

Newsletter

August 2000

From the Coordinator

Over the past decade there has been a significant growth in the ranks of ASU Russian/East European area faculty, as well as in the programming of the Russian and East European Studies Consortium. Last year REESC external grant and contract awards exceeded \$165,000. Our summer 2000 Critical Languages Institute expanded its offerings to include Serbo-Croatian alongside elementary and intermediate Macedonian and Tatar. Our outreach to Phoenix-area community leaders working in Eastern Europe has greatly enriched our own programming. Our students continue to lead the university in securing NSEP and related international study grants. Our faculty are more deeply engaged in area-related research and publication than ever before.

One area, however, has lagged behind these more positive directions, and it is toward that area that I should like for us to channel some of our energies during the current academic year. We have failed to recruit undergraduate and graduate students commensurate with the strength of our faculty. Our undergraduate certificate program has failed to grow in numbers, even though our undergraduate curricular offerings are larger and more diversified than they were ten years ago. The Slavic languages section of the Department of Languages and Literatures has yet to recover from the nationwide dip in Russian-language enrollment of the 1990s. Moreover, we have yet to develop the kind of Slavic-area graduate enrollment in the humanities and social sciences that our faculty strength would clearly warrant. Before we can compete successfully for Title VI FLAS and related funding support, we need to address this enrollment issue.

There are several strategies that we shall be employing to address enrollment issues, and I urge your support in this effort. First, we shall be redoubling our effort to identify potential REESC certificate students, while also submitting for college and university approval our newly adopted "concentration" for the Baccalaureate of Interdisciplinary Studies (B.I.S.) program. The expanded Critical Languages Institute is becoming an important recruitment tool in its own right, as are the employment bulletin board and e-mail job notices prepared by Carol Withers. Students need to know that their training is relevant. At the graduate level, we are currently readying a flier that will highlight graduate training programs in Russian and East European Studies at Arizona State University. That flier will be mailed out to a national

audience by the end of September. Finally, with support from the Graduate College, the History and Religious Studies departments shall also be hosting a research conference on "Christianity and Islam in Modern Eurasia" (see notice below). The conference will feature ASU graduate students, REESC faculty, and invited scholars from feeder colleges and universities. If you have additional suggestions to sharpen the recruitment effort for our undergraduate or graduate training programs, please be sure to contact Carol Withers or me. Have a good year!

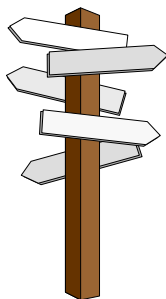
Welcome to Laurie Manchester

We are delighted to welcome Laurie Manchester to ASU. Dr. Manchester is a new assistant professor in the History Department. Some of you have no doubt seen an interesting portion of her Columbia University Ph.D. thesis on the nineteenth-century Russian *popovichy* published in the *Slavic Review*. She will be teaching courses in modern European cultural history, as well as in Russian/Soviet history.

Faculty and Community Affiliates News and Travels

Eugene Clay has returned from summer visits to Russia and France. He will be on sabbatical leave in the fall 2000 semester. **Pauline Komnenich** returned to Bosnia and Hercegovina this summer where she negotiated an inter-university agreement with the Higher Medical School of the University of Sarajevo. CLI instructor **Agnes Kefeli** has returned from her IREX fellowship in Kazan where she has initiated a university study abroad program for our Tatar language students at the University of Kazan. She will again this year be a Spencer Foundation Fellow completing her Ph.D. dissertation in the History Department. **Stephen Batalden**, with support from the CLAS international travel grant program, has returned from Cambridge University where he worked with the papers of Ebenezer Henderson in connection with the forthcoming Russian edition of Henderson's *Biblical Researches and Travels in Russia* (1826). **J. Peter Morrow**, local Phoenix-area consultant, has accepted a multi-year appointment as CEO of the Agricultural Bank of Mongolia. **Ilene Lashinsky** and **Judge Charles Case** have returned from a June international bankruptcy conference in Macedonia. Judge Case also addressed a comparable regional conference in Prague this summer. **Josef Brada** has returned from New Zealand and other travels related to his directorship of the international

business program. **Alexander Agadjanian** has returned from Moscow (and Paris) to serve as a visiting faculty associate in the Religious Studies Department. **Andrew Smith** has returned from his summer research grant in China. **Ileana Orlich** and **Sandy Couch** have returned from their respective summer student study abroad programs in Cluj and Moscow. We have no doubt left out many others who have been working overseas this summer. Updates will follow. **Dora Burton** will be on leave during the fall 2000 semester.



Critical Languages Institute Report

Summer 2000 was the sixth year for the CLI program. Instruction in Elementary and Intermediate Macedonian, Elementary and Intermediate Tatar, and Elementary Serbian-Croatian was offered. Three Macedonian language students went on to Ohrid to participate in the practicum.

Cultural events, including film screenings and seminars, were scheduled each Friday afternoon for CLI participants and the campus community. Of particular interest was a round table discussion on "The Crises of the 1990s in Former Yugoslavia," with panelists **Shahin Berisha** and **Danko Sipka**.

The student response, the largest to date, was very positive to the instruction and to the possibilities for fellowships and study abroad opportunities. (See calendar of events for fellowship discussions and workshops.)

UKIM Exchange

We are pleased to welcome **Dragoslav Kocevski** to ASU from the University of Ss. Kiril and Metodij, Macedonia. Mr. Kocevski is a graduate assistant in the Faculty of Agriculture at UKIM, and he will be working on the ASU East Campus with Professor **Eric Thor**.

Debra Neill and **Wendy Gerster** have arrived in Skopje to begin their academic year programs in Macedonia, funded by NSEP.

Resources, Information Sharing

Thanks to our affiliates who have suggested web sites that should be linked to the REESC home page (<http://www.asu.edu/ipo/reesc>). **Eddie McNally** continues to maintain our web site. If you haven't checked recently, please look at the valuable information that is available there.

"**Information or overload?**" is the question posed by Carol Withers. Earlier this summer we had a problem that caused at least several people to yell "overload!"

A file that was much too large was sent out to several of our distribution lists causing problems for e-mail users. (Unfortunately, realization of the problem came after the send button

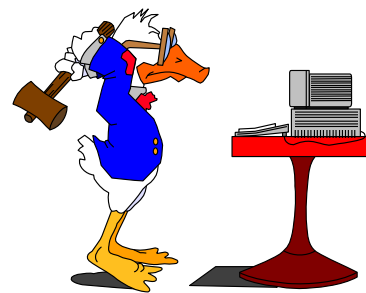
was hit.) I hope the situation is now under control and we will not have that experience again. In general the response to the information sharing has been very positive. I do ask, however, for some patience and a bit of flexibility. The REESC office is consistently busy and forwarding the notices is time-consuming, but I choose to do it because I believe that the information is valuable. Given the diverse interests of our faculty, students, and off-campus readers, no single message will be of interest to everyone. If you need to hit the delete button periodically, is it really disruptive for you? Taking your name off the distribution lists may result in not getting mailings that *are* important to you.

As a general rule, announcements related to conferences and fellowships are being distributed to all REESC faculty and, where appropriate, to REESC graduate students and to faculty who have research interests in the region. We anticipate that you will forward announcements to individuals who may benefit from the information. Since funding announcements are time-sensitive, we send them via e-mail so you will have as much advance notice as possible.

The number of job announcements should be very encouraging for students who are enrolled in either the undergraduate REESC certificate program or our graduate students. They are also of interest to members of the community who share an interest in the region. Due to the large number of announcements, they will be forwarded to individuals who have expressed an interest in receiving them. Again, we appreciate the number of people who have commented that they are forwarding them in order to match qualified individuals with positions.

If you wish to be on a distribution list but are not receiving announcements, please e-mail Carol Withers and specify which lists you would like to receive (fellowships/grants, job announcements, conferences/calls for papers). If you are receiving the announcements and no longer wish to get them, please follow the same procedure. As an alternative, you may subscribe individually to the lists that match your own interests (instructions below). Occasionally, announcements that may not be of general interest will be forwarded to selected individuals whose research or teaching interests most closely match the announcement.

In addition to the e-mail lists, we are maintaining folders with hard copies of job announcements, conferences



and funding opportunities related to the region. Please stop by and browse (outside SS 204) if you are interested.

Lists: You may wish to subscribe to some/all of the following lists which post information about Russia and Eastern Europe: nisjobs; cejobs; ceescholarships; nisscholarships.

Instructions to subscribe to a group:

You can subscribe through the internet at <http://www.egroups.com>. You can subscribe via e-mail by sending a message to groupname-subscribe@egroups.com (where groupname is the name of the list to which you are subscribing). Leave the subject and message lines blank. A confirmation will be sent to you.

Updating our many mailing lists is a goal for the fall semester. It will enable us to reach appropriate audiences for the many events on campus and share resources with university and community members. If there are individuals who should be on our lists, please send their names and other information to Carol Withers.

Construction Executives from Bosnia & Hercegovina (BiH)

In June, REESC hosted a group of construction executives from BiH who were participating in a seminar on project management. **Don Mulligan**, Professor in the ASU Del E. Webb School of Construction, was project facilitator. Delegates visited local construction companies and job sites. DEWSC faculty led sessions related to project management, finances, and the use of computers and other technologies. Two US AID field representatives from BiH accompanied the delegates and participated in the sessions. The project was funded by US AID through World Learning/TRANSIT-Europe.

Community Partnerships

REESC is assisting banking, real estate, and legal professionals in the Phoenix area who are proposing a Pan-Balkan conference on property, tentatively scheduled for spring 2001. The symposium will seek to address issues of denationalization, property valuation, restitution, and privatization.

REESC is in the process of preparing a capability statement, "Training for Transition." The document will highlight the partnerships that have evolved between ASU-REESC and the community as a result of collaborative training programs involving REESC faculty and community leaders.

Rediscovering Religious Identity: Christianity and Islam in Modern Eurasia

One of the most dramatic features of the "transition" now under way in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union is the recovery of religious identity. Traditions hidden for decades behind a facade of official atheism now

command renewed authority, with the result that scholars of the region are rediscovering the history and development of religious communities in modern Eurasia.

The two-day conference, tentatively scheduled for March 9-10, 2001 will pair the research interests of ASU faculty with nationally recognized scholars and ASU graduate students. Session topics will include "Sacred Texts and Religious Authority in the Orthodox East," "Religious and Cultural Transmission and Indigenous Peoples of Eurasia," "Popular Religion and Religious Dissent," and "Refashioning Religious and Cultural Identities in Eastern Europe and Eurasia." ASU presenters will include Stephen Batalden and Laurie Manchester (History) and Eugene Clay and David Damrel (Religious Studies). Graduate students representing the History and Religious Studies Departments will be Melissa Jones, Eddie McNally, Agnes Kefeli, and David Mikulak. Scholars from other institutions will be announced when their participation is confirmed.

Sessions will be open to the campus community. We particularly encourage participation of graduate students in this event.

Preliminary Fall Calendar of Events

In addition to announcing events on the e-mail list and mailing flyers to departments on campus, the web site now includes a link for REESC events. This will enable us to reach a larger potential audience and may also enhance our recruitment efforts. Please note that the attached calendar is preliminary – you may wish to contact REESC to confirm events of particular interest to you.

A reminder that this year's American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) convention will be November 9-12 in Denver.

Need to Reach Us?

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