

A Word From the Director

I am very pleased to announce in this Center newsletter the establishment of the John D. Soper Lectureship, which will greatly enhance Turkic language instruction at Indiana University. The lectureship, which will provide salary support for a Turkic language instructor, is being established thanks to the generous gift of Dr. Quentin and Mrs. Genevieve Soper. Dr. and Mrs. Soper have donated the money in memory of their son John, a brilliant Turcologist who died tragically in 1988.

I had the good fortune to know John Soper for almost the last decade and a half of his brief life. John went to Tashkent on the IREX exchange in 1975-76, the academic year before I myself went. Our shared studies of Central Asia and research stays in the region seemed to provide us with an inexhaustible common set of questions for speculation and discussion.

During our respective academic years in Uzbekistan, 1975-76 and 1976-77, John and I kept in as close touch as the slow and presumably censored mails allowed. In 1975-76, John's letters fascinated me not only as reports about some distant locale I was trying to understand by reading between the lines of Soviet newspapers and books, but also as accounts of the place where I hoped to live the following year. I was eager for any information about such mundane issues as food, heat, contacts with people and bureaucracies, etc. All of the information John provided turned out to be extraordinarily useful, since when I arrived in Tashkent in September 1976 for a year's stay, I was housed in "John's apartment" and had to deal with the same "Foreign Department" at Tashkent State University described in John's letters. John's accounts of local "color" —such as getting up promptly in the early morning to the sound of the garbage man's whistle so as not to miss the chance to dump the previous day's refuse—all turned out to be very

helpful. John also prepared me with many hints more relevant to my research—e.g., how to get materials at the library, not to mention such scholarly questions as those concerning vowel harmony in Turkic languages.

By the time I returned to the US in summer 1977, I had the latest reports on much of "John's world." I knew many of the same people—



This picture of a boy playing soccer outside the Mir-i Arab Madrasa in Bukhara is part of a photographic collection produced for the IAUNRC by former IU student Zilola Saidova, a photojournalist now based in Bukhara. To see more visit the center website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc>.

friends, "minders," and bureaucrats—faces and voices that seemed to exist only on another planet for virtually everyone else. My common experience with John—i.e., we both had "been there and done that"—provided a basis for communication across a broad range of subjects that almost no one we saw in our everyday lives could relate to. The Uzbekistan experience in some ways even served as fertile ground for jokes about things that were only imagined, such as the camels we claimed to have purchased and for which we needed to find garage space in Los Angeles and Cambridge, respectively.

John and I kept in close contact during his career of working at Radio Liberty in Munich and some-

times on a contract basis from Los Angeles. John's research at Radio Liberty included analysis of linguistic, literary, and other cultural issues from throughout Central Asia and Azerbaijan. His solid research, some of it penned under the pseudonym "Joseph Seagram," was consistently top rate. Even now as I teach IU courses on the politics of nationalism of the late Soviet era, I use many of John's reports. They constitute the best reflection in English of the cultural scene in Muslim areas of the USSR at the time.

In the mid 1980s John was only at the beginning of what promised to be a brilliant career. And then, suddenly, at the time the Soviet Central Asian press was becoming so exciting—articles unimaginable five years before were appearing almost daily—I received the news of John's untimely passing. I have never fully reconciled myself to it. I often wonder what John would say about the Central Asia of today. I also remember his infectious laugh and terrific sense of humor. I still think of sending him pictures of camels from the Central Asian press.

Learning languages, especially Turkic languages, was a passion for John Soper. His parents' gift will assure that regardless of what happens with the ups and downs of university finances at IU over the coming years or even support from the Federal government, Turkic language instruction will have a home in Bloomington. We are extremely fortunate that Dr. and Mrs. Soper have chosen IU as the home for this endowment. I am personally extremely honored that they have chosen IU because of my friendship with their late son.

— William Fierman

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IU LAW IN CENTRAL ASIA – KUMYS AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

The range of global programs at Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington is both vast and diverse. In any given year, IU law professors and/or students travel to, or work together with colleagues from, many different countries around the world.

Over the past two years, the most exotic of these programs is the one that has sent more than a dozen law professors and law librarians traveling over 6600 miles each way between Bloomington and the

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Higher Law School “Adilet” in Almaty, Kazakhstan. This exchange program, whose primary goal is to assist in the development of civil society and the “rule of law” in Central Asia, has dramatically increased in significance since the terrible events of last September 11. What may once have seemed like a strange foray into a global backwater now has the IU School of Law positioned in the middle of a region that has leapt to the forefront of American geopolitical and strategic planning. Before 9-11, probably very few Americans could have located Kazakhstan – or any of the other “Stans,” the five former Soviet republics (also including Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) located deep in the heart of Central Asia – on a world map.

Life in Almaty seems almost as far removed from that in Bloomington as the two cities are from each other on the map. Even seasoned world travelers, like Profes-

sors Pat Baude, Kevin Brown, and Joseph Hoffmann, would have to admit that Almaty delivers a major dose of culture shock. The city of 1.06 million residents is a fascinating blend of influences. Recent touches of Western-style capitalism (such as auto dealerships and a new multi-story shopping mall) exist side-by-side with decaying Soviet-era buildings and infrastructure, all resting on the foundation of an indigenous Kazakh society that traces its roots back to the nomadic clans that roamed the steppes on horseback, herding sheep and camels and living in yurts, since before the time of Genghis Khan.

Despite recent changes, Kazakhstan remains firmly rooted in the past. If you are lucky enough to be invited into a Kazakh home for dinner, odds are good that you’ll be served the traditional national dish, beshbarmak, a heavy stew of dense noodles and hunks of boiled horse or other meat. Other prevalent culinary options include shashlik, Caucasus-style shishebobs popular throughout the former Soviet Union, and lagman, a spicy soup from China. Socializing often revolves around the banya, or Russian-style bathhouse – the kind of place where you engage in a round of philosophical toasts and vodka drinking with your colleagues, then sit and steam together in a sauna while beating each other’s backs and limbs with birch branches, and finally relieve all of your pains with a bracing plunge into an ice-cold pool of water.

The city is noticeably multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. On the streets and sidewalks of Almaty one encounters people of Central Asian descent, such as Kazakhs (the most numerous ethnic group, but still barely more than 50% of the nation’s population), Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, and Tajiks; Slavs, most of whom came to Kazakhstan during

the past eras of Russian and then Soviet domination; Germans and Koreans, primarily descendants of people shipped to Kazakhstan by the Soviets during periods of unrest in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Far East; and a smattering of people from elsewhere in the region, such as Dzungars and Uighurs from western China. What you won’t see are many Americans – the few Americans in Kazakhstan tend to be either government officials or representatives of energy companies, which have a strong interest in the country’s largely untapped wealth of oil and natural gas. The latter category also includes a small but significant number of American lawyers with major firms like Baker and McKenzie, Leboeuf Lamb, Squire Sanders, and White and Case, who have set up offices in Almaty to serve the needs and interests of their energy clients.

The idea for the Indiana-Adilet exchange program originated in late 1999, when Professors Joseph Hoffmann of the IU School of Law, Roman Podoprigora of Adilet (who was then visiting IU as a Fulbright Scholar), and Bill Fierman of the IU Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center began to discuss the possibility of developing a partner relationship between the two law schools. A few months later, IU and Adilet filed a joint application for funding with the U.S. State Department’s Newly Independent States College and University Partnerships Program. In the summer of 2000, the grant was awarded – for a total of almost \$240,000.

The project is divided into four concurrent phases. First, there are faculty exchanges for the purpose of contributing to Adilet’s expertise in such public-law areas as constitutionalism, federalism, multi-culturalism, and the profes-

sional responsibility of lawyers. During this phase of the project, Pat Baude has already lectured at Adilet on the critical role of the legal profession in developing a civil society and encouraging the growth of the public’s legal consciousness; Kevin Brown has taught about the importance of law in a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society; and Joseph Hoffmann has presented seminars about constitutionalism and federalism, using examples drawn from American criminal law and procedure.

The second phase of the project, just now getting underway, involves a variety of interactions between IU and Adilet faculty members in the private-law areas of contracts, international business transactions, international trade, securities law, intellectual property, and law and economics. The idea is to ensure that Adilet faculty and students have an ample opportunity to keep up with the very latest de-

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velopments in the world of business, trade, and commercial law.

The third phase focuses on the world of legal information. In this phase, IU’s law librarians, led by Liz Larson (who came to IU in 2000, and has brought very valuable Russian-language skills to the project), are working...

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Visiting Scholars Discuss War in Afghanistan

Bringing its expertise to bear on the “War in Afghanistan,” the IAUNRC organized a panel of visiting Central Asian scholars to discuss the conflict on November 5, 2001. Held on the IU campus, the presentation placed the impact and consequences of the war in a Central Asian context, outlining the varied positions and strategic concerns of countries such as Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The panel members focused on the issue of “Islamic extremism” in the region. Shakhmat Mutalov, a physicist as well as language specialist from Uzbekistan, drew a contrast between what he termed Central Asian Islam, which mixed “indigenous ethnic traditions” with the canonical texts of Islam, and the Islam of the Taliban, a more radical tradition that in Mutalov’s view originated in Saudi Arabia.

Although expressing fear that the crisis in Afghanistan might spill over into Central Asia, Mutalov believed the successful overthrow of the Taliban and the dismantling of Al Qaeda would contribute to regional stability and allow for increased trade and economic development.

Zarema Kasendeyeva, a visiting professor from Kyrgyzstan, highlighted the economic aspects of “Islamic extremism” in Central Asia. She argued that the severe depression in the region was generating recruits for

groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, an organization devoted to building an Islamic state on the ruins of the current Uzbek regime. Speaking in similar terms, visiting Kyrgyz scholar Nurlan Kashkarayev maintained that grinding poverty and declining educational standards were creating a population “eager to believe:” in his view radical visions of social and cultural reorganization were flourishing in the most impoverished regions of Central Asia.

Guli Yuldasheva, a visiting scholar from the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies in Uzbekistan, stressed that the current crisis in Afghanistan might activate extremist elements in her own country, bringing “chaos, anarchy and civil war to Uzbekistan.” In her discussion Dr. Yuldasheva made a distinction between “Islamic fundamentalism,” which she defined as strict, personal obedience to the Sharia, and “Islamic extremism,” which in her terms involves “military struggle” and the attempt to form an “Islamic theocratic government.”

In the discussion that followed, some members of the audience took issue with the characterizations of “Islam” and “Islamic extremism” offered by panel members. Pointing out that in Central Asia “Islamic extremism” is primarily a problem for Uzbekistan, IU Professor Dr. M. Nazif Shahrani, raised the possibility that the militancy in the country owed

its origins to the oppressive policies of the Uzbek regime and not to a regional or global terrorist network.

Although focused on Islam, panel members also touched on issues of foreign policy in their presentations. Dr. Yuldasheva offered the most detailed discussion, arguing that the conflict in Afghanistan would compel the United States and Uzbekistan to deepen their existing relationship and to form more durable bilateral ties. Maintaining that the conflict offered Uzbekistan an opportunity to “step on the world stage,” she also stressed that her country would have to perform a delicate balancing act as it navigated between the interests of the U.S. and those of Russia, the traditionally dominant power in the region.

A member of the audience, challenging Dr. Yuldasheva’s arguments, maintained that Uzbekistan would be “chewed up” as the U.S. and Russia competed for influence in the now critical region. The panel presentation, entitled “War in Afghanistan,” forms part of the IAUNRC’s ongoing effort to illuminate the complex political upheavals now unfolding in and along the borders of Central Asia.

ACES Conference

The Ninth Annual Central Eurasian Conference, organized by the Association of Central Eurasian Students (ACES), will be held this year on April 13th in Ballantine Hall on the Bloomington campus. Last year’s extremely successful conference, held in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary Meeting of the Mongolia Society, saw a large increase in participation due to its new annual lecture series, thanks to the initiative of Ph.D. student Dan Prior. After such a well-received eighth year, ACES hopes to improve and expand the conference, as well as continue the new tradition of a keynote lecture by an eminent outside scholar. This year, we have invited Thomas Allsten, noted scholar of Mongolia, who will address the role of Euro-

pean artisans and scholars in Chinggisid and post-Chinggisid empires. The paper will be published, distributed to conference participants, and catalogued with the Library of Congress, as was done with great success last year. Other exciting academic guests will include David Sneath from Oxford University, who will also present his research on contemporary Mongolian political corruption, and Stephane Grivelet (Université des Antilles et de la Guyane), who will speak on the Latinization of the M o n g o l i a n l a n g u a g e .

This year, ACES received over 70 abstracts, an all-time high. Panels will address topics from a wide variety of disciplines, from economics, political science, and education to linguistics and music. Thanks to the

generosity of CASI, the IAUNRC, the Central Eurasian Studies Department, and the Medieval Studies Department, the event will include ample opportunities for formal and informal interaction and exchange among scholars and students from around the world. Everyone is welcome to attend this year’s conference. For more information, go to <http://php.indiana.edu/~aces> or contact aces@indiana.edu.

Contributed by Tristra Newyear

For additional information on last year’s Central Eurasian Studies Lecture see the Peter Golden article on page 6.

First Hungarian Film Festival

The Hungarian Cultural Association (HCA), as part of its ongoing effort to increase awareness of Hungarian history and culture, launched its first Hungarian Film Festival on February 7, 2002.

The two-week event featured four Hungarian films shown in wide-screen video and DVD projection format: *Father*, *The Witness*, *Love*, and the Academy Award-winning *Mephisto*. Dr. Pál Hatos, this year's György Ránki Hungarian Chair, offered a brief lecture prior to the screening of *Love*; HCA members provided introductory remarks for the other films.

The selection process was difficult. Some thought was given to devoting the Film Festival to Hungary's best-known director, István Szabó; however, the HCA decided to take a broader view of Hungarian cinema while including two of Szabó's films, *Father* and *Mephisto*.

Though much of Hungarian cinema was made during the era of socialist rule, not all of the selected movies expressly treat Hungary's experience under

communism. Both *Mephisto* and *Love*, though products of the historical context which frames them, are much more than anti-government tirades; instead, they treat timeless issues: personal ambition, the struggle for artistic expression, and the meaning of love.

Planning to make the film festival an annual event, the HCA is giving consideration to screening contemporary Hungarian films next year.

The Hungarian Cultural Association, whose members come from a wide range of academic departments, enjoys the support of CEUS, REEI and the IAUNRC. In addition to its film festival, the HCA organizes a broad range of events for students of Hungarian culture, including lectures and readings of Hungarian authors, a weekly coffee hour, and the annual commemoration of the 1848 Revolution, scheduled this year for March 20. For information about these and other events, contact hca@indiana.edu.

*Contributed by Alex Dunlop,
President of the Hungarian Cultural Association*

IAUNRC Welcomes New Assistant Director

The IAUNRC is proud to announce the hiring of Kasia Rydel-Johnston as its new Assistant Director.

Born in Krakow, Poland, Kasia has MAs in German and Swedish from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where she was also an assistant professor of Swedish. She has extensive experience

teaching Polish as a second language, and has translated a number of books and articles from German into Polish. She also speaks English and Russian.

She is the author, with Bill Johnston, of "Język angielski i amerykański dla początkujących" (British and American English for Beginners), published by Wydawnictwo Literackie in 2001.

Before coming to the IAUNRC, Kasia worked in the Office of International Student Services here at IU.

IAUNRC's Visiting Scholars For 2000-2001

Fall Semester 2001

Vafa Abbasova was a visiting Faculty Development Fellow from Baku, Azerbaijan. A graduate student and Teaching Assistant at Qafqaz University, Ms. Abbasova studied Public Administration at IU.

Natalya Druz is the Atmospheric Protection Department Head at the State Research and Production Association of Industrial Ecology. Ms. Druz was a Contemporary Issues Fellow from Kazakhstan who studied Environmental Issues at IU.

Ketevan Geguchadze was a Contemporary Issues Fellow from Batumi, Georgia. Ms. Geguchadze is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Batumi State University. While at IU, Ms. Geguchadze researched Conflict Resolution.

Zhanar Jampeissova is a Senior Lecturer of History at Kainar University in Astana, Kazakhstan. She studied Kazakh History at IU through the Regional Scholar Exchange Program.

Zarema Kasendeyeva is a Professor of Economics at the International University of Kyrgyzstan. She participated in the Faculty Development Fellowship Program. While at IU, Ms. Kasendeyeva studied Economics.

Nurlan Kashkarayev was a Regional Scholar Exchange Program participant who studied Law. Mr. Kashkarayev is from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where he is a Law Professor at Kyrgyz State National University.

Nazym Nuraliyeva is a History Professor at Kazakh State University. At IU, Ms. Nuraliyeva is studying Economic Sociology as a participant in the Regional Scholar Exchange Program.

Spring Semester 2002

Rahat Achylova is a professor at Kyrgyz State National University in Bishkek. While at IU on the Open Society Institute's Faculty Development Fellowship Program, Dr. Achylova hopes to gather material for new classes on Philosophy and Politics.

Gulbanu Akhmetova is an English and German teacher from Kazakhstan. Ms. Akhmetova is studying technology and language acquisition at the Education School. She is on ACTR's Regional Scholar Exchange Program.

Batyr Hadjiyev is from Turkmenistan, where he works for the United Nations Development Program. Mr. Hajiyevev is part of the IREX Contemporary Issues Fellowship Program, and plans to continue his research into Caspian Basin Policies.

Continued from previous page.

Maiya Karatayeva is a participant in ACTR's Regional Scholar Exchange Program from Kazakhstan. She is an English teacher at West Kazakhstan Institute of Economics and Finance. At IU, Ms. Karatayeva is studying at the Education School.

Aibek Karamuratov is a Manager at Demir Kyrgyz International Bank in Kyrgyzstan. He is studying Economics at IU while on an ACTR's Regional Scholar Exchange Program.

Periuzza Uteulieva is a participant in IREX's Contemporary Issues Fellowship Program studying Public Administration at IU. After the program, she plans to return to Uzbekistan to work with organizations selling handcrafts to help boost the local economy.

Altynai Yespembetova is a Ph.D. student at Kazakh State National University named after al-Farabi. She is currently on the Open Society Institute's Faculty Development Fellowship Program. While at IU, Ms. Yespembetova is studying Geography.

Academic Year 2001-2002

Akmaral Altaliyeva is a Fulbright Scholar studying Business Administration. Ms. Altaliyeva is from Almaty, Kazakhstan, where she is Dean of the Almaty School of Management.

Aida Huseynova is working on her Ph.D. at the Baku Music Academy. As a participant in the Junior Faculty Development Program, Ms. Huseynova is studying Music in the hope to set up a class on American Music at the Baku Music Academy.

Sevda Mamedova is studying Education as a participant in the Junior Faculty Development Program. Ms. Mamedova is from Baku, Azerbaijan, where she teaches English Language and American Studies at Baku State University.

Shaakhmat Mutalov is the Executive Director of the Institute of Averaged Languages in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. While at IU on a Fulbright Fellowship, Mr. Mutalov will study Political Science.

Dana Saparbayeva is a Senior Teacher of Constitutional and Administrative Law at al-Farabi Kazakh State National University. Ms. Saparbayeva is studying Law at IU as a participant in the Junior Faculty Development Program.

Tatyana Strigina is a Senior Teacher of American Studies at Kokshetau Institute of Economics and Management in Kokshetau, Kazakhstan. Ms. Strigina is participating in the Junior Faculty Development Program and studying Education at IU.

Mirvari Teymurova is studying ESL at IU as a participant in the Junior Faculty Development Program. Ms. Teymurova is from Azerbaijan, where she is an English Teacher at Baku State University.

Guli Yuldasheva is from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where she is a Leading Scientific Fellow of Geopolitical Studies at the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies. Ms. Yuldasheva is a Fulbright Scholar studying Geopolitics.

7th Conference on Modern Estonian History

With funding from the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, Toivo Raun, a professor of Baltic and Finnish studies at IU, attended the 7th Conference on Modern Estonian History last summer.

Held at the Institute of History in Tallinn, Estonia, the conference continued what Professor Raun terms the "main trend since the restoration of independence – filling in the blank spots of Estonian history, especially the inter-war period and Stalinist periods, which had been more or less taboo and had only been treated through a very strong ideological prism."

Placing the conference within the larger context of Estonian historical studies, Raun considers that the shift away from the "enforced Marxism" of the Soviet Union meant an ongoing "reassessment" of the Estonian past. He notes that Estonian scholars and historians have taken "a fresh look at the relationship between Estonians and the traditional Baltic elites," creating nuanced interpretations that step outside the ideological strictures of Soviet era historiography.

Looking at Estonian history from a more comparative perspective, several Scandinavian scholars at the conference examined the political dynamics that unfolded as post-Soviet Estonia began the complex process of reestablishing political, economic and cultural ties with the Scandinavian states.

In his own presentation, Professor Raun studied "the impact of the revolution of 1905 on the western borderlands of the Russian empire," embracing a "comparative view of the process" that highlighted "similarities and differences."

Noting that the historical profession largely restricted its focus to Estonia in the first years of independence, Raun observed

that the conference evinced a growing tendency among Estonian historians to embrace and engage examinations of the country in a comparative context.

Though encouraged by the diversity of presentations and the continuing efforts of Estonian historians to "open up the past," Raun is concerned about the situation of the historical profession in Estonia. With few available jobs and deficient pay for existing positions, Estonia "may be losing a generation of historians," Raun remarked.

While discussing the attempts of Estonian historians to engage the legacies of the Soviet era with the IAUNRC, Raun, pointing to the recent presidential election in the country, outlined the difficulties Estonian society as a whole faces as it attempts to step beyond the patrimony of the Soviet past.

In an electoral vote for the presidency held on 21 September, 2001, Arnold Rüütel, an ex-communist who held high office in the Soviet era, defeated Toomas Savi, the former head of the Estonian parliament, and Peeter Tulviste, a professor of Psychology and former rector of the University.

Noting that "most communists did not make the transition" and that Rüütel seemed to "belong to the past," Raun remarked that his election was a "great surprise to most people."

Though a product of several factors, Raun maintains Rüütel owed his victory in part "to a protest vote by people outside the capital who feel that there are two Estonias emerging" – one that is urbanized, centered in the capital, with the highest standard of living, and another that is largely rural and that has been "left behind" or marginalized by the "winner-take-all capitalism that has moved in the last ten years."

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Peter Golden Lecture

Peter Golden, a historian of the Medieval Eurasian steppe and a professor at Rutgers, inaugurated The Central Eurasian Studies Lectures last spring with a discussion of "Ethnicity and State Formation in pre-Çinggisid Turkic Eurasia."

Drawing on sources in over a dozen languages, Professor Golden outlined the protean political structures that informed the nomadic tribes of Eurasian antiquity. "Any discussion of this subject," Professor Golden remarked, "must...

take into account the extraordinary mobility of the nomads, the fluidity, indeed, plasticity of their political formations which could rapidly form and just as rapidly appear to dissolve..."

Established by the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, the annual lecture and publication series showcases outstanding scholars in the field. The author of major works on the ethnogenesis and tribal structures of the Turkic peoples, Professor Golden's scholarship evinces "a depth of knowledge that spans the entire

continent of Eurasia," remarked Dan Prior, the doctoral student who introduced the idea of the series last year.

Adding to an impressive body of research, Professor Golden recently completed work on the Rasulid Hexaglot, a complex linguistic document from 14th century Yemen that contains word lists from various Middle Eastern and Eurasian languages. Honoring Professor Golden's contributions to scholarship, the inaugural lecture also highlighted the expertise and unparalleled resources of IU in the field of Central

Eurasian studies.

The IAUNRC, committed to cultivating a broad awareness of the civilizations and cultures of Eurasia, provided major funding for the event, allowing CEUS to print copies of Professor Golden's lecture for those in attendance.

The Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies on the IU campus is handling distribution of the publication, and copies may be purchased by emailing Barbara Gardner at blgardne@indiana.edu.

IU Law in Central Asia

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...with Adilet to enhance the school's small law library, hoping ultimately to help Adilet become the recognized center for English-language legal materials in Almaty.

Fourth, and finally, IU and Adilet plan to offer a course next year that will be jointly taught by faculty at both schools over the Internet. This is an experiment designed to help both schools become more proficient at so-called "distance" or "distributed" education. If the course is successful, it may become a model for Adilet to export many of its classes from Almaty to its five branch campuses located elsewhere in Kazakhstan, and for IU to offer similar joint courses in connection with existing and future law-school partners in other countries around the world.

Although the primary focus of the grant program is on institution-building in Kazakhstan, there have been important secondary benefits in Bloomington as well. Perhaps the most interesting is the

fact that IU now offers a course that includes substantial coverage of the law and society of Kazakhstan – quite probably the only one of its kind offered in the United States. The Seminar in the Law and Society of Asia, taught by Professor Hoffmann in alternating years (including Spring 2001-02), uses the comparative study of three Asian countries – Thailand, China, and Kazakhstan – to explore the importance of law in making the difficult transition from a traditional to a modern society. The seminar also deals with the different role played by law in Asian societies with different religious traditions: in Thailand, Theravada Buddhism; in China, Confucianism; and in Kazakhstan, Islam. Visiting professors from all three countries, including frequent exchange visitors from Adilet, participate in the seminar on a regular basis. This provides IU students, in the heartland of America, the unparalleled opportunity to interact with experts from the countries they are studying. This year, more than twenty students are enrolled in the seminar.

What does the future hold for the Indiana-Adilet relationship, and for the IU Law School's insti-

tutional presence in Central Asia? Dean Aman, Assistant Dean Palmer, and Project Director Hoffmann hope that the current grant program is only the start of close and permanent ties between IU and Adilet. The academic collaborations and personal friendships that have developed between IU and Adilet professors will no doubt live on after the grant expires. Many of the same Adilet professors hope to be able to return to IU someday under another government program, such as the Fulbright or Muskie Programs, which have already begun to send a steady stream of visiting law professors and scholars from Central Asia to Bloomington. And Dean Palmer is working to develop a new program under which American law firms with an interest in starting or expanding a Central Asian practice can sponsor the best and the brightest young law students from Kazakhstan, enabling them to come to the U.S. for a year of graduate legal study at IU and an internship with the sponsoring law firm. Such endeavors will help the IU Law School to further enhance its already outstanding reputation in this fascinating – and, since September 11, increas-

ingly important – region of the world.

Contributed by IU Professor of Law, Joseph L. Hoffmann

Estonia Conference

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Rüütel, a former rector of the Estonian Agricultural Academy, cast himself as the spokesmen of a rural population increasingly disenfranchised with economic "shock therapy." Raun considers that Rüütel, who holds the largely symbolic post of the Presidency, will be unable to reverse economic reforms; however, Raun expects that Rüütel will pay more attention to social issues and to the need to overcome the gap separating "the minority that has benefited from transition and the majority that has not."

Virtually Finnish

Indiana University, working in conjunction with the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia University, the University of Oregon at Eugene, and the University of Washington at Seattle, helped create an online learning environment for 2nd year Finnish students last fall.

Entitled "Virtually Finnish," the endeavor offers an arena for students to use and apply the Finnish language in a meaningful context. Linking together various Finnish studies programs in the U.S., the effort allows students from different universities to interact online.

The project takes place on a Finnish platform, called PedaNet, which is administered by the University of Jyväskylä (Virtual University), Finland. The PedaNet program is an interactive virtual environment where students are able to do both group and peer work as well as to make use of group and peer discussion facilities.

Universities participating in the project

employ the network program Nettlehtori, or "Internet Lecturer." Nettlehtori is a 6-week interactive, integrated, CSCL (Computer Supported Collaborative Language Learning) project that covers the following:

1. A short self-introduction by each student, posted for all
2. Pairing of students by the program coordinators
3. E-mail correspondence between pairs
4. Reading of a mystery, posted on PedaNet
5. Vocabulary mapping in pairs with final results posted for all
6. Analysis of the contents of a mystery in pairs
7. Writing an ending to the mystery in pairs, posted for all

The project requires students to work independently outside of class time. The process involves collaborative dialogue and negotiation between partners, carried out mostly in Finnish, as well as questions and

answers between the program coordinators and the students. Finnish instructors devote some class time to the project, providing students the opportunity to receive "in person" feedback from their own teachers.

Nettlehtori is an experiment in integrating the Internet with traditional classroom teaching. In addition to seeing how students work with this kind of foreign language project, Nettlehtori is designed to create a model course that will provide a common, virtual, learning environment for the various Finnish studies programs scattered across North America and Europe.

"Virtually Finnish" will eventually be part of the Finnish online course degree program currently under design at the University of Jyväskylä.

*Contributed by Tuija Lehtonen
Visiting Lecturer in Finnish Language and
Literature, Indiana University*



IAUNRC Biographical Questionnaire

The IAUNRC Needs Your Help

The staff at the IAUNRC would like to find out more about those who have taken coursework in Inner Asian and Uralic studies over the years. Provide any information that you see fit to share with us. Please take the time to fill out this form and return it to the Center.

Universities attended other than IU and Degrees Received/Expected

Current or past line of work/employer

Honors/Awards/Distinctions/Publications

Name _____
Street Address _____
City, State ZIP Country _____
Phone Number _____
E-mail Address _____

Please mail, e-mail, or fax your response to:

IAUNRC
Indiana University Tel: 812.856.5263
Goodbody Hall 324 Fax: 812.855.8667
Bloomington, IN 47405 E-mail:

Or submit your response online at:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/>
(click on "Biographical Questionnaire" under the
"People" Menu item.)

IAUNRC Interviews Professor Munkh-Amgalan Yumjir

In order to highlight IU's unique expertise in Inner Asian languages and literatures, the IAUNRC recently interviewed Munkh-Amgalan Yumjir, a professor of linguistics specializing in the syntax and semantics of the Mongolian language.

A native of Mongolia, Professor Munkh-Amgalan received doctoral degrees from the National University of Mongolia and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. Before coming to IU last August, Munkh-Amgalan was the Chairman of the Department of Mongolian Linguistics and Leading Professor at the National University of Mongolia.

Teaching Introductory and Intermediate Mongolian at IU, Munkh-Amgalan deals with what he terms a motivated body of graduate and undergraduate students. "My students are learn-

ing Mongolian very well and in-depth," he remarked. "One... has started studying Mongolian and is interested in environmental issues in the country. Another graduate student is improving her Mongolian language skills in order to do research on the history of the Mongolian arts."

Discussing his teaching experiences with the IAUNRC, Munkh-Amgalan outlined his perception of the different attitudes students in the United States and Mongolia bring to their education. While in his opinion American students challenge their professors and "feel the need to learn as much as they can," Mongolian students obey "a strong tradition of respect for teachers" and are less willing to step outside the pedagogical constructs that inform their education.

Although noting that students

in Mongolia are "not yet able to take advantage of all their opportunities," Munkh-Amgalan believes that the reforms underway in his country will change the traditions that imbue the Mongolian educational system. "Thanks to democratic reforms and to our transition from a centrally planned to a market-oriented economy, the Mongolian academic system is changing," Munkh-Amgalan noted.

"We are learning a lot from countries like Germany and the United States, where the academic system has been well established for decades."

The author of numerous books and articles on Mongolian linguistics, Munkh-Amgalan in addition to teaching at IU, continues to study the "functional-semantic category of modality in Mongolian," a difficult concept that deals with the "peculiarity of a language" and that some

scholars view as a "pure, logical, linguistic phenomenon, which expresses the absolute and relative truth of a text."

While at IU, Munkh-Amgalan plans to present his research to The Ninth Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference, and to the Annual Meeting of The Mongolia Society, which will be held in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Washington DC.

During the interview, Munkh-Amgalan wished to express his sincere gratitude to "the CEUS Departmental Chair, Elliot Sperling, and especially to the Mongolian Language Program, for inviting" him to teach at IU.

Inner Asian & Uralic
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