

# REEIFication

NEWS FROM THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

David L. Ransel, Director  
Vol. 26, No. 1

Mark Betka, Editor  
February 2002

## Kelley School of Business MBAs Explore Business in the Czech Republic and Poland: REEI Lends a Helping Hand

*By Mark Betka*

This March, a group of 23 MBA students from the IU Kelley School of Business will forgo traditional spring-break destinations in the tropics in order to participate in a trip to the Czech Republic and Poland. The trip caps off eight weeks of intensive research covering the business, cultural, historical and political environments of each country and is part of the Kelley School's annual "KIPs" (Kelley International Perspectives) program.

What makes this course, and KIPs in general, so unique is the fact that it is entirely student-run. From conception to curriculum, speakers to logistics, students are responsible for making the course and the trip a success. Kelley School professor Richard Shockley provides guidance as students choose specific research topics, but the bulk of the responsibility remains in the hands of the students themselves. Thus, the course provides not only an academic overview of the two countries but also real experience in the complexities of working within the business environment of transitioning economies. KIPs actually provides an experience very similar to what students can expect should they choose to pursue a career in international business or if they receive an international assignment.

The course itself consists of eight weeks of class meetings during which various topics are covered, including history, political developments, industry-specific topics, and the general business climate of the two nations. Gaining a basic understanding of these topics is crucial since many of the students have little prior knowledge of either country. For students more familiar with the history and politics of the region, an understanding of the economic environment serves to complement their existing knowledge base.

In addition to scheduled class meetings, individual groups cover specific topics such as the effects of EU membership, access to capital, and sector-specific industries such as telecommunications and the snack food industry. This research will form the basis of the final group projects to be presented to the public during "KIPs Day" at the Kelley School this April.

Following the eight weeks of research, students will travel to Prague and Warsaw where they will meet with business and government leaders in order to assess the situation from the ground. Each group is responsible for creating its own itinerary, arranging all meetings with companies and government officials and handling all travel and lodging for the 12-day trip.

What is the value in having Kelley MBA students visit this region? Paul

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### IU Awards for REEI Alumni

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

### REEI Awards

#### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

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

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

1988 Theofanis Stavrou  
1988 Robert F. Byrnes  
1989 Karen Niggle  
1996 Robert W. Campbell  
1997 Charles Jelavich  
1997 Janet Rabinowitch  
2000 William B. Edgerton

## REEI Mellon Endowment Awards, 2001-02

### Faculty Awards

**Nina Perlina** (Slavics) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to Moscow to deliver her paper "Dostoevsky on Capital Punishment" at the Moscow State University Symposium on Dostoevsky in the Contemporary World.

**Timothy Wiles** (English) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to Moscow to deliver his paper "The Cold War in American Political Drama: From Arthur Miller's *Crucible* to Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*" at the Moscow State University Society for American Cultural Studies conference.

### Graduate Student Awards

**Dragos Paul Aligica** (Central Eurasian Studies) received a grant-in-aid for travel to attend and chair a panel for the 2002 "State of Three Social Science Disciplines in Central and Eastern Europe" conference. From this experience he will write a report and a chapter on the development of economics in Romania before and after 1989 as part of the larger project that the conference was intended to support.

**Nancy Eyl** (Slavics) received a grant-in-aid for travel to attend the 2001 conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages.

**David C. Fisher** (History) received a grant-in-aid for travel to attend the 2001 Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and present his paper "Russian Civil Society at the Paris Exposition of 1889."

**Katherine Metz** (Anthropology) received a grant-in-aid for travel to attend the 2001 American Anthropological Association conference and present her paper "Writing the Ethnography: Authorship and Participatory Research."

**Nikita Nankov** (Slavics/Comparative Literature) received a grant-in-aid for travel to attend the 2001 conferences of the Modern Language Association and the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages.

**Tristra Newyear** (Central Eurasian Studies) received a grant-in-aid for travel to attend the 2002 Soyuz Post-Socialist Cultural Studies conference and present her paper on using life stories as a methodology for reexamining post-Soviet Buriat music and culture.

**Daniel G. Prior** (Central Eurasian Studies) received a grant-in-aid for travel to attend the 2002 American Oriental Society meeting and present his paper "Kirghiz Heroic Poetry in the Twilight Age."

**Jennifer Sanders** (Slavics) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to attend summer school in Zagreb.

## Homage to Elizabeth J. Neatrou (1934-2002)

By Lara Gose

*Editor's Note: We are saddened to learn of the passing IU Alumna Dr. Elizabeth (Betty Jo) Baylor Neatrou, PhD, 67, professor of Russian at James Madison University. Dr. Neatrou received a PhD from the IU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1973. She died Monday, January 7, 2002, at her home in Harrisonburg, Virginia.*

*Dr. Neatrou leaves behind a legacy of almost four decades of academic excellence and dedication to promoting the richness of Russian culture. Her tireless work in promoting high standards of teaching, scholarship and leadership here and in Russia was recognized in April 1998 with the award of the prestigious Pushkin Medal by the American Council of Teachers of Russian. The ACTR award cited her efforts to cultivate "goodwill in American-Russian relations through academic study and collaboration" and was given further weight by the Russian government's hosting of a reception in her honor at its newly opened embassy in Washington, D.C. Her organizational leadership was evidenced by the many presidencies to which she was elected, including the JMU Women's Club, ACTR, the Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Virginia (Iota State), the JMU Faculty Women's Caucus, and the Foreign Language Association of Virginia.*

The student ambassador who had led my campus tour at James Madison University on a blustery day in

January spoke enthusiastically about her Russian classes, sparking the in-



terest I already had in the culture. When I enrolled in first-year Russian as a freshman at JMU, I had only planned to use the language to meet the requirement for my BA. Then I met Betty Neatrou. She is the reason for my fascination with Russian language and culture.

I remember a woman whose eyes blazed with vitality when she entered the classroom, drawing us in with Russian greetings that we would soon be able to say ourselves. Throughout the semester, she would occasionally perch on the back of a desk, lowering her voice to tell us stories about Anna Akhmatova, the purges and *Rekviem* on one day, about voting for Gorbachev on another. Like so many other students who preceded and followed me, I listened intently, and I

joined the program because I wanted to learn more.

So many students blossomed under Betty's care. Through her efforts, we were given opportunities to work with visiting professors from across the Soviet Union, and we had the chance to meet college students like us who came to JMU from the Herzen Institute. Through this type of contact our lessons came alive.

Betty's impact on my life has certainly been great. She gave me the opportunity to teach Russian language and literature with an amazing team of teachers and staff in the Governor's Russian Studies Academy, which she initiated in Virginia. She encouraged me to work in Moscow, and it was she who suggested to me that graduate studies in comparative literature would be a good fit for my academic background.

Betty leaves a legacy at JMU, but more importantly, she leaves a family of former students whom she supported and encouraged with warmth and enthusiasm long after we had left her classroom. She gave us the Russian language skills that many of us still use, and she also taught us how to live with integrity.

*Dr. Neatrou is survived by her husband Charles, JMU Professor Emeritus in mathematics education; their son Peyton, an ophthalmologist in Virginia Beach; his wife, Leslie; and their three children, Kristin, Kaitlin and Gregory. She is also survived by her mother, Amalia. Lara Gose is a Ph.D. student in Comparative Literature.*

## A Brief History of Owen V. Johnson: His Life and Work

By Janis Cakars

You have to turn sideways to enter Owen Johnson's office. In between bookcases and filing cabinets, towering piles of documents, journals, newspapers, and various artifacts crowd the room, leaving only a small pathway to his desk and a chair for visitors. An archaic computer of indiscernible design sits in the corner next to a sleek, modern Macintosh. It appears as though nothing is discarded

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[Johnson] still recalls the "muffled excitement" that lingered in the aftermath of the already suppressed Prague Spring.

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from this storehouse of information, but neither is anything lost. A

student pops her head in asking for a particular document, and Johnson deftly thrusts his hand into the middle of a four-foot mass of printed matter and produces the requested item. What looks like a mere heap of material is actually in perfect order.

Johnson assures those who have been impressed by his office in Ernie Pyle Hall that his home office looks exactly the same. He is a chronic conservator. It is a habit he has had as long as he can remember. As a child, every family trip received a scrapbook; every memento was carefully saved. He has always felt compelled to preserve the past and record the present. These characteristics appropriately led him to pursue two lifelong interests: history and journalism.

Owen Johnson grew up in Pullman, Washington, where his father was a professor of zoology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. Johnson earned a BA in history from that same university in 1968, but before that he was an eager young journalist. He wrote

sports news for his high school paper and his weekly hometown paper, the *Pullman Herald*. Sports reporting was something that Johnson continued to do as a broadcast journalist for KWSU in Washington and WUOM in Michigan in the 1960s and 1970s, but his journalistic interests were broadening and his academic interests were narrowing. (However, the sportscaster in Johnson still occasionally appears at Indiana University when he is called upon to announce various swimming, basketball, and track competitions.)

As a journalist, Johnson made contributions to National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and in Ann Arbor, Michigan he produced a half-hour radio discussion program that tackled a wide range of social and political issues. As a graduate student, Johnson was drawn towards East Central European countries.

At Washington State, Johnson had little opportunity to study the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe, but in his junior year he had the chance to study abroad in England. From there he made a trip to Sweden to take part in a two-week history workshop. In Sweden he became acquainted with several Czech students, who piqued his interest in the land of his great-grandfather's birth. Then in December 1968, Johnson made his first journey to Czechoslovakia and visited one of these students, who would later become his first wife. He still recalls the "muffled excitement" that lingered in the aftermath of the already suppressed Prague Spring.

Despite his growing connections to Czechoslovakia, Johnson had entered graduate school at the University of Michigan with the intention of concentrating on Soviet history. It was at

the urging of an up-and-coming professor named Roman Szporluk that Johnson moved his focus to Eastern Europe and Czechoslovakia in particular. He met his mentor in a seminar on nationalism and socialism and was captivated by Szporluk's enthusiasm, energy, and ability to pepper his lectures with perfectly illuminating illustrations of complex ideas and events. Szporluk also had a practical streak and, given the uncertain market for historians of Eastern Europe, encouraged Johnson to keep up his journalism skills as a fallback plan.

Johnson heeded his mentor's advice, but at the time never considered combining his two interests as a professional academician. At most, he intended to include a chapter on the Slovak press in his dissertation. As a graduate student, and ever since, Johnson has been interested in the formation of identity. Slovakia was a region in which this process was relatively unexplored, especially in the English language literature, and Slovak nationalism became the subject of his dissertation. By the time he finished writing on the role of education and the development of national consciousness in Slovakia, he had more than enough for a dissertation and the role of the press had to wait. (A book based on his dissertation was later published as *Slovakia 1918-1938: Education and the Making of a Nation*. New York: Columbia University Press/East European Monographs, 1985.)

In 1978, Johnson received his PhD and set out to peddle his services as a historian. At the time there were no opportunities for people in his specific field, so he looked a little deeper into

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## Johnson

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the want-ads in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. A listing for an opening in a journalism school caught his eye. He had previously considered journalism schools to be simply trade schools, but this position had a research emphasis. To his delight, further digging showed the relatively young, but quickly growing academic field of mass communications was indeed a place where a historian could make a contribution.

Soon after he landed a job as assistant professor of journalism at Southern Illinois University. He had to be a quick study in the wider field of journalism history, but the work was rewarding. The following year, similar positions opened up at the University of Iowa and Indiana University. He received offers from both, but chose IU because of its strength in Russian and Eastern European studies. He came to IU in 1980 and took up a position as assistant professor in the School of Journalism. A few years ago he also received adjunct status in the Department of History.

In the 1980s, scholarship on the development of national identity boomed as books by Ernest Gellner, Benedict Anderson, Anthony Smith, Eric Hobsbawm and others began to clog footnotes and curricula across American universities. Johnson felt invigorated by the activity in this field of research as scholars from a wide range of disciplines challenged previously held notions and sought to understand national consciousness in new ways. In the thick of this effort, Johnson continued to make his own contributions pertinent to the case of Slovakia and more broadly Eastern Europe.

But as the Gorbachev era unfolded, Johnson started to become more

present-minded. The rapid changes in media that accompanied the collapse of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe increasingly engaged his attention. By the time the Soviet Union collapsed, he had turned much of his research towards the recent past and current trends.

In 1991, he also became the director of the Russian and East European Institute. It was a challenging task because, as Johnson recalls, “the funding mechanisms [for Russian and East European studies] were in a state of flux” due to the end of the Cold War.

There were difficulties, but opportunities also abounded. Johnson recognized that the field was becoming more interdisciplinary and tried to encourage the trend through his post.

He also paid special attention to the institute newsletter. He considered it a “calling card.” “More people saw that than anything else we did,” he figured. So he pushed the publication to be something more than a place for announcements. He strove to make it “something that people would really read.” He dubbed this new and improved publication “REEIfication.”

In 1995, Johnson relinquished his job in Ballantine Hall and returned to the friendly confines of the School of Journalism, but he continues his work with REEI and the History Department by serving on various MA and

PhD committees. Some of his historical work has started to move further back in time; one of his recent publications was “The Roots of Journalism in Central and Eastern Europe” in a book he co-authored with Jerome Aumente, Peter Gross, Ray Hiebert, and Dean Mills titled *Eastern European Journalism Before, During and After Communism* (Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 1999).

Johnson recently remarried and became a step-grandfather. When possible he enjoys spending time with his own two daughters, both of whom

## Recent Publications by Owen Johnson

“Journalism and Journalists: Leaders of Servants? Transition Problems of Mass Media in Post-Communist Countries” in Janusz Adamowski and Marek Jablonowski *The Role of Local and Regional Media in the Democratization of the Eastern and Central European Societies* (Warsaw: Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR, 2001) pp. 31-36.

“Failing Democracy: Journalists, the Mass Media, and the Dissolution of Czechoslovakia” in Michael Kraus and Allison K. Stranger, eds. *Irreconcilable Differences?: Explaining Czechoslovakia's Dissolution* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000) pp. 163-182.

“Losing Faith: The Slovak-Hungarian Constitutional Struggle, 1906-1914” in Zvi Gitelman, Lubomyr Hajda, John-Paul Himka and Roman Solchanyk, eds. *Cultures and Nations of Central and Eastern Europe: Essays in Honor of Roman Szporluk* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000) pp. 293-312.

have followed in his footsteps in their own ways. One is a junior studying history at the University of Michigan, and the other has put an IU degree in recreational sports management to use with the US Army in Germany. Otherwise, Johnson can be found hidden in his office under mountains of materials, diligently working on a book about media in Czech and Slovak history in the twentieth century.

*Janis Cakars is a graduate student in the School of Journalism and a past editor of REEIification.*

## Reexamining “History”:

### Jan Gross and the Murder of the Jews in Jedwabne, Poland

By Mark Betka

There is nothing to dispute the fact that on July 10, 1941 the tiny village of Jedwabne, Poland witnessed a tragedy. On that day up to 1,600 (the exact number has yet to be determined) men, women, and children were systematically rounded up, physically abused, tortured in some cases, and finally herded into a barn that was set afire. In the twisted reality that was Nazi-occupied Poland, this gruesome chain of events could almost be considered commonplace. Poland, which contained Europe’s and indeed the world’s largest population of Jews (due in part to a tradition of tolerance), served as the location for the infamous death camps such as Auschwitz. The camp itself now serves as a permanent shrine to victims of Nazi crimes. The experiences of the Nazi occupation have left an indelible mark on the Polish psyche, and this troubled time is memorialized throughout the nation.

What makes the Jedwabne incident unusual is the fact that the Nazis, the very architects and perpetrators of the Holocaust, were not the ones who killed the Jews of Jedwabne. It was their neighbors.

Jan Gross, Professor of Politics and European Studies at New York University, and author of *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (Princeton University Press, 2001), addressed the events of July 10, 1941 as well as the impact of his research on modern-day Poland in a lecture entitled “The story of the murder of the Jedwabne Jews (on July 10, 1941) and its reception in Poland,” on Monday, March 4. His lecture was sponsored by the Polish Studies Center,

REEI, and the Borns Jewish Studies Program.

First released in Poland under its Polish title *Sasiedzi*, the book has touched off a firestorm of debate among Polish academicians and soci-



Jan Gross

ety in general. Leading figures including Adam Michnik (former political dissident and publisher of Poland’s leading newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*) and Jan Nowak-Jezioranski (holder of the Presidential Medal of Honor and a Polish government courier to the West during World War II) have commented on the book in Polish and in western media outlets. Both of these distinguished Poles note broader implications for Poland especially concerning long-held notions of exclusive victimization. While calling for an open and honest dialogue however, both, reject unequivocally any notion of Polish complicity in the Holocaust. It should be remembered that over 5000 Poles are recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among Nations, more than any other nationality (the United

States is represented by one individual).

The book has generated such a debate in Poland that leading newspapers such as *Rzeczpospolita* have created special web pages cataloging the hundreds of letters and essays submitted to them since the book’s initial publication in 2000. However, the debate is not limited to Poland and has struck a chord among diaspora Poles, Jews, and those studying the Holocaust throughout the world.

Jedwabne, a small village in north-east Poland, was home to well over a thousand Jews who had maintained a documented presence there for more than 200 hundred years. With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the village found itself under the occupation of Soviet forces which, following the Molotov-Von Ribbentrop Pact, entered Poland from the East seventeen days after the Wehrmacht marched in from the west. Professor Gross addressed this relatively unknown aspect of the war’s first days in his book *Revolution from Abroad: Soviet Conquest of Poland’s Western Ukraine and Western Belorussia*, in which he discussed efforts of the Soviets to impose Communist Party rule in lands formerly held by Poland.

The period of Soviet occupation plays an important part in the unfolding events and is important in order to better understand the complexity of the Jedwabne tragedy. Popular beliefs that arose from the period of Soviet occupation have continued to this day. Among some Poles there persists the image of the “Jewish

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## Jedwabne

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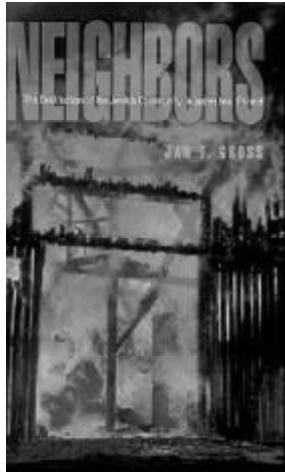
collaborator” aligning with Soviet forces, the NKVD in particular, and serving as the eyes and ears of the occupying force. The idea of Poles being denounced by Jews and subsequently being exiled to Siberia continually surfaces in the Jedwabne debate and is often loosely cited as a contributing factor, if not justification, for the events that took place there. In both of his books Professor Gross challenges this stereotype, not absolving all Jews of complicity but rather showing that collaboration was not exclusively a Jewish trait.

In 1949 Szmul Wasersztajn, one of a handful of survivors, submitted his eyewitness account to Polish authorities investigating the affair. In his deposition (reprinted in Gross’ book) he notes that local “hooligans” forced Jews to carry a large statue of Lenin, erected during the Soviet occupation of the town, to a certain place where, “they were ordered to dig a hole and throw the monument in. Then these Jews were butchered to death and thrown into the same hole.” Recent exhumations conducted in Jedwabne as part of an official investigation unearthed a large statue believed to be the same one referred to by Wasersztajn.

On June 25, 1941 the village found itself under German occupation as “Operation Barbarossa” swept across Poland’s former eastern territories. Shortly thereafter, sporadic incidences of violence toward Jews began to surface in the area surrounding Jedwabne culminating in the events of July 10. The events of that day,

the ensuing investigation, the eventual placement of blame on the Nazis, and the current debate are all topics to be discussed during Professor Gross’ visit to IU on March 4. Perhaps just as important, particularly in the context of the post-September 11 world, will be a discussion of the factors leading to such an outburst of violence and what we may learn of ourselves so that such events never occur again.

Poles and Jews share a mutual history that dates back hundreds of years. For centuries Jews contributed to Poland’s cultural heritage and were part of the multi-ethnic fabric that made up the Polish state. A proposed museum of Jewish culture in Warsaw will celebrate this history, which is as it



should be. However, Professor Gross challenges Poles to examine the darker side of this mutual history as well. Jan Nowak-Jezioranski observed that “it is not easy for any nation to acknowledge things that cover it with shame. It is human nature that we are inclined to remember the wrongs done to us, and that we do not want to remember the wrongs we did to others.” This is not an exclusively Polish problem. All nations must bear some of the burden for allowing the Holocaust and subsequent genocides around the world to happen. Acknowledgement of wrongs done, however painful it may be, can serve to open a new chapter in Polish-Jewish dialogue and reflect the greatness of both peoples. IU welcomes Jan Gross and the opportunity to become part of this dialogue.

*Mark Betka is a graduate student at REEI and SPEA.*

## The Challenges of Teaching Area Studies

*By Katherine Metzko*

Teaching REEI’s Proseminar in Russian and East European Studies (R600) was a challenging opportunity that influenced how I view area studies. For those readers unfamiliar with the course, it is a required seminar for all MA students designed to acquaint them with the major issues and theoretical debates that are the concern of area studies. It also introduces them to faculty members and builds a cohort of professional peers. I would like to share with you some of the challenges of teaching such a course as well as what I see as the role of area studies in pedagogy and practice.

The primary challenge of a proseminar is not being an expert in every subject covered. I drew on personal experiences and anthropological training to highlight what I thought were the major issues and debates. However, each week was organized primarily by discipline (political science as “political transitions,” anthropology as “ethnos and language”), and the authors often wrote to a discipline-bound audience. So understanding internal disciplinary debates would have also been helpful. Since many of my students already possessed such “insider” knowledge, I tried to integrate their diverse backgrounds by keeping the class focused on an open discussion in which I served both as a participant and a moderator and helped to guide their critique of the readings.

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### New and Recent Publications

• **Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History**, vol. 3, no. 1. **Contents:** From the Editors: "11 September 2001: The Return of History"; Articles: Sara Dickinson: "Russia's First 'Orient': Characterizing the Crimea in 1787"; Austin Jersild and Neli Melkadze: "The Dilemmas of Enlightenment in the Eastern Borderlands: The Theater and Library in Tbilisi"; Serhy Yekelchuk: "Stalinist Patriotism as Imperial Discourse: Reconciling the Ukrainian and Russian 'Heroic Pasts,' 1939-45"; Reaction: Daniel Brower: "Whose Cultures?"; Review Article: Aleksandr I. Filiushkin: "Post-Modernism and the Study of the Russian Middle Ages"; Review Essay: Rafaella Faggionato: "New and Old Works on Russian Freemasonry"; and five in-depth reviews.

• **Genevra Gerhart. *The Russian's World***. 3rd, corrected edition, 420 p., 2001 (ISBN 0-89357-293-4), paper, \$34.95.

Slavica is proud to restore this classic of our field to print for the third millennium. The new edition reprints the 2nd edition, with corrections and a few additions to the text. A full description of the book, together with samples and many other materials, is available at <http://www.members.home.net/ggerhart>.

• **Eloise M. Boyle and Genevra Gerhart, eds. *The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language***. 688 p. + CD-ROM, 2001 (ISBN 0-89357-287-X), paper, \$49.95.

This companion to *The Russian's World* is a collectively authored monograph which sets itself the daunting task of quantifying the minimum level of cultural literacy necessary for serious foreign learners of Russian to appreciate and function properly in the Russian cultural context. Chapters are devoted to History, Poetry, Prose, Children's Literature, Proverbs, Theater, Art, Popular Entertainment, Geography, Government, and Science. The bundled CD-ROM disk includes the full text of the book in cross-platform Acrobat Reader format, enriched by about 1,700 graphic and sound files which could not be included in the printed book. The CD will run on any computer with at least a Pentium- or PPC-level processor and basic media support installed.

• **Anna Lisa Crone. *The Daring of Derzavin: The Moral and Aesthetic Independence of the Poet in Russia***. 258 p., 2001 (ISBN 0-89357-295-0), paper, \$24.95.

In this revisionist study of Derzavin's poetic art and his contribution to the emerging importance of the role of "leading poet" in Russian culture and throughout the Russian Empire, the author paints a new picture of what is meant by Derzavin's "heavy lyre." She traces how the very modest conception of the poet's role he held in the 1770s was systematically rendered more authoritative, powerful, and independent.

• **Robert Orr. *Common Slavic Nominal Morphology: A New Synthesis***. 224 p., 2001 (ISBN 0-89357-288-8), paper, \$24.95.



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### KIPs Central Europe

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Moran, trip leader and MBA student specializing in finance, notes that "We hear a lot about globalization and the growing importance of international markets as future growth opportunities for US companies... KIPs gives MBA students the opportunity to experience a focused, hands-on, global learning experience to further explore these issues." Moran also points out the truly global nature of the KIPs program reflected in the diverse countries visited already. Past KIPs programs have visited Cuba, Japan, South Africa, while a concurrent KIPs group will be visiting Brazil.

REEI has played a role in assisting this year's KIPs course to Central Europe. "REEI has gone out of its way to help KIPs Central Europe," says Moran. "We have been able to tap into a wealth of resources, such as REEI professors for class lectures and suggestions for readings." For example, Maria Bucur (History) provided students with a comprehensive look at the history of the region while Aurelian Craiutu (Political Science) discussed "transformation" as both an economic and socio-political idea. Following his lecture, Craiutu engaged in a lively discussion with the students about the challenges facing these nations. Bronislava Volkova (Slavics) and Christopher Howard (Slavics) each conducted a "crash course" in the mysteries of understanding the Czech and Polish languages respectively. Although the language sessions were enjoyed by all, those unfamiliar with Slavic consonant clusters found the exercise a real tongue-twister! REEI is also assisting KIPs in locating IU alumni currently working in Poland and the Czech Republic. The group plans to hold meetings with some of them.

Although Central Europe in March may not be the ideal destination for sunbathing and swimming, the students participating in the Kelley School's KIPs Central Europe program will bring home knowledge and experience that will last long after their peers tans have worn off. *Mark Betka is a graduate student at REEI and SPEA.*

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"REEI has gone out of its way to help KIPs Central Europe."

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## Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Thomas A. Sebeok (1920-2001)

*Portions of the following appreciation are reprinted with the permission of the IU Office of Communications and Marketing.*

Faculty and students of Indiana University and REEI were saddened to learn of the death of Thomas A. Sebeok, a leader in the field of semiotics and Distinguished Professor emeritus of linguistics and semiotics at Indiana University. Professor Sebeok died at his home on December 21, 2001. He was 81 years old.

Sebeok was considered a pioneer in semiotics, the scientific study of communication and sign functions, a discipline with widespread ramifications in the human sciences, the arts and life sciences. He also served as chairman of the IU Research Center for Language and Semiotic Studies, was a professor of anthropology and of Uralic and Altaic Studies and was a fellow of the Folklore Institute.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, on Nov. 9, 1920, Sebeok left Hungary in 1936 to study at Magdelene College, Cambridge

University. The following year, he immigrated to the United States and became a citizen

in 1944. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago in 1941 and a master's degree in 1943 and doctorate in 1945 at Princeton University.

Sebeok came to IU in 1943 to assist in running the largest Army Specialized Training Program in foreign languages in the country and eventu-

ally took over the helm. He was assigned to teach courses in the Department of English, but later went on to create IU's renowned Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies (now the Department of Central Eurasian Studies). In 1991, he was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, of Linguistics, of Semiotics, and of Central Eurasian Studies.

Sebeok's fieldwork in Finno-Ugric languages, took him to Central and Eastern Europe, Lapland, and the former Soviet Union. He also carried out studies in the former Mongolian People's Republic, Mexico and in the United States (among the Winnebago Indians of Wisconsin and the Laguna Indians of New Mexico).

Sebeok once described himself as an academic *Apis mellifera*, who darts "solitary from flower to flower, sipping nectar, gathering pollen from flowers, serendipitously fertilizing whatever he touches." His intellec-

tual curiosity, astounding working capacity and ease in writing yielded more than 600 books and articles. He re-

mained prolific after his retirement from teaching in 1991. Sebeok was the recipient of five honorary doctorates — three from European institutions, one from a U.S. university and another from a university in Argentina. He was a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and retained affiliations with three other uni-

versities until his death: the Institute for Advanced Study (Collegium Budapest), the University of Helsinki and the University of Toronto.

In 1971, he was awarded a medal by the College de France in Paris for "appreciation of your uncommon contributions to French culture." In 1972, he accepted a commission from UNESCO to prepare a worldwide study of university teaching of linguistics.

Throughout his career, Sebeok contributed to and edited numerous scholarly publications, including *Semiotica* (journal of the International Association of Semiotic Studies), *The Journal of American Folklore*, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Semiotics*, *The Semiotic Web* (Yearbook of Semiotics), numerous IU-based publications in Uralic and Altaic Series and Semiotics and Toronto Studies in Semiotics.

Among his many honors, he received the Distinguished Service Award of the American Anthropological Association, IU President's Medal of Excellence, honorary membership in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Domus Hungarica Scientiarum (Artium Prize) from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

*Professor Sebeok is survived by his wife, Jean Umiker-Sebeok, of Bloomington, IN, and three daughters: Veronica Sebeok Wald, of Chicago; Jessica A. Sebeok, of New Haven, Conn.; and Erica L. Sebeok, of Brooklyn, N.Y.*



## First Hungarian Film Festival Celebrated

By Alex Dunlop

In an ongoing effort to increase awareness of Hungarian history and culture in the university and the larger community, the Hungarian Cultural Association (HCA) kicked off its first-ever Hungarian Film Festival in February. The two-week festival featured four films (*Father*, *The Witness*, *Love*, and Academy Award-winner *Mephisto*) in wide-screen video and DVD projection format. Screenings were preceded by brief lectures by HCA members as well as this year's György Ránki Hungarian Chair, Dr. Pál Hatos. Of course, no Hungarian event would be complete without food and drink, and audiences were not disappointed on this score, either—a reception followed each screening, which kept guests lingering hours after the final credits rolled.

The decision of which films to show was not an easy one. Though some thought was given to devoting the Film Festival entirely to Hungary's best-known director, István Szabó, the HCA decided instead to take a broad

view of Hungarian cinema while still including two of Szabó's films. Much of Hungarian cinema speaks to the era of socialist rule, but not all of the selected movies expressly treat Hungary's experience under communism. Both *Mephisto* and *Love*, though very much products of the historical context which frames them, treat wider issues of sexuality, mortality and the meaning of love.

The HCA plans to make the film festival an annual event; ideas are already being floated for which films to show next year, and consideration is being given to featuring contemporary Hungarian films. The HCA enjoys support from the Department of Central Eurasian Studies for this and other events including a weekly coffee hour, an upcoming lecture by Pál Olchváry, and a commemoration of the 1848 Revolution. For more information contact [hca@indiana.edu](mailto:hca@indiana.edu). *Alex Dunlop is a graduate student at REEI and SPEA and President of HCA.*



### The Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fund: Supporting Academic Excellence Today and Tomorrow 2001 Contributions

We would like to thank all of those who contributed in 2001 to the Robert F. Byrnes Memorial graduate student fellowship fund. The fund is named in honor of Robert F. Byrnes, the founder and for many years director of REEI. Bob Byrnes believed strongly in the importance of preparing qualified area specialists. The tragic events of the past year have highlighted the importance of training American experts in the languages and cultures of other lands. Students of REEI continue to benefit from the legacy of Byrnes' leadership while the nation as a whole benefits from the number of REEI graduates employed in the federal government and in non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian and educational aid missions.

The following individuals donated to the fund in 2001: Ms. Eleanor J. Byrnes, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Byrnes, James F. and Jetta A. Byrnes, Denise Gardiner, Jessica Hamilton, David and Therese Ransel, Elizabeth Taylor through a Sallie-Mae employee contribution match, Sarah Kent, Christine Rydel, Lois Beekey, Sharon and David Mason, Carl and Colette Reddel, Joan and Lloyd Jordan, John and Kristine Bushnell, Thomas and Diane Sakmyster, Michael and Lilia Lally, Stephen Nedell, Charles and Kathleen Frazee, Valerie Dove-Hill, Joseph Augustyn, Sandra Kowalda-Nichols, Charles Gati, Robin Huntington, Louis Wagner, and Sheila Bowles.

*See page 15 for information on how you can make a contribution to the Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fellowship.*

## Faculty Update

**Jack Bielasia** (Political Science) published: "On the Institutionalization of Party Regimes in Emerging Democracies," in *Studies in Public Policy*, no. 351 (Center for the Study of Public Policy, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, December, 2001); and "Substance and Process in the Development of Party Systems in East Europe," in Stephen White and Daniel Nelson, eds., *The Politics of the Postcommunist World*, Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing.

**Maria Bucur** (History) published *Eugenics and Modernization in Interwar Romania*, Pittsburgh, PA.: Pittsburgh University Press, 2002.

**Aurelian Craiutu** (Political Science) received a \$50,000 Liberty Fund grant to organize and direct an international colloquium, "Tocqueville and Guizot on Liberty and Democracy" to be held in Santa Fe, October 17-20.

**Bernd Fischer** (History, Fort Wayne) was invited to give a presentation entitled "Milosevic's Kosovo: Rugova and the KLA (1989-1999)" at a conference on "The Yugoslav Tragedy, Controversies Revisited" sponsored in part by the Government of Vojvodina at the Morovic Estate in Vojvodina, Yugoslavia in September. From this conference an international project was initiated that will attempt to rewrite the history of the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. While attending the conference, he had the opportunity to meet privately with a number of officials including Nerad Canak, the president of Vojvodina; General Momicilo Perisic, the vice-president of Serbia; and Angela

Bogdan, the Canadian Ambassador to Yugoslavia. In October Fischer was invited to give a presentation entitled "Intellectuals and Democracy in Albania, an Overview" at a conference called "Intellectuals and the Media: East-West Dialogue on Democracy in the Balkans," at the University of Montreal. His most recent book, *Albania at War, 1939-1945*, has won



*Bernd Fischer (left) with General Momicilo Perisic, Vice President of Serbia*

an "Editor's Choice" award from an on-line Second World War book club.

**Steven Franks** (Slavics/Linguistics) will visit Warsaw University from April 30 through May 30 where he will conduct research on the Polish language and will give specialized lectures on campus. He has been invited by Warsaw University's Institute of English Studies to teach an intensive course on English and comparative syntax. He was selected by the IU University Committee on Russian and East European Exchanges to participate in this program.

**Roy Gardner** (Economics) is on leave for the spring semester, visiting Stanford University, where he is teaching a course on Socialist Econo-

mies in Transition. This spring Gardner will be at the Economics Education and Research Consortium, National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" in Kyiv, Ukraine, conducting research and teaching a course on Game Theory. On April 4-5, he will present a paper (with E. Curtis and C. Waller) entitled "Dollarization in Ukraine: 1991 to the present" to the Fordham/CEPR Conference on Euroization/Dollarization of the Countries in Transition.

**Khayrulla Ismatullaev** (Eurasian Studies) published *Uzbek Textbook, Volume 1: Introductory Uzbek*; Dunwoody Press, 560 pp., 2001; *Volume 2: Intermediate Uzbek*, Dunwoody press, 520 pp., 2001. He compiled, edited and introduced a collection of articles about the Uzbek opposition party and its leader Muhammad Salikh entitled *Muhammad Salikh in Turkish and Western Press*, Berikan Press, Istanbul, 533 pp., 2001. He contributed an article entitled "(Poet) Cholpan and the World," to *Reform Movements and Revolutions In Turkistan: 1900 - 1924*, T. Kocaoglu, Ed. Sota Publications, Netherlands, 227-286 pp., 2001.

**David Ransel** (REEI/History) conducted an oral history workshop in the last week of January at European University in St. Petersburg (EUSP) in cooperation with the IU Center for the Study of History and Memory. This is one element of a Soros Grant for the development of a degree program of oral history at EUSP. Ransel also published an article, "The Ethno-Cultural Impact on

*continued next page*

## Faculty Update

*continued from previous page*

Childbirth and Disease among Women in Western Russia," in the journal *Jews in Eastern Europe*.

**Toivo Raun** (Central Eurasian Studies) recently published the following: *Estonia and the Estonians*, updated 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Stanford, CA.: Hoover Institution Press, 2001) and *Észtország története* [A History of Estonia] (Debrecen: Csokonai, 2001), a Hungarian translation of the previously listed item.

**Sherry Ricchiardi** (Journalism) co-directed a groundbreaking conference January 17 - 19 at the International Center for Education of Journalists (ICEJ) in Opatija, Croatia entitled "Aftermath of Covering Conflict: Dealing with the Emotional Impact." The conference was spon-

sored by the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma headquartered at the University of Washington. The IU School of Journalism in Indianapolis is one of five Dart affiliates in the United States. The conference brought together 18 regional journalists who had covered conflict and violence in their homelands over the past decade. The focus was to explore how they were coping with the emotional fallout of being eyewitnesses to violence and horrific events in southeastern Europe and to introduce them to the concept of post traumatic stress disorder. Participants came from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Albania and Kosovo. The Dart Center has made a commitment to continue their work in the region in cooperation with the School of Journalism and ICEJ.

On January 15, Ricchiardi was an invited participant in a one-day semi-

nar held in London on "Emotions, Trauma and Good Journalism," funded by the Dart Center and directed by the editor of BBC World Service. Since September 11, Ricchiardi, a senior writer for *American Journalism Review* magazine, has authored four stories related to the terrorist attacks, including the coverage of the war in Afghanistan, bioterror and the media, and an analysis of how journalists chronicled the attacks against the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

**Alvin Rosenfeld** (English/Jewish Studies) reviewed *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* by Jan Gross and *The Fragility of Goodness: Why Bulgarian Jews Survived the Holocaust* in *The New Leader*, May/June, 2001, pps. 21-23. In July of 2001 he was a member of a del-

*continued next page*

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## Faculty Update

*continued from previous page*

egation organized by the American Jewish Committee that traveled to Poland to meet with top-level government officials.

**Martin Spechler** (Economics) was a discussant on a panel dealing with EU enlargement at the meetings of the American Economic Association in Atlanta, January 3-5. His contribution, "Tsarist Russian Banking," will appear in the new *Encyclopedia Of Russian History*, forthcoming from Academic Press. An article, "Russia and Uzbekistan: Free at Last?" appears in the current issue of *Problems Of Post-Communism*. In December he gave a guest lecture on "The Trouble with Globalization: It's Not Global Enough!" at Wabash College, Crawfordsville.

**Jeffrey Veidlinger** (History) published an essay entitled "From Shtetl to Society: Jews in 19th-Century Russia," in *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 2, no. 4 (Fall 2001). He also participated in a roundtable discussion at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum entitled, "A Postscript to the Holocaust: Stalin's Purge of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee," and presented papers at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies National Convention and the Association for Jewish Studies National Conference. His book *The Moscow State Yiddish Theater: Jewish Culture on the Soviet Stage* (Indiana University Press, 2000) was named an "Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice Magazine*.

**Timothy Wiles** (English) was awarded the Medal of Warsaw University by Rector Piotr Weglenski in

September 2001 in recognition of his service to Polish Studies in the United States and "for promoting scientific collaboration with Warsaw University." He is former director of the IU Polish Studies Center. He presented a paper at the Russian Society of American Culture Studies Conference at Moscow State University in December on "The Cold War in American Political Drama." It will be published by Moscow State University in 2002 in a volume titled *Imprints: Image of Russia and Image of America*, ed. Larisa Mikaylova. He received a faculty travel grant from REEI to support his attendance at this conference.

**Charles Wise** (SPEA) published "Elite Attitudes and Democratic Stability: Analysing Legislators' Attitudes towards the Separation of Powers in Ukraine," in *Europe-Asia Studies*, 54(1): 87-107, with Vladimir Pigenko and Trevor Brown.

## Alumni Update

**Trevor Brown** (SPEA/POLS PhD, 1999) and **Vladimir Pigenko** (SPEA/POLS PhD, 2001) published "Elite Attitudes and Democratic Stability: Analysing Legislators' Attitudes towards the Separation of Powers in Ukraine," in *Europe-Asia Studies*, 2002 54(1): 87-107 with SPEA professor Charles Wise.

**Janet Elise Johnson** (Political Science PhD, 2001) published "Privatizing Pain: The Problem of Woman Battery in Russia" in *NWSA Journal*, pp. 153-168, 2001.

**Zachary Morford** (REEI MA, 1998) is Marketing Associate for the development consulting firm Development Alternatives, Incorporated

(DAI). Working in Governance and Public Sector Management, he is responsible for managing DAI's marketing process, which includes developing marketing materials, tracking upcoming opportunities, and developing "best practices" briefs. Recently he has been working in Ukraine, helping coalitions of business associations to lobby their local governments to simplify the business registration and business start-up process. He is currently enrolled in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) certificate program at George Mason University in the hopes of helping municipal governments in Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS to improve their public service delivery and to better utilize their often scarce resources.

**Daniel Pennell** (History M.A., 1999/Library Sciences MLS, 2001) is the new slavic bibliographer at The University of Pittsburgh. His duties will include book selection in all of the Slavic languages, building a stronger South East European collection, reference work, and faculty liaison.

**Paul Richardson** (REEI MA/Political Science MA, 1986) authored an article titled "Russian in the Real World" for *Russian Life* magazine (January/February 2002). His article focused on practical applications of Russian language skills and how language fluency can be a key determinant in a successful job search. Richardson is Publisher and Editor of *Russian Life*. Featured in the article were IU graduates **Charles Mixon** (REEI MA, 1994) who uses his Russian skills in his capacity as Vice President for the capital investment group AIG Capital Partners, and **Ted Barral** (REEI MA, 1993) who serves as a human resources manager for an American company in Moscow.

## Student News

**Mark Betka** (REEI/SPEA) was awarded the 2001-2002 Center for International Business Education and Research Grants (CIBER) scholarship for Area Studies master's degree students taking business courses. He is currently enrolled in the Kelley School's "KIPs" course (see related story on page 1) studying the effects of EU accession on the agricultural sectors in Poland and the Czech Republic.

**Jill Massino** (History) was awarded the 2002-2003 Pre-Dissertation Fellowship of \$1000 in support of research and travel from the Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS). Her project, "Women in Communist Romania: The Case of Brasov," builds on the work of eminent scholars who have written on Romania (Kathleen Verdery, Gail Kligman, and others), and is described by AWSS as "promising to add new areas and levels of understanding to patterns of gender, nationality, and identity in Eastern Europe." See REEification *October 2001 for additional information on the oral history project in Brasov, Romania.*

**Elena Monastireva-Ansdell** (Slavics) presented a paper titled "In the Shadow of Totalitarianism: Askoldov's Vision of Soviet Society in *Commissar*" at the AATSEEL Annual Convention in New Orleans on December 30, 2001. Since 1998 she has been teaching advanced Russian and Russian and Polish cinema courses at Oberlin College.

**Donald F. Reindl** (Slavics) is currently working as a translator and university lecturer in Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 2001, in a book he also edited, he published "Areal Effects

on the Preservation and Genesis of Slavic Postpositions," in *On Prepositions. Studia Slavica Oldenburgensia* 8, Lj. Saric and D. Reindl Eds., Oldenburg: Carl-von-Ossietzky-Universität Oldenburg, pp. 85-99. He also contributed 10 feature-length articles and 12 briefs on Slovenian politics and culture to "RFE/RL Balkan Report" and "RFE/RL Newline," available at <http://rferl.org/balkan-report/> and <http://rferl.org/newline/>. He reviewed the following books: *Language and Nationalism in Europe*, Stephen Barbour and Cathie Carmichael Eds., in *Linguist List*: Vol-12-1554, June 13, 2001; and *Dictionary of Lexicography*, by R.K.K. Hartmann and Gregory James in *Linguist List*: Vol-13-56, January 11, 2002. Both books are available at <http://linguistlist.org/>.

**Jason C. Vuic** (History) is the new Assistant Director of The Ohio State University Center for Slavic and East European Studies.

## Welcome to our New Student!

**Elizabeth Terrell** received her BA in history with an emphasis in Russian history from St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. After deciding continue her education in this area, she studied in Russia at the International University of Moscow. Upon completion of her master's program at IU, she hopes to pursue employment opportunities with the federal government or in the private sector. She would like a position that will give her the opportunity to work and live in Russia again.

## Challenges

*continued from page 7*

Students often voiced frustration with the amount of time we spent on searching for definitions of terms, such as "civil society" or "nationalism." Why weren't we spending more time on the *real* debate, was the implied question. Hopefully students came to realize that in interdisciplinary endeavors, finding common ground on definitions is often *the* debate, because terms such as "feminism" or "nationalism" are loaded with cultural and historical meaning. The language we use carries implications about the types of behavior we expect to see. The term *blat*, for example, raised a chorus of complaints. A mainstay of Soviet-era Russian social networks where whom you know can mean everything, it was interpreted as bribery on the one hand and as a commonplace of all societies on the other. Despite their frustration, students tacitly understood that we cannot decide what steps to take to create civil society if we cannot agree on its definition, much less understand when we have achieved it.

Area studies programs such as REEI enjoy longevity in large part because the major events of our world occur in places—places with unique histories and cultures, political traditions and social and economic institutions. Furthermore, all of these factors coexist and mutually influence each other in the same space. Theoretically, the questions that come out of the intersections between various disciplines are often the most interesting and necessary to resolving the practical issues that our students will face as professionals.

*Katherine Metzko is a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology.*

## Please support REEI through a contribution today.

The many program activities and outreach events that REEI sponsors each year would not be possible without the generous donations of our friends and alumni. We hope you will take a moment and make a contribution to one of our funds, described below.

**Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fellowship** - This fellowship is designed to preserve the memory of the first director of REEI by supporting an outstanding incoming student. The current award consists of a one-time stipend of \$6,000 and a fee remission for the first year of study; we hope in the future to be able to offer a more competitive stipend and ultimately to expand the fellowship into a two-year package.

**Daniel Armstrong Memorial Research Paper Awards** - This competition is dedicated to the memory of IU Slavics alumnus, teacher, scholar, and administrator Professor Daniel Armstrong (1942-1979). Awards are presented to students for papers written for a class in Russian, East European, or Central Eurasian studies taken during the previous academic year.

**General Fund** – Provides support for general program activities.



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