

# REECAS NEWSLETTER

JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

## Letter from the Director

BY STEPHEN E. HANSON

The 2008–09 academic year marks the centennial of the Jackson School of International Studies and of several UW departments with which the Ellison Center collaborates closely, including the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Department of Scandinavian Studies. It is an honor to be part of a century of deep engagement with global scholarship at the University of Washington. Indeed, since Russia figured prominently at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition along what is now Rainier Vista on the UW campus, Slavic and Eurasian studies have been at the very core of this institution's approach to the study of global affairs.

We will celebrate this heritage at our annual Donald W. Treadgold Lecture on April 20th with a lecture by Professor Marjorie Balzer of Georgetown University entitled "Warning of Global Warming? The Intertwined Nature of Ecological, Cultural and Political Change in Siberia's Far East." This annual lecture, which celebrates Don Treadgold's unparalleled contributions to the field of Russian studies, will be even more meaningful this year, as it will be the first Treadgold Lecture since Don's widow Alva passed away in August. Alva touched the lives of so many REECAS

faculty and students, and we will miss her terribly. We are deeply grateful to Alva, her family, and all those who have honored her memory by contributing as she requested to support future publications of the Donald W. Treadgold Studies on Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, edited by Professor Glennys Young and published in collaboration with the University of Washington Press. The outpouring of support for the Treadgold Studies has been so overwhelming that we are hoping to establish an endowment to ensure that the series will continue in perpetuity. Please let us know if you can help us realize this goal.

We kicked off the Jackson School's centennial year with a fascinating series of lectures and discussions with the former US Ambassador to Russia James Collins and his wife, the author and scholar Naomi Collins. Ambassador Collins's evening



Former US Ambassador to Russia, James Collins, converses with Ellison Center Director, Stephen Hanson.

keynote lecture, "Russian-American Relations: Challenges for the New American Administration," outlined the most important obstacles and opportunities ahead in US–Russian bilateral relations after the 2008 elections, inspiring an enlightening and informative discussion with members of the audience. Naomi Collins joined her husband the following morning for a 90-minute informal discussion with REECAS

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program faculty and students, followed by a joint talk to business and community leaders in downtown Seattle sponsored by the Foundation for Russian-American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC). All three events were well attended and very well received. We thank the Collinses for their generosity in agreeing to meet with so many of us during their visit to Seattle.

Our program in Central European studies also remains vibrant. Well-known Polish democratic activist Adam Michnik joined us in the spring to give a public lecture and to participate in a high-profile conference on European Union Enlargement to the East, co-organized with the Center for West European Studies (CWES) and the European Union Center of Excellence. In late May, the Ellison Center co-sponsored the second biannual conference on Energy, Environment, and Globalization held at the Warsaw School of Economics. This successful gathering was attended by dozens of scientists and scholars from around the world. The UW was represented by conference co-organizer Włodzimierz Kaczmarski, Professor Zbigniew Bochniarz of the Evans School of Public Affairs and me. We are grateful to our conference hosts at the Warsaw School of Economics, and especially to President Adam Budnikowski and Professor Maciej Cygler, who showed

us such warm and generous hospitality during our stay in Poland. Additionally, along with the Slavic Department, we are thrilled to host this year's Polish Fulbright Visiting Lecturer Przemyslaw Chojnowski, Assistant Professor from the University of Poznan (Department of Polish Philology). The Polish Fulbright Association has generously agreed to fund another Fulbright Visiting Lecturer specializing on Polish culture for the 2009–10 academic year, for which we are truly indebted! Finally, on October 1, thanks to support from CWES as well as REECAS, a number of our faculty had the opportunity to hear a speech over breakfast by Czech President Vaclav Klaus at the Seattle World Affairs Council.

Our Central Asian Studies program, as always, has planned another year of exciting lectures and events. In August and September, a large delegation of Seattle citizens and UW faculty celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Association in Tashkent. The Central Asian Studies Group weekly lecture series got off to a wonderful start, with talks by recent UW PhD Elmira Kochumkulova about the Agha Khan's University of Central Asia, where she now holds an academic position, by visiting Fulbright Teaching Assistant Nargiza Akramova about "Uzbekistan's Ferghana

Valley: From a Native's Perspective," and by several UW faculty and graduate students who have recently visited Central Asia, including Ilse Cirtautas, Florian Schwarz, and Katherine Kostiuik. We also recently learned that the First President Foundation of Kazakhstan has agreed to provide us with funds to hire a new lecturer specializing in the language, literature, and culture of Kazakhstan. We are

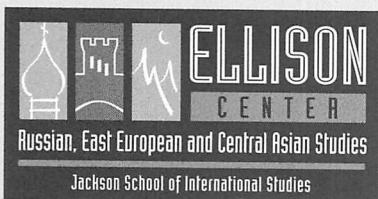
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The success of the Ellison Center is a testament to the incredible scholars, students, administrators, staff and members of the community who have contributed so much of their time and energy to making our program one of the very finest in the world — and to Herb Ellison, whose exemplary scholarship and institutional vision continues to inspire us.

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very honored to accept this generous offer of support!

Since I wrote my last letter in fall 2007, the REECAS program has been further bolstered by the addition of Professor Yong Chool-Ha, whom we lured away



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from Seoul National University to join the Jackson School as the new Korea Foundation Professor in Korean Studies. Professor Ha is perhaps the leading Russia specialist in South Korean academia, as well as an outstanding expert on comparative politics and development, and we are simply overjoyed to have him on our faculty. We are also happy to host the latest group of Russell Fellows sponsored by the National Council of East European and Central Asian Research (NCEEER): Nikita Nikitin, Ekaterina Pogorelova, and Lilit Vasilyan. Sadly, we must say goodbye to historian Sarah Stein, who is leaving the UW to accept an endowed professorship at UCLA. Please come back to visit us as often as you can!

It is with some regret that I report that this will be my ninth and final year as Director of the Ellison Center and the REECAS Program. After nearly a decade in my current role, I have decided the time has come for me to try out other career options, and to pass the baton to a new leader with a fresh perspective. I am confident that this is the right time to do so, since the Ellison Center has never been in a stronger position that it is at present. Our amazing staff — Associate Director Marta Mikkelsen, Assistant Director for Outreach Allison Dvaladze, Program Coordinator Carrie O'Donoghue, and graduate student interns Julia Hon, Miriam Counterman, Chad Close and Natalia Martinez-Paz — have been running every-

thing so smoothly that the succession will hardly be noticed.

The success of the Ellison Center is a testament to the incredible scholars, students, administrators, staff and members of the community who have contributed so much of their time and energy to making our program one of the very finest in the world — and to Herb Ellison, whose exemplary scholarship and institutional vision continues to inspire us. Working with you all has truly been the highlight of my professional life, and I cannot thank you enough for your support, collaboration and friendship. ♦

## Twentieth Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium Held at UW

BY KATHERINE KOSTIUK

On May 10, scholars once again gathered at the University of Washington to take part in the annual Poppe Symposium on Inner and Central Asian Studies. The day brought together experts to share their research, to honor outstanding work in the field and to announce new projects related to the region. The topics of the day's ten lectures included linguistics, architecture and social welfare systems, among many others.

The symposium is named for Nicholas Poppe, a respected professor and scholar of Mongolia at UW's Far East and Russian Institute, who passed away in 1991 at the age of 94. The symposium began with a welcome address and reflection on Poppe's life, presented by UW Professor Ilse Cirtautas. Retired professor Henry G. Schwarz of Western Washington University also spoke on Poppe before presenting his own lecture, "Whither Mongolian Studies?" Schwarz noted that interest in Mongolian studies has grown in recent years, but the need for more scholarship continues.

The theme then shifted to linguistics with "On Altaic Case Forms" by UW Pro-

fessor Hamit Zakir, a lecture that brought together an article by Poppe with new observations about the case category "-ki" in Turkic languages. Anthropologist Penglin Wang of Central Washington University followed with a presentation linking the Altaic word for "10,000" (*tumen*) with the notion of "fog" (*tumon*) in the Sariqul dialect of Tajik. The morning session concluded with the awarding of this year's Nicholas Poppe/Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Association Prize for Best Student in First-Year Uzbek to Katherine Kostiuk, a first-year REECAS Master's student.

A pair of lectures touching on art and culture began the afternoon. The audience first heard Professor Cirtautas speak about the use of literature in Central Asian cultures to teach traditional values and norms of conduct to younger generations. The UW Architecture Department's Mamoun Sakkal then discussed the artistry of the Square Kufic calligraphy found on inscriptions on tombstones of the Shah-i-Zinda holy site in Uzbekistan. Another notable lecture of the afternoon was given by Erica Johnson, a PhD student in the UW Political

Science Department, who focused on state welfare strategies in Central Asia.

Attendees were then treated to the "first screening outside of Mongolia" of *The Gazelle's Story*, a film about the Mongolian writer and political figure Ochirbatyn Dashbalbar, introduced by Simon Wickham-Smith, a translator and scholar of Mongolian literature.

Finally, two informative presentations announced new efforts to improve scholarship and to help people in the region. Wickham-Smith was joined by Stefan Kamola and Jonathan Way to launch a new website called "Center for Central Asian Literatures in Translation." Scholars and translators were encouraged to contribute to the site, found at <http://depts.washington.edu/ccalt>. Irene McManman, a PhD student in the UW Department of Slavic Language and Literature, then discussed Altai Mir University ([www.altaimir.org](http://www.altaimir.org)), a new Altai-Seattle link created by a local artist to support the people of the region.

Professor Cirtautas concluded the symposium by sharing memories of Poppe and words of encouragement for the future of Inner and Central Asian studies. ♦

## Summer Interrupted: On the Ground in Georgia

BY ALLISON DVALADZE

Several dozen loaves of bread lay piled between sheets of old plastic on the floor of Maia Mutatishvili's makeshift office in the abandoned Isani hospital, home to roughly 900 men, women and children displaced by the August war in Georgia. Just 22 years old, Maia was the self-appointed coordinator for the hundreds of people seeking shelter in this dilapidated building. Only two of the nine floors had electricity, and cooking facilities were equally deficient. Long out of use, the hospital, like the many other neglected structures throughout the city brimming with the displaced, was not fit for habitation.

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Some [IDPs] moved in with friends or family, others into schools, still others into abandoned and condemned buildings. In a matter of days, over 600 collection centers in the capital were overflowing with people.

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"It was pure chaos when we arrived. Someone had to do something," Maia told us, explaining how she came to hold her new position. She and her mother left their home in Eredvi, a village in the Liakhvi Gorge east of Tskhinvali, on the evening of August 8, traveling 40 kilometers on foot through yards and fields for nine hours to reach Gori. When her father fled 6 days later, Russian forces already controlled the central Georgian city of Gori, just 30 kilometers from the capital. They had shut down Georgia's main east-west highway, forcing him to cross to the north and to travel further through the mountainous terrain. The roads were too dangerous, she explained. Fleeing residents feared both the advancing militia as well as land mines left behind by the retreating Georgian forces. According to analysis of satellite images, 94% of the buildings in Eredvi and two neighboring villages were destroyed between August 10 and 19, after major military action had ceased.<sup>1</sup> Other Georgian villages within the administrative borders

of South Ossetia (Samochablo)<sup>2</sup> and the Russian-occupied 26-kilometer wide "buffer zone" suffered a similar fate, though some to a lesser degree.

Like thousands of other internally displaced persons (IDPs), they arrived in Tbilisi with only what they could carry, and camped outside government offices pleading for shelter. Some moved in with friends or family, others into schools, still others into abandoned and condemned buildings. In a matter of days, over 600 collection centers in the capital were overflowing with people.<sup>3</sup> The greatest concentration was in Tbilisi, where 86,000 of the 127,000 displaced sought refuge.<sup>4</sup> The fortunate found themselves in small neighborhood kindergartens where neighbors shared their food, bedding and clothes. The less fortunate made do with tents or windowless buildings lacking proper facilities. Some sheltered as many as 1200 people, too overwhelming for a neighbor or Good Samaritan to tackle. The international humanitarian relief corps mobilized immediately with planes, ships and trucks arriving daily, yet access remained a key issue affecting humanitarian operations.<sup>5</sup>

Everyone had a story of panic, flight and uncertainty. A friend showed the bullet holes in his BMW and told of the rain of bullets that just missed his wife and child. Another recalled seeing white planes, bombers, flying silently above before feeling the explosion and being thrown to the ground with a wave of heat and debris. They feared for those left behind and were heartbroken about their future. "Russia began evacuating our Ossetian neighbors a month ago," cried one woman, "why couldn't our government have done the same?" Others criticized the Saakashvili government for not providing transportation to refugees who made it out of the conflict zone on foot, but still had another 30 kilometers to reach Tbilisi.

On the street, Georgians spoke of the inevitability of this latest incursion on their sovereignty in their invasion-laden history. Toasts around the *supra* table weighed heavily on the subject of the



Allison Dvaladze with her son Niko, 5-month old Ia and her mother at School #11. Ia's father is a police officer in a village in South Ossetia.

motherland, the heroic Georgian warrior, and those who had given their lives for their country.<sup>6</sup> Accounts spread from table to table about the fearless Georgian forces and their valiant effort against the northern aggressor, 30 times their size, all the while spinning the fabric of new legends. BBC correspondent Jenny Norton summed it up well: "In a region where ancient feuds shape current events, half-truths from one conflict all too quickly become the myths that fuel the next cycle of violence."<sup>7</sup>

But among those who had borne the greatest burden or paid with their homes, there was a different sentiment, one flavored with a heavier dose of sober resentment. While most offered little more than a shake of the head, some were less restrained. One woman blamed the crisis on the Saakashvili government's 2004 closure of the Ergneti market, a trading center outside Tskhinvali rich in contraband from Russia. The Georgian budget lost revenue from the untaxed trade, and the government argued that it bolstered criminal activity in the break-away region. For 12 years following the 1992 cease-fire, Ossetians and Georgians coexisted in a patchwork of villages alternately controlled by Georgian and separatist forces. The status quo, characterized by political stalemate and economic stagnation, held until the 2004 election of President Saakashvili, who vowed an end to the lawlessness and the return of the rebel

regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia to Tbilisi's control. Others blamed the recognition of Kosovo's independence.

Working from several tattered sheets of paper, Maia tracked who was living in the hospital, who had left, what they needed, who came to visit and what they brought. The fluidity of the situation proved challenging to aid organizations as well, as they attempted to conduct needs assessments, to distribute aid and to provide services. New arrivals came daily as more villages became unsafe, hosting fatigue set in and shelters were emptied so school could begin. Others returned to their homes or new tent camps in Gori once the Russians started to pull back.

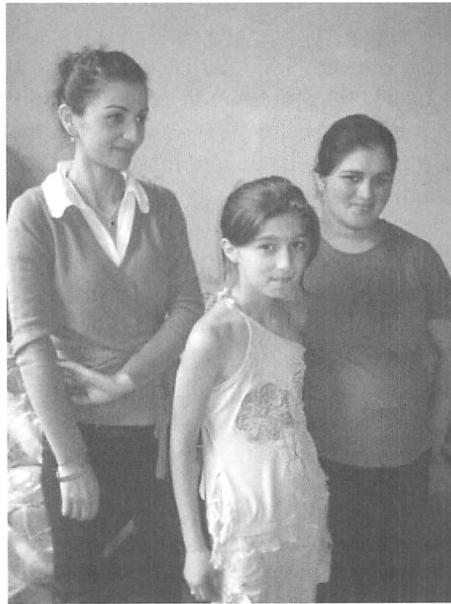
At our home on Bainbridge Island, my husband and I had rushed to prepare for our trip late in the evening of August 18, packing everything we could fit that might be of use to those who had lost their homes: baby clothes, maternity wear, soap, children's toys and more. We had made the final decision to go forward with our trip just that afternoon, and it was not made lightly. Originally, we were to lead a group of UW students on a one month Exploration Seminar entitled, *Golden Fleece, Panther Pelt, Rose Revolution: Under the Skin of Today's Georgia*, examining Georgia's role at the crossroads of history, but the war forced its cancellation. We were torn, but felt a commitment to be with family and friends, and especially Niko's grandparents, who were waiting to meet their first grandson.

The six-point cease-fire agreement remained in jeopardy on August 18th, as Russia dragged its feet and its troops remained deep inside Georgia's borders. We had spent the preceding 10 days and nights following the situation and communicating with family and friends in Tbilisi. Phone lines overloaded and many websites were shut down or crashed, but Skype continued to work, which my husband used to communicate with his parents in Tbilisi. Our trip hung in the air up to the very last hours. And then, on August 19th, we boarded our flight, physically and emotionally exhausted, but Tbilisi-bound.

We arrived in the early evening, peering through the window at the shiny new international airport. Soon, we were en-

veloped in the humid August heat and the arms of family and friends, and we knew we had made the right decision. Now we wanted to find a way to make use of our time.

Originally from Gagra in Abkhazia, my husband and his family knew firsthand what it was like to flee one's home and fear for family and friends left behind while heading into uncertainty. My husband was just a teenager when he, his mother and two sisters left the breakfast table with only their school bags and fled on October 2, 1992. Sixteen years later, they are no closer to returning home and watched with trepidation as a wave of over 100,000 new IDPs joined the 200,000-plus already displaced in their country of 4.5 million. While Georgia has made great strides since the 2003 Rose Revolution, it was in no condition to absorb additional displaced families.



Maia Mutatishvili in her makeshift office with Nana, whose baby was due any day, and her daughter.

Having just welcomed our first child, Niko, in a pretty perfect environment, our hearts ached for the displaced women, pregnant and with infants, so we decided to focus our time and meager resources on them. We were in no way alone; all around us Georgians and expatriates were sharing what they had or joining the efforts of international aid organizations to distribute food and bedding. The country remained

divided by Russian troops occupying Gori and the main east-west highway cutting off Tbilisi from the Black Sea ports and supply routes. When we arrived, no one knew how long the blockade would last or when food supplies might become scarce; it was already challenging to find some items. Then, on August 22, Russian troops pulled out of Gori and the road reopened.

We were in the market when Marina from *bagabaghi* (kindergarten) #33 called. She was sheltering a woman who needed medication and infants in need of formula. When we arrived, children played on old teeter-totters under the grape vines in the sweltering heat. A pile of donated clothing clogged the entrance alongside a line of men passing boxes of US-donated meals-ready-to-eat (MREs). Baby Giorgi was three months older than my own son, but Niko was much fuller, and I felt a sense of uneasiness at my own good fortune. The regional government had made one distribution of formula, but it was only enough for a few days and Giorgi was losing weight.

Our own efforts became more efficient as the days passed. We met with other individuals heading up similar private efforts and exchanged notes and spreadsheets to ensure we were not duplicating efforts. Family and friends at home who wanted to help deposited checks in our bank account and we tracked how much formula, medicine or diapers we purchased and for whom. We found pharmacies that accepted credit cards and started charging. Our phone number was passed around, calls came in, and we would visit the shelter to meet the infants and to find out what they needed most. We focused our help on only a dozen infants, visiting regularly and exchanging photos. Again and again, we met women who had stepped up to manage these new communities. Often they were IDPs themselves, but in some cases they were the head of the school or manager of the building or older IDPs.

According to international news reports, aid shipments included baby food and diapers, so on each visit we asked the mothers if they had received any such supplies. Only three mothers had received any formula, and it came only once at the end of August. Providing assistance is a daunt-

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Nine apartment complexes near a Georgian military base in Gori were destroyed. When we visited on September 7, repair efforts were well underway.

ing and complex process, and according to USAID, its humanitarian partners reported that “low-priority commodities, such as baby bottles, baby formula, perishable food and paper goods, could present logistical difficulties by straining the capacity of NGOs to deliver appropriate assistance.”<sup>8</sup>

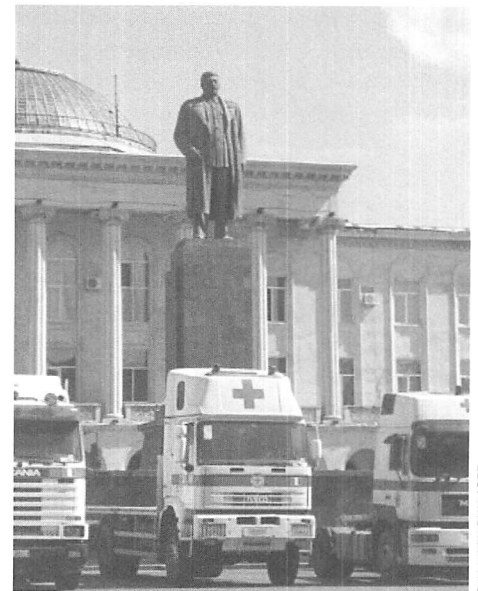
The days passed quickly and life paused for no one. For those not displaced, it was essentially life as usual. Fashionably-dressed urbanites sipped Turkish coffee and smoked cigarettes at cafes on Shardeni Street, the art market vendors awaited the completion of their renovated park, and deep into September joy-seekers still rode the waterslides at EuroPark. The battle was over, but as everyone noted, “the war over the war” would continue. Propaganda machines had been working overtime creating their own casualties, real and virtual. Journalists and youth had ventured into places they did not belong and had been killed, wounded or taken captive. Being closer to the conflict did not bring increased clarity to the events, but it did illuminate the tragedies and complexities. Relations between families and friends on opposing sides had been strained over the actions of their leaders, and for the first time in many years, our region reminded the world that it is not to be ignored and its challenges are real.

The road ahead is rough and uncertain, yet despite global economic woes, 38 countries and 15 international organizations have pledged \$4.5 billion to Georgia over the coming three years. The pledge includes \$450 million for urgent social needs, \$586 million to offset the budget shortfall and \$850 million for commercial banks and a total of \$2.65 billion for “core investments” or transportation, energy and municipal infrastructure.<sup>9</sup> If and when the money comes, the Georgian government will face a new test of accountability. Already, Transparency International (TI)-Georgia and other civic groups are criticizing the government for its opaque decision-making process and what they see as a failure to prioritize humanitarian support. Tamuna Karosanidze, Executive Director of TI-Georgia warned, “Aid given behind closed doors lacks accountability to the taxpayers of donor nations as much as to the citizens of Georgia. The lack of transparency in giving this aid makes it less likely that money will reach those most in need.”<sup>10</sup> Winter is coming, and at least 54,000 people are in need of suitable winterized shelter.<sup>11</sup> In the meantime, actions must be taken to prevent host communities, especially at-risk populations and older IDPs, from feeling abandoned. Those who have been able to return to their homes in damaged villages fear for their livelihood as agricultural activities and irrigation has been disrupted. As they face the challenges ahead, they too will be looking to see how the aid is used. This is something the Georgian government must not forget. ♦

**Allison Dvaladze is Assistant Director for Outreach at the Ellison Center. Allison lived in Tbilisi for four years between 1999 and 2004, where she worked in civil society development and media. She spent five weeks in Georgia this summer with her husband, Luka, and son, Niko.**

- 1 UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) analysis of Ikonos & WorldView-1 satellite images [www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/CJCN-7KGQX6?OpenDocument](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/CJCN-7KGQX6?OpenDocument)
- 2 Samochablo is the historical Georgian name for the region of South Ossetia, it is also referred to as Tskhinvali Region.
- 3 UNHCR Daily Report for August 19, 2008 [www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opedoc.pdf?tbl=NEWS&id=48b2ae6b4](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opedoc.pdf?tbl=NEWS&id=48b2ae6b4)

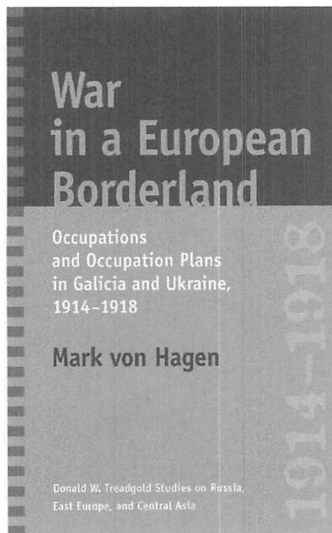
- 4 Five Challenging Weeks: UNHCRs Response to Humanitarian Crisis in Georgia – 8 August to 13 September, 2008. [www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opedoc.pdf?tbl=NEWS&id=48e0cf6a2](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opedoc.pdf?tbl=NEWS&id=48e0cf6a2)
- 5 United Nations and World Bank. Georgia: Summary of Joint Needs Assessment Findings Prepared for the Donors' Conference of October 22, 2008 in Brussels.
- 6 The most recent independent estimates indicate that 300 persons were killed and approximately 500 were wounded on the South Ossetian and Russian sides, 364 persons were killed and 2,234 were wounded on the Georgian side. <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta08/ERES1633.htm>
- 7 Jenny Norton, 'Ossetian Crisis: Who started it?', BBC, 19 August 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7571096.stm>.
- 8 USAID Georgia Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #7 – 20 August 2008. [www.usaid.gov/locations/europe\\_eurasia/countries/ge/ce/documents/082008georgiace\\_fs07.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/countries/ge/ce/documents/082008georgiace_fs07.pdf)
- 9 Joint World Bank – European Commission Press Release. Brussels, October 22, 2008
- 10 Transparency International Georgia Press Release, October 21, 2008. [www.ti.itdc.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=GE0&sec\\_id=50050&lang\\_id=ENG](http://www.ti.itdc.ge/index.php?lang_id=GE0&sec_id=50050&lang_id=ENG)
- 11 A total of 163,000 people were displaced due to the conflict. Of that number, 127,000 were displaced in Georgia, and 36,000 displaced in the Russian Federation. Many of those in the Russian Federation have returned to their homes, and 68,000 of those displaced in Georgia have returned. Another 5,000 will hopefully return home before winter, leaving 54,000 people displaced and homeless. UNHCR Emergency Operation in Georgia, 12 September 2008. [www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opedoc.pdf?tbl=NEWS&id=48ca83734](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opedoc.pdf?tbl=NEWS&id=48ca83734)



Italian aid trucks parked under a statue of Stalin in his hometown of Gori.

## DONALD W. TREADGOLD STUDIES

PUBLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH **UW PRESS**

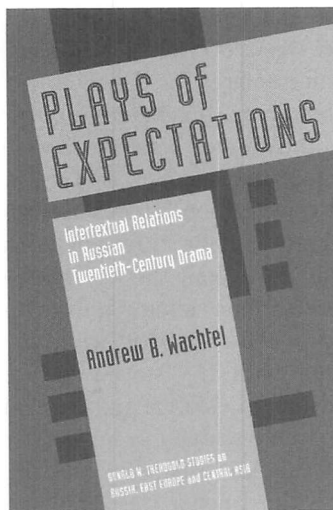


MARK VON HAGEN – *published 2007*

**War in a European Borderland: Occupations and Occupation Plans in Galicia and Ukraine, 1914–1918**

*War in a European Borderland* examines the many regime changes that took place in occupied Ukraine during World War I. The decimation of people living between Austria-Hungary and the Russian empire — specifically Poles, Jews, Ukrainians, Belorussians and the population of the Baltic states — extended to the destruction of their homeland as well, where most of the fighting occurred. Mark von Hagen looks at the main occupations of Galicia and Bukovyna between 1914 and 1918 and traces the similarities among the various occupying forces as well as the important differences that shaped the individual regimes. *War in a European Borderland* provides vital historical background to current events in Ukraine, and offers lessons on the problems faced by occupying powers. Further, the problems of the past remain sadly relevant for occupied civilian populations today.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS, ISBN 0-295-98753-7, \$22.50



ANDREW B. WACHTEL – *published 2006*

**Plays of Expectations: Intertextual Relations in Russian Twentieth-Century Drama**

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# A Taste of the Caucasus

BY AUTUMN LERNER

I do not know where to begin. When did I first fall in love with the Caucasus? It was long before I arrived in Baku in June of this year. My curiosity was first sparked when my Russian grammar instructor at Moscow State University described losing Georgia as the greatest tragedy of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. With her father as a high-ranking party member, she spent her childhood summers in Georgia, and was nostalgic for peaches “the size of melons” and wine that “flowed through the streets.” Ten years later, I would finally find myself navigating the winding streets of Tbilisi and the delicious flavors of the Caucasus as I wrapped myself in conversation with people throughout the region.

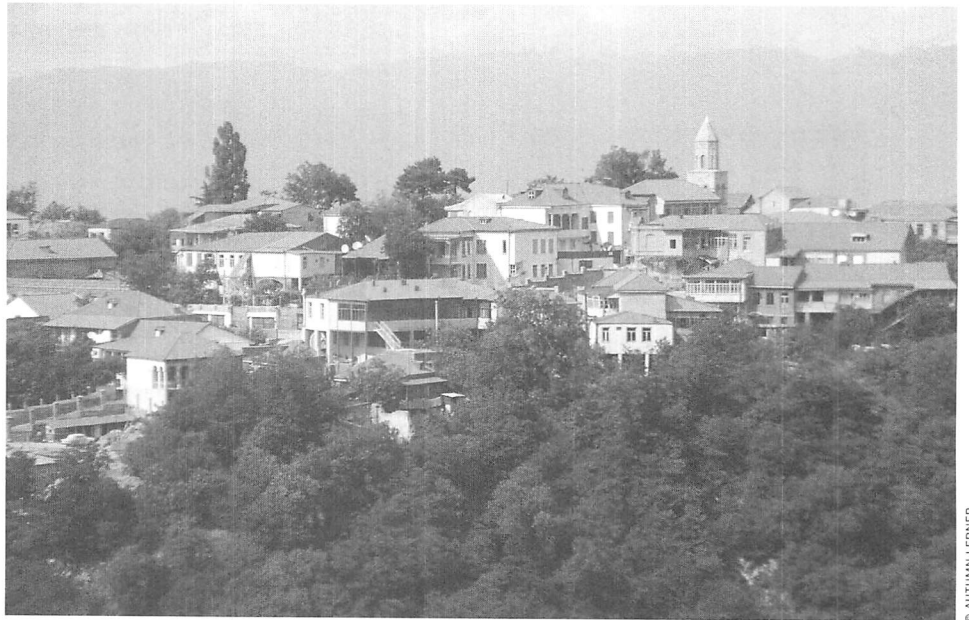
I traveled to the Caucasus this May and June with the excuse of attending the International Forum for Women to Expand Cross-Cultural Dialogue in Baku. While the Forum was only to last two days in mid-June, I immediately knew that I would arrive early and explore the Caucasus, the crossroads of which I had dreamt.

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Ayten replied with shocking promptness, later telling me that she was so excited that someone had found her blog. And so it was that even before I left Seattle, I knew that I could expect unparalleled hospitality during my travels.

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As is often the case, my journey started long before I departed. I began building the relationships that would transform my experience. First, I connected with a Georgian volunteer with the Seattle non-profit EarthCorps. I hoped that he might offer me some advice on where to go, but he was so excited that I was visiting his country that he offered for me to stay with his family in Tbilisi. Working in the citizen diplomacy field and international hospitality business, I only hesitated for a



Sighnaghi, a restored wine town in the hills of Kakheti in Eastern Georgia.

moment before accepting his offer. I know that an international experience is far richer when staying with a local family than in a hotel.

The next connection I made was even less expected, but just as perfect. I was doing some online research about Sheki, an ancient town in northwestern Azerbaijan that I planned to visit. I stumbled upon a blog in English on Sheki.<sup>1</sup> Surprised, I began to read about the blogger, Ayten: a young woman, close to my age, also a Libra, who had a life goal of translating *The Alchemist*, one of my favorite books, into Azerbaijani. I emailed her, saying that we had a lot in common and asking if she wanted to meet when I visited Azerbaijan. Ayten replied with shocking promptness, later telling me that she was so excited that someone had found her blog. And so it was that even before I left Seattle, I knew that I could expect unparalleled hospitality during my travels.

Due to the logistics of my trip and the closed border between Azerbaijan and Armenia, I flew from Seattle to Baku, flew from Baku to Tbilisi, drove from Tbilisi to Yerevan, drove from Yerevan to Tbilisi, took the train from Tbilisi to Batumi and back, drove from Tbilisi to Sheki, and

drove from Sheki back to Baku — a rather large and convoluted circle. During my three weeks of circling, a number of major themes emerged and now, months later, there is more context for my observations.

The division between generations was immediately evident as I traveled and had conversation after conversation with different people throughout the three countries. Among the young people I met, conversations about the future were hopeful and optimistic, while virtually all shared with me stories of not-so-past hardship: in Georgia and Armenia, times of extreme scarcity in the early and mid-1990s; in Azerbaijan, the hardships of the war with Armenia. Despite living through such difficult times, the younger generation, largely raised during the post-Soviet period, seemed to feel that they had an abundance of opportunities. In Georgia and Armenia, in particular, there was a great deal of discussion about the brain-drain, with large numbers of the younger generation going abroad for education and work and not returning to their home country.

On the other end of the spectrum, I found the older generations, largely raised during the Soviet period, to be grateful for

the opportunities for their children and a greater degree of economic and political democracy, but predominantly nostalgic for the security of the Soviet period. My host family experiences in Georgia, both in Tbilisi and Batumi, strongly exhibited the attitudes of the older generation. I spent hours discussing life with my host mother, Marina, in Tbilisi. An emergency doctor, she has a demanding job and low wage. In my naiveté, I asked why she could not find another position with a different hospital or company. She said that organizations do not hire “older” people (she is in her forties) and that she was not competitive as she does not speak English. As she put it, there is a value placed on youth. She criticized this tendency in Georgian President Saakashvili’s government, which she described as full of young inexperienced people.

This was in June, prior to the conflict with Russia and at that time Marina characterized Saakashvili as a “hot-head” who could use the advice of more experienced diplomats, even if they were from the Soviet period. Marina would later be part of the medical teams, treating and evacuating wounded from Gori during the August war in Georgia. All this being said, I know Marina does not want to go back to the Soviet system. Despite the challenges, she feels that the current system is a “lesser evil.”

In Batumi, my host family again characterized the division between the younger and older generations. My host, Gocha, a thirty-year-old man in the “import-export” business, who resembled Misha, the fictional protagonist from the book *Absurdistan*, had taken advantage of post-Soviet economic opportunities and had even turned the top two floors of a Soviet-style apartment building into his own “penthouse”. His attitude was one of endless economic prosperity. His father, who lived with him, also lived on an opposite pole. During my two days in Batumi, he took every opportunity to lament contemporary life, the lack of work, the absence of a real pension, the high cost of living, and the corruption of the Georgian government. When I asked him if he would rather live under a Soviet-style regime again, his answer was yes. While my experi-

ences are anecdotal, I believe they are telling of the generational differences that are prevalent in the Caucasus.

The ultimate purpose of my trip was to examine the role of women on a global level through the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, UNESCO, and ISESCO<sup>2</sup> and the International Forum organized by the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva. As a single woman traveling independently, I was conscious of my role as a woman in the Caucasus. The truth is, as a woman, I felt safer and more respected on the street and in my interactions with men and women alike than I often do in Seattle. That said, I was aware of the more traditional role that women play in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, and I modified my communication style in order to get what I needed in any given situation.

I specifically noted the urban/rural division in the role of women. In smaller villages and rural towns, like Sheki, women still marry in their late teens and their husbands are often in their late twenties or thirties. I asked my driver in Sheki, if I, at age twenty-nine, would be considered old there and he immediately nodded in agreement. However, times are changing, and women in the cities across the three countries appeared to exercise greater free-

doms. My friend, Ayten, the blogger from Baku, did not marry and have her son until she was in her late twenties. She had gone to college, traveled in the US and Europe and developed her career before meeting her husband online. Yes, online dating does exist in Azerbaijan.

Overall, I felt that being a woman and a foreigner combined was actually quite valuable and, when needed, I took advantage of my circumstances. One example was when I crossed the border from Georgia to Armenia on foot. The border guard said that he needed to call in to verify my visa due to the Azerbaijani visa in my passport. Despite questioning my visa, he was cordial and offered me a piece of fruit while I waited. The fruit was small, green and tart. My face puckered when I bit into it. The border guard smiled and said, “Pregnant women like them.” “Well, I

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Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan are all small countries with histories that uniquely tie them to one another, yet they differ culturally and, in some cases, suffer from lack of mutual understanding.

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The author at the Botanical Gardens north of Batumi, Georgia on the Black Sea.

guess I am not pregnant,” I joked, and he laughed. When I crossed the border again, three days later, the same guard welcomed me back, asking, “How did you enjoy our country?”

Ultimately, it was my travel experience that was more illuminating than the conference in Baku. The purpose of the Forum was to promote cross-cultural dialogue; however, despite the high-caliber speakers and attendees, no time was left for dialogue, and I felt a little like I was part of a two-day Communist party assembly of talking heads, rather than a conference focused on sharing best practices.

Not only was dialogue certainly absent at the Forum in Baku, but also between the three countries of the Caucasus. Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan are all small countries with histories that uniquely tie them to one another, yet they differ culturally and, in some cases, suffer from lack of mutual understanding. In the case of

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© AUTUMN LERNER

Women of Gorshavank in Northeastern Armenia.

Armenia and Azerbaijan, there is still a great deal of conflict resolution and reconciliation work that needs to take place as a result of the frozen conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the disputed territory once technically part of Azerbaijan and now held by Armenia. In Armenia, I got the impression that the people want to engage with both Azerbaijan and Turkey, which also has a closed land border with Armenia.

There seemed to be almost a bit of desperation and sadness in the need to resolve these conflicts and open borders. Furthermore, when hearing that I had visited Baku, many asked, "What is it like? What are the people like?" There was genuine curiosity among Armenians about life in Azerbaijan.

On the opposite side, I experienced overwhelming hostility among Azerbaijanis regarding Armenia. First, my most difficult border crossing was at the remote land border between Georgia and

Azerbaijan in the far northwestern part of Azerbaijan. My passport and visa were cleared easily, but when the customs guard learned that I had a stamped Armenian visa, he demanded to know what I did in Armenia and what I purchased. When I explained that I did not buy small souvenirs and I was carrying nothing from Armenia with me, he asked me to empty my purse and proceeded to go through my

things and questioning me for about 20 minutes. All was fine in the end, but the encounter was indicative of the fear, anger and frustration that Azerbaijanis hold towards Armenia. While I did not solicit the conversations, virtually every discussion that I had in Azerbaijan ultimately included a speech about Azerbaijan's right to Karabakh and the genocide committed by Armenia.

In the middle of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, we find Georgia, the middle-man of the Caucasus, more concerned with its neighbor to the north, Russia. Georgia is the arbiter of the Caucasus, maintaining open borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey and working relationships with all three countries.

Finally, you cannot have a conversation about the Caucasus without including food. I am a vegetarian, but not strict when I travel. I knew before I left that vegetarianism was not a viable option for this trip, meat being a very important part of the culinary culture. While in Baku, Ayten's husband asked me, "Are you a vegetarian?"

## REECAS 2008

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- > **Yevgeny Andreyevich Zakusilo** – The Prosepect of a New Arms Race between Russia and the United States over the US Missile Defense Program

My reply was, "Not here." To which I received a "*khoroashii otvet*," meaning, "good answer". Everything I consumed for three weeks was delicious, from fresh fruits from road-side stands in Armenia, to *khingali*, meat dumplings, and varieties of *khachapuri*, cheese bread, in Georgia, and finally, the tastiest lamb kebab ever made in the northwest part of Azerbaijan and fresh Caspian Sea fish with pomegranate sauce in Baku. The food is reason enough to visit the Caucasus, and it is over food and drink, such as Georgia's delicious

wines, that I truly got to know people and to experience culture.

Overall, if I learned anything on my trip, it is that in the Caucasus, nothing is black and white, and that life and history are complex. Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan are all unique, yet inexorably linked to each other with rich ancient histories, some of the world's most beautiful landscapes, open people who are proud of their traditions of hospitality, and delicious cuisines. Now I certainly understand my Russian grammar teacher's idealized pic-

ture of the Caucasus, and yet I feel like I only got a taste. I intend to return soon for a bigger bite. ♦

**Autumn Lerner received her MA from the REECAS program in 2002. She currently works as Chief Operating Officer and Director of the International Visitor Program at the World Affairs Council in Seattle.**

1 <http://shekiazerbaijan.blogspot.com>

2 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

#### 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 2009 and May 2010. 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 or lodging.

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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.

**Applications are due February 27, 2009.** A decision will be made by April 10, 2009.

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

#### CALL FOR APPLICATION

## Gross Scholarship

The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program would like to announce the Gross Scholarship for an exceptional undergraduate student to travel to Russia between June 2009 and May 2010.

Priority will be given to those participating in Russian language training in an accredited program, but those interested in holding internships or conducting research on Russia-related topics will also be considered.

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

#### 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.

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## Exchanging Students and Students Exchanging: Creating a Comprehensive Journalists' Perspective

BY CHRIS DEMASKE

The trip to *Russia Today*, a government-owned television station, started off just like the many other visits I had made to media outlets in Moscow. In March 2008, three of my students from the University of Washington-Tacoma (UWT) and I, along with several students from Moscow State University (MSU) Department of Journalism, entered the security checkpoint, handed over our passports and crossed the threshold of the facility grounds.



The newsroom at *Russia Today*.

We were greeted as we entered the building and were immediately ushered to the office of Margarita Simonyan, *Russia Today's* Editor-in-Chief. We spent about half an hour drinking tea and discussing the current state of Russian media. We talked in-depth about the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya and of the recent murder of yet another Russian journalist. Following our meeting, we were escorted by another member of the *Russia Today* team to tour the various departments. Everything seemed familiar, just another well-orchestrated tour. Familiar, that is, until we arrived at our final destination — the newsroom.

Just as we were about to walk through the large double doors, they swung open and two Russian men flew past us talking

hurriedly. When we entered the newsroom, everything was in organized chaos. People were shouting; printouts were flying. The newsroom was ringed with flat screen TVs, each broadcasting a different country's news programming. I scanned the room until I found CNN and then the reason for the commotion became clear — just moments before we entered the newsroom, Russian authorities announced that they had arrested Politkovskaya's murderers.

That exciting moment is only one of many that I have been a part of since the inception of the ongoing journalism exchange program between UWT and MSU's Department of Journalism six years ago.

### The Beginning

In the fall of 2002, Bill Richardson, then-director of UWT's Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences program and a Russian historian, invited me to jointly propose a project to collaborate with MSU's Department of Journalism. I was a bit shocked. I have a professional background as a US journalist and a research background in First Amendment law — no international focus, no background in Russian media. He convinced me that this would be a one-time only project and that my professional journalism experience would complement his expertise in Russian culture.

We applied for and were subsequently awarded a Marc Lindenberg Center Mobility Grant to take two UWT students to Russia to co-produce a newspaper with students at MSU. In spring 2003, the four of us traveled to Moscow, where we spent our spring break touring media outlets, sightseeing and, most importantly, producing a 20-page magazine format insert for the *Ledger*, UWT's student newspaper. This initial trip to Moscow has blossomed into an ongoing student enrichment program, a signed agreement between UWT and MSU, a Fulbright scholarship and a course development grant. Throughout the years, I have traveled with students

to Moscow in the spring and have hosted Russian students here each fall. During the biannual international exchange, we have visited several media outlets both in Moscow and here, including *Izvestia*, *Kommersant*, *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, *The News Tribune* (Tacoma), *The Peninsula Gateway* (Gig Harbor), *Interfax*, *Radio Echo of Moscow*, and *Russia Today*. Our final projects have ranged from inserts in the *Ledger* to a stand-alone 20-page news magazine to our most current endeavor, a web publication that we will launch this fall.

"Russian teachers and students are enthusiastic about this project," said Maria Lukina, deputy dean at MSU's Department of Journalism and my project counterpart in Moscow. "Not only do the students produce an actual publication, but they also learn first-hand about the differences in international communication — a lesson that is perhaps even more significant for their professional growth."

The importance of bringing together Russian and US student journalists cannot be emphasized enough. In a global economy where information is a key commodity, this collaboration of journalists from various parts of the world offers one of the few ways in which information can become more accessible, understandable and balanced for everyone. Just from one brief week working as a team, students from both countries learn about differences in journalistic practices, how one might determine what is newsworthy and how one might decide on the best way to approach a news story. In addition, important cultural differences and similarities are illuminated, discussed and processed independently and together by the Russian and US students. While students can research and discuss other cultures in their university classes, the one-on-one experience described above cannot be reproduced in textbooks or traditional classroom settings.

## The Cultural Experience

Student participants from UWT are chosen through a competitive process whereby they are evaluated based on journalistic experience and their statement of purpose. The students have, for the most part, been born and raised in the Puget Sound region and, with few exceptions, have never traveled abroad, much less to Russia. To say the exchange program has a tremendous impact on them would be an understatement.

One of the 2003 participants, Tolena Thorburn, said, "When I first heard about the opportunity to travel to Russia as an ambassador for both my country and the University of Washington, it gave me butterflies in my stomach."

Thorburn, who now works as a public relations manager for Hasbro, Inc., had reasons for butterflies. Not only would this be her first trip abroad, but it would also come at time of international conflict for the United States.

"The day that we got on the plane to go abroad was the day that President Bush declared war in Iraq. I will never forget that. In the days leading up to our departure, I remember talking to my family about how scared I was, and what might happen if I didn't return home," she related. "It was a sobering decision for me to make, but ultimately I decided that the risk was worth the reward. After all, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. I believe that the experience taught me more about myself than any textbook ever could."



MSU professor and deputy dean Maria Lukina and UWT professor Chris Demaske shop at an outdoor market during a trip to Suzdal, a historic town located northeast of Moscow.

Brooke Berard, who participated three years ago, described her trip to Moscow as one of the best moments in her life.

"One of my most memorable experiences was walking from the Rossiya Hotel every morning to the journalism building. Bundled up in our long winter coats and fur hats that we had purchased from the street vendors, we walked across Red Square listening to the beautiful chants from Kazan Cathedral and watched in awe as we passed by St. Basil's Cathedral, Lenin's Tomb and the Kremlin," she reminisced. "And how could I forget walking around the corner and seeing, of all things, a walk-up McDonald's!"

## Creating More Critical Journalists

"We work as a team to meet deadlines, just like in a professional journalism situation," explained Lukina. "Students who are working on the project understand that if they do not get their articles written on time, then the publication will be printed with white space where their articles should have been."

Marques Hunter, who participated in the second year of the project, commented on not only what he learned in terms of journalistic skills, but also on what it meant to him to see the differences between Russian and American journalism students.

"It was interesting to see the passion Russian students have for political journalism — much more than US journalists, in my opinion," said Hunter, who is currently the sports editor and reporter for the *Peninsula Gateway* newspaper.

All of the students who have traveled to Moscow report that it has made them better writers, better copy editors, and has given them a competitive edge in the job market.

"I believe my international experience in Russia helped prepare me for my career at a global financial institution," said Berard, who

following graduation took a job in the public relations department for Citigroup in New York City. Currently, Berard is also pursuing a Master's degree at New York University.

While there can be little doubt that part of the appeal to employers is the line on the resume, the experience gained through the program also makes the students more hireable because it changes them, making them think more complexly about the media and its important role as a disseminator of information.

"I think the experience confirmed the need to look at issues from as many angles as possible, and to expand my media experience to beyond what is available in the United States," said Michele Brittany, who is currently completing her Master's degree at UWT.

Daniel Nash, a current UWT student who hopes some day to get a job with the English-language newspaper *The Moscow Times*, believes that the experience has transformed him from journalism student to a professional journalist.

"The experience didn't just influence me as a media worker, it formed me," said Nash, who recently completed an internship with *The Business Examiner* (Tacoma). "Writing had always been a low-pressure game, but this was work. We wrote and edited the way assembly lines construct cars. The pace was all the more steady because the Russian students would push us out to — for God's sake — actually enjoy the city. If I failed to hold myself to the pace, there would be no time to make it up, and this forced me to be diligent. I've carried this diligence home with me."

## My Experiences

Developing an ongoing exchange program requires a serious time commitment, quite a bit of patience, and, at an institution where funds are limited, a little creativity. But, the payoff for me both personally and professionally has made it all worthwhile.

My involvement in the UWT/MSU program inspired me to apply for a Fulbright scholarship, which I was awarded in December 2005. I spent two months teaching US News Writing and First Amendment Law to standing-room only classes at MSU. In addition, I taught a

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general US Media course to continuing education evening students.

The exchange program, coupled with my Fulbright experience, has impacted both my research and my teaching. From the research side, my scholarly inquiry has now expanded to include exploration of free press theory. For example, relying on in-person interviews with the editor and news editor of *Izvestia*, I have been able to highlight the shortcomings of the Western conceptions of the function of a free press in democratic societies.

In terms of teaching, not only have I broadened my approach in my journalism and communication theory courses, but, thanks to the Internationalizing the UW Undergraduate Curriculum Grant, I also now offer a course entitled Russian Media Studies. Through this course, students examine the unfolding of Russia's quasi-democratic media system, starting first with a general history of Russian media and following with a focus on the media

under Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin. Ultimately, this course raises questions about if and how a democratic press can operate in society by critically examining the current state of the media in Russia.

The exchange program has not only impacted me as a scholar and teacher, but also has had a profound influence on me personally. I frequently joke with friends that my yearly trip to Moscow is like going to summer camp when you are a kid. I have fallen in love with Russian culture — its rich history, its beautiful architecture and its wonderfully genuine people. My partner tolerates the eclectic assortment of Russian mementoes that I have brought home over the years, including an ever-expanding collection of Gzhel figurines, a Lomonosov tea set, and a print of Petrov-Vodkin's "The Bathing of the Red Horse."

Overall, the UWT/MSU journalism exchange program has done more than simply allow students to collaborate twice a year on a media project. The program

itself had modest beginnings — a one-time opportunity. It has grown exponentially throughout the past six years, affecting not only those students immediately connected to the program, but also a multitude of UWT students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the Tacoma community.

I look forward to our next trip to Russia in 2009. Perhaps we will get lucky and be present when another major news story breaks. ♦

**Chris Demaske is Assistant Professor in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program at the University of Washington-Tacoma. Her research interests include First Amendment law, feminist studies and free press theory. She has published articles and essays in *The International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*, *Communication Law and Policy*, and *The Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*. Her book *Modern Power and Free Speech: Contemporary Culture and Issues of Equality* is forthcoming from Lexington Books this November.**

## CALL FOR PAPERS

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

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**

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 "Ecological, Cultural and Political Change in Russia, East Europe and Central Asia" 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 **Tuesday, January 20, 2009** with your name and contact information, a paper title and brief abstract to:

**Allison Dvaladze, Assistant Director for Outreach  
The Herbert J. Ellison Center for Russian, East European  
and Central Asian Studies**

**The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies  
Box 353650, Thomson Hall, University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195-3650**

**Tel: (206) 221-7951**

**E-mail: [dvaladze@u.washington.edu](mailto:dvaladze@u.washington.edu)**

## Diversity and Similarity: Uzbeks in Tajikistan

BY KATHERINE KOSTIUK

Anyone studying a part of the world unknown to most Americans is familiar with the disconnect that comes from a conversation with family or friends about what one is studying. It usually begins with polite curiosity from an acquaintance and finishes in complete silence when the acquaintance's face washes over with confusion.

After spending the summer in Tajikistan, I can say that I have had my share of those looks. Several polite people have been reckless enough to ask what I did this summer, and in most cases I have responded with a vague, "I studied abroad in a language program." But people are often too curious leave it at that. When I continue, "In Dushanbe, Tajikistan," the next step usually involves locating Tajikistan on a map. Afterwards, a few truly curious people ask another question: "What do they speak in Tajikistan?"

Obviously, this question has its faults: first, it assumes that everyone in a country speaks the same language (this is not the case, even in the US), and second, it assumes that a country ought to have only one main language. Not wanting to tackle those issues in a casual conversation, I give an answer that is still too simplistic: "In Tajikistan, the national language is Tajik, and most people speak Tajik, but I was there to study Uzbek, which is spoken by a minority group in Tajikistan and is the national language of neighboring Uzbekistan." Since a casual acquaintance does not want to hear the intricacies of ethnic identities in Central Asia, these generalizations are usually okay. But since here I have an entire article of my own and an audience of knowledgeable readers, I would like to offer a brief (if scattered) discussion of some things that I learned this summer.

First, I should explain that my goal for the summer was to improve my knowledge of Uzbek. I began learning Uzbek in 2003, when I became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan. From 2003 to 2005, I lived in the Khorezm region of Uzbekistan, where I learned the relatively uncommon Khorezm dialect, and developed a love for the country, people and language. When I came to



The author with her Uzbek instructor and an Uzbek grandmother.

UW last fall, I was excited to learn different dialects of Uzbek and the literary language. I gained a lot in the classroom, but I wanted to return to Central Asia for the summer to learn more about the region and to practice my language skills in the real world.

Unfortunately, I found that there were no intensive Uzbek programs for foreigners in Uzbekistan. Relations between Uzbekistan and the US have been poor in recent years, and many Western organizations have left Uzbekistan, or have difficulties operating there. Partly due to these political reasons, it is complicated for foreigners to study Uzbek in Uzbekistan. But I was determined to go to Central Asia, so I applied to a program with American Councils for International Education, which offered intensive Uzbek in Tajikistan, alongside Tajik and Farsi programs. I knew that I would not have the same Uzbek immersion as I would in Uzbekistan, but there were also advantages — I looked forward to the opportunity to learn about another Central Asian country, to pick up some Tajik phrases, and to observe the interaction between Uzbeks and Tajiks.

I went into the program with an idea very much like the one of the casual acquaintance I mentioned earlier: my prior experiences with Central Asians had convinced me that most people identified by

ethnicity, and aligned themselves with ethnic symbols like national cuisines, dress, songs and languages. However, I also knew that identities are complicated and very rarely as simple as an ethnic title. I had learned that history of the Uzbeks and the Tajiks was interconnected, and that defining these nationalities in the 1920s was problematic. Nonetheless, I expected to find very clear ethnic lines in Tajikistan. I thought I would find very "Uzbek" Uzbeks: people who identified with "Uzbek" music and movies, who cooked "Uzbek" food, and who dressed in "Uzbek" style. I also figured I would find some "Tajik" Tajiks and perhaps some "Russian" Russians.

I was wrong. And looking back now, I am not sure exactly what I meant by "Uzbek" Uzbeks. Did I think Uzbeks in Tajikistan would be just like the Uzbeks I met in Uzbekistan, and if I did, how did I possibly generalize about all of the Uzbeks I met in Uzbekistan? They were all so different from each other, even though they were all Uzbeks. Did I expect to find a close-knit, segregated community of Uzbeks in Tajikistan, one that did not intermingle with its Tajik and Russian neighbors? Did I think there would be some drastic difference between an Uzbek living in Dushanbe and a Tajik living in Dushanbe?

What I found in reality was something much more complicated than "Uzbek" Uzbeks or "Tajik" Tajiks or even "Tajik" Uzbeks. I found people who had very distinct ethnic identities, but who were not segregated and did not limit themselves because of their ethnic identities. Tajiks and Uzbeks were both similar and different, and they defined themselves as both similar and different. This was not a simple matter. Most Uzbeks I met were clear about their ethnicity, but at the same time, their lives were intertwined with those of their Tajik neighbors, co-workers and friends. Meanwhile, Tajiks were just as intertwined with the lives of the Uzbeks around them. And sometimes these complicated dynamics could be found within a single household.

(continued on page 16)

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© KATHERINE KOSTIUK

The author's host niece and nephew.

My host family is a prime example. I lived with a middle-aged woman, Tursunoy opa<sup>1</sup>, who was born in Uzbekistan but had grown up in Tajikistan. She had married an ethnic Uzbek and had two children with him. As a family, they spoke Uzbek and identified as Uzbeks. Then, at the age of 25, Tursunoy opa's first husband passed away, and a few years later, she married an ethnic Tajik man. They continued to live in Dushanbe, and she had two more children. But this man insisted that she speak Tajik with the family, so she taught herself fluent Tajik. To this day, she speaks primarily Uzbek with her two older children and almost exclusively Tajik with her two younger children. However, her older children are both married to Tajik women who do not know Uzbek (or know very little), so they speak Tajik with their children. When everyone gets together, Tursunoy opa speaks in Tajik most of the time, even though it is not her first language. Her younger children and most of her grandchildren know very little Uzbek and speak entirely in Tajik (as well as Russian, Turkish and English).

And if you consider Tursunoy opa's siblings, the situation becomes even more complicated. I had the opportunity to meet some of her sisters during a party, and was struck by the variety and diversity

of their language use. All of the sisters grew up speaking Uzbek, but almost all of them now speak primarily Tajik with their own children, and most of the children know very little Uzbek. Having grown up in an Uzbek-speaking family, most of the sisters spoke Uzbek amongst themselves, but they switched to Tajik when addressing their own children, and the children would often interject in Tajik during Uzbek conversations. Furthermore, one of the sisters spoke primarily in Russian with her children and in her daily life, and even when speaking with her sisters, she often threw in Russian words or switched to Russian completely.

Perhaps it seems natural that Uzbeks living in Tajikistan would adopt other languages. But in fact, not all Uzbeks in Tajikistan are multilingual, and those living in smaller towns and villages with primarily Uzbek populations speak Uzbek and might know very little Tajik. One Uzbek man mentioned to me that his wife knew so little Tajik that their children had to translate when the new Tajik neighbors came over.

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However, some Tajiks also knew Uzbek — primarily those who had grown up with Uzbek mothers or had Uzbek-speaking friends when they were young. These people generally spoke Tajik as a first language and identified as Tajik but had a firm understanding of Uzbek and seemed comfortable speaking it. In Dushanbe, Tajik was certainly the domi-

nant language, but I would estimate that one person in every ten on the street was speaking Uzbek, regardless of the neighborhood. This is not to say that there are not ethnic divisions in Dushanbe, but in general, Uzbeks and Tajiks appeared to be more mixed than separated. Quite often an Uzbek woman would marry a Tajik man, and frequently, Tajik people would tell me that their mothers or grandmothers were Uzbek. Others grew up with many Uzbek neighbors or in largely Uzbek regions outside the capital.

Although the Uzbek and Tajik languages are very different (one Turkic and one Persian, respectively), they share a lot of vocabulary. I frequently found myself able to understand pieces of Tajik conversations simply based on context and the nouns and adjectives that were shared with Uzbek. However, language is only one of many aspects of identity and ethnicity. For me, it was an obvious one, since it was the main purpose of my visit. But it was not the only facet of ethnicity that I observed in Dushanbe.

Food involved the same type of attitudes and behaviors. Since this is the topic of my thesis, I will try to be brief here, but there are a few interesting things that I would like to highlight. Everyone I interviewed told me that Tajik and Uzbek foods are very similar...but different. There are several traditional Tajik dishes that Uzbeks "never" make — most notably *qurutob*, a (pleasantly) meatless dish of fried onions, kefir and *patir* bread. Several Uzbeks told me that they did not like this dish and did not make it, whereas many Tajiks did. However, Uzbek women married to Tajik men often said that their children had "learned to like *qurutob*" and ate it when they went to restaurants or cafes.

On the other hand, I did not run across many Uzbek foods that Tajiks did not make, although it seemed that Uzbeks were more likely to make *somsa* (pastries filled with onions and meat) than Tajiks were. Some styles of making the same foods were supposedly different, but no one could give a concrete example, and in fact, many people admitted that there was variation from family to family regardless of ethnicity. Some dishes, meanwhile, were called different things but basically the

same, such as a flatbread called “*patir*” in Uzbek and “*fatir*” in Tajik, and the pastries called “*somsa*” in Uzbek and “*sambusa*” in Tajik. This, come to think of it, might serve as a metaphor for Uzbeks and Tajiks themselves.

Tajikistan is a diverse country. I was based in Dushanbe, and my experiences of ethnic relations there were very different than they might have been in other parts of the country. Nonetheless, I left Tajikistan feeling that Dushanbe was much more ethnically intermixed than I had expected. I did find people who felt that they were held back by being Uzbek, and was told that people sometimes tried to change their ethnicity to Tajik in order to get ahead. One person said that it was nearly impossible for an ethnic Uzbek to advance to the higher positions of government, but I met other Uzbeks who held prominent positions in national and international organizations.

At the end of the summer, I had learned a lot about Uzbek-Tajik relations



A fellow student's host mother showing the author how to make Uzbek *patir* (a type of flatbread).

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and interactions and about the ways that people think of themselves and their ethnic identities in Central Asia. Sadly, I have to admit that I feel as though I missed out on something, having been in Tajikistan for more than two months and not knowing Tajik. Of course, I learned how to say, “How are you?” and “How much is it?”

(“Thank you” and “yes,” two other important phrases, are the same as in Uzbek.) But I did not learn how to carry on a real Tajik conversation, which limited my ability to learn about the country and a large portion of its population in greater depth. The longer I was in Tajikistan, the more I came to realize that in order really to understand the Uzbeks living in Tajikistan, I would need to know Tajik, just as most of the Uzbeks do. But I suppose there is next summer for that... ♦

**Katherine Kostiuk is a second-year student in the REECAS Master's program. She is interested in immigrant and minority groups, language politics and the role of food in identity and community. Katherine was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Khorezm region of Uzbekistan from 2003–2005, and has also volunteered with Turkic refugees from Uzbekistan and Russia in the US.**

1 In Uzbek, “*opa*” literally means “sister,” but is commonly used as a marker of respect toward women older than oneself.

## Vaclav Klaus, Czech President, Shares His Thoughts on Europe, the Environment

BY JAMES RAMON FELAK

President Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic spoke on October 1 in Seattle at a breakfast hosted by the World Affairs Council. The Ellison Center, along with the Center for West European Studies, provided sponsorship for community members, students and faculty to attend. This was billed as a talk on “The European Union Presidency and Perspectives on Leadership.” Klaus said that his vision for the EU was “a Europe *without* barriers, but *with* borders” — in other words, a framework that allows not only for free movement of people, goods and capital, but also for national sovereignty and identity.

The bulk of Klaus' talk, however, was about his new book, *Blue Planet in Green Shackles*, an attack on environmentalism and in particular the current “hysteria” over global warming. Klaus argued that

global warming, if it is really occurring, is hardly a global catastrophe. The real catastrophe would be ill-considered environmental regulations that would jeopardize economic growth, particularly in the developing world.

With respect to Russia, Klaus chastised Americans for demonizing Putin and Russia and saying “idiotic” things like “Putin equals KGB.” He assured the audience that he would not want to live in Russia, but that we need to recognize that Russia is freer today than it has ever been. “Don't compare Russia with the State of Washington,” he said, “but with its own past.” He also noted that too many Czechs are still fighting the battles of 30 years ago, when they should be fighting excessive environmental regulation. “Our enemy today is not Brezhnev,” he remarked slyly, “it is Al Gore.”

When asked about the US presidential elections and the current financial crisis, Klaus said that he does not want to give advice to Americans, given that he remembers all the Americans who came to his country after 1989 with their unwelcome and uninformed advice. He did say, however, that America needs to change, “really and not just rhetorically.” He made the point that as finance minister in the early 1990s, he had to deal with a lot of bad debt. That debt, however, was the fault of the Communist banking system he had inherited. The US does not have that excuse. Overall, I found Klaus to be confident, provocative and humorous. ♦

**James R. Felak is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at the UW and member of the REECAS faculty.**

# Eight Hours in Poland: Americans Visit Gdynia on Cruise Ships

BY VLAD M. KACZYNSKI

## A Fulbrighter's Travels to Polish Ports

During my Fulbright Visiting Professorship in Poland (February–July 2007), I had an opportunity to visit three Polish Baltic Sea ports: Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin. These ports are increasingly visited by large cruise ships coming from European Union countries and the United States. During 2006, about 100,000 tourists came to Gdynia and Gdansk ports on cruises. The majority of tourists are American. Their stops in Poland are brief — tourists usually have only about eight hours on shore to visit the increasingly available cultural and historic attractions in the coastal towns and countryside.

When I visited Gdynia in mid-July, I found that this port hosts an exclusive American cruise ship, the “Star Princess,” an 870-foot long vessel with a capacity for 2,600 passengers. Tourists are served by 1,100 crew members and dozens of Polish guides and interpreters. A cruise voyage in a luxury cabin may cost up to 20,000 euros. There are, of course, cruises and cabins that are much less expensive — they may cost, for example, only a few hundred euros.



The author at the port of Gdynia, Poland with the cruise ship “Star Princess.”

ships themselves are also getting bigger. In 1985, cruise ships began to grow rapidly, from 4,000 tons to 77,000 tons. In 1997, Princess Cruises acquired the 109,000-ton “Grand Princess.”<sup>1</sup>

## Coastal Visits from the Cruise Ship

Polish ports cannot yet compete with Copenhagen, which receives several hundred cruise ships and approximately 450,000 passengers per year. In Denmark, one cruise tourist spends, on average, about 250 euros in the country. This would mean that the total gross revenue generated by cruise ship arrivals alone in Denmark is 112,500,000 euros (\$140,000,000). This money goes directly to small and medium businesses there, propelling employment and raising revenues for the private sector and taxes for the government.<sup>2</sup>

In contrast, the average tourist visiting Poland on a cruise leaves only 100 euros. Vessels calling to Polish ports stay a relatively short time, then continue on to Kaliningrad, Tallinn, St. Petersburg or Stockholm. However, eight hours is enough to visit most of the important and interesting sites that are very near the port.

Buses from Gdynia take passengers to the Old City of Gdansk, the place where World War II began. Here tourists visit the beautiful and painstakingly rebuilt Old Town. St. Mary's Church, the largest brick temple in the world, is often the first stop. Tourists can then proceed to the historic city hall and the medieval stock exchange, and finish with a stroll along the old waterfront of the Motlawa River. These historic buildings are quite popular with tourists, but some visitors complain that these excursions require too much walking. Elderly tourists in particular often have sore feet after long walks on hard stone-paved streets.

There is a lot of interest among American tourists in the Gdansk Shipyard, which is the cradle of the famous Solidarity trade union movement, and also home to a monument to the fallen shipyard workers of the anti-communist uprisings in the 1970s. Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity movement and former President of Poland, lives in Gdansk and frequently participates in meetings with tourists, which can last up to two hours and often conclude with a photo session

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Poland, of course, is not the only country to have seen an influx of cruise ship tourists. The cruise industry is the fastest-growing segment of the leisure travel industry worldwide. From 1970 to 2001, the worldwide cruise industry grew in number of passengers served by 1,400%, from 500 thousand to more than 12 million. Not just the market is growing — the

with Walesa. "I always remind our guests, that we, the Poles, defeated communism and contributed to the removal of the Berlin Wall that divided Europe. Without Poland, it would be impossible to unite Europe," says Walesa.<sup>3</sup>

If there is enough time, cruise passengers often travel to the monumental castle of Malbork, situated approximately 50 miles south of Gdansk. While visiting this former castle of the Teutonic Knights, tourists might encounter staged battles, duels or medieval tournaments. In Oliwa, another popular stop, tourists visiting the complex of churches and abbeys can hear concerts performed on the cathedral's famous old organs.

One of the most exotic visits for cruise passengers is organized by Gdansk amber

artists and artisans. During these visits, cruise passengers are received in shops or retail expositions of artfully processed amber — the "gold of the Baltic." Some groups have the chance to drop by the surrounding Kashubia region to attend folk concerts, dances and shows of traditional pottery-making. Other tourists set out on their own: some play golf, while others choose to make an excursion to the National Museum in Gdansk to marvel at Hans Memling's famous rendering of the Last Judgment.

#### **Overcoming Old Legacies: The International Visitor's Perspective**

Unfortunately, foreign tourists are not always pleased with what they find in Poland. Besides beautiful churches and

historic monuments, Gdynia also welcomes guests with mountains of junk, industrial buildings and very few arts and crafts stands. When the port is visited by several ships at once, there are rarely enough guides who speak Spanish, Italian or French. Tourists are frequently picked up by old buses, which, in Gdansk, are often stuck in slow, heavy traffic due to roadwork.

One factor that could increase the attractiveness of Poland as a destination for cruises is increased planning, harmonization and organization of excursions from ports to the interior of the country. Currently, the cities of Krakow, Warsaw and Czestochowa, as well as famous Polish horse farms, concert halls and castles, and former German concentration camps are all out of reach for tourists on cruises be-

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## Application to Take a Less Commonly Taught Language

FOR UW STUDENTS AND FACULTY

**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 funding from the US Department of Education to support LCTL/advanced language tutorials. Thus, we are inviting applications to propose such tutorials for the 2009-2010 academic year. A fellowship committee composed of REECAS Program faculty will meet in April 2009 to consider applications. We expect to make our decisions as expeditiously as possible so that announcements of the awards can be made by the end of April. During specified quarters of 2009–2010, 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 skills. We will consider the following factors in making our decision: the importance of the tutorial for achieving students' professional/academic goals; the number of other students interested in the same language or language level; and the availability of appropriate native-language tutors.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Funding is for the tutor's salary only. This is not a scholarship for students.*

#### **TO APPLY:**

Please submit a 2-page essay, double-spaced, 12 font (Courier, Arial or Times New Roman), with 1 inch margins on all sides, to explain your interest in learning a LCTL or advanced level of a regional language and your plans for utilizing it in your research or post-graduate endeavors. Please also include your email address in your contact information. You must be UW faculty, graduate student or graduate school applicant to be considered, with priority going to current or future students. **Applications are due February 27, 2009.**

Please submit an unofficial transcript and letter of recommendation along with your essay.

**PLEASE SEND FILES TO:** Marta Mikkelsen, Associate Director  
REECAS Program  
Box 353650  
Seattle, WA 98195

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cause of weaknesses in transportation, guides and other logistic issues. These problems could be addressed by properly designing national cruise promotion strategies, which could be developed by leading Polish universities in cooperation with the government and with the private tourism industry in Poland.

### Impacts of EU Enlargement on Polish Tourism

On May 1, 2004, ten additional countries became members of the European Union. This event was also of great importance



The Old Town in Gdansk attracts tourists with its connection with the Solidarity movement, historic buildings, artistic events, and amber.

for Polish tourism. Tourism flows will not change overnight, but intensified media attention, easier border crossings and money from the European structural funds offer good chances for growth in the tourism industry.

“The new countries do not belong to the top-ranking tourism destinations, and the EU Enlargement will not change this situation much,” Reinhard Klein, head of the European Commission’s Tourism Unit in Brussels, commented at an international conference on tourism in the “new” Europe. “But due to the relatively low level

## ELLISON CENTER NEWS

**JOSÉ ALANIZ** (Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) published his essay “‘Nature,’ Illusion and Excess in Sokurov’s ‘Mother and Son’” in *Studies in Russian & Soviet Cinema*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2008.

**GORDANA CRNKOVIC** (Associate Professor, Departments of Slavic L&L and Comparative Literature) has just published two chapters, “Under the Sign of Orwell: Contemporary Croatian Literature,” and “Non-Nationalist Culture, Under and Above the Ground,” in the volume *Croatia after Independence* (R. Oldenbourg Verlag, Germany). Her chapter “The Poetry of Prose, the Unyielding of Sound,” is forthcoming in *The Sound of Poetry, the Poetry of Sound* (Marjorie Perloff and Craig Dworkin, eds., University of Chicago Press). She was the invited guest speaker at Northwest Film Forum, Seattle, in September 2008, where she spoke on Milos Forman’s classic *Loves of a Blond*, and will be presenting a paper “Milso Mancevski’s *Before the Rain* and its Silent Children” at a panel on Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav film at the December 2008 MLA Annual Convention in San Francisco.

**ALLISON DVALADZE** and **MARTA MIKKELSEN** both welcomed newborns to the REECAS family (Niko and Kelsey, respectively) on June 3 of this year. Amazingly, the two babies were born within two hours of each other! After spending the summer at home and in Georgia, both returned to the Ellison Center this fall.

**DOUG DYER** (MAIS 2004) began working two years ago as a subcontractor on Science Applications International Corporation’s Department of Defense Russia threat-reduction contract after doing a similar threat-reduction job for Department of Energy. As a project manager, he assists the government in managing their contract with Raytheon to complete site security enhancements as part of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction initiative. He has had the chance to travel to Vologda and Komsomol’sk-na-Amure in Khabarovsk Krai for site visits.

**JEFF P. JONES** (MAIS 1997) short story, “The Night the Winter Palace Was Taken,” inspired by research from his MA thesis, won the 2008 A. David Schwartz Prize, offered by the Cream City Review. His first poetry chapbook, “Stratus Opacus,” was recently released by Main Street Rag Publishing Co (<http://www.mainstreetrag.com>). Two of the poems come from his experiences in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1995. Jones lives with his wife in Moscow, Idaho, and teaches writing at the University of Idaho.

**ELLEN KARM** (MAIS 2006) had her MA thesis, “Environment and Energy: The Baltic Sea Gas Pipeline,” published in the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, Vol. 39, Issue 2, June 2008.

**JUSTIN ODOM** (MAIS 2003) finished a project with Mercy Corps and USAID in Mongolia in September 2008. He is now serving as Operations Manager for Mercy Corps operations in Gori, Georgia, as well as a number

of villages between Gori and South Ossetia, where he distributes winter gear to displaced persons and does community mobilization work targeted to the specific needs of the villages.

**BRANT PAULSON** (MAIS/MA Public Affairs 2007) is working in Washington, DC for Chemonics, a USAID implementer, on two projects — one in Azerbaijan and one in Kyrgyzstan/Tajikistan — and hopes to get involved with a power sector reform project in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan in the coming months.

**BRENDA SCHUSTER** (MAIS 2007) has been working for UNAIDS in Vietnam since July 2007. As a Policy and Advocacy Program Officer, she collaborates closely with the government of Vietnam and other national and international co-sponsors to craft a rights-based policy framework to strengthen Vietnam’s response to HIV.

**DAN WAUGH**, Professor Emeritus and former REECAS Director, recently returned to Seattle after spending two years in Uppsala, Sweden, where he was working on a co-authored book project on Muscovite history and lecturing on the Silk Road. This summer, he spent a month in western China on a Silk Road studies program and in October, traveled to Mongolia to participate in an archaeology conference. In November and December, he will be participating in the teacher symposium on the Black Sea region, co-sponsored by the Jackson School outreach programs.

of actual demand," Klein continued, "all new EU countries will experience remarkable growth, significantly above the "old" EU destinations."<sup>4</sup>

Many in the industry agree that appropriate marketing is essential for Polish tourism in the new European context. "A prerequisite for the growth of cruise ship tourism from abroad is better marketing of what we have to offer," explained Adam Zaborowski, vice president of the Polish Tourist Organization.<sup>5</sup> Relying on more than 30 years of experience as a tourism consultant in Central and Eastern European countries, Anthony Travis added, "There are many prejudices that can only be overcome with intense information... most people in the "old" EU countries have only one-dimensional images of the new member states and no idea about the wide range of landscapes and products."<sup>6</sup>

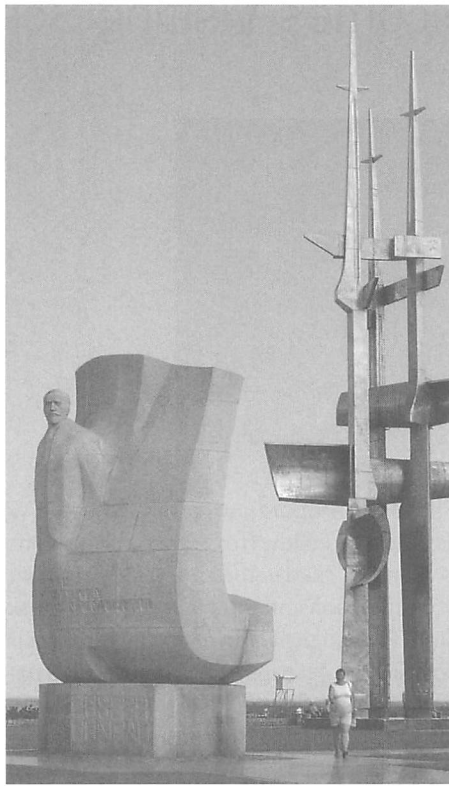
The strategy of new EU members is to try to focus on both short-term trends and long-term planning. It is important to achieve rapid growth; therefore, marketing of well-known products and already existing offerings is necessary. However, EU enlargement means not only new options, but also new responsibilities. The challenge is to open up the new destinations at the right scale for both the natural surroundings and local residents.

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Currently, the cities of Krakow, Warsaw and Czestochowa, as well as famous Polish horse farms, concert halls and castles, and former German concentration camps are all out of reach for tourists on cruises because of weaknesses in transportation, guides and other logistic issues.

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In addition to infrastructure and accessibility, service must also be improved to meet the expectations of tourists on foreign cruise ships and other visitors to Poland. The industry must remember that traditional hospitality is not the same thing as professional service. To reach their goals, the industry must offer destinations for a variety of interests: city breaks, cultural holidays, rural and farm



Monuments for Joseph Conrad-Korzeniowski and for Polish Sailors, Gdynia.

© VLAD M. KACZYNSKI

outings, natural attractions, active and adventure tourism, large events and business tourism.

The new EU countries are interesting as "new" destinations. But they also are becoming increasingly valuable as source markets. "We expect no sudden increase, but [we anticipate] stable growth starting in 2005," announced Fritz Baumgartner, head of TUI Polska. He hopes, however, that Poland's EU membership will serve as a signal. "The chances for incoming [business] for Poland are definitely better than outgoing business due to the unbalanced income situation of new and old EU-states."<sup>7</sup>

The role of the European Commission is to support the development process, but not to steer it. "We help the new [members] to become integrated in the Union. We do not make tourism politics for single countries," Klein underscored. That is, tourism is part of a wide range of promotion strategies, and the individual countries are responsible for the concrete use of the funds. The EU enlargement provides economic chances for all involved, as well as the possibility of increasing European

integration. The range of possible actions to be taken is broad: this applies not only for tourism politics and tourism businesses, but also for the tourists. These possibilities make for an exciting future. And the tourism industry has already shown that are ready to use this range of options, and that they are aware of their responsibility for fair and sustainable development. ♦

**Professor Vlad Kaczynski (School of Marine Affairs and REECAS – Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington) is a double Fulbright grantee (1976 and 2007). In 2007, he was a Fulbright Visiting Professor in the Institute of International Economic Relations at the Warsaw School of Economics. Kaczynski has authored or co-authored books and articles on marine policy, world fisheries, Russia and structural reforms in developing and transition economies, and has served as a consultant of the World Bank and USAID, along with many other organizations. Currently, Professor Kaczynski is working on launching a consortium of the University of Washington, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the Warsaw School of Economics that would be engaged in a project for the United Nations Habitat Program in Nairobi, Kenya.**

- 1 Ross A. Klein. *Cruising – Out of Control: The Cruise Industry, the Environment, Workers, and the Maritimes*, Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2003. The race to build bigger ships has not ended as of yet. In 2006, The Royal Caribbean International purchased the 158,000-ton vessel "Freedom of the Seas." (Dowling, Ross, K. *Cruise Ship Tourism*, CABI Publishing, 2006.)
- 2 Piotr Adamowicz (2006). "Big Cruise Ships in the Baltic Sea," *Rzeczpospolita Journal*, October 29, Warsaw, Poland.
- 3 Lech Walesa. Personal communication, 2006.
- 4 Report from the international conference "A New Tourism for a New Europe," organized by Messe Berlin GmbH (Berlin Trade Fair Ltd.) and N.I.T. (Institut für Tourismus- und Bäderforschung in Nordeuropa GmbH), March 13, 2004. The text of the conference can be accessed at [www.mta.com.pl/index.pl/impact\\_of\\_eu\\_enlargement\\_on\\_tourism\\_industry\\_in\\_europe](http://www.mta.com.pl/index.pl/impact_of_eu_enlargement_on_tourism_industry_in_europe).
- 5 "A New Tourism for a New Europe." The website of the Polska Organizacja Turystyczna is found at [www.pot.gov.pl](http://www.pot.gov.pl)
- 6 "A New Tourism for a New Europe."
- 7 "A New Tourism for a New Europe." TUI (Touristik Union Organization) is a German-based company with branches in Poland.



## The Ellison Center Welcomes Visiting Scholars



**Nikita Nikitin** joins us from Kaliningrad, Russia as a George Russell Fellow pursuing research on rehabilitative exercise, nutrition, massage and non-traditional medicine for people living with HIV (PLHIV). Nikitin comes to the UW from Immanuel Kant University of Russia, where he is a lecturer in the Department of Physical Culture and Sport.

Nikitin's interest in his area of research began while working at a regional AIDS center in Kaliningrad. It became the topic of his doctoral thesis, and he has since published 11 related articles, which are the only Russian-language works on the subject. According to his research, recreational exercise, if it is "adaptive, interesting and motivating," can improve the physical and mental health of PLHIV. While in Seattle, he plans to connect with scholars in his field, and to take advantage of the many English-language materials here that are unavailable in Russia.

As an active person, Nikitin was impressed by both the abundant opportunities for exercise and hiking in and around Seattle and by the physical fitness of the city's residents. However, what struck him first about the city was the pervasive smell of coffee. Upon returning home, he plans to address the need for further education in Russia on sport psychology and adaptive sports for PLHIV by creating a special program or course at his university.



**Ekaterina Pogorelova** comes to the UW as a Russell Fellow from Siberia, where she is Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Translation and Interpretation at Tomsk State Pedagogical University. Pogorelova is conducting research to promote international standards and educational resources for the training of interpreters and translators in Russia. She has also conducted graduate research in English and French linguistics and in foreign language pedagogy. Pogorelova has presented on her various fields of study at numerous conferences throughout Russia, and has also received several teaching honors from her university.

Her current project is entitled "Integration of World Standards for Interpreter Education into Russian Universities." While in Seattle, Pogorelova will attend courses in translation and interpretation and conduct research at UW libraries, and also hopes to meet with a team of Russian medical interpreters.

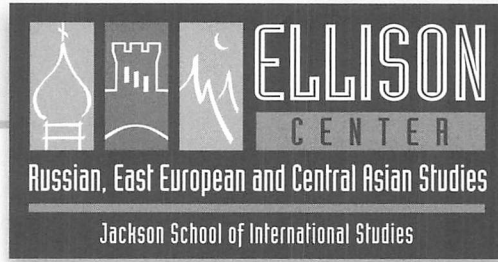
This is Pogorelova's second visit to the US, and her first time in Seattle. She remarked on some similarities noted between Seattle and Saint Petersburg — "the weather, the nature and all of the bridges." She plans to do as much sight-seeing as possible in the area, and will also travel to Orlando to attend the annual conference of the American Translators Association. When she returns to Russia, she plans to continue her efforts to integrate interpreter education standards in Tomsk, and to share the knowledge she has acquired here with her colleagues.



**Lilit Vasilyan** joins us as a Russell Fellow pursuing research into war-related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in refugees, veterans and survivors in Armenia. Vasilyan, a clinical psychiatrist, began working with sufferers of PTSD after the massive earthquake in Armenia in 1988. She continued this work after an armed conflict broke out in the early 1990s. Since then, she has published 14 articles and reports on the subject. She currently works in the clinic of the Police of Armenia in Yerevan, where she counsels and treats officers who have participated in the war and their family members.

In 2002, Vasilyan participated in a four-month IREX research program, where she studied war-related PTSD with doctors Sarah Miyahira, Matthew Ikeda and Andrew Bisset at the VA Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. While in Seattle, she plans to work with the VA Medical Center to observe treatment and medication procedures of PTSD patients, to attend sessions of the PTSD psychotherapy group, to investigate recent developments in microbiology research and medication for PTSD and to speak with UW researchers on historical PTSD and its long-term effects on families.

Vasilyan hopes to explore some of Seattle's cultural offerings during her time here. She appreciates the welcoming attitude of the city and its residents. "I feel comfortable here," she says. Upon her return to Yerevan, she hopes to begin research with PTSD patients, and to promote further recognition of the disorder by the by the government of Armenia.



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# UPCOMING ELLISON CENTER EVENTS

**DECEMBER 11: Master Teacher Workshop** – The conclusion of the two-part workshop “The Black Sea and the Mediterranean as a Crossroads of East and West.” Husky Union Building, Room 310, 5:00–8:00 pm.

**JANUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 15: Exhibition: Polish Heroes** – “Those who Rescued Jews.” Suzzallo Café.

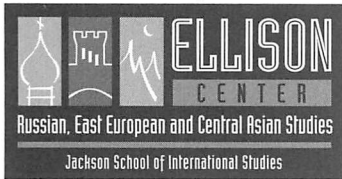
**APRIL 1: Hot Spots in Our World** – “Russia, Europe and the Redefinition of Eurasian Security after the Georgian War.” Stephen E. Hanson, Director of the Ellison Center, UW. Walker Ames Room, Kane Hall, 7:00–9:00 pm.

**APRIL 18: 15th Annual REECAS-NW Conference at UW, Seattle, WA** – “Ecological, Cultural and Political Change in Russia, East Europe and Central Asia.” 9:00 am–6:00 pm. See page 14 for more information.

**APRIL 20: The Donald Treadgold Memorial Lecture** – “Warning of Global Warming? The Intertwined Nature of Ecological, Cultural and Political Change in Siberia’s Far East.” Dr. Marjorie Balzer, Professor, Georgetown University. Location TBA, 7:00 pm.

**MAY 13: Hot Spots in Our World** – “Endgame in East Turkestan.” Bradley Jensen Murg, Culp-Jackson Fellow. Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, 7:00–9:00 pm.

**MAY 29: Europe Faces Its Near Abroad** – A conference with the Center for West European Studies and EU Center for Excellence on the challenges faced by the EU in developing policies toward its new near abroad.



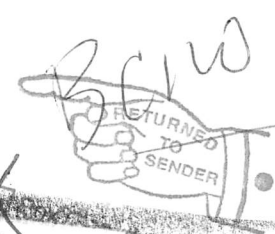
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