



**Russian and East European Studies Center  
Spring 2005 Newsletter**

*From the REESC Director*

*Religious Studies Curriculum in the Twenty-First Century*

As noted in the fall 2004 REESC newsletter, the US Department of State funded an educational partnership project between ASU and the University of Sarajevo (UnSa) for development of a religious studies curriculum at UnSa. Stephen Batalden is the PI. Working with the International Multireligious and Intercultural Center (IMIC) in Sarajevo, the ASU Department of Religious Studies, the ASU Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, and the Royal Norwegian Embassy Sarajevo, a symposium was held on March 18-19 in Ilidza, Bosnia Hercegovina.

The international symposium, "Religious Studies in the Public University Curriculum of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," was a significant achievement in three special respects. First of all, it brought together for the first time leading scholars from eight different countries (Bosnia and Hercegovina [including both entities], Bulgaria, Germany, Norway, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, and the United States) to talk about how study of religion is being incorporated into academic scholarship in the new post-Communist/post-Cold War world of contemporary Europe and the United States. The convening of such an assembly on such a topic and with such diverse participation constituted the first and most notable achievement of the symposium. Twenty years ago, prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the former Soviet Union, such an assembly would have been quite unthinkable, and its subject matter irrelevant, inasmuch as academic study of religion was largely absent from universities of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Thus, the symposium, in the first instance, recognized how significant has been the recovery of religious identity and how widespread has been the resulting entry of religious studies into the academy in the post-Communist period. That the conference brought together representatives from all three of the Abrahamic religious traditions only added to the significance of the gathering.

The second major contribution of the symposium was, in effect, its "problematizing" of the academic study of religion in the kind of self-reflective way that advanced the wider goal of the educational partnership in religious studies, while clarifying the range of options open for academic study of religion in public universities.

All symposium sessions were conducted in Bosniac/Croatian/Serbian (BCS) and English. We expect the proceedings to be published. Please see the REESC Website at [www.asu.edu/reesc](http://www.asu.edu/reesc) for more information about the conference.

During the opening session of the symposium, REESC signed memoranda of understanding with the University of Sarajevo and with the UnSa Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies (CIPS), which will coordinate the BH side of the project at UnSa.

In October, interviews will be conducted to select scholars from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Spring 2006 semester-in-residence at ASU. These scholars will work closely with colleagues from the Department of Religious Studies and the Center for the Study of Religion in Conflict.

### ***Critical Languages Institute***

The Critical Languages Institute is gearing up for its 13th annual summer program in the less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The summer 2005 CLI will offer elementary instruction in Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Macedonian, Polish, and Tatar as well as intermediate instruction in Armenian. The program is supported by funding from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, the ASU Foundation for Polish Language & Culture, ASU Summer Sessions, REESC, and an Arizona Board of Regents grant "Learner-centered Task-oriented language Instruction: Converging Technology and Immersion." We are pleased to welcome many outstanding instructors back to the CLI this summer:

**I suggest saving the individual instructor info for the CLI summer newsletter, especially since there is still some doubt about who will teach some of the courses.**

The CLI will run from May 31 to July 29 and classes will be held in the mornings from 8:40 to noon with cultural events two to three afternoons a week. While the preliminary deadline has passed, students will be reviewed and accepted on a space-available basis until the first day of class. Students enrolling in the Armenian and Tatar classes are eligible to apply for Fellowships. See the CLI webpage for details.

### ***Learner-centered Task-oriented Language Instruction: Converging Technology and Immersion Grant***

Responding to national needs for more efficient instruction of less commonly taught languages (LCTLs), utilizing its technological potential and social environment, the Russian and East European Studies Center (REESC) Critical Languages Institute (CLI) and Department of Languages and Literatures Slavic Section will design, build, implement, and test a suite of learner-centered and task-oriented course units for Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Polish, and Russian. ASU's need parallels those of other institutions nationally and the necessity for instruction in these LCTLs complements internationalization of the ASU curriculum, "social embeddedness" issues as they relate to K-12 education, social services, etc., as well as national security concerns. These three languages will constitute a test case with envisaged migration of the objects to other languages taught at the CLI and Languages and Literatures Department. The deliverables include software, with templates transferable to other languages, other courseware (fact sheets, tables, compendia of links), unit lesson plans, instructions, as well as statistical data and assessments from in-class testing. This project is funded by a grant from the Arizona Board of Regents. Danko Sipka is PI for this grant.

### ***ASU-Yerevan State University Linkage Program***

The Center is now in the second year of its three-year State Department/Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs project, "Refashioning the Social Sciences and Practitioner Training in Public Administration: International Collaboration between Arizona State University (USA) and Yerevan State University (Armenia)." The second group of four visiting scholars, as well as the university's Rector,

Radik Martirosyan, and his wife, Rena Kasparova, arrived in January to participate in a university orientation. During the spring semester the visiting faculty will, meet with faculty in the School of Public Affairs, audit classes, develop syllabi, and interact with public and private sector practitioners. The new MPA program at YSU will admit its first class for the fall 2005 semester. Stephen Batalden is project director, Victor Agadjanian and Carol Withers are co-project directors. For additional information about the project, contact the REESC office. Here is a full list of the current visiting Armenian scholars:

*Spring 2005 Visiting Armenian Scholars from Yerevan State University*

**Vahagn Aglyan** specializes in International Relations with a focus on security issues in the CIS and Russia's security policies analysis, regional conflicts and peacekeeping, arms control/proliferation issues, and Caspian issues. Dr. Aglyan works as a Senior Expert at the Center for the South Caucasian Security and Integration Studies, as a Researcher and Member of the academic task group Armenia in the 1990's of the Institute of History, National Academy of Science in Armenia, and as a Lecturer in the Faculty of International Relations at Yerevan State University.

**Aram Karapetyan** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematical Modeling in Economics at the Faculty of Economics of Yerevan State University. His specialty is Management Information Systems, and has international experience in Water Resources Management, Knowledge Management, Financial Management, E-Business, and Corporate Governance.

**Vardges Pogosyan** is a Lecturer and Laboratory Assistant in the Faculty of Sociology at Yerevan State University. His fields of specialization are Social Stratification and Social Administration. Mr. Pogosyan is currently finishing his dissertation entitled "The Forming of the Middle Class in Armenia" for the degree Doctor of Sociology.

**Anna Voskanyan** is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the Faculty of Sociology of Yerevan State University. Her specializations are community social work and social work with the aging.

**Major Grant Deadlines**

For details regarding the following grant opportunities, consult the appropriate Websites of the agencies below, as well as the REESC Website for these and other funding opportunities. The deadlines are as follows:

NCEEER Short-Term Travel Grants:	December 15, 2004, and April 15, 2005
Kennan Institute Short-Term Grants:	March 1, June 1, and Sept. 1 (annually)
IREX John J. and Nancy Lee Roberts Fellowship:	April 1, 2005
IREX Policy-Connect Collaborative Research Grants:	April 1, 2005
NEH Fellowships:	May 1, 2005
NEH Faculty Humanities Workshops:	April 19, 2005
Fulbright Traditional Scholar Program:	Aug. 1, 2005 (some countries open)

**REESC Faculty Affiliate News** (Please send news items to Maurice.Moore@asu.edu)

**Victor Agadjanian (Sociology)** received funding by the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research for the project "Adjusting to Adversity: Marriage, Childbearing, and Migration in Kyrgyzstan." The main objective of the study is to investigate how young people in Kyrgyzstan adjust their marital, reproductive, and migratory behavior to economic and socio-cultural challenges of the post-

Soviet transition. In May-June 2005, in collaboration with Kyrgyzstan's National Statistical Committee and the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, Dr. Agadjanian will be directing a survey among young people in three parts of Kyrgyzstan.

**Dan Fellner (Journalism)** received a grant through the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program and will be teaching a three-week course in public relations in May at Daugavpils University in Latvia. This will be Fellner's fourth teaching stint in the Baltics. He has previously taught at three different universities in Latvia and Lithuania as a Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Senior Specialist.

**Agnes Kefeli Clay (Religious Studies)** presented a paper to the 2005 Western Commission for the Study of Religion Conference (American Academy of Religion, Western Region), Arizona State University, , March 2005 entitled "The Revival of Islamic Education among Tatars of the Middle Volga."

**Robin McCord** is a professor of Physics at Chandler-Gilbert Community College and was ASU's UKIM exchangee in the 2004-2005 academic year. She will be lecturing on the topic of Higher Education in Balkans for REESC in April.

**Alexander Lingas (Music)** has been invited by the Michala Lacka Center for East-West Spirituality in Kosice, Slovakia to present a paper at its 2005 conference. The paper is/was entitled "The Council of Ferrara-Florence: A Fifteenth-Century Musical Encounter between Greek East and Latin West." Music in this paper has been performed by Cappella Romana in its program "The Fall of Constantinople." Dr. Lingas is one of two American scholars presenting at this invitation-only event, February 18-19, 2005.

**Danko Sipka (REESC)** published the following papers: *Leksicka dinamika devedesetih, brojke i slova* (Juznoslovenski filolog 60/2004,); *Slavic Lexical Borrowings in English: Patterns of Lexical and Cultural Transfer*, *Studia Slavica Hungarica* ;Darinka Gortan-Premk, Vera Vasić, Ljiljana Nedeljkov (Hrsg.) *Семантичко-деривациони речник, Свеска 1: Човек – делови тела /Semantisch-derivatives Wörterbuch, Heft 1: Mensch – Körperteile/*, Novi Sad: Filozofski fakultet, 2003, *Wiener Slavistischer Almanach* 53 (2004), (in German). Dr. Sipka also delivered the following lectures and conference presentation: *Teaching Slavic Languages Other than Russian*, Columbia University, December 2004; *It Comes in Different Shapes and Forms: BCS @ ASU*, AZ AATSEEL, Flagstaff, November 2004; *Teaching SLOTRs: What Does it Take*, roundtable presentation, AATSEEL, Philadelphia meeting, December 2004; *Language Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Lexicographer's Two Cents*, AATSEEL, Philadelphia meeting, December 2004.

### **Visiting Scholars**

**Elena Gradiski-Lazarevska** is a professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij. Dr Gradiski-Lazarevska is the 2004-2005 UKIM exchangee to ASU While at ASU she is conducting research on comparative legal systems and anti-trust issues. We would like to congratulate Dr. Gradiski-Lazarevska for her recent promotion to full professorship in the UKIM Faculty of Law.

**Gordan Kalajdziev** is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Procedure and Criminology in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij. Dr. Kalajdziev's doctoral dissertation was on the topic of "Fair Procedures." He has done postgraduate work in criminal law and participated in international conferences on human rights. He is a member of the Macedonian Lawyers Association, the Macedonian Association for Criminal Law, Secretary General of the United Nations Association for the Republic of Macedonia, and member of the Steering committee of the Balkan Human Rights Network. Dr. Kalajdziev is our 2005 Choncoff Fellow and lectured on "Judicial Reform in Macedonia: Confronting the

Issues of Justice and Efficiency.” He will work collaboratively with REESC affiliates and faculty in the ASU College of Law on a grant proposal related to human trafficking.

**Ljiljana Kalinic-Ordev**, our UKIM Exchangee for Spring 2002, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology, University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij. Her dissertation was based on research conducted while at ASU and is entitled "Correlation between Bilingualism and Biculturalism among Macedonian-English Bilinguals."

### *Student and Alumni News*

4 out of 5 ASU applicants for next-year's NSEP Fellowship have reached the final round. We wish them all success during this period of anxious waiting!

A chapter from **Robert Niebuhr's** ASU MA thesis, "Life and Death of an Army: Yugoslavia, 1945-1995," will be published in *Polemos: Journal of Interdisciplinary Research on War and Peace out of Zagreb*. The chapter is entitled "Death of the Yugoslav People's Army and the Wars of Succession." Robert is a graduate of both the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Macedonian programs at the CLI and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in the Boston College History Department.

**Michael McIntyre**, a graduate student in Political Science, has been awarded an Advanced Language Fellowship for the study of Romanian, funded by the U.S. Department of State, Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII). Michael will also be joining us for this summer's CLI to study Introductory Albanian.

**Bryan Moore**, a graduate student in Linguistics and the Graduate Assistant for REESC, will present his research and development of a Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Chatbot at the April 16, 2005 meeting of the Arizona AATSEEL (American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages). His presentation will be entitled "The Use of Intelligent Agents to Create Conversational Interaction in Computer-Assisted Language Learning Software: Theory behind the Construction of a Serbian Chatbot."

### *Special Thanks*

A special thank you to the following people who have helped to support the Center through their generous donations:

**The Melikian Family**, for hosting a welcoming reception for the YSU Rector and this semester's visiting Armenian scholars on the ASU-YSU linkage program. Their hospitality extended to introducing our visitors to the people and places of the Southwest.

**Polish American Congress, Arizona Division**, for their generous donation and fundraising activity to support the continuation of the Polish language program at the Summer 2005 CLI.

**Robin McCord**, for her donation of Macedonian books, maps, and other resource materials to the REESC library.

**Sotir and Athena Nitchov**, for their continued support of the Mary Choncoff Fund for Macedonian – American Understanding and Exchange.

**Stephen and Sandy Batalden**, for their donation to the ASA Foundation Russian and East European Studies Fund.

**Spring 2005 REESC Calendar of Events**

Please call REESC (965-4188) or visit [www.asu.edu/reesc](http://www.asu.edu/reesc) to confirm.

**February**

Wednesday, 2/9, 7:30, Coor Hall, rm. 199

**2005 Choncoff Lecture, co-sponsored by the Open Society Institute-Macedonia: "Judicial Reform in Macedonia: Confronting the Issues of Justice and Efficiency"**

Dr. **Gordan Kalajdziev** is an assistant professor of criminal procedure and criminology in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij. Light refreshments will be served from 6:30-7:15 in the REESC offices (Coor 4465).

Thursday, 2/10, 10-2, Cady Mall

**International Programs Office – Study Abroad Fair**

REESC certificate program, study abroad opportunities, and CLI language programs

Wednesday, 2/23, 1:30pm, Coor Hall, rm 4403

**Building a Bosnian Community in Phoenix: Insights into the world of the New Émigré Community**

**Adnan Kapo** is the editor of the Bosniak Newsletter, works with Radio Rosne I Hercegovine-Phoenix (KXEG AM 1280), and is a leader in the Bosnian community in Phoenix. **Sabahudin ef. Ceman**, is imam of the local Bosnian community in north Phoenix.

**March**

Tuesday, 3/1, 1:45-3, Coor Hall, rm 4411

**The US State Department's Perspective on Regionalism and Regional Issues in the Caucasus and Central Asia**

**Amy Wuebbles**, Regional Affairs Officer, Office of Caucasus and Central Asian Affairs, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs with the US Department of State, will be giving this informal presentation. Amy joined the Department in 2002 as a Presidential Management Fellow, following previous assignments in Portugal, Afghanistan, and Bulgaria. She will also discuss opportunities for fellowships, as well as civil service and foreign service careers.

Friday, 3/18 – Saturday 3/19, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia

**Religious Studies Curriculum in the Twenty-First Century**

Conference to be held at the University of Sarajevo. Please see [www.asu.edu/clas/reesc/BiHForum.htm](http://www.asu.edu/clas/reesc/BiHForum.htm) for more information.

**April**

Wednesday, 4/6, 1:30-3, Coor Hall, rm 4411

**Lecture on the topic of Higher Education in Balkans**

**Dr. Robin McCord** is a professor of Physics at Chandler-Gilbert Community College and was ASU's UKIM exchangee in the 2004-2005 academic year.

**On-campus events that may be of interest to REESC affiliates**

Every Wednesday, 12:50-1:30, MU, Maricopa café (second floor)

**Russian Language Conversation Table** – led by Dr. Jeanette Owen. Russian speakers and students are welcome to buy lunch at the café or bring their own, or just come for the conversation.

Every Friday, 9:00-10:00, Charlie's Café, 2nd floor, Architecture North

**Russian Breakfast Hour** – Russian conversation for students and speakers of Russian.

Thursday, 2/3, and Monday, 2/7, ASU's Fine Arts Center

**Tom Stoppard's "Travesties"**

The Romanian Program and the Central European Collaborative at ASU, in collaboration with the National Theatre and the Babes Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, are presenting an adaptation of Tom Stoppard's "Travesties" on February 3 and 7 at ASU's Fine Arts Center. For additional information please contact the Dr. Ileana Orlich (Ileana.orlich@asu.edu) in the Department of Languages and Literatures.

Monday, 4/25, 2-4, Languages and Literatures Building, Room 60

**Women's Issues in the Communist Era**

**Carmen Firan** and **Adrian Sangeorzan** offer a vivid and accurate account of what happened in Romania when Ceausescu decided that, if he couldn't expand his territory, at least he would have an ever-growing population. Contraceptives were illegal, and abortion was a crime. In the name of the respect for life, during the twenty-five years of the Ceausescu era Romania has had one of the highest mortality rates among infants and pregnant women. As the quality of life went down day by day, the newspapers and the television heralded great victories and accomplishments in all the fields. Everything was Orwellian and, reading Adrian's stories, one could ask oneself whether the reality inspired the fiction or was it the other way around . . . The presentation is open to all ASU faculty and students. For more information, call Ileana Orlich at (480) 965-4658.

Tuesday, 4/26, 3:00-4:00, Coor Hall, rm L1-64

**New Democracies of Central and Eastern Europe**

**Stephen Fisher-Galati** is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado and Editor of the EAST EUROPEAN QUARTERLY and of the East European Monographs series of scholarly studies on or related to Eastern Europe in collaboration with Columbia University Press. The presentation is open to all ASU faculty and students. For more information, please call Ileana Orlich at (480) 965-4658.

For other on-campus events that include an international perspective, please visit the web sites of the School of Global Studies ([www.asu.edu/clas/globalstudies](http://www.asu.edu/clas/globalstudies)), the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict ([www.asu.edu/clas/csdc](http://www.asu.edu/clas/csdc)), and college and department web pages. ASU maintains a more comprehensive calendar of events on campus ([www.asu.edu/calendar](http://www.asu.edu/calendar)).

**Off-campus events that may be of interest to REESC affiliates**

Saturday 2/5 - Sunday 2/6, Polish Pastoral Mission Our Lady of Czestochowa, Phoenix

**Polish Parochial Festival**

Sunday 4/10, 3pm, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 100 West Roosevelt St, Phoenix

**KITKA** – an 8 member professional vocal ensemble, specializes in the performance of Eastern European women's vocal traditions known as the "open throat" technique of singing. Many Eastern European musical authorities have come to consider KITKA the foremost interpreter of Balkan and Slavic Choral repertoire in the United States. Kitka also strives to expand the boundaries of this music as an expressive art form. A frequently occurring symbolic word in Balkan women's folksong lyrics, "Kitka" means "bouquet" in Bulgarian and Macedonian. This concert will be a musical bouquet that you will not want to miss. Tickets will sell quickly, so get yours early. Tickets: \$30.

*Events at the Armenian Church in Scottsdale: [www.armenianchurchaz.org](http://www.armenianchurchaz.org).*

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**How to Contact Us:**

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