird species.

Mimi Kessler (mimi.kessler@asu.edu) is a graduate student in the School of Life Sciences. She first worked with the Melikian Center in 2007, when she participated in the Center’s grant-application seminar and mentoring program. She subsequently received a three-year NSF Pre-doctoral Fellowship, which she complemented with an IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Fellowship.

FIELD REPORT: ERIN HUTCHINSON "ARMENIAN CUISINE"



Erin Hutchinson, second from right, sampling the cuisine with friends in Armenia in 2006

A few weeks ago, I offered to bring one of my favorite foods from Armenia to a party. It's a Georgian cheese and egg bread called khachapuri, I explained in my e-mail. The response I received was a bit startling: "You spent a year in Armenia and you're making GEORGIAN food?"

This scenario has recurred again and again. One of the most frequent questions I received after I returned from studying in Armenia was "What is Armenian food like?" It seems like a pretty simple question. So why did I find myself stumbling and stuttering every time I tried to answer it? I could list the different local delicacies: *tolma*, *khorovats*, *kyufta*, *borsheh*, *paklava*, *pelmeni*, *shawarma*, *lamajoun*... But as soon as I finished that list, the quibbling began. Well, okay, so *tolma* and *paklava* are also found in Greek or Turkish cuisine. And any fan of Russian and Ukrainian food knows that *borsheh* and *pelmeni* are hardly indigenous to the South Caucasus. *Shawarma*, *kyufta* and *lamajoun* can easily be found in America...at your local Arab market. By the end of the process, the only food I'm left with is *khorovats*, a grilled meat kebab that is universally acknowledged as a specialty from the Caucasus. The problem only gets worse when I enjoy a meal prepared by my friends in the Armenian diaspora. The foods that they identify as "Armenian" are completely foreign to me. What went wrong here? What is

Armenian food? There are a few reasons this question is so complicated.

First, in an age of nation-states, it is often difficult to appreciate or even acknowledge the legacy of empire in our world today. Armenia as a nation has had two periods of independence in the modern era, from 1918 to 1920 and 1991 to the present. For the remainder of the last centuries, it has been on the edges of many different empires, and Armenia's culture is evidence of that fact. Similarities between Turkish and Armenian food can be explained by Armenia's many centuries as a millet within the Ottoman Empire. Under the Russian empire, the eastern Armenian intelligentsia made its home in Tbilisi, and Georgian foods like *khachapuri* and *khinkali* are still savored by many Armenians. During Armenia's time as a republic within the former Soviet Union, many Armenians came to enjoy the poetry of Alexander Pushkin as well as *borsheh* and *pelmeni*. In recent years, Armenians driven to Arab countries during the Genocide of 1915 have returned, bringing a fusion of Arab and Armenian culture with them. Now that national borders have replaced imperial ones, there is a tendency to see national cultures as endemic and monolithic. Armenian food reminds us that the borders of culture are not identical to the borders of nations.

Second, textbooks on intercultural communication write that one of the most important things to remember when inter-

acting with another culture is this simple principle: Other people's cultures are just as complicated as your own. However, in our daily lives, as well as in the world of academia, this maxim easily falls by the wayside. Americans who would not think twice about serving chips and salsa alongside Buffalo wings at a Superbowl party think it odd that I came back from Armenia with a taste for Georgian meat dumplings. I've heard academics get up in arms about a photograph showing a group of Armenian pensioners eating *borsheh*. But *borsheh* is a Russian dish, they exclaimed! Examples of cultural blending that we take for granted in our own society seem strange (or even traitorous) when they appear in someone else's country.

These insights are difficult to convey to students in a classroom, and books and films rarely capture them. The Melikian Center specializes in these sorts of breakthroughs, where the intellectual rubber meets the road. My experiences in Armenia, facilitated by the Melikian Center, taught me lessons about culture and history that I will never forget. Perhaps more importantly, my time in Armenia taught me how to eat well! I don't know if I will ever be able to give a satisfactory answer to the question, "What is Armenian food?" but I can tell you one thing: It tastes great!

Erin Hutchinson (erin.hutchinson@asu.edu) studied Armenian in the CLI in 2005 and 2006 and spent the 2006-2007 academic year in Yerevan, Armenia on an NSEP Scholarship. In Armenia, Erin began studying Russian and was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship from the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers to continue her Russian studies in Nizhny Novgorod. She graduated from ASU in May 2009 with degrees in History and Global Studies and a minor in Russian. She departs shortly for southeastern Europe where she will be Fulbright Fellow at Comrat University in the minority Turkic-speaking Gagauz region of Moldova.

The joint Arizona State-Moscow State University Public Policy Partnership for Workforce Development project came to a close this summer.

The project achieved its most ambitious goal—the incubation of the Center for Strategic Innovation (TsSI in Russian), a public policy research institute at Moscow State University’s Faculty of Public Administration (MGU/FGU). The TsSI’s research activity has extended to projects well beyond the scope of the original partnership, including funded projects in the fields of education, e-governance, and public-private partnerships in social services.

The Melikian Center launched the project with a public policy research partnership seminar, conducted at ASU in 2006. This seminar led to reciprocal invitations of seminar presenters to participate in the annual MGU/FGU international conference on public administration in Moscow.

Critical to the success of the project was the development of a web-based workforce information system, modeled on a similar system at the University of Missouri Public Policy Research Center. The developer of that system, David Laslo, guided MGU consultant Sergey Borovov through the development and deployment of a scalable system providing an interactive resource for regional businesses, job seekers and analysts.

The project was unusually timely, with the TsSI coming on line at a time when the flourishing Russian economy and its federal budget surpluses created a variety of opportunities for federally funded Russian projects. The TsSI website documents the range of funded projects resulting in the new MGU Center. Many of those projects relate directly to workforce development, including funded projects on regional education. A company in Tula identified TsSI from its RISTR website before contacting TsSI to undertake a workforce analysis for the company—a testimony to the successful strategic design of the ASU-MGU partnership project.

ASU and MGU concluded the grant by publishing a volume outlining the development of the TsSI and collecting several of the analysis and policy papers produced there. This volume is available from the Melikian Center. ■



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LABOR MIGRATION:

Proceedings from a Public Policy Research Partnership between Moscow State University and Arizona State University

March 2009

Editorial Commission:

Stephen K. Braidalen, Project Director, ASU
 Aleksandr Irvadin, Project Facilitator, MSU
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ASU THE MELIKIAN CENTER:
Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES AT ASU



FALL 2009 COURSES

- sic 154 (81670) FARSI 1
- sic 294 (78027) FARSI 2
- sic 394 (87399) FARSI 3
- sic 154 (85081) UZBEK 1
- sic 294 (89104) UZBEK 2
- sic 154 (89082) PASHTO 1
- sic 294 (89105) PASHTO 2

SUMMER INTENSIVE COURSES

- ELEMENTARY DARI/FARSI/TAJIK
- INTERMEDIATE DARI/FARSI/TAJIK
- CONVERSATIONAL DARI
- CONVERSATIONAL FARSI
- CONVERSATIONAL TAJIK

- ELEMENTARY UZBEK
- INTERMEDIATE UZBEK
- ADVANCED UZBEK

- ELEMENTARY PASHTO
- INTERMEDIATE PASHTO

(FOR INFORMATION ON SUMMER COURSES, CONTACT CLIO@ASU.EDU)

FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT DEADLINES 2009/10

ACLS Fellowships, including ACLS/SSRC/NEH International and Area Studies Fellowships and ACLS/New York Public Library Fellowships	September 30
ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowships	September 30
ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowships	September 30
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships	November 11
Mellon/ACLS Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowships	December 9
ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in East European Studies	November 11
ACLS Early Career Postdoc. Fellowships in East European Studies ..	November 11
ACLS East European Studies Program Conference Grants	January 29, 2010
ACLS East European Studies Program Travel Grants	January 29, 2010
ACLS E. Eur. Studies Program Language Grants to Individuals for Summer Study	Jan. 15, 2010
ACLS E. Eur. Studies Program Language Grants to Institutions for Summer Courses	Jan. 15, 2010
IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO) Program	November 17
IREX Short-Term Travel Grant Program	February 2, 2010
IREX U. S. Embassy Policy Specialist Program	April 2010
IREX Partnerships in Collaborative Research Program	June 2010
NCEEER Title VIII National Research Competition	February 2010
NCEEER Title VIII Ed Hewett Fellowship	March 2010
NCEEER Title VIII Short-Term Travel Grants	December 2009 / April 2010
NCEEER/ACTR-ACCELS NEH Collaborative Research Fellowship ...	February 2010
NCEEER James Millar Graduate Student Prize	May 2010
NCEEER Junior Scholars Seminar on Eastern Europe	May 2010
Kennan Inst. Galina Starovoitova Fellowship on Human Rights & Conflict Resolution	May 2010
Kennan Inst. Title VIII Research Scholarships	December 2009
Kennan Inst. Short Term Grants	Sep. 1/Dec. 1/Mar. 1/Jun. 1
Kennan Institute Research Assistantships	Open Application
NEH Collaborative Research Grants	October 29
NEH Digital Humanities Start-up Grants	October 6
NEH Documenting Endangered Languages Grant	September 15
NEH Enduring Questions Grant (for new course development)	September 15
NEH Fellowships	May 2010
NEH Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant	October 29
NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes Grant	March 2010
NEH Summer Stipends	October 1
NEH Teaching Development Fellowships	October 1
Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellows Program (for recently graduated seniors)	January 15
U.S. Institute of Peace Annual Grant Competition	October 1
U.S. Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Peace Scholarship Dissertation Program	Jan. 5, 2010
NSEP Boren Graduate Fellowships	Jan. 28, 2010

***NSEP Boren Undergraduate Scholarships* Feb. 10, 2010

***Fulbright U.S. Student Fellowship Program (IIE)* October 19

***ASU maintains earlier internal deadlines for these fellowship programs. Contact the Melikian Center or the ASU Lorraine Frank Office of National Scholarships.*

Grant Application Mentoring Program To Begin on September 3

The Melikian Center announces the opening of its fall 2009 mentoring program for prospective Fulbright, NSEP, and Gilman applicants. The first session will be held in Coor Hall 4403, at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 3. The Center maintains an enviable record of applicant success, with six NSEP and Fulbright Fellows awarded fellowships in the 2009-10 competition, and more than fifty over the past decade. Applications are now open for study abroad fellowships for 2010-11. More than a dozen students from the 2009 CLI are already in the process of preparing competitive NSEP, Fulbright, and Gilman applications. The September 3 mentoring session is open to all undergraduate and graduate students contemplating overseas study in Eastern Europe and Eurasia during the 2010-11 academic year. Please notify your students of this important opportunity.

Summer 2010

Critical Languages Institute

The Arizona State University Critical Languages Institute offers intensive instruction in less commonly taught languages of Eurasia and Eastern Europe. The program has two components: eight-week intensive courses at ASU's main campus and three-week overseas immersion programs. Students may participate in either program or both. Honors credit is available.

SUMMER STUDY AT ASU

June 7 – July 30

Eight-week, eight-credit intensive language programs, equivalent to one year of classroom instruction. (All classes contingent upon enrollment and funding):

Elementary: Albanian, Armenian (Eastern), Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Pashto, Persian (Dari/Farsi/Tajik), Tatar, Uzbek

Intermediate: Albanian, Armenian (Eastern), Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Macedonian, Pashto Persian (Dari/Farsi/Tajik), Russian, Tatar, Uzbek

Advanced: Albanian, Russian, Uzbek

SUMMER STUDY OVERSEAS

August 2 – 20

CLI students may continue their training in a three-week, two-credit language and culture program overseas. In most cases, the same instructors teach the ASU and the overseas segments of the CLI. Non-CLI students who meet minimum language requirements are eligible to participate. See <http://cli.asu.edu> for details.

Language

Albanian
Armenian (Eastern)
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
Macedonian
Polish
Russian
Persian (all dialects)
Tatar
Uzbek

Location

Tirana, Albania
Yerevan, Armenia
Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Ohrid, Macedonia
Poznan, Poland
Kazan, Russia
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Kazan, Russia (Tatarstan)
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

PROGRAM COST

CLI Summer Study at ASU program costs are limited to a \$500 nonrefundable application fee. Fees for CLI Summer Study Overseas program vary from \$1,100 to \$1,700. Overseas program costs do not include airfare, visas, passports, insurance, or personal expenses. Financial aid may be applied toward CLI coursework in Arizona and abroad. See <http://cli.asu.edu> for details.

ELIGIBILITY

CLI programs are open to graduates, undergraduates, and non-degree students.

DEADLINE

Applications for CLI 2010 are due by March 1, 2010, with rolling admission after that date. Deadlines for CLI study-abroad programs vary. See <http://cli.asu.edu> for details.



For More Information and Application Forms Contact

Critical Languages Institute
Coor Hall 4454
PO Box 874202
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287-4202
(480) 965-4188

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<http://cli.asu.edu>