

December 2008

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REEIfication

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

David Ransel, Director Vol. 32, No. 4 Jeremy Stewart, Editor December 2008

Moving Forward:

The Arrest and Trial of Radovan Karadžić by Carla Tumbas

The July 21st capture of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić in Belgrade put an end to thirteen years of speculation as to his whereabouts and signaled a step forward for Serbia in its bid to join the European Union.

As founder of the Serbian Democratic Party and president of Republika Srpska during the Bosnian War, Karadžić was first indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1995. He was identified as one of the masterminds of the ethnic cleansing that occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina following its declaration of independence from Yugoslavia and the subsequent establishment of Republika Srpska. The implications of Karadžić's trial are far-reaching for both the future of Serbia and Bosnia as well as for the still-developing concept of international justice.

The European Union has made full cooperation with the ICTY a precondition for the signing of a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia. While this stipulation has now resulted in the arrest and delivery to The Hague of both Karadžić and Bosnian Serb military commander General Ratko Mladić, such a quid pro quo did not always work so effectively. Prior to Karadžić's capture in July, the dialogue between the Serbian government and the ICTY had been unproductive. The Serbs repeatedly asserted their commitment to cooperate but accused the ICTY of unrealistic expectations. The ICTY countered by citing a lack of political will on the part of Serbian leaders as the principal reason for the failure to locate the fugitives.

The unlikely partnership between the European-oriented Democratic Party and the Socialist Party of Serbia, Milošević's former party, had raised concerns among many. The unexpected arrest of Karadžić, who was living in disguise under the pseudonym of Dragan Dabić and working publicly in Belgrade as an alternative health practitioner, was one of the first acts of the new Serbian government and a significant demonstration of the coalition's willingness to make politically difficult decisions. Furthermore, it encouraged those committed to a European path for Serbia. In a symbolic gesture of reward the EU initialed the SAA with Serbia following Karadžić's delivery to The Hague.

The eleven charges faced by Karadžić include genocide, crimes against humanity, and various other war crimes. His trial will address the siege of Sarajevo and the Srebrenica massacre.

Reactions to the arrest in Bosnia have varied along ethnic lines. For Bosnian Muslims and Croats, his trial provides an opportunity for justice to be served and will perhaps offer a sense of closure. But while the Sarajevo streets were filled with jubilant celebrations following the news of the arrest, the reaction in Republika Srpska was more complex. For many Bosnian Serbs, it reawakens the question of secession, Karadžić's original goal. While secession remains unlikely, the viability and functionality of Bosnia's state structure are as problematic today as they were following their construction at the Dayton Accords. The secessionist movement is further strengthened by the recent and

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IU Awards for REEI Alumni

1994 Irene Meister College Distinguished Alumni 1998 Stephen Cohen

College Distinguished Alumni

1999 James F. Collins Honorary Doctorate

2004 Richard Miles
Distinguished Alumni Service

REEI Awards

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1988 Alexander Rabinowitch

1988 Charles Gati

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1988 Theofanis Stavrou

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1996 Robert W. Campbell

1997 Charles Jelavich

1997 Janet Rabinowitch

2000 William B. Edgerton

2007 Denise Gardiner

Moving Forward: The Arrest and Trial of Radovan Karadžić continued from previous page

widespread recognition of Kosovar independence, arguably providing a precedent for Republika Srpska.

Karadžić continues to be revered as a war hero by many Serbs and his arrest has fueled protests organized by the Serbian Radical Party. Nevertheless, the Serbian government's decision reflects the Serbian majority's desire for progress and has prompted a sense of relief even among some who do not recognize the ICTY as an appropriate source of justice.

The wider implications of Karadžić's trial stem from the controversy surrounding the legitimacy of the ICTY, in particular, and international justice, in general. Established in 1993 by the UN Security Council, the ICTY has also faced accusations of a strong anti-Serb bias. Karadžić has echoed these charges, calling it a "court of the NATO alliance." He claims that his arrest violates an offer of immunity given to him by US envoy Richard Holbrooke in exchange for his signature on the Dayton Accords. The former Bosnian Serb leader has chosen to represent himself, following in the footsteps of Milošević, who used various tactics to prolong his trial and ultimately died before a verdict could be delivered.

The failure to convict Milošević for his part in the Balkan atrocities of the 1990s has increased pressure on the ICTY to expedite the trial of Karadžić. As a result, prosecutors have sought to diminish the likelihood of a drawn-out trial by reducing the number of charges. Proof of these crimes is abundant, as many of the lesser players in the Bosnian conflict have already been tried. The difficulty, however, may be in proving Karadžić's role as commander-in-chief. Given that Republika Srpska was a self-proclaimed but never an internationally recognized state, the defense can make a strong case that Karadžić should be tried as a mere civilian. If the prosecution argues its case well, Karadžić may become the first indictee of the ICTY to be successfully prosecuted for promoting genocide. In the meantime, it is almost certain that Karadžić will continue to do his utmost to make a mockery of the court. Nevertheless, the Serbian government has demonstrated adequate political will to cooperate with Western proponents of international justice in order to strengthen its ties with the EU.

Carla Tumbas is a graduate student in the REEI and SPEA Master's programs

Correction

The October issue of *REEIfication* left out information on three of our new MA students. We apologize for this error and present the omitted information:

Carla Tumbas completed her BA in Political Science and International Studies with a minor from the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University in 2007. She is interested in economic development and the role of the European Union in the former Yugoslavia. She is pursuing a joint degree with REEI and SPEA.

Anastasia Wypasek grew up in Akron, Ohio and graduated from Saint Francis University in 2008 with a degree in history and English literature. She is interested in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Polish history and literature.

Emily Young graduated from Carleton College in 2005 with a degree in music. She has studied abroad in Wales and Russia, served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Albania, and is currently pursuing a dual MIS/MA with SLIS and REEI. Emily's interests include the history, culture and politics of Russia and the Balkans.

My Romanian Adventure by Erin Biebuyck

Last December, I received an email from the US Embassy in Bucharest with an offer of an internship in the Political Section. Elated, I immediately began planning my summer in Romania. How long would I stay? Which archives would I visit to do research for my master's thesis? I booked my plane ticket and began looking for a place to stay. Despite all of my careful planning, there was one important detail that was completely out of my hands: my security clearance.

By the time May rolled around I was preparing

to leave for Romania, but I still had not received my clearance. Naturally, this made me somewhat nervous. No security clearance meant no internship at the embassy. Rather than wait around in the United States, I decided to go to Bucharest and work on my thesis research. If my clearance came through by early June, I could start the internship and stay until mid-August. If not, I figured I would finish up my research and fly home in June. I've always been fairly easygoing, and this sounded like just my type of adventure.

Looking back on the summer, I can say without a doubt that it was an adventure. It was not always fun, nor was it always easy. When I first arrived, I was unable to access my bank account and in the ten days that it took to solve my

banking problems, I was evicted from the cozy apartment that I had found shortly after arriving in the city. Those first few weeks were very difficult, but eventually things began to look up.

Thankfully, when my landlady asked me to leave, one of my fellow REEI students, **Nicole Degli Esposti**, was there to take me in. I received word that my security clearance had been granted at the beginning of June. By that time I had found a new apartment and opened an account at Banca Comercială României. I started work in the Political Section of the embassy in early June after a brief trip to Hungary and Poland. The summer was back on track.

Working in the Political Section I designed research projects that were related to my academic interests, including an investigation of the political struggles surrounding lustration and a report on the enforcement of women's rights. I met with

representatives of governmental bodies, including the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania and the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives, as well as NGOs such as the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Romanian Civic Academic Foundation. Working for the embassy opened doors that had been closed to me as a student. For example, I was able to meet with Romanian-American political scientist Vladimir Tismaneanu to discuss the work of the Presidential Commission for the Analysis

of the Communist Dictatorship of Romania, of which he is the director. Having read Professor Tismaneanu's work on Romanian political history and the conclusions of the Presidential Commission, it was exciting to meet him and hear his opinion on the legacies of communism. In addition to this firsthand exposure to contemporary Romanian political issues, I learned a great deal about diplomacy and the Foreign Service by attending meetings with government officials and visiting other sections of the embassy.

While I did research and attended meetings during the week, I had my weekends and evenings free to experience life in Bucharest and travel around the country. With the beautiful Carpathian Mountains only a short train ride away from

Bucharest, I went hiking and camping as often as I could. One weekend I went further north to visit Sighet and Săpântă near the Ukrainian border. While there I saw the Memorial Museum to the Victims of Romanian Communism and the Merry Cemetery.

By the end of my fifteen weeks in Bucharest, my perspective on the city had changed a great deal and I found myself wondering how I would readjust to life back in the United States. Although the summer had gotten off to a rocky start, it all came together in the end. In addition to improving my spoken and written Romanian, I learned a lot about Romanian politics, the Foreign Service, and myself. It was more of an adventure than I originally bargained for, but given the choice, I'd do it all over again.



The tallest wooden church in Maramureş. Săpântă, Maramureş.

Erin Biebuyck is a graduate student in the REEI MA Program

Hungarian Studies at Indiana University

by Andrew Burton

Indiana University is deeply committed to the study of the language, history, politics and culture of Hungary and the Hungarian diaspora. The Department of Central Eurasian Studies (CEUS) at IU offers the country's only MA and PhD programs in Hungarian Studies. In addition, students in the Russian and East European Institute and various disciplinary departments can focus their course work and research on Hungary. IU boasts the largest concentration of Hungarian studies specialists in the US, three years of instruction in the Hungarian language, and an extensive library collection including more than 30,000 volumes in the Hungarian language, 4,000 in Western languages about Hungarian topics, and subscriptions to numerous Hungarian serials. IU also maintains strong relationships with Hungarian institutions

Lászlo Borhi, and currently historian/ethnographer Ágnes Fülemile. Each year, in addition to teaching courses, the Ránki Chair professor also organizes a symposium of top scholars on a particular Hungarian studies topic. Recent Hungarian studies symposia have addressed the works of Nobel-prize winning author Imre Kertész, the contributions of Hungarian scholars to cognitive studies, and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. In 2008, Professor Fülemile expanded the symposium's normal two-day conference format into a week-long workshop on the Hungarian Táncház (Dancehouse) Movement. The event encompassed an academic conference, live performances by renowned Hungarian musicians, dance lessons, and a traditional Hungarian folk dance party.

In spring 2009 the György Ránki Hungarian



The Badascony hills surrounding Lake Balaton in Hungary

of higher learning, including a direct exchange with Debrecen University.

Although Hungarian studies as an interdisciplinary field began at IU in the early 1960s, Hungarian language offerings began much earlier. In 1942, university President Herman B Wells launched the teaching of Hungarian along with other East European languages as part of the wartime Army Special Training Program. Wells was an advocate of international studies and continued to support the expansion of the Slavic and Uralic programs at IU after the war. Several important scholars helped build the Hungarian studies program in its first decades, including Thomas Sebeok, Alo Raun, Denis Sinor, and Gustav Bayerle. In 1979, Indiana University signed an agreement with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to establish a Hungarian Chair, endowed by the Hungarian Academy. It was agreed that the Chair was to function within the Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies and that the holder would have full professional rank.

Today that chair is housed in CEUS and named after its first holder, Professor György Ránki. In 1991 when then Ránki Chair holder Mihály Szegedy-Maszák became a tenured full professor at IU, a one-year rotation of visiting professors became the norm. Recent Ránki Chair professors have included historian Ignác Romsics, historian Pál Hatos, psycholinguist Csaba Pléh, historian

Chair Symposium will focus on environmental issues in Hungary and Transylvania. The spring semester will also feature several Hungarian studies courses. In addition to Hungarian language, CEUS will offer "Socialism in Hungary 1945-1990," "Introduction to Hungarian Studies," "Roma History and Culture," and "Hungarian Folk Dance."

IU also boasts Hungarian extra-curricular activities organized by the student-run Hungarian Cultural Association (HCA). These include annual commemorations of the October 1956 and March 1848 revolutions, a semiannual picnic, a Mikulás party, film showings, and a weekly conversation hour. Both native Hungarian speakers and students of the language participate in these events.

The Russian and East European Institute supports Hungarian studies by providing FLAS Fellowships for the Hungarian language, underwriting a portion of the Hungarian language instructor's salary, crosslisting Hungarian studies courses, and making modest contributions in support of the György Ránki Hungarian Chair Symposium and the HCA events. We encourage interested current and prospective students to take advantage of IU's exceptional offerings in Hungarian studies.

Andrew Burton is the REEI's Academic Advisor and Assistant Director for Student Services

Summer Study in Russia

ACTR Teacher's Program by Melissa Witcombe

This past summer I spent six weeks in Moscow as a participant in the Summer Russian Language Teachers Program. Administered by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR), the program is designed to enhance the linguistic, cultural, and pedagogical acumen of those who currently teach Russian or plan to do so in the near future. Our group included graduate students and full-time teachers from both the United States and Canada.

Top-flight instructors from the Moscow State University (MGU) Faculty of Philology led us in a stimulating rotation of seminars on linguistic topics such as phonetics, verbal aspect, word-formation, and functional grammar as well as aspects of Russian culture, including music, literature, folklore, and the visual arts. We also met weekly with the MGU's outstanding specialists in teaching Russian as a foreign language to explore practical issues of Russian language pedagogy by drawing on our experiences as both teachers and learners of foreign languages. The program featured field trips to the writers' dachas in Peredelkino, Mosfilm Studios, the State Library, the medieval town of Suzdal, and other notable sights in the environs of Moscow. We also participated in a lengthier excursion to Kazan and nearby Elabuga, during which we met with the Minister of Education of Tatarstan and faculty of both Tatar State and Kazan State Universities. The summer culminated in a roundtable discussion and presentations by all participants on various aspects of language pedagogy, followed by a less formal kapustnik showcasing the individual talents of our group.

My experience as a participant in this program was uniformly positive. The MGU staff excelled in their instruction and consistently exuded enthusiasm and genuine concern for our progress and well-being. ACTR organized and managed the program superbly, and I couldn't have asked for a better group of colleagues with whom to spend six weeks in class and in residence at the MGU dormitories. I strongly encourage anyone with an interest in Russian language pedagogy to consider this program in the future.

Melissa Witcombe is a graduate student in Slavic Linguistics

From the REEI staff: ACTR provides fellowships for participation in the Summer Russian Language Teachers Program, given on the basis of demonstrated commitment to Russian-language teaching and evidence of innovative teaching and outreach. Preference is given to teachers who are developing or maintaining a Russian-language program, applicants who have not been to Russia for a sustained period during the last three years, and to non-native speakers of Russian. For more information, consult the program website at: http://www.actr.org/programs.php?program_id=NzM=.

Critical Language Scholarship Program by Heather Rice

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program enables US citizens to study critical languages in authentic immersion settings at summer institutes in more than a dozen countries. Sponsored by the United States Department of State and administered by the Council of

American Overseas Research Centers, the CLS Program currently operates institutes for Russian language study in Astrakhan, Nizhnii Novgorod, Samara, and Tomsk, the charming Siberian town where I served as CLS Site Director for twenty students this past summer.



Tomsk State University

CLS students in Tomsk attended daily classes in grammar, conversation, and phonetics at Tomsk State University and participated in an extensive series of film screenings, lectures, and excursions to museums, theaters, monuments of local architecture, and other sites of interest, including local beer and chocolate factories. The program also featured a three-day tour of the Altai Mountains along the Mongolian border. To maximize exposure to the Russian language, all students resided in Russian households and honored a pledge to use Russian exclusively throughout the duration of the ten-week program.

Student response to the program in Tomsk and the three other CLS Russian programs was overwhelmingly favorable. Most appreciated the opportunity to learn Russian in a relaxed and friendly provincial locale, where foreigners are still a welcome novelty, rather than in one of the capitals, the destination for the vast majority of Americans who travel to Russia for language study. Almost all students reported substantial gains in Russian language proficiency and confidence about using the language.

Heather Rice is a graduate student in Slavic Linguistics

From the REEI staff: The excellence of the CLS Russian programs reflects the fruitful collaboration of education professionals at the Russian site universities, program coordinators in Saint Petersburg, and specialists at Stony Brook University in New York. As part of the US government National Security Language Initiative, the CLS Program aims to expand the number of Americans with mastery in languages critical to US security needs. To this end, each CLS student receives a scholarship covering all program costs. Students of any discipline or major who are US citizens and expect to have completed at least two years of college-level Russian or the equivalent by June 2009 are encouraged to apply for CLS programs in Russian to be offered next summer. Additional information and application forms can be found at: https://clscholarship.org/home.php.

Faculty Profile: Steve Franks interview by James Joeriman

Professor Franks was recently appointed Chairperson of the Slavic Department. His major research interests lie in syntactic theory, with a focus on issues broadly related to case. In much of his work he compares grammatical patterns within the closely related Slavic family in order to uncover the parameters that delimit the range of possible variation. This research is conducted within the context of generative grammar. He has published widely on linguistics and is the editor-in-chief of *Slavic Linguistics*. Here he answers a few questions about his interests and opinions.

What first interested you in linguistics?

It's probably no surprise, because I am in the Slavic Department, that I came to linguistics through Russian. I did study other foreign languages as a kid. I went to Hebrew school for many years, though I really didn't learn to say much of anything, and I had French from the fifth grade but never made much progress there either. I entered high school during the period of détente when they actually taught Russian in many public high schools, including mine, which was in Princeton, New Jersey. It was the most exotic language I could take, so I did. Plus we were the only family on the block who subscribed to Soviet Life. Russian turned out to be a pretty big class, with 30 or so kids! It was taught in a much more structural way than French or Hebrew had been. The teachers really explained the grammar, and I got excited about how predictable and organized things were, especially word-formation. I just got more and more involved in it and by the end of 10th grade my Russian had surpassed the French and I dropped the latter. When I graduated high school, right before I started Princeton University, I came to IU because that was about the only place you could study Russian in the summer. I was here already way back in 1973! If you talk to just about anyone in the field from my generation you'll find that they will have studied here. But I didn't know about linguistics. That's the ironic thing. Although I loved Russian, I didn't know that it was possible to just study the language. I thought I'd have to study Russian history or literature or politics (perish the thought). While all these things are interesting, I discovered while at SWSEEL that one could just study language for its own sake. I got to know Princeton's Charlie Townsend, who was teaching in Bloomington for the summer, and when I went to college soon started taking linguistics courses.

You work a lot with South Slavic languages. What attracted you to South Slavic languages in particular?



To be brutally honest, what attracted me was more that I was repelled by Russian! Or rather Russia. I visited the Soviet Union in the spring semester of 1975 - my sophomore year - and I discovered it was not the "workers' paradise" portrayed in Soviet Life. The experience I had in Leningrad, with otkazniki and so forth, led me to come back and ask my advisors, "Where do they speak something like this but that is a better place to go?" Townsend suggested Yugoslavia, and since Bill Derbyshire was teaching Serbo-Croatian at Rutgers, which was just down the road, I went to his classes there. I mostly picked it because it was a much more hospitable environment to study a Slavic language. I wanted to go abroad after graduating from college. I decided to apply for a Fulbright, which was much easier to get for Yugoslavia than, say, England or Germany, so I set my sights on that. My senior year I began corresponding with various people for advice, one of whom was Wayles Browne, a professor at Cornell. This guy, whom I had never met before, ended up writing me back a five-page letter with a detailed research project for the Fulbright application! I should say that Browne's impact on my career goes much further than this letter, since he would later become my dissertation director. So I used his research project, got the Fulbright, and even ended up eventually publishing the results. I had a wonderful year in Zagreb, and that did it for South Slavic, although I've done many different things since then.

Do you have a particular favorite language or one you find most useful to work with?

Well, I've moved around a lot. I had that year in Zagreb. I also studied some Macedonian in 1978, at the Ohrid workshop, but I largely moved back into Russian after I returned. After finishing the PhD and before

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coming to IU I spent a few years working for Uncle Sam, 1984-1987, using my languages. I have also studied Polish off and on; I twice spent a month teaching linguistics in Warsaw through the IU International Programs exchange. In 1995 I went to Bulgaria on an IREX summer program for a month. I literally knew no Bulgarian when I got there, but I was motivated, and it was a convenient time to travel. I liked it and I got more into it and was invited back a few times to lecture. I even taught in Plovdiv for a month. I started working on Bulgarian more intensively, mostly comparing South Slavic clitic systems. I've tried to learn Slovenian every now and again, but it's a difficult one, plus in Slovenia it is too tempting to use English or Croatian. I started on Macedonian again when Elena Petroska came to IU and, during summer 2007, went back to Ohrid again. That is a fun language! Now I just have a mixture of all these different languages. I wouldn't say I prefer a particular one, I just compare phenomena across them.

What led to your role as founding co-editor of the Journal of Slavic Linguistics? As current editor-in-chief, can you comment on a particular discernible trend in what's being studied?

George Fowler and I started *ISL* in 1990, and we're now working on volume 17. The idea came from an invitation-only formal linguistics workshop in Michigan that I attended, "Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics" (FASL), which subsequently became a highly competitive annual conference, the proceedings of which go on to be published. My reaction to that, even though I work within formal linguistics, was that the Slavic field needed something more general that would appeal to people regardless of their orientation, no matter what kind of research they were doing. The FASL proceedings were too narrow (and other journals not dedicated to linguistics were too broad). So I started *ISL* with that in mind. It has since become the journal of a new international society, The Slavic Linguistics Society, which first met in Bloomington in 2006, then in Berlin in 2007, at OSU in 2008, and next year will meet in Zadar, Croatia.

I think that the direction that things have been going – and the direction they have been going was clear to me even when I was an undergraduate – is that you can't be doing purely Slavic linguistics if you don't understand how language works in general. You need a solid foundation in general linguistics: in syntax, phonology, whatever your areas are. The line between Slavists and general linguists has really blurred a lot. If

you look at submissions and who publishes and so on, probably fewer and fewer people who have traditional Slavic training or who work exclusively in Slavic departments are publishing in *ISL* and *FASL*. More is being published by general linguists or those who did joint degrees and work in both areas, people who could submit an article just as easily to a linguistics journal as to a Slavic journal. I think this is partly because of the way that the field has developed and has become so technical. You can't rely on the treatments of language that come out of the Russian grammatical tradition. It's also because there are more and more émigrés studying general linguistics. They are applying linguistic methods and are just doing their research on their native languages. Those people are submitting to JSL and FASL; and they happen to be native speakers of Slavic languages, have good insights about their languages, but typically don't have the traditional training and didn't necessarily take courses in literature, culture, and so forth. I have three papers coming out in the issue I'm sending to press at the end of this month, all three by general linguists. One is by a Russian, Vita Markman, a recent PhD teaching linguistics and cognitive science in California, another by Jacek Witkoś, a prominent Polish scholar at the Institute of English Philology in Poznań, and the third by Ilse Zimmermann, a retired general linguist from Potsdam, Germany. This is the way these things are going now. You see more formal grammar and more general linguists publishing. This ISL line-up also reflects the increasingly international nature of the discipline.

I noticed that you're interested in language acquisition. To what extent can the study of first language acquisition inform the study of second language acquisition?

You've put your finger on a very important question in second language acquisition (SLA), although this is not my field. The question is really whether studying a second language replicates the same processes and marshals the same type of skills as acquiring a first language. Of course, you can put aside childhood SLA, where the answer is trivially yes. But as an adult, you come into college, and – when for many of us it is too late – we start teaching you a second language. Then the question becomes what kinds of transfer exist. At one extreme, one might imagine that sitting in class studying some language that's unlike your own language, you might as well be studying quantum mechanics. I don't think that's correct. There's obviously transfer if any vocabulary or syntax is similar. Do the properties of the language that

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Outreach Notes

Russian Traditional Music Ensemble Reelroad Visits Bloomington by Dan Tam Do and Mark Trotter

In early October, thousands of people in Bloomington, Indiana reveled in the exuberant artistry of Reelroad, a Saint Petersburg-based ensemble that specializes in contemporary, Celtic-flavored interpretations of Russian traditional music. A featured act at Bloomington's celebrated Lotus World Music and Arts Festival, Reelroad also made appearances at both Bloomington public high schools and the Indiana University Global Village.

Reelroad performs regularly in the Russian capitals of Moscow and Saint Petersburg as well as in the Baltic countries, whether on festival stages or in more intimate venues like clubs, bars, and cafes. Bloomington was the final stop of the group's first extensive international tour, which began in late August at the Go Global festival in Denmark and continued throughout September with concerts in nine American cities, from Albuquerque to New York.

In an interview at the studios of Bloomington radio station WFHB, members of Reelroad discussed their music and its place in the contemporary Russian musical scene. Despite the enthusiastic response it generates in live performances, traditional Russian music currently has an "underground" status in Russia. "There are a lot of people who really like Russian folk music," claimed leader and founding member Aleksei Belkin, noting the existence of numerous Russian choirs and bands with a repertoire even more traditional than Reelroad's. However, Russian folk music is almost entirely absent from the mainstream media. "You wouldn't be able to find it on the radio and there is just one TV program which shows something about Russian folk music. In general it's not popular like pop music." Nonetheless, Reelroad has managed to generate a devoted following in which young people predominate. "We didn't intend it, but somehow our music is more interesting for youth," commented Belkin. That circumstance may reflect the relative youth of the band members themselves or the unique mix of instruments they employ. In addition to the familiar guitar, fiddle, bass, and drum set, Reelroad's music features traditional Russian instruments such as the stringed gusli, the volynka (a type of bagpipe), and a wind instrument known as the zhaleika. An Irish harp and tin whistle also figure in many of the band's arrangements. Perhaps Belkin explained the attraction of Reelroad's music best when he characterized it as "friendly to people." "We don't try to make it too complicated and we don't try to make it understandable only for musicians. We try to make music which will be understandable for everybody," including

listeners who are not Russian.

Reelroad's appeal to youthful audiences and the manner in which its music can transcend national and linguistic barriers were very much in evidence during the group's appearances before students at Bloomington high schools and Indiana University. Early in the morning of October 1, the band delivered a brief but lively performance at Bloomington High School South, energizing some 60 students and even inducing eight to rise from their seats and learn a traditional Russian dance. In a characteristic response, one South student described the group as "fantastic" and vowed to take in one of their evening performances at the upcoming festival. Later in the day, the band traveled to Bloomington High School North to play for a highly



Reelroad performing at Bloomington High School South

appreciative audience of approximately 300 participants in the school's choral, band, and orchestral programs. Throughout the one-hour performance, Belkin provided droll explanatory commentary on the lyrics and narratives of the songs in their program, which address such topics as relations between newlyweds and in-laws, the weather in Petersburg, and the delights of bread soup. Many in the audience responded with abandon when Belkin encouraged them to dance to the more energetic tunes. Afterwards, a crowd of students rushed onto the

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Outreach Notes

Reelroad

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stage to greet the band members and get a closer look at their instruments, including a harp and paddle-shaped bass guitar, both handmade by Reelroad bass guitarist Aleksei Skosyrev. On the day after the concert, North principal Jeffry Henderson, who helped bring Reelroad to the school, received a thank-you card in which North students had recorded their individual responses to the performance. Many wrote of their enchantment with "the

new language" or "the beautiful sound," and one student commented that "they were flipping sweet." Louise Wohlafka, choir director at North, appreciated Reelroad's willingness to share their heritage and praised them for being "so genuine in their music and their way of delivering it." She noted that the students were able to "feel" and understand the music despite their unfamiliarity



Reelroad folk dance workshop at Lotus Festival

with the Russian language. For some, it was a rare or even first international experience. After the performance, Wohlafka spent a class period discussing several of its dimensions with her students, including the group members' rapport both with each other and with the audience. She expressed the hope that her students can "exude the same passion and energy" when they become performers in their own turn. Reelroad concluded the busy day by leading a folk music workshop at the Indiana University Global Village Living-Learning Center. Members of Reelroad and student musicians in residence at the Global Village thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to get acquainted with each other and make music together.

At the Lotus Festival, which began the next day, Reelroad significantly expanded its Bloomington fan base at both ends of the generational spectrum. Apart from enthusiastically received performances on each evening of the festival, Reelroad conducted a Russian folk dance workshop at the popular Lotus in the Park segment of the

festival. As the other members of Reelroad provided the music, Belkin and Reelroad vocalist and instrumentalist Nastya Karasaeva led an ecstatic throng of Russian music devotees, ranging in age from six months to seventy, through the steps of the Cracovienne, the Russian waltz, and other traditional dances.

REEI funded and coordinated Reelroad's appearances at the Bloomington high schools and also

served as a sponsor of the 2008 Lotus World Music and Art Festival, where East European musical culture was generously represented. In addition to Reelroad, the Lotus Festival featured a screening of The Singing Revolution, a documentary film that examines the role of the Laulupidu song festival in the Estonian independence movement of the 1980s and 1990s, and performances

by Little Cow, a Hungarian group which specializes in an eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary music, and the New York Gypsy All-Stars, a multi-ethnic ensemble which plays jazz-flavored versions of Turkish, Balkan, and Mediterranean Romani songs.

For more on Reelroad, consult their website at: http://www.reelroad.spb.ru/members/. Information about the Lotus Festival can be found at: http://www.lotusfest.org/index.html.

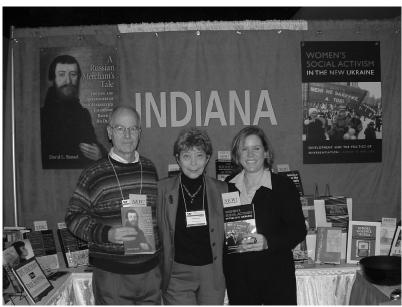
Dan Tam Do is a graduate student in the REEI and SLIS Master's Programs

Mark Trotter is assistant director and outreach coordinator for the Russian & East European Institute

Remembering the 2008 AAASS Convention by Abby Drwecki

The 40th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies took place on November 20-23 in downtown Philadelphia. This was my first time to attend the convention, and I was excited to see the work presented by my colleagues and other scholars. The quality of the sessions was impressive, and I was glad to have the opportunity to present a paper of my own. Gender was the overall theme of this year's

convention. Since my own research in anthropology concerns gender in Poland, many of the panel presentations captured my interest. Indiana University participants included Tristra Newyear, Melissa Chakars. Bora Chung, Anna Müller, Susan Williams, Justyna Beinek, Padraic Kenney, Janet Rabinowitch and Elena Petroska (See the October issue of REEIfication for a complete list). Scholars from Indiana University



From left to right, David Ransel, Janet Rabinowitch, and Sarah Phillips at the IU Press booth

participated in panels and roundtables on "Gender and Sovietness in Russian Popular Culture and Literature," "Gendering East European Historiography," "Markets, Matriarchs and Muscles: Intersections of Gender and Class in Post-Socialism," and many others.

The convention also included several social events where scholars could reconnect with old acquaintances and network with others in their field. I attended a joint reception held by the Czechoslovak Studies Association, the Polish Studies Association, the Slovak Studies Association, the Society for Romanian Studies and the Society for Slovene Studies. This was the first year for such a joint reception, which brought together various scholars who work throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Several current and former graduate students and professors from Indiana University attended, caught up with past colleagues, and made new contacts. Later, I attended the Indiana University Alumni Reception. It featured a book signing for A Russian Merchant's Tale: The Life and Adventures of Ivan Alekseevich Tolchënov,

Based on His Diary by David Ransel and Women's Social Activism in the New Ukraine by Sarah D. Phillips.

Professor Ransel said a few words at the reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the Russian and East European Institute and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the institute's many alumni. Additionally, Indiana University Press, Slavica Press, and the REEI had booths in the convention's exhibition hall to promote publications

and the programs offered at IU, including SWSEEL.

On Saturday the annual meeting of the Association of Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) was conducted over lunch in one of the hotel's salons. At this meeting, Sarah Phillips, Maria Bucur and others were congratulated on their publications, several book and article awards were presented, elections were held, and Professor Phillips was nominated for a position on the

board of directors of the AWSS. On Saturday night the convention culminated with the awards ceremony. At this ceremony, Colleen Moore, a PhD student in the Department of History at Indiana University, received the convention's Graduate Student Essay Prize for her paper "The Popular Response to War and Mobilization in Russia in 1914." After the awards ceremony, the AAASS president, Beth Holmgren, forwent the usual address and instead treated the audience to an original film that she had produced with Igor Sopronenko and several other AAASS members. The title of the film was "Twenty Years Forward? The Contents and Discontents of Modern Russian Feminism." It presented a variety of fascinating perspectives from Russian feminists as well as from scholars of feminism in Russia. Overall the experience was enlightening and I look forward to attending and presenting at the AAASS convention in future years.

Abby Drwecki is a graduate student in the Anthropology PhD Program

Romanian Studies Conference Announcement

The Romanian Studies Organization is pleased to announce the second annual interdisciplinary Romanian Studies Conference to take place on February 27 and 28, 2009!

For more information please visit http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/index/romania.shtml#conference

Indiana University Press Announcement

Indiana University Press has announced that Who Will Write Our History? Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Oyneg Shahes Archive, by Samuel D. Kassow, received the AAASS/Orbis Books Prize for Polish studies. Another IU Press book, From the Cult of Waste to the Trash Heap of History: The Politics of Waste in Socialist and Postsocialist Hungary, by Zsuzsa Gille, received honorable mention for the AAASS/Davis Center Book Prize in Political and Social Studies. In addition, Searching for Cioran, authored by Ilinca Zarifopol-Johnston and edited by Kenneth R. Johnston, was published by Indiana University Press this fall.

Profile

continued from page 7

you already speak give you a leg up in learning another language as an adult because they are properties of that language or because they are true of human language in general? This is the fundamental question, and I think people are still debating that.

Are there any projects that you're currently working on that REEI students might be interested in?

I'd have to say that the most important project I'm working on right now concerns REEI more than any kind of scholarship I could be doing. Now that I've become chair of the Slavic Department my task is trying to come up with a vision for how this department should look in

the next few years with so many people retiring. This is a great opportunity to reshape the Slavic Department, and I think the closer we are to the various units across campus that we serve, the better and stronger we are. This isn't an intellectual project, which is what you had in mind, although of course I continue to investigate and teach about comparative problems of Slavic morphosyntax. But it is the endeavor that is primarily engrossing me at the moment: how to recast IU's Slavic Department to serve future needs and how to strengthen connections with REEI and the many departments whose students need training in Slavic languages, literatures, and cultures.

James Joeriman is a graduate student in the REEI MA Program

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Events News

Lecture & Lunch with Ken Jaques by Jennifer Evans

On October 14, 2008 Ken Jaques, president of Global Communication Strategies, gave a talk entitled "The Evolution of Media and Media Relations in the Former Soviet Bloc." Focusing primarily on his experiences as a consultant to the president of Georgia and his administration, Jaques discussed how he developed a long-term communications strategy for key government ministers in order to gain public support for market reforms. Additionally, he weighed in on the current situation between Georgia and Russia, addressing differences in these countries' public relations strategies.

The following day, Mr. Jaques spoke with five REEI graduate students at an informal lunch hosted by the Institute. He again addressed his experience as a consultant to the government of Georgia, as well as his work with the government of Croatia, the parliament of Serbia, and the Ukrainian Ministry of Labor. Mr. Jaques also discussed his service as a press secretary to US Senator Frank Lautenberg and his time as a journalist for Congressional Quarterly and CNN.

In addition to recounting these highlights of his career, Mr. Jaques provided advice to students looking for jobs. He recommended that they be very flexible, particularly at the beginning of their careers, since one never knows where an opportunity may lead. When Mr. Jaques finished school, he did not intend to become a consultant. However, after working in journalism and politics, he accepted a temporary position as a consultant and now heads his own consulting firm.

The second point Mr. Jaques made regards

specialization. In-depth knowledge of a particular field is vital to showing employers that one is qualified for a position and is just as important as possessing specific skills sets. Along with field specialization, a strong grasp of at least one language from one's region of focus is important, particularly for in-country positions.

The final piece of advice that Mr. Jaques offered was on the importance of writing skills. According to Jaques, strong writing skills are crucial to success in any position and will impress potential employers as much as any other qualification. He recommended that students demonstrate their writing skills at every opportunity.

While at IU, Mr. Jaques, whose brother Kevin Jaques is a professor in the IU Department of Religious Studies, also participated in events organized by the IU School of Journalism. On the evening of October 14 he joined students of international public relations at an informal question and answer session over pizza. The following day, he was a guest lecturer at Associate Professor Owen Johnson's class on "The Media as Social Institutions."

On Thursday, October 16, Mr. Jaques concluded his busy visit to Indiana by traveling to Indianapolis, where he delivered a presentation to local businesspeople on "Developing Relationships With Foreign Government and Business Officials" at the 2008 International Luncheon Series sponsored by the IU Center for International Business Education and Research/Kelley School of Business.

Jennifer Evans is a graduate student in the REEI and SPEA Master's programs

Hungarian Uprising Commemoration

by Jeremy Stewart

On October 23, 2008 the Indiana University Hungarian Cultural Association commemorated the 52nd anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Following a welcome by Andrew Burton, REEI Academic Advisor, Professor Ágnes Fülemile, the visiting György Ránki Chair of Hungarian Studies at Indiana University, gave a commemorative address. Professor Fülemile suggested that the Hungarian Revolution had caused the first cracks in the façade of Communism. She also emphasized the importance of Hungarian lyrical poetry in illuminating the immense gulf between the promises and realities of Communism. She discussed the backgrounds and poetry of four distinguished Transylvanian poets whose poetry, she suggests, "shrieks with one voice, 'No more dictatorship!"

Following her address five Hungarian language students recited verses of Transylvanian poets Sándor

Kányádi, Aladár Lászlóffy, Domokos Szilágyi and Gizella

Hervay. Each of these poems constitutes a powerful rejection of the practices of Communism. The readings were followed by a piano solo performance of Ferenc Liszt's *St.*

Francis of Assisi
Preaches to the Birds.



REEI graduate student John Venham reciting poetry.

Jeremy Stewart is a graduate student in the REEI MA and Kelley MBA programs

Events News

Guest Speakers on Russia and Eastern Europe

In addition to the other events featured in this issue of REEIfication, REEI has sponsored or co-sponsored a number of guest lectures at Indiana University. Experts on a variety of topics pertaining to Russia or the countries of Eastern Europe have visited from around the country and abroad in order to share their research and perspectives with the academic community and general public here. Below are summaries of guest lectures that have taken place from the beginning of the current semester in August through the first half of November.

On September 24, **Robert Blobaum**, Eberly Professor of History at West Virginia University, gave a Horizons of Knowledge Lecture entitled "A Warsaw Story: Polish-Jewish Relations in the First World War." Why did a pogrom occur in Lwów but not in Warsaw in 1918, despite the highly visible and intense manifestations of anti-Semitism in the latter city during World War I and its aftermath? Blobaum explored this historical puzzle in his lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Polish Studies Center, the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program, and the Department of History.

On October 6, another Horizons of Knowledge Lecture featured William Brumfield of Tulane University, who presented "Lost Russia: Architecture and Preservation in the Russian Heartland." Brumfield discussed the adverse effects of a cataclysmic twentieth century shaken by wars, revolutions, and famines on Russia's historic architecture. In the wake of such events, historic structures throughout Russia have been subjected to decades of destruction and neglect, particularly in the countryside. The lecture included a photographic presentation of churches, monasteries, and estate houses that have been "lost" in the Russian heartland and observations on the problems of historic preservation in Russia today. Brumfield's lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of Art History, the Department of History, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

On October 9, the Polish Studies Center presented a lecture by **Anna Niedźwiedź**, a visiting scholar from Jagiellonian University currently in the Department of Anthropology, entitled "Our Lady of Częstochowa: Religious or National Symbol of Poland?" Approaching her subject from an ethnographic perspective, Niedźwiedź examined the image of Our Lady of Częstochowa and its evolution as an icon of religious belief and national identity through the Communist period, when it served as a powerful symbol of political resistance to the regime, to the present.

On November 12, **Sergei Zhuk**, Associate Professor of History at Ball State University, visited Bloomington to give a lecture on "Rock Music Consumption and Problems of Identity among the Youth of Soviet Ukraine, 1964-1984." In this lecture Zhuk explored ways in which popular reception of Western rock music interacted with official cultural policy to impede the development of Ukrainian national consciousness among young people in Ukraine during the two decades preceding the perestroika phase of Soviet history. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of History.

On November 13, **Agnieszka Graff** gave a Horizons of Knowledge Lecture entitled "Our Innocence, Foreign Perversions: Gender and Sexuality in Polish Nationalist Discourse." Graff, a prominent specialist on gender and feminism in Eastern Europe, explored nationalist discourse in contemporary Poland, characterizing it as gendered and suffused with the notion of domestic purity under threat of contamination by the decadent West. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Studies, the Polish Studies Center, and the Department of Gender Studies.

On November 13, **Jeffrey Kopstein**, professor of political science and director of the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto, presented a lecture entitled "Primed to Hate? Local Political Milieux and Jewish Persecution in Occupied Poland." Kopstein's work on Jewish persecution in occupied Poland lies at the nexus of comparative methodology, post-authoritarian democracy-building, and trans-Atlantic relations. His lecture was also sponsored by the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program, the Polish Studies Center, and the Indiana Democracy Consortium.

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Faculty News and Publications

Jack Bielasiak (Political Science) served as Division Chair for the section on Politics of Communist and Former Communist States of the American Political Science Association for 2007-2008. He also served as chair and discussant for the panel on "Post-Soviet Authoritarianism: Regime, Party, Leadership," at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science



Jack Bielasiak

Association, held in Boston in September 2008.

Henry Cooper, Jr. (Slavics) spent four weeks this fall at the Philosophy Faculty of the University of Zagreb, where he worked with specialists in older Croatian literature. Additionally, he made preliminary arrangements for the publication of excerpts from his translations of Držić's plays "The Miser" and "Venus and Adonis" in the Croatian literary journal *Most/The Bridge*. He also plans to publish a collection of English translations of Držić, which will include a heretofore unpublished translation by the late British Slavicist E.D. Goy of the major play "Dundo Maroje."

Ben Eklof (History) traveled to Russia this summer on a New Frontiers grant to work in the city of Kirov. His article, "By Another Yardstick," an analysis of relations between the American and Russian historical professions, is being reprinted in the journal *Ab Imperio*, along with eight responses to it by American, German, French and Russian scholars.

Bernd Fischer (History – IUPUI) was recently appointed special advisor to the Albanian royal family and royal court. Additionally, he presented "Zogist Contributions to the Development of an Albanian National Consciousness" in September at the Conference on the Albanian Republic and Monarchy, 1925-1939, sponsored by the Albanian Ministry of Culture, the Center for Albanological Studies, and the Albanian Institute of History.

Halina Goldberg (Musicology) received the 2007 Dragan Plamenac Publication Endowment Fund Award from the American Musicological Society for her book *Music in Chopin's Warsaw* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Jeffrey Holdeman (Slavics) organized a Slavic culture display for the GPSO-IOC Multicultural Halloween Fair at IU on October 30. He and students from his course "The Vampire in European and American Culture" created a presentation discussing the elements of Halloween that can be found separately among the Slavs: commemoration of ancestors, the vampire and other creatures and spirits, and mumming. Hands-on activities at the fair included counting poppy seeds, comparing stakes made from different woods, examining a hawthorn branch, and browsing through books on related folk beliefs. On October 31, he held "Night of the Slavic Vampire" at the Global Village Living-Learning Center, featuring a talk on vampire beliefs as well as vampire-themed snacks and screenings of a wide selection of vampire movies from around the world.



Jeffrey Holdeman at the Multicultural Halloween Fair

Bill Johnston (Comparative Literature / Second Language Studies) recently published *Peregrinary* (Zephyr Press, 2008), a collection of translated poems by contemporary Polish poet Eugeniusz Tkaczyszyn-Dycki. He is presently working on two other translation projects: Andrzej Stasiuk's 2004 collection of essays *Fado* for Dalkey Archive, and Wiesław Myśliwski's 1984 novel *Stone upon Stone (Kamień na kamieniu)* for Archipelago Books. Johnston is currently in Poland on a Fulbright Research Fellowship, conducting an ethnographic study of an evangelical Christian language school.

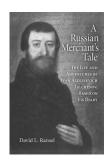
Nina Perlina (Slavics) gave a talk entitled "Pictures into Words: Emphasis in Dostoevsky's Novel *The Idiot*" in October of this year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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Faculty News and Publications continued from previous page

David Ransel (History) is the author of a new monograph,

A Russian Merchant's Tale: The Life and Adventures of Ivan Alekseevich Tolchënov, Based on His Diary, which has just been published by Indiana University Press. It is available in hardcover and paperback.



Timothy Waters (Law) co-presented a paper at Central European University on discursive democracy and social capital in the Balkans. He also gave two presentations on constitutional reform and deadlock in Bosnia at the IU Law School and its Center for Constitutional Democracy in Plural Societies. Additionally, he published "Assuming Bosnia: Taking Polities Seriously in Ethnically Divided States" in *Deconstructing the Reconstruction: Human Rights and Rule of Law in Postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina*, edited by Dina Francesca Haynes. He participated in a REEI-sponsored panel on the Russia-Georgia conflict and wrote a question and answer piece on legal aspects of the conflict for *The New York Times*.

Jeff Veidlinger (History) published "Yiddish Constructivism: The Art of the Moscow State Yiddish Theater" in *Chagall and the Artists of the Russian Jewish Theater*. The book is the catalog for an exhibit he helped organize on Russian Jewish theater currently on view at the Jewish Museum of New York. On November 9 he presented a talk on "Jews and Power" for the Dawn Shuman Institute in Chicago and on November 16 he presented at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's international conference on "Soviet Jewish Soldiers, Jewish Resistance, and Jews in the USSR During the Holocaust" held at New York University.

Bronislava Volkova (Slavics) helped in promoting the formation of an independent Cuban PEN Center and gave a short reading of her poetry, translated into Spanish, in Bogotá. She also received financial support from the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs and REEI to go to the National AATSEEL conference in San Francisco in December in order to present an excerpt from her *Anthology of 20th Century Czech Poetry* (in press) at the panel on Czech Translation.

Student News

Kat Hodgson (REEI) was elected Vice President of the Baltic and Finnish Studies Association at Indiana University.

Joel Kleehammer (REEI) will be working for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) in Kaiserslautern, Germany following graduation. DTRA's main functions are threat reduction, threat control, combat support, and technology development. Joel will likely conduct inspections in countries of the former Soviet Union to ensure that they are complying with nuclear disarmament treaties. **Yuriy Napelenok** (REEI) has begun a graduate assistantship with the Inner Asia and Uralic National Resource Center.

Sally Ronald (REEI) was elected as the REEI's Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO) Representative.

Jeremy Stewart (REEI) has accepted a position with Intel Corporation and will be starting in June.

Ryan Weeks (REEI) has begun a graduate assistantship with West European Studies.

Alumni News

Richard Payne-Holmes (REEI/SPEA MA/MPA 2008) is serving as a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Graduate Fellow at the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy until the end of November. In January 2009 Richard will enter the Foreign Service of the State Department.

Richard Miles (MA, Government, 1964 / REEI Certificate 1975) has been asked by the State Department to serve as Chargé of the American Embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan until a permanent ambassador can be nominated by the Administration and confirmed by the Senate. Before retiring in 2005, Ambassador Miles served as Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Georgia and as Chief of Mission in Serbia-Montenegro. His 38-year career in the Foreign Service has included two tours of duty in Moscow and a term as American Consul General in Leningrad, 1988-1991.





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