

Letter from the Director

BY STEPHEN E. HANSON



Prof. Herbert Ellison, Dean Ron Irving, Prof. Steve Hanson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Kramer and Robert Huber and Sharon Wolchik of NCEEER.

I am truly excited to be returning to the position of Director of the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies after a wonderful year of sabbatical leave here and at Oxford University. I would like to convey my deepest thanks to James Augerot of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures for his outstanding work as interim Director of the program in 2005–06. Thanks to his dedication—and to that of our excellent staff team of Marta Mikkelsen, the Center's Associate Director; Allison Dvaladze, Outreach Coordinator; and Carrie O'Donoghue, Program Coordinator—the transition has been truly seamless.

Indeed, the REECAS program continues to thrive in every way. First, we are thrilled to announce that we have once again been successful in the most recent

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competition for Title VI National Resource Center grants from the US Department of Education for the 2006–2010 period. This grant will provide programmatic support and graduate student Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships totaling approximately \$2 million, and confirms our status as one of the leading national programs on Russia, East Europe and Central Asia.

Second, we proudly welcome the National Council of Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER) to its new home in Seattle, where we plan to work together in a new joint initiative uniting our research and educational expertise to advance the field of Slavic and Eurasian studies. We celebrated this new initiative with a three-day conference on October 12–14, co-sponsored with Moscow's ISE Center (Information. Scholarship. Education.) and the Centers for Advanced Study and Education (CASE) Program in the Russian Federation, to discuss the topic of "Russia and its Neighbors in an Era of Globalization". The keynote address was delivered by US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Kramer. Thanks to NCEEER's support, too, the first group of George F. Russell Fellows from the Newly-Independent States arrived at the University of Washington this fall: Vladimir Melnikov of Tomsk State Pedagogical Institute, Tatiana Pavlova of Belarusian State University and Ala Svet of the State University of Moldova. NCEEER's President, Robert Huber, will begin teaching UW courses on Russian foreign policy and US-Russian relations as of this winter quarter. We are profoundly grateful to Bob and the entire NCEEER team for these inspiring contributions, and will strive for our part to support NCEEER's mission of promoting scholarly and policy-related research on every aspect of Eurasian and East European politics and societies.

Third, our grant from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for partnerships with Uzbek institutions of higher learning, designed to promote the study of comparative religion in a tolerant spirit,

is coming to an extremely successful conclusion. From September 14–16, the UW held a conference at Westminster University in Tashkent, where many of Uzbekistan's leading scholars and several faculty in the University of Washington's program on comparative religion presented papers and shared ideas about the history and future of religious interactions in Central Asia. US Ambassador to Uzbekistan John Purnell gave the opening address, and high-ranking representatives of UNESCO and the Uzbek government also attended. Much of the credit for the success of this conference goes to Professor Ilse Cirtautas, whose dedication to Central Asia's peoples and cultures is legendary both here and in the region itself. We will conclude our grant activities this spring with a final follow-up conference in Seattle—but we expect our new UW library in Tashkent will serve as the core of deeper scholarly collaboration with our Uzbek colleagues for many decades to come.

Fourth, the REECAS faculty continues to grow by leaps and bounds as a result of growing interest in our region as well as generous support from the UW administration. Over the past two years, we have added fully 12 new faculty to our ranks (see box). This year, we will search for two new tenure-track positions, one specializing in Russian imperial history, the other focusing on postcommunist security in Central Asia and the Caucasus; next year, we are scheduled to search for a new faculty member specializing in East-Central Europe.

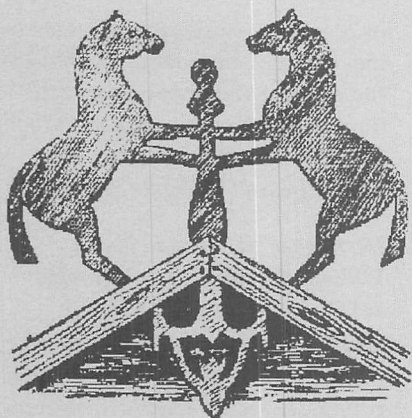
Finally, all of us in the Ellison Center are naturally very excited to celebrate the appearance in print of Professor Herb Ellison's new book from the University of Washington Press, *Boris Yeltsin and Russia's Democratic Transformation*. We hope to spread the news far and wide through a series of events, including a UW roundtable discussion on the Yeltsin era—with contributions by Professor Ellison, Professor Judith Thornton and myself—on Wednesday, November 1, as well as a special reception at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies conference in Washington, D.C. on Friday, November 18.

Welcome to the following new REECAS Faculty!

- BOJAN BELIC**, Lecturer in Slavic Languages and Literatures
- CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL**, Assistant Professor in Architecture and Urban Planning
- BARBARA CITKO**, Assistant Professor in Linguistics
- SCOTT DAVIS**, Professor in Public Health Studies
- CHRIS DEMASKE**, Assistant Professor in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- IVETA GRINBERGA**, Lecturer in Scandinavian Studies
- MARK JENKINS**, Assistant Professor in Drama
- FREDERIC LORENZ**, Lecturer in International Studies
- STEVEN PFAFF**, Associate Professor in Sociology
- FLORIAN SCHWARZ**, Assistant Professor in History
- KRISTEN STILT**, Assistant Professor in Law
- VERONICA TAYLOR**, Professor in Law

As I look over this list of recent achievements, I realize that I have only scratched the surface of our dynamic program, having failed to mention exciting new activities related to our Polish Studies Endowment, our Baltic Studies program, our collaborative work with the US Army War College, Professor Beth Kolko's multiyear research project on Internet diffusion in Central Asia, the development of a digital archive of Professor William Brumfield's Russian architecture photographs thanks to a NEH grant... Still, not being able to cover everything happening in the Ellison Center in a short newsletter piece is, I think, not such a bad problem to have! ♦

CALL FOR PAPERS



The Thirteenth Annual Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Northwest Conference

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON – SEATTLE

We are currently soliciting papers, panels or roundtable presentations for this one-day interdisciplinary conference. Proposals from faculty, graduate students and members of the general public are all welcome.

Contributions are encouraged on literature, the fine arts, the environment, post-Soviet foreign policy, historical research, economics, national identity or any other relevant subjects. Papers related to the theme "From the Cold War to Post-Communism: Sixty Years of REECAS (1947–2007)" are especially welcome.

Small travel stipends may be available to graduate students and faculty traveling from the Pacific Northwest.

Funds are not available for scholars outside of the Pacific Northwest or residing outside the United States.

If you would like to present at the conference, please reply via e-mail or regular mail by Monday, January 15, 2007, with your name and contact information, a paper title and brief abstract to:

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Stephen E. Hanson, *REECAS Director and Chair,*
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Beth Kolko, *Associate Professor*
Department of Technical Communication

Judith Thornton, *Professor*
Department of Economics

Recent Acquisitions to the REECAS Outreach Collection

The Ellison Center is pleased to present a selection of the most recent additions to our outreach materials collection. Films, teaching guides, educational software packages, reference texts and other resources are available for two-week checkout to students, faculty, staff and K-12 teachers. For more information, including a complete listing of available materials, visit the Ellison Center in 203B Thomson Hall, University of Washington; telephone us at (206) 543-4852; email reecas@u.washington.edu; or check our website <http://jsis.washington.edu/ellison>.

Films

(The) Czar's Faberge Eggs, 1998

(50 MIN – DVD)

Both exquisite works of art and fascinating relics of a vanished era, they are among the most valuable and prized treasures on earth, with one recently fetching a record \$5.5 million at auction. The jeweled Easter eggs created by Peter Carl Faberge for the Russian Czar Nicholas II represent the zenith of the jewelers' art. They helped secure Faberge a reputation that lasts to this day, and embody an age of opulence that came to a sudden, horrific end. *The Czar's Faberge Eggs* goes behind the scenes at the Forbes Collection and the Hillwood Museum for an up-close look at many of these magnificent creations. Curators and experts reveal the amazing features that make each one a masterpiece, while historians show how the history of the waning years of Russian royalty can be traced by the changing themes of the unique creations. From the court of the czars to today, learn the complete story of some of the most fascinating and beautiful artworks ever created.

Siberia: How the East Was Won, 2002

(100 MIN – DVD)

Even in the 21st century, vast stretches of its epic expanse remain undiscovered and unexplored. Yet, it has played a pivotal role in Russian history for

generations. *Siberia: How the East Was Won* ventures into the northern forests and rides the trans-Siberian railway across an enigmatic land of majestic beauty and abundant natural resources. See how Russia's eastward expansion mirrored America's drive to the west, and relive the landmark events in Siberian history. From the Cossack invasions of the 16th century to the fall of communism and the social ills of the region today, this feature-length special is filled with breath-taking footage and interviews with scholars, historians and residents of this unique land.

Vladimir Putin, 2006

(50 MIN – DVD)

Putin was a spy in the former USSR who has become the leader of modern Russia. But while his leadership has helped stabilize the nation, there are many who say he is stirring up echoes of its communist past. This program draws on Soviet-era archives, insights from diplomats and rare interviews with people who know him personally to tell Putin's remarkable story. Trace his remarkable rise to prominence and see how he has grown into his role as leader of one of the world's largest nations. Learn little-known facts about his childhood and private life, and explore the shadowy details of his 17 years in espionage.

Traveling Exhibitions

Chernobyl, Twenty Years – Twenty Lives Mads Eskesen, Photographer

25 COLOR PANELS, 36" x 36" EACH

Chernobyl, 20 Years – 20 Lives is a photo documentary journey through the lives of 20 people who were forever changed by the devastating nuclear explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on April 26th, 1986. In an attempt to understand the implications of the catastrophe on mankind, 20 years later, Eskesen travelled in the affected regions, held interviews and took pictures of the everyday life. These trips have resulted

in 20 moving stories about human destinies that have been radically changed by the accident and reveal some of the impacts of the continuing catastrophe. To view the exhibition go to www.20years20lives.info/20years.

Heritage of the Russian North William Brumfield, Photographer

18 COLOR PANELS, 16" x 20" EACH

"North" in Russia is a broad concept, but many Russians understand it as a historic region defined by a network of rivers and lakes leading to the White Sea. It is here that ecology, history and culture have combined to create an area of harsh extremes and extraordinary beauty. "After two decades of research and photography in the Russian heartland, I made my first visit to the north in 1991. What I saw met my expectations in every way: the vast northern forests, the rich summer light that seemed to last forever; the remnants of ancient monasteries; and the wooden structures of pine, fir, larch, and aspen that must rank among the most distinctive features of native Russian culture." – Professor William Brumfield, Tulane University.

The Art of Soviet-Era Movie Posters

18 PANELS, 24" x 24" EACH

The names of such directors as Sergei Eisenstein and Andrei Tarkovsky ring familiar to many Russians and lovers of Russian cinema the world over. But what of the names Vladimir and Georgii Stenberg, Nikolai Prusakov, Grigorii Borisov? They may not come so easily to mind, but it is in fact men like these which whole generations of Russian filmgoers have to thank for introducing them to such classics as *Battleship Potemkin*, *Earth* and *Andrei Rublev*. For these were the unheralded masters of the Russian film poster or kinoplakat, an often overlooked 20th-century art form. This exhibit celebrates their craft through 16 exemplary works. Please visit our website for more information in the coming months. ♦

Ellison Center Promotes Collaboration with Warsaw School of Economics

BY VLAD KACZYNSKI

The Warsaw School of Economics (in Polish: *Szkola Główna Handlowa* – SGH) is the leading economic thinktank in Poland and one of the largest economic universities in Central and Eastern Europe. Established in 1906, it is the oldest and largest economics university in Poland. International scientific and educational cooperation remains one of highest priorities of this School, as high quality research and teaching require international and global perspectives. Administered by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), there are programs located at the SGH in Warsaw designed for foreign students with an interest in Poland, Central Europe and the European Union.

The Ellison Center and the School of Marine Affairs have been exploring and developing cooperative links with the Warsaw School of Economics since 2004. The idea of cooperation between these entities was initially explored when Prof. Adam Budnikowski (now President of SGH) visited UW in 2003 and met with several members of the UW faculty. He was received by the Ellison Center and delivered several presentations at the Jackson School of International Studies and the School of Marine Affairs. Following this visit, UW Professors Craig ZumBrunnen (Department of Geography) and Vlad Kaczynski (School of Marine Affairs) participated in the second SGH conference on Environment and Globalization in May 2004. During this conference, Prof. Kaczynski and Prof. Budnikowski had additional opportunity to discuss possibilities of future cooperation between the two universities. Following this visit, in December 2005, Prof. Kaczynski went again to SGH and delivered a guest lecture for the faculty and students of the Institute of International Economics.

The Third International Conference on Economic Globalization and Environmental Policy, held May 25–26, 2006 at the Warsaw School of Economics, was

co-sponsored and planned jointly with the Ellison Center. The major effect of the Ellison Center's co-sponsorship was "internationalization" of the conference, introducing English as a conference language and our active participation in planning this event's scientific approach. While the previous conference at SGH (2004) was attended by Polish specialists only, the most recent conference brought 33 experts from 12 countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Holland, Hungary, India, Ireland, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the US). UW was represented by Prof. ZumBrunnen, Dr. Nathaniel Trumbull (Dept. of Geography) and Prof. Kaczynski. Their participation was possible thanks to the financial support received from the UW Graduate School and the Ellison Center.

During our interactions with SGH faculty and executives, we came to the conclusion that there might be a great potential for future inter-university cooperation. As a direct result of these growing links, the Warsaw School of Economics sent Prof. Maciej Cygler of the Institute of International Economics to UW in November 2006. The objective of this exploratory visit was to establish further contacts with UW faculty, executive officers and students and to explore possibilities of longer-term cooperation through inter-departmental and personal interactions. This cooperation could include academic teaching, research, student exchanges, joint conferences and publications.

In 2007, the Warsaw School of Economics will be hosting Prof. Kaczynski as a Fulbright Scholar. He will teach courses in English for foreign students, including those from the European Union. Prof. Kaczynski will also work on joint project proposals that will foster cooperation between SGH and UW. ♦

Vlad Kaczynski is Associate Professor in Marine Affairs. This fall he taught Comparative Marine Business in the North Pacific for the Ellison Center.

HOT SPOTS IN OUR WORLD

A UW Jackson School Lecture Series

March 28 – May 2, 2007

Hear experts from the University of Washington's Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies discuss human trafficking, terrorism and other serious issues during this evening lecture series. Challenges in each hot spot and the implications for the United States will be examined by distinguished faculty from the Jackson School's outreach centers.

LECTURES

March 28 – Watts and Water: Hydropower Development on Transnational Rivers in China and Mainland Southeast Asia

Darrin Magee, *PhD, Geography, UW*

April 4 – The Afghan Legal Educators Program: Challenges of Legal Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Setting

Jonathan A. Eddy, *Professor of Law, UW/Clark Lombardi – Assistant Professor of Law, UW*

April 11 – The Arab-Israeli Conflict
Ellis Goldberg, *Director, Middle East Center and Professor, Political Science, UW*

April 18 – The End of Multiculturalism: Can Europe and Islam Co-Exist?

Steve Pfaff, *Associate Professor of Sociology, UW*

April 25 – Global Human Trafficking and Its Implications for Washington State

Sara Curran, *Associate Professor of International Studies and Public Affairs, UW*

May 2 – Partners in Peril: Canada and the US in an Era of Climate Change, Terrorism and Nuclear Proliferation

Michael Byers, *Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law, UBC.*

Total cost for all six lectures in this series is \$79 (Reg# 85599). Individual lectures are \$19 each. The lectures will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on the UW campus, Seattle. To register, call 206-897-8939 or 1-800-506-1325. For more information, visit extension.washington.edu/ext/special/jackson.

Exit Festival: Bringing the World to Serbia

BY LISA MANGUM



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Petrovaradin Fortress on the Danube.

As I was winding through the crowds that had packed into the Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad, Serbia during last summer's Exit Festival, I saw that the youth of today's Europe share a common culture. Be they Swedish or Serbian, Bosnian or Irish, Polish or Macedonian, the people who flocked to one of the continent's largest festivals clearly displayed a mutual taste in music and fashion. What was not immediately evident, however, is that the attendees from Balkan countries, unlike their peers to the north and west, rarely get opportunities like this one to meet and to socialize with people from outside their country. In fact, a recent survey found that a startling 75% of Serbs under the age of 25 had never traveled outside of Serbia or Montenegro.¹ With the barriers of war and economic sanctions behind them, the impediment to travel is now largely due to the difficulties young people face in obtaining travel visas, particularly to EU countries. In an attempt to promote awareness of this

situation to people from all over Europe and the world, Exit Festival organizers teamed with activists to campaign for a relaxation of the visa regime for the youth of Balkan countries.

The young Serbs I met this summer seemed split between two realities: a cosmopolitan and progressive popular culture existing within an isolated state reluctant to reform after years of dictatorship. Culturally, they were deeply attuned to the trends of America and Western Europe. Their interests in music, movies, sports and fashion were largely indistinguishable from their western counterparts thanks to the internet, an influx of foreign magazines and the proliferation of pirated CDs and DVDs available on every street corner. For example, nearly everyone could name a few bands from Seattle and many knew far more about American sports than I do. However, when I asked if they had ever visited the US, France, Japan or any of the places about which they spoke so expertly, the answer was nearly always a disheartened

shake of the head, "No...you know, it's very hard to get out of Serbia."

Although the people I met, most of whom were in their twenties, largely embraced a global pop culture, I could also sense a feeling of resentment toward "the West." This did not solely or even primarily stem from the NATO bombings in 1999 or the hardships brought about by sanctions throughout the 1990s, but from a feeling of being left behind, especially by Europe.

The republics that once comprised Yugoslavia were mired in war during the years that many other Eastern European countries were working their way toward EU membership. Now most of them have found themselves outside of a new wall dividing Europe. Although poised to embrace values different from those that defined the previous decade, young Serbs' exposure to foreign cultures and nations is generally limited to what can be seen on a screen or read in a magazine. Firsthand exposure to other forms

of governance, economy, political culture, civil society and ethnic diversity is hindered by the stringent visa requirements that prevent the vast majority of young Serbs from ever leaving Serbia.

The case is similar in other Western Balkan countries. While Bulgaria and Romania prepare for EU ascension in January 2007 and Croatia waits in the wings, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro risk becoming ever more ghettoized. Exit festival organizers are well aware of the predicament facing the youth of the Western Balkans and at this year's festival, with the help of dozens of volunteers passing out leaflets in Serbian and English and manning booths around the festival grounds, they made sure that everyone else heard about it, too.

Since its inception, Exit's organizers have been committed to bringing people together through music and to promoting social awareness alongside entertainment. The festival was founded in 2000 by two students from Novi Sad seeking to get young people more involved in political action at a crucial moment in Serbia's history. At the time, Slobodan Milošević's government was silencing independent voices in the country in the months preceding the general election. Wary of a crackdown by the authorities, Exit's organizers' stated intent was simply to get young people interested in the political process. However, Exit's heart was clearly anti-Milošević and the festival was closely aligned with another

youth organization, *Otpor*, which is often credited with orchestrating the October 5th revolution that finally forced Milošević from power.²

Each year, the festival has continued to grow, attracting bigger acts as well as bigger crowds. This year's festival took place over four days in July, had 22 stages, over 600 performers (including well-known acts like Franz Ferdinand, Morrissey and the Scissor Sisters) and drew an estimated 150,000 people. Ten thousand of those visitors traveled from outside the Balkans, mostly from Western Europe, but also from Japan, the US and Australia.³ If Serbs cannot venture out to see the world, Exit has succeeded in bringing the world to Serbia.

This year, Exit organizers teamed with a Novi Sad-based group called The Citizens' Pact for South Eastern Europe (CP) in a campaign to liberalize the visa regime for young people in the region. CP is dedicated to putting this issue in the public's eye both at home and abroad. They are putting pressure on the governments in the region to meet the criteria set by the European Commission for visa facilitation in order to strengthen their negotiation position on the issue. Additionally, CP is working to raise awareness inside the EU of a new wall dividing Europe, the "Schengen Wall," which hinders the people of the Balkans from cultural, political and economic exchange with the rest of Europe.

During the four days of the festival, CP's stylishly-designed pamphlets rained down on the Exit crowd proclaiming: "*Hoću da putujem, neću da ratujem!*" (I want to travel, not make war!) CP pulls no punches in claiming that restrictions on free movement produce the type of isolation that fosters war. Without free movement of people and ideas, they argue, young people will be left with no

choice but to get their information from the national media, potentially making them "instruments of war and chauvinistic politics."

CP is focusing their efforts on the visa restrictions imposed by countries that have implemented the Schengen Agreement, most of which are part of the EU. The Schengen Agreement allows for a common border and entry policy among European states including all the EU member states (except Ireland and the United Kingdom) as well as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. A total of 26 countries have signed the agreement, including the new Eastern European EU members that joined in 2004, but so far only 15 countries have implemented the measures. In order to enter any "Schengen country", one must obtain a Schengen visa which allows for entry into all the member countries since within the Schengen zone there are no border controls. Currently, for a citizen of any Balkan country except Croatia (which has negotiated visa facilitation with the EU) or Greece (an EU member), obtaining a Schengen visa is a protracted and often humiliating process.

Visa applicants have to produce an extraordinary amount of paperwork: a letter of invitation; birth certificate; proof of health insurance, income and occupation; and sometimes a round-trip air ticket and proof of property holdings as well. Applicants must wait in long lines and may have to return day after day without a clear timeframe for when they might receive a visa. In addition to the relatively high cost for the visa application, currently 35 euros, applicants often have to pay for professional translation of their documents, take days off of work to stand in line and, if they do not live in the capital, must travel to the nearest embassy or consulate to appear in person. Occasionally, applicants who intend to travel by plane also forfeit their ticket fare if denied a visa or if the visa is not issued in a timely manner. Alternatively, they are forced to pay high prices if buying a ticket at the last minute. And even applicants who fulfill all the requirements are routinely denied visas without clear explanation.

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Beach with separate stage for afterparties.

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However, the costs do not end there. Many applicants also complain of humiliation at the hands of embassy officials. Last year, a well-known Macedonian folk dance troupe was invited to a prestigious folk festival in Wales. With their papers in order and fees paid, everything seemed in the clear until they got to the British Embassy in Skopje where the clerk insisted that they perform a dance in the embassy in order to prove that they were genuine. In the end, several of the members were denied visas and the entire troupe decided to stay at home and to dance outside of the embassy in protest.⁴

Stories like these are not unusual, in fact they are so common that CP issued a call for people to submit their accounts of trying to obtain visas and then compiled them into a book called *The Best Stories from Visa Queues*.⁵ This past March, they visited Brussels where several authors read their stories of degradation, intimidation and absurd bureaucracy to members of the European Parliament.

The lack of travel is particularly devastating for young people who grew up during the 1990s in a region where each country directly or indirectly suffered from the nationalizing and isolating effects of war. The EU and governments of each Balkan nation have confirmed that the goal for the region is incorporation into the EU, a goal that many consider the best option for stability in the region. Most of the region's future leaders, however, have not been able to familiarize themselves with the countries of the EU. It is difficult to advocate something that one has not experienced firsthand and knows only in the abstract. In fact, the stiff visa requirements send a signal to the youth that they are not welcome in Europe, hardly an endearing message. Moreover, without being able to experience Europe for themselves, they are more likely to believe negative rhetoric on what Europe is and means.

The EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Olli Rehn, understands these dangers and is advocating a relaxation of visa requirements for citizens of the Western Balkans, especially students and

businesspeople. In response to the growing pressure from individuals and groups like CP, Rehn traveled to Novi Sad this summer to deliver a speech about the situation on the first day of the festival. In his speech, he acknowledged the frustrations and costs that face those seeking visas and announced that the EU Commission has proposed a list of measures to EU member states that would ease the process. Such measures include abolishing visa fees for students and researchers, requiring simpler documentation and speeding turnaround time on applications. He also noted, however, that the commission can only make recommendations to the member states but it is ultimately they who decide.⁶

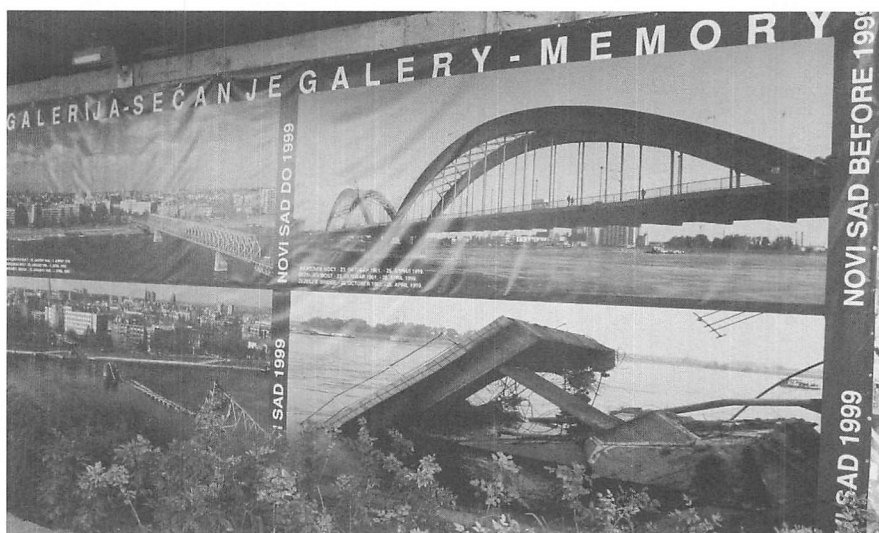
At present, EU member states have been open to hearing such recommendations and have agreed to relax the requirements for students and researchers, but have not committed to any great changes in the overall visa regime. On the contrary, they voted to increase the visa fee from 35 euros to 60 euros. Since that will not go into effect until late 2007, there still is time left for negotiation.⁷

The young generation in Serbia and the Western Balkans must be able to bring all their experiences to bear on creating more stable and open societies. Therefore, it is vital that both their governments and the EU make the changes

necessary to facilitate greater opportunities for travel among the youth. Brussels should take the first step in tearing down the "Schengen Wall" by easing visa restrictions and allowing the next generation to see for themselves if membership in the EU is something worth seeking. The Exit Festival proves that, for the right cause, the young people of the region can join forces in innovative, creative and powerful ways to bring about change in their societies, but they must be given some incentive to do so. ♦

Lisa Mangum is a graduate student in the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies program. Her interests include cinema and visual culture of the Czech Republic and the former Yugoslavia. She is writing her thesis on alternative comics in Serbia from the late 1980s to the present.

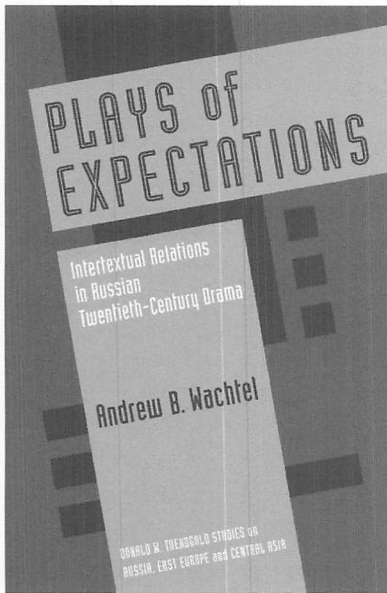
- 1 Penny Johnson, "Visa Queues Frustrate Balkans," *BBC News*, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4832404.stm>.
- 2 Matthew Collin, *This is Serbia Calling: Rock 'n' Roll Radio and Belgrade's Underground Resistance* (London: Serpent's Tail, 2004), 204–216.
- 3 Official Exit Festival website, <http://www.exitfest.org/>.
- 4 Risto Karajkov, "The European Union and the Balkans: Disparities in the Freedom of Movement," *Worldpress.org*, www.worldpress.org/Europe/2219.cfm.
- 5 Official needvisa.net website, www.needvisa.net/new/intro_s.htm.
- 6 Olli Rehn, speech: "Visa Facilitation for Serbia," July 6, 2006, Novi Sad, Serbia, European Commission Press Release, <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/441&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
- 7 Citizen's Pact for SEE, "Exit Against Visas," www.citizenspact.org.yu/new/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=38&Itemid=1.



Banners showing bridges of Novi Sad before and after NATO bombing.

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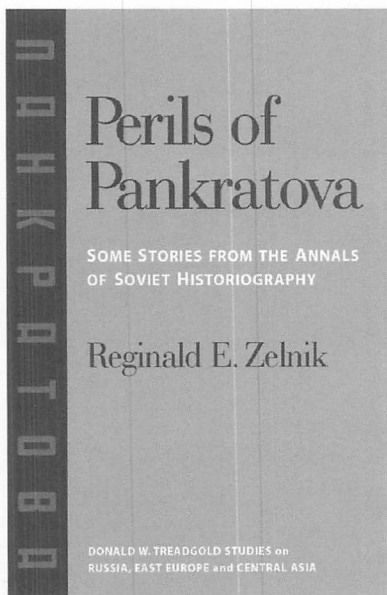
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The REECAS Program offers instruction in many languages from the region, but we have found that there is the occasional need for a graduate student to take a less commonly taught language (LCTL) not available at the University or to attain training at a more advanced level in one of our regularly-taught regional languages. Often, students will enroll in summer language programs for this sort of LCTL or advanced training, but that provides only one year of study, and many students would prefer to take LCTLs or advanced language courses during the regular academic year.

In order to augment our offerings, REECAS has received some funding from the US Department of Education to support LCTL/advanced language tutorials. Thus, we are inviting applications to propose such tutorials for the 2007–08 academic year. A fellowship committee composed of REECAS Program faculty will meet in March 2007 to consider applications. We expect to make our decisions as expeditiously as possible, so that announcements of the awards can be made by the beginning of April. During specified quarters of 2007–08, successful applicants will be provided with a tutor from the appropriate native-speaker community in the Puget Sound region, and a faculty member to oversee the tutorial, in order to provide necessary language instruction skills. We will

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Applications are due March 2, 2007.

If you are currently enrolled in the university, please submit an unofficial transcript and letter of recommendation along with your essay. If you are an applicant, we will review these documents in your application.

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* Winner of Daniel C. Waugh thesis prize for best REECAS MA thesis in 2005–06.

Poppe Symposium Brings Together Central Asian Scholars and Students

BY SHOSHANA BILLIK, REECAS MA CANDIDATE

The 18th Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium on Central/Inner Asian Studies held last spring on Saturday, May 6, brought together scholars from Central Asia and students of Central Asia to discuss education, history, politics, economics, folklore and other topics pertinent to the region. The Symposium was organized by NELC (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization) professor Ilse Cirtautas, who has been a long-time activist in inviting Central Asian scholars to the UW.

This year's Symposium began with a welcoming address by Professor Cirtautas, followed by a tribute to Professor Denis Sinor from Indiana University on his 90th birthday by Dr. Charles Carlson, REECAS lecturer. Dr. Didar Kassimova, a Fulbright Scholar from Suleiman Demirel University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, then presented on "Years of Hope: Glasnost' in Kazakhstan." Next, Dr. Odil Qoriev, a senior researcher at Al-Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, gave a talk entitled, "Economics and the Rise of the Puritanical Islamic Movement in the Ferghana

Valley During the 1970s and 1980s." He was followed by Dr. Stanley Toops, Geography, Miami University of Ohio, who talked about "Xinjiang's Tourism", replacing Dr. Ablet Kamolov from the Bilim Central Asia Educational Center in Almaty, who unfortunately had not received his visa in time to present his paper, "From Traditional Muslim Historiography to Uighur National History: Nazarghoja Abdusemiatov and His Historical Works." Professor Cirtautas, in her capacity as Vice-President of the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Association, then presented the Galen Mohr Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Association prize for the best student in first-year Uzbek to Nathan Hamm, REECAS MA candidate.

After a break for lunch, the Symposium resumed with REECAS MA candidate Brenda Schuster's talk on "The Motif of the Persecuted Man: A Comparative Analysis of Heroic Women in Uighur, Uzbek and Chinese Folktales." Next came Dr. Kubatbek Asan uulu from the University of Naryn in Kyrgyzstan presenting a talk entitled, "Comparing

the American with the Kyrgyz System of Higher Education (What Should/Can Kyrgyzstan Adopt or Adapt?)" He was followed by REECAS MA candidate Shoshana Billik presenting on "Kyrgyz Internet Users' Experience of the Tulip Revolution: A Survey of Major Blogs and Forums." Her talk was followed by Stefan Kamola, NELC MA candidate, speaking on "The Epos 'Manas' and the Kyrgyz."

The Symposium then concluded with a roundtable discussion by the Central Asian scholars on "Approaching 15 Years of Independence of the Central Asian Republics." Among other topics, the scholars discussed censorship in Central Asia and the importance of education as well as the lack of good libraries.

The Nicholas Poppe Symposium provides a forum for both scholars from Central Asia and students of the region to present on their areas of expertise. The 19th Annual Symposium, to be held next spring, will continue in this tradition. For more information on the Symposium, contact Professor Cirtautas at icirt@u.washington.edu. ♦

THE SILK ROAD

Lecture and Seminar Series

A \$3000 grant from the Simpson Center matched by the Silkroad Foundation, Saratoga, makes it possible to continue the successful Silk Road series of public evening lectures and graduate seminars. The series is cosponsored by the Ellison Center, the School of Art, the Departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, History and Asian Languages.

The focus of the 2006-07 series is Islamic Central Asia, with two lectures in the Autumn quarter and two lectures in the Spring quarter. David Roxburgh, Stephen Dale and Robert McChesney will also teach a graduate seminar during their visit to the UW.

The Autumn quarter saw successful lectures by David Roxburgh (Art History, Harvard University) and Stephen Dale (History, Ohio State University). On November 2, Roxburgh presented on "Chinese Art in a Persian Mirror: Artistic Production under Yongle and Shahrukh, ca. 1420-1450." December 7, Dale spoke on "Babur, a Renaissance Prince in Central Asia."

SPRING LECTURES:

April 3, 7pm, Kane Hall 110

Joel Walker (History, UW) – "The Monks of Kublai Khan: Christianity under the Mongols"

May 10, 7pm, Kane Hall 110

Robert McChesney (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University) – "Secrets of Tamerlane's Tomb"

For more information, visit: jsis.washington.edu/ellison.

Women, Water and Weddings: A Summer in Tajikistan

BY ANNA CROWLEY

I did not go to Tajikistan to study gender relations. I went to study Persian and Tajik and I hoped to establish contact with some local historians for my thesis research. It promised to be an interesting summer politically with visits by Presidents Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Hamid Karzai, the build up to the 15 year anniversary of Independence on September 10th and preparations for the November Presidential elections, in which longtime President Emomali Rakhmonov sought a third term. Living

I arrived in Dushanbe just before dawn. The usually vibrant, busy streets were quiet and empty, allowing me to focus on the physical contours of the city. Much about this landscape was familiar to me: crumbling Soviet-style architecture alongside single story traditional style Tajik houses with mud walls and corrugated tin roofs. As we approached the center of Dushanbe, the architecture changed and small unrepaired streets widened into six to eight-lane freshly paved boulevards. We had left the

imposing nine-story Khrushchev era apartment buildings for more graceful four- and five-story buildings, complete with shiny little shops and cafés on their first floors. Hiyoboni Rudaki, Dushanbe's main east-west thoroughfare, is lined with leafy green trees, parks, stately well-maintained government buildings and grand fountains. Those lucky enough to live on Rudaki enjoy regular supplies of water and

electricity, because they share power and water lines with the Presidential Palace. Dushanbe's pristine center, however, belies the reality of life in Tajikistan for most of the population. This became clear the moment we turned off Rudaki and headed north. The landscape changes drastically as you cross the river into the *mikroraions*, literally micro regions, where the majority of Dushanbe's 600,000 citizens live. Comprised of clusters of nine-story buildings arranged around decaying playgrounds and communal wedding halls, bisected by dirt paths and driveways, the *mikroraions* seem more like vertical villages than urban environments. People in the *mikroraions* are served by the bazaar economy; there are few shops and even fewer cafes.

Our destination, Zarafshon, is the furthest north of all the *mikroraions*.

By the time we arrived, I felt as if we had long since left the city. The roads were so covered in dust that it was difficult to tell whether or not they were paved. We arrived at my apartment around 5:30 am and an exuberant woman in her mid-forties came racing down the stairs. This was my host mother, Mehrangiz. Breathless, she launched into a series of explanations and apologies: they were expecting me an hour later and so were mortified that they did not yet have breakfast ready for me. Central Asians are known for their hospitality and Tajiks are no exception. When I got upstairs to the fourth floor apartment, there was a flurry of activity; two daughters running back and forth with pots, pans and plates of food. They briefly paused to say hi, which came out more as a nervous giggle than actual words. Then I received the next series of apologies — there was no water. It was Friday morning and the water should have been turned back on by Monday, Mehrangiz explained that, nonetheless, ushering me into the bathroom. There was a bucket of clean, warm water waiting for me. I soon realized that these exchanges about water would be a part of my daily routine. Not a day went by all summer that I did not hear the following series of questions: "Is there water? Is there hot water? Is there sand in the water? Will you ask the neighbors if they have water? Did you get Anna's water? Did you boil the water long enough? When are you going to get water?" Of the two months I lived with this family, we had running water for about three weeks. The remainder of the time, we did not have water, sometimes for traceable, explicable reasons, such as work at the utilities or an overheated pump, other times for seemingly no reason at all. My family kept a large tub filled with reserve water in the apartment and everyday there was no water, Robiya, the neighbor girl, would peek her head into our apartment and ask the girls, "*obgiri meravem?* Are we going to get water?" Gulchehra, the youngest daughter, would



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A woman washing her dishes on the sidewalk.

with a host family, I had the opportunity to see these events from a different perspective and I realized how little actual impact they had on the daily lives of my family. At daily dinners, I would discuss politics and current events with my host father for about five minutes, before the quorum of females took over the conversation and steered it toward topics of more practical and immediate importance to them. Over time, these women's issues became my issues. Though I did not realize it at the time, the morning of my arrival to Tajikistan I was introduced to the two issues that would constitute the substance of most of my discussions with my host family: water and weddings. These issues, the main concerns of the women in my family, illustrate both the difficulties women face in running their households and those they face in finding a secure place in society.

grab her bucket and happily prance outside. There was a perpetual line of women of all ages sitting on overturned buckets waiting for their turn at the neighborhood water spigot. Though she had to make this trip several times a day, Gulchehra always savored the chance to get out of the house.

Tajikistan's water issues are one of the most vivid examples of how the country's crumbling infrastructure places an undue burden on its citizens. Women in particular, spend hours upon hours fetching water, filtering water, boiling water, all before they can commence with the rest of their household chores. Water is possibly Tajikistan's most valuable natural resource, as 65% of Central Asia's water supply originates in Tajikistan's mountains. Yet, the country lacks the capacity, even in its major cities, to provide an adequate, reliable supply of running water to its citizens. The incidence of water-borne diseases is extremely high, taking a sizable economic, physical and psychological toll on the population. President Rakhmonov recently pledged 20 million dollars to a complete reconstruction of Dushanbe's water system, promising citizens clean drinking water by 2007. The World Bank added 13 million dollars to that project, but experts estimate that a complete overhaul of the water system would cost close to 150 million dollars. The state-run water utility is far from economically sustainable, as its revenues from billing cover a mere 30% of its operation costs.¹ For ordinary citizens, these facts and figures are just another example of a promise that their government will never be able to keep.

As we sat down to breakfast that first morning, I was introduced to another topic of discussion that would dominate conversations with my family: marriage and weddings. Over that first breakfast, Mehrangiz informed me that if I ever needed anything done around the house, I should ask Nozanin. Shukhrat, the father, explained that in order to prepare his daughters for life — and by life he meant married life — the eldest daughter was responsible for virtually all household chores. This way, he explained, she would not be overwhelmed when she



These young women sell bread their mothers make at Istaravshan Bazaar.

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went to live with her husband's family. I did not find this particularly shocking at the time; perhaps it was the jet lag, or maybe the two years I had spent in Uzbekistan had conditioned me to expect that women should be prepared for marriage. As time passed and I came to know Nozanin, however, I began to find the equation of an individual's worth with the ability to perform housekeeping tasks deeply saddening. Nozanin is a bright second-year University student and a beautiful dancer, who lives in a society where she is likely to be valued more for her skill in vacuuming and ironing than for her intellect, true talents or even her character.

The topic of marriage, of course, swiftly leads to that of weddings. Weddings in Tajikistan are a confluence of the most vibrant, central aspects of Tajik culture: family, food, music and dancing. Summer is wedding season, brides and grooms are flanked by wedding parties and musicians as they make their way to all the city's landmarks for photos. With these colorful, extravagant celebrations, however, comes a great deal of cultural baggage, as weddings serve to reinforce rigid gender roles. Women marry young and often move in with their husband's parents and other siblings. The burden of maintaining a household keeps them from attending or finishing university let alone seeking employment outside the home. Only 25% of university students

are female, whereas during Soviet times the figure was close to 50%.² Once a daughter is married, she is no longer considered a member of the family that gave birth to her and routinely must ask the permission of her husband or mother-in-law to visit her family. For the parents of daughters in particular, marriage is the only clear path to providing their children with economic security.

In Dushanbe, marriages still tend to be arranged — the groom's family approaches the bride's family, often before the bride and groom have met. In some cases, the groom might ask his female relatives to visit the family of a particular girl and in even fewer cases the bride and groom might actually date. The process of engagement and marriage often resembles more of a business transaction than a joining of two families. The two families agree on a bride price, usually paid in the form of sheep and many kilos of rice and oil. The bride's side furnishes the couple's apartment or their room in the groom's parent's house. The bride's side is responsible for two celebrations that occur the day before the wedding: early morning *osh* (the national dish of rice pilaf) for the men, and a women's celebration — something like a wedding shower. At the women's celebration, both sides of the family show off their gifts to the couple. The bride's side furnishes a new wardrobe for the groom and vice versa. The groom's family

continued on page 14

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Women weeding outside the National Parliament of Tajikistan. These women earn about \$5 per month.

handles all the events on the day of the wedding, including pictures, the Islamic ceremony, civil ceremony and wedding reception. Marriage provides a very public way for families to display their wealth and honor, but it is not without waste and excess.

Mehrangiz and Shukhrat have four daughters, a financial and cultural burden in a society in which value belongs exclusively to sons. Mehrangiz recounted an occasion when her own father told her it was too bad she did not have any real children. Their eldest daughter Matluba, 21, has been married for about two years and has a nine-month-old daughter. They were extremely proud of both the match they made for her and the wedding they financed. Both teachers, Mehrangiz and Shukhrat saved for five years in order to be able to afford to marry off their daughter, and paid over 3000 US dollars in wedding expenses. Showing me the wedding video, they relished every minute of it, reliving the highlights, the difficulties, noting the surprise of friends, colleagues and neighbors at their ability to put on such a good wedding. Their voices were lively in the retelling, but they also contained a note of trepidation. Matluba was only the first of four. They will have to do this three more times.

Farzona, 19, was next in line. A tall, gangly fourth-year University student in computer science, Farzona has lived with her grandparents for the past year to look after them. She did an amazing job of

balancing all the cooking and cleaning of that household with her studies, but nonetheless it was hard for me to imagine her married and taking care of her own family. I went with Farzona, Matluba and her in-laws to the wedding of a distant relative. It was what we might call a “love match.” The bride and groom had chosen one another; they had dated, fallen in love and decided to get married. The wedding was wonderful, because the bride was smiling and happy. Tradition dictates that Tajik brides should display humility rather than emotion; they are supposed to contemplate the consequences of leaving their own families and display deference to their new family — essentially they are supposed to frown.

Back at home, Farzona and I recounted the minutia of the wedding to her mother and younger sisters. Her mother, half joking, said, “You should find yourself a husband like that bride did.” And Farzona responded giggling, “I couldn’t possibly, I can’t talk to boys like that. And what if he didn’t marry me?” Mehrangiz and Farzona took turns explaining that if she were to find someone and date him, he probably would not marry her anyway. Whether true in practice or not, there is a widely held perception that young Tajik men often date one woman, but then marry the woman that their family has picked for them. Nozanin chimed, addressing Farzona, “You should at least try!” Turning to me she continued, “You just never know, some good girls from good families get good husbands, and

others turn out bad. Sometimes you don’t know who they are until its too late.” The women in my family were acutely aware of the potential for problems in these arranged marriages, but they did not see much of an alternative. Mehrangiz and Shukhrat did the best that they could to ensure their daughters marry into somewhat progressive families; they demanded that any husband be educated, that he allow their daughter to finish university and he allow her to work. They have already had to turn away two potential husbands and everyone in the family was getting nervous that they will eventually run out of options.

Tajikistan has come a long way since the civil war days of mandatory curfews and firefights in the mountains. But continued progress requires a commitment on the part of the government to provide for all of its citizens. The current place of women in society is the result of a combination of factors: economic, social, political and, perhaps most importantly, cultural. With independence came an abandonment of all things Soviet and a retrenchment of more “traditional” cultural values and attitudes. Economic and demographic hardships resulting from the civil war and labor migration help to reinforce these traditional attitudes as families marry off their daughters young, fearing they will not be able to support them or that another man will not come along. It is time that the government recognize the political, economic and social dangers of a “traditionalism” that disenfranchises half of its population. ♦

Anna is a second year REECAS MA student, focusing on Central Asia’s transition from Russian colonial to Soviet rule and the role of local intellectuals in that transition. She spent the summer studying Persian and Tajik in Dushanbe, Tajikistan through the American Councils Eurasian Regional Language Program.

- 1 “Water Problems in Tajikistan.” *Institute for War and Peace Reporting*. www.iwpr.net/?p=rca&s=f&o=255887&apc_state=henirca2005. Accessed Sept. 24, 2006.
- 2 “UNIFEM Gender Profile – Tajikistan.” *Women, War and Peace*. www.womenwarpeace.org/tajikistan/tajikistan.htm. Accessed Sept. 24, 2006.

THE ELLISON CENTER IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF:

Boris Yeltsin and Russia's Democratic Transformation by Herbert J. Ellison

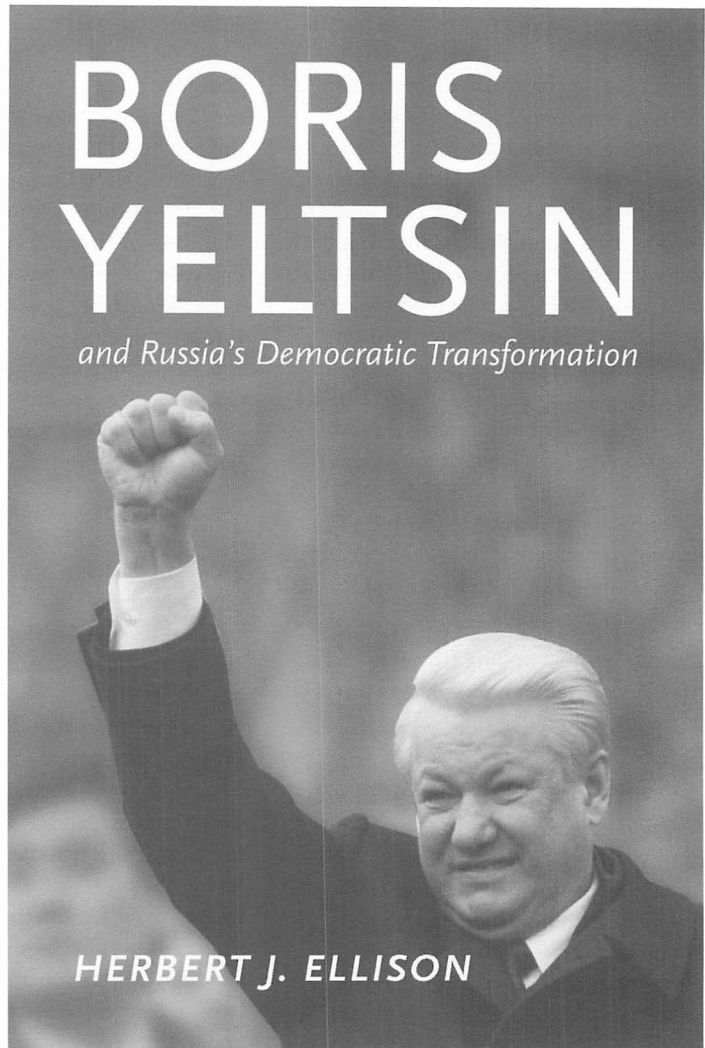
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Boris Yeltsin is one of modern history's most dynamic and underappreciated figures. In this vivid, analytical masterwork, Herbert J. Ellison establishes Yeltsin as the principal leader and defender of Russia's democratic revolution — the very embodiment of Russia's fragile new liberties, including the evolving respect for the rule of law and private property as well as core freedoms of speech, religion, press, and political association.

In 1987, President Mikhail Gorbachev expelled Boris Yeltsin from his team of reform politicians, but Yeltsin rebounded from this potentially devastating setback to become the leader of the Russian democratic movement. He created a new office of Russian president, to which he was elected; designed a democratic constitution for the Soviet Union that precipitated a coup attempt by traditionalist communist leaders; granted independence to the nations of the Soviet Union; and replaced Communist Party rule with democracy and the socialist economy with a market economy. In a short period, he had succeeded in becoming the first popularly elected leader in a thousand years of Russian history. He had blocked violent attempts at counter-revolution and overcome powerful resistance to his reform program. His achievements rank among the most extraordinary feats of political leadership in the twentieth century.

Herbert J. Ellison has devoted his career to observing and recording Russian and Soviet political life. His foreign analyses are informed by his many visits to universities and policy institutes in Russia and the other former Soviet states. He has visited the successor states of the Soviet Union and met with senior figures in the Gorbachev and Yeltsin governments.

Herbert J. Ellison is professor emeritus of history and international studies at the University of Washington, where he continues to teach. He has served as director of the University's Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies and was formerly director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington, DC. He is the author or coauthor of five books on Russian history and foreign policy. ♦



"Ellison's account is, in effect, a defense of Boris Yeltsin's place in Russian history. In this, his book differs from many treatments of the period that concentrate on shortcomings in Yeltsin's administration to the exclusion, or near exclusion, of his achievements. While a great deal has been written about this period, Ellison has no rival when it comes to a presentation that is both comprehensive and concise." — **Jack Matlock, Jr., former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union**

"Much has been written about Yeltsin, but rarely has it been as balanced and insightful as this book. It is a much-needed, well-deserved corrective to conventional wisdom that overlooks or sells short Yeltsin's basically positive international stage." — **Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institution and former US Deputy Secretary of State**

Regional Press Institute 2006: A Window on the Current State of the Media in Russia

BY FREDERICK M. LORENZ

In March of 2006, I represented Seattle University School of Law on a trip to Saint Petersburg, Russia, to provide lectures and to develop a distance learning program with Saint Petersburg State University Law School. During my trip, I was asked by the US Consulate staff to moderate a special meeting of the Regional Press Institute (RPI) on March 16th and 17th in Saint Petersburg. Asked to make a series of presentations on “Freedom of Speech and the Press in the USA” to a group of Russian journalists, I looked forward to learning something about the current state of the media in Russia. Although I travel to Saint Petersburg regularly, I have limited Russian language skills and I am careful not to bill myself as an expert on Russian politics or press policy.

The request for support from the RPI to the US Consulate described the purpose of the meeting:

The political climate in Russia is not favorable to discussing topical issues and journalists are discouraged by their editors from attempts to expose the government’s inefficiency or lack of competence to say nothing about corruption. The Regional Press Institute has been doing a lot for creating ethical, competent and effective media. It is very important to compare our experience with the professional experience of our American colleagues. The time is running out and we are afraid that our media will lose the skills it obtained during the previous promising decade. We want to aggressively work to defend the values we discovered and we will do it with the support of the media — one of the primary civic society institutions.

In the two months before the meeting, I conducted some basic research and prepared to speak on topics that I thought would be relevant for a Russian audience. This included the First

Amendment to the US Constitution, a basic history of US Supreme Court decisions related to the press, The Privacy Act, The Freedom of Information Act, the Fairness Doctrine and current legal issues involving the media in the USA. I made a point to include two incidents that were mentioned by President Putin last year: the imprisonment of Judith Miller and the resignation of Eason Jordan, the former head of CNN. There was an implication that these are examples of repression of US journalists and that the United States should not be quite so free in criticizing Russia.

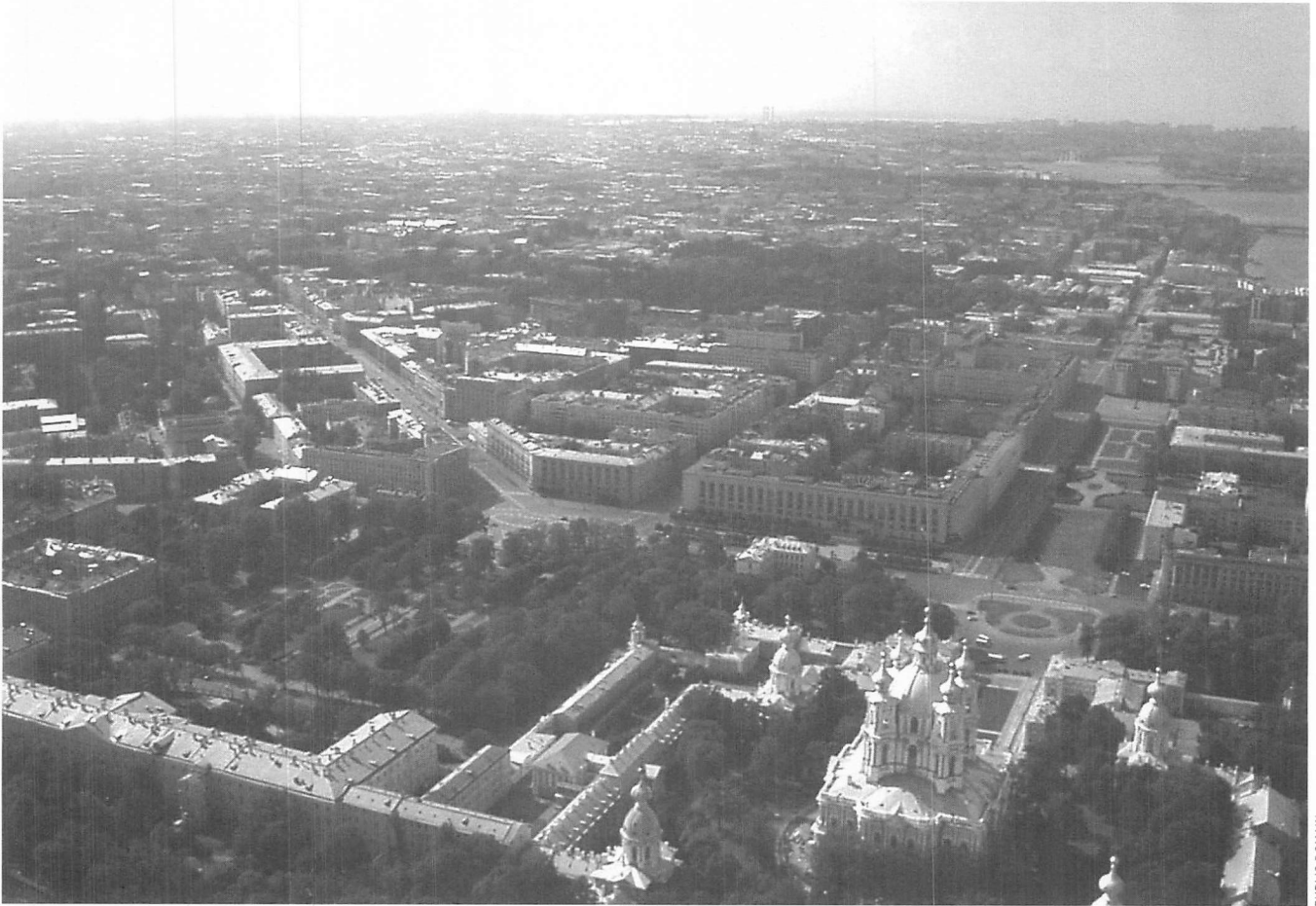
For this program, I was a co-chair with Andrei Richter of the Media Law and Policy Institute in Moscow, a well recognized authority on freedom of the press in Russia. My host for the meeting was Anna Sharogradskaya, the Director of RPI. Their offices are located in the “House of Journalists,” a beautiful old building on the main street of Saint Petersburg. A discussion with the director provided some background on the organization and a look at challenges facing the press in Russia. After the fall of the Soviet Union, there was a heady period of support by the US government for democratization and open society in Russia. In the early years of the Russian Federation, censorship was not an issue as the wave of new-found freedom enveloped the country.

Under the auspices of the Russian-American Press and Information Center (RAPIC), a ten year period of lavish funding followed, and a major grant administered by NYU Center for War and Peace and News Media. RAPIC was disbanded in 2002 and it dissolved into a number of smaller non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the RPI. Outside support for the RPI is now limited and recent pronouncements by President Putin imply that US funding of NGOs amounts to interference with the internal affairs of Russia. Today the RPI

in Saint Petersburg has a small hard-working staff of five people serving journalists from all over Russia. In addition, the RPI regularly provides space for American college interns in its Saint Petersburg office.

During my presentation, the assembled journalists were very interested in the US experience with press freedom and censorship and the legal basis for lawsuits against journalists. I explained the principles of *New York Times vs. Sullivan* and the special rules applicable to public officials and public figures. In the United States, public figures generally cannot bring actions against the media without a showing of malice or reckless disregard for the truth. The Russian journalists described a number of cases in Russia where journalists have been taken to court by public officials in an effort to shut down the newspaper or recover damages. One journalist described a case where the local mayor had brought charges of “interference with commercial reputation” against the local paper that had been critical of the mayor’s efforts to develop a commercial building in the center of town. This discussion confirmed for me an underlying problem in Russia: political and economic power is wielded by the same people and they are not reluctant to use the courts to enforce their will.

Over the course of the meeting, I learned that the rights and responsibilities of journalists in Russia are regulated by the “Mass Media Law.” On its face, it provides rights to journalists beyond those held by the general public. One example of this is the right to meet with government officials. But my co-chair, Mr. Richter, stated that this and other provisions providing journalists rights are simply not enforced. On the other hand, the Mass Media Law places “duties” on journalists that have been used effectively to restrict them in their activities. For example, journalists must



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Aerial view of St. Petersburg.

obey the “charter” of their particular news organization and this includes following the directives issued by senior editors. A failure to conform can lead to criminal prosecution. And journalists must maintain and carry their credentials; any person can demand to see credentials, not just government and security personnel. The failure to maintain and to display proper credentials has often been a reason to deny journalists access to courts or government facilities.

At the end of the first day of the conference, we showed the movie “Good Night and Good Luck” followed by a discussion and question period. The version of the DVD we obtained had Italian subtitles and a poorly dubbed Russian voiceover, limiting its effectiveness. Nevertheless, the audience seemed to enjoy it and had many questions. What were conditions in the US at the time of the McCarthy Hearings? What were the opinions about

Edward R. Morrow in the US at the time? Is Morrow considered a hero today? The reaction to the movie was fascinating and included a range of opinions as to whether it had any relevance to conditions in Russia today.

Some journalists questioned the artistic merit of the film. I pointed out that the quality of the art is purely subjective. I also had to admit that the Academy Awards this year seemed to pick films with a “message.” One person called it a “fairy tale” of good versus evil. I said that may be true, but many movies have such an element to increase their marketability. Another man asked why the McCarthy era was important at all, since the worst thing that could happen to someone was to have to find another job. He mentioned that even after Charlie Chaplin was “blackballed,” he lived happily in the United Kingdom and is renowned today. I pointed out that it was an important time in

American history even though it does not compare to the repression of the Stalinist era in the Soviet Union. Most of the audience seemed to appreciate the message of the film: a journalist can stand up to pressure from above and seek the truth.

Overall, the two day program was a great success. I was able to provide some insight into the US experience with freedom of the press and I came away with respect for the Russian journalists who are working to maintain an independent media under difficult conditions. ♦

Frederick Lorenz is an Adjunct Professor at the Seattle University School of Law and a lecturer for the University of Washington’s Jackson School of International Studies. He specializes in International Law.

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Boba Research Fellowships

The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program would like to request applications for the annual Boba Research Fellowship for exceptional REECAS students to travel to Eastern Europe or Central Asia between June 2007 and May 2008. Only first year students are eligible to apply.

Priority will be given to those conducting research or holding internships in one of these regions, but participating in advanced language training in an accredited program will also be considered.

Two awards of up to \$1000 will be offered toward airfare and/or lodging.

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 2, 2007

To apply: Submit the following required material: (1) a 2-page essay, double-spaced, 12 font (Courier, Arial or Times New Roman), with 1 inch margins on all sides, in which you explain your summer plans and how these funds will assist you, (2) a budget outlining your expenses, (3) one faculty letter of support, and (4) an unofficial copy of your transcript.

Please send application materials to: Marta Mikkelsen, Associate Director / REECAS Program, Box 353650 / Seattle, WA 98195.

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Budlong Research Fellowships

The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program and the Department of History would like to announce the annual Budlong Research Fellowship for exceptional REECAS and History graduate students to travel to Russia between June 2007 and May 2008. Priority will be given to those conducting research on topics in Russian history, but those interested in holding internships or participating in advanced Russian language training in an accredited program will also be considered.

Two awards of up to \$1000 will be offered towards airfare and/or lodging.

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 2, 2007

To apply: Submit the following required material: (1) a 2-page essay, double-spaced, 12 font (Courier, Arial or Times New Roman), with 1 inch margins on all sides, in which you explain your summer plans and how these funds will assist you, (2) a budget outlining your expenses, (3) one faculty letter of support, and (4) an unofficial copy of your transcript.

Please send application materials to: Marta Mikkelsen, Associate Director / REECAS Program, Box 353650 / Seattle, WA 98195.

The Eighth Annual Conference of the CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SOCIETY

OCTOBER 18–21, 2007 • UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

The Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) will hold its Eighth Annual Conference, to be hosted by University of Washington, Seattle, on October 18–21, 2007. The subject matter of the conference includes all fields of social sciences and humanities. For the purposes of the Central Eurasian Studies Society, the geographical extent of Central Eurasia reaches from the Caucasus, Black Sea and Middle Volga in the west to Tibet, Western China and Mongolia in the east, and from Iran and Afghanistan in the south to regions of Siberia in the north.

The contact person for local arrangements at University of Washington is Allison Dvaladze, Outreach Coordinator for the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, 203B Thompson Hall,

Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA, cess2007@u.washington.edu. For information related to the content of the program, please contact CESS, as indicated below.

Further Information and Submission of Proposals

A detailed Call for Submissions will be issued in November 2006. The deadline for submissions will be in April 2007. To have your email address included in the mailing of the Call for Submissions, send it with your full name to CESS@fas.harvard.edu, with the email subject line as "CESS Conference Mailing List."

The conference information and on-line submission of proposals will be available at: http://cess.fas.harvard.edu/CESS_Conference.html

Vladimir Gross Memorial Endowed Fund



It is with great honor that the Ellison Center would like to announce the Vladimir Gross Memorial Endowed Fund

to honor the legacy of Vladimir Gross, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, who taught Russian language at the UW for nearly four decades. Sadly, Professor Gross passed away on January 23, 2006. The endowment will provide support for undergraduate students interested in studying the Russian language, including those wanting to travel to Russia for language study. While preference will be given to undergraduates to study the Russian language, funds may also be used for undergraduate students to travel to Russia to study the country's history, literature or culture.

Vladimir Gross led a fascinating life. Born in Manchuria, China in 1933 to Russian parents, his family moved two years later to the Soviet Union. As a boy, Gross and his mother toiled for three years in a German labor camp before eventually making their way to Seattle in 1949, where Gross completed high school. He served in the United States Air Force from 1953 to 1957 before receiving his BA (1961) and MA (1964) from the University of Washington's Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. Due to the lack of teachers and increased student demand, he began teaching Russian as just a sophomore in 1959. He would continue to do so until retiring in 1995. Another course he taught, on Soviet Dissident Music and Russian Ballads, was particularly popular with Russian language students and enabled them to explore Russian culture, language and modern Soviet life through the context of music and song. Thank you to his family and friends for their support.

The following is an excerpt from the memorial page on the Slavic Languages and Literatures website. Please visit the site (<http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/>, link to Vladimir Gross under the faculty) for more such touching tributes to this wonderful teacher and person.

Nora Holdsworth, Senior Lecturer Emeritus, UW Slavic L&L writes:

When I came to the Slavic Department in the 1960s, Vladimir Gross was already there.

As I think of Volodya, it comes to my mind now that his persona was considerably bigger and more luminous in the eyes of those whom he was teaching than many of us realized during all those years that he was among us in the halls of the Slavic Department. Interestingly, it is from Volodya's former students who attended his memorial services and a reception following his burial, that I had an opportunity to learn something of special significance about Volodya which has considerably impressed me and has been on my mind since then.



What I learned from Volodya's grieving ex-students who came to pay their last respects to him, decades after they had graduated from the University, was how much more they had learned from Volodya than had been officially included in the syllabus... Into his communication with the students he

injected special warmth, a special humor, a spirit of generosity, as well as love for the Russian language and culture and a love of life itself. It was when observing the grief in the faces and voices of Volodya's former students, at least one of whom had traveled all the way across the country to attend his memorial service and his burial, that I realized what an inspiration Volodya had been to so many young people. What those mourning ex-students were expressing was their appreciation of human values that Volodya had instilled in them by his own example. He had made the Russian people and Russian culture so much more attractive to them by projecting his own generosity and kindness into his interactions with his students, even when supposedly chiding them during their inevitable slips with the language, and they hated to disappoint him. So, as a result, in regard to imparting the academic subject at hand, Volodya appears to have excelled more than many of us might have noticed back then.

What is more to the point and of definite significance here is that I was also pleasantly amazed to hear a number of Volodya's former students speak excellent, fluent Russian. Those students had never lost their zest for mastering the Russian language and for learning all that they could about the Russian people and Russian life. Some had held interesting jobs in Russia.

And now that he had left us, his former students let it be known to us just how much and in what important ways Volodya had contributed to their overall education. It was not just the academic material presented to his students, but his total persona that contributed to his success in teaching his students, a number of whom came to honor him at the end. ♦

The Ellison Center Welcomes Visiting Scholars

BY ELIZABETH MARTIN

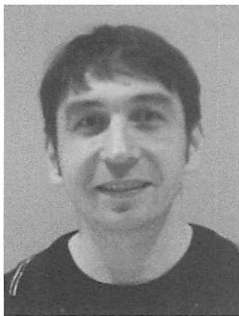


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SANOBAR KHOTAMOVA will be spending the year at UW as a Fulbright Scholar. After graduating from Bukhara State University in Uzbekistan in 1999 with a degree in English, Khotamova has served as an English teacher, an interpreter, Program Manager for Peace Corps Uzbekistan and even as manager of the Bukhara National Puppet Theater, which presented Uzbek traditions and

folklore for tourists. She feels that her experiences with the Peace Corps and the Puppet Theater have taught her some of the skills necessary to be a good teacher and she hopes her time here at UW will enable her to become an even better teacher in the future.

During her year at UW, Khotamova plans to take classes in American Literature, Writing and Drama. Additionally, she is working as a Teaching Assistant for Uzbek Language classes and she feels privileged to work with Prof. Ilse Cirtautas. "I see my country through her eyes," Khotamova said, "and she is teaching me to appreciate my country." Khotamova wants to learn new teaching methodologies while in the US, and when she returns to Uzbekistan she would like to hold teacher training classes to help other teachers learn how to use new technology and to develop their skills. "I don't want everything to stay with me." Khotamova enjoys meeting new people and she hopes to learn more about American culture and traditions while to sharing her culture with us.



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VLADIMIR MELNIKOV came to UW as a George F. Russell Fellow through the National Council of Eurasian and East European Research. Melnikov serves as Vice Director of the International Information Centre at the Tomsk State Pedagogical Institute in Tomsk, Russia where he works with foreign students, educational exchanges and various international projects. He is also an Assistant

Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages.

While at UW, Melnikov is studying education in multicultural settings and he plans to use the knowledge he gains to train

teachers and education professionals upon his return to Russia. He points out that, while America has had a lot of practice in dealing with the challenges of education in a multicultural setting, it is a relatively recent phenomenon for modern Russia. This is not, however, Melnikov's first experience in studying outside of his own culture; previously he spent substantial time studying in Germany. He is excited about the chance to make use of UW's extensive libraries and expressed wonder at the fact that he can even access Russian newspapers from decades ago on microfilm. Melnikov says that he has found everyone here to be very helpful and he would like to thank the staff of the Ellison Center for all their assistance.



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TATIANA PAVLOVA also joins UW as a Russell Fellow with the topic "National Identity and Borderline Regions: Belarus and Ukraine." Pavlova is a lecturer in International Law at the Belarusian Institute of Jurisprudence and Belarusian State University in Minsk, Belarus. Her professional interests include History of State and Law, History of International Relations and Foreign Policy.

Pavlova is spending her time at UW studying Political Science, focusing on nationalism and national identity. She believes that understanding national background is important for a nation's future development and she is interested in how national identity influences culture and politics. During her time here she intends to observe the "inside life of a US university" by taking part in various academic and cultural activities and spending time at the Intramural Activities Building. She hopes to develop a dialog with students, staff and faculty, and to incorporate her new experiences into her professional career.



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ALA SVET, another of this year's Russell Fellows, is a PhD student in International Relations at the State University of Moldova. In addition to completing her own studies, she is a lecturer in Geopolitics and International Relations at the Free International University of Moldova, from which she obtained her MA in 2003. She also participates frequently in various conferences and seminars

in order to keep abreast of the latest scholarship in her field.

Svet's research at UW focuses on the Russian minority in Moldova and she hopes to use observations of US solutions to

minority issues to enrich her teaching. She states that few Russian-speaking students in Moldova take the time to learn Romanian, creating something of a social gap. In the future, she would like to see a more integrated relationship among students in Moldova. Svet was pleased to find that she has access, through UW's libraries, to information on Moldova that is not available back home and she was excited by the many resources available, including a vast array of electronic journals. She expressed surprise at the beauty of the campus and the huge variety of activities easily accessible to American college students, from sports to shopping. She says that people here have made her feel very welcome on her first visit to the US and she would also like to thank the staff of the Ellison Center for their help.

ELLISON CENTER NEWS

OSCAR J. BANDELIN (REECAS MA 1993, History PhD 1998) spent the last year and a half working with Professor Herbert Ellison on his new book *Boris Yeltsin and Russia's Democratic Transformation*. Bandelin helped research and edit the text and to prepare it for publication through the University of Washington Press. This summer he worked on copyediting and indexing **T. DAVID CURP's** (History PhD 1998) *A Clean Sweep? The Politics of Ethnic Cleansing in Western Poland, 1945–1960* (University of Rochester Press, 2006). Bandelin published his own book *Return to the NEP: The False Promise of Leninism and the Failure of Perestroika* (Praeger) in 2002.

JOSH DEAN (REECAS MA 2006) began University of California Santa Barbara's Political Science PhD program.

AMY FREDERICK (REECAS MA 2003) has taken a position as Tour Specialist for Group Journeys at MIR Corporation. MIR Corporation is a tour company based out of Seattle offering tours to East Europe, Central Asia, Russia, the Silk Route and China.

ALI IGMEN received a tenure-track position at California State University at

Long Beach teaching Central Asian History. **ANDREW JENKS** also received a position there teaching Russian/Soviet History.

JASON C. JARRELL (REECAS MA/Evans School MPA 2006) is currently in Moscow, Russia as part of the year-long Alfa Bank Fellowship Program. As part of the fellowship, Jason is currently completing a four-month research and studies component at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow and is beginning his progressional assignment in the international affairs division of TNK-BP, a major Russian oil and gas company.

FREDERICK LORENZ spent this past June and July in Tbilisi, Georgia on an assignment for the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG). The project, funded by the US Agency for International Development, was to assist the Georgian government in peace negotiations with the self-proclaimed Republic of Abkhazia. Georgia has not controlled Abkhazia since the breakup of the Soviet Union; the Russian Federation incorporated Abkhazia into its own sphere of influence, even issuing Russian passports to residents. During the civil war of 1992–1993, more than 250,000 ethnic Georgians were “cleansed” from Abkhazia. Lorenz mission was to support

the return of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) and to help the government develop an action plan that will ultimately lead to a peaceful and comprehensive settlement.

Lorenz spent the end of July working in Skopje, Macedonia on another assignment for PILPG — a project to help the Kosovars draft their first constitution. This time funding was provided by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Kosovo. A three-day training session was held to assist the legislators of Kosovo, who are not as far along drafting their constitution as they should be.

JOHN MASON (REECAS MA 2006) has started a PhD program in History at University of California Santa Barbara. This spring, he won the Waugh Thesis Prize for best thesis in the REECAS program. His thesis also was the University of Washington nominee for the 2006–07 Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) and University Microfilms International (UMI) Distinguished Master's Thesis Award competition. Each member institution may submit only one nomination for the award. This award recognizes distinguished scholarly achievement at the master's level. The 2006–07 award consists of a certificate of award, \$1000 to the recipient and

continued on page 22

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travel expenses for the student and the student's adviser to receive the award at the annual meeting of the Association in Portland, Oregon in March 2007.

VJERAN PAVLAKOVIC is currently in Croatia on a National Endowment for Humanities scholarship working on his project "Red Stars, Black Shirts: The Clash of Political Symbols and Memory in Contemporary Croatia." He is looking at how commemorations, monuments and symbols from World War II impact the current political scene. Especially important is how these seemingly outdated symbols have had a resurgence during crises related to Croatian cooperation with the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, and how they obstruct postwar reconciliation between Serbs and Croats. Additionally, he is observing commemorations about the conflict of the 1990s, and how the political elite use them to construct a historical narrative which is contested by the history being written in the neighboring states or in The Hague through indictments of Croatian generals. For example, the Serbian perspective on Operation Storm (1995) that resulted in the exodus of a large number of Croatian Serbs focuses exclusively on their victimization, whereas the Croatian view is that it was a completely legitimate military operation without the intent of ethnic cleansing.

STEVEN PFAFF, Associate Professor of Sociology, has released a new book: *Exit-Voice Dynamics and the Collapse of East Germany: The Crisis of Leninism and the Revolution of 1989* (Duke University Press).

In the 2005–06 academic year, **SARAH STEIN** taught "History: Holocaust and Memory" to 200 students and led a graduate seminar on European Jewish history. She delivered scholarly lectures at Stanford University, the University of California, Los Angeles and University College, London and, locally, to the Secular Jewish Circle of Puget Sound. Recent work by Professor Stein has been published in *Pe'amim: Studies in the*

Cultural Heritage of Oriental Jewry, *AJS Perspectives* and *Jewish Quarterly Review*. She is currently working on a book manuscript entitled *Falling into Feathers: A History of Jews and Modern Global Commerce*. Articles from this project will appear in forthcoming issues of *The Journal of Modern History* and *Jewish Social Studies*. During the 2006–07 academic year, Professor Stein will continue work on this project with the support of a Charles Ryskamp Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies and during a one quarter sabbatical. Her award-winning book of 2004, *Making Jews Modern: The Yiddish and Ladino Press in the Russian and Ottoman Empires* (Indiana University Press) was just released in paperback.

This past April, the University of Washington Tacoma received a generous donation of \$750 from the Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors to go toward the cost of the reception following the REECAS Northwest Conference: Occupation and Revolution in Eurasia's Borderlands. We appreciate their support!

GLENNYS YOUNG's essay, "Fetishizing the Soviet Collapse: Historical Rupture and the Historiography of (Early) Soviet Socialism" will be published in the April 2007 issue of *Russian Review*. It is drawn from her current book project, *Writing the Soviet Project: Refashioning the History of the Soviet Union?*

Coming to a Screen on Your Desk: The Heritage of Russian Architecture

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded to the University of Washington Libraries a grant of \$325,000 to fund the creation of a digital archive and website for the William C. Brumfield collection of photographs of Russian architecture. Professor Brumfield, of Tulane University, began photographing Russian buildings in the early 1970s, and has since become an internationally renowned authority on Russian architecture. His photographic collection is one of the most extensive visual records of architecture in Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union, and its more than 110,000 images include color transparencies and black-and-white photographs of religious and secular structures from the early eleventh century to the present. The aim of the project is to make high-resolution archival scans of about 30,000 photographs from the Brumfield Collection, and make smaller versions available on a website, where they can be searched and displayed in the context of a scalable map of the Russian Federation, along with full descriptions of the architectural objects they represent.

The project began five years ago, when Dr. Michael Biggins and Professor James West were developing the Central Eurasian Information Resource, a collection of digital information sources covering the Russian, East European and Central Asian area, funded by a new Title VI grant program created to develop this increasingly important type of information source in foreign area studies. An approach to Professor Brumfield resonated immediately with his growing sense of the need to preserve his collection of fragile slides from physical deterioration, and negotiations began. A modest grant from the Delmas Foundation made possible a pilot project based on about 1,200 photographs (available at <http://depts.washington.edu/ceir/brumfield>), which in its turn was instrumental in securing the grant just awarded by the Reference Materials Program of the NEH.

The project involves collaboration between academic researchers, librarians and technical specialists, most of them with skills that straddle different areas of expertise. The team includes Diana Brooking, the Slavic Cataloging Librarian, and Eileen Llona, Technical Librarian and digital mapping expert. By the summer of 2008, with 30,000 images scanned and catalogued, the Brumfield Collection online database will have enormous value for anyone with a serious interest in Russia — researchers, students, teachers, the architectural profession, conservation specialists and the public at large. It will make possible a kind of "virtual travel" to remote corners of Russia, including some where very few westerners have received permission to take photographs. It will bring to life an aspect of Russian culture that is little known by reason of its inaccessibility even to most Russians, and is in danger of being lost to disrepair and demolition before many people have a chance to discover it.



CAMPAIGN UW: CREATING FUTURES

The Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies at UW is one of the oldest and most prestigious programs of its kind in the country, promoting in-depth interdisciplinary study of all major post-communist regions.

Help us sustain the excellence of the Ellison Center by making a gift today! Your gift can help create futures by supporting students, providing outreach to the community, rewarding excellence in teaching and research and offering other Ellison Center activities.

Thank you for your support.

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- The **Ellison Endowment** to increase outreach, to offer new courses and to pursue other new initiatives.
- The **Titus Ellison Endowment** to grant graduate student fellowships.
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- The **Stewart Parker Fellowship** to sponsor graduate student travel to Slavic-speaking countries.
- The **Imre Boba Fellowship** to fund graduate student travel to Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

To give on-line, please visit our website <http://jsis.washington.edu/ellison> and link to Giving. Check the Ellison Center Endowment box or the Vladimir Gross Endowment box and complete the on-line form.

Thank you for supporting the Ellison Center! Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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UPCOMING ELLISON CENTER EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1–28: Exhibition: The Art of Soviet-era Movie Posters

An exhibition featuring reproductions of Soviet-era movie posters and text by Professor Jose Alaniz. Suzzallo Café. See page 4 for more information.

FEBRUARY 7: Curriculum Presentation: Newspapers in Education Asia Series 2007

A Seattle Times and Jackson School series featuring articles on East, South, Southeast and Central Asian societies geared for the middle-school level. Seattle Times Auditorium, 4:30–8:00 pm.

MARCH 17: Mosaics

“Folk Traditions and Handicrafts from Around the Globe” An annual event for K-8 educators with break-out sessions featuring hands-on arts and crafts ideas from around the world for use in the classroom. Thomson Hall, 9:00 am–4:30 pm.

APRIL 4: Jackson School Extensions Program Series: Hot Spots in Our World

“The Afghan Legal Educators Program: Challenges of Legal Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Setting.” Jonathan A. Eddy,

Professor of Law, UW and Clark Lombardi, Assistant Professor of Law, UW. See page 5 for more information.

APRIL 14: 13th Annual REECAS-NW Conference at the University of Washington, Seattle

“From the Cold War to Post-Communism: Sixty Years of REECAS (1947-2007)” From 9:00 am- 6:00 pm. See page 3 for more information.

MAY 7: The Donald Treadgold Memorial Lecture

“The Reinvention of Russian Imperialism: Russia’s Emerging Reputation as Economic Empire.” Dr. Mark Beissinger, Professor of Politics at Princeton University. Location TBA, 3:30 pm. A reception will follow.

OCTOBER 18–21: 8th Annual Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference at the University of Washington, Seattle

Conference at UW, Seattle, WA. See page 18 for more information.

For more information on these and other events, go to the Ellison Center website: <http://jsis.washington.edu/ellison>.



REECAS NEWSLETTER

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