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

Lee Croft and sophomore mathemat- ics major Samuel Comi announce the discovery of the first Russian Cyrillic alphabet square. The third-order array (74, 50, 92/ 74, 52, 94, 70) has several unique properties and is also the first non-Roman-alphabet alphamagic square. A description of the process of this discovery, “Russian Alphamagic Squares” by Lee B. Croft and Samuel Comi has been accepted for publication in the next issue of WORDWAYS: The Journal of Recre- ational Linguistics.

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


“Europe’s Diversity” October 10-11, 2008 University of Arizona

This multidisciplinary conference provides a challenging forum for the examination and evaluation of the shifting shape and meaning of Europe. Scholars are invited to share their work and to interact with colleagues from throughout the Intermountain West. See http://europe.arizona.edu/conference for details and registration. RMSC is sponsored by the European Group of the University of Arizona.

Don Livingston has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in Russian in the School of International Letters and Cultures. Laurie MacIntyre’s book Holy Fathers, Secular Sons: Clergy, Intel- ligentia, and the Modern Self in Revo- lutionary Russia has been published by Northern Illinois University Press. Her article, “Commonalities of Modern Politi- cal Discourse: Three Paths of Activism in Late Imperial Russia’s Alternative Intelli- gence,” was published in Krilik in Fall 2007. She received a short-term travel grant from the Kennan Institute in 2007 for her new book project, The Colonial World through Russian Eyes.

Danko Sipka was named to the national- board to select U.S. State Department Title VII research fellows in Southeastern Europe. He has also been invited to give a keynote address at the Third Inter- national Conference on Slavistics. His Dictionary of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian-English False Cognates was published in 2008 by Dunwoody Press.

The Melikian Center is pleased to welcome Kyle Cowden to the staff. Kyle joined us in January 2008 as an accounts specialist. Before coming to the Center, he was an accountant in the ASU Financial Services office. He received a B.S. in ac- counting from DeVry University in Phoe- nix and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management in Scottsdale.

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

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

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

Steven Cottam, history and religious studies major, defended his Honors The- sis on “Ecumenism and the Armenian Apostolic Church.” Steven, who also ran track competitively as a student assistant in the Melikian Center was awarded the REES Certificate.

Eri̇n Hutchinson, history and global studies major, defended her Honors Thesis on “Locational Policy in Post-Sov- iet Armenia.”

Scott Legler, Russian major, has been awarded the REES Certificate.

Kelsey Olson, Russian major, achieved Certificate Level I on the Rus- sian State Exams.

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

I am pleased to be able to announce what is reported on at greater length be- low—namely, the receipt of the Center of two major new research endowment grants. One of these significantly broad- ens the reach of the Center’s Critical Languages Institute (CLI); the other ex- pands the range of our programming in the newly independent state of Kosovo.

The Center’s “ROTC Language and Culture” award from the National Security Education Program adds a new feature to the Critical Languages Institute’s annual training program, pro- viding up to ten scouts with 200 annually sponsored language training grants. These are now available to ROTC cadets. The “CLI+” program, as it is called, began this summer with twenty ROTC cadets enrolled in intensive Rus- sian, Turkish, and Tadjik courses.

Not only has the funding expanded the outreach of the CLI to ROTC cadets who might otherwise be unable to take advanced Russian language training into their programs of study, but it has also broadened the range of Central Asian languages offered in the CLI. One of the immediate results of the “ROTC Language and Culture Pro- gram” has been an increase in CLI en- rollment—a growth that yielded overall 2008 CLI enrollment of more than 100 students for the first time in the eighteen-year history of the CLI.

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

There have been a few other staffing changes at the Melikian Center. This year we welcomed Kyle Cowden, an accounts specialist, to the staff. Our 2007-08 graduate assistant Filip Erdeljic was moving to the History Department where he is completing his graduate studies, and we are joined this year by Andrew Reed, a new graduate student in history with special interests in Russian and Ukrainian religious history. Andrew comple- mented his coursework and M.A. thesis at Cambridge University before coming to ASU this summer. Most of you know that our offices have moved to the northeast corner of the fourth floor of Coor Hall. Come visit us, and join us for an impor- tant set of fall programs at the Melikian Center.

Steve Butauden
KOSOVO

President Sejdiu to visit ASU

The President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu, will visit ASU in October 2008. In 2004, Sejdiu, then a professor at the University of Pristina, spent a semester as a scholar-in-residence at ASU as part of a previous Melikian Center project. Sejdiu became Kosovo’s first president in February, 2008. Details of President Sejdiu’s visit will be posted at http://melikian.asu.edu as they become available.

Transforming Accountancy Education at the University of Pristina

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

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

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

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

Future Voters of Kosovo

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

MAJOR FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT DEADLINES 2008/09

- Kenan Short-Term Grants Sep 1, Oct 1, Nov 1
- SSRC Eurasian Fellowships Sep 1
- NEH Documenting Endangered Languages Sep 15
- NEH Summer Stipends Oct 1
- NEH Teaching Dev. Oct 1
- Title VI Travel Oct 1, Jan 15
- NEH Digital Humanities Oct 15
- NEH Collab. Research Nov 5
- SSRC Diss. Fellowships Nov 5
- AICE European Fellowships Nov 10
- IREX Fellowships Nov 15
- IREX Indv Adv Research Nov 17
- AICE Indv Summer Jan 16
- NSEP Grad Fellowships Jan 29
- AICE Cnt/Travel Jan 30
- IREX Travel Feb 1
- IREX Short Term Feb 2
- NSEP Undergrad Fellowships Feb 11
- NCEER Programs Feb 13
- Ed Hewett Fellowship Mar 13
- Carnegie Research Fellowships Apr 30
- *2007/08 dates

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

CLI NEWS

The 2008 summer Critical Languages Institute experienced its largest enrollment, up 20 percent from last year. One hundred and twelve students attended 14 courses covering nine languages (three levels of Albanian; two levels each of Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, and Russian; and one level each of Macedonian, Polish, Tajik, Tatar, and Uzbek).

In addition to classroom instruction, highlights of the summer included talks by Gregory Melikian on his experience in the European theater in WWII, Amy Steuart on her experience teaching in Uzbekistan, Odilbek Kattaev, of TransTech International on teaching austronauts Russian at the Johnson Space Center, Mark von Hagen of the ASU History Department on national identity in Putin’s Russia, Adam Tanner of Reuters, on his experience as a foreign correspondent, and James Melikian, local collector of rare Armenian books and artifacts.

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

2008/09 FLTA FELLOW

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

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

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

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

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

2008/09 FELLOWSHIPS

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

- NSEP FELLOWS
  - Francine Banner, Germany
  - Laurie Dermer, Russia
  - Matthew Jacobs, Bosnia-Herzegovina
  - Derek Kedziora, Kyrgyzstan
  - Sara Schwalm, Russia

- FULLBRIGHT FELLOWS
  - Natalia Anker-Lagos, Tajikistan
  - Emily Falkner, Slovakia

Advising sessions for the 2009-10 NSEP & Fulbright competitions begin on September 5. Please notify students of this opportunity.
To develop the curriculum, train teachers, and oversee the development of what is being called “Future Voters of Kosovo,” the Melikian Center is working with a team of proven leaders in civic education. Marilyn Evans, the founder of Kids Voting Arizona and first president and CEO of “Kids Voting USA,” is the center’s chief of party overseeing project implementation in Kosovo. The project is lodged in the offices of KIPRED, a prominent and highly regarded Kosovar NGO that has extensive involvement in local election monitoring. KIPRED’s director of special projects, Ilir Dugolli, will serve as the main KIPRED on-site facilitator for the project. Dugolli earlier spent a semester as a scholar-in-residence at ASU. The project builds off a series of significant Department of State and USAID projects undertaken by the Melikian Center in Kosovo beginning in 2001.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

**Religious Studies in Sarajevo**

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

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

**Faith & Community Exchanges**

In January 2008, The Melikian Center hosted a delegation of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian community leaders from Bosnia and Herzegovina for a three-week seminar, which successfully engaged the religious leaders from southeastern Europe with their counterparts in Arizona. The syllabus for the seminar drew the Bosnian religious leaders into sustained discussions of civil society issues confronting the faith communities of Arizona. The visits included working sessions with the local Catholic diocese, with the Jewish Community, and with local Muslim leaders. Highlights of the visit included the two forums on “A Common Word” held at the Armenian Cultural Center in Scottsdale and in Coor Hall on the ASU Tempe campus. “A Common Word” is the landmark document penned by 138 international Muslim clerics calling for reconciliation with other faiths within the Islamic tradition. Participating Bosnian delegates evaluated highly the presentation by Professor David Kader of the ASU Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law on the “free exercise” clause and the “non-establishment” clause of the first amendment of the U.S. constitution.

There was also a riveting session held at the law offices of Lewis & Rocca, which addressed the landmark “sanctuary” trials involving Arizona religious communities in the mid-1980s. The “sanctuary” sessions featured the main pro bono lawyer for the religious communities, long-time Lewis & Rocca partner Peter Baird, and one of the jailed defendants, the retired pastor of Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Arizona, the Reverend John Fife.

In June 2008, a seven-member delegation from Arizona travelled to Bosnia and was invited to participate in an eleven-day seminar similar to the one held in Arizona, including visits to the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities in Sarajevo. Participating in the Arizona delegation were the Rev. Jan Flaaten, executive director of the Arizona Ecumenical Council; Ms. Jannah Scott, policy advisor on faith and community initiatives for Arizona governor Janet Napolitano; Pastor Warren H. Stewart, Sr., senior pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix; Imam Saba-hudin Ceman, presiding cleric of the Islamic Community of North Phoenix; Marcy Lee, faculty associate in the ASU Religious Studies Department; Rebecca Bostic, Xavier High School teacher and reporter for the diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Sun; and Professor David Kader of the Sandra Day O’Connor Law School.

Highpoints of the visit included working sessions at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, at the Inter-religious Council of BIH, and at the Jewish Community of Sarajevo, this last being capped by a viewing of the Sarajevo Haggadah at the BIH National Museum. The Arizona delegation was also included in a ritual observance at the Sufi center in Blagaj, paid visits to Serbian Orthodox and Catholic monasteries in Herzegovina, and attended a performance of religious music by the celebrated Pontaniina Choir, an internationally recognized choir representing all three Abrahamic traditions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Melikian Center Assistant Director David Brokaw and Director Stephen Batalden accompanied the Arizona delegation.

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

The Melikian Center recently completed an evaluation of the impact on job creation of U.S. Government aid in the field of religious studies. In the summer of 2008, the Center undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the Melikian Center in Sarajevo’s programs in the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

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

This work will be featured in a panel at the 2008 conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. The work was recently published in the journal on disseminating public policy research.

**CI-RTOC**

This summer the ASU Critical Language Center opened its doors to RTOC cadets from across the nation as part of the National Security Education Program’s “RTOC Language and Culture Training” project. With $500,000 in funding for the 2008 and 2009 CLI sessions, the CLI-RTOC project ("CLI+" for short) is ASU’s contribution to a 12-university effort to expand the cadre of officers in the United States military familiar with the languages and cultures of nations of strategic importance.

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

**RUSSIA**

**Public Policy & Labor Migration**

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

In May, Stephen Batalden, Rob Melnick, and Melikian Center faculty affiliate Victor Agadjanian paid a reciprocal visit to Moscow State University to meet with colleagues and present papers at the MSU SPA sixth annual international conference on public administration.

The partnership with the MSU SPA focuses on workforce development, including policy issues pertaining to legal and illegal labor migration. As part of this project, the Center has worked with the MSU SPA to develop in Moscow a very successful new public policy research center patterned after the Morrison Institute—namely, the MSU Center for Strategic Innovation. This project is made possible by a
To develop the curriculum, train teachers, and oversee the development of what is being called “Future Voters of Kosovo,” the Melikian Center is working with a team of proven leaders in civic education. Marilyn Evans, the founder of Kids Voting Arizona and first president and CEO of “Kids Voting USA,” is the center’s chief of party overseeing project implementation in Kosovo. The project is lodged in the offices of KIPRED, a prominent and highly regarded Kosovar NGO that has extensive involvement in local election monitoring. KIPRED’s director of special projects, Ilir Dugali, will serve as the main KIPRED on-site facilitator for the project. Dugali spent a semester teaching at ASU. The project builds off a series of significant Department of State and USAID projects undertaken by the Melikian Center in Kosovo beginning in 2001.

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

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

The 2008 summer Critical Languages Institute experienced its largest enrollment, up 20 percent from last year: One hundred and twelve students attended 14 courses covering nine languages (three levels of Albanian; two levels each of Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, and Russian; and one level each of Macedonian, Polish, Tajik, Tatar, and Uzbek).

In addition to classroom instruction, highlights of the summer included talks by Gregory Melikian on his experience in the European theater in WWII, Amy Newhall of the University of Arizona on Central Asian architecture, Lori Malone of the CIA, Laurie Wax of IE, Anthony Vanchu of TransTech International on teaching australonauts Russian at the Johnson Space Center, Mark von Hagen of the ASU History Department on national identity in Putin’s Russia, Adam Tanner of Reuters, on his experience as a foreign correspondent, and James Melikian, local collector of rare Armenian books and artifacts.

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

**2008/09 FLTA FELLOW**

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

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

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

**FACULTY/STAFF NEWS**

Eugene Clay and Agnes Kefeli were awarded an IHR seed grant for their project “From the Volga to the Salt River: Christian and Muslim Spiritual Songs” by the U.S. State Department.

**2008/09 FELLOWSHIPS**

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

**NSFP FELLOWS**

- Francine Banner, Russia
- Marie Dermer, Russia
- Matthew Jacobs, Bosnian-Herzegovina
- Derek Kedziora, Kyrgyzstan
- Sara Schwalm, Russia

**FUBLRIGHT FELLOWS**

- Natalia Anker-Lagos, Tajikistan
- Emily Falkner, Slovakia

Advising sessions for the 2009-10 NSFP & Fulbright competitions begin on September 5. Please notify students of this opportunity.
students for the first time in the eighteen-year history of the CLI.

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

There have been a few other staffing changes at the Melikian Center. This academic year we welcomed Kyle Cowden, an accounts assistant in the Melikian Center; to the staff. Kyle joined us in January 2008 as an accounts specialist. Before coming to the Center, he was an accountant in the ASU Financial Services office. He received a B.S. in accounting from DeVry University in Phoenix and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management in Scottsdale.

STUDENT NEWS

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

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

Elena Bashmakov, finance major, is the winner of the 2008 ASU Dmitri Krivosik Memorial Travel Contest.

Steven Cottam, history and religious studies major, defended his Honors Thesis on “Ecumenism and the Armenian Apostolic Church,” Steven, who also runs a successful tutorial business as a student assistant in the Melikian Center was awarded the REES Certificate.

Erin Hutchinson, history and global studies major, defended her Honors Thesis on “Language Policy in Post-Soviet Armenia.”

Scott Legler, Russian major, has been awarded the REES Certificate.

Kelsey Olson, Russian major, achieved Certificate Level I on the Russian State Exams.