

REELification

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

David Ransel, Director
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Director's Notebook by David Ransel

This summer will bring to a close my fourteen-year tenure as director of the Russian and East European Institute. When Dean Morton Lowengrub asked me to take the reins here, my principal objective was to keep our programs healthy and undiminished in the face of declining American interest in foreign lands and consequent receding government and private funding for Russian and East European studies. We had won the Cold War, hadn't we, and now we could coast and enjoy the "peace dividend."

My first task was to revamp our programs to make them relevant to the post-Cold War era. My predecessor, Owen Johnson, had begun the process by designing dual degrees with a few of the professional schools. Assistant Director Denise Gardiner and I completed the job by instituting the programs and soon after graduated our first dual degree holder, Eric Boyle, who went on to a successful career in international development in Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine before returning last year to the United States. Dozens of graduates followed Eric, earning REEI master's degrees in combination with professional degrees from the schools of either Business, Library and Information Science, or Public and Environmental Affairs. In the meantime, our robust master's degree program, which trains 40-50 students at any one time, continued to turn out stand-alone graduates in equal numbers.

Second, I immediately revised and updated our introductory master's seminar with help from advanced graduate students in History, Political Science, and Anthropology. We made the course relevant to post-Cold War concerns. I did the same with the capstone thesis course. Both continue to be regularly updated to cover current issues and methods of presentation in a variety of fields.

My third goal was to launch fund-raising efforts at the institute, working initially on an endowed fellowship to honor the founding director, Robert F. Byrnes. Bob Byrnes was still alive at the time and warmly endorsed the effort, which through the generosity of the Byrnes family and many of Bob's students and friends yielded within a few years an endowment that now funds two Byrnes Fellows annually. Another initiative sought to build an endowment for the Daniel Armstrong Memorial Essay Prize. This tribute to a much beloved young professor and alumnus who died too soon lacked a regular source of funding. Thanks to the unstinting help of the Armstrong family and other contributors, this endowment has now reached a level capable of sustaining the essay prizes in perpetuity. John and Elizabeth Armstrong, parents of Daniel, subsequently also pledged support for a scholarship that currently awards grants to incoming undergraduate students who commit to the study of Slavic languages.

Further fund-raising efforts brought us support from the Anderson Foundation in northern Indiana for building oral history programs in Russia and Eastern Europe. With the help of Bloomington city officials and the National Democratic Institute we started the Francis X. McCloskey Fellowship, which funds an exchange of young civic activists between Indiana University and the Balkans. Thanks to the work of our Romanian studies team, with

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IU Awards for REEI Alumni

1994 Irene Meister
 College Distinguished Alumni
 1998 Stephen Cohen
 College Distinguished Alumni
 1999 James F. Collins
 Honorary Doctorate
 2004 Richard Miles
 Distinguished Alumni Service

REEI Awards

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
 1988 Alexander Rabinowitch
 1988 Charles Gati
 1995 Gale Stokes
 2000 Helena Goscilo
 2002 Howard I. Aronson
 2002 William Hopkins

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

1988 Theofanis Stavrou
 1988 Robert F. Byrnes
 1989 Karen Niggle
 1996 Robert W. Campbell
 1997 Charles Jelavich
 1997 Janet Rabinowitch
 2000 William B. Edgerton
 2007 Denise Gardiner

Director's Notebook

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Christina Zarifopol-Illias in the lead, we succeeded in winning the support of the Romanian government for a fellowship in Romanian studies jointly funded by Indiana University and the Romanian Ministry of Education, the only such fellowship in the United States. Two additional fellowships for REEI students have been pledged by other donors.

The rest of my work at the institute developed in response to opportunities that presented themselves in the form of visits from Mikhail Gorbachev, Lech Wałęsa, and other prominent political and intellectual figures, including regular visits by ambassadors of the countries that we study. In my early years I initiated monthly meetings of a student-faculty theory group, and we then added a successful series of semi-annual and then annual Round Tables on Post-Communism. These continue to this day thanks to the cooperation of our colleagues in Inner Asian, East Asian, and West European studies who work closely on the round tables with our REEI faculty from History, Anthropology, and Political Science.

I was fortunate to serve as director during this anniversary year of 2008-2009—the 50th for the institute under its current name. As many people know, the antecedent programs of the REEI date to an earlier period, the World War II years, when President Herman B Wells brought scholars of East European languages to IU. In other words, we are stewards of a program that Wells and the great pioneering scholars of the post-war era built. It has been my special privilege to continue and, in this 50th anniversary year, to celebrate what they created and brought to national prominence. Accordingly, we produced a magazine documenting the history of the institute and then capped the year by hosting a national conference on “Area Studies in the Future of Higher Education,” the results of which we have posted on our web site and in other venues. A podcast is also available on the REEI web site.

My proudest accomplishment is to have succeeded in my primary goal, namely, to maintain and in some respects increase the strength of our programs by retaining, and even expanding, our faculty resources. Our strength in the core departments of History, Economics, and Language remain at the high levels they have enjoyed for decades, and in another core discipline, Political Science, we added strength. We lost Darrell Hammer but added Regina Smyth, Beate Sissenich, and Aurelian Craiutu to our other two core faculty there of Dina Spechler and Jack Bielasiak. In East European history, though we lost the great team of Barbara and Charles Jelavich, we added Maria Bucur and Padraic Kenney, two highly productive scholars who are setting the agenda for their field of study. For the first time ever we gained a faculty specialist in the department of Criminal Justice, William Pridemore, and just in time to track and analyze the explosive growth of criminality in the former Soviet Union. The same happened in the Department of Communications and Cultures, where we gained a specialist for the first time in the person of Joshua Malitsky, a talented young expert on revolution and cinema. The Maurer School of Law hired a first-ever specialist on East European and international law, Timothy Waters, who commands Hungarian and a number of other European languages. Finally, thanks to the cooperation of Dean Kumble Subbaswamy, we were able to leverage via our Department of Education Title VI grant a hire of a Russian and Ukrainian specialist in Anthropology, Sarah Phillips, giving us core area strength in one of the fastest growing fields for our region of the world. As a result, we have in recent years been graduating talented and professionally successful doctoral students in anthropology. A few years later we again used our government grant

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The Russian Elite

by Kristen McIntyre

During his two terms as president, Vladimir Putin reasserted the state's control over the economy by vertically integrating important sectors of the market under state-controlled corporations. Putin established these enterprises through presidential decrees that authorized the absorption of the industries' major production facilities and research institutes. In cases where a dominant corporation already existed, the Kremlin pursued an aggressive policy to buy out competitors and to restrict foreign investment. Putin strategically placed members of his inner circle in high-level political posts in combination with appointments to the board of directors or in management positions of these powerful companies. This has blurred the line between the state and the economy and concentrated the country's wealth in the hands of a small number of unaccountable officials.

Putin has targeted sectors of the market that he considers strategic for Russia's

economic development and national security. In particular, he wanted to regain control over the country's valuable natural resources and the industries that had been privatized in the 1990s. To this end he appointed his Deputy Chief of the Presidential Administration, Igor Sechin, who lacked any experience in the oil industry, as Chairman of the Board of Rosneft in July 2004. In his new position, Sechin orchestrated the government's takeover of the country's leading oil producer, Mikhail Khodorkovskii's Yukos. After a show trial to remove Khodorkovskii and his partner Platon Lebedev, Yukos was dismantled and sold off at auction to pay for its back taxes.

Yuganskneftegaz, Yukos's main production facility, was auctioned off in December 2004 to the sole bidder, Baikal Finance Group. Three days after the auction Rosneft announced that it had bought Baikal Financial Group, and suddenly the courts reduced Yuganskneftegaz's tax burden by \$3.9 billion. Under Sechin's command Rosneft continued to buy up former Yukos assets, and in less than three years time the company rose from Russia's eighth largest oil producer to its first.

After Putin moved to the White House in May 2008, Sechin was made Deputy Prime Minister in charge of industry and energy. In addition to his political responsibilities, Sechin was appointed Chairman of the Board of the United Shipbuilding Corporation. Created by presidential decree in March 2007, this conglomerate of shipbuilding enterprises brought together over forty companies worth a combined \$12 billion.

Putin also reasserted the central government's control of the energy sector by increasing the state's ownership of the natural gas giant, Gazprom, and by placing two close friends from St. Petersburg, Aleksei Miller and Dmitrii Medvedev, on the board of directors in 2001. Medvedev was appointed as the Chairman of the

Board in 2004 while serving as Putin's presidential chief of staff and then First Deputy Prime Minister. After Medvedev became president, he appointed Putin as prime minister, and the man Putin replaced, Viktor



Vladimir Putin, Dmitry Medvedev and Viktor Zubkov

Zubkov, took over Medvedev's old job as the Chairman of the Board at Gazprom. Zubkov served as the First Deputy Finance Minister from 2001-2007 and is currently one of Putin's First Deputy Prime Ministers.

Using those close to him, the former Russian president also extended his control over the defense industries. In November 2000 he again used presidential decrees and merged the country's two main intermediary companies responsible for the export of military materials, Promexport and Rosvooruzhenii, into Rosoboronexport State Corporation. Today, it is the sole Russian agency responsible for the import and export of military and dual-purpose technologies.

Like Vladimir Putin, Rosoboronexport's first Director General Andrei Belianinov and its First Deputy Director General Sergei Chemezov worked for the KGB until 1991. Chemezov, who took over the company's helm in 2004, met Putin when they served in East Germany in the mid-1980s for the KGB. Under Chemezov's leadership Rosoboronexport's total sales increased by 70 percent, and

Jewish Communities in Ukraine

by Joel Kleehammer

I became interested in Jewish communal property and other related issues six years ago when I met my wife. Her grandparents came to America from the southern part of the Russian Empire around the time of the Bolshevik Revolution. They are from Novohrad-Volynskyi (Zhytomyr Oblast), now located in the modern state of Ukraine and known as Zvil to the Jewish community.

After the leaders of the Communist Party of Russia were victorious in the third and final revolution aimed at destroying the Russian monarchy, they engaged in a civil war across the former Russian Empire in order to seize all of the lands formerly held by the empire. The leaders of the party distributed the lands among various groups, established collective farms, and built factories and homes. All of this was intended for collective use. The means of production were to be shared by the people.

One of the major obstacles to the success of these communist plans was the power of religion among the Russian peoples. The Orthodox Christian Church, the Catholic Church, the Uniate Church, and the Jewish and Muslim faiths all believe in something greater than the government and understand that suffering is a part of spiritual growth. The communists had to find a way to redirect the faith of these people to the government. Churches, synagogues, and mosques were destroyed, used for alternate purposes (such as meeting houses, schools, museums, or small factories), or simply locked and allowed to decay over time.

Today, many of these religions have struggled to maintain a presence in the post-communist age. Given my own connection to Judaism and my wife's Ukrainian roots, I decided to investigate the viability of today's Ukrainian Jewish communities. I was surprised to learn that many of the buildings being used by Jewish communities are not in their possession, but are rented, at a high cost, from a government that has not returned the property to the rightful owners. Jewish communal property includes not only synagogues but also properties that helped the community thrive, such as buildings used for ritual slaughtering, ritual baths, schools, hospitals, and homes for orphans and the elderly.

Without the proper resources, Jewish communities are unable to thrive. Having a synagogue to pray in is important, but a Jewish community is supposed to establish a ritual bath before a synagogue. Additionally, without facilities to teach the youth, feed the hungry, or care for the sick and elderly, the challenge of supporting the community and acculturating the next generation grows greater. High cost leases from the government restrict the community's ability to rent the buildings they need. Since land is generally state-owned in Ukraine,

there is little possibility for Jewish communities to receive permission to build new buildings. Even if land were available, these communities would have difficulty financing such projects, as the state earns more money from high leases than new construction.

Ukraine has a Law of Religion and Freedoms of Conscience that allows for freedom of religion. The law does not, however, regulate the return of communal property. Several amendments have been proposed in the Ukrainian parliament, but none has passed. Indeed, the US State Department, in a 2008 International Religious Freedom Report, acknowledged that property restitution is still a problem in Ukraine. The Ukrainian State Committee on Nationalities and Religions, which oversees property return, has reported that most religious property seized by the Soviets has been returned. The



Synagogue in Zhovka, Ukraine, which is currently abandoned and occupied by the homeless despite designation as a protected site

National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), which advocates on behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States, and Eurasia, reports that only forty synagogues have been returned to community ownership out of a registered 2,000 surviving buildings whose return has been requested. Various Ukrainian Christian organizations, meanwhile, complain that their property is being distributed based on the current number of worshippers and not on the basis of who owned the religious properties prior to seizure. Although Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has assured religious organizations that he will work to return religious property, he tempers these promises with the understanding that if the property is being used for an official purpose or has been privatized, returning it to previous owners would be an injustice to the current ones.

Outside organizations, most notably the Chabad-

American Councils in South East Europe

by Elizabeth Raible

I came to Belgrade in August, 2008 on a temporary job expecting a little adventure, some challenge, and a change of scenery after finishing my MA/MPA with REEI and SPEA. Every year American Councils for International Education sends teams of recruiters throughout Eurasia and South East Europe to conduct testing for their high school exchange programs. I am currently working in South East Europe on two such programs: A-SMYLE and YES.

Both A-SMYLE (American-Serbian and Montenegrin Youth Leadership Exchange) and YES (Youth Exchange and Study) are cultural exchange programs funded by the US State Department. Participants in these programs spend one school year in the US studying at a high school and living with a host family. A-SMYLE is specific to Serbia and Montenegro, but YES is offered in more than three dozen countries around the world. This is the first year YES has been offered in South East Europe, and American Councils now administers it in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, and Macedonia. In the fall, we will send



Elizabeth Raible at a presentation in Tirana, Albania

109 teenagers from this region on these programs.

Applicants to these programs must enter into a competition which consists of three rounds: a pre-test, a longer test and essay, and, finally, another essay, interview, and application. Anyone who meets the age, grade-level, and citizenship requirements is eligible to compete, and the first round is essentially an elimination based on English comprehension. The first day of testing in a city can be hectic and unpredictable, especially in countries offering the YES program for the first time. Despite occasional chaos, these programs have been very successful and have drawn great interest from the public. The Macedonian city of Skopje was particularly successful in launching the program. Here more than 450 students, many with parents and siblings, came to learn about the new program and to apply.

One perk of working on these programs is the

opportunity to travel frequently. During the four-month recruiting period I visited seventeen cities in six countries. While most of my tourism and picture-snapping happened through windows, the hundreds of amazing young people I met along the way more than made up for the lack of free time on the road. The recruiting process itself is very rewarding. This was particularly true in the third-round interview, as I had the opportunity to really get to know the candidates as individuals. I met studious and shy teenagers; ones who like to make trouble and ones who want to be prime minister; musicians, athletes, scientists, and couch potatoes. I heard about plans, projects, dreams, and failures. Through this cultural exchange program the US will get to benefit from the amazing energy and vision of these special applicants. There is also hope that they will take home experiences from the United States to put to work in their own communities.

After their interviews, the candidates fill out an extensive application that includes an essay, transcript, recommendation letter, and information about the candidate's hobbies and family. Their entire file, including the application, essays, and interview report is then shipped off to Washington, D.C. to be read by an independent panel. In the spring, we will receive a list of the finalists and begin the next stage: preparing them for life in the US. While many students are familiar with American culture as portrayed through movies and TV, an extensive pre-departure orientation will try to give them some idea about what they can expect as exchange students.

Now that recruiting season is over, the next part of my year will be filled with making connections with alumni of the programs. The year in the US is just the beginning for participants of these programs, and we continue to support returned participants through seminars and grants for service projects. A-SMYLE alumni have recently been involved in environmental education and clean-up projects, school-supply drives for poor rural schools, and a debate and public speaking school in which local politicians enrolled along with students.

When I interviewed for this position I was promised long hours, an irregular work week, and a lot of interesting experiences. The recruiting period delivered in all respects, and I have been lucky to stay in Belgrade to continue working of these programs. They have a significant impact not only on the individuals who participate but also on the communities that benefit from these young people's activism.

Elizabeth Raible is an alumna of REEI and SPEA.

Faculty Profile: Joshua Malitsky

interview by Emily Young

Joshua Malitsky is an assistant professor of Communication and Culture at IUB, and an affiliated faculty with REEI and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. He received his PhD from Northwestern University, where his dissertation addressed post-revolutionary non-fiction cinema in the Soviet Union and Cuba. He currently teaches a course on Soviet film and culture in the 1920s and will offer a course on Marxist theory in Soviet and Cuban cinema in the spring of 2010. Here he answers a few questions about his interests and opinions.

As a student you wrote and produced two documentary films and much of your scholarly work also concerns non-fiction cinema. What first drew you to the non-fiction genre?

I knew I was going to be focused primarily on documentary film when I went back to work on a master's degree at UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to that I was a high school English teacher and started teaching a video production course. I'd done a little bit of video production on my own in one course as an undergraduate and with some friends. Then in my MA program they taught filmmaking, but they didn't have an actual MFA production program. I had a little more filmmaking experience than anybody else, so in part there was a practical component to my interest in non-fiction cinema and I decided that I was going to continue doing more research on international documentary. At UNC I also got assigned to teach this media production course on film, video-making, screenwriting and audio production. I initially got started by wanting to know how to do film production better so that I could teach it a lot better; and that ended up developing into part of my MA thesis which was a combination of a documentary film and a critical essay.

Are there any specific films, directors, theorists or film movements that have inspired you or informed your work?

Part of my MA work was on independent autobiographical films, but then I started to think a lot more about state-sponsored filmmaking movements. I was initially really inspired by the work of filmmakers Dziga Vertov in the Soviet Union and Santiago Álvarez in post-revolutionary Cuba. For my PhD I wrote about the work of both of them. Since coming to IU I've additionally started to research non-fiction cinema of the former



Yugoslavia.

One of the things that drew me to the Soviet and Cuban contexts is that Vertov and Álvarez were making films and theorizing at the same time. They were part of a community trying to figure out what a proper form of non-fiction film is – asking how to promote Marxism and the revolution through this medium. They both made documentaries and newsreels. I was really interested in thinking about these processes over time: what happens immediately after the revolution? What do Vertov and Álvarez think non-fiction films should look and sound like? What art movements are they affiliated with? What is the difference between the newsreels and documentaries over time? How are people responding to them? How can the films be circulated? How are Vertov and Álvarez keeping tabs on and responding to what audiences are doing? And so on.

So those were the first two filmmakers that really inspired me, particularly through the question of what it means to think in avant-garde, artistic terms about non-fiction film as a way of communicating revolutionary values. That's what I suppose really drew me to them. That and their films are amazing.

Did you have any background in Soviet, Cuban or Yugoslav history and culture prior to this line of research?

I knew more about the Soviet than the Cuban or Yugoslav contexts. But whenever you're doing archival projects like this – especially archival non-fiction projects – you need to spend a considerable amount of time reading historical, sociological and political scientific work. For example, I've read a lot about Soviet and Cuban science studies. It's about more than just being aware of what's

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Profile

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going on culturally at the time – especially with newsreels, when the topics are so current.

You're currently working on a manuscript entitled Post-Revolution Non-Fiction Film: Building the Soviet, Yugoslav, and Cuban Nations. Can you provide some details about its content – specifically the Soviet and Yugoslav portions?

I discuss the point where we see how socialist realism starts to develop out of some of the 1920s debates about the role and nature of documentary. Of course a lot of it develops out of fiction film too. There are really interesting conversations about how, as the revolution moves on, there are ways in which documentary gets reined in a little bit in each context. There are arguments that it needs to be less experimental and more comprehensible. And I think there are a variety of reasons for that: whether or not people are understanding some of Vertov's cinematic experiments and far-reaching aims, whether certain artistic movements change on their own means...

I'm sometimes very wary of the argument that this massive imposition comes from above and transforms the entire cultural terrain. I'm interested in seeing what happens before socialist realism: how and in what context things start to change and what discussions this engenders. What's really interesting in the mid-to-late 1920s Soviet Union is how documentary fits into this broader idea of "factography" – which is what a lot of the *Lef* avant-gardists were promoting as a response to the proletarian or socialist realism being espoused by some of their rivals. I'm going to trace this path and look at the Soviet, Cuban and Yugoslav contexts while really thinking about them over time and comparing their trajectories – not just what's happening in 1925 or 1951 or 1965, but really thinking relationally about how everything developed in particular ways.

I really wanted to add the Yugoslav material to this discussion because, first of all, it's less well-known than even the work of Vertov and Álvarez, which people generally have some idea about. It's interesting, as well, how non-fiction film promotes nation-state building amid the complications of post-WWII Yugoslavia, where Serbia seemed to be privileged by the kingdom. How then do you create this new federation? What kind of central authority does it promote? How does authority diffuse in a particular way?

Are there any other issues or characteristics that you've found

to be particular to the relationship between nation-building and post-WWII Yugoslav non-fiction film? Do you have any thoughts about the role of non-fiction Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav cinema during the past 15-20 years?

One characteristic is this de-centering of authority. Authority could be located in Tito, but it couldn't be located in *places* in quite the same way. There was incredible flux. In the Cuban and Soviet cases we see certain pivotal figures that either emerge or become dominant – whether it's Álvarez, Vertov, Lunacharsky or Alfredo Guevara. But there are different constants in the Yugoslav context, in part because there wasn't the same kind of active centralization. Initially there were monthly newsreels set up in Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia and Slovenia, so they had their own monthlies for the first little while. Originally the national newsreel was a combination of little pieces of these, or there would be an issue, for example, that just focused on a particular region. It was a real delicate balance as to how filmmakers privileged particular areas, what they focused on in those areas, how they navigated the language issues and how these things all changed. This lack of centralization and how filmmakers negotiated these issues of authority is really compelling. As for post-Yugoslav non-fiction film, I'm also interested in what happens as filmmakers try to build this new idea of the nation, and then what happens in the process of building new nations as Yugoslavia starts to disintegrate.

Do you have any future plans to research the role of non-fiction film in nation-building and (re)constructing national identity in other socialist or post-socialist states? If so, which areas are you most interested in?

I would love to know more about post-revolutionary China. I've got a colleague at IU – a political scientist with language skills and area knowledge who works on Xinjiang – and we're going to try working together on some films from the 1940s. I'm also interested – potentially as another book project – in post-revolutionary non-fiction film outside the context of the nation-state after 1968. The post-1968 moment was a revolutionary time in critical and theoretical developments, so I'm really interested in thinking about documentary in the early-mid 1970s – in looking at certain experimental filmmakers who combine different modes of filmmaking to rethink realism and what that

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Outreach Notes

Illinois-Indiana Regional Olympiada of Spoken Russian

by Dan Tam Do and Mark Trotter

Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Indiana welcomed an enthusiastic cohort of pre-college Russian students and their teachers as it hosted the second Illinois-Indiana Regional Olympiada of Spoken Russian on Saturday, March 28. This year's highly successful competition featured nineteen student contestants from four high schools, far surpassing the turnout recorded at the first Illinois-Indiana Regional Olympiada (held at Jefferson High School in 2003) and testifying to the vitality of pre-college Russian programs that the Russian and East European Institute supports in both states.

Sponsored and facilitated by the American Councils of Teachers of Russian (ACTR), regional Olympiadas of Spoken Russian have been held throughout the United States since the 1960s. Among the oldest scholastic foreign language competitions in the country, the Olympiadas provide a forum in which high school students of Russian display their linguistic and cultural knowledge while interacting with students of Russian from other schools. Participants compete by conversing on everyday topics, answering questions about Russian civilization, reciting Russian poems from memory, and re-narrating texts that they have read beforehand. The competition takes place on five different skill levels determined by years of language study and in three different categories: non-native speaker, heritage speaker, and native speaker.

Taking part in his second Olympiada, Jefferson Russian teacher and IU alumnus Todd Golding (Slavic MA 1993, Slavic MAT 1996) mobilized his students and their parents to offer up a warm and generous reception to those traveling in to the contest from afar. The Jefferson Russian classroom functioned as a "green" room, where students could prepare for their performances and subsequently unwind by listening to Russian music, watching Russian films, and playing Russian games. A lavish and tasty Russian potluck dinner, served in the Jefferson home

economics classroom, provided a festive conclusion to the event.

Apart from Jefferson, the Indiana-Illinois Olympiada included contestants and teachers from the Russian program at Indiana Academy of Mathematics, Sciences, and Humanities in Muncie, Indiana, and two newly established Russian programs at Roosevelt High School and Rickover Naval Academy, both based in Chicago. The judges for the event, all native speakers of Russian, were Svitlana Melnyk and Veronika Trotter, both instructors of Russian at IU, and Ekaterina Cervantes,

who teaches German at Bloomington High School North.

All schools fielded gold medalists at the Olympiada, an especially triumphant outcome for Rickover teacher Grace Bauer and Roosevelt teacher Joshua Bloom (REEI MA Student), whose Russian programs are less than a year old. Roosevelt led the schools in number of participants, with seven students making the trip down to Lafayette. The school's participants included gold



Judge Ekaterina Cervantes and Jefferson student Zhanna Makarova at the poetry/text section of the Olympiada competition

medalists Mehida Alic, Zarina Eminova, and Nariman Karimov; bronze medalists Taneka Brown, Eric Correa, and Eduardo Medina; and Carlos Cruz, who received an honorable mention. Rickover sent six students to the competition: gold medalist Emin Vincevic; silver medalists Jessica Carrasco, Stephanie Gaspar, and Anna Rosado; bronze medalist Sofia Galvan; and Lisa Larson who finished the competition with an honorable mention. The smaller teams from the two Indiana schools delivered outstanding performances as all of their students won gold medals. Jefferson entered Chelsea McShurley, Jasmyn Mudrich, and Zhanna Makarova, while Robert Albright, Megan Garstka, and Ethan Hindsley represented Indiana Academy.

Reflecting on the Olympiada, Jefferson student Chelsea McShurley, who recorded the highest score at the competition and prepared for it by arranging Olympiada study parties with her classmates, praised the event as

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Olympiada

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an enjoyable and effective way for students of Russian to enhance their facility with the language. “Any high school student that is seriously interested in Russian should take on the challenge of Olympiada,” she remarked. “Not only did my confidence at reading, speaking, and comprehending Russian improve greatly as I prepared for and competed in the Olympiada, but the information we learned about Russian culture was interesting and the



From left to right, Rickover student Emin Vincevic, Rickover teacher Grace Bauer and Jefferson student Jasmyn Mudrich fill their plates at the Olympiada Russian potluck dinner

poems and short stories were a lot of fun.”

Maria Staton, a Russian teacher at Indiana Academy, appreciated the opportunity to meet students and colleagues from other schools and cited the Olympiada’s favorable impact on the Russian program at her school. “First, it gave my participating students a boost in their learning. Second, it gave them more confidence in their language skills. And third, it tuned them (and what is even more important, their classmates) into participating in other Russian competitions held in the future.”

The organizational and financial support of the Russian and East European Institute played a major role in the unprecedented success of this year’s Illinois-Indiana Regional Olympiada of Spoken Russian. Together with the pre-college teachers and students of Russian in the two states, we eagerly look forward to the next Olympiada in 2010.

Dan Tam Do is a graduate student in the REEI and SLIS Master’s Programs

Mark Trotter is assistant director and outreach coordinator for the Russian & East European Institute

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Global Issues, Global Citizenship *your world* *Live, Learn, Share*

EXTRA OPPORTUNITY FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS (French, Spanish, German) June 19 - 21, 2009
 SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIANA TEACHERS (Focus Group Participation) June 27, 2009

**** NEW DATES ** JUNE 21 - 27, 2009 ** NEW DATES ****

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Events News

Area Studies Conference

by Yuriy Napelenok

To mark its 50th anniversary, the Russian and East European Institute organized a conference entitled, "Area Studies in the Future of Higher Education." Panelists were asked to discuss topics related to area studies as a field. The conference commenced with an opening reception where artist Richard Halstead unveiled a portrait of REEI alumnus Ambassador James Collins. The reception also featured a video collage of recent area studies graduates working in the field.

The following morning, the conference started with a panel entitled, "Balance between Universalist



Unveiling of the portrait of Ambassador James Collins
From left to right: Vice President Patrick O'Meara, IUB Provost Karen Hanson, Ambassador Collins, Naomi Collins, Richard Halstead, and Jefferson Collins

Models and Theories in Social Science and Area Knowledge and Language." Panelists Stephen Hanson from the University of Washington, Eric Hershberg from Simon Fraser University, and Patricia McManus from Indiana University, discussed the history and future of the role of area knowledge in the social sciences. They described the struggles between area knowledge and universalist models in the fields of political science, economics, and sociology. The following panel, "Reshaping Regions for Analytical Coherence," featured Christopher Atwood and Michael Robinson from Indiana University as well as Richard Martin from Emory University. The panelists discussed how area studies can fit into an increasingly globalized world. Atwood emphasized the importance of keeping academic departments separate from Title VI centers in order to maintain academic independence from the flux of US foreign policies.

The next panel, "Area Studies and Legal and Civic Culture," brought together Faisal Istrabadi and Timothy Waters from IU's School of Law as well as

Terry Mason and Bradley Levinson from IU's School of Education. Istrabadi and Waters discussed the importance of culture in law, while Mason and Levinson surveyed IU programs set up to assist in civic education abroad. The final panel of the first day, "Shaping the Global Future at IU: Partnering with Area Studies," included Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Bennett Bertenthal; Associate Dean of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs David Reingold; Dean of the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Robert Goodman; and Dean of the Kelley School of Business Dan Smith. Each dean discussed how his respective school has attempted to bring a global perspective to their students. They also addressed future collaboration between their schools and area studies programs.

The second day opened with the panel "Appropriate Role of Area Studies in Contributing to National Security," featuring Ambassador Richard Miles via online video stream from Turkmenistan, Sumit Ganguly of IU, National Security Education Program director Robert Slater, and former Ambassador James Collins. The panelists discussed the history of area studies as it relates to national security and the importance of area studies in dealing with current and future national security issues. At the final panel of the conference, "Place of Foreign Language Training in Area Studies," President of American Councils for International Education Dan Davidson, Robert Eno from Indiana University, and Antonia Schleicher from the University of Wisconsin-Madison spoke about the importance of language study



"Area Studies and Legal and Civic Culture"
From left to right: Law Dean Lauren Robel, Faisal Istrabadi, Timothy Waters and Bradley Levinson

and the opportunities and challenges involved in its improvement.

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Events News

Lecture by Alexander Pantsov

Alexander Pantsov of Capital University in Columbus, Ohio gave a talk titled "Stalin and Mao: New Light from Russian Archives," on March 4, 2009. In this presentation, Pantsov discussed his work with sources in the Russian archives and the conclusions he has drawn from them. These files from the State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGAPSI), now reclassified and unavailable, include telegrams sent between Stalin and Mao, personal medical documents, and secret police reports from agents in Mao's inner circle. Pantsov was able to make copies of some of these documents, which he now holds in his personal collection.

In his talk, Pantsov shared his conclusion that Stalin ardently supported Mao and actively promoted his position in the Communist Party of China (CPC). He

showed that Mao was a true follower of Stalin, citing the correspondence between the two leaders. Pantsov also used evidence of financial assistance to support the idea that the Soviet Communist Party helped fund the CPC's actions in the 1920s. In the most controversial part of his presentation, Pantsov argued that Stalin thought it advantageous to embroil the United States in the Korean conflict in 1950. Stalin's orders to Jacob Malik, the Soviet representative to the United Nations, not to attend the Security Council meetings in 1950 at which the Soviet Union could have used its veto power, are, in Pantsov's view, evidence in support of this claim. This last hypothesis inspired the most debate among the attendees, many of whom were also historians.

The Russian Elite

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he used the new wealth to expand the company's holdings outside of the military sector. In 2005 Rosoboronexport took control of the country's largest automaker, AvtoVAZ, and swallowed up VSMPO-AVISMA, the world's largest titanium producer. Besides his role at Rosoboronexport, he sits on the board of directors of its subsidiary Sukhoi Corporation, a 79-year-old company that manufactures Russian fighter jets, and Oboronprom, the state-owned helicopter producer.

Chemezov also serves on the board of Almaz-Antei Corporation while another Putin ally, Viktor Ivanov, serves as its chairman. Created by presidential decree in June 2002, Almaz-Antei Corporation merged 46 research institutes and military production plants. Ivanov was as a Deputy Director for the FSB before serving as a presidential aide to Putin and currently as the head of the

Federal Service to Control Narcotics Trafficking. Ivanov is also chairman of the board of directors for the state-owned airline Aeroflot.

The intricate relationships of the Russian business elite and their ties to political power suggest something similar to the pre-Communist Russian model of *kormlenie*, or "feeding." Prior to the reign of Ivan the Terrible, Russian Tsars maintained power by allowing officials to "feed" off the land they administered and enrich themselves, thus ensuring loyalty. Putin's close allies and backers have similarly enriched themselves with the resources of Russia.

Kristen McIntyre is a graduate student in the REEI and SPEA Master's programs

Jewish Communities in Ukraine

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Lubavitch movement of Hasidic Judaism, have invested time, money, and resources into strengthening Jewish communal life in many countries, including Ukraine. Chabadniks, as members of this movement are known, have established a presence in thirty-five different Ukrainian cities and offer synagogue services, religious schooling, kosher food, circumcision, ritual baths, and funeral details, among others forms of aid to Jewish communities. These services help to promote cultural and religious awareness, but the buildings necessary to render these services already exist in Ukraine and are being kept from the community.

Without serious consideration of this problem, Jewish populations in Ukraine will continue to dwindle. Many members opt to emigrate to the United States, Israel, or Canada. I hope to continue my research on this issue in order to provide an initial step in fact finding that will eventually lead to the full return of property seized by the Soviets. Addressing these issues will aid the Jewish communities of Ukraine and may be helpful in alleviating the same problem in other former communist countries.

Joel Kleehammer is a graduate student in the REEI MA Program

Events News

Romanian Studies Conference

by Justin Classen

On February 27 and 28, 2009, Indiana University's Romanian Studies Organization (RSO) hosted the second annual Romanian Studies Graduate Student Conference (RSGSC), assembling eighteen aspiring scholars to present and discuss their work on Romania.



Holly Case giving the keynote address

The students, including five from IU (Erin Biebuyck, Justin Classen, Nick Sveholm, Alex Tipei, and Andrei Miroiu), were organized into six interdisciplinary panels that covered thematically

diverse issues, with presentations ranging from identity construction in 19th century Transylvania to the social and economic impact of Romanian EU membership.

The conference kicked off on the evening of the 27th with Professor Holly Case's keynote address, "A Powerful Example: Regional Networks Around Romanian Problems," which highlighted the role of Romania as a "model" worthy of emulation by other Balkan states in the years after the First World War. The evening continued with a reception hosted at the home of conference organizer Erin Biebuyck. The following morning, the first panel, "Making Sense of Romania After 1989," brought attention to several topics of critical importance to early 21st century Romania. The second

panel, entitled "Gender Regimes," focused on questions surrounding gender roles and relations both before and during the communist period. Along similar lines, the third panel, "Cultural Dimensions of Interwar Romania," encouraged reflection on the role of non-state actors in the construction of both regional and national Romanian identities.

"Social and Economic Aspects of Romanian Communism," a fourth panel held at the same time as the third, grappled with many of the issues central to the day-to-day operation of the Romanian communist state and the post-1989 consequences of development strategies pursued by the Ceausescu regime. The final panels of the weekend centered on the Romanian-Hungarian "borderland" of Transylvania. The first, "Mapping Romania," revolved around the political and social uses and interpretations of space, while the second, entitled "Nationalism and Politics," dealt specifically with the convoluted interplay between variously competing "ethnic" identities in late 19th and early 20th century Transylvania.

After the final presentations, the conference attendees headed to Professor Maria Bucur's home for dinner and conversation. Overall, the Romanian Studies Organization considers the weekend conference a great success and plans are already underway for a third conference in the spring of 2010.

Justin Classen is a graduate student in the REEI MA Program

Post-Communism Roundtable on Citizenship

The 2009 Indiana University Roundtable on Post-Communism focused on the theme of citizenship in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and China. The morning roundtable discussion featured four IU professors (Sara Friedman, Nick Cullather, Tim Waters and Ellen Wu) and three invited professors. Over the course of the discussion these scholars examined civil, political and cultural rights, assessing what it means to be a "citizen" from region to region. Ching Kwan Lee, a professor of sociology from UCLA, examined aspects of citizenship in China, suggesting that despite a weak legal system, Chinese associate the ability to exercise "lawful rights" with citizenship. Jan Kubik of Rutgers

addressed the issue in Eastern Europe, examining five citizenship regimes from the World War II period to the modern-day transnational regime of the European Union. Madeleine Reeves of the University of Manchester gave a perspective on citizenship in Central Asia, assessing a lack of uniformity in ideas of citizenship in the region. The roundtable discussion was followed by a faculty-graduate seminar chaired by IU History professor Padraic Kenney.

A detailed summary and a full podcast of the 2009 Indiana University Roundtable on Post-Communism can be found at www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb.

Faculty News and Publications

Robert Arnové (Education) is the author of *Talent Abounds: Profiles of Master Teachers and Peak Performers* (Paradigm Publishers, 2008). This work includes a chapter on chess masters, featuring Ukrainian-born Grandmaster Lev Alburt and discussing differences between the US and Russian systems of educating talent. It also discusses the formative years of musicians Josef Gingold, Janos Starker, and Gyorgy Sebok in Russia and Hungary. Arnové will be an Advisory Professor at the Hong Kong Institute of Education for the month of May.

Maria Bucur (History) has just been awarded an IREX short-term travel grant to go to Romania this summer, where she will spend several weeks working on a new collaborative project, "The Everyday Experience of Women's Emancipation: A Transnational Study."

Owen Johnson (Journalism) has been selected to serve next fall as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in East European Studies at the University of Warsaw.

Ann Livschiz (History – IPFW) published "Battling 'Unhealthy Relations': Soviet Youth Sexuality as a Political Problem" in *Journal of Historical Sociology*, Vol. 21, no. 4 (December 2008).

Brigitte Le Normand, (History-IU Southeast) was awarded a New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities research grant for her project entitled "Gastarbajteri: The influence of labor migration on Yugoslav society and culture, 1960-1980."

Sarah D. Phillips (Anthropology) presented several papers on her current research in Ukraine. As part of the residency of the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange during February, Phillips spoke on "Perfection and Imperfection: A Ukrainian Disability Play in Three Acts." In March she gave a paper, "'Utopia Forever': Translating Anthropological Insights to a Skeptical Public," at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Phillips also presented an invited lecture, "For the People: Disability, Citizenship and (Re)presenting the Self in Post-Soviet Ukraine," at the University of Kentucky in April.

William A. Pridemore (Criminal Justice) was recently given the Outstanding Junior Scholar Award by the American Sociological Association's section on Alcohol and Drugs, largely for his work on alcohol consumption and violent mortality in Russia. He published "Differences in male and female involvement in lethal violence in

Russia: An analysis of homicide characteristics when women are victims or offenders," with Krista Eckhardt (Criminal Justice) in *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol. 37. With Aleksandra Jovanovich Snowden (Criminal Justice) he has a soon-to-be-published article in the *American Journal of Public Health*, entitled "Reduction in suicide mortality following a new national alcohol policy: An interrupted time series analysis of Slovenia." He recently completed his NIH grant – *Social structure, alcohol, and lethal violence in Russia* – and currently has another under review, entitled *Individual- and community-level moderators of the alcohol-violence and alcohol-mortality associations: A reanalysis of existing case-control data from the Izhevsk Family Study*.

Anya Royce (Comparative Literature and Anthropology) mobilized the funding and hosted this year's Liz Lerman Dance Exchange residency, *Bringing Worlds Together Around the Genome: Campus and Community Conversations across the Arts, Sciences, and the Field of Ethics*, which took place at Indiana University in February. She has been invited to speak at the conference "Understanding Dance," sponsored by the Ludwik Solski State Theatre School and the Adam Mickiewicz University. The conference will be held in November 2009 in Krakow, Poland.



Anya Royce

Frances Trix (Linguistics and Anthropology) presented "Balkan Migrant Identity in Istanbul" at the American Anthropological Association meeting in San Francisco on November 19, 2008. Her book, *The Sufi Journey of Baba Rexhep* (University of Pennsylvania, 2009), was published in March. An ethnographic biography of an Albanian Muslim leader who founded the first Bektashi community in North America, it is based on twenty years of research in Albanian Bektashi communities.

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Director's Notebook

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to leverage the hire of Olena Chernishenko and thereby bolstered our advanced Russian offerings and added Ukrainian language training. We hope to continue this expansion of specialists needed for the post-communist era by hiring an expert on Eastern Orthodoxy in the Department of Religious Studies during the next grant round.

In the last federal grant round, the REEI received the highest score among the competing programs, a ranking we owe to the stature and performance of our unmatched faculty and the great success of our students in capturing top positions in our field. Many of the leading Slavic libraries in the country are directed by IU graduates, including Harvard, Columbia, Pittsburgh, while our alumni hold leading positions at several others, among them Yale and Kansas. IU and REEI graduates have served as chief administrators of area studies programs in several of the major national institutions (Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, Wisconsin, Ohio State, Georgetown, and Illinois). In the past half dozen years, eight of our graduates have entered the U. S. Foreign Service, a remarkable record. Approximately 100 of our graduates have joined these eight in entering government positions

in the past ten years, demonstrating that our strength is also the nation's.

No one can be successful at the job of director of a university program without talented staff help. As my colleagues know, I was fortunate to have an especially dedicated, intelligent and talented assistant director in Denise Gardiner, who managed this office with unmatched skill for 13 years before receiving a well-deserved promotion to the College financial office. Mark Trotter, who replaced her two years ago, has likewise done a superb job and expanded our outreach to language teachers in very promising ways. These two leaders and I have benefited from a series of industrious and attentive academic advisors, Chris Gigliotti, Lisa Giullian, Lance Erickson, and Andrew Burton. Administrative secretaries Laura Rasbach, Jessica Hamilton, and now Marianne Davis have provided critical support. My most heartfelt thanks to all of them.

I will miss working daily with the office staff, our extraordinary team of faculty specialists and our enthusiastic, intelligent and committed students. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to lead this outstanding institution.

Faculty News and Publications

continued from previous page

Bronislava Volkova (Slavic) published *Up the Devil's Back: An Anthology of 20th Century Czech Poetry* (Slavica Publishers, 2008).

Student News

Erin Biebuyck (REEI) will be going to Romania this summer for the Romanian Cultural Institute's language program in Braşov. She will also research psychoanalysis and sexuality in 20th century Romania.

Jennifer Evans (REEI) will be a Presidential Management Fellow working as a budget analyst for the US Marshals beginning summer 2009. The Presidential Management Fellowship is a two-year program to bring graduate students into the federal government immediately after school.

Erika Steiger (REEI) has been awarded an Advanced Language Fellowship from the American Councils Southeast European Language Training Program. The program is 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. She will spend the fall semester studying Macedonian and Albanian in Skopje, Macedonia.

Alumni News

Lyndsay Miles (REEI MA 2006) has accepted a job as a Project Assistant at the Aleut International Association. Miles will be working on the Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN) project. The goal of this project is to improve scientific knowledge of environmental change in the Bering Sea, enabling scientists, arctic communities and governments to predict, plan and respond to these changes. BSSN is carrying out surveys in six native communities in Russia and Alaska on native peoples' hunting and fishing practices and observing environmental conditions and socio-cultural circumstances.

Richard Payne-Holmes (REEI/SPEA MA/MPA 2008) received his first Foreign Service posting to Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago where he will work for two years as a Consular/Economic officer.

Profile

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means and what the core of documentary is.

Vertov envisioned a cinema where, to quote scholar Seth Feldman ("Peace Between Man and Machine," in Documenting the Documentary, 1998), films would "be shot by large numbers of ordinary citizens acting as film scouts, [and then] edited collectively and exchanged in a vast nationwide network." How do you think Vertov would assess today's proliferation of v-logs and video-sharing networks such as YouTube?

For Vertov, of course, the political question is key. These media have to be doing certain kinds of political work for him. Yes, he wants to send everyone out, and he wants to de-professionalize cinema; but it's still his core of *Kinoki* that are training people and

teaching them how to edit and think in expansive ways about cinema. I think he would say that new media offer extraordinary potential. However, whether that potential is being realized or not is another question. But I'm sure he would find it extraordinarily exciting. I think there would be an energy to it that comes across.

That's also one of the things that drew me to these post-revolutionary moments. We live with our work for so long, and it's nice – it's energizing – to see that kind of energy in the writing and work of these filmmakers: how they are thinking expansively about the boundaries of non-fiction film; what they think it can do; what they think it is and how that changes rapidly; what are the cores, and what is still mutable. But ultimately, what sustains seems to be what's key.

Emily Young is a graduate student in the REEI and SLIS Master's programs

Area Studies

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The "Area Studies in the Future of Higher Education" conference gathered a diverse array of scholars and professionals to discuss the future of area studies. The conference highlighted the fact that area studies remains important in academia, in business, and in government work. In an ever globalizing world, knowledge of culture, history, and world languages is increasingly necessary. To meet these needs, this conference emphasized that various university entities must collaborate to use the valuable resources that area studies program can provide.

A detailed written summary of the Area Studies Conference can be found along with a podcast of the event at <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/>.

Yuriy Napelenok is a graduate student in the REEI and SPEA Master's programs

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