



REELification

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David L. Ransel, Director
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2003-04 Russian Elections to be Conference Theme

by Che D. Clark

An important conference is scheduled to be held in Bloomington in March entitled "Kremlin Power and the 2003-04 Russian Elections," co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Russian and East European Institute. This event will be attended by an impressive array of scholars and will focus on the dynamic political events currently taking place in Russia.

On December 7 the Russian people will go to the polls for the Duma elections and will vote again in March, 2004 to determine the fate of the President, Vladimir Putin. A great deal is at stake. Putin's ruling majority—and his agenda—appear to be facing a challenge. The powerful oligarchs in finance and industry, as well as influential regional bosses, are increasingly estranged from the Kremlin's growing centralizing authority, and they appear to have considerable influence over voters. Putin seems willing to go on the offensive—recently evidenced by the well-timed arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former head of the Yukos oil company and Russia's wealthiest man. The Russian president also appears to be preparing for what has been termed "managed democracy," the manipulation of election results by the state. Henry E. Hale, organizer of the upcoming conference and assistant professor of political science at IU, explains in his publication *Russian Election Watch*, that some fairly overt tactics have been used to assure such "management." The state now controls the three most prominent television networks, and minimal coverage has been afforded to candidates in opposition to Putin. In addition, the president's positive record is emphasized extensively in television broadcasts, as are those of his associates. Television campaigning is not permitted until a month before the elections, and complex election laws allow for what Hale describes as "selective disqualification of candidates." Persuasion is also implemented, and lucrative offers are allegedly made to lure competing candidates out of the race. "Democracy," writes Hale, "is thus itself at stake."

The conference will cover a wide spectrum of issues connected to the elections. Being held between the Duma and Presidential elections, its timing is significant. The elections of December 7 are expected to reveal a great deal about the likely outcome of the contest in March. A goal of the conference is to explore and develop concepts for a future journal and a collection of essays to be published in one volume. Such a work would be an indispensable resource for political scientists who study Russia. Perhaps most significant for IU, the event will provide an opportunity to enhance the university's

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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

REEI Awards**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

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

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

In Memorium: Frank McCloskey

REEI is saddened to learn of the death on November 2, 2003, of Frank McCloskey, a master's degree student in REEI. He died at the age of 64 from cancer.

McCloskey was a three-term mayor of Bloomington and six-term member of the US House of Representatives from the 8th district of Indiana. He was a member of the Bloomington Democratic Party, in which he assumed a strong leadership role both during his time in office and after. As a congressman, McCloskey took a passionate interest in the tragic conflicts of the former Yugoslavia and fought against heavy odds to convince the Clinton administration to intervene in Bosnia to stop the ethnic cleansing. In late 2002, McCloskey accepted a position as the director of the Kosovo project of the National Democratic Institute in Washington, DC.

As a student in REEI, McCloskey brought enthusiasm and experience to the classroom, traits that enhanced every class he was part of. "Having Frank in the program was an unexpected boon for students," David Ransel said. "They were very impressed with the fact that he would come back to school at his age and sit side by side with them and learn in the same way they were. At the same time, he was teaching by giving them the benefit of his experience in Congress and in the region."

Renne Traicova (REEI MA 2002) and Annisa Wanat (MA REEI 2002) traveled from Washington, DC to the memorial service November 15, at which Renne spoke of her memories of Frank as a fellow student, colleague at NDI, and friend.

MA Defenses

Daniel Del Re (CEUS) defended his thesis "The impact of East European Socialist-era Economic Interest Groups on Post-socialist Economic Liberalization: A Case Study of Hungary" in May. Laszlo Borhi chaired his committee.

William Eastwood (REEI) defended his essay "When Discourses Clash: Religious Violence in Georgia" in October. Dodona Kiziria chaired his committee.

PhD Defenses

David Fisher (History) defended his dissertation "Exhibiting Russia at the World's Fairs, 1851-1900" in November. David Ransel chaired his committee.

Katherine Metzo (Anthropology) defended her dissertation "'It didn't used to be this way': Households, Resources, and Economic Transformation in Tunka Valley, Buriatia, Russian Federation" in August. Richard Wilk chaired her committee.

Roman Zlotin: From Russia With Love

by Matthew Atkins

Many REEI students have become acquainted with the cheerful face of Professor Roman Zlotin at the Russian language discussion course he teaches on Friday afternoons. While some consider him a valuable resource in language learning, this is far from his only role. Zlotin holds three academic positions, two here at Indiana and one at the University of New Mexico.



Roman Zlotin is a lecturer in both the geography department and CEUS

At IU he is a Senior Lecturer for the Department of Geography and a Visiting Senior Lecturer in the Central Eurasian Studies Department. At New Mexico he holds a position of Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology. Zlotin is a biogeographer with a primary interest in the structure, dynamics and functions of natural ecosystems. He has come to incorporate into his main interests the ways in which human induced factors degrade or transform ecosystems. Born in Moscow, he is a Russian native with broad and diverse experience and background.

At an early age, Zlotin was interested in nature and animals. As a school boy in the USSR he participated in expeditions and forays to nature preserves and parks around Moscow during the summer months. In 1958 he began study at Moscow State University and graduated in 1963

with a M.S. in Biogeography. He quickly found work as a Research Scientist in the Department of Biogeography of the Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Science. In 1983 he became the Chairman of the Department of Geography, and continued in this position until his retirement in 1994. During these 31 years of service to the Russian Academy of Science, Zlotin traveled extensively throughout the Soviet Union conducting research and became familiar with a wide range of ecosystems, from the arctic tundra of Siberia to the arid deserts of Central Asia. Furthermore, he produced almost a dozen scientific monographs and more than 100 articles on the general problems and regional issues of biogeography and ecology.

As a geographer, Zlotin possessed an innate craving to travel and see the world. As a citizen of the USSR, he was usually denied this opportunity for ideological reasons. This did not stop him from pursuing and taking advantage of the chances presented to him to travel outside the Soviet Union. Vietnam was a Soviet client state, and travel there was not forbidden. From 1981-1989 he served as the Secretary of the Soviet-Vietnamese "National Atlas Program." Under the auspices of this program Zlotin lived and traveled throughout Vietnam collecting data for a comprehensive atlas which, when completed, contained over 450 detailed maps of Vietnam.

During these journeys he became acquainted with the tropical jungles of South East Asia and gained a love for Vietnamese cuisine, which he maintains to this day.

His travels outside the USSR were not limited to the east. He also served on the Russian-Polish Academic Cooperative Project on Landscape Ecology and was the scientific leader of the Russian Ecological Expedition to the remote island of Spitsbergen, Norway. These journeys introduced him to diverse cultures and societies, all of which he admired and appreciated. Despite these opportunities, Zlotin longed for something greater, something that had been forbidden to him. He had a great curiosity about the world outside the Soviet sphere of influence, and especially the United States. With Mikhail Gorbachev's ascension to Soviet leadership, previous restrictions were loosened and Zlotin was finally presented with opportunities to travel to the West. In 1987 he was invited to the 4th International Wilderness Congress, held in Denver. This was his first trip to the United States, and it was "love at first sight." North America was a totally new land for him, and Zlotin fell in love with this newness, the people and the culture. Zlotin was a keynote speaker at the conference and made many acquaintances at this time. Two years later opportunity knocked again as he was invited to participate in the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program "Global Change." This allowed Zlotin to travel throughout the world in order to participate in the many conferences and symposiums associated

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Professor Charles Wise and the Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine Receive \$4.9 million Grant

by Jen Maceyko

The IU-based Parliamentary Development Project (PDP), an initiative officially launched in 1994 by SPEA Professor Charles Wise, recently secured a \$4.9 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to continue its work in Ukraine. The PDP works in cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's Parliament, to facilitate democratic processes in the legislature and foster democratic awareness among Ukrainian citizens. This grant will go toward continuing programs that present research on legislative processes and provide advice to the Ukrainian parliament, and will also be used to initiate new programs aimed at citizen outreach and gender inclusion in the legislative process. All of these programs and initiatives will contribute to Ukraine's transition into a successful democracy.

"Our overall goal is to institutionalize some of the things we've been developing," Wise says. For example, the PDP has been working in the last few years to implement policy analysis training for legislative staff members. In the next few years, Wise hopes that the training for such a program can be transferred entirely to Ukrainians, who will be able to train incoming staff in policy analysis, eventually making the entire process self-sustaining.

The first exchange between IU and the Ukrainian Parliament took place in 1991 when a number of Ukrainian Parliamentary members came to the United States. Although Ukraine was at that time still part of the Soviet Union, the parliament members had been democratically elected by Ukrainian citizens. The delegates were first

invited to Bloomington to meet with students and faculty, an event that filled the Executive Education Auditorium of the Business School. From Bloomington, the group traveled to Indianapolis, where they were welcomed by the Indiana State House and Senate and given the opportunity to observe the American legislative system at work. Washington, DC was the last stop of the fast-paced two-week introduction to democracy. There, the Ukrainian representatives met with a number of senators and representatives to discuss law making at the federal level.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, leading Wise to extend a number of subsequent invitations. The Ukrainian Parliament also asked Wise and his associates for in-country assistance in shaping their system. Thus, in 1994, USAID and the US-Ukraine Foundation awarded Wise a grant to establish the PDP. Since then, Wise and those he works with – both in the US and Ukraine – have cooperated with the Verkhovna Rada to educate Ukrainian parliamentarians in western forms of legislative administration.

One of the most important aspects of the PDP's work has been to respond to questions posed by Ukrainian parliament members regarding processes, legality, and the structure of laws. Researchers with PDP compile information that will help these legislators make informed choices. These reports not only outline the American system of governance on specific issues but present the policies and structures of other successful governments the world over. "We're not trying to transport what the American model is," Wise stated. Additionally, the analyses prepared by

the PDP are made available to all parliamentarians, not only the ones who requested the information. Thus, the curiosity of one has the potential to educate many other members of parliament.

The recent grant fosters a number of new initiatives, including citizen outreach programs and work towards a more gender-inclusive system. Although Wise is proud of the work the PDP has done with the legislature thus far, he believes a number of additional steps need to be taken. First, the public needs to be more actively educated in the role it can play in the legislative process. Ukrainian NGOs are the main organizations through which such work can be done. The PDP is therefore looking to expand its network of associates by working with NGOs in Ukraine to demonstrate how citizens and civic organizations can participate in the work of government. This outreach work has been bolstered by a program on legislative hearings that the PDP has been guiding for the last three years.

"We want to extend efforts to provide information to NGOs and other groups in how they can participate," Wise says. "[We] bring both sides together, increasing the capabilities of the parliament to conduct hearings and increasing the capabilities of groups of citizens to participate in hearings, so that there is a closer linkage between citizens and parliament in the consideration of legislation." The next step, according to Wise, is to extend PDP assistance to more committees within the parliament, and to increase the participation of civic groups.

Associated with that effort is a move to include more women in the

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Travels Through Poland: Warsaw in the Summer

by Dan Whyatt

I spent this summer at Warsaw University through an exchange program administered by the Office of International Studies. On both the Bloomington and Warsaw ends, this program went off without so much as a hiccup, and anyone interested in Central Europe would be well advised to take advantage of it.



Whyatt (right) with Polish class at a cafe in Warsaw

I must admit that I was at first somewhat disappointed to be heading to Warsaw, as I had previously lived in Krakow and was duly infected with a Krakovian stereotype of Warsaw. As many acquainted with Poland know, there is friendly rivalry between these two cities. Although a number of reasons explain this rivalry, perhaps the most important is that Warsaw was destroyed in the Second World War, and Krakow was not. Warsawians therefore tend to see Krakow as a beautiful but wimpy place, afraid of taking the Nazis head-on and content nowadays with sprucing up its ancient churches while Warsaw builds skyscrapers. Krakovians, in turn, view Warsaw as a rude, confusing city, where people spend days riding around the city endlessly on overcrowded extra-long buses staring at a vast wilderness of concrete.

I found that my Krakovian image of Warsaw had a kernel of truth but was far from the whole picture. For starters, it has to be admitted that quite a bit of Warsaw is a concrete wilderness. This is particularly true of the center of Warsaw, which was annihilated in the war and then rede-

signed by Stalin. As you might imagine, the results are not especially appealing. The centerpiece of this communist Warsaw is a copy of the Stalinist wedding cake skyscrapers in Moscow and is named The Palace of Science and Culture. This misshapen fang of brick completely dominates the central city, and provides a strange contrast to its Krakow counterpart, the medieval landmark Mariacki Church, which is one of the most beautiful buildings in Europe. Together they form a kind of two-stop tour of the decline of European architecture within Poland.

Many other aspects of Warsaw stand in complete contrast to this superficial first impression. My wonderful experience at Warsaw University, in particular, completely changed my feeling about the city. As some may be aware, Eastern European institutions do not have a reputation of being user friendly. But I found that the friendliness and hospitality of Warsaw University put most American universities to shame (Indiana University excepted, of course). This hospitality began when I was met at the airport and given a tour of the city on the day of my arrival. Such guidance continued through every aspect of stay. Simply put, the professors, staff, and students at Warsaw University were unfailingly kind and helpful. This was particularly true in July, when I took part in a seminar on Polish Culture conducted in Polish by Professor Andrzej Mencwel. I cannot begin to

convey the depths of my anxiety when asked to comment upon the search for meaning in postwar avant-garde theater while struggling to remember how to decline neuter plural adjectives! Professor Mencwel, however, was remarkably patient and encouraging in my struggles to express myself, and my Polish improved immensely from this positive experience in his class. Likewise, the Warsaw University Polish language courses in August were similarly well taught and featured a full complement of lectures and films. And, in the course of my time at the university, as I had more chances to explore Warsaw, I found many parts of the city that appealed to me, and made me feel at home.



Muller and Whyatt in Gdansk

Warsaw's parks, in particular, are beautiful and pristine. You can hear Chopin echoing faintly through the trees on summer nights.

Perhaps the highpoints of my summer were two short trips I took within Poland. The first was to the Biala Wieza National Park, which straddles the Belorussian border in the east. Biala Wieza is the last uncut lowland forest remaining on the continent of Europe and can only be described as idyllic. I was fortunate to stay there with two friends, Jan Kamler and Celine Perchellet, whom I met in the 2002 Polish SWSEEL program. Jan is the first American to work as a biologist in Biala Wieza, studying wolves and bison, and he and Celine spent several days taking me deep into the forest. This was a privi-

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Squinting at Romania

by Michael Schroeder

Even if you squint at the sun, you don't really see it. You don't see the dancing fire and pockets of gas, nor the original mixture of reds, oranges, and yellows that aren't exactly red, orange, or yellow.

The same is true of foreign countries. Try as one might, the secrets of most countries are kept from casual and long-term visitors alike. But occasionally, you can catch glimpses.

Somewhere between the fifth course of a hosted meal and a lingering wait at a set of railroad tracks I began to get the slightest inkling of the character of western Romania – the framework into which I stole ever so briefly between May 12 and May 25. I was hosted by a native family, the Barlogs, who have an English-speaking son, Alin. Alin works with International Teams, or I-T, the mission with which a group of seven of us from Evangelical Christian Church (EEC) in Bloomington volunteered. I received my first bit of Romanian hospitality in the form of a king's feast at around 11 p.m. on the night of my mission team's late arrival into Timisoara, Romania from Budapest, Hungary.

The team had flown from Indianapolis to Chicago to London to Budapest, where we were picked up by Andrew Bowers. He was our team leader and is a member of ECC, the team's home church in Bloomington. Ten month's earlier, Andrew began a two-year commitment to International Teams to work in Timisoara and Jimbolia. The team also worked in Romanian cities and villages.

I was the seventh and last team member to be dropped off after a team meeting the first night and expected, at most, a warm bed to be waiting. What I got was a hot meal of meat, bread, and soup – staples at the Romanian table – and truly amiable company. Never have I found others at the table so interested in my reactions to



Volunteers took time out to interact with local children in addition to assuming building duties

food. Nor am I accustomed to finding a family and a full meal waiting up for me into the wee hours. I would understand as the days melted away that this was no fluke.

Mission work included several day-shifts at a Christian-affiliated day center in Timisoara, which ultimately required more emotional labor than physical, and manual work at a construction site in nearby Jimbolia.

At the center, team members spent time with youth ranging from pre-adolescents to teenagers. It was a place where many children, too familiar with local street life, could catch a shower, a meal, and an afternoon nap, as well as a game of ping-pong, tutoring, some praise music, an explication of a Bible passage, and welcoming arms. Aside from being a foreign novelty, our group served as loving back-up to volunteers who worked with the love-starved children on a regular basis. While I found my Romanian hosts and acquaintances to be affectionate, the children were doubly so, often securing a group member by the arm or shirt to exhibit a sort of temporary ownership.

In Jimbolia, the group worked side-by-side with three teenagers, Danny, 16, Cosmin, 16, and Florin, 19, on a boy's home. The three, who are regular visitors to the daycenter – with little or no secure home lives to speak of – are slated to be the first of 18 boys to live in the two yet-to-be-constructed homes on the site.

As with much of life, it was in the comings and goings that I found cultural treasures. Each day when we picked up the boys in an orange International Teams van, dubbed "The Pumpkin," we were greeted with hardy handshakes. The exchanges stood out not only in their consistency but, frankly, because there was no one in the group over the age of 30.

In a general debriefing of cultural differences, I was told that few relationships were considered completely casual in Romania, and I found this to be true. Ever hospitable, my host mother, Mrs. Barlog, never failed to be at the door (or window which overlooked the street) when I came home. Even more striking was that after my two-week visit, she cried when I left.

On the worksite, I found fellow workers inquisitive and talkative. At night it was more of the same. There weren't long conversations about work details but long faces about long days and dirty jeans. With my host brother, Alin, I would discuss my day. But instead of what had been accomplished in excavation work in Jimbolia or at the day center in Timisoara, it was more of a recap of what had happened and how I was doing.

Personal relations, more than productivity, seemed paramount. And the only expectation I ever felt was to be satisfied.

I wondered out loud, with team members, about the nuances of a so-

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SWSEEL 2003 Well-attended, Well-received

compiled by Denise Gardiner and Jerzy Kolodziej

This past summer marked the 53rd annual Summer Workshop in Slavic and East European Languages (SWSEEL). As in the past, the Russian program offered nine levels of study, from first- to sixth-year. The East European program offered six languages at first-year level only: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Polish, Hungarian, Macedonian, Czech, and Romanian. All six languages were offered at the first-year level. The Program in the Languages of Central Asia and the South Caucasus offered eight languages. Introductory Georgian and—for the first time ever—intermediate Georgian were taught by Dodona Kiziria and her brother, Benito. The remaining Central Asian languages (Azeri, Kazakh, Turkmen, and Uzbek at the first- and second-year levels and Pashto, Uyghur, and Tajik at the first-year level only) were taught by the Slavic Department's partners in SWSEEL, the IU Department of Central Eurasian Studies and the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center.

This summer saw a substantial increase in SWSEEL enrollments, continuing the upward trend seen since the events of September 11, 2001. Total enrollment was 163 with 72 students in all levels of Russian, 39 in the East European languages, and 52 in the languages of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Enrollments in Romanian were the highest ever at 13.

The 2003 Workshop had an outstanding year in terms of success in external grant competitions. The East European program was awarded \$28,000 from the American Council for Learned Societies (ACLS) for Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Macedonian, and Romanian. ACLS

support pays for the instructor and ensures that Indiana University will offer the language tuition free to graduate students in East European studies. The Workshop has already received ACLS support for four languages that will be

taught in summer 2004: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Polish, Romanian, and Slovene. The 2003 Russian program was awarded \$26,000 from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) for salaries and fellowships. Overall fellowship support was extraordinary. Of the 111 students in the Russian and East European program, the majority had fellowship support: 52 had FLAS fellowships from IU or from other Title VI centers nationwide; 8 had SSRC awards; 7 military officers had their expenses paid by the U.S. Army, Navy, or Air Force; 2 students received fellowships from the CIC; one student had an individual East European language fellowship from ACLS; and one student had a David L. Boren (NSEP) fellowship from the U.S. Department of State.

SWSEEL offered myriad opportunities for its participants to immerse themselves in the languages and cultures of the region by attending extra-curricular events. A total of 45 lectures were delivered over the course of the workshop, many of them in Russian. Social topics ranged from "Does It Pay to Be a Mother in a Former Communist Country" to "Youth Movements in Petersburg."

Cultural topics included: "Highlights of East European Cinema," "An Intro-

duction to Eastern Orthodoxy," and "Russian History in Songs." Feature films were regularly shown in their original language: eleven films were presented by the Russian and East European programs.

Participants also had the opportunity to sample foods from the various cultures represented in the workshop by attending any of the eight cooking demonstrations hosted throughout the eight-week program. The students studying in the Russian and East European programs performed a drama skit, hosted a choir, and read poems of various Russian poets.

The Workshop hosted 25 instructors in the Russian and East European Programs with ten of the instructors coming from places other than IU, including Moscow, Vladivostok, Ljubljana, and Ostrava.

"Every second of Alla Alexandrovna Smyslova's Russian class was interesting. We loved the sessions where she sat down with us and talked about the stories, and she made it fun to learn grammar," one Level 7 Russian student commented. "I also greatly appreciated the time devoted to learning styles. For the first time in my life I understood in what ways I learn best and why. [Smyslova] also made a concerted effort to accommodate my listening and speaking styles in class. The small class sizes at Indiana summer program made this possible."



Participants dance at the East European and Central Asia concert

The Tenth Baltic Studies Summer Institute: IU Professor, Language Instructor and Alumni Taught About Baltics in Seattle

by Piibi-kai Kivik

The Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) 2003 returned to its birthplace at the University of Washington, Seattle, hosted by the Department of Scandinavian Studies and organized by Dr. Guntis Šmidchens, Professor of Baltic Studies and Folklore at the University of Washington, and an Indiana University alumnus (REEIMA 1990/Folklore PhD 1996).

The nine-week long summer institute included intensive introductory classes of Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian, a class in Baltic folklore and history, and a rich cultural program.

The Estonian class had ten students and was taught by Piibi-Kai Kivik, the Estonian language instructor in the IU department of Central Eurasian Studies. The Latvian language class of the same size was taught by Dzidra Rodins of De Paul University, and Rimas Zilinskas of the University of Washington led a Lithuanian class of five students. The intensive class on Baltic history was taught by Bradley Woodworth, who received his PhD from Indiana University this year, and Baltic Folklore by Šmidchens.

Twice a week, students and interested members of the community gathered in the evenings to watch and discuss recent Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian films. Panel discussions

were also hosted on a variety of topics. One notable panel included a group of physicians discussing medicine in the Baltics.

The academic highlight of the summer institute was the two-day symposium *Baltic after*

2002 (August 8-9, 2003), featuring the top U.S. scholars in the Baltic Studies. The participants included Walter C. Clemens (Boston College), Juris Dreifelds (Brock University), Toivo Raun (Indiana University), and Saulius Suziedelis (Millersville University). They presented their views on the future of the Baltics in an evening of discussion at the University's television studio. The next day, each of the scholars focused more closely on their own research, introducing an audience of future Baltic scholars to the methods and issues in their field. Raun spoke about his research on the development of literacy in Estonia.

The BALSSI musical program featured two evenings of choral music (a boys' choir from Riga and Tartu Academic Male Choir from Estonia) as well as concerts and class visits by the Latvian world-music group

Ilgi and Estonian kannel-player Kristi Mühling. Field-trips to Seattle locations and the scenic spots nearby were integrated with language teaching, providing excellent opportunities for the students to experience hands-on learning, the splendors of the Pacific Northwest and bonding with each other. Local native speakers and advanced learners were regular guests in the language classes.

The participants in the BALSSI intensive summer program received a good grounding in the languages they studied and excellent insight into the academic study of the Baltics as well as the culture of the region. Many of the students are continuing their exploration of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia and their respective languages during current academic-year programs at the University of Washington and elsewhere. Additionally, many of this summer's participants are now in the Baltics on Fulbright grants.

BALSSI 2004 will also be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, and will offer second year language classes. Indiana University hosted BALSSI in 1998-1999, and looks forward to having its turn again soon. For current information about BALSSI, contact Dr. Guntis Šmidchens at guntiss@u.washington.edu or go to <http://depts.washington.edu/baltic/balssi>.

Piibi-kai Kivik is a professor of Estonian language in the IU Department of Central Eurasian and Uralic Studies.



Participants of the BALSSI intensive summer program

High school Students Participate in First Indiana-Illinois Olympiada

Indiana University, Purdue University, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign organized the first Indiana-Illinois Olympiada of Spoken Russian for high school students. The event took place on April 28, 2003, at Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Indiana. Twelve students from two high schools participated. The Olympiada Chair and Russian teacher from the host school, **Todd Golding** (IU MAT

1993), had seven students compete. The visiting school was University Laboratory High School of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with five students taught by **Katya Dunatov**. Judges for the Olympiada included Jonathan Ludwig (IU PhD 1995), who was teaching Russian at the University of Illinois



Katya Dunatov and Todd Golding around the table of food for the Olympiada



Participating students and friends pose for a group photo

last spring, and Zinaida Breschinsky, Associate Professor of Russian at Purdue. All five of Katya Dunatov's students received gold medals: Alexander Steinberg, Emily Buss, Kate Peisker, Stephen Bruce, and Jack Liebersohn. Todd Golding's students

were also recognized for outstanding achievement: Bonnie Stockwell (gold medal), Phil Dorroll (silver medal), Marko Ljoljic (bronze medal), and: Vanessa Varajas, Sherrod James, Xoe Higginbottom, and Jake Hubbard (honorable mention). The American Council of Teachers of Russian coordinates the state and regional Olympiada contests. We look forward to conducting the Indiana-Illinois Olympiada again in 2004.

Elections

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reputation as an important center for scholarly work on Russia. Attendees will include scholars from Harvard, Stanford, American University, and the Hoover Institution, as well as leading researchers from Russia. Participants will come from a number of academic disciplines, including departments of history, political science, economics, and anthropology, and have expertise in fields of post-communist politics, electoral democracy, and public policy. It is expected that the conference will attract major media at-

tention as well.

Panels will focus on three central topics. The first is entitled "Russian Voters, Kremlin Power, and the Party Competition." This platform will give participants an opportunity to present field research and discuss media and campaign issues. A second panel is entitled "The Duma District Elections: Democracy Developing, Denied, or Denuded?" This panel will feature an unprecedented presentation on the results of each of the 255 Duma district races, citizen participation, and the degree of "freeness and fairness." The third panel, "Implications for the

Forthcoming Russian Presidential Elections," will offer scholars a chance to consider the potential outcomes of the March 2004 contest.

Russia has seen a slow but steady return to a strong central government. The upcoming elections may reinforce this trend. It appears that the surviving vestiges of democracy face a grave threat. David Ransel, director of REEI, has pointed out that "Russia...stands at the brink of a new authoritarian turn. The direction Russia takes may well hinge on these elections."

Che Clark is a graduate student in REEI.

Leuca Donates to Romanian Library Collection

The Indiana University Libraries and Romanian Studies Program are pleased to announce a major acquisition in Romanian studies. During academic year 2002/2003, IU received and processed a large and most valuable donation of books, documents, tapes and records. This impressive donation was made by Dr. Mary Leuca of Crown Point, Indiana, in memory of her late husband, Walter Leuca. All those interested in the regional history of the Romanian Diaspora, Romanian history, language and culture, and recordings of Romanian folklore will find a wealth of information in the collection donated by Dr. Mary Leuca.

The Dr. Mary Leuca donation includes:

- Oral history cassette recordings and transcripts: Romanian-Americans in Lake County, Indiana (1976-77), 115 interviews. Time period covered in interviews: 1920s-1970s. Topics: immigration to the United States, marriage, family, ethnic traditions, employment, education religion. These are housed at the IU Center for the Study of History and Memory archive: <http://www.indiana.edu/~ohrc/>
- Folk music recordings on 64 vinyl records and cassettes. These are housed at the IU Archives of Traditional Music: <http://www.indiana.edu/~libarchm/>
- Over 300 books and journals covering literature, history, and culture. The collection includes many Romanian émigré church annuals (*Calendar National Al Ziarului America 1927-1980s*, *Arhiepiscopia Ortodoxa Romana Calendarul Credinta 1950s-1980s*); rare Romanian works published in the 1920s and 30s, such as 18 unique issues of *Pagini alese scriitorii Romani*, the 1928 edition of *Revolutia rusa*, *Romania pentru cursul secundar* (1921), and *Cantece populare romanesti de pe Frontul de lupta*; and many other unusual American-Romanian publications of the first half of the 20th Century. Some original materials in poor condition will be reproduced in the IU preservation department. All books and journals will be catalogued and integrated into the IU Main Library research collection, but distinguished with a bookplate indicating that they were “donated by Dr. Mary Leuca in memory of her late husband Walter Leuca.” See: <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/>

The Romanian holdings at Indiana University have been greatly enriched by Dr. Mary Leuca’s thoughtful and generous donation.

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Wise

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legislative process, both inside and outside the elected body, a high priority for the PDP, which Wise says will cut across all aspects of the project's work. This includes educating the parliament in issues involving Ukrainian women. This task will be undertaken in part by introducing work on gender analysis in the staff training sessions. However, another aspect of the program on gender will be to demonstrate to women how they can participate in the parliamentary procedures as candidates and concerned citizens. In the 2002 parliamentary elections, only 23 women were elected of the total 447 representatives. Both the PDP and many citizen groups would like to see that number increase in coming years.

While the PDP works mainly with the legislative branch of the central Ukrainian government, project workers have on occasion reached past the national level to advise on local government questions. In addressing issues of decentralization and devolution of power, the PDP has been instrumental in guiding the national parliament's decisions regarding the power of local governments. The state was highly centralized under communism, and Wise believes that a lot of work needs to be done to strengthen local government structures. The PDP hopes to encourage legislation that will give the local governments the means to develop their own programs, gain revenues, and run their own affairs effectively within a democracy.

The PDP will, of course, continue other projects that began in the last grant cycle. It will maintain the standards of the competitive internship program for Ukraine's top university students, though Wise pointed out that

National Slavic Honor Society (*Dobro Slovo*) Reinstated at IU

In spring 2003, **Jeffrey Holdeman** reinstated the Indiana University Zeta Zeta chapter of the Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society, which had been inactive



Professor Richter (center) inducted Nathan Gilbert into Dobro Slovo

since the mid-1970's. Dobro Slovo serves as a means to recognize academic excellence in the study of Slavic languages, literature, history, and culture. The Zeta Zeta chapter inducted fourteen new members at a ceremony on April 22: **Jonathan Watts Hudgens** (MA student, REEI), **Julia Ann Decker** (Continuing Studies), **Mary Margaret Underwood** (undergraduate), **Colin Nisbet** (BA student, Slavic; Liberal Arts and Management Program), **Sarah Atterson** (BA student, Russian), **Leslie Ann Lutz** (MA student, REEI), **Michelle Marie Petroff** (undergraduate), **Lina**

Mohamed Khawaldah (MA student, Slavic), **Galina V. Krivonos** (MA student, Slavic), **Jennifer Sanders** (PhD candidate, Slavic), **Christopher Howard** (MA student, Slavic), and **Nathan John Gilbert** (Folklore and Ethnomusicology). **Ronald Feldstein**, department chair, was inducted in the faculty category, and **Denise Gardiner**, assistant director of REEI, was inducted in the honorary (staff) category. Also in attendance at the ceremony were six current members of Dobro Slovo: **Jacquelyn Henderson** (MA student, REEI), **David Klecha** (PhD student, History), and **Anna Jacobson** (PhD



Nina Perlina(left) and George Fowler(right) were also awarded outstanding teacher awards. They are pictured with student Jennifer Sanders

student, Education), and Slavic faculty members **Jeffrey Holdeman**, **Lawrence Richter**, and **Jerzy Kolodziej**.

this is one of the initiatives the PDP hopes to turn over to the local Ukrainian staff in coming years. In all, this grant will likely be the last award to the PDP from USAID. It is to run until 2008, at which point, Wise says,

the programs and organization begun by the PDP should be turned over to Ukrainian leadership.

Jen Maceyko is a graduate student in REEI.

Zlotin

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with this program.

1989 and 1990 saw two more trips to the United States and the beginning of a life transformation for Zlotin. First, he was asked to set up an Earthwatch program in the USSR. His training was a 45-day tour of the United States, from Massachusetts to Hawaii, which introduced him to the full breadth of US geography. Then, in 1990, he was invited to Indiana University to participate in a conference on the environmental problems of the Aral Sea. Participation in this conference acquainted him with Bloomington and Indiana, and opened the door for a continued association with IU. This association came to fruition in 1992 when Zlotin was asked to teach in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at IU. Thus, in the fall of 1992 he taught his first course at Indiana: "Environmental Degradation in the Former USSR."

Zlotin possibly learned more from teaching this course than did his students. In the Soviet Union he had worked as a scientist and academic, never as an instructor. Teaching, and at an American university at that, was a new experience. Furthermore, his command of the English language was still shaky at this time, and this was a "baptism of fire" that improved his language skills immeasurably. Finally there was the complete and total immersion in American culture, possibly at its rawest and most unrefined level – that of the college student.

Following this first experience with academia US-style, Zlotin's repertoire of courses expanded. His experiences in the USSR made him a unique asset to other departments and soon he

was asked to work in the Central Eurasian Studies Department. At this time he was still "commuting" back and forth between Russia and the United States, teaching at IU for one semester of the year, and continuing his work in Moscow for the remaining time. Boris Yeltsin's crackdown on the fledgling Russian parliament in October 1993 was a significant turning point for Zlotin. After this event he came to the conclusion that he wanted to live and work in the United States permanently. He believed real freedom and democracy would not come to Russia during his lifetime, and he was beginning to appreciate American values.

In 1996, Zlotin, his wife and son immigrated to the United States. This was again a major turning point in his highly eventful life. It was the beginning of a second life, a new life, completely different from what had gone before. For him, Russia had become mundane and common, but the United States provided a totally new and unexplored frontier. Zlotin's duties underwent a transformation from conducting research work to sharing his experiences with American students. In 2001 Zlotin reached another important milestone in his life when he became a citizen of the United States. Zlotin eagerly awaits his opportunity to vote in the 2004 US presidential election. Currently, he and Sonya, his wife of 41 years, live in Bloomington. He teaches a wide range of courses on Russia and the former Soviet Union at IU during the fall and winter semester and in the summer travels to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where he works as a terrestrial ecologist.

Matthew Atkins is a Major in the U.S. Army and a graduate student in REEI.

Romania

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ciety that is just being introduced to capitalism and democracy, being just over a decade removed from communism. Bullet holes in Timisoara buildings from the Christmas season revolution of 1989 were reminders of the area's political history. But what about lingering construction work, a low exchange rate (32,000 lei for one U.S. dollar), slow trains, and patient drivers? Were these the residue of an old regime as well?

A house will get done when it gets done, I remember missionary Steve Bishop saying, when I asked about construction deadlines. I do not recall exactly, but it may have been while we were waiting at a crossing on an absentee train that we had the conversation.

While people waited for the gate to go back up at the railway crossing, they did not blow their car horns. Nor did the expressions of the drivers twist or contort as they seem to on the roads I drive here at home. One man took the occasion to check his oil. Not one driver opted to drive around the short arm on each side. Twenty minutes after the mechanical gate had come down, a single train engine with no cars attached inched its way down the tracks. Before getting to the crossing, it came to a full stop. Five more minutes passed. Was I the only one checking my watch? Arms stayed down. All around, tempers stayed in check. Then, in its due time, the light blue engine churned on into flat farmland, its smoke curling into distant placid blue skies.

I made a mental note that I had much to learn and took a nap.

Michael Schroeder is an IU alumnus, freelance writer, and a general assignment reporter at the Herald-Times, a Bloomington newspaper.

Alumni News

Eric Batsie (BA Slavics/REEI Cert. 1994) is the director of the Moscow office of Kidsave International, an organization which relocates children from orphanages into stable families.

Maria Carlson (PhD Slavics 1981), after eleven years as director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Kansas, has returned this fall to her position as Professor of Russian Literature and Intellectual History in the KU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She plans to resume her research on the Russian occult and is currently writing on Russian neo-pagan movements.

Carrie Ellingson (MA REEI/MLS SLIS 2003) married Aaron Futch (Political Science) June 28 in Rochester, MN. They live in Laurel, MD. Carrie runs her own indexing business and Aaron is an attorney with a firm in Washington, DC.

Charles Gati (PhD Government 1965) presented "1956: the Politics of History: What I Remember and What Hungary Remembers Now" at the Symposium on the 1956 Hungarian Revolution sponsored by Columbia University and the Hungarian Culture Center in New York in October.

Lynn Sargeant (PhD History 2001) has a review of "Story of a Friendship: The Letters of Dmitry Shostakovich to Isaak Glikman,

1941-1975" (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001), currently on H-Net.

Daniel Stone (PhD History 1972) received the Oskar Halecki Prize for 2003 from the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America for his book *The Polish-Lithuanian State, 1386-1795* (University of Washington Press, 2003). It is volume IV of the ten-volume *History of East Central Europe* series. Stone also recently edited a volume *Jewish Radicalism in Winnipeg, 1905-1960* (Winnipeg: Jewish Heritage Society of Western Canada, 2003).

Cynthia Hyla Whittaker (PhD History 1971), professor of history at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, has just published two books: *Russian Monarchy: Eighteenth-Century Rulers and Writers in Political Dialogue* (NIU Press, 2003); and editor, *Russia Engages the World, 1453-1825* (Harvard University Press, 2003). She was also a co-curator of a major exhibition at the New York Public Library, "Russia Engages the World, 1453-1825," that opened on October 2, 2003.

Bradley D. Woodworth (PhD History 2003) received the 2002-2003 Alo Raun Prize for Excellence in Estonian and/or Finnish Studies. The prize is named in honor of Indiana University Professor Emeritus Alo Raun.

Student News

Miriam Shrager (Slavics) participated in the 2003 Intensive Summer Language Program in Olomouc, Czech Republic, sponsored by a CIC fellowship from The Ohio State University. On November 8, she presented a paper, "Accentuation in Several Northwest Russian Dialects", at the First Midwest Graduate Slavic Colloquium in Linguistics at Ohio State University, Columbus.

James Wilson (History) gave a paper entitled "'Competentis distantie spatio distinguantur': The Nuns of the Insula leporum and their Friars" at a conference at the Historical Museum of Budapest entitled "Apácák a középkori Magyarországon."

Poland

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lege, as visitors are normally allowed to enter only a few areas of the old forest as a part of guided group tours.

My second excursion from Warsaw was to the northwest, to Gdansk, and this too had an Indiana connection. I went there to stay with Ania Muller, a native Gdanskite, who is now here at Indiana beginning a history doctoral program. Ania and her husband Andy were perfect hosts. I had a delightful time walking around Gdansk, and chatting with them about Poland and Indiana. The trip even included a day at the beach, without which summer would be incomplete. Now, as we head into late fall in Bloomington, I am full of nostalgia for this hot summer day on the Baltic, and for Poland in general, which should not be so far away.

Dan Whyatt is a graduate student in the Department of History.

Faculty News

Jack Bielasiak (Political Science) published "Institutionalizing Electoral Democracy in Post-Communist States," Donald R. Kelley, ed. *After Communism: Perspectives on Democracy* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2003).

Frederick Chary (History – IU Northwest) presented "Bulgaria and the Holocaust: Myth and Reality" at the Seventh Joint Bulgarian-American Meeting at Ohio State University on October 11 and participated in the Symposium on the Bulgarian Jews at Georgetown University organized by the Bulgarian American Society on October 16.

Aurelian Craiutu (Political Science) published *Liberalism Under Siege: The Political Thought of the French Doctrinaires* (Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).

Henry Hale (Political Science) has published "The Duma Districts: Key to Putin's Power." *Program on New Approaches to Russian Security Policy Memo* 290 (September 2003). He also published in *Russian Election Watch* 3:1, a journal he edits. This journal can be accessed online at <http://www.daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/publications/rew.html>. "Explaining Machine Politics in Russia's Regions: Economy, Ethnicity, and Legacy," *Post-Soviet Affairs* 19:3 (July-September 2003) is forthcoming.

Jeffrey Hart (Political Science) published *Technology, Television, and Competition* with Cambridge University Press in November.

Douglas Hofstadter (Cognitive Science/Center for Research on Concepts & Cognition) presented "A Bi-

Lingual Reading of Eugene Onegin" at a conference entitled "Petersburg at 300 – A Theme in Five Variations" at Ohio State University in October.

Lynn Hooker (CEUS) presented "“Liszt is Ours!”: The Hungarian Celebration of the Liszt Centennial" at the Royal Music Association annual meeting in Cardiff, Wales, on September 12 and again at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society in Houston on November 13. She also presented "Authentic/Exotic/Erotic: Gypsiness and Gender in the Hungarian Folk Revival" at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Miami on October 5, where she acted as panel organizer and chair.

Jeffrey Isaac (Political Science) published a chapter, "Critics of Totalitarianism," Terence Ball and Ri-

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chard Bellamy, eds. *The Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century Political Thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Bill Johnston (TESOL/Applied Linguistics) has been elected to the board of the American Literary Translators Association. He attended their conference in Boston in November. Johnston is currently working on a translation of Witold Gombrowicz's *Wspomnienia polskie* (*A Polish Memoir*) for Yale University Press.

Janet Kennedy (Fine Arts) published "Pride and Prejudice: Sergei Diaghilev, the Ballets Russes and the French Public," Michelle Facos and Sharon L. Hirsh, eds. *Art, Culture and National Identity in Fin-de-Siecle Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Nina Perlina's (Slavics) *Writing the Siege of Leningrad*, co-written with Cynthia Simmons, has been announced a Silver Winner 2002 for History by *Foreword Magazine's* Book of the Year Awards. Perlina also published "Dostoevsky on capital Punishment" in *Dostoevskii i mirovaia kul'tura. St. Petersburg*, 2003.

Sarah Phillips (Anthropology) presented "The Social Uses of Civil Society: NGOs, Development, and Citizenship in Post-Soviet Ukraine," at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association in Chicago this November 19-23. It was part of the session she co-organized with Junjie Chen and Andrew Asher, "Where Capitalism and Socialism Meet: Unlocking a Comparative Anthropology of Post-/Late-Socialism."

William Pridemore (Criminal Justice) is currently on research leave

at the Davis Center for Russian Studies at Harvard. He recently published "Measuring homicide in Russia: A comparison of estimates from the crime and vital statistics reporting systems," *Social Science and Medicine* 57 (2003) and "Patterns of suicide mortality in Russia," *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 33 (2003) with A.L. Spivak. He presented two papers on homicide at the American Society of Criminology meetings in November: "The intermediate role of social institutions in the relationship between social change and homicide in Russia" with S.W. Kim and "Weekend effects on binge drinking and homicide mortality: Increasing evidence for the relationship between alcohol and homicide in Russia?" Pridemore recently completed a project funded by the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research entitled "Patterns and causes of excess mortality from lethal violence in transitional Russia" and began a 3-year NIH-funded study entitled "Social structure, alcohol, and lethal violence in Russia" in September.

David Ransel (REEI/History) participated in a workshop at the University of Chicago on "Work, Income, and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union, 1900-2000," reporting on the methods and results of his interview study of two generations of workers in the industrial suburbs of Moscow. The workshop took place on October 17.

Marci Shore (History) presented "Children of the Revolution: A Warsaw Family Story" at the Watson Institute of Brown University in October. Shore has also been selected to receive a 2004 IUB Summer Faculty Fellowship from the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Martin Spechler (Political Science) presented "Understanding Economic Reform in Uzbekistan," part of a research project for the Global Development Network, at the conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He also chaired a panel on economic developments in former Soviet Central Asia at the same conference. In August, Spechler acted as economic advisor to the Ministry of Economy, Republic of Uzbekistan, in Tashkent, and appeared on Uzbekistan television, gave several newspaper interviews about American policy, and consulted with Uzbek colleagues about the current situation as an employee of USAID. Spechler presented "The False Promise of U.S. Influence in Central Asia," to the Caspian Sea Basin Security conference, sponsored by the National Bureau of Asian Research and the U.S. Army College Strategic Studies Institute at the University of Washington, Seattle in April. He published "Crouching Dragon, Hungry Tigers: China in Central Asia" *Contemporary Economic Policy* 21: 2 (April 2003). His other recent articles include: "Returning to Convertibility in Uzbekistan?" *Journal of Policy Reform* 6: 1 (2003) and "The Uzbek Contradiction," *Jamestown Foundation Russian and Eurasian Review*, July 8, 2003.

Jeffrey Veidlinger (History/Jewish Studies) presented "Jewish Cultural Association in the Pale" at the Klutznick-Harris Symposium on Jews in Eastern Europe in Omaha, Nebraska. He also published a review essay of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's "Dvesti let vmeste" (Two Hundred Years Together) in "Cahiers du Monde Russe."

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