

REELification

NEWS FROM THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

David L. Ransel, Director
Vol. 25, No. 4

Mark Betka, Editor
December 2001

Identity Consciousness of Hungarian-Americans: Continuing the Process of Ethnographic Fieldwork in Northwest Indiana

By Linda Degh

During the summer of 2001 exploratory ethnographic fieldwork was conducted by a team of four graduate students (a folklorist, an ethnomusicologist, an anthropologist and an Eastern European historian), under my guidance with advice and counsel from John H. McDowell, Chair of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and Stephen H. McShane, Curator/Archivist of the Calumet Regional Archives, IUNW.

Realization of the project has a long history that I would like to briefly summarize, because it has become a significant part of a bigger picture: cultural identity study in the United States. This, the most successful democracy in the world, was built by immigrants or "ethnics." Today the flow of immigrants continues, blending into multiethnic-multicultural communities where diverse groups live and work together, not in fairytale harmony, but with continuous conflict and confrontation, as traditional values and ancestral ideals fight a losing battle against innovation and progress. In the course of time, while ethnics negotiate acknowledgement of their cultural uniqueness, they also merge and blend their ideologies and lifestyles to reach a consensus of unity by diversity. This historical process of integration is a creative move, completed when chosen identity markers achieve respectability.

To study this process, fieldworkers visit settlements and gather data through direct participant observation, registering information from individuals, be it jokes, songs, legends, life histories, customs, religious, social, occupational, child rearing practices - anything the subjects volunteer to tell. The information obtained from community members is invaluable for the student of ethnic history because the subjective, emotional recounting of personal experiences, lives and adventures reveals more than dry enumeration of historical facts.

These ideas guided my initial work among Calumet-Hungarians between the years 1964 and 1980 and later on elsewhere throughout the U.S. and Canada. My personal archive contains a large body of tape-recorded, handwritten, printed and photocopied materials, some of which I have published in articles and books, but the bulk remains untouched and will remain so should no specialists continue my work. Initially this research was a part of my own personal and scholarly acculturation process, but later I reached the point where I was able to devote my time to pursuing other challenges in my profession. I would like to see others take over where I have left off.

To date, the Hungarian-American subculture has been overlooked by folklorists and anthropologists. Thus my documents remain unique except for the excellent work of three Hungarian colleagues: Zoltán Fejös (Director of the Museum of Ethnography, Budapest), Mihály Hoppál (Director of the European Folklore Institute, Budapest), and Péter Niedermüller (Professor of European Ethnology at the Humboldt University, Berlin). They have worked with me in the region and later elsewhere, funded by IREX and ACLS. I found students to continue my work as assistants while I was working on a new approach to Hungarian-American identity maintenance and

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IU Awards for REEI Alumni

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

REEI Awards

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1988 Alexander Rabinowitch
1988 Charles Gati
1995 Gale Stokes
2000 Helena Goscilo

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

Congratulations Graduates!

PhD Dissertation Defenses

Lynn Sargeant (History) defended her dissertation "Middle Class Culture: Music and Identity in Late Imperial Russia" on August 24. Ben Eklof chaired her committee.

Terri Ziack (Economics) defended her dissertation "Foreign Direct Investment in Transition Economies: Exploring the Effects of Uncertainty and Heterogeneity on Investment Timing" on June 15. Michael Alexeev chaired her Committee.

REEI MA Defenses

Joshua Abrahms (REEI/SPEA) defended his essay "NGO's, Civil Society and the Disappearance of Environmental Activism in the Former Soviet Union" in December 2001. Henry Hale chaired his committee.

Kenneth Guy (REEI) defended his essay "The Re-creation of History: Soviet Folklore as Propaganda in the 1930's," in December, 2001. Hiroaki Kuromiya chaired his committee. He is currently working toward a Russian Language Teaching Certificate at George Mason University and anticipates completing his course work in the fall of 2003.

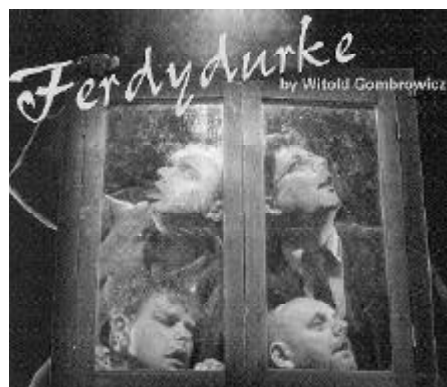
Polish Theatre at IU

By Bill Johnston

On February 13-17, 2002, IU will host a Polish theater event, a conference accompanied by the midwest premiere of *Ferdynand* by Teatr Prowizorium/Kompania Teatr of Lublin, Poland. The conference and performances are being organized by the Polish Studies Center, with funding and support from REEI, the Office of International Programs, the Dean of Faculties, the Department of Theatre and Drama, and other units across campus.

Tentatively entitled "The Other in Performance: Beyond the 'Canon' in Polish Drama," the conference will focus on various aspects of "non-canonical" Polish theater, including alternative theater such as that of Kantor and Grotowski, women playwrights, Jewish theater, gay theater, and expatriate theater. The conference will take place on February 15th-16th at the Indiana Memorial Union on the campus of IU in Bloomington.

Ferdynand is a stage version of Witold Gombrowicz's novel of the same name, one of the most important and also most shocking works of 20th-century Polish literature. Teatr Prowizorium/Kompania Teatr will perform both Polish and English-language versions, the latter adapted by Allen Kuharski from Danuta Borchart's recent award-winning translation. This production has already received rave reviews in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Edinburgh, Scotland, where it won a coveted Fringe First Award in the Edinburgh Festival. The show combines broad slapstick and farce with profound underlying themes of power and knowledge.



There will be two English-language performances in Bloomington, on February 15th and 16th, and one at IUPUI in Indianapolis on Wednesday, February 13th; there will also be a Polish language matinee on the afternoon of Saturday, February 16th. For more details about the conference and the theatrical performances, please check the Polish Studies Center website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst/>. Bill Johnston is director of the IU Polish Studies Center.

Bosnia: The Road to Recovery

By John Altshul

This summer I worked as a political/economic intern for the State Department at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo. Needless to say, it was an exciting summer. Sarajevo is a really great city, animated, socially and culturally alive. It's hard not to love the place.

At the embassy, I covered missing persons issues, as well as additional work on "gray market" activity and tax reform. Missing persons is a delicate subject in Bosnia. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 remain unaccounted for as a result of the 1992-1995 civil war, the majority of whom are Bosnian-Muslims. While mass graves are regularly unearthed, many of the mortal remains have decayed to the point that dry bones, tattered clothing, and random personal accouterments are all that are left of a corpse. This gruesome reality has hindered efforts to positively identify many of the missing.

Recovering and positively identifying mortal remains provides an important sense of closure to the thousands of families who never learned the fate of their fathers, brothers, uncles and nephews (the missing are overwhelming male). Exhumations and forensic examinations are a painful, emotional business. The result is that missing persons commissions, splintered along ethnic lines, have developed. Each side fights desperately for its portion of the generous foreign aid available for this purpose as well as to point the blame at the other sides for the terrible tragedy that was the Bosnian Civil War.

Unfortunately, prior to this summer, the missing were being identified with rather crude, antiquated methods. For example, if a purple scarf was retrieved from a mass grave, it would be shown to a number of possible relatives of the scarf's owner. When a family member recognized the scarf—usually faded and

worn-out after a decade underground—a match was made. However, this resulted in a preponderance of "false positives" and even more bitterness.

Srebrenica, site of the infamous 1995 massacre, represents the most volatile flashpoint in the missing persons controversy. To Bosnian Muslims, Srebrenica epitomizes the genocide that befell Bosnia. While estimates of the number of missing vary greatly, roughly 6000 Muslims are unaccounted for. To Bosnian Serbs, Srebrenica is more evidence of Islamic hyperbole and the anti-Serb bias of the international community. What is incontrovertible, however, is that of the



Sarajevo today

thousands upon thousands of bones recovered from mass graves around the town, precious few positive identifications have been made (just over 100 as of May 2001).

This summer, however, the International Commission on Missing Persons, an international non-governmental organization, introduced DNA testing technology to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Now, blood samples from living relatives of the missing can be tested against bone samples from the exhumed remains. This technology will greatly expedite the identification process, thereby helping to heal the wounds of a country still reeling in the wake of Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II.

That said, Sarajevo is a remarkably safe and calm place today. It is not the besieged, bullet-riddled city that we remember from CNN. Largely rebuilt and surprisingly chic, Sarajevo has a positive feel to it. The short-term visitor might even be lulled into thinking that Sarajevo is on the path to prosperity and long-term stability. It isn't. There are many skeletons left in its closet.

John Altshul is a masters student in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Interested in a Summer Internship with the U.S. Department of State?

The U.S. Department of State has a large internship program. Most embassies hire at least 2 interns every summer, with some high-profile embassies taking many more. Interns work in one of five departments: political, economic, public diplomacy (public relations), consular affairs (generally visa processing), and administrative. Applicants may request up to three countries that they would prefer to work in.

The deadline for applications is typically early November. Applications are then forwarded to the relevant embassies where embassy staff review the applications and make selections around January 1. Applicants are notified of their acceptance in early January. Successful candidates must then undergo a thorough background check, which can last several months.

The long process of obtaining the security clearance may mean that selected interns cannot begin their internships until well into the summer. It is strongly recommended that any selected candidate have a contingency plan for the summer in the event that clearance is held up.

The internships are unpaid, and interns are expected to finance and arrange their own travel. Embassies do provide housing for interns. To defray the significant expenses involved, IU offers a number of grants for this type of internship. The International Enhancement Grant (through the Office of International Programs) and the REEI/Mellon Grant provide financial assistance to qualified applicants.

To learn more and download an application, visit the State Department website at <http://www.state.gov>.

For information on funding opportunities at IU, please consult the REEI Funding Notice (available at REEI, Ballantine Hall 565) or our website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/acaprog.htm>

Faculty Profile: Jack Bielasiak

By Mark Betka

Professor Jack Bielasiak, a native of Poland's second largest city Łódź, has continued to maintain a close association with his homeland during his 25 years of work at IUB. Bielasiak was pivotal in initiating the IU-Warsaw University exchange program that recently celebrated 25 years of existence. He also served as the director of the IU Polish Studies Center, the institution charged with administering the exchange and facilitating a broad range of academic activities on campus related to Poland. He has made many return trips to Poland, witnessing first-hand the dramatic changes that are taking place there.

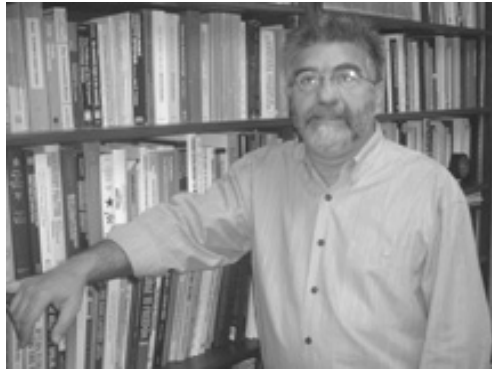
Considered unique when first proposed, the Indiana University-Warsaw University exchange was initiated during a time of mutual suspicion that prevented any sort of meaningful scholarly exchange. Today, IU regularly hosts scholars and students from the former Eastern Bloc and Soviet republics and vice versa. Bielasiak saw the IU-WU exchange as a way to provide a gateway for Polish academia to the rest of the world and also as a way to begin building trust and scholarly relations among the academic communities.

With the "Eastern Bloc" now consigned to history, Bielasiak has directed his energies toward obtaining a better understanding of the political restructuring process taking place throughout the region.

A recent lecture, "On the Institutionalization of Party Regimes in Emerging Democracies: Post-Communism in Comparative Perspective," presented on the Bloomington campus, highlighted Bielasiak's analysis of the process of building political parties in the postcommunist states. The findings are the product of a three-year research project motivated by the turn to democracy. The research, expected to continue for an additional three years, focuses on the relationship between political parties and the consolidation of democracy. Bielasiak notes that there is widespread consensus among western scholars that parties are an "essential instrument" of

modern democracy and that they must play an important role in the transition from communism by providing for representation of divergent viewpoints, competition, and accountability. But there is considerable controversy as to how established the political parties are in the emerging democracies of the East Europe and the former Soviet Union.

In looking at this debate, Bielasiak asks a fundamental question: "How extensive is the institutionalization of the party systems in these new democracies?" Are



Jack Bielasiak

emerging parties part of a permanent, developed structure such as we are accustomed to in the West or are they weak, rudimentary, and fleeting edifices? It is this issue that forms the core of Bielasiak's research.

The question is motivated by current debate among social scientists that asks whether the post-communist social and political landscape is *sui generis*, largely defined by the fact that it involves a number of simultaneous transitions: economic, cultural, social, psychological and political. This combination of factors presents a unique situation in which the countries must face multiple challenges simultaneously, posing exceptional difficulties for any country emerging from centralized governance.

Bielasiak notes that the social and economic cleavages that form the foundations of political parties in most other countries (by giving different groups a voice) are muddled by the enormity of challenges facing the postcommunist countries. In the context of so many dif-

ferent and complex tasks, it is difficult to determine the relative saliency of social and economic factors and translate them into political identities. Instead many diverse parties seek to represent the many potential cleavages. Thus, the argument goes, party structures are weak, fluid, and relatively insignificant as institutions in the postcommunist system.

Counter to this argument is what Bielasiak calls the "structured view." This perspective states that despite problems and difficulties, the public is still able to distinguish its own interests and is able to understand what is going on within the transitioning society. On this basis, individuals can and do prioritize their own interests and therefore align themselves with parties that mirror those interests. The result is a fairly understandable and fixed political space where a linkage exists between segments of the public and different political parties.

The second aspect of this argument states that it is the very process of electoral choice that helps to structure the system. An election requires winners and losers. The winners stay on and become the significant party while losers are forced to drop out. This "electoral filter" produces fewer and fewer parties, which in turn leads to a more solidified party system.

Bielasiak sees these two competing viewpoints as the broad framework that defines the debate among social scientists about the democratic future of postcommunism; this is where he locates his research. To resolve the question, Bielasiak takes a broadly comparative approach by looking at electoral and party systems in several democratizing regions of the world. He first looks at all of the elections since the fall of communism in Eastern Europe in 1989 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. However, in order to find whether the developments in the former communist countries are unique or unusual, Bielasiak stresses the need to compare the events of the last decade with phases of democratization that have taken place previously

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Outreach Corner

International Education Week, November 12-16

In cooperation with the Center for the Study of Global Change, REEI observed the second annual International Education Week by coordinating a lesson via interactive video for a class of seventh grade students at Clear Fork Christian Academy in New Albany, Indiana. The topic of the class was "Daily Life in Hungary" and was conducted by Monika Paulik, visiting scholar in sociology from the Economics University in Budapest, and REEI graduate assistant Alex Dunlop. The lesson consisted of a general introduction to life in Hungary and included short segments on geography, holidays in Hungary, Hungarian *gulyás* (goulash), and

even a short language lesson. The students were well-prepared and curious about Hungarian life and customs and kept the presenters on their



Monika Paulik and Alex Dunlop
dance the csárdás

toes with questions about Hungarian culture. They were particularly in-

terested in hearing from Ms. Paulik about the standard of living, sports, and music in Hungary. The class ended with a demonstration of the Hungarian folk dance *csárdás* and a short lesson on its basic steps.

New video acquisitions

In order to view the new documentary and feature film acquisitions of the REEI collection, visit the listing on the Web at <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/avintro.html>. Videos acquired this academic year are written in red text. REEI maintains an email listserv, <reei_videos>, to which are posted announcements of recent additions to the outreach collection. Please send an email to reei@indiana.edu to request to be put on the list.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Six-Week Russian Study Tour

July 13-August 23, 2002

Four weeks in St. Petersburg. Two weeks of touring to Moscow, Pskov, Pechory, Pushkinskie Gory, Valaam, Kizhi, and Helsinki.



- Cost: approximately \$6,000 if participants total 10 or more
- FinnAir from Chicago
- 6 hours of Indiana University credit at reduced rates
- 80 classroom hours of intensive language instruction conducted in students' hotel, including Business Russian for those interested
- Excursions on cultural, historical, and literary themes in St. Petersburg and its environs
- **Participants may precede this program with four weeks of Russian in Bloomington (5 additional credit hours)**

For applications or additional information, contact:

Laurence R. Richter BH 502 • Indiana University • Bloomington, IN 47405-6616
Tel. (812) 855-2608 • FAX (812) 855-2107 • e-mail: richterl@indiana.edu

Media Freedom? The View From Ukraine

By Katya Choursina & Svetlana Seliutina

The Ukrainian media sector is plagued by problems of an economic, legal, institutional, and professional nature where media owners often perceive the press as a political tool rather than as a business.

Censorship by media owners is common, as is self-censorship by editors and journalists. Both forms of censorship stem from political pressure, the economic weakness of the press and violence against journalists. Journalistic principles are often sacrificed for the sake of exerting political influence over the public.

However, it is the economic weakness of media outlets that causes the majority of problems in the Ukrainian media sector. Most Ukrainian media are barely profitable, which entails financial dependency on persons or organizations with a specific political agenda.

Most media owners purchased their business not for economic profit but as tools for election campaigns. None of our media moguls actually specialize in media business. For them, TV channels and newspapers are merely tools applied in the political struggle.

Ironically, the only guarantee for pluralism in the dissemination of information in Ukraine now is the severe competition between oligarchs during the current (second) wave of privatization. This confrontation among media oligarchs is mistakenly labeled as freedom of speech. In fact, media moguls are dependent on the president. This means that censorship in Ukraine is a systematic phenomenon and not simply a local issue.

The merger of power and financial structures in the form of "clans" has had the worst possible repercussions for the mass media: the output of our mass media is totally lacking in a critical attitude or "watchdog" function towards the authorities.

In the first eight months of 2001, two

journalists were killed and eight were physically attacked in Ukraine. Most of the victims worked for independent, regional media. The most prominent case was the murder of journalist Georgiy Gongadze, who published articles critical of the president and his entourage in an independent Internet newspaper *Ukrainska Pravda* (Ukrainian Truth).

Georgiy Gongadze disappeared on September 16, 2000. A headless body found in a small village near the capital city Kiev was reportedly that of Gongadze's. The police performed forensic examinations of the body and conducted DNA tests that showed the body to belong to Gongadze, and these results were confirmed by Ukrainian, U.S. and Russian experts. However, the ensuing police investigation into

the murder has been botched and is full of contradictions. To date, the police have failed to find out who murdered the journalist, and under what circumstances he died.

Relatives of Gongadze, as well as numerous human right organizations in Ukraine and throughout the world have demanded that foreign experts be permitted to re-examine the remains of the body and to provide conclusive evidence as to whose body it is.

Two months after Gongadze's disappearance, the head of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, Oleksandr Moroz, addressed the Ukrainian parliament with a sensational statement: he claimed that the Ukrainian president was directly involved in the murder of Gongadze and made available tape recordings of alleged conversations in the presidential office. On one tape, a voice believed to be that of the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, could be heard speaking in coarse lan-

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The Balancing Act of Rebuilding an Exchange Program

By Bronislava Volkova

For the past two academic years, I have served as the Resident Director of the Council on International Educational Exchange program at Charles University, Prague. Established in 1992, this exchange is by far the largest of Council's programs in Eastern Europe and the Near East (all of which have been consolidated into one "regional" group). At any given time, during my tenure, the program hosted from 50 to over 70 American students of the humanities and social sciences, with the numbers of students in the neighboring Polish, Hungarian and Russian programs averaging between 10 and 20.

However, my initial excitement upon being offered the position in 1998 gave way to dismay after observing it in person. The entire program was housed in half of one small office at the Philosophical Faculty building of Charles University. This very same half office also served as the program's lending library, student lounge and computer lab! Logistics such as classroom assignments were in a state of confusion, with double bookings a common occurrence and class cancellations the result. Even the system of grading was on an ad hoc basis. The Council was aware that improvements were needed and asked that I do a major overhaul of the program.

My first task was obvious: we needed space in which to operate. The best choice was a university property on the outskirts of Prague. This building needed major renovation and that could only start in early July (we expected 50 American students in late August). When they arrived, the building was half finished and, unfortunately, it was clear across town from their dorm. It was important to the success of the program that Czech students also resided in the dorm and interacted with our students. This proved to be a challenge, but after some work with the Philosophical Faculty we were able to house 20 Czech students in the interna-

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"Kuchma, where is Gongadze?"
Protestors in Kyiv. AP photo

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they served as my first audience and critics during the tough time of writing.

In the summer of 2000 a series of events sparked a resurgence of interest in the Hungarian-American subculture. Hungary celebrated its 1100th anniversary, and the opening of its second millennium in Budapest highlighted the reunion of Hungarians at home and abroad. The Hungarian diaspora (never having left their homeland but now minorities in post-WWII successor states) and emigrants (who settled elsewhere of their own free will) pledged a new allegiance to their country of origin. At the meeting of the American-Hungarian Educator's Association at the Museum of



Father Alphonse Skerl

Ethnography, I took the opportunity to present the ideas of my new approach to colleagues whose readiness to collaborate helped to turn theory into practice.

My student team began to meet regularly in November of 1999 at my house where everyone had access to my books and the corpus of collectanea. There, we discussed materials, approaches, and techniques related to cultural identity study. However, members could also spend time reading and preparing notes individually as their time permitted. This informal introduction to folklore and ethnology prepared a strong team of field investigators who had no previous experience in ethnography. What motivated the students was a shared interest in Hungarian folk culture. In alphabetic order by last name, they are:

Zsuzsanna Cselényi, first year graduate student of Folklore. As a native of Slovakia, she belongs to the Hungarian

ethnic minority and is the only native speaker (all the others spent time in Hungary to learn the language).

Dennis Patrick Metro-Roland, whose parents were refugees of the 1956 revolution, which places him in the first American-born generation. He has an MA in Russian and East European Studies, taught English in Hungarian schools and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Curriculum and Instruction.

Lisa Overholser, graduate student in ethnomusicology who studied Hungarian in Hungary for a year to prepare herself for dissertation field work in a Hungarian village.

Peter Sabath, an experienced fieldworker, who

had completed his senior year at Goshen College when he joined the team. He researched the Hungarian enclave of South Bend. Currently he is spending a year in Hungary to work with Hungarian folklore scholars and improve his language skills before enrolling in graduate folklore/anthropology classes.

By the beginning of 2001 we made the decision to go to the field and test my hypothesis. The closest and most obvious place to go seemed the Calumet region. I had kept touch with my surviving old friends and prominent community leaders, and all agreed to help with accommodations and contacting potential consultants. I hoped to find descendants of my best informants and looked forward to a pleasant revisit. I was aware of the drastic changes on the ethnic map of the region and the increased mobility of the ethnic population due to the economic situation. However, since both Hungarian churches have maintained their mis-

sion as upholders of "old country" values and centers of life-cycle rituals, we were hopeful of success. In preparation for the visit, we went through our files and prepared lists of questions to ask during the projected month and established continuities and discontinuities and the evolving sense of ethnicity within the current setting.

In times past the Hungarian working-class people (of peasant extraction) constituted one among numerous highly visible ethnic enclaves from South-Central and East Europe, Mexico and Puerto Rico; the census reported 38,000 residents who claimed Hungarian ancestry in the region known as the most heavily industrialized sector of the U.S. My past research focused on foreign-born immigrants (1906-24) and their American-born children and grandchildren, going through the normative processes of acculturation and identity transformation through the generations. As long as the foreign-born dominated, the enclave depended on its imported values, unable to adapt to the alien environment.

The "ethnic stage" generated large Hungarian neighborhoods in larger cities during the 1930s and acted as a protective shell of language and culture maintenance. But this shell became a burden to the existence and upward mobility of those born in America and dissolved naturally with the passing of their elders. This does not imply disloyalty to heritage but rather freedom of choice for people to maintain, or not to maintain a hyphenated, Hungarian-American cultural identity.

The fieldworkers filled 48 tapes with precious information: stories; jokes; funny, scary, sentimental, tragic and horrible life experiences. In the beginning the subjects were intimidated because they were suspicious of the team members (according to rumor, they were communists), and some families flatly refused to meet them. But this wasn't any different 30 years ago, although nowadays, more than ever, you have to watch out for strangers asking strange questions. Team members also were shocked to realize the loss of

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language in the community; consultants were more fluent in English. In addition, the community is senescent and people were plagued by sickness, loss of family and friends, or were too miserable to talk to strangers. One must maintain patience and stay long enough to make friends. Another problem was that the best informants, the young, had moved elsewhere and visit only for family reunions and important holidays. Nowadays the



Noodle making! Dennis Patrick Metro-Roland and Mary Snyder

fieldworker has to be more mobile to do a good job. But bad as things were, the fieldworkers met with several informants, who would prepare their favorite Hungarian dishes for the guest, show their residences, displays of ethnic symbols, family photos and other paraphernalia. The fieldworkers were invited to club meetings, church socials, and other occasions of where ethnic dishes were consumed, to say nothing of the women's get-togethers where they could watch (and learn) how to make noodles, pancakes and other Hungarian delicacies for sale to benefit the church.

The biggest event that attracted the whole ecumenist-minded Protestant and Catholic community was the 95th anniversary celebration of the Holy Trinity Hungarian Church in East Chicago, on September 9, 2001. This all-day event itself deserves a folk art specialist's attention. Hungarian-style embroideries decorate the church and the clerical paraphernalia, the festive wear of women, old, young, even of the babies has remarkable appeal. Father Alphonse Skerl and his sister, Helen Fogarassy, are leaders in Hungarian folk artistry. The Reverend

Skerl's clerical habit has spectacular appliquees, and he paints *Matyó* style chairs and chests to benefit the church. All in all, even this small and diminishing Calumet Hungarian-American enclave documents a characteristic type of double loyalty that may be found in various forms among the children and grandchildren living elsewhere and visiting occasionally.

The acculturation process may eliminate many things, including even language, as is the case of the Bukovina Szekely ethnics whose ancestors settled between 1906 and 1915 and who generated about 12,000 descendants living in North America.

However, in 2000 they established a fraternal bond with their relatives in Hungary through the Family Tree Maker computer program - without even speaking Hungarian. Which specific customs, emblems, tokens, symbols, foods, or beliefs represent ethnic distinctiveness in the American cultural matrix we don't know yet, but we may now begin to speculate about it. Even the brief visit of budding young scholars in the Calumet region may become an important accomplishment in the exploration of the making of multicultural America.

Linda Degh is a Professor Emerita in the department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Her research was supported through the Intercampus Research Fund of IU's Research and the University Graduate School (RUGS) fund.

HCA Adds Visual Components to 1956 Commemoration

By Patrick Kinney

The Hungarian Cultural Association held its annual commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian uprising on October 30th at the IMU University Club. For the first time, the event included a film presentation. Archival film footage of the central events of the uprising, like the toppling of the statue of Stalin in Budapest, helped to remind those in attendance of the poignant struggle for freedom which gripped Hungary between October 23rd and the first week of November, 1956. For some, the images needed no explanation. As in previous years, the event drew many people from the local Hungarian community, including several of those who fled the country in 1956. For those unfamiliar with the details of the uprising, a narration read by Edward Mandity provided a context in which to situate the images.

Other aspects of the presentation contributed to the solemn remembrance of the tragic events. In the opening speech, Professor Pál Hatos, the György Ránki Chair, spoke to the challenges of the historian of the period and the evolution of historical memory regarding the uprising. Students of Hungarian language recited excerpts from the diary of Sándor Márai. Language instructor Gabriella Nagy selected the passages in which Márai captures the thoughts and emotions of the thousands of refugees who crossed into Austria as Soviet troops reasserted their control over the country. Next, the audience was treated to a performance of the songs of Béla Bartok and Zoltán Kodály by IU School of Music student Zsolt Srajber, who was accompanied on the piano by Lisa Marie Overholser.

In addition to the film, several poster-sized photos helped to convey the tragic intensity of the uprising to those in attendance. For the reception, tradition held sway as participants were treated to a dazzling array of authentic Hungarian culinary creations.

Patrick Kinney is a masters student at the Russian and East European Institute.

Alumni News

John T. Alexander (History/REEI Certificate, 1966) published "Amazon Autocratixes: Images of Female Rule in the 18th Century," in *P. Bata, ed., Gender and Sexuality in Russian Civilization*, based on a conference in Surrey in 1996.

Yulia Petrossian-Boyle (SPEA MPA, 1999) and **Eric David Boyle** (REEI MA 1999/MPASPEA 1999) are pleased to announce the birth of their first

son **Robert Vahram Boyle**, born in Yerevan, Armenia, on October 28, 2001. Yulia is currently on maternity leave from her new job as the Manager for Armenian Operations for the British Council, the United Kingdom's international organization for education and cultural relations. Eric was promoted to Deputy Director of the Armenia/Caucasus Office of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in August 2001. CRS is carrying out programs in education, humanitarian response, NGO development, and regional peace and justice issues in the South Caucasus.

James Collins (REEI/History MA, 1964) has joined international law firm Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P. as a senior international adviser in Washington. He will also work with Akin Gump Global Solutions, its joint venture with First International Resources, a political and business consulting company. Collins left his post in Moscow last summer after having represented the United States in Russia since 1997.

PJ Kaczmarek (REEI MA, 1998) is a bilingual employment counselor at Jewish Vocational Service in Boston, Massachusetts. He assists refugees from the former Soviet Union with job placement, and offers counseling to help clients gain an understanding of American job culture.

Paul E. Michelson (History PhD, 1975) was given the 2000 Nicolae Balcescu Prize by the Romanian Academy for his 1998 book *Romanian Politics, 1859-1871*. He served as the program chair for the 4th

International Congress on Romanian Studies held in the summer of 2001 in Suceava, Romania. He teaches at Huntington College.

Charles Mixon (REEI MA, 1994) is employed

with a leading emerging markets private equity group. His focus is on two areas within the practice: capital raising for funds and investments in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. His Russian language skills play an important part in closing deals related to both areas. He is also translating A.F. Tiutcheva's *At the Court of Two Emperors*, which he would like to publish in the future.

Mark Temple (REEI MA, 1995) has accepted a job as an Asylum Officer with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the San Francisco asylum office. He married Ani Gombos of Cugir, Alba Province, Romania, on October 18, 1997. He has been working for IREX for the past three years and has been living in Romania for the past six years.

Student News

Karen Boschker (SPEA/West European Studies) is a Teaching Assistant and a Research Associate at SPEA's Institute for Development Strategies.

Janis Cakars (Journalism) spent the summer in Ulaanbaatar as an English language editor at the News Abroad Desk of Montsame, the Mongolian national news agency.

Nancy Eyl (Slavics) presented a paper entitled "Female Sexuality and Gender Roles in Ivo Andric's Works" to the panel on women, writing, and power at the annual AATSEEL conference in New Orleans, December 28.

David Fisher (History) and his wife Jennifer Cahn celebrated the birth of their daughter, Natalie Cahn Fisher, on October 27th.

Eva Kiss (Folklore/Ethnomusicology/CEUS) published a review of "Hungary and Romania: Descendants of the Itinerant Gypsies: Melodies of Sorrow and Joy" (1997) in *1999 Yearbook for Traditional Music*, p. 213.

Katherine Metzko (REEI/Anthropology) presented a paper entitled "Authorship and Participatory Research in Russia" at the American Anthropological Association meeting in Washington, D.C. in November. She published: "Adapting Capitalism: Household Plots, Forest Resources, and Moonlighting in post-Soviet Siberia" in *Geo-Journal*, Fall 2001 and "Tunkinsky National Park: Pearl of Siberia" in *Mongol Survey*, December 2001

Nikita Nankov (Comparative Literature/Slavics) presented a paper entitled "Remapping the Boundries of a Utopia: Osip Mandelstam's Criticism," to the panel on Russian literary criticism at the annual AATSEEL conference in New Orleans, December 28.

Joseph Prestia (History) received a Fulbright scholarship to study Romania's entry into World War One in Romania from January through October, 2002. For the past semester he has been teaching a course on Eastern European history since 1815 at Butler University.

Jason C. Vuic (History) was awarded an instructorship for a 300-level course in the IU History Department entitled "Problems in Peacekeeping: W. Europe, the US, and Yugoslavia" to be taught in the spring Semester.

Faculty profile

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in other regions of the world.

He cautions that scholars must take care when comparing emerging democracies with longer established ones in the advanced industrial countries. Such a juxtaposition between nascent and mature democracies is bound to present the new party systems as unstable and inchoate. Comparison is possible, he says, but the key is to examine *comparable periods* in the development of each region, i.e. during the first decade of democratization. Thus Bielasiak focuses on the emergence of democratic systems at the end of World War II in western Europe, primarily Germany, Austria, France, and Italy; the transition in southern Europe in the mid-1970s, i.e. Spain, Portugal, and Greece; and more recently, the Latin American countries in the 1980s. For each of these regions, Bielasiak examines the first years of their “democratic existence” to define the patterns in electoral behavior and party development, enabling a similar time assessment of party system institutionalization in the postcommunist and other emerging democracies. The empirical evidence under analysis is extensive, involving more than 35 countries and 140 elections, thus producing a vast body of data for Bielasiak to draw upon.

In regard to the findings of his work, Bielasiak focuses attention on three areas related to party systems: regulation of elections and parties, electoral competition between parties, and popular participation in the electoral process.

On the first issue, the “rules of the game” that govern electoral competition, Bielasiak finds that former communist states mirror the experiences of the other countries. Most regulations are instituted very early in the period of moving towards democracy, and tend to stay in place for most of the time – with the exception of the legal threshold for entry into parliament, which is subsequently revised to a higher percentage in many EE and FSU countries.

Second, on the issue of contestation, Bielasiak looks at the number of political actors and “electoral volatility” (a measure of the extent of support for parties

from one election to another) and asks if there is evidence of voter support shifting from election to election. Here Bielasiak finds a difference in the former communist states and the other regions. Eastern European and former Soviet states tend to see many more parties crowd the political space, these parties tend to come and go across election rounds, and they are sometimes created out of small or even frivolous interests (for example, “beer lovers” party). All of this contributes to very high number of political players in the electoral contests, and culminates in voter confusion. The result is a voting public that often shifts support along the political spectrum (contrast this with our own, relatively set voting patterns). Poland is an excellent example. Ex-communists assumed control in 1993, then the Solidarity-backed parties took back control in 1997, and the recent 2001 elections saw Solidarity lose every single seat it held in the Lower House.

Volatility is also well exemplified by the patterns of party behavior in Russia where new parties appear out of nowhere, basically on the eve of an election. These “parties of power” exist primarily as vehicles for presidential candidates, who garner large shares of votes for a particular election, and the parties often dissolve or regroup by the time the next election takes place.

The evidence then confirms that there is less institutionalization of parties taking place in the postcommunist setting in comparison to other regions, in particular western and southern Europe, which were more “orderly and stable” in the development of political parties during their shift to democracy.

Regarding the third element of his analysis, participation, Bielasiak examines how citizens “buy into” the evolving party structure. Do they become engaged voters? Do they gain real representation in the sense that the party they vote for actually enters the legislative policy-making arena and becomes part of the policy discussions? To find answers to these questions, Bielasiak looks at the ratio of voters to the adult voting population rather than to the usual measure of the number of registered voters. He does this

because in some cases eligible voters have difficulty registering to vote, thus being disfranchised from political participation. This was the case, in the Baltic States, where people were barred because of language requirements, and in deed literacy requirements act in a similar way in other places throughout the world. Other measures of participation include so-called “spoiled ballots.” Voters, unhappy with all of the choices, deliberately destroy their ballot in an act of protest. An additional measure is the “excluded vote,” i.e. votes going to parties that do not meet the minimum threshold for entry into parliament, thus leaving those voters with no tangible representation for their vote. All of this gives Bielasiak a solid measure of voter participation and engagement in the existing party structure.

Bielasiak’s overall conclusion is that the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union lag behind in party institutionalization when compared to similar time periods in western and Southern Europe, and to a lesser extent to Latin America.

More recently Bielasiak entered a new phase of his research: investigating issues of causality. In looking at causality, Bielasiak takes first a “bottom up” approach by examining cultural factors, levels of economic development, the extent of ethnic cleavages, and social-economic divisions as one set of possible explanatory variables. His preliminary findings, however, suggest that these variables may not provide accurate reasons for the pattern of less-institutionalized party systems in former communist countries.

Using another set of explanatory variables, he takes a “top-down” approach. Here Bielasiak argues that the kind of parties that exist in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics today are not the traditional type prevalent in the West during the democratic building phase, i.e. large, mass parties with closely knit membership. Today’s parties in the postcommunist states (although this is a world-wide trend) might be called “media parties,” “movement parties,” or “cartel parties” that appeal to voters through public relations campaigns instead of building grassroots networks of support.

continued on next page

Faculty profile

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Another factor involves the rules that govern party formation and behavior. There are few barriers to entry into the political process, thus almost anyone can start a party. Similarly there are few sanctions for parties that remake themselves after the election or for party representatives that defect from the party lists on which they gained election. Bielasia suggests that stronger requirements to define party activities, such as more extensive financial backing or higher support requirements for appearance on the ballot, might help to thin the crowded field.

His preliminary conclusion? Rather than looking for answers in socio-economic factors, researchers must look at the regulatory framework that governs parties. A dangerous possibility exists wherein improperly drafted rules may allow for poorly structured institutions to be given permanency within the polity. One solution may be to reform the rules so as to make it more difficult for "weak" parties to enter the political arena or for elected representatives to depart from established parties to form new ones, thereby creating incentives to stabilize the political system.

Interestingly, Bielasia notes that ex-communist leaders have done the best organizational work in recasting their parties. They took advantage of the legacy of existing networks and built on the foundation of the one-party system to create strong political competitors in the new political environment.

Bielasia's future plans include research into the question of EU expansion and how publics in Poland and Eastern Europe respond to the prospects of becoming EU citizens. Why, as the time for membership grows closer, has public opinion grown more negative? Could the euphoria of attaining democracy and market capitalism be over? What is the future for these fragile democracies? Professor Bielasia continues his efforts to understand the radical transformations taking place in East Europe and the former Soviet Union by looking at both the internal dynamics of democratization and their opening towards the outside world.

Jack Bielasia is professor of political science. He received his Ph.D. in government from Cornell University.

The Midwest Russian History Workshop: 11 Years of Camaraderie and Critique

By David C. Fisher

Five years ago David Ransel and Ben Eklof mentioned to me that I might like to attend an upcoming session of the Midwest Russian History Workshop. I took their advice, not knowing what to expect. In a van rented by REEI, I found myself, along with several other history grads, on the way to Ann Arbor, Michigan for two days of papers and discussion accompanied by good meals and camaraderie.

This biannual workshop brings faculty and graduate students together from around the Midwest for an informal gathering where manuscripts, dissertations, and other works in progress are discussed in depth. Each fall and spring Russianists at one of the participating universities volunteer to host the workshop. Since papers are read in advance, sessions are devoted to group conversation that often overflows with useful advice and insightful critique. Imagine receiving feedback on your work from one of the most distinguished group of Russianists in America!

The Workshop first began in the fall of 1990 when a small group, including David Ransel, Sheila Fitzpatrick, and Ron Suny, gathered at the University of Michigan. The first session was intended as a faculty-only event, but Sheila Fitzpatrick brought her graduate students along, and the workshop has provided a common ground for professors and their students ever since. For graduate students in Russian history there is no better forum for getting to know the leading lights in the profession and developing friendships with future colleagues.

Unlike typical academic conferences with their multiple panels and hundreds of attendees, the workshop offers an intimate and collegial atmosphere. Participants gather for each session, and dinners are hosted by faculty. Serendipitous opportunities abound. At the last meeting of the Workshop in De Kalb, I found myself, along with IU Ph.D. Steven Duke, sitting across from professor Mark Steinberg of the University of Illinois during lunch. We discussed this year's job market, and Steinberg offered insights on how search committees size up job candidates. I can not imagine that we would have had the time for such a casual conversation amid the hurly-burly that characterizes other professional meetings, like AAASS.

The Midwest Russian History Workshop meets in Bloomington on March 1st and 2nd. Plan ahead to sign up, sit in, and enjoy the discussions and good company. For more information on this year's workshop please contact David Ransel at REEI. *David C. Fisher is a Ph.D. candidate in Russian History*

Faculty News

Jack Bielasia (Political Science) published "Substance and Process in the Development of Party Systems in Post Communism" in Stephen White and Daniel Nelson, eds., *The Politics of the Post Communist World*, Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2000. He presented: "Consolidating Electoral Democracy in Post Communist States" at the Fulbright Institute Conference devoted to the theme "A Decade of Post-Communism: The Fate of Democracy in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union," University of Arkansas, April 2001. He presented the following papers at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 29-September 2, San Fran-

cisco: "All Aboard to Brussels? Determinants of Public Opinion Differences on EU Accession in Poland" and "The Institutionalization of Party Systems in Emerging Democracies." He also delivered the following lectures: "The Transitology Debate: From Regime Change to Democratic Consolidation," Central European University, Warsaw, May 16, 2001; "Methods and Types of Political Opposition during Democratization" Higher School of Economics, Cracow, June 2, 2001.

Linda Degh (Folklore/Ethnomusicology, Emerita) taught an interdisciplinary doctoral seminar at the University of
continued on page 14

Media in Ukraine

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guage about Gongadze, although there was no direct order to get rid of him.

The Ukrainian opposition took advantage of the situation to try to impeach president Kuchma. Interestingly, the scandal failed to hurt the president's ratings and has also failed to increase people's trust in the Ukrainian media.

One positive outcome of the Gongadze case and the "tape scandal," is that both have drawn attention to the issue of adherence to the principle of freedom of speech in Ukraine. In numerous letters to Ukrainian leaders, the international community demanded that the government carry out a comprehensive and transparent investigation into Gongadze's death.

A presidential decree on measures to eliminate problems in the operation of mass media and to promote the freedom of speech in Ukraine appears to be the president's response to the Gongadze case. Unfortunately, the conclusion can be drawn that the Ukrainian media have failed to achieve the basic requirements of an independent and free media: financial solvency, civic accountability, editorial independence from political and financial pressures, an informative agenda, and the absence of ideological content.

Significant changes are not likely to occur in the near future. The process of "corporatizing" mass media has increased as parliamentary elections draw closer, especially in outlying regions. Experts believe that Ukraine will soon be without an independent media not under the tutelage of oligarchs and political clans.

Katya Choursina is a graduate of the IU School of Journalism, and attended IU on a grant from the Freedom Support Act. She is currently stationed in Kiev, Ukraine as a reporter for the BBC. Svetlana Seliutina is Ukrainian regional director of the European Institute for Media. She also works for the Russian national news agency Interfax specializing in economic news and media developments.

Rebuilding

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tional dorm. Although we wanted to have more Czech students in the dorm, it was difficult because of the high cost of this particular, quality dorm.

Tensions arose between the Philosophical Faculty and the Institute for Language and Professional Preparation as funds were shifted for allocation to the Institute, which offered us an entire floor with a language lab, student lounge, kitchen, library space, teacher's lounge, rooftop space for faculty parties, auditorium, three classrooms for our exclusive use and two offices for our use. Diplomacy was needed to make the changes and create peace among the institutions.

My first tasks were to move the program into its new location and to implement a new accounting system for the program, whereby students could open their own local bank accounts in a speedy manner. I even had the representatives of the bank come to the school so this could be accomplished. Under the former system the director had to carry thousands of dollars in a bag biweekly to disburse personally.

After much hard work, at the end of the first year I had a functioning office, a good team, several new professors, better services for the students and professors, as well as an atmosphere of collegiality and belonging. Now I could face the challenges of training new staff, adjusting the contract with Charles University, creating and reviewing syllabi from a broad range of disciplines and the hiring of additional faculty. Eventually I recruited twelve new teachers and added five new courses. The employment of the teachers also needed to be reorganized and shifted to the more flexible Institute for Language and Professional Preparation. Finally, the library/bookstore operation of about 3000 volumes needed to be systematized and reorganized.



Bronislava Volkova

During my second year, I initiated a voluntary integration program for the students that allowed students to teach English to Czechs, work in organizations according to their interests, or be connected with families or friends of similar age. Additionally, we took over most of the services previously performed by the Philosophical Faculty (such as organizing overnight trips and cultural events), enlarged the computer lab to fifteen computers and added a gym and ping-pong tables where matches were regularly or-

ganized between the American and Czech students. Unfortunately, the inclination of some students to "research" the famous Czech beers also occasioned the design of clearly defined behavior rules.

Certainly there are challenges yet to be faced. My original intention was to create a graduate program in

Prague for students seriously interested in Czech culture and scholarship. The logistical and structural problems presented an immediate challenge that had to be confronted before the academic direction could be addressed. This, combined with the very nature of profit-driven exchange programs, provided a less-than-perfect environment. However, with a dedicated and professional staff, qualified teachers, and a more pragmatic relationship with the host university, I feel that my team and I were able to implement changes that will benefit the students and the Council alike.

Professor Volkova received her Ph.D. from Charles University. Her research interests include linguistic semiotics, emotive language, and Czech literature (semiotic, cultural and feminist studies). Current projects include textological analysis of the emotive and value system of literary works. She is also writing poetry in both Czech and English (see page, 14). She is based in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures where she directs the Czech program.

SPEA Enters Three-Year Pact with Russian Institutes

By Sandra Bate

The IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) has received two partnership grants from the U.S. Department of State to collaborate in curriculum development and distance learning with two public administration academies in the Russian Federation. Much of the work will be accomplished through exchange of faculty between SPEA and the Russian institutions.

"The economic and political transformation of the Russian Federation requires public administrators with an education appropriate for a market-oriented, democratic society," said SPEA Dean Astrid E. Merget. "These new grants will enable SPEA to share capabilities with the Volga Region Academy for Civil Service and the North West Academy of Public Administration as they are transforming both their educational programs and service to governments. "In return, we will strengthen our master of public affairs degree program by better incorporating international and comparative topics into our course

work." Merget said.

The Volga Region Academy is in Saratov and the North West Academy is in St. Petersburg. Both academies are administratively responsible to the president of the Russian Federation.

SPEA Professor and Graduate Program Director John L. Mikesell is the project director for the new grants, which extend for three years and provide total funding of \$600,000.

According to Mikesell, the grants are part of the New Independent States College and University Partnerships Program of the U.S. Department of State and are supported with funds from the Freedom Support Act. The goal of the program, Mikesell said, is "to assist U.S. colleges and universities in building lasting and productive partnerships with their counterparts around the globe."

Mikesell said 55 awards were made by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for fiscal year 2001.

All American university programs in business administration, political science, economics, journalism, law and education, along with public administration and policy analysis, were eligible for the fiscal 2001 competition. "For one school to be awarded two partnerships in the single competition is unusual and gives evidence of SPEA's faculty expertise and institutional capacity," Mikesell said.

SPEA was founded in 1972 and is the largest school of public affairs in the United States. In the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of graduate and professional public affairs programs at American and international schools, SPEA was ranked in third position and was the highest-ranked school at a public institution.

For more information on this program, please contact Sandra Bate, SPEA, 812-856-5490, sbate@indiana.edu or George Vlahakis, IU Office of Communication and Marketing, 812-855-0846, gvlahaki@indiana.edu

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Faculty News

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Debrecen, Hungary, including students from Philosophy, American Studies and Ethnology (2001 summer). She delivered lectures at the Institut za Narodna Umjetnost in Zagreb (April 17-21) entitled "Folkloristics in the United States," and "The Folk Legend in Modern Society" and consulted individually with doctoral candidates. She attended the 7th Congress of SIEF (Societe Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore), Budapest, where she is an honorary founding member. She also published: *Nagyszekelytol Delhi-ig Egy magyarorszagi nemet eletutja, 1943-1974*, (on the life trajectory of a Hungarian German, from Nagyszekely to Delhi, Ontario) Ethnica, ed. Elek Bartha, Debrecen 2001; *Legend and Belief: Dialectics of a Folklore Genre*, Indiana University Press, 2001, 498 pp; "A Subjective Report About My Fieldwork and Two Deviant Pentecostal Preachers" in *Tradisjon Norway* 2:111-116; and a volume of essays, *The Ethnography of Hungarian-Americans* is currently in press, Hungarian Academy of Sciences/ European Folklore Institute.

Andrew Durkin (Slavics) had an entry on Sergei Timofeevich Aksakov appear in *The Encyclopedia of Life Writing*, ed. Margaretta Jolly, 2 vols. London and Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001, pp. 29-30.

George Fowler (Slavics) was a panelist for the forum, "The Russian Context: The Culture Behind the Language" at the annual AATSEEL conference in New Orleans in December.

Ron Feldstein (Slavics) presented "Binary Classification of Russian Nominal Declension Based on Sonority" to the panel on "Phonology and Beyond" at the annual AATSEEL conference in New Orleans in December.

Steve Franks (Slavics/Linguistics) was selected by the University Committee on Russian and East European Exchanges and Contracts as the 2002 nominee to participate in a one-month faculty exchange program with Warsaw University. He chaired a panel on morphosyntax and was a panelist for the forum on the Slavic and East European Language Resource Center (SEELRC) at UNC-Chapel Hill's Summer Institute for Instructors at the annual AATSEEL conference in New Orleans in December. He was a plenary speaker at the Fourth European Conference on Formal Description of Slavic Languages in Potsdam in November, where

he delivered a lecture entitled "Case Features, Markedness, and Quantification."

Bill Johnston (Center for English Language Training) attended the national conference of ALTA (the American Literary Translators Association) in Raleigh, NC in October, and gave a reading from his translation of *His Current Woman (Inne rozkosze)* by Jerzy Pilch, which will be published in the spring by Northwestern University Press. In late summer, Wydawnictwo Literackie of Krakow published *Jezyk angielski i amerykanski dla poczatkujacych* by Bill and his wife, Katarzyna Rydel-Johnston.

Nyusya Milman (Slavics) chaired a panel, "The Fate of the Humorist in the Soviet Union," and also presented a paper entitled "Modern Technology and Cultural Proficiency" to the panel on technology and language teaching at the annual AATSEEL conference in New Orleans in December.

Nina Perlina (Slavics) was a discussant on the panel, "Approaching the Tricentennial of Petersburg: Great Expectations Fulfilled and Frustrated" at the annual AATSEEL conference in New Orleans in December.

Denis Sinor (CEUS, Distinguished Emeritus) attended the general meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies as a delegate of the American Oriental Society, in Philadelphia, May 3-5. On June 24-29, he attended the 6th session of UNESCO's International Scientific Committee for the Preparation of the History of the Civilizations of Central Asia, in Bishkek. He is Vice-Chairman of the Committee. On August 26-31, he attended the 44th meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference of which he is the Secretary General, in Walberg, Germany. There, he presented "Some Remarkable Women in Inner Asian History." He published "Forty Years of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC)," *History and Reminiscences in David B. Honey and David C. Wright, Altaic Affinities. Proceedings of the 40th Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC)*. Indiana University Uralic and Altaic Series vol. 168 (2001), pp. 1-21. He published a review of the first two volumes of the journal *Inner Asia* under the title "Life as it is Lived on the Inner Asian Steppes - and Beyond," in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* (London), April 20, 2001, p. 32. On the occasion of his 85th birthday, the Russian periodical *Altaica*, published by the Oriental Institute of the Russian

Academy of Sciences, dedicated its 5th volume to Sinor under the title "Denis Sinor Yubiley Uchenogo." Author V.M. Alpatov described Sinor's activities with emphasis on his services to Soviet and Russian Altaistics, pp. 9-13.

Martin C. Spechler (Economics) presented a talk, "The Trouble with Globalization" at IUPUI October 25 and participated in a round table for African and Afro-American Studies at IUPUI on "War on Terrorism," November 1, together with three colleagues.

Jeffrey Veidlinger (History) together with Dov-Ber Kerler, coordinated the international conference, "Beyond the Shtetl: Yiddish Language and Culture in Twentieth Century Eastern Europe," held at Indiana University, October 28-30, 2001. The conference was sponsored by the Russian and East European Institute and the Borns Jewish Studies Program. He also received a RUGS Summer Faculty Fellowship for 2002.

Bronislava Volkova (Slavics) introduced a series of bilingual (Czech/English) poetry readings which took place in the National Library of the Czech Republic, as well as in the Podesbrady castle and in various Prague bookstores. During these events she introduced her most recent, books of poetry, *Motáky do uší peny/ Prison Notes Smuggled into the Ears of Seafoam* (1999) and *Promeny/Transformations* (2000). The last of the readings were accompanied by exhibitions of her collage work relating to the books. She was recently invited to give another such reading from her newest book *Vstup do svetla/Entering Light* (2001) in November. Her work has also been featured in the new academic dictionary of Czech literature and has been focused on more broadly in a master's thesis. She is pleased to note that her poetry is being utilized in several English departments' creative writing courses around the United States and that her book on emotive language is used as compulsory reading in several linguistics departments in Russia. During the summer Volkova worked with a student from Princeton, Clarice Cloutier, who has undertaken to translate one of her earlier books, *A Certain Absence*, into English with her. She has also continued her collage work that was originally accompanying her two bilingual books. The work complements her poetry by drawing in surrealistic images of metaphysical issues dealt with in the poems and expresses them through visual media.

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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 for a class in Russian, East European, or Central Eurasian studies taken during the previous academic year.

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