Director’s Notebook

by David Ransel

The Russian and East European Institute has enjoyed an exceptionally good year. We have not lost a single faculty member to retirement or non-retention. At the same time, despite justified gloom about the academic budget prospects in Indiana and throughout the nation, we have been fortunate to hire three outstanding young faculty to our program this year, and we anticipate the addition of a fourth in the next few weeks.

Sarah Phillips is joining our Department of Anthropology next fall as an assistant professor. Sarah received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2002 and has been teaching this year at the University of the South. Her dissertation explores the “ambiguities of women’s NGO organizing and paternalism in post-Soviet Ukraine.” She is also interested in the real and symbolic effects of the Chernobyl disaster and in questions of the disabled in Russian and Ukrainian societies. Professor Anya Peterson Royce of the Department of Anthropology and I have been working several years to win a tenure-track position for Russian and East European studies in anthropology, where we already train a large cohort of talented graduate students without adequate area specialist help. Among the students currently in the anthropology graduate program are young scholars working on Buriatia, Tuva, Moldova, Cherkessia, and Lithuania. The appointment of Phillips adds significantly to our strength, which until now has been built on training by anthropologists who are only secondarily interested in Russia and Eastern Europe (Nazif Shahrani, Joelle Baloul, Anya Royce, Beverly Stoeltje, and Richard Wilk), assisted by language-qualified social and cultural historians (Maria Bucur, Jeffrey Veidlinger, and me). This new appointment will place IU in the front rank of national programs in Russian and East European anthropology.

Second, our Department of Political Science is adding a specialist in our area to an already unmatched strength in Russian and East European studies. Beate Sissenich will join the department next fall as a scholar and teacher of European Union issues whose research focuses on East Central Europe. Sissenich did her undergraduate work at the Free University in Berlin, her master’s degree at Brandeis University, and her Ph.D. degree at Cornell University. Her dissertation is titled “State-Building by a Non-State: European Union Enlargement and the Diffusion of EU Social Policy in Poland and Hungary.” A native German speaker, she is a language-qualified as well in Polish and Russian. Sissenich will join our large group of REEI affiliated faculty in political science, including Dina Spechler, Henry Hale, and William...

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In Memory

Cornelis Hendrik van Schooneveld, known as “Kees” to his colleagues, passed away on March 18, 2003, at the age of 82, in his home at Amancy, France. He was born in ’s-Gravenhage (The Hague), in The Netherlands, on January 19, 1921. He first came to work at Indiana University in 1966 and retired in 1987.

Professor van Schooneveld was a major international figure of Slavic linguistics and linguistic publishing for many decades. He began the study of linguistics under tutelage of Nicolas van Wijk, at Leiden University in his native country of The Netherlands. He first came to the United States to study with the premier Slavic linguist of that time, Roman Jakobson, who was teaching at Columbia University. After receiving his doctorate in 1949, he first taught at the University of Oklahoma, but then moved back to Leiden, to become chair of Slavic and Baltic philology. In 1959, he returned to the United States, taking a professorship at Stanford University. In 1966, he moved to a professorship at Indiana University, and several of his graduate students followed him to Bloomington.

Van Schooneveld’s work built on the semantic theories of Jakobson, which had the goal of establishing the ultimate semantic distinctive features of Russian, but with further application to the other Slavic systems and to language universals. Some of van Schooneveld’s most important work concerned the semantic features of the Russian prepositions and verbal prefixes. Many doctoral dissertations, based on the van Schooneveldian semantic theories, were written at IU during the 1966-87 period, which could well be called the period of van Schooneveldian linguistics in the Indiana Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Colleagues are working on a more detailed memorial column on van Schooneveld, which will appear in the fall 2003 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures alumni newsletter.

Kanevskaya Scholarship Announced

The University of Montana Foundation has announced a scholarship to be established in honor of Marina Kanevskaya. Kanevskaya (PhD Slavics 1997), a professor of Russian at UM, died as a result of a hit and run accident in December. Donations in her name may be sent to: The University of Montana Foundation, PO Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807. Checks should be made out to The University of Montana Foundation, mentioning the Kanevskaya Scholarship in the memo line.

Dissertation Defenses

Aija Beldavs (Folklore) defended her dissertation “I Sing Out Nine, You’re Working on One: Historical Latvian Ritual Insult Song Warring ‘Apdziedasanas.’” Professor Henry Glassie chaired her committee.

Jennifer Cash (Anthropology) defended her dissertation titled “Rhetorics of Identity: Nationalism and Ethnicity in Children’s Cultural Programs.” Anya P. Royce chaired her committee.

Bradley Woodworth (History) defended his dissertation “Civil Society and Nationality in the Multiethnic Russian Empire: Tallinn/Reval, 1860-1914.” Toivo Raun chaired his committee.
Social Changes in Kosovo: Opportunities and Challenges for People with Disabilities

by Bryan P. McCormick

During the fall semester of 2002, I spent two months in Kosovo working as an intern for the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva whose mission is to aid in the orderly management of migration around the world. The IOM mission in Kosovo was established shortly after the end of hostilities in June of 1999 and has worked to aid in the return of refugees and the rebuilding of Kosovo society following the NATO-led campaign to expel Serbian military forces from the region. I was assigned to IOM’s Psychosocial and Trauma Response (PTR) program and was based in Kosovo’s capital city of Priština.

The PTR project was a three-year program that sought to provide services and training to aid in Kosovar citizens’ adjustment following the armed conflict. The PTR project was intended to meet the psychosocial needs of returning refugees, ethnic minorities, and other underserved populations in the post-conflict period. My task was to develop and implement a project that would serve the needs of underrepresented populations. Given my background in recreation therapy, I sought to develop a project that would serve people with disabilities. I began by meeting with advocates, parents’ groups and service providers who were currently addressing the needs of people with disabilities in Kosovo in order to get some idea of the scope of need.

My first meeting was with the only child psychiatrist in Kosovo. We met on the psychiatric unit of the University Hospital in Priština. This was a very interesting experience for me as it was the first time I had been on a psychiatric ward in Kosovo. Although I have worked in psychiatric hospitals in the United States, this was quite different. The wards were dark, with few windows. In addition, due to the intermittent electricity in Kosovo generally, it was also cold. As we walked down corridors, I was struck by the fact that although clients were present, nothing particular was happening. It was the level of inactivity that was most remarkable to me.

Another of my early meetings was with Ms. Resmiqe Krasniqi, the founder of the mother’s group Hader, in the town of Prizren. Hader was formed by a group of mothers of children with disabilities who gathered on a regular basis to meet their own needs. They provided activities for their children, sewed diapers and made lunch once a week. As we met with Ms. Krasniqi we discussed many of the difficulties faced by families with a disabled child. First, she informed me that this year (2002) was the first that any children with disabilities were able to go to school. In addition, although Hader had received some aid from international donors, all of the activities they were doing at this time were self-funded. They were able to raise some funds by selling their sewn goods, but this provided only minimal income. Overall, I was very impressed by the self-reliance of this organization. It was clear that there were virtually no services to support these families. The situation was even more difficult for families which had children with more severe disabilities as they were ineligible for public schools.

One other facility that I made a point of touring was the Štimlje Special Institute (SSI). SSI is a large residential institution that provides services for people with mental disabilities. I learned that in Kosovo, and most of the Balkans, mental disability includes both mental illness and mental retardation. I had heard a number of stories about the poor conditions at the institute, and a recent report by Mental Disability Rights International was highly critical of the care at SSI, as well as at other facilities in Kosovo.

Bryan McCormick is an associate professor in the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.
Jeffrey Holdeman’s grandmother came to the U.S. in 1914 from a village in Romania. It was the ship’s last voyage from Europe before World War I. When she arrived, she settled in Ohio, found work, and eventually married and raised a family. While many immigrants of that time picked up English quickly, Romanian was still spoken in her household and continued to be passed down through the generations. This was just the first of a number of foreign languages Holdeman would learn.

In high school, Holdeman began French and later Russian, motivated by warnings from friends that Russian was a very difficult language. He welcomed the challenge. He continued to study both languages at the University of Tennessee, deciding late in his junior year to work toward a Russian, rather than French, major. The decision dismayed his French professor. When Holdeman told him of his desire to travel to Russia and then to return and pursue a PhD in Russian linguistics, the professor made him a deal. “Go to Russia,” he said, “and if it doesn’t work out, then come back here and you can do your PhD work in French here at UT.” Holdeman planned on traveling to Europe and Russia for a year. In his transition from Western to Eastern Europe, he spent a week in Ukraine where he finally received his first Russian-language immersion. It was not easy. However, by the time he got to Russia a week later, the pieces were beginning to fall into place.

Before traveling to Russia, Holdeman had searched for and found a year-long study program at the Gorny Institute in St. Petersburg, in which he enrolled. Since his exposure to Russia had been limited, he was unsure what Gorny referred to. “I thought this was some person like Pushkin, or that this was something like the Gorky Institute,” he said. “The first day they took us around and showed us the geological museum, and I thought, ‘This institute named after Gorny has a fantastic museum!’ Probably about a week and a half in we realized it was a mining institute.” Luckily, Holdeman’s program was tailored and courses were taught specifically for foreign students. Meanwhile, the students around him talked of their courses on mine shaft technology and geological surveys of Eurasia.

While in Russia, Holdeman mentioned his interest in Slavic linguistics to a teacher at the Gorny Institute. He wanted to study the history of the Russian language. The professor agreed to work with him on an individual basis. Holdeman picked up the subject matter so quickly that his teacher was soon introducing him to her colleagues at St. Petersburg State University. Before long, Holdeman was spending his mornings at the mining institute and his evenings at lectures at St. Petersburg State.

By the time Holdeman returned to the U.S. to begin his graduate study in linguistics at Ohio State University, he had undergone an intense education on the subject. “Going into a linguistics class [at OSU] and not knowing the English word for the linguistic terms was really incredible,” he says. He continued his study at OSU in Russian, linguistics, Czech, Bulgarian, and Serbo-Croatian – and eventually began his dissertation on the Old Believer community in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Holdeman’s research took him from Erie, Pennsylvania to Suwalki, Poland in order to reconstruct the history of the Old Believer (religious) community. No substantial research had been

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What do health care reform, civil society development, local government reform, and information campaigns all have in common? No, these aren’t the latest programs to be cut in the new Federal budget in light of the war on terrorism. These are just some of the activities that IU/REEI alumni are carrying out in Almaty, Kazakhstan. REEI isn’t just about Slavic musicology or 17th-Century Serbian nation building. Often, it’s about 21st-Century paychecks from U. S. Government contractors in some of the farthest reaches of the world.

Almaty is not as popular a place as, say, Terre Haute or Indianapolis for IU’s finest, but at the present time this self-labeled “megapolis” of 1.5 million people is playing host to a number of REEI graduates. How does one get from the rolling hills of Indiana to the barren steppes of Kazakhstan? For each of us, the story is a little different, but all of our tales are woven with similar threads: federally-funded development assistance, a thirst for adventure, a love of the lands, and the benefits of tax-free living as an expatriate. Here are stories from three of us.

Almaty is Sara Feinstein’s (MBA/REEI MA 1999) second Eurasian station since graduation. From 2000 to 2002, she worked in Baku, Azerbaijan nurturing Azerbaijan’s young but growing sense of civil society. She worked as information outreach program director for ISAR’s operations in Azerbaijan. Formerly the Institute for Soviet-American Relations, ISAR, now the Institute for Social Action and Renewal, had a program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to incubate new-born non-government organizations, nurturing them with resource materials, organizational assistance, and small grants. Afterwards, she became the deputy director for Azerbaijan for the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), getting its civic education program on its feet, also with the help of USAID funding.

Now in Almaty together with husband Larry Held (a fellow Hoosier, Central Eurasian Studies 1996-1998, regional director for Academy for Educational Development), Sara is a regional program manager for Zdrav Plus, managed by another USAID partner, Abt Associates. Among the projects she manages is the Health Communities Grants program, which hands out both small grants and advice to community-based health initiatives in all five Central Asian republics.

Eric Boyle (SPEA MPA/REEI MA 1999) had been stomping around Central Asia as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kyrgyzstan from 1993 to 1995. After the last three years on the other side of the Caspian in Armenia, he was given the opportunity to return as a resident advisor for the second phase of the Local Government Initiative, funded by USAID and implemented by the Urban Institute, a DC-based thinktank. The Local Government Initiative is a four-country program in Central Asia encouraging responsive, accountable, and transparent local government institutions. Eric’s work in Kazakhstan sends him to exotic places like Kostanai and Taldykorgan working on varying projects, which range from helping set regional economic development boards to working with condominium associations interested in water efficiency. His wife, Yulia Boyle, also a graduate of IU (SPEA MPA 1999), is a program specialist at the Academy for Educational Development.

Josh Abrams’ (SPEA MPA/REEI MA 2001) first trip to Central Asia was also as a Peace Corps Volunteer, having served in Chimkent, Kazakhstan from 1997 to 1999. He’s now back in Kazakhstan, this time working with the Eurasia Foundation as the outreach coordinator. The Eurasia Foundation gives grants on a competitive basis to a wide variety of local NGO initiatives across the entire former Soviet Union. In Kazakhstan, funded by USAID, the Foundation is focusing its interventions on open budgeting practices among government institutions. Josh makes sure that others know of the successes that Eurasia’s local NGOs have had through various information campaigns.

What is life like in Almaty for an expatriate at the dawn of the new century? As life in any big city recovering from communism, it’s a mixed bag. Almaty lost its capital privileges to Astana in 1997. Now having to settle with the title “South-
A long debated issue exists within archaeology regarding factors that influenced cultural change during the period between the end of the Neolithic and the beginning of the Early Bronze Age (EBA) in southeastern Europe. In European archaeology this section of prehistory is commonly known as Chalcolithic or Eneolithic, both terms meaning the Copper Age. The importance of this period for understanding the roots of subsequent developments in prehistory (Bronze and Iron Ages) has not been properly understood until relatively recently. It has been included in either to the preceding period (Neolithic) as its final phase, or to the ensuing Early Bronze Age as its beginning. In any case, the Chalcolithic has been considered an intermediary period. However, the Copper Age witnessed events that were to change the entire demographic, social, technological, and ideological basis of the following European EBA cultures, which essentially remained unaltered until Roman times. Southeastern Europe, and more precisely the Balkan Peninsula, was the site of the first autonomously developed European metallurgy, an event that in many ways influences the lives of people even today. At the same time, horse breeding, the first wheel, and ox-drawn carts were introduced to European society. Somewhere in the middle of the Chalcolithic a supposed migration from the East (from the steppe regions north of the Black Sea, today in southern Ukraine) started and culminated by the end of the period. These migrations resulted in the formation of the EBA cultures in southeastern and central Europe. From this migration, speakers of one or more Indo-European dialects were probably united, and would come to lay the linguistic foundation for almost all modern European languages.

The demographic and technological changes mentioned above also influenced the nature of the societies inhabiting the region. Explaining this cultural change is one of the main goals of my research. While attempting to acquire material evidence, I will focus my attention to the region stretching between modern-day eastern Serbia, southwestern Romania, and western Bulgaria. It is a mountainous region that has a well-preserved stratigraphic sequence, which includes superimposed cultural layers reflecting cultures that were present in this region during the Chalcolithic era. The region also has two other important characteristics that separate it from the surrounding areas. First, it is located on the intersection of major prehistoric migration, trade, and exchange routes. Commonly, these historic routes connect to the river valleys. This region is surrounded by the Danube, Morava, and Pek rivers. Second, the region is the location of the earliest confirmed copper-ore mining in the Balkans and Europe. In fact, the entire area has abundant deposits of copper and other metallic ores that might have been known, and even exploited, in the Chalcolithic era, though the evidence for the latter is at present meager, mostly due to the lack of proper exploration.

My research is leading me to examine the effect of new technologies and population movements from the east on the structure of the local societies. I expect to find that the stylistic change in the archaeological material is actually a consequence of the internal structural developments in the Balkan prehistoric societies (i.e. the

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After bidding goodbye to the fifth floor of Ballantine Hall last August, I moved to Washington, D.C. and started working for an NGO that implements programming to support political development in transition and developing countries around the world; I work on Kosovo and Bulgaria programs. A few weeks ago, I returned from a three-week trip to see both programs in action and meet all of the people I had talked to on the phone over my first five months on the job.

Although the Peace Corps had taken me to Bulgaria for two years, I had never been to Kosovo before. I was excited about visiting a new place and I spent the first two days walking around in a daze, trying to take it all in. The airport in Priština is actually in Fushe Kosovo Polje (the Field of the Blackbirds), and every time I drove through the village, all I could think of was “This is where it all started? How can so much history be wrapped up in this sleepy little village?” History aside, anyone who still has nightmares about seeing The Birds should probably not go to Kosovo. The blackbirds are everywhere, and at dusk they perch in the trees, lurking and watching. It took four days before I managed to reassure myself that none of them would peck out my eyes.

Another thing I noticed immediately was the ever-present sound of the generators. The electricity appeared to work for only about three hours at a time, so most of the businesses had generators that kicked in when the power went out. In our office, it took only a couple of days to get down the pattern. The lights would go out, then the backup batteries on the computer would start beeping, as a reminder to save your work before it was too late. The generators took about ten seconds to kick in. However, the secondary effect of the generators starting up was that they set off all of the car alarms on the numerous SUVs in the area. The pattern repeated itself every three hours: lights went out, computers beeped, generator kicked in, car alarms went off. One person I met thought the sequence of sounds should be the national anthem if Kosovo ever gains independence.

Until the question of independence is resolved, the international presence in Kosovo was obvious in other ways. I had never been to a post-conflict region before. In addition to the soldiers, tanks, constant security checks, and restricted areas, the road signs clearly demonstrated the international influence. When the UN entered Kosovo, they set up a system to identify the inter-city roads (since the Kosovars typically refer to roads by their destinations; i.e., “the road to x”). Given the sensitive language issue in Kosovo, the UN skirted the issue by naming the roads with pictograms – of animals! It is to the UN’s credit that they did not use English signs, but there is still something absurd about listening to radio and hearing: “The Duck is flooded today. To detour around the water, head south on the Deer to the Snake, and then head west.”

But as humorous as the idea is of a road named “Rat,” on the Rat itself you pass an Orthodox Church, which is protected by not only barbed wire, but by Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops. The site is a mass grave. A little bit farther along the Rat, you pass a memorial to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) soldiers, including more graves, fresh flowers, benches for families to sit and mourn, and an Albanian flag. Memorials like this are scattered all over the region, but the advantage, since it took about two days just to master falemnderit (thank you), and “good morning” kept coming out of my mouth as mir-something-jes.

Beyond language, the international presence in Kosovo was obvious in other ways. I had never been to a post-conflict region before. In addition to the soldiers, tanks, constant security checks, and restricted areas, the road signs clearly demonstrated the international influence. When the UN entered Kosovo, they set up a system to identify the inter-city roads (since the Kosovars typically refer to roads by their destinations; i.e., “the road to x”). Given the sensitive language issue in Kosovo, the UN skirted the issue by naming the roads with pictograms – of animals! It is to the UN’s credit that they did not use English signs, but there is still something absurd about listening to radio and hearing: “The Duck is flooded today. To detour around the water, head south on the Deer to the Snake, and then head west.”

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On March 25, 2003, American diplomat and I.U. alumnus Paul M. Carter, Jr. (MA 1984; Ph.D. and REEI certificate 1997) represented the United States at a ceremony marking the return of the famous “Smolensk Archive” of regional Soviet Communist Party records, which had been captured by the German Wehrmacht during its invasion of the USSR and held for much of the Cold War period in the U.S. National Archives in Washington. U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow symbolically presented the archive to the Russian government at a ceremony in Moscow last December, timed to coincide with the physical transfer of the documents to the Russian Embassy in Washington. The March 25 ceremony in Smolensk signaled the archive’s final return to its original location.

The odyssey of the Smolensk Archive is a fascinating study in the interconnection of politics, scholarship, and military history. Discovered by German intelligence officers after the capture of Smolensk in July 1941, the archive was soon recognized as valuable fodder for anti-communist propaganda and eventually shipped westward apparently for use by Nazi ideologists at their anti-Bolshevik research center in Silesia. Most of the archive – reportedly enough to fill three and a half railroad cars – was recaptured by the Soviets at the end of the war, but about 570 files somehow were separated from the rest of the archive and fell into American hands.

Few of the American-held files were sensational or dramatic, the bulk consisting of ordinary personnel records, interoffice memoranda, and meeting reports. Nevertheless, the importance of the Smolensk Archive for Western understanding of the Soviet system could hardly be overestimated. It provided American intelligence analysts, then Western scholars, with some of the first documentary evidence of the internal workings of the Soviet Communist Party as it attempted to remake Russia along Marxist lines through crash industrialization, collectivization, and mass terror. A leading American sovietologist Merle Fainsod used the archive as the basis for his classic 1958 study *Smolensk Under Soviet Rule*, which detailed these processes and remains even now a staple of Soviet studies.

The first attempt by the U.S. Government to return the archive was made in the 1960s, but the CPSU Central Committee was unwilling to acknowledge the authenticity of the documents because of their politically embarrassing nature. In the early 1990s, a tentative agreement was reached for the archive’s return, but a transfer did not take place because the U.S. wanted clarification of Russian intentions with regard to the Schneerson collection of Russian Lubavitcher documents that had fallen into Bolshevik hands soon after 1917. An important event in the eventually successful return of the archive was the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets, at which the United States and the Russian Federation pledged themselves to an international effort to help research and uncover cultural assets that were seized by the Nazis during World War II and to return them to their pre-war owners or heirs. In the years following the conference, both public and private institutions in the United States and Europe have taken steps towards addressing issues related to Nazi-

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His Excellency, Przemysław Grudzinski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland paid a visit to Bloomington on April 8. The purpose of his visit was to deliver a talk entitled “Poland and the Future of Transatlantic Relations” and to honor the work of two friends of Poland, Dean of International Programs Patrick O’Meara and Bill Johnston, Director of the Polish Studies Center. The ambassador also met with a number of IU administrators, including interim President Gerald Bepko, and took time to join a group of students from REEI, SPEA and History for breakfast.

Grudzinski actually wears two hats, one as a statesman and one as scholar and academic. His scholastic credentials are as distinguished as his diplomatic ones. A historian by education, he holds an MA in History from the University of Nicolaus Copernicus, Torun and a PhD in History from the Polish Academy of Sciences. He noted the pleasure he takes in visiting college campuses throughout the U.S. and is no stranger to life in a college town. He was a Fulbright Fellow at Princeton University in 1988 and was a Visiting Professor at the Center for International Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles and the Center for Strategic and International Studies at UCLA in 1989.

Speaking to a large audience in the IMU Georgian Room, the ambassador said he was “particularly honored” to be visiting IU’s Polish Studies Center. He praised the center’s promotion of academic research about Poland and Polish culture in Bloomington for more than twenty years. The ambassador also thanked past directors Bozena Shallcross and Timothy Wiles for providing capable stewardship of the center and for helping it to become the prominent learning center that it is today. The center remains a focal point for Polish studies in the Midwest and sponsors a wide variety of academic and cultural events in and around the Bloomington campus.

In his remarks he addressed Poland’s role as a NATO member state, the current status of Polish-U.S. relations, Poland’s involvement in the Iraq war, and how European Union-United States relations have evolved in the post-cold war environment. Grudzinski began by saying that NATO membership served as a milestone in Polish-U.S. relations. During the cold war, Europe had accepted a modicum of American leadership in exchange for security against the threat of the Soviets. Now, with the Warsaw Pact a distant memory, new challenges have forced a shift in American defense policy. With this shift divergent viewpoints have emerged on international security among American and European decision makers. Poland, as a new member of NATO and traditional ally of the United States now finds itself walking a tightrope between its allies on both sides of the Atlantic. He stressed a belief that NATO’s relevance in the 21st century is undisputable and that it may serve to strengthen democratic institutions in the former Soviet Republics as it expands eastward.

On the subject of the war in Iraq he expressed Poland’s “bitter disappointment” that a peaceful solution could not be reached. He said that “Poles will never be in favor of war” but that Iraq’s refusal to adhere to UN resolutions had forced the issue. Delving into history, he reminded the audience that Poles understand the meaning and brutality of war and therefore do not enter into the coalition lightly. Grudzinski stated his disappointment that all other avenues had been exhausted. When questioned about Poland’s fate at Yalta, considered by some a betrayal of Poland by President Roosevelt, he once again relied on his academic background. He reminded the audience that the long course of U.S.-Polish relations has been overwhelmingly positive in nature. Regarding Yalta he said that the issue was a complex one. His knowledge comes, he said, from the research he did for his book on Roosevelt entitled The Future of Europe in the Ideas of Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945.

Finally, the ambassador was pleased to present a special award in honor of Dean Patrick O’Meara and Bill Johnston. Each, he said, had promoted better understanding and friendship between America and Poland through scholarly work and promotion of academic exchange between IU and Polish Universities. In awarding the Amicus Poloniae, he stated that it was of particular pleasure to present it since it is awarded at the discretion of the ambassador.

Mark Betka is a graduate student in REEI and SPEA.
**Almaty**  
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ern Capital” (or, to use the technical term, “City of Republican Significance”), Almaty has many of the advantages of the big city (great shopping, good restaurants, decent cable TV) with fewer of the disadvantages (presidential motorcades don’t block rush-hour traffic as often). Sandwiched between spurs of the Ala-Tau Mountains and the Siberian steppes, Almaty is famous for long and snowy winters, but that also means that the skiing season can stretch into April. People drive with no respect for traffic laws or human life, but it’s only a 15-minute walk to work through tree-lined streets.

Working as U.S. Government contractors and grantees in the slippery post-Soviet environment means spinning the plates of multiple bureaucracies, but, then again, we did sharpen our skills in the queues at the IU registrar. Often, our jobs involve balancing multiple expectations. USAID expects to report back to Congress that taxpayer money is being spent on programs that are producing measurable changes in things that are impossible to count. How much civil society can an extra dollar buy in Kazakhstan? Local officials expect “favors” for performing what many would consider to be part of the normal functioning of any government. Sure, we’ll participate in your anti-corruption seminar, if you give our office a new computer. Our headquarters offices in America want to schedule a conference call after they’ve had their morning coffee. With the 11-hour time-difference to the East Coast, that’s the same time we’re having our sleepy-time tea.

In short, it’s a new adventure every day. And the REEI graduates are not the only Hoosiers to have made the trek here. Many who have passed through the Sample Gates have also negotiated the dilapidated Almaty airport terminal. From former Muskie scholars to graduates of the Central Eurasian Studies Department and the School of Library and Information Sciences, many others have wound up spending some time in this stop along the Silk Road. As investment in oil continues and Kazakhstan’s “strategic significance” grows, odds are there will be even more alums of IU and REEI traveling through here. So, maybe Almaty will soon match Terre Haute’s alumni population, after all.

*Eric Boyle is a 1999 graduate of REEI and SPEA.*

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Holdeman

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Holdeman loves language learning and linguistics. But what led him to Indiana was his hands-on experience in a different field – pedagogy. After exhausting the funding he had received for researching and writing his dissertation, Holdeman took a job as a teaching consultant at Ohio State. To supplement his formal training, Holdeman’s supervisor sent him to the library. For twenty hours a week, a regimen that lasted over a month, Holdeman spent his time in the library reading on pedagogy and theories of teaching. Soon after this crash course, he was observing classes with his colleagues and consulting with instructors. He spent a year and a half working with teaching assistants to improve their teaching methods. After finishing his dissertation and receiving his PhD, Holdeman accepted a position at IU as the Slavic Language Coordinator. He has been supervising the Slavic Department’s Associate Instructors and holding a Russian Tea hour on campus on Tuesdays and a Russian Table at Bear’s Place restaurant on Fridays each week. Next on his plate: Holdeman has been entertaining ideas of beginning a Russian or East European Club. He has also re-established the Indiana University chapter of Dobro Slovo, the Slavic honor society, which will hold inductions and elections next fall.

Jen Maceyko is a graduate student in REEI.

Wanat in Kosovo

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one on the Rat is the largest I have seen at about sixty graves. The memorials, combined with the bombed-out barracks on the edge of Priština, and the breathtaking snowcapped mountains paint a very surreal landscape.

Sights and sound of Kosovo aside, several significant political developments had taken place there just before I arrived. The international community had made it clear that any discussion of the final status of Kosovo would not occur in 2003. The Serbs in the Kosovo Central Assembly had returned from their November 2002 walkout to protest the assembly’s resolution that protested the inclusion of Kosovo in the Constitution of Serbia and Montenegro. The Serbian government had called for the reintroduction of Serbian troops into Kosovo. Finally, the first Albanians were indicted at the Hague tribunal, one of whom was a member of the Central Assembly.

The day after I arrived, a protest in Priština took place in response to the indictments. All business owners closed down during the protest, guarding against the potential for a violent crowd. As it happened, the protest was well-attended and peaceful, one of the many signs I took to indicate that Kosovo is on its way to being a sustainable democratic society. I was relieved to find that Kosovars are increasingly finding non-violent ways to make their voices heard.

Annisa Wanat (MA REEI/MPA SPEA 2002) works for the National Democratic Institute in Washington, DC.
Fierman, who work on Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union; Jack Bielasiak and Aurelian Craiutu, who work on Eastern Europe; and Jeffrey Hart and Jeffrey Isaac, who use East European studies in their comparative analyses.

Third, we are building strength in the Department of Criminal Justice. William Pridemore has just accepted a position in that department. An IU graduate with B.A. and M.A. degrees in Sociology and Criminal Justice, Pridemore went to the State University of New York at Albany for doctoral degree studies. In 2000 he completed his degree with a dissertation titled “Social Structure and Homicide in Post-Soviet Russia.” Pridemore will add considerably to our recent start in the Department of Criminal Justice, where Dennis Rome just this year initiated an REEI-sponsored course on “Mafias in Russia and the United States,” an offering that has proved to be very popular with students. Crime is, unfortunately, a prominent feature of Russian life in recent times, and our students need expertise in this subject if they are going to be able to understand and analyze events in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union. We therefore consider the contributions of Pridemore and Rome to be of great importance to the success of our teaching programs.

Fourth, a search is currently under way for a tenure-track appointment in Hungarian studies. Although we still pride ourselves at IU in having the only complete program of Hungarian studies in the United States, a number of retirements in recent years have eroded its strength. Despite our good fortune in having the world renowned scholar Mihaly Szegedy-Maszak to lead the program, he can be in Bloomington only one semester each year. We also benefit from having each year a visiting instructor of Hungarian language and a Hungarian Chair Professor, who is always a well-published scholar from Hungary. But the persons in these positions may be different each year. We very much need and look forward to the kind of continuity and organizational oversight that can only come from a full-time tenure-track professor. The current search for such a person has brought three scholars to campus this month. We hope to be able to greet a new addition to our Hungarian studies faculty in the fall.

Moving eastward, I can report on our very large and active Romanian studies program, which brought us a number of prominent visitors in recent weeks. Among others were a leading Romanian philosopher and public intellectual Horia Patapievici, who spoke about the psychological deformations that took place in Romanians during the communist era and the prospects, given this legacy, for building a democratic society there. The filmmaker Nae Caranfil came to Bloomington for a showing of the prize-winning Romanian feature film “Filantropica.” This event brought Romanian Counsel-General in Chicago, Sever Voinescu to campus. Voinescu is a close friend of many on our REEI faculty and an enthusiastic supporter of Romanian studies at IU.

In addition to the Romanian Counsel General, two other diplomats visited campus this term. On March 28-29, IU’s Hungarian Studies program hosted a symposium on Hungarian foreign policy that was attended by the current ambassador to the United States András Simonyi. On April 7-8, the Polish ambassador, Przemyslaw Grudzinski, was on campus to give a talk and meet with faculty and students to discuss the cooperation between IU and academic institutions in Poland, a part of the longstanding exchange relationship we have enjoyed under the management of the IU Polish Studies Center.

April also saw the 3rd in our series of Roundtables on Post-Communism, a cooperative effort of REEI and three other area studies programs at IU. We bring public figures and scholars from former communist countries (and China, which is increasingly capitalist in its economic organization) to discuss the effects of recent structural change on various aspects of society and culture. This semester’s roundtable focused on popular culture and featured presentations by Florian Pittis, a Romanian actor, director and musician as well as the head of a Romanian radio station; Chen Xiaomei, professor of East Asian languages and literatures at Ohio State University, a specialist on Chinese theater; and Paul Wilson, a Canadian journalist and translator of the works of Vaclav Havel.

Planning for a future installment of these roundtables is also taking place here in April with the assistance of another visitor, the Polish scholar Agnieszka Graff. She is here as a fellow of IU’s Institute for Advanced Study. A prominent writer on gender issues, Graff will work with our roundtable planning team (Maria Bucur, Marci Shore, Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Jeffrey Isaac, Bill Johnston, and me) in designing next
confiscated cultural assets. Chairman of the Commission on Art Recovery Ronald Lauder and his representatives played a particularly important role in ensuring the return of the Smolensk archive.

Moscow Embassy Second Secretary Paul Carter, accompanied by Library of Congress Open World Program Moscow Coordinator Aleksandr Khilkov, represented the United States at the March 25 ceremony marking the archive’s return to the Smolensk region. Also in attendance were the Director of the Russian State Archives Vladimir Kozlov, several other federal archival officials, Deputy Director of the Diplomatic History Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Valerii Kushpel, Deputy Governor of Smolensk region Aleksandr Vorotnikov, regional archival officials, historians, and a large contingent from the regional press.

The ceremony took place in the large facility that houses the entire collection of post-1917 archives for the region. Remarks by Russian officials noted the historical importance of the Smolensk archive and their deep gratitude to the United States for its return. In his remarks, Carter described the opportunity to participate in the historic ceremony as a great honor and pleasure and discussed some of the historical background leading up to the archive’s return. He noted the archive’s tremendous importance for Western scholarship, the commitment of the United States to the return to their original owners of all archives and other cultural assets displaced during World War II, and the significance of the Smolensk Archive’s return as a further step in the strengthening of U.S.-Russian relations. In an interview with Russian State Radio, Carter also discussed the importance of the archives for his own understanding of Soviet communism and offered his opinion on the nature of the system.

Following the ceremony, Carter and Khilkov were given a tour of the archival facility and shown the newly returned files in their rightful places. Archive director Alvina Dedkova explained that they had preserved the numbering and filing system and the storage method used for the documents as developed by the National Archives and opened a few boxes to reveal the contents. The documents – made of low-grade Soviet paper – were yellowed, and the information printed on them, whether hand- or type-written, was in many cases faded beyond legibility. The archivists, nevertheless, were overjoyed to have the documents back and promised to do their best to preserve them for posterity.

This article was generously submitted by Paul M. Carter.

Chalcolithic

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emergence of social complexity).

This summer, thanks to the financial help from the E. A. Schrader Endowment Fund and from the Office of International Programs, I will be able to conduct preliminary field research investigating the relationship between the change in technology and the change in the stylistic appearance of the archaeological material in connection to the supposed change of population. I will be able to test some of my initial hypotheses in the archaeological record from the area in question. Answering my questions will not be an easy task. Due to the political and economic instability of the region in the last decade of the twentieth century, instability that is still lingering in the area, the quality of scientific research is not up to modern standards. I suspect this might render the search for relevant contextual information from the excavations somewhat difficult.

In any case, I hope to determine the quality of data and the validity of my own hypotheses in order to continue my research. I will be able to draw on broad archaeological analogies from all the parts of southeastern Europe. With luck, this work will have a significant impact in explaining the contemporary cultural change of the entire region.

Zarko Tankosic is a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology.

(All photos courtesy of the author)
Russian and East European Institute

Student News

Martin Blackwell (History) presented “An Investigation Has Established…”: The Communist Party Elite and the New Rigidity of the Soviet Union’s Social Structure in the Mid-1940s – The Case of Kyiv” at the Central Slavic Conference in Lawrence, Kansas.

Janis Cakars (Journalism) won the Frances G. Wilhoit Award for his paper “Soldiers of the Pen: The Use of Nonviolence in the Liberation of Latvia.” The award recognizes the best research paper written by a graduate student in the School of Journalism in the academic year 2001/2002. He will present a version of the paper at the annual conference of the International Communication Association in San Diego on May 25. Cakars also published a review of Soldiers: Fighting Men’s Lives, 1901-2001 by Philip Ziegler (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002) in the February issue of Military History. Cakars has received an IREX grant to aid in dissertation research during the fall semester.

Melissa Cakars (History) presented “Settling the Buryats: A Comparison of Two Policies” at the Central Slavic Conference at the University of Kansas.

Thomas Cooper (CEUS/Comparative Literature) has accepted a position at the University of North Carolina as Visiting Lecturer in Hungarian Language and Culture. He will teach courses on the Hungarian language and Hungarian literature and culture. Mr. Cooper has recently had two articles published in the Journal of Hungarian Studies: “Zsigmond Kemény’s Gyulai Pál: Novel as Subversion of Form”; and “Narrative Voice in Zsigmond Kemény’s The Fanatics.” In August 2002 Cooper was elected to the executive board of the International Association of Hungarian Studies.

Jon Giullian (Library Science) presented “Authentic Video in the Intermediate Russian Class: The Case of Beregis’ Avtomobilia” at the Central Slavic Conference.

Irina Khmelko (Political Science/SPEA) presented “Institutionalization: Evidence from Ukraaine” at the Central Slavic Conference in Lawrence, Kansas.

P. Matt Loveless (Political Science) has been selected to participate in the IU graduate student exchange program with the University of Debrecen, Hungary.

Katherine Metzo (Anthropology) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina – Charlotte beginning August 2003.


Natasha Ruser (undergraduate, Slavics) received the 2002-03 Chair’s Award for Russian Language, which is awarded to the most outstanding undergraduate student of Russian.

Daniel Whyatt (History) has been selected to participate in the IU graduate student exchange program with Warsaw University during summer 2003.

These are just a few of the achievements and activities of the busy faculty and students associated with REEI. A full listing of the menu of activities managed or sponsored through the institute would take more space here than we have. In just a single week of April the REEI calendar included 15 separate events outside the regular curriculum. This schedule keeps our students and faculty continually engaged in expanding their knowledge of the societies and cultures of Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union and makes REEI highly active and intellectually stimulating center of learning.

Notebook continued from page 1

year’s session on questions of the opportunities and difficulties that the recent changes in the former communist world have created for women.

An important new step in our East European studies programs is an exchange agreement between IU and the University of Rijeka in Croatia. Professor Henry Cooper, recent chair of our Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and a specialist on South Slavic languages and cultures, took the initiative and did virtually all the work in organizing this effort, which will bring Croatian faculty to IU to teach intermediate and advanced Croatian and will afford IU students and faculty the opportunity to work and study in Croatia. The long-term goals are to establish at IU the first lectureship in the United States in Croatian language, with funding from the Republic of Croatia, and to facilitate continuing exchanges between IU and the University of Rijeka in a variety of disciplines.

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Alumni News

Robert Frowick (BA French 1953, MA Government 1957) is currently a visiting scholar at Stanford’s Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace. He is writing a book on his experience as head of mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1994 to 1997.

Martha Merritt (MA Political Science 1986) is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Notre Dame University, and recently led a discussion, “Accountability for Wartime Presidents in Russia and the United States” at the Kennan Institute in Washington, DC.

Daniel Pennell (MA History 1999/MLS 2001) participated in the panel “The Current Crisis in Research Libraries and the Future of Slavic Collections” at the Central Slavic Conference at the University of Kansas.


Sang-Yeol Yoon (MA REEI 2002) has returned to Korea and is working for LG, a private-sector Korean company which collects information on global market activity. He is currently researching Russian markets, business environments, and consumer trends.

Faculty News

Malcolm Brown (Emeritus Music) read a paper, “Prokofiev’s ‘Sacrifice to the Bitch Goddess’” (Stravinsky’s flinty characterization of Prokofiev’s return from European exile to live in Stalinist Russia), at the symposium/concert series “Music and Terror in Stalinist Russia,” 20-22 January, sponsored by Reed College and Chamber Music Northwest.

Murlin Croucher (Slavic Bilbiographer) participated in a panel, “The Current Crisis in Research Libraries and the Future of Slavic Collections” at the Central Slavic Conference in Lawrence, Kansas.

Steven Franks (Slavics) has been awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Linguistics and Philosophy of Language. Franks will spend three months next year at the University of Venice delivering a series of lectures on “Slavic Syntax from a Universal Grammar Perspective” and consulting with faculty and students. Franks received his first Fulbright grant in 1977 for research in Croatia.

Halina Goldberg (Musicology) has been nominated to participate in the 2003 short-term faculty exchange with Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where she plans to take advantage of the University’s music library and Czartoryski collection.

Henry Hale (Political Science) published “Teaching Central Eurasian Politics in Comparative Perspective” in Central Eurasian Studies Review 2, no. 1 (Winter 2003).

Jeffrey Holdeman (Slavics) was invited by the Endangered and Minority Languages and Cultures Working Group of the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities at Ohio State University to give the first paper in the OSU research series. The paper, given in January, was entitled, “Erie Old Believer Russian: A Grave Situation.” He was invited by the University of Michigan Center for Russian and East European Studies to conduct their annual pedagogy workshop. The workshop, “Teaching Students of Varied Preparation and Background: Challenges and Approaches in the Language Classroom” took place on March 22. Prior to the workshop he gave a concert of Czech and Russian music (guitar and vocal) at the university.


Roman Zlotin (Geography) published a chapter, “Biodiversity and Productivity of Ecosystems,” in The Physical Geography of Northern Eurasia (Oxford University Press, 2002). This is based on Zlotin’s previous academic work as a biogeographer in the Russian Institute of Geography.
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