

# REEIFication

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

Padraic Kenney, Director  
Vol.36, No. 2

Austin Kellogg, Editor  
Spring 2012

## Outreach Notes

### Record Number Of Pre-College Russian Programs Compete At Illinois-Indiana ACTR Olympiada

by Mark Trotter



Alice Chudnovsky, top finalist in the Heritage Category



Nina Wilson, top finalist in the Regular Category

On Saturday, February 25, the halls and classrooms of Chicago's Pritzker College Prep reverberated with lively and earnest conversation in Russian as 27 high school students competed in the ACTR Illinois-Indiana Olympiada of Spoken Russian. The event drew a record five pre-college Russian programs as students from Noble Street College Prep (Chicago), Jefferson High School (Lafayette, IN), Charodei (Skokie, IL), and By the Onion Sea (Arlington Heights, IL) joined their counterparts at Pritzker for the competition. The Russian and East European Institute provided organizational and financial support for the event, together with the University of Chicago Center for East European and Russian Eurasian Studies, University of Illinois Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, and the Russian Flagship Center of the University of Wisconsin.

One of approximately 15 regional high school Russian language competitions that take place annually across the United States under auspices of the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR), the Illinois-Indiana Olympiada provides students with an opportunity to engage in conversations with native speakers of Russian, meet students and teachers of Russian from other institutions, and demonstrate their prowess and achievements in Russian language study by participating in a competition with three separate categories that focus on everyday conversation, poetry recitation, and Russian civilization.

Competing in the Olympiada for the first time, community-based Russian program Charodei fielded a team of five students, each of whom took gold medals in the competition: Jazzy Kerber, Nakita Pradhan, Alice Chudnovsky, Anastasia Loginova, and Konstantin Schroeter. "What a discovery for us!" commented Charodei director Helen Skop, speaking for Charodei teacher Anna Karasik as

## Spring 2012

### Features

- Outreach Notes: Illinois-Indiana ACTR Olympiada 1
- Distinguished Service Award 3
- Faculty Profile: Patrick Michelson 4
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual McCloskey Lecture 6
- 2012 McCloskey Fellow: Shqipe Pantina 7
- Romanian Studies Conference 8

### News

- Changes in REEI Staff 9
- Faculty/Staff News 9
- Continuing Student News 10
- Incoming Visiting Scholars 11
- Alumni News 11

## INSTITUTE STAFF

Padraic Kenney, Director  
 Mark Trotter, Associate Director/  
 Outreach Coordinator  
 Emily Liverman, Advisor/Assistant  
 Director for Student Services  
 Mary Belding, Administrative  
 Secretary

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Austin Kellogg, Newsletter Editor  
 Antonina Semivolos, Outreach  
 Assistant  
 Leonard Leid, Webmaster  
 Charles Bonds, Library Assistant  
 Katie Hiatt, Research Assistant

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Russian and East European  
 Institute  
 Ballantine Hall 565  
 Indiana University  
 Bloomington, IN 47405-6615  
 Phone: (812) 855-7309  
 Fax: (812) 855-6411  
 Email: reei@indiana.edu  
 www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/

## IU Awards for REEI Alumni

1994 Irene Meister  
 College Distinguished Alumni  
 1998 Stephen F. 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  
 1995 Helena Goscilo  
 2002 Howard I. Aronson  
 2002 William Hopkins  
 2009 Donald Raleigh  
 2011 Stephen F. Cohen

## 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  
 2009 David L. Ransel  
 2010 Jerzy Kolodziej  
 2012 Henry Cooper

## Outreach Notes

continued from page 1

well, "Preparation for the Olympiada elevated the motivation of our students in the study of Russian language and culture. The competition proceeded in a superbly organized yet pleasingly informal manner. We look forward to participating in and assisting with future Olympiadas!" Alice Chudnovsky, who turned in the top performance of all heritage speakers of Russian extolled the competition as well. "It was terrific to speak with the judges about my favorite subjects and in Russian! For the first time, my heritage speaking classmates and I met with students who are studying Russian as a foreign language. They impressed us with enthusiasm for the study of such a difficult language, and I made friends with some of them. In general, the Olympiada was quite a celebration for me and I can't wait for the next one!"

"My students had a really great time, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting students from a variety of backgrounds that they almost never get to interact with," commented Pritzker Russian teacher Ryan Kasak. "It was a good



Judge Sasha Belyi encourages a student contestant

sneak-peek of what college and the world beyond has in store for them, which is just as valuable as the Russian competition aspect of the Olympiada, in my opinion." Kasak, fellow Russian teacher Phil Stosberg, and Pritzker students provided a warm welcome to visitors from outside and helpful guidance in finding their way through the Pritzker school building. Seven Pritzker students completed the Olympiada with silver medals: Yaneli Ariz-

mendi, Noemi Luna, Jair Olivares, Nicholas Onesto, Diana Pineda, Giovanni Rivera, and Mireha Ferrer. They were joined by classmates Aimee Pedroza, Amanda Quionones, Osvaldo Romero, Jasmin Velazquez, Katrina Werner, and Stephanie Zamorano, all of whom took bronze medals, and Gerardo Trejo, who was awarded an honorable mention. IU alumni Josh Bloom (REEI MA, 2009) and Heather Rice (Slavic MA, 2006; Linguistics MA, 2005) accompanied an enthusiastic team of five students from Pritzker's sister school Noble Street College Prep, where both of them teach Russian. Marisol Alarcon, Michelle Carbo, and Kevin Tapia received gold medals, while their classmates Yanel Garcia and Lisette Ocampo finished with silver medals.

By the Onion Sea, a pre-college Russian program for home-schooled students run by teacher Julia Denne, fielded two students at the competition, both gold medalists: Riley Price, who travelled all the way from California to take part, and Nina Wilson, who turned in the best performance among students of Russian as a foreign language, thoroughly enjoyed the Olympiada, and appreciated its impact on her progress with Russian. "It was fun to meet kids from around Chicago that were also learning Russia," she remarked. "In preparation for the competition, I felt that I really extended my vocabulary. I feel much more comfortable speaking Russian now than I did beforehand."

Undertaking the longest journey to the Olympiada were Matthew Carter and his Russian teacher Todd Golding (Slavic MA, 1993 and Slavic MAT, 1996) of Jefferson High School. A gold medalist and the sole Hoosier in the competition, Mat-

continued on page 3

*Outreach Notes*  
continued from page 2

they praised the Olympiada for its motivational qualities. "Olympiada seems to really give students a chance to see the results of their hard work. It is impressive that the program brings together students from such a large area and from very different backgrounds, with very different reasons for studying Russian. I hope that the competition can grow, with participation from more schools in the future."

Students at the Olympiada were assessed by a distinguished panel of judges, all native speakers and teachers of Russian, that included Olympiada veterans Liza Ginzburg (DePauw University) and Yelena Zotova (University of Illinois at Chicago and the Indiana University Summer Language Workshop/SWSEEL) as well as Sasha Belyi (Concordia Russian Language Village). After their appearance before the judges, contestants had the chance to relax and mingle with their Russophile peers, watch Russian cartoons, and play Russian games with the assistance of Wendy Johnson, Assistant Director of the Language Institute and Coordinator of the Russian Flagship Center at University of Wisconsin, and Dana Immertreu, Outreach and Campus Program Coordinator at the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies of University of Chicago. All participants in the Olympiada feasted on a tasty buffet lunch featuring items from local Russian delicatessen Three Sisters, and enjoyed a spirited

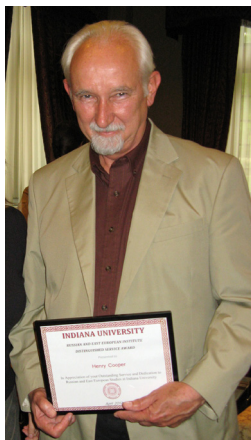


The Chicago Cossacks in post-competition performance  
post-competition performance of Russian and Ukrainian music performed by local ensemble Chicago Cossacks.

REEI congratulates all of the Olympiada contestants and their teachers on their impressive achievements and eagerly looks forward to next year's competition!

**Mark Trotter** is Associate Director and Outreach Coordinator for REEI.

## Henry Cooper Receives REEI Distinguished Service Award



Henry Cooper with his Award

On April 17 students, faculty, and friends of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures gathered for the department's annual Spring Tea. Among the many honored at the event were Emeritus Professor Henry Cooper who received the REEI Distinguished Service Award. In presenting the award, REEI director Padraic Kenney cited Henry's unflagging commitment to promoting the mission of REEI throughout his long and distinguished career as both professor and administrator. He served as director of the Summer Workshop in Slavic and East European Languages (SWSEEL) for two summers in the 1980s, as director of REEI in 1986-91, and as acting dean of International Programs in 1991-92. He chaired the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures from 1991-2002, successfully guiding the department through a difficult readjustment in the immediate post-Soviet period. Henry played an instrumental role in IU's acquisition of Slavic Publishers and, in the years immediately preceding his retirement, spearheaded successful efforts to secure major funding in the form of Title VIII and Defense Department grants that have provided substantial fellowship monies to support student enrolled in SWSEEL and study abroad, while enhancing the stature of IU's Russian and East European academic offerings within the government and military communities. The entire REEI community thanks Henry for his many contributions and congratulates him on this well deserved award.

Would you prefer to receive *REEIFication* electronically?

Please email us at [reei@indiana.edu](mailto:reei@indiana.edu) to receive the newsletter by email instead of in paper form.

## Faculty Profile: Patrick Michelson

Interview by Katie Hiatt

The Russian and East European Institute welcomes Patrick Michelson, newly appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and a specialist in Orthodox Christianity. Towards the end of his busy first year at IU, Patrick set aside some time to answer a few questions about his background, his research, and his life here in Bloomington.

*First things first, where are you from originally?*

I'm originally from Paducah, Kentucky. It's in western Kentucky. It's a lot like southern Indiana.

*You spent a fair amount of time in Madison, Wisconsin as both an undergraduate and a graduate student. Can you describe that experience?*

I had been at Boston University for two years before I transferred to Madison, where I met Professor David McDonald, who encouraged me to enter graduate school. I took several years off before I did that though to travel around, do the backpacking thing through Eastern Europe and Russia and also to establish residency. So I entered graduate school in History to study specifically with Professor McDonald. Madison is a wonderful city. I had great mentors at the University of Wisconsin in the Department of History and in the Slavic Department, where I did a lot of my work and where I learned Russian. As a senior, I went on a direct exchange program with Moscow State University, my first trip to Russia, immediately after spending the summer here, at SWSEEL.

*So SWSEEL was your first introduction to Bloomington?*

Yes, though I have relatives who live here, an aunt and an uncle who went to school at IU and have lived in Bloomington thirty or forty years by now. So I knew about Bloomington and I knew about the school. Of course being from Kentucky, I also knew it because of the basketball rivalry between IU and the University of Kentucky.

*After your undergraduate and graduate years at UW, what is it like now to be working at another Big Ten university?*

The student body is similar, in the sense that it's traditionally drawn from the Midwest, with a mix of both urban and rural. The size is very similar as well. The differences are mainly that of circumstance, based on the department. The Department of History at UW is big, with a lot of students and its own internal dynamics, whereas the Religious Studies Department here at IU is smaller, very collegial.



Patrick Michelson, new Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies

There's also the similarity between Madison and Bloomington. Madison is the capital and it's a bigger city. But otherwise they're both dominated by the university, which allows them to punch above their weight and makes them more dynamic than they would be otherwise. In fact, I always imagined that without the university Bloomington would be like Paducah, Kentucky – a small, sleepy, southern town.

*Could you take a moment to reflect back on your first two semesters of teaching here? Was there anything that surprised you? What were some of the challenges of teaching Orthodoxy?*

Teaching Orthodoxy was far more difficult than I imagined, but I realized that even before I got here. I was offered the job in May, so I had a very quick turn-around to prepare to teach in August. I turned to mentors and colleagues to ask them about how they taught Orthodox Christianity. Orthodoxy itself is an extremely diverse and multi-valiant faith and has its own diversity within each of the national and autocephalous churches. If there's one thing that I've learned in putting together these lectures, it's that there is no single Orthodoxy. Even if you focus on just one national church, say the Russian Orthodox Church, it has an incredible diversity within it today and has changed throughout its history as well. How the faith is practiced today is different than during the Soviet period in the twentieth century, which is different than the nineteenth century and so on all the way back to the moment of conversion in 988. So trying to put together all of this into a coherent narrative has been the most challenging aspect. The gap between what I knew of its complexity and diversity and how I could convey that to students is very difficult to bridge. But it made it really exciting.

*Your own background is in Russian History. How do you see the importance of Orthodoxy for understanding Russian History?*

Well, it works on a variety of levels. One is if you think about it historically, Orthodoxy shaped so much of Russian day-to-day life: feast days, the Church calendar, public displays of the faith through processions that shaped public life. The centrality of Orthodoxy for understanding Russian History to me is self-evident. Especially when you consider the number of people who lived the faith, practiced the faith and are shaped by the faith; by the Church as an institution, by participating in liturgy and sacraments, and also in shaping world-view. If you can identify the dominant cultural influences on a community, Russia in the period that I study – modern Russian history up to 1917, the dominant

*Faculty Profile*

continued from page 4

cultural influence is faith, Orthodox Christianity.

Also in terms of my own specialty, as an intellectual or contextual historian, I'm interested in what people in educated society say and utterances that they make and trying to make sense of those utterances within the ideological and discursive frameworks of that historical moment. Again, Orthodoxy provided Russians with language and concepts with which to frame their discussion. In my own research, I realized how active that aspect of Orthodoxy is in terms of structuring discourse in educated society, a group that we had previously thought of as secular, atheistic or indifferent towards religion. Now we see that Orthodoxy is not only an active part of educated society in terms of practice and lived faith, but also in structuring thought and language. Professionally that's what I'm most interested in.

The other thing about it is trying to make sense of Russia today. You see this disparity between the number of people who identify as Orthodox and the number of people who practice the faith on what we'd consider to be a practical level, going to Church, taking Communion and things like that. So you see how understanding Orthodoxy, in terms of how it is practiced and understood on the ground helps explain Russia today, as well as what's happened in Russia since 1991. With the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of political atheism, comes the revival of the Church and its return to the public sphere and setting the terms about many of the debates on topics such as same-sex marriage, abortion, and any of the hot-button topics the Church is actively involved in.

*What kind of courses would you like to teach in the future?*

I'm very interested in teaching courses at the graduate level. Especially for students from History and REEI who have the language skills, I could teach a graduate seminar on modern Russian Orthodoxy, particularly looking at the way in which Russian Orthodoxy is shaping language and the way that people are trying to reform their faith to make it ostensibly a modern faith that is meaningful for educated society.

For undergraduates, I would like to teach a course broadly conceived as "Orthodoxy and Empire," which would look at Orthodox Christianity in the context of the Russian, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I currently have a course development grant from REEI, and that will most likely be the course that I create. You can look for that in Fall 2014.

*Do you have any hobbies outside of the scholarly world?*

As an assistant professor, no. I have no hobbies other than writing lectures and trying to publish a book. But prior to becoming an assistant professor, I enjoyed cycling, and my wife and I would bike a lot in Madison

*What advice would you have for students heading out to Russia for the first time? What do you wish you had known before you went to MGU and your dissertation research trip?*

I would say to undergrads, to make friends, don't hang out with Americans. When people invite you to do things, go. It's a great way to get a sense of the culture and what's important to your peers. Have fun!

For graduates, that was a bit harder. I had a difficult time getting funding for my project and it was only later in my career that I was able to get money to go. So I would advise students to apply for everything, to tailor each application to the needs of each particular grant, and to get good letters – including letters of introduction so you can make connection with local faculty. If you can carry an important name with you into the archives, that can make a big difference. I remember I had one archive that I wanted to get into and I didn't have the right documentation. So I went to MGU to visit Oleg Airapetov, a history professor and good friend of my advisor, and he wrote me a personal letter which opened doors. Also, don't be intimidated by the archive gate-keepers. Some try to challenge anyone who comes through the door. Though once you're in the archive, be nice to the archivists, since they control access and they know the collections better than you do. If you're on good terms with them, archivists could show you things that you were unaware of.

*Any last thoughts you'd like to share? Here's a chance to give a pitch for the study of Russian Orthodoxy*

The religious turn in the study of Russian history and culture in the past fifteen years is arguably the most important historiographic development in the study of modern Russia. And it's nearly impossible to have an understanding of Russian history – even after 1917 – without understanding or having some knowledge of religion in that time period. We know that the study of religion in the former Soviet Union is not limited to Orthodoxy, since there was certainly a variety of faiths within that empire. But to understand Orthodoxy as lived religion, as a faith that's practiced, that shapes language and ideas is central to anyone's education and understanding of Russian history in the modern era. It might be peripheral to your central concerns, but if you don't have that knowledge and you go on the job market or go to a conference, someone will ask a question about religion and you'll need to know it, because everyone else is aware of the importance of religion now, given the religious turn. I believe that knowledge of Orthodoxy would help make an MA thesis or a doctoral dissertation more well-rounded, add a level of sophistication to your research, and make you articulate about one of the central historiographical concerns in present-day scholarship of Russia.

**Katie Hiatt** is a PhD student in History.

## Balkan Democracy Before and After the Breakup of Yugoslavia Surveyed at 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual McCloskey Lecture

by Leonard Leid



REEI director Padraic Kenney (right) introduces McCloskey guest lecturer Keith Brown (left)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual McCloskey Lecture took place on April 10, 2012 at the Indiana Memorial Union and featured a presentation by Keith Brown entitled “Reason, Riot, and Ridicule: The Democratic Spirit In and After Yugoslavia.” A sociocultural anthropologist based at the Watson Institute for International Studies of Brown University, Professor Brown specializes in modern Macedonian society, the politics of US programs to support democracy, identity politics in diasporic communities, and US military perspectives on culture. His books include *The Past in Question: Modern Macedonia and the Uncertainties of Nation* (Princeton University Press, 2003), *Transacting Transition: The Micropolitics of Democracy Assistance in the Former Yugoslavia* (Kumarian Press, 2006) and the forthcoming *Loyalty Unto Death: Trust and Terror in Revolutionary Macedonia* (IU Press, expected 2013).

Professor Brown opened the lecture by addressing the historical context of civil society, political protest and violence during and after the fall of Yugoslavia. He reviewed the course of Macedonian history and the recent possibility of its democratic evolution along Slovenian as opposed to Serbian models, questioning why the Slovene model of democracy based on civil society has not been implemented. He focused on an understudied sequence of events in August 1987, when residents of Vevčani, a village in Western Macedonia, mobilized against a top-down initiative by municipal authorities in nearby Struga to install a new water distribution system in their village. He used this case to exemplify how Macedonia deviated from the Slovenian civil-society model. When Vevčani’s residents put up barricades and took to the streets in non-violent protest, police used

force to disperse them—including the use of electric batons. According to Professor Brown, the protests in Vevčani—as refracted through contemporary media coverage, political consequences, inter-ethnic relations and oral history—provide a key site of analysis for the still pertinent relationships between state legitimacy, local decision-making and street politics in democratic culture in and after Yugoslavia. In response to the events surrounding the protests, members of the Vevčani community created an ‘anti-monument’ identifying the government officials responsible for the strife. Professor Brown discussed the effectiveness of this type of civil society mobilization, concluding that the anti-monument clearly had an impact but was more likely to have stunted rather than promoted dialogue. Nonetheless, the events drew involvement on the part of democratic activists throughout Yugoslavia; and today, after 25 years of continuous and diverse forms of political activism, Vevčani’s residents enjoy considerable local autonomy as an independent municipality, while key observers and supporters have gone on to play important roles in Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia.

The annual McCloskey Lecture honors the memory of the late Frank McCloskey, who represented Indiana’s 8th District in Congress from 1983 to 1995. As a congressman, McCloskey took a passionate interest in the tragic conflicts of the former Yugoslavia. Withstanding the resistance of his party and the White House, McCloskey persistently advocated for US action to stop the genocide in former Yugoslavia. His efforts in large part spurred US involvement in the diplomatic process that eventually led to the signing of the Dayton Accords in 1995. After an unsuccessful re-election campaign in 1994, McCloskey devoted all of his energies to the cause of ending ethnic strife in the Balkans, making six trips to Bosnia and serving the National Democratic Institute as Kosovo Director. In addition to the McCloskey Lecture series, REEI also administers the McCloskey Fund which perpetuates the legacy of Frank McCloskey by means of the McCloskey Fellowship, an exchange program for IU students and young civic activists from the Balkans.

Earlier in the day, Professor Brown met over lunch with IU students pursuing research on the Balkans. Following the lecture, he dined with REEI Director Padraic Kenney, current McCloskey Fellow Shqipe Pantina (see related story on pg. 7), and former McCloskey Fellows Ramajana Hidic Demirovic and Austin Kellogg.

**Leonard Leid** is an MA student at REEI.

## Seventh McCloskey Scholar Shqipe Pantina—From Kosovo to Bloomington

by Rebecca Mueller

In the fall of 2011, REEI and the National Democratic Institute initiated a competition for the McCloskey Fellowship in Kosovo, where Frank McCloskey, the former Indiana congressman and tireless promoter of peace in the Balkans, served as NDI regional director shortly before his untimely death in 2003. Selected from a field of accomplished civil society activists was Shqipe Pantina, who spent this past March and April at Indiana University as the seventh McCloskey Fellow. Pantina hails from Klinë, a small town in Kosovo where she worked as an English teacher during the 1990s, after receiving a degree in English Language and Literature at the University of Prishtina. In 1998, with conflict between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo escalating, she began to write for the Albanian-language daily newspaper *Kosovo Sot*. In the following year, she took a position as a translator for group of international observers. Since then, she has contributed to a wide range of political and civil society projects, managed two political campaigns, and completed two additional degrees, a BA in Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Prishtina and an MA in European Integration and Regionalism at the University of Graz. She is also founder and executive director of the Center for Policy and Advocacy in Prishtina.

Pantina came to Indiana University to study the relationship between electoral systems, party politics, and democracy. To this end, she dedicated some of her time in Bloomington to learning about the city's government and political organizations. The transparency of the local political process in the United States was of great interest to her. When a case of corruption at City Hall recently came to light, the suspect was arrested and removed from office. The exposure of a corruption scandal does not necessarily lead to apprehension in Kosovo, where, despite a "corruption-obsessed" media, an inefficient judicial system is unwilling or unable to hold corrupt officials accountable, Pantina points out. Pantina found that organizations in both Bloomington and Prishtina use social networking as an effective political tool. The commitment of Bloomington residents to community service has made a highly

favorable impression. As a civil society activist, Pantina sees grassroots engagement as crucial not only during election campaigns but for overall good governance.

Pantina also met with Indiana State Representative Ed Delaney, a close political colleague of Frank McCloskey's who accompanied Frank on trips to the Balkans, worked for the State Department on rebuilding the legal system, and served as an official US observer in Russian elections. Delaney shared with Pantina insights from both his international election experience and his service on the Elections Committee in the Indiana House.

In March, Pantina gave an REEI lunchtime talk on Kosovo's recent history entitled "Kosovo: A Country with a Footnote." The Kosovo War ended in June 1999 with United Nations Resolution 1244, which laid the groundwork for the UN- and NATO-led transitional administration of Kosovo while recognizing the disputed nature of Kosovo's autonomy within Serbia. When Kosovo declared independence from Serbia on February 17, 2008, the footnote referring to the UN resolution remained in all official references to Kosovo. Pantina has mixed feel-

ings about that footnote today. She remembers Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's message to a group of Kosovars in Prishtina recently. Ten years, Clinton pointed out, is a very short time in which to build a country. It is, however, a very long time in the life of an individual. This message rings true in Pantina's life, but she is hopeful that the situation in Kosovo is improving.

During her visit, Pantina spent a week in Washington DC under the auspices of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which assists REEI in administering the McCloskey Fellowship and once counted Pantina as an employee at its Kosovo office. Pantina consulted with Rob Benjamin, NDI Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe Programs; Koebel Price, a former director of the NDI Kosovo office; and NDI colleagues that work on elections. "It was very useful for me and very informative," she reports, "to see how NDI has helped several countries to improve their election systems and also assisted many civil society organi-



Shqipe Pantina presents an REEI lunchtime talk on Kosovo's recent history

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Romanian Studies Conference by Roxana Cazan

On March 30-31, the IU Bloomington campus hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference on Romanian Studies. Organized by the student-led Romanian Studies Organization, the conference featured a keynote speech and four panels, presented by scholars from the US and abroad, addressing a broad variety of perspectives on Romania in the twentieth and current centuries.

In the keynote address, Professor Dennis J. Deletant, Emeritus Professor of Romanian Studies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, and Visiting Ion Ratiu Professor of Romanian Studies at Georgetown University, focused on the political career of Marshall Antonescu and his fascist ideological inclinations, highlighting the impact of the Holocaust in Transnistria, a topic only recently approached by scholars and of extreme importance to the history of World War II.

In addition to Professor Deletant's contribution, the panelists inspired stimulating discussions that centered on the cultural and social histories of the World War II period, the lives and contributions of Romanian intellectuals, conflicts in rural areas during and after the Communist regime, and the impact of totalitarianism on gender, sexuality and reproduction in Romania and among diaspora. These well-attended panels attracted audiences of over 40 members, adding to the success of this year's conference. Commenting on the importance of scholarly gatherings like the Romanian Studies Conference, Professor Deletant expressed his enthusiasm at encountering "such a young gathering of post-graduates working in the field of Romanian studies, who had the opportunity to access the archives in ways in which some of us in the older generation didn't have, and opening our eyes to a more nuanced understanding of Romanian realities which are sometimes glossed over, especially in the press. The whole series of Romanian studies conferences in Indiana consolidates the view that Romania is an extremely complex country, one which always offers surprises."

Equally enthusiastic were the views expressed by John W. Hill Chair of European History, Associate Dean, and Romanian Studies faculty mentor, Professor Maria Bucur-Deckard, who remarked that "like the past events that we had, this conference was an intellectual feast where schol-



Panelists Catalin Cristoloveanu, Ryan Voogt, and Leonard Leid (left to right) with Panel Chair Professor Christina Zarifopol-Illias

ars had a great deal to offer each other in terms of making different connections between disciplines, between topics and of course, between generations, and in terms of the ways in which Romania is a rich site for research and scholarly endeavors."

The conference also received wonderful support and encouragement from the distinguished Professors Jeffrey Veidlinger, Aurelian Craiutu, and Christina Zarifopol Illias, as well as professors, colleagues from other departments, and friends who joined us. The Romanian Studies Organization would like to heartily thank the following sponsors: Borns Jewish Studies Program, IU History Department, REEI, Horizons of Knowledge, and the Romanian Studies Organization. Also, a special thank you to Catalin Cristoloveanu, Roxana Cazan, Leonard Leid, Ben Thorne, and Jason Vincz, without whom the conference would not have been possible. The Romanian Studies Organization looks forward to support in the years to follow as it continues to expand and strengthen the intellectual network of scholars in Romanian Studies.

**Roxana Cazan** is a PhD student in English.

---

Are you on Facebook? The Russian and East European Institute is! "Like" us and receive REEI updates on your newsfeed. Check it out at [www.facebook.com/IUREEI!](http://www.facebook.com/IUREEI)



*Seventh McCloskey Scholar*  
continued from page 7

zations to make sure that elections are conducted freely and fairly.” Pantina also conferred with representatives of other DC-based organizations that address elections throughout the world, including Democracy International and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), which is currently providing assistance to the election reform commission in Kosovo. Her discussions with IFES focused on the current reform in Kosovo and plans for collaboration on election and political party development upon her return to Kosovo. Officials at the US State Department, USAID, the World Justice Project, and the National Albanian American Council also met with Pantina during her busy week in Washington.

The meetings in Washington provided Pantina with essential insights into the mechanics of “on-the-ground” election reform, but her academic research at Indiana University was equally valuable. Pantina extended her knowledge of election reforms and systems by accessing the rich collections in IU’s research libraries and meeting with IU professors and students in numerous fruitful consultations. “I am very grateful for the guidance and support of Political Science faculty Jeffrey Isaac, Tim Hellwig, and Jack Bielsiak, and doctoral student in Political Science Tim Rich. I also appreciate the helpful assistance of Padraic Kenney (History/REEI), Frances Trix (Linguistics/Anthropology), Annika Frieberg (History) and Stepanka Korytova (International Studies) with whom I discussed the democratiza-

tion of Southeastern Europe and some of the challenges currently facing people there. In particular, I want to thank Annika and Stepanka who invited me to be a guest lecturer in their classes and share my experience with their students on the fall of communism, the breakup of Yugoslavia, and problems such as human trafficking and other problems of the region.”

Despite her ambitious research agenda, Pantina managed to find time to enjoy the amenities of Bloomington. “Bloomington is a small but special town,” she observed. “I have spoken with many local citizens on the bus or in shops. People have been very kind and helpful when they notice me wondering about things. And most of them had never heard about Kosovo, so I was happy to tell them about my country, the hard times that it is going through, and the better future that we hope for. I attended many music performances, local country dancing, and a few sports events. Bloomington was not only about work and research, there was also fun. I also enjoyed very much the time I spent with students and staff at the REEI Office and want to thank them all for all the support they have provided: Mark [Trotter], Austin [Kellogg], Leonard [Leid], Tonya [Semivolos], Rebecca [Mueller], Katie [Hiatt] will remain my friends and I hope to meet them again someplace.”

**Rebecca Mueller** is an MA student at REEI.

## Changes in REEI Staff

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of the REEI staff, our administrative secretary Mary Belding. Prior to joining REEI, Mary worked for four professional associations, most recently the American Oil Chemists’ Society (AOCS) in Urbana, Illinois. As a meeting planner, she organized events throughout the US and abroad. Mary and her husband are both graduates of IU, and they enjoy traveling, reading, and ballroom dancing. Mary is eager to get to know her way around REEI and become acquainted with the REEI community. As we welcome Mary on board we bid a fond farewell to Marianne Davis, who after several years at REEI, has moved on to another position at IU as the SWSEEL Coordinator. We thank Marianne for her outstanding service to the REEI community and wish her every success in her new endeavor.



New REEI administrative secretary Mary Belding

## Faculty/Staff News

**Maria Bucur** (History) has published “Women in the Attic” as part of a forum entitled “Clio on the Margins: Women and Gender History in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (Part One),” *Aspasia* 6 (2012): 127-136.

**Aurelian Craiutu** (Political Science) has published “On Happiness in Unusual Places” in *Philosophy, Society and the Cunning of History in Eastern Europe* (Routledge, 2012).

*Faculty/Staff News*  
continued from page 9

**Lynn Hooker** (CEUS) received a Fulbright grant to research the role of Romani musicians in Hungarian society. She will conduct oral history interviews with musicians, do archival research on the nationalization of the music industry, and observe present-day music events.

**Mark Hooker** (REEI) presented a paper entitled “Buckland” at “England Forever: J.R.R. Tolkien’s Philological Legacy in the Twenty-First Century,” a student scientific conference dedicated to the 120th Anniversary of J.R.R. Tolkien’s birth that took place at Dostoyevsky State University in Omsk, Russia in mid-April. Hooker was invited to give the opening address to the conference, delivered as a PowerPoint presentation with a voice-over read. At the end of the spring semester, Hooker also made a short presentation on the Czech and the Slovak translations of *The Hobbit* to Craig Cravens’ class “Kafka to Kundera: Modern Czech Literature.” The well-received presentation was a part of the course’s discussion of Literary Translation.

**Owen V. Johnson** (Journalism) gave a plenary address, “The Impact of Media Economics on the Role of Mass Media in U.S. Politics and Society,” on April 11 at the conference “Reset: Russian-American relations in the Age of Obama” at Russian State University of the Humanities, Moscow.

**Padraic Kenney** (History/REEI) has received grants from the College Arts and Humanities Institute and the Institute for Advanced Study to organize a conference, “Ready for Democracy? Religion and Political Culture in the Orthodox and Islamic Worlds.” The conference will take place at IU Bloomington with the participation of political scientists, religious studies scholars, historians and anthropologists from all over North America as well as from farther abroad. Watch the REEI newsletter and website for updates.

**Mark Roseman** (History) gave the keynote address, “70 years later. Remembering the Wannsee Conference and the ‘Final Solution,’” in the Days of Remembrance at the University of Utah on April 12, 2012. He also gave a talk “German-Jewish responses to Nazi persecution” to the group The Gathering at Beth Shalom Synagogue, Bloomington, on April 20.

**Bronislava Volková** (Slavic) has published a collection of poems in the Czech Republic under the title *Vzpomínky moře / básně z let 1973-2010* (The Sea Recalls / poetry from 1973-2010). Publication was supported by a grant from Czech Ministry of Culture and from the Borna Jewish Program of Indiana University. Launch of the book took place during an opening of a retrospective exhibition of Volková’s visual art, organized by the Libri Prohibiti library in Prague, on January 26, 2012. A Catalog of the exhibition was printed under a grant from the City of Prague. Although she is retired, Professor Volková remains active. She recently taught a new class at IU on the Wandering Jew (Central European Jewish Writers and Exile).

## *Continuing Students News*

**Richard Barrett** (History) has been accepted into the Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Greek Summer School in Washington DC for June 2012.

**Jodi Griffith** (MA/MLS) will be Junior Fellow for the Library of Congress this summer. She is looking forward to working on Slavic Cataloging in the East European Reading Room.

**Katie Hiatt** (History) will serve as an intern with the US State Department and conduct pre-dissertation research on religious and ethnic minority groups within the GULAG from 1923 to 1955. She has been awarded a REEI Mellon Endowment Student Grant-in-Aid of Research and an International Enhancement Grant of \$1450 from the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs to support her travel.

**Chris Molnar** (History) gave a paper entitled “Second-Class Refugees: Yugoslav Asylum Seekers in Cold War West Germany,” at the annual Midwest Slavic Studies Association conference, held at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. His article “The Transnational Family: Yugoslav Guestworkers and War Refugees in Munich,” recently appeared in *Update! Perspektiven der Zeitgeschichte: Zeitgeschichtstage 2010* (Vienna: Studienverlag, 2012). He also presented a paper entitled “Communities of Victims: Croatian Émigrés and German Expellees in Postwar West Germany” at the

*Continuing Student News*  
continued from page 10

annual Association for the Study of Nationalities Conference in New York City in April. The paper won the conference's award for the best graduate student paper on Central Europe.

**Anne Vithayathil** (History) has been awarded a REEI Mellon Endowment Student Grant-in-Aid of Research to support her travel in 2012-13 to Russia and Uzbekistan to conduct research for her dissertation "Russia's Experimental Frontier: Science and Power."

**Mary Werden** (History) has been awarded a Fulbright IIE grant to support her dissertation research in 2012-2013 in Poland.

## *Alumni News*

**Elizabeth Lee Roby** (Slavic, 1997) was presented with the 2011 Award for Excellence in Teaching at Pre-College Level by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). Roby teaches Russian at the Friends School in Baltimore.

**Valery Perry** (REEI, 1994) is currently Chief of Party of the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG) project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project is working to support civil society participation in constitutional reform processes.

## *Visiting Scholars*



**Tatyana Permiakova** is Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at Perm State University (Russia) and Lecturer in English at the Higher School of Economics, Perm Affiliation. While in residence at Indiana University from April through August, she will conduct research on intercultural communication and foreign language teaching.



**Zoltán Tózsér** is a PhD student in Education at University of Debrecen (Hungary) where he serves as manager of the Center for Higher Education Research and Development. As a visiting scholar in the IU School of Education from February through June, he will research various aspects of adult education, including motivation and barriers to access.



**Ewa Willim** is Associate Professor of Linguistics at Jagiellonian University in Cracow (Poland). During February she conducted research at Indiana University on Polish morphosyntax and consulted with faculty in Slavic and Linguistics on recent developments in formal approaches to syntax.

**Shqipe Pantina** is the 2012 McCloskey Fellow. For more information on her refer to the article on pg. 7

Russian and East European Institute  
Ballantine Hall 565  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Bloomington IN  
Permit No. 2

Return Service Requested



The logo for SWSEEL (The Summer Language Workshop) features a stylized map of the Middle East and Central Asia in shades of brown and tan. The map is surrounded by a circular border containing the names of various languages: arabic, bosnian/croatian/serbian, dari, georgian, hungarian, kazakh, mongolian, pashto, persian, polish, romanian, russian, tatar, turkish, uzbek, and yiddish. Below the map, the acronym "SWSEEL" is written in large, bold, serif letters, with "The Summer Language Workshop" written in smaller text underneath.

**Indiana University**  
**Summer Language Workshop**  
**June 4- July 27, 2012**

Apply Now: [www.indiana.edu/~swseel/](http://www.indiana.edu/~swseel/)  
Priority Deadline: March 1, 2012