

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hearty greetings to colleagues and friends of the Melikian Center! It is a pleasure this fall to note several milestones in the Center's programming.

Nowhere is the impact of this programming more clearly felt than in the Center's summer Critical Languages Institute. This summer, 13 instructors from eight countries worked with ninety students—more than 60 percent from outside ASU—to develop elementary to advanced skills in eight of the less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. A record number of Fulbright Fellowships (4) and National Security Education Program Fellowships (6) come out of the CLI this summer.

As the award recipients depart for Albania, Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Armenia, and Tatarstan (Russia), we should also recall ASU's partner institutions throughout Eastern Europe and Eurasia. It is from these institutions that many of our CLI professors have come and at these institutions that the ASU students will conduct their Fulbright and NSEP studies.

Special kudos go to CLI Director Ariann Stern, to her outstanding staff, and to all of you, here and abroad, whose work has made possible these partnerships and the opportunities they afford our students.

As this newsletter goes to press, the Center is in the final stages of negotiating with the Department of State to conduct a \$500,000 citizens' exchange of religious leaders between Arizona and the culturally diverse regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. The exchange builds on a series of interlocking partnerships, involving ASU's Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict and its Religious Studies Department, as well as leaders in the Arizona faith communities. We are especially grateful for the support of Pastor Jan Flaaten of the Arizona Ecumenical Council, Rabbi Barton Lee of the Hillel Jewish Student Center, and Imam Sabahudin Ceman of the North Phoenix Islamic Center.

Finally, the Melikian Center is pleased to note the arrival of a new partner in the person of Mark von Hagen, the incoming chair of History. Before joining ASU, Mark chaired the Columbia University History Department and served as director of the Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian,

and East European Studies. It is fitting that our calendar of fall 2007 events should open with a book-signing and welcoming session to honor Mark and his newly published volume, *Russian Empire*.

We also welcome this year's Melikian Center scholars-in-residence, Feruz Akobirov, a Fulbright Language Teaching Associate from Bukhara, Uzbekistan, and Marija Janeva-Mihajlovska, visiting academic exchangee from the English Department of Ss. Kiril and Metodij University in Skopje, Macedonia.

We look forward to seeing you all in the new year of Melikian Center programming.

-- Stephen Batalden

PROJECT UPDATES

KOSOVO

Transforming accountancy education at the University of Pristina

Operating on the assumption that effective market economic development requires professional and ethical accountancy, the U.S. Agency for International Development provide \$450,000 funding to The Melikian Center for a three-year partnership with the University of Pristina designed to reform undergraduate accountancy training in Kosovo.

The partnership will train five Kosovar graduate students to serve as instructors in a new UP baccalaureate program in accountancy. Graduate training will take place in the ASU School of Accountancy in Tempe.

Lead project facilitators, Professors Charles Christian (director of the ASU School of Accountancy) and Shahin Berisha (professor of math and science at GateWay Community College), traveled to Pristina in March 2007 with Melikian Center Director Steve Batalden to launch the project and begin the process of graduate recruitment and screening.

The project began with a needs assessment surveying representative Kosovar public and private sector institutions, as well as students in the UP Faculty of Economics, to ensure that the new program produces graduates meeting the needs of Kosovo's academic and business communities.

As the partnership recruits and screens potential students over the next few months, it is also translating into Albanian fundamental textbooks on cost accounting and

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 31 2pm	Mark von Hagen: Book Signing COOR 4403
Sep. 24 1pm	Fulbright/NSEP mentoring COOR 4411
Sep. 28 2pm	Danko Sipka, ASU <i>Teaching Methods</i> COOR Hall
Sep. 28 4pm	George Gutsche, UA <i>Chekhov's 'The Seagull'</i> (See page 3.)
Oct. 19-20	RMESC Annual Conference (See page 2.)
Oct. 29 1pm	Fulbright/NSEP mentoring COOR 4411
Nov. 1 1pm	Karen Evans-Romaine, Ohio U. <i>Study Abroad Strategies</i> COOR hall
Nov. 2 2pm	Karen Evans-Romaine, Ohio U. <i>Teaching Methods</i> COOR hall
Nov 5-16 date/time tbd	Internatl. Ed. Week Feruz Akobirov "Exploring Uzbekistan"
Nov. 9 1pm	Mikhail Alexseev, UC San Diego <i>Labor Migration in Eurasia</i>

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taxation. The translation projects are being conducted by Albanian linguists attached to the Center's Critical Languages Institute. In addition, the partnership is working with the Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors in Kosovo -- which functions as the Kosovo certification board -- and with the European Agency for Reconstruction to develop new, supplementary materials for teaching principles of auditing.

As Charles Christian noted during his initial visit to Pristina, "While we are learning in the process, ASU has the unique opportunity of putting its own institutional stamp upon the long-term development of professional accountancy in southeastern Europe."

BALKANS & CENTRAL ASIA

Foreign Aid and Labor Markets in Transitional Economies

What effect have U.S. Government foreign aid programs had on employment in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia since the collapse of the Soviet Bloc over 15 years ago? While there have been numerous studies of the effect of aid programs on the legal, political, and financial structures of the transitional (and now formerly transitional) economies, the economic impact of foreign assistance programs is less well studied. The effects of foreign aid on labor markets are particularly poorly understood. There have been few systematic attempts, for example, to determine which types of programs create jobs most efficiently, or how local conditions (wars, levels of corruption, changes in tariff structures or visa regimens) affect employment.

As part of an effort to begin addressing these issues, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID, working through Higher Education for Development, HED) has commissioned the Melikian Center to undertake a broad, independent investigation of direct and indirect job creating/job destroying effects of USAID programs in the region.

Three countries have been chosen for closer examination and for field studies: Bulgaria, a Balkan country which recently joined the European Union and where USAID has achieved its country goals and is closing its mission; Macedonia, a Balkan country where assistance is expected to be needed for at least another five years; and Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian country receiving types and levels of assistance similar to those seen the Balkans in the 1990s.

РУССКИЙ ЗАВТРАК и РУССКИЙ СТОЛ

**Eat good food, drink good drink,
speak good Russian**

Students of Russian at ASU now have TWO opportunities EVERY WEEK to practice their skills with native speakers and students of ALL LEVELS!

Tuesdays at 3:00 pm Feruz Akobirov hosts русский стол at MU first floor food court. Look for the table with the Russian flag.

Fridays at 10:00 a.m. Saule Moldabekova of SILC hosts русский завтрак in Charles Cafe (Architecture, 2nd Floor North).

The more you practice, the faster you learn, so COME TO BOTH!

By interviewing business leaders and conducting surveys of a broad range of businesses across the three countries, the Melikian Center, working with Professor Josef Brada of the International Business program of the ASU Carey School of Business, and with the ASU Center for Population Dynamics, among others, is developing a methodology for studying the impact of foreign interventions on local labor markets and is beginning to answer questions about how effective U.S. Government programs have been.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

MARS Program Advances

With support from a U. S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs grant, The Melikian Center has been working with the University of Sarajevo to develop a new M.A. program in religious studies (MARS). The MARS program received formal approval from the University of Sarajevo Faculty Senate in 2006 and will admit its first group of students for the 2007-08 academic year. ASU colleagues from the Religious Studies Department will travel to Sarajevo to participate in MARS seminars. Located at the University of Sarajevo Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, MARS will also be involved in the Melikian Center's new exchange of Arizona and Balkan religious leaders. (See "From the Director" on page 1.)

CSRC Supports Pilot Survey

ASU's Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict awarded a seed grant to Melikian Center faculty affiliates Brian Gratton and Steve Batalden to conduct a pilot attitudinal survey among Bosnian Serbs, Croats, and Muslims in Bosnia and Hercegovina and in Arizona. That survey, now under way in Bosnia, is testing the hypothesis that

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EUROPEAN SCHOLARS CONSORTIUM

4th Annual Conference
"Europe's Diversity"
October 19-20, 2007
Arizona State University

This multidisciplinary conference provides a challenging forum for the examination and evaluation of Europe's Diversity in its broadest dimensions. Scholars are invited to share their work and to interact with colleagues from throughout the Intermountain West. Last year's conference involved thirty-eight presentations and drew over fifty scholars, with participants representing twenty colleges and universities.

See <http://asu.edu/clas/dli/RMESC> for details and registration.

RMESC is sponsored by The ASU School of International Letters and Cultures.



religious conflict such as that arising out of the Bosnian War is more persistent in the emigration than in the homeland. Zilka Spahic-Siljak and Vuk Miljanovic, former scholars-in-residence at ASU, are assisting in the administration of the survey in Bosnia. Preliminary results of the pilot survey should be available this fall.

MACEDONIA

2007-2008 UKIM Scholar

Marija Janeva-Mihajlovska, professor of English Phonetics and Phonology in the Faculty of Philology at the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij (UKIM) in Skopje, Macedonia, will be conducting research in Tempe this year as part of the 2007/2008 ASU-UKIM exchange.

During her time in Arizona Janeva-Mihajlovska will be researching syntactic differences between British and American speech. She intends to incorporate the results of this research in her upcoming textbook, *A Modern English Grammar*.

RUSSIA

Labor Migration in Moscow and Arizona

Early next year the Center will join forces with the ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy to hold a two-week seminar on "Public Policy Issues Relating to Labor Migration in Arizona and Moscow" for faculty from ASU and faculty from the Moscow State University Faculty of Public Administration.

Seminar attendees will review work performed under the auspices of the partnership and develop a plan for public dissemination of research results.

The seminar and the subsequent dissemination of results represent the final phase of a USAID/Russia grant to the Melikian Center to partner the development of a new public policy research center, the Center for Strategic Innovation.

CLI NEWS

The 2007 Critical Languages Institute was the largest to date, with 90 students and 13 instructors in 14 courses covering eight languages (three levels of Albanian; two level each of Armenian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Macedonian, and Tatar; and one level each of Polish, Russian, and Uzbek). This is more than 40 percent larger than last year.

Highlights of the summer included: talks

by Ronelle Alexander of Berkeley, Andrzej Tymowski of the American Council of Learned Societies, Debra Neill of the ASU History Department, and James Melikian, local collector of rare Armenian books and artifacts; a teleconference with the Middlebury Russian School; a presentation on applying language skills in intelligence and law enforcement by representatives of the Phoenix office of the FBI; a multicultural event showcasing student talent (from violin concertos to a Macedonian puppet show); weekly films and videos; and a series of presentations in which instructors shared information on popular culture in their capital cities.

Aygul Fatykhova, the Melikian Center's Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) for 2006-2007, taught Tatar in the CLI and continued her enthusiastic work promoting Tatar language and culture at ASU.

The CLI is pleased to announce the arrival of 2007-08 FLTA **Feruz Akobirov**. Feruz is from the ancient city of Bukhara in Uzbekistan, where he teaches American Literature and English language at Bukhara State University. Feruz will be offering courses in Uzbek to ASU students this year. He will also be hosting a Russian Table once a week in the Memorial Union (see the Melikian Center events page (melikian.asu.edu/events.php) for details), and will be making a presentation on Uzbek culture during ASU's International Education Week this November. To contact Feruz, call (480) 965-4188 or visit him in the Melikian Center, in Coor Hall 4461.

AFFILIATE NEWS

Victor Agadjanian, associate professor of the ASU School of Social and Family Dynamics (SSFD) and Director of the Center for Population Dynamics (CePoD) directed a project titled "Labor Migration and STI/HIV Risks in Armenia" in June-July. The project was conducted in collaboration with the Caucasus Research Resource Center-Armenia (CRRCA-Armenia). Arusyak Sevoyan, a PhD student in SSFD, was the project's field manager.

The project explores possible connections between Armenian rural men's seasonal labor migration to Russia and their wives' exposure to risks of sexually transmitted diseases. A survey was carried out with 1,240 married rural women living in 31 villages of Gegharkunik Province, one of the poorest parts of Armenia. In addition, in each village, a community survey was conducted with village administrators.

2007/08 FELLOWSHIPS

The CLI is proud to announce the following fellowship awards for the 2007-2008 academic year:

NSEP FELLOWS

- **Joseph Bodell, Skopje, Macedonia**
- **Kevin Cunagin, Poland**
- **Meagan King, Kazan, Tatarstan, Russia**
- **Elizabeth Miller, Tirana, Albania**
- **Shaina Niedermeier, Tirana, Albania**

FULBRIGHT FELLOWS

- **Nathan Belois, Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Michael McIntyre, Tirana, Albania**
- **Erin Traeger, Skopje, Macedonia**
- **Charis Walikonis, Tirana, Albania**

MAJOR FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT DEADLINES

SSRC Eurasian Fellowships	Sep. 1
ACLS Fellowships in Southeast European Studies	Nov. 14
IREX Fellowships:	Nov. 15
Title VIII Travel Grant 1	Dec. 14
Kennan Inst. Short-Term Grants	
Sep. 1, Dec. 1, Mar. 1, Jun. 01	
ACLS Indiv. Summer Study	Jan. 16
NSEP Grad. Fellowships	Jan. 30
NSEP Undergrad. Fellowships	Feb. 01
ACLS Conf./Travel Grants	Feb. 01
IREX Travel Grants:	Feb. 01
NCEEER Research Compet.	Feb. 15
NEH Fellowships	Feb. 15
Ed Hewett Fellowship	Mar. 15
Title VIII Travel Grant 2	Apr. 14

The collected data are now being analyzed. Sevoyan presented initial results at the CRRC-Armenia in early August and will use the data for her PhD dissertation.

Besides its scientific and policy value, the project is part of CePoD's involvement in building a Center for Migration and Diaspora Studies in Armenia. More information about the project is available at www.asu.edu/cepod/research.

Danko Sipka, one of 11 nominees singled out for special recognition in the ASU Parents' Association's 'Professor of the Year' award, has published *A Comparative Reference Grammar of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian* (Dunwoody Press, 2007), and *Prilozi za gradu leksikoloske i metaleksikografske bibliografije* (Beograd, 2007). In addition, he was recently named editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages*.

STUDENT NEWS

Natalia Anker-Lagos was recently chosen by American Field Service offices to participate in a three-week seminar in Egypt. Natalia left for the Egypt seminar immediately following her year in Kazan, Tatarstan where she was an NSEP fellow at Kazan State University.

Hector Campos, CLI elementary Albanian student and associate professor in the department of Spanish and Portuguese at Georgetown, has written an article, "Adjective Modification in Albanian," which he expects to publish this autumn.

Corina Gilray (Tatar 2006 and 2007 and academic year 2006-2007) got married last weekend and is now moving to Connecticut to pursue graduate studies in linguistics.

Amanda Greber, a graduate student in Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Toronto attended the UKIM-sponsored Macedonian Language, Literature, and Culture Seminar in Ohrid this year. En route to Ohrid she visited Alexander Reusing, a graduate student in Anthropology at the University of Michigan, in Skopje. Greber and Reusing studied Macedonian in the 2006 CLI.

Garret Halbach (Macedonian 2007) will be traveling from Ohrid, where he is studying Macedonian on a CLI practicum, directly to Senegal for the fall 2007 semester to study French and Wolof.

Electronica "Nica" Kolasa was presented the 2007 "Dmitrii Krioukov Memorial Translation Contest" at the 2007 ASU Languages and Literatures Awards Banquet. Nica won the award with her translation of the preface to Olga Tissoreskaya's *Свет у мени моеј жизни* (Buenos Aires 1973) into English.

Debra Neill, successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis, "Jasenovac and Memory: Reconstructing Identity in Post-War Yugoslavia," in the History Department in May 2007. She is currently a faculty associate in the History Department.

Eric Palomaa (history and international studies at Trinity University), having just returned from the 2007 CLI Yerevan practicum, has left for a four-and-a-half-month CIEE program in Ankara, Turkey. There

he is studying both history and political science, and language and international relations.

David Ogren (Armenian 2006, 2007) is teaching English at the International Accountancy and Business Center in Yerevan. As you might imagine from that name, the focus is primarily on business English; they have regular clients such as HSBC Bank that send their employees to IAB for language instruction. He is also doing some private lessons; among his students is a high-placed executive at the Ararat cognac factory.

Joel Thomas (CLI Polish 2007) is looking forward to a year in Brno (Czech Republic). He writes: "Masaryk University in Brno [has] a very well developed School of Czech. I will be doing an entire year there. [...] I researched the program myself and applied directly through the school. There were other programs I considered, but several sources, including ASU professor Dr. Emil Volek, spoke very highly of the work being done by the Masaryk school. The application process was entirely in Czech."

Erin Traeger has been chosen as this year's ASU exchange to the University of Ss. Kirill and Metodij in Skopje, Macedonia for 2007/2008. There Erin will study how changes in the tax structure have influenced privatization and economic restructuring in Macedonia.

Shamella Tribble, who studied Macedonian the CLI in 2005 and BCS in 2007, has received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Moscow.

Join the Melikian Center on opening night, September 28, for a special pre-show presentation on Chekhov and the "Seagull" by University of Arizona Professor GEORGE GUTSCHE, for a post-show discussion, and for other opening-night events.

For more details, see melikian.asu.edu/events.php.



Tickets on sale now! \$7-\$22

theatrefilm.asu.edu/calendar or 480.965.6447

The Seagull

by Anton Chekhov, translated by Paul Schmidt,
directed by Patrick Demers Sept. 28-29 &
Oct. 4-6, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2 p.m.
Lyceum Theatre ASU Tempe Campus

MainStage Theatre

SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND FILM

Herberger College
of the Arts
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY