

REELification

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

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The Price of Victory: Corporate Influence and Interwar Romania by Justin Classen

In an era characterized by the still-rapid pace of globalization, it is a commonplace that large multinationals have acquired political influence in many areas across the globe. From the manufacture of clothing in Southeast Asia to the extraction of petroleum from the Middle East, the power of multinational corporate entities is assumed to be a relatively new development, that has contributed to debate on the future of state sovereignty. As such, corporate power is rarely viewed as a historical phenomenon, one that has played a critical role in the very construction and consolidation of nation-states across the globe since the first decades of the twentieth century. In reality, the problems posed by corporate interests for states have a long and varied track record, one deserving of significant historical inquiry. In particular, nowhere were multinationals more important and influential than in the constellation of nation-states that occupied the interwar map of Eastern Europe.

On this point it is important to remember that the societies along the Eastern Front in World War I had a markedly different wartime experience than their counterparts in the West. In place of the compact trench warfare in the Low Countries and France, throughout the eastern theater the front remained fluid, capable of moving hundreds of miles during single offensives. Over the course of the war, the front shifted back and forth throughout the territories of modern day Hungary, Romania, Poland, Ukraine, the Baltic republics, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania and Serbia, extending at various times from the Adriatic to the Black Sea and from Riga to Constantinople. Accordingly, the struggle in the east was far closer to a total war than acknowledged by historians focused on the conflict in the west, with corresponding consequences. Not only was the absolute human cost higher in Eastern Europe than in the west, but the dynamism of the front lines produced high numbers of civilian casualties and unparalleled material devastation along with combat death mortality.

So profound were the effects of war and occupation that, in the first half of 1919, American and British authorities were forced to ship more than 218,000 tons of emergency food supplies to Romania alone, which a few years before had been one of the largest exporters of grain in Europe. However, the most crippling effects of the war were felt only after the harvest of 1919, as the Bucharest-based state attempted to rebuild and unite the shattered Romanian lands. In addition to having part of the nascent Romanian industrial base disassembled and shipped to Germany over the course of the war, Romanian authorities found they could not resume their traditional export-based economy without repairing the damage done to the Romanian rolling stock, which had declined from 1500 locomotives to less than 60 as a result of the war. Efforts to purchase equipment abroad to replace that lost during the war were hamstrung by the instability of the Leu, which had to overcome the loss of the entire Romanian gold reserve to the Russian Bolsheviks. Like many of the newly independent or enlarged nations of post-WWI Eastern Europe, if Romanian authorities were to consolidate the gains made in Paris, they would have to rely on investments from abroad.

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IU Awards for REEI Alumni

1994 Irene Meister
 College Distinguished Alumni
 1998 Stephen Cohen
 College Distinguished Alumni
 1999 James F. Collins
 Honorary Doctorate
 2004 Richard Miles
 Distinguished Alumni Service

REEI Awards

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1988 Alexander Rabinowitch
 1988 Charles Gati
 1995 Gale Stokes
 2000 Helena Goscilo
 2002 Howard I. Aronson
 2002 William Hopkins
 2009 Donald Raleigh

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

1988 Theofanis Stavrou
 1988 Robert F. Byrnes
 1989 Karen Niggle
 1996 Robert W. Campbell
 1997 Charles Jelavich
 1997 Janet Rabinowitch
 2000 William B. Edgerton
 2007 Denise Gardiner
 2009 David L. Ransel

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As a result, during the 1920s and 1930s, foreign capital and corporations fueled a substantial portion of the reconstruction throughout Eastern Europe. The material destruction in Eastern Europe and the financial destruction of much of their prewar Central European competitors created vast new markets for American, British and French commercial interests. In Romania, for example, all vehicles on the roads were of American or French manufacture, while 80% of the petroleum that powered their engines was produced and refined by subsidiaries of the enormous English and American oil multinationals. Communication networks were designed and operated almost exclusively by the US-based International Telephone & Telegraph, and up until the early 1930s the majority of the locomotives on the Romanian rail net were built in the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Romanian emissaries to the United States constantly (if unsuccessfully) sought permission to issue government bonds on the capital-rich US market, and in 1921 the first (and, to date, only) Romanian-based bank opened a branch on US soil.

Repeated issuances of import restrictions, “Romanianization” initiatives and increased government oversight did little to stem the spreading influence of foreign corporate power. The financial resources of Western private interests dwarfed those of the Romanian state, multinationals like Standard Oil of New Jersey controlled the access of Romanian exports to world markets and the Romanian economy increasingly came to rely on the expertise of foreign businessmen. As they moved to expand and secure their market shares and profits, corporate interests concluded backroom deals with Romanian politicians, independently operated political intelligence networks, and, if all else failed, willfully ignored “inconvenient” Romanian laws. The need for foreign assistance in the process of reconstruction and development heavily circumscribed the ability of Romanian authorities to curb multinational expansion and protect native Romanian industry. While foreign capital and companies contributed greatly to the formation of the Greater Romanian economy, this contribution did not come without profound economic and political costs.

In short, since the emergence of multinationals at the end of the nineteenth century, corporate power has had a role to play in the development of nation-states. In the case of Eastern Europe, the experience of wartime devastation compounded the already difficult process of transition between the pre- and post-war political order. To rebuild the shattered economies left behind by the retreating forces of the Central Powers, states like Romania found themselves forced to draw upon the established resources of Western corporate entities. Dependency on foreign capital, expertise, and equipment played a role in the formulation of Romanian economic and social policy, while efforts to curtail the influence of corporate interests floundered. In a sense, in order to extend its sovereignty over the provinces of Greater Romania, the Romanian state was forced to come to terms with institutions that were not above attacking elements of that sovereignty from within.

Justin Classen is an MA student in REEI currently writing his thesis on the role of corporations in interwar Romania.

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Trying the Milošević Trial

by Carla Tumbas

From 18th to 21st of February, the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and co-sponsors REEI and West European Studies hosted *The Milošević Trial: An Autopsy*, a conference bringing together twenty-three participants from eleven countries and five disciplines, both practitioners and academics, for a critical exploration of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević's war crimes trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Indicted in May of 1999, controversially transferred from Serbia to the ICTY at the Hague in June 2001, and standing trial from February 2002 until his death in March 2006, Milošević passed away before a verdict was reached on charges of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in the Croatia, Bosnia, and Kosovo wars of the 1990s. This lack of judgment has proved frustrating for those seeking any personal sense of closure or vindication that a verdict could bring. It has also raised more practical issues surrounding the court's inability to reach a conclusion in the four years of the trial.

Both the aim of the conference and the discussion it fostered reflected the diversity of its participants. Composed of international criminal law experts, historians, journalists, political scientists, and anthropologists, the group explored a broad range of issues: the impact of the Milošević trial in the war-affected communities; the more general use of an international tribunal as a venue for establishing a conflict's 'official' historical record; technical institutional design and case management strategies; and others. While themes of reconciliation, media influence, and prosecutorial strategy surfaced repeatedly throughout the discussion, it was the varied experiences of many of the participants with either the tribunal or the conflicts under consideration that ensured debate on all issues and allowed the conference to reflect the broader lack of consensus surrounding the court.

The 'View from Belgrade' – itself the title of a paper submitted by Serbian Association of Journalists President Ljiljana Smajlović – was well and diversely represented throughout the discussion. In addition to opposition journalists, Milošević legal counsel Zdenko Tomanović was present, joined in representing indicted war criminals by Kevin Jon Heller and Sanja Popović, both legal advisors to former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić in his current trial at

the Hague. Marko Prelec of the International Crisis Group Sarajevo and former senior researcher for the ICTY's Office of the Prosecutor contributed to the regional diversity. The breadth of the conference's voices was perhaps most strongly enhanced by plenary speaker, long-time Kosovar dissident, and KOHA Media Group owner Veton Surroi, who offered a very personal and memorable reflection of what Milošević's transfer and trial at the Hague meant to him. However, the contributions of the many other European and American participants made it obvious that perception of the trial was only

partially dependent on physical proximity to Milošević's influence during the '90s.

Organized by Maurer School of Law professor and REEI affiliated faculty member Timothy Waters, an international law expert and former member of the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICTY, *The Milošević Trial: An Autopsy* also provided an opportunity for REEI and law students enrolled in 'International Law: The Milošević Trial,' a course developed by Waters as a companion to the conference, to witness and contribute to this developing discourse on both the regional impact of the trial and the future of international criminal law.

Having already achieved this objective, conference participants will now collaborate on an edited volume of the papers discussed in Bloomington, with the aim of making its work accessible to a broader audience. Approximately 60 observers, primarily from the Indiana University community, attended. Both the forthcoming publication and a limited archive of the discussions and related resources are already available online at http://www.law.indiana.edu/front/special/2010_milosevic, and will ensure the further dissemination of the conference's work.

Milošević may have died before judgment was rendered, but *The Milošević Trial: An Autopsy* demonstrated that the controversy surrounding both the man and the ICTY not only preceded his indictment but survives him posthumously. As a result, though Milošević, as a prominent accused war-time leader, served as a vehicle for discussion, the ultimate challenge embraced by the spirit of the conference is to incorporate these wider debates and lessons into the development of post-conflict justice mechanisms to come.

Carla Tumbas is an MA student in REEI.



Conference participants Sanja Popović (center), David Crowe and Timothy Waters (right).

Photo courtesy of Zach Hetrick, Zach Hetrick Photography

Alumnus Profile: Jason Vuic



IU alumnus Jason Vuic

Jason Vuic, who received his PhD in East European History from IU in 2005, recently published *The Yugo: The Rise and Fall of the Worst Car in History*. REEification recently asked him some questions about his new book.

How did your years at IU contribute to this project?

I came into IU with an MA, so my period living in Bloomington was limited to 1998-2000. Nevertheless, I found IU to be very challenging intellectually and Bloomington itself was a very heady environment. I really enjoyed the community of students, scholars, and staff that made up REEI. So many people had been to so many places and knew so many things. The sheer breadth of languages spoken by the students and faculty of REEI was amazing. Though my PhD coursework was in history, the REEI community encouraged me to think of all the different ways I could analyze my world region, which in this case was Yugoslavia, and the various ways I could present that region to academic and non-academic audiences alike.

Why the Yugo? What inspired you to write this book?

My goal was to write a popular-press book for American readers about some aspect of Yugoslav history that did not involve war or ethnic conflict or political strife. I noticed recently that on Amazon.com's top ten list of books about Yugoslavia, seven related to war or some other negative aspect of Yugoslav history. There's nothing wrong with these books, and these certainly are important topics, but I myself wanted to write something else. As for the Yugo...I was always interested in those rare instances in which Yugoslavia entered the American consciousness. When I was growing up in the 1980s, Americans knew virtually nothing about Yugoslavia. They had heard a little bit about Tito (who,

because of his 1948 break with Stalin, was considered a "good communist"), some had heard of or even been to Dubrovnik, some sports fans knew about Vlade Divac or Tony Kukoc or maybe Monika Seles, and a great many Americans watched and enjoyed the Sarajevo Olympics. But, by far and away, the most recognizable Yugoslav product in America was the Yugo. The car arrived in the US in August 1985 and for the first few months people rushed to buy it. It cost \$3,990 and was by far and away the cheapest new car in America. But the Yugo was really a consumer fad, a passing fancy, which the press called "Yugo-mania." It didn't last. In February 1986, a very influential magazine called *Consumer Reports* reviewed the Yugo and wrote that it was "better to buy a good used car than a new Yugo." Sales plummeted, and from that point forward the Yugo was a joke...a national joke that found its way into comedy routines, books, films, TV shows, and even into pop songs. Yugo America went bankrupt in 1992, but for some strange reason, which I analyze in the book, the Yugo has lived on in our pop-lexicon as a synonym for cheap and for failure.

Many of the reviews have been in widely read publications and many copies have already sold. Why do you think the book has had such popular appeal?

I think it shows the power of the Yugo as a cultural phenomenon. For most Americans, the Yugo is the worst car in history. In 2000, listeners of the popular National Public Radio program *Car Talk* voted it "The Worst Car of the Millennium." I knew I had a good story here, but Americans, I have learned, love to hate the Yugo. They really do. And I think it is because cars are status symbols in America. They are the greatest status symbols of them all. Thus, when the Yugo came to America priced at \$3,990, it was in a sense counter-cultural. It swam against the cultural current of 1980s America.

Does the story of the Yugo shed new light on international relations during the Cold War?

No, I wish it did, but I do not think so. My book is simply an in-depth case study of how Yugoslavia's unique Cold War position allowed it to export its manufactured products to the US and do business with American companies. There are many examples of this: Coke had a trade-barter agreement with Yugoslavia that led to the importation of "Avia" wine. Coke sold syrup to Yugoslav bottlers and received Slovenian wine in return. The name "Avia" actually comes from "Yugoslavia." Dow Chemical built a huge chemical factory on the Croatian island of Krk, and Westinghouse built a nuclear power plant in Krško, Slovenia.

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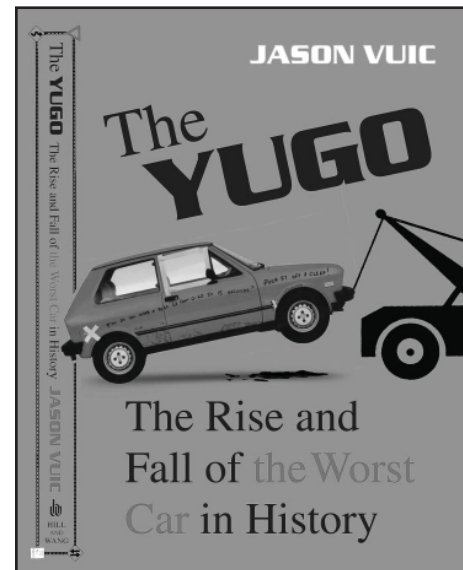
Think about it...The US allowed an American company to build a nuclear power plant in a communist country. This shows how unique Yugoslavia was during the Cold War, and the Yugo was one small part of this.

What relevance does the rise and fall of the Yugo have for the current economic crisis?

Reviewers have tried to connect my book and the Yugo in particular to Toyota. This is disingenuous. The Yugo was a 1970s-era Fiat licensed to the Zastava company of Serbia. Zastava produced the Yugo for twenty-eight straight years with minimal changes. That is a decade longer than Ford produced the Model T. Zastava imports technology. Toyota, no matter what its current issues are, creates technology. It builds literally dozens of models in dozens of countries worldwide. Comparing Toyota to Yugo is like comparing watermelons to screwdrivers. There is a similar product on the horizon—the Tata Nano of India. The Nano will cost approximately \$8,000 and in 2013-14 will be the cheapest new car in America. I predict the presale publicity and hype surrounding the car will be similar to what the Yugo experienced in 1985. I only hope the Nano's quality is good enough and its sales and service network are strong enough to withstand critical reviews. If not, we could have another Yugo on our hands. However, personally, I very much want Nano to succeed and I would love to be wrong.

What is your next project?

I plan to write a book on the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics. I spent last summer on fellowship at the International Olympic Committee Archives in Lausanne, Switzerland and plan to visit some sites and conduct oral interviews in Bosnia and Serbia this summer. I am looking forward to it.



Jason Vuic's new book.

REEIFication wishes Jason Vuic the best of luck with his new book and his forthcoming project. If you would like to be featured in an Alumnus/a Profile, please contact reei@indiana.edu for more information.

Slavic and East European Career Night

In March, REEI, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Career Development Center hosted the Slavic and East European Career Night, an annual event that brings alumni and students together to discuss careers and internship experiences. This year, two alumni, Todd Golding and Alice Clark, shared their career paths and success in marketing their area studies backgrounds and language skills.

Todd Golding, who teaches World Civilization and Russian language at Jefferson High School in Lafayette, IN, received an MA in Slavic Linguistics and a Master of Arts in Teaching from IU in 1993. Before teaching, he worked for the Department of Defense. Golding has been teaching Russian language for fourteen years, and his program continues to grow. He has also established an exchange with a high school in Uzbekistan. Combining his language abilities with a World Civilization certification enhanced Golding's marketability as a teacher.

Alice Clark has worked for a number of financial

institutions, including JP Morgan and Citibank, in the US, Russia, and France. Having graduated from IU in the early 1970s and as one of the first Americans to study in Russia, Clark was in the unique position of having Russian language skills just as the Russian market was beginning to open. Her area studies and linguistic training at IU rendered her an indispensable asset to the companies that hired her. Clark emphasized that while advanced language proficiency is always a strength, speaking a second or third language alone will not get you a job. If you have an interest in business or finance, demonstrating that interest through coursework or volunteering is helpful.

Two current students, Lauren Butt and Emily Young, talked about their intern and volunteer experiences with the State Department and Peace Corps, respectively. The Slavic and East European Career Night is held annually. If you missed it this year, plan on attending in 2011.

One Year Later: the Fallout of Moldova's "Twitter Revolution" by Sara Ronald

5 April, 2010 marks the one-year anniversary of the Moldovan parliamentary elections that spawned violent protest and international interest. In the past year, the Moldovan government has attempted to deal with the issues that stem from that day. Needless to say, it has been an eventful year for the small nation tucked in the corner of Eastern Europe.

Preliminary election results were announced on April 6. Though the reigning Communist Party (CP) had been expected to win, the margin seen in early results came as a shock to the opposition. However, international observers initially declared the results to be fair—something that investigative reporting by Moldovan journalists would subsequently call into question.

In response, activists organized a protest that day in downtown Chişinău, using social media such as Twitter and Facebook to notify supporters, a tactic that earned the ensuing riots the nickname "Twitter Revolution." What began as a peaceful protest began to escalate on April 7, as more protestors came to Piaţa Marii Adunări Naţionale, the main square in Chişinău. Police and protestors began to clash, with tear gas and water cannons used in an attempt to control the crowd. However, the riot police were soon overwhelmed and protestors stormed the Parliament building and the President's house. Demonstrators carried Romanian and European Union flags and chanted "Down with Communism!"

When the smoke literally cleared and the protests ended a few days later, two protestors were dead and over 70 police officers injured. Diplomatic barbs were traded as Russia supported the Communist President Vladimir Voronin, who accused Romania of inciting the riots. At the request of the protestors, a recount took place later in April, with no significant change in the results.

Though the protestors had gone home, the Communists did not have everything under control. Voronin had reached the end of his second term as president and could not be re-elected, so parliament was tasked with electing a new president. In Moldova, sixty-one seats are needed to do this. The April elections had given the Communists sixty seats. The opposition banded together and refused to cede a single vote to the Communists. After two attempts at electing a president failed, Voronin dissolved the parliament and set early elections for the end of July.

At the time, a similar result from the April elections

seemed likely. However, in early June the political game shifted. Marian Lupu, a Communist who had served under Voronin as the President of Parliament, left the CP and joined the Democratic Party of Moldova, an opposition party, because he believed the best way to fix the CP and the country was not from within. With Lupu's defection, the Democratic Party, once a minor player, vaulted onto the main stage with the Liberal Democratic Party and the Liberal Party.

This time, the CP only obtained forty-eight seats—nowhere near the 61 necessary to elect a president. The major opposition parties decided to join forces, naming themselves the Alliance for European Integration (AIE). With their seats combined, the AIE now controlled 53 seats. This, however, is also far short of the 61 necessary to elect a President.

With the majority, however, the AIE was able to name Mihai Ghimpu, leader of the Liberal Party, as interim president after Voronin resigned in September, citing the uncertainty of the position. As the name would suggest, this was intended to be a temporary position until the AIE

could elect its real choice for President—none other than Marian Lupu. However, electing a president has proven exceedingly difficult.

The parliament has faced a question of constitutional legality. Is it legal to vote to elect a president if only one candidate is named? This debate resulted in delayed attempts at electing a new president, and boycotts by the CP further complicated matters. Without the necessary 61 seats and the refusal of any members of the CP to vote for Lupu, the country is locked in a stalemate with an acting President representing the country to the world.

At this time, the most likely scenario for the future is early parliamentary elections in the fall, to produce a parliament capable of electing a president. In the meantime, Ghimpu, Lupu, and Prime Minister Vlad Filat have been working closely with European Union and American leadership to strengthen ties. Though the current situation is murky and the future unclear, the past year has been one of the most interesting and captivating in Moldovan politics. This fall, when Moldova attempts once again to get its political affairs in order, we may see another turning point.

Sara Ronald is an MA student in REEI currently writing her thesis on last year's Moldovan Parliamentary Elections.



Vladimir Voronin (left) and Marian Lupu.

Faculty Profile: Andrew Durkin by Laurel Utterback

Professor Andrew Durkin recently retired from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. PhD student Laurel Utterback recently caught up with him.

How did you become interested in Russian literature?

It all began in my undergraduate career: I started out in Classics and French. My Russian teacher was a wonderful woman from the Morozov family, who were big industrialists and supporters of the arts. She had wound up teaching at Boston College through the usual tangled history of immigration. She was a marvelous person, one of those women that Nabokov talks about in *Pnin*, who instill a love of their beautiful and difficult language through tea. And she did it! That got me started. For the time, Boston College had a strong undergraduate Russian program. I went in to college with basically no awareness of that area at all and four years later I was a major and on my way to graduate school.

In preparation for this interview I was looking at your publication record. It seems that you have written on everything from Pushkin to Tertz. Could you tell me a little about the research interests that have defined your career?

I became interested in Aksakov partly because of his interest in nature, which I felt was a very important part of the Russian tradition, but one that had not been treated systematically. I saw his works as the real distillation of this tradition. Also, many of his writings are borderline works in a way. Some of them are not narrative at all. The ones that are narrative are also borderline - are they memoir? Are they fiction? They waver on that border. That was one of my interests: to try to identify what principle organized these works, what their underlying thematics were. Then I gravitated a little more traditionally toward Chekhov. Though I have written on other things, that has been my main interest for the past twenty-plus years.

What was it that drew you to Chekhov?

The sheer variety of his narratives - trying to puzzle out some of their aspects; there's quite a group of people in the US and Russia focused on Chekhov. It is also a social endeavor. Six years ago there was a conference at Colby College in Maine, organized by one of our former students, which brought together people from all different fields, Chekhov scholars, theater people, translators, even people from medical fields- and it was really one of the most suc-

cessful and interesting and stimulating conferences I have ever been to.

Everyone I talk to has taken Proseminar with you.

Former victims!

Yes, former victims, myself included. I know that you came here in 1975. Were you the "Proseminar Guy" right from the beginning?

I don't recall if I had the pleasure my first year, but I've been the person to teach it ever since. The idea that it is good for students to get some immersion in various literary approaches and theories at the start is the main purpose of a course like that. One thing I have tried to do is to make sure that students get some grounding in the really important theoretical contributions of the Slavic field, going back historically to the early twentieth century, because even the negative reactions to these movements assume them as their point of departure. I think that there is still a great deal of valuable insight



Professor Andrew Durkin

and theoretical grounding in these movements that also helps to clarify some current trends. It is good to have some idea of the direct ancestry or background of various movements, or to have some sense of the longer term trends and attitudes. I think that does a lot to give students a certain intellectual independence. They can start to make up their own minds about what critical approaches seem to be valuable and justified.

With your retirement you are facing an abyss of unstructured free time. What do you plan to do with it?

Well, one of the things I am still doing is cleaning out my office!

I am going to continue pursuing the same sorts of interests. I am certainly going to continue to work on Chekhov, and interests in nature, birds, and Japanese language. These are still continuing. Actually, I am just now working on a paper on Chekhov and Tolstoy for a conference in South Korea in the fall, and I was just at a symposium at Columbia - that was a paper on Chekhov. So I am still trying to work in the various areas that I pursued before.

REEI would like to thank Andrew Durkin for his years of service at IU.

Outreach Notes

Pre-college Russian On the Move in Bloomington

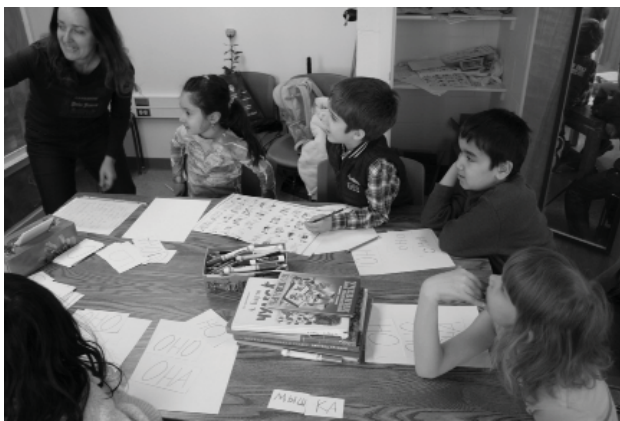
by Sara Ronald and Mark Trotter

As regular readers of the Outreach Notes are certain to know, REEI upholds a longstanding tradition of support for pre-college Russian programs in Indiana and Illinois. This commitment takes many forms: classroom visits and presentations on Russian language and culture by IU faculty and staff; coordination and funding for extra-curricular enhancements like the Russian Olympiada; workshops on language teaching methods; purchase of curricular materials; and other activities. Still, until the fall of 2009, the pre-college Russian program nearest to REEI was located more than 50 miles away, in Indianapolis. In the current academic year, REEI has taken steps to enhance that situation by launching a weekend program in Russian language and culture for local elementary school children and helping to start an after-school Russian club at Bloomington High School North.

Since September of last year, children ranging in age from five to eleven years have gathered each Saturday morning on the IU Campus View apartment building to learn about Russian language and culture. The children study in two different groups: one for heritage speakers of Russian and one for children with no previous exposure to the language. Each group works with its own teacher, but both groups come together at the end of each session for games, songs, and other cultural activities. Curriculum for the non-heritage group includes common vocabulary (colors, numbers, animals, etc.), high-frequency conversational phrases, and some work on Russian letters, while the heritage group focuses on reading and writing. Teachers in the program are both native speakers of Russian. Natalia Ermasova, currently a doctoral student in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, works with the heritage group and has previously taught in similar programs in Canada. Children in the non-heritage group study with Vera Frye, a special-needs/gifted-and-talented teacher at Bloomington High School South, who previously taught German to schoolchildren in Obninsk, Russia. The program has grown from an initial total of twelve to eighteen regular participants as of early April. Children in the program have also helped to disseminate their knowledge of and interest in Russian culture at community events like the Bloomington Multicultural Expo in October 2009, where they demonstrated and helped to teach traditional Russian children's games, and the Lotus Blossoms Festival in March, which featured a "matryoshka" activity with which many program children assisted. The Saturday Russian program has also benefitted from the help of Professor Martha Nyikos, an REEI-affiliated faculty

member in the School of Education and an expert in the field of child foreign and heritage language education, who recently led a workshop on best practices in elementary-age foreign language education for teachers in the many extracurricular programs now operating in Bloomington (apart from Russian, these include programs in Korean, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and German). It has also provided Larisa Groysman, an IU student who is certifying as a K-12 teacher of Russian, with a forum to complete part of her student teaching requirements.

"Teaching Russian has been a great experience for me," comments Vera Frye. "I have been using various teaching methods



Natalia Ermasova instructs children in the heritage group at the Saturday Morning Russian Program.

but mostly I have been incorporating a lot of games, visual materials, acting out, children's books, songs and short poems since my students are of elementary school age. My students are very talented and have a good ear for the language. Many of them can pronounce Russian words without any accent and I am amazed at how quickly they learn vocabulary. They can write their names in Russian and are able to read short stories with some help. I am very proud of my students and hope to see them in the program next year.

I am very glad to be a part of this

program that provides me with an opportunity to speak my native tongue and share my Russian heritage with others."

REEI has also assisted in the establishment of an after-school Russian Club at Bloomington High School North (BHSN). The club, which draws from six to twenty students to its bi-monthly meetings, provides a forum in which students learn the rudiments of Russian language and explore various aspects of Russian culture through presentations by the students themselves or by IU faculty and graduate students whom REEI recruits. Ekaterina Cervantes, its faculty sponsor, is a native speaker of Russian who teaches German at the school and is currently completing certification for Russian with the support of REEI. We hope to see Russian introduced as a regular school subject at BHSN in 2011-2012. To that end, REEI has already made a commitment to supply the school with textbooks and other instructional materials.

Readers with an interest in either program are invited to contact Mark Trotter at martrott@indiana.edu or 812-855-7309 for further information.

Sara Ronald is an MA student in REEI.

Mark Trotter is Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator for REEI.

Alumni News

Catherine Albrecht (History, PhD 1986) is now Dean of the Getty College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

Barbara Allen (History, PhD 2001) received tenure and has been promoted to Associate Professor in the History Department at La Salle University. In addition, she published, "Alexander Shliapnikov's Purge from the Soviet Communist Party in 1933," in *Cahiers du Monde Russe*.

Meagan Call (REEI/SPEA, MA/MPA 2007) is now the International Student Services Coordinator at the University of Miami, after two years at the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer.

Diane Kraft (Slavic Literatures, MA 1996; Applied Linguistics, MA 1998) joined the University of Kentucky College of Law in August 2009 as the Assistant Director of Legal Writing and Academic Success. She received her JD from the University of Wisconsin School of Law in 2006.

William Quillen (BS in Music and History, 2001; SWSEEL 2003) has recently accepted a three-year appointment as a Junior Research Fellow of Clare College at the University of Cambridge. In summer 2010 he will file his dissertation, a study of new music in Russia from the mid-1980s until today, at the University of California, Berkeley (PhD, musicology, expected August 2010).

Daniel Stone (History, PhD 1972) with Annalee Greenberg, recently edited *Jewish Life and Times: A Collection of Articles, Volume 9*. Additionally, he published "Cepelia and Folk Arts Industries in Poland, 1949-1956," in *Polish Review* and a review of Orland Figes' *The Whisperers: Private Life in Stalin's Russia* in *Oral History Forum d'Histoire orale*. Dr. Stone also presented a paper in Ottawa at the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies entitled "South End Jews in Winnipeg before World War II" in May 2009.

Student News

Erin Biebuyck (History, REEI) will be presenting her paper "How to be Good: Defining Sexual Morality in Communist Romania" on the "Coupling Comrades: Sexual Discourse Under Communism" panel at the AAASS conference in Los Angeles in November 2010.

Lauren Butt (REEI) will be presenting a paper entitled "Stari Most: (Re)building Authenticity and Nostalgia in Post-War Bosnia" at the Royal Geographical Society's annual conference in London in September 2010.

Ramajana Hidic Demirovic (History) has been awarded an IREX fellowship to travel to Bosnia during the academic year 2010-2011 for dissertation research. Additionally, she will be a discussant on the panel "War and Peace: Memorials, Memory and Commemorations I" at the AAASS conference in Los Angeles in November 2010.

Kelly Lostroscio (REEI) published an article "Economic Reform for Bosnia and Herzegovina's Accession into the EU: Factors Impeding Change" in the EU @ IU February Publication.

Anna Muller (History) will be the Chair of the panel "War and Peace: Memorials, Memory and Commemorations I" at the AAASS conference in Los Angeles, CA in November 2010.

Yuriy Napelenok (REEI) presented a paper at the Midwest Slavic Conference at the Ohio State University in April 2010.

Sara "Sally" Ronald (REEI) will be featured as a contestant on the game show *Jeopardy!* on 31 May 2010. Check your local listings!

Christopher Roush (REEI) was selected for two exciting summer opportunities which he is currently deciding between: an internship with the Defense Intelligence Agency and a Critical Language Scholarship in Russia.

Michael Benjamin Thorne (History) will be presenting his paper "In loc de un monument (Instead of a Monument): Memory, Commemoration, and Conflict in Recognizing the Persecution of Romanian Roma during World War II, 1946-2006" at the AAASS conference in Los Angeles in November 2010.

Faculty News

Maria Bucur (History, REEI), is coordinating the gender and women's history network at the European Social Studies History Conference in Ghent, Belgium (13-16 April, 2010), where she is also presenting a paper on gender and everyday life in communist Romania. In February she helped organize (together with Karma Lochrie and Purnima Bose) the conference "Gender and Citizenship" through the Cultural Studies program at IU, where she delivered a paper entitled "What's Gender Got to Do With It?: Feminism and Diversity on the Bloomington Campus". She recently published *Heroes and Victims. Remembering Romania's World Wars in the Twentieth Century* (Indiana UP, 2009).

Andrew Durkin (Slavic Languages and Literatures, Emeritus) gave a paper entitled "Models of Artistic Discourse in Chekhov's 'In Exile' and 'The Student'" at a conference held in honor of Professor Robert Belknap at Columbia University in February, 2010. He also chaired a panel on Turgenev at the AAASS annual convention in Boston in November 2009.

Charles J. Halperin (REEI) gave two papers, "Would You Believe SAINT Ivan the Terrible? Reforming the Image of Tsar Ivan IV" at the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture conference in Columbus, OH in October 2009 and "Ivan the Terrible Goes to the Dogs" at the AAASS Convention in Boston in November 2009. He published "The Culture of Ivan IV's Court: The Religious Beliefs of Bureaucrats," in Valerie Kivelson, Karen Petrone, Nancy Kollmann, Michael Flier, ed., *The New Muscovite Cultural History: A Collection in Honor of Daniel B. Rowland*.

Mark Hooker (REEI) has been appointed to the Board of Advisers for Walking Tree Publishers, an academic press that specializes in research about the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Hooker's specialty is comparative translation. He compares the original with the translations of Tolkien's works into a number of Slavic and Germanic languages.

Owen V. Johnson (Journalism/History) discusses what he found in his secret police file in "Most of the Information was Wrong: American Scholar Checks His Slovak Secret Police Files," in the March 1, 2010 edition of *The Slovak Spectator*, which can be accessed at http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/38073/2/most_of_the_information_was_wrong.html

Bryan McCormick (School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation) has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for combined research/lecturing with the University of Kragujevac in Serbia. His research project will focus on the influence of different levels of urbanization on the social interaction and psychosocial functioning of people with serious mental illness who live in Eastern Europe.

Frances Trix (Linguistics and Anthropology) published an article, "Contesting Immigrant Voice in Istanbul: Mass Media, Verbal Play, Immigrant Channels," in *Language and Communication*, 30, 2010, about Balkan immigrants in Turkey. She also presented papers at two international venues: "Violence and Religion in Kosova in the 1990s" at Marmara University in Uskudar, Turkey in April 2009; and "Western Balkan Tekkes in Late Ottoman and Modern Times," at the International Symposium on the 800th Anniversary of the Birth of Hacı Bektaş Veli, sponsored by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and the Alevi Institute, at Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey, in October 2009.

She also presented papers at three national conferences: "Mitrovice/a: Lives and Narrowing of Public Space in a Kosovar City," American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Boston, November 2009; "Survival Strategies for Bektashi Tekkes in the Western Balkans: Gjakova (Kosova), Tetova (Macedonia), Gjirokastra (Albania)," Middle Eastern Studies Association, Boston, November 2009; "Balkan Muslim Immigrant Associations in Istanbul: Solidarity In and Out of Sync in a Muslim Land," American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 2009.



Christina Zarifopol-Illias in Vienna.

Christina Zarifopol-Illias (Classics/Slavics) was the guest of honor and speaker at the 160th anniversary of Mihai Eminescu's birth (Romania's national poet) in January 2010, at the invitation of the Romanian Cultural Institute – Vienna. The event also marked 10 years since the publication of the poet's unknown correspondence, which she had discovered, transcribed and edited in 2000. On this occasion, Professor Zarifopol-Illias also met with the faculty and the students of the University of Vienna (Romance Languages Department) and gave a talk about the IU Romanian Studies Program.

Giving Opportunities

General Fund

The REEI general fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community.

Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fellowship

This fellowship honors the memory of REEI's first director by supporting an outstanding incoming MA student. The current award consists of a stipend and fee remission for the first year of study and is renewable for an additional year.

McCloskey Fund

This fund commemorates the life and work of former Congressman and REEI alumnus Frank McCloskey, who dedicated himself to the advancement of peace and democracy in the Balkans, by supporting a biennial exchange program that sends an IU student to study in the Balkans and a student or scholar from the Balkans to study in Bloomington and Washington, DC.

Daniel Armstrong Memorial Research Paper Awards

This competition is dedicated to the memory of IU Slavics alumnus, teacher, scholar, and administrator, Professor Daniel Armstrong (1942-1979). Awards are presented to students for papers written in a class devoted to some aspect of Russian, East European, or Central Eurasian studies.

Gifts from thoughtful friends like you supplement the modest support that the Russian and East European Institute receives from state and federal sources. Your generosity enables REEI to maintain a high standard of education for its students, encourage innovative research on the region, and engage with the broader community through a variety of outreach activities.

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