



REELification

NEWS FROM THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

David L. Ransel, Director
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Jen Maceyko, Editor
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Yiddish ethnographic expedition: the last in-situ Yiddish speakers in contemporary Ukraine

by Jen Maceyko

Ukraine was once the bedrock of Jewish life in Eastern Europe. Now, two Indiana University professors have begun work to preserve that cultural legacy. Professor Jeffrey Veidlinger (History) and Professor Dov-Ber Kerler (Germanic Studies) spent two weeks this past summer doing preliminary interviews with the “last” Yiddish speakers of Ukraine, specifically in the Podolia region. These interviews they hope will lead to numerous other projects for both themselves and others in the future.

Kerler, a specialist in linguistics and Yiddish philology, plans to concentrate on the sociolinguistic and ethnographic aspects of the interviews, especially with regard to mapping and explaining the differences between dialects and sub-dialects of Yiddish and their regional cultural correlates. Veidlinger expects to use the oral histories to compile information on the Jewish experience and religious life in the 1920s and 1930s. Both also believe that the interviews will offer many rare opportunities for rescuing various items of East European Yiddish folklore, ethnomusicology, and popular beliefs.

Their travels took them to the southwest region of Ukraine, the birthplace of Hasidism, where they spent time going through former shtetls and towns searching for Jews who would be willing to talk with them about their lives before World War II. Specifically, the men set out to locate towns in which a community of twenty to one hundred Jews still resided. They pursued Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, and towns between the two cities – thirteen in all. For example, they took some time to interview Jews in Bratslav, where Nachman of Bratslav, one of the greatest Hasidic leaders, was born, as well as Uman’, where he was buried. They also came upon some smaller villages while traveling, in which they simply pulled into the village center and asked whether any Jews still lived there. Veidlinger also pointed out that recognizing the historical architecture helped facilitate their meetings. In some cases, the men could distinguish historically Jewish homes, and were then able to knock on the doors and ask the residents if there were any Jews remaining in the village.

“Nobody seemed the least surprised,” Veidlinger recalls about encountering Ukrainians during their research. “You pull up, you’re traveling in a Mercedes van, with Lithuanian license plates. You pull up in a small town in Ukraine. Out pop six people who obviously don’t look like they belong, 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

REEI Awards**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

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

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

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

In Memory

REEI is saddened to learn of the death of two valued alumnae.

Marina Kanevskaya, an alumna and long-time friend of Indiana University, died on December 13, 2002, as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Kanevskaya was an associate professor of Russian at the University of Montana – Missoula. The local press reported that she will be remembered as a woman with a brilliant personality, a scholarly mind, and a heart for her students. Some students thought of her as a second mother. Kanevskaya received her PhD from Indiana in 1997 in Slavic Languages and Literatures and published the book *N.K. Mikhailovsky's Criticism of Dostoevsky : The Cruel Critic* in 2001.

Etta Perkins died of a probable coronary on Sunday, January 19, 2003, at her home in Stillwater, OK. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma, where she was a Wilson Fellow, before receiving her PhD in Russian history at Indiana in 1980. Perkins taught at Purdue University and worked as a researcher in Washington, D.C. and New York before teaching at Oklahoma State University. She retired from her position at Oklahoma State in the late 1980s. In addition to her scholarly work, she was also the author of three novels and many poems. She is survived by her sister Linda Lewis of Oklahoma City and by a niece and two nephews.

December Graduations*MA Defenses*

David Blancuzzi (CEUS) defended his master's thesis, "Through a Glass Darkly: Stigmatization and Stereotyped Imagery in the Representation of Ottoman History in Soviet Russian Popular Histories" in August.

Keryn Ross (REEI) defended her MA thesis entitled, "Lithuania and Russia: Redefining Post-Soviet Relations" in January. Dina Spechler chaired her committee. Keryn is entering basic training for the U.S. air Force at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Russell Thomasson (REEI) defended his master's thesis, "Soviet Involvement with American POWs during the Vietnam War: An Assessment." David Ransel chaired his committee. He is currently working for the US Department of Homeland Security.

REEI PhD Minor

D. Christopher Brooks defended his dissertation, "Chapter 77 and the Legacy of Antipolitics" in December for the Political Science department. Jack Bielasiak chaired his committee. Brooks is a visiting professor of Political Science at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

REEI Undergraduate Minors

Heather Coon graduated in December with a BA in Telecommunications and History.
Matt LaFontaine graduated in December with a BA in Sociology.
Ruth Schachter graduated in December with a BA in Jewish Studies and History.

Ukraine

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ask someone ‘Can you show us where the Jews are?’ No problem.” The group that Veidlinger and Kerler traveled with was especially diverse. Joining Veidlinger, a Canadian, and Kerler, an Israeli,



Kerler at the old Jewish cemetery in Teplik

was Dovid Katz, an American who is a leading world expert on the history of Yiddish and Yiddish dialectology and is currently the Professor of Yiddish and Jewish Studies at Vilnius University. They were also accompanied by a Lithuanian driver and logistics man, Piotr Ivanov, a professional Polish cameraman and filmmaker, Pawel

Since the fall of the USSR and the opening of the former communist states to western academics, many similar projects have been initiated. Kerler and Veidlinger

to Jews in Eastern Europe. Both Veidlinger and Kerler had entertained the idea of locating any Jews who had not been included in the list. But even small Jewish populations of two or three were recorded on the list. Thus, they expect it will become an invaluable resource when they return next year. Another consideration is whether they will be able to locate any Yiddish speakers who are not Jews, which would be an especially interesting phenomenon.

While the project is still in its formative stages, the researchers’ ultimate goal for the project is to establish a digital video archive in the

project with the assistance of Katz, who during the last decade organized and ran scores of similar ethnographic Yiddish expeditions in Lithuania, Belarus, Latvia, and north-eastern Poland. In addition to Katz’s association with Vilnius University and its new Vilnius Yiddish Institute (of which Katz is the Academic Director), they have also forged a relationship with the Kiev Institute of Jewish Studies headed by Professor Leonid Finberg. These associated



Morning Prayer in the Zhitomir synagogue

universities will allow all involved to take full advantage of the opportunities that these interviews will provide.

As this summer’s work was preliminary, Kerler and Veidlinger still have many avenues to pursue, not the least of which is adding to the 45 interviews and sixty hours of videotape they have already collected. One resource the men used only peripherally on this first trip was a list compiled by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) after the collapse of communism, citing all of the Jews in Ukraine. The purpose of this list was for the JDC to locate and provide help

Bloomington library. Veidlinger is optimistic about what kind of resource their data will become. “I’m sure the information we gather, once we deposit it in an archive here, will be the source of numerous dissertations, and numerous books will be able to be gleaned from these videotapes.” For now, however, Veidlinger and Kerler are working to secure additional funding to support their work through 2005. The preliminary work was sponsored by the Russian and East European Institute, the Borns Jewish Studies

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Kerler with the last Jews of Bershad in front of their last surviving synagogue

Figurski, and a Ukrainian assistant, the young Yiddishist, Anatoly Kerzhner of the Kiev Institute of Jewish Studies.

All photos by Pawel Figurski

Faculty Profile: Marci Shore

by Daniel Whyatt

Marci Shore joins the Indiana University History Department this year as a specialist in modern Poland and Eastern Europe. Shore knows her subject well and knows how to communicate her enthusiasm for it. She is a wonderful addition to the history faculty. Shore's wide-ranging knowledge of Eastern Europe is the result of a decade of intensive engagement with the region that has taken her from Prague to Warsaw to Moscow. In 1994, while beginning her graduate career at the University of Toronto, she studied Czech in England and Prague. In 1995 Shore continued studying Czech, and then in 1996, as a result of her growing interest in Communist dissidents, Shore began learning Polish in Krakow. In 1996, she also moved to Stanford for her PhD work. As the second millennium drew to a close, Shore moved back and forth between Poland and Palo Alto, eventually completing her dissertation and receiving her doctorate in 2001. In 2001-2002, Shore enjoyed a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University, and, immediately before arriving in Bloomington, she spent the summer of 2002 studying Russian and exploring research topics in Moscow.

These academic peregrinations, impressive as they are, still hardly begin to give a complete picture of

Shore's interests. For instance, she has published fiction in the *Oxford Review*, lectured in Polish, and has been the co-editor of a Czech journal that

publishes with the motto: "only dead fish swim with the stream." She has also published a number of translations of Czech and Polish literature.

The main focus of Shore's academic energies has undoubtedly been her dissertation, which is about a group of Polish intellectuals born around the turn of the 20th century. The dissertation traces their conversion to Marxism and follows them to their ultimate

fates in the concentration camps, in the gulags, in the post-war Stalinist government, and in exile. In order to research this dissertation, Shore read through the letters of these intellectuals. At one point, this took her to archives in Israel in order to read the letters of Adolf Berman. Adolf Berman was an important Polish-Jewish intellectual who had come to Israel after the war, while his brother Jakub Berman remained in Poland to become one of the most powerful leaders of the communist government.

In the course of examining Berman's correspondence, Shore found a number of letters from a pre-war Polish Zionist named Chaim Finkelstein. It so happened that in 1939 Finkelstein was in New York for

a Jewish conference when the Second World War broke out, while his family remained trapped in Poland. During the war, Adolf Berman was a member of the organization *Zegota*, a section of the Polish underground dedicated to saving Jews. Berman was able to rescue Finkelstein's daughter, but not his wife. After the war ended, Berman arranged for the daughter to be sent to New York to join her father. For the next thirty years, until Adolf Berman's death in the late 1970's, Finkelstein and Berman maintained a very extensive correspondence. When Shore came upon these letters, she contacted several Jewish organizations in New York and was informed that Finkelstein was dead. This did not come as a great shock as he had been born in the late 19th century. However, while in Jerusalem, she was in touch with Adolf Berman's son, who thought that Finkelstein was still alive. Sure enough, it turned out that he was a hundred years old and living in the Bronx! Shore visited him as soon as she returned to America. In his Bronx apartment, speaking in Yiddish-accented Polish and English, Finkelstein told Shore that no one who hadn't lived through these times could ever begin to understand them, and that she was wasting her time. At one point Shore pressed him to explain why he had become a Zionist while several of his brothers had become communists. Noticing that she wasn't eating some of the food that was being served, he asked Shore if she were a vegetarian. When she said that she was, he



Marci Shore (center) with friends in front of the Chukovsky Museum outside Moscow

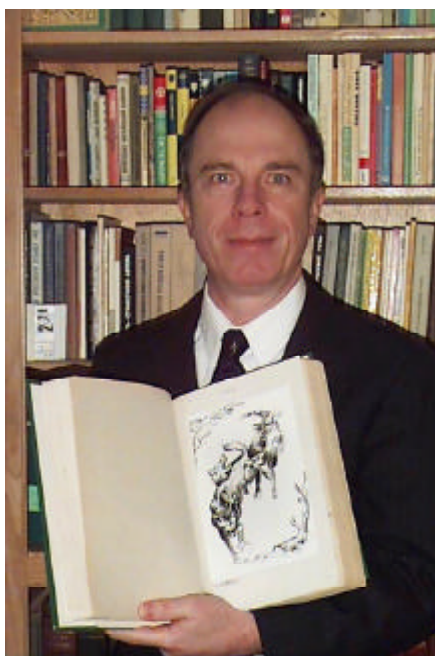
Tolkien and *Harry Potter* through Russian Eyes

by Mark Hooker

In a samizdat typescript there lived a Hobbit. Yes, Tolkien was banned in the USSR and circulated in samizdat. That is one of the things that makes the study of the translations of *The Lord of the Rings* (*LotR*) so interesting. I use the plural *translations* consciously; there is not just one published translation of Tolkien's works in Russia as is common in other countries. Instead, there are nine contemporaneously published Russian translations of *LotR*, and eight translations of *The Hobbit*. And each translator has a different story to tell. Most of the existing translations are only Tolkienesque, they are not really Tolkienian. They have been adapted to the Russian mental climate. One of the translators, for example, took Tolkien's Chapter "The Scouring of the Shire," changed a word here and added a word there, until it turned into a history of the Red Terror in the USSR, complete with Stalin and Yezhov.

When *The Hobbit* was first published in the USSR, a few changes were made to the text. Because the jargon of the Cold War pitted "The West" against "The East," every

mention of the word *west*, where it could have been (mis)construed as the political West of the Cold War—the enemy of the political East, the



Mark Hooker with the pride of his collection of Tolkien translations: a samizdat translation of *The Hobbit*.

USSR—was "disappeared." This translator, however, did not just cave-in to the censors but rather skillfully played a game of hide-and-seek with them. While references to *west* were deleted with efficient dispatch, every exclamation of surprise or amazement based on one of Tolkien's empty euphemisms for God was translated non-euphemistically. "Good gracious me!" (H.19) became "Dear God!" (Bozhe milostivyj!).

A picture is often said to be worth a thousand words, and the Russian illustrations are true to this proverbial valuation. A look at the cover illustrations for *The Hobbit* shows them all to have one detail that makes them immediately recognizable as Russian. That detail boils down to one word: *feet*.

Tolkien said that the hobbits seldom wore shoes, "because their feet grow natural leathery soles and thick warm brown hair." (H.16) In the Russian

translations, the word most often used for *feet* in this sentence was *nogi*. This is a word that does not distinguish between *foot* and *leg*. It means both together. *The Hobbit* covers that show Bilbo's feet and legs show them with thick hair covering both his feet and as much of his legs as can be seen. The effect is to make Bilbo look as if his bottom half were a bear.

The word *feet* can hardly be considered a complex philosophical concept, but its treatment in the Russian translations of *The Hobbit* is a good example of the myriad challenges that the translators faced in trying to bring Tolkien to the Russian reading public. Bridging the cultural gap is harder than it looks. Looking at the illustrations makes it easy to see some of the crevices.

Another point of interest is the sociological impact of Tolkien's works in post-Soviet Russia. When the Soviet Union collapsed, after 70 years of obligatory state atheism, Russian society began actively seeking new sets of values to fill the spiritual vacuum. The Christian-like doctrine of Tolkienism has attracted a substantial following. Some people talk of establishing a Tolkien Church and of making J.R.R. Tolkien a saint in recognition of the



Russians who have converted to Christianity after reading his works. Those who

are surprised by this turn of events are invited to take a look at what hap-

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Czechs Host the NATO Summit in Prague

by Tony Mason

My internship in the Czech Republic turned out to be much more exciting than I anticipated when I first



Tony Mason and Linda Carranza (former REEI student) in the castle garden in Ceský Krumlov, Czech Republic

received my official papers in early July 2002. The State Department notified me that I would be working in the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Prague from September to December of 2002. I knew that a NATO summit would occur during my stay. But I would be taking part in other events I had not anticipated.

Even before my arrival in Prague, the Vltava and other rivers had swollen from torrential rains that had hit the towns and villages of Bohemia and Germany. The television sets of the world focused on the Czech Republic's fight to keep its historical treasures above water. Ceský Krumlov, a beautiful historic southern Bohemian town, was flooded, along with Terezín (Theresienstadt), the Czech Republic's most infamous concentration camp. The entire district of Karlín was flooded. Many

Czech citizens were without power or water. Kampa Island, an isle that splits the Vltava near Malá Strana, was one of the worst hit areas.

When I arrived at the embassy in early September, the United States was already supplying both physical and financial help to the Czechs. Ambassador Craig Stapleton, along with other embassy employees (both American and Czech) helped in the clean-up of Kampa Island, including the Museum of Modern Art located next to the river.

Money was sent to save precious documents at the Terezín memorial, a process that included freezing documents in order to preserve them. As a member of the Cultural Team in PAS, I participated in staff meetings where we discussed which areas were most in need of US aid money.

During my stay, the first anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks also occurred. Countries around the world planned commemorations, and the Czech Republic was no exception. Besides the small memorial we held in the garden behind the embassy, an even larger event was planned at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague Castle. Representatives of many countries attended the event. The ceremony took the form of a bilingual Catholic prayer, and the sense of camaraderie among the attendees was reassuring and

touching at the same time. Not finding an available seat, I stood with some other employees of the embassy and Czech security. It was not until after the service ended that I realized that the President of the Czech Republic himself, Václav Havel, was on the other side of the pillar from me. It was a moment I shall keep with me for the rest of my life.

The rest of September and October was work as usual. I continued to edit the translations of the Czech newspapers in the morning, collect the daily cable traffic from Washington for my section and write a few speeches for the ambassador. I attended a number of social events but remembered especially well a social at the ambassador's residence at which the filmmaker Milos Foreman and a number of actors and production members of *Amadeus* promoted its new Director's Edition release on DVD. We were then treated to a viewing the next day at a movie theater, with an evening showing at Stavovské divadlo (Estates Theater), the venue of the world premier of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Despite these interesting events, the NATO summit was always in the back of our minds.

It was not until late October that we began having countdown meetings for the summit. It was quite interesting to sit with other Foreign Service Officers and discuss what we were expected to do during the summit. At the beginning, we heard only that, "Washington is not telling us

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Prague

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anything at the moment...but when they do, we'll let you know." Meanwhile, pre-advance teams from the White House, representing the interests of the president and the first lady, came to look at the venues and discuss what they would or would not be interested in doing or seeing while in Prague.

Early November saw the slow arrival of the advance team: those who would work on logistics, negotiate with their Czech counterparts, and make sure the president and his entourage would be as comfortable as possible. The Czech representatives were quite accommodating, considering that over forty heads of state were expected to attend the summit. As a representative of the press section of the embassy, I went



Mason with Carranza on a bridge in Prague, overlooking the Vltava River

to many of the summit venues, the heads-of-state dinners in the Castle, the Prime Minister's Palace, and Radio Free Europe. These venues required multiple visits leading up to the summit, and in most cases changes were made every time! Preparations were also being made at Radio Free Europe for a presidential visit with high school students from the NATO

member countries of Europe.

My jobs during the summit were various. Before the White House press arrived, I was in charge of producing a Ready-Reference Guide, an at-a-glance guide with useful information and touring material for the press. During most of my time, I worked in the Press Filing Center in the Hilton Hotel, giving any help I could to the press teams as they waited to cover the next event. My most interesting work was as a site officer for two of the events President Bush attended. As a site officer for the press team, I was responsible for making certain the White House press team would have everything it needed while waiting in one of the "hold rooms" for a photo-op to occur. One opportunity I handled dealt primarily with the visit of the president and Secretary Powell, with Prime Minister Špidla, Ambassador Palouš, and other top ministers in the Czech Parliament in Hrzanský Palace.

Overall, the NATO summit accomplished a number of things: first, it invited seven new members from the former communist bloc (more significantly, three of the former Soviet republics) to join in 2004; second, the summit helped redefine the roles of the member countries in this multinational organization, based on the specializations of each country, such as the Czech Republic's specialization in chemical warfare; finally, this was the last official act of Václav Havel as president of the Czech Republic.

My internship ended in mid-December, but in a few months I was able to watch the progress of the city's recovery. Many of Prague's

Profile

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asked her if her brothers were vegetarians. She said that one was and one wasn't.

"Well," he said, "that's just like us. In your family, some of you are vegetarians and some of you are meat eaters. In our family, some of us were communists and some of us were Zionists, and that's all there is to say."

This semester, Shore is extremely busy, teaching two undergraduate and one graduate class, as well as rewriting her dissertation for publication and working on several translations. Nonetheless, she remains as enthusiastic and committed to her work as ever. Hopefully she has also been reenergized by her holiday trip to Warsaw. I asked her if she visited any archives while she was over there.

"No," she said, "but I did visit two archivist friends of mine."

Such is the life of a professional historian.

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

damaged districts had regained electricity, water, and heat. Many of the metro stations had reopened either partially or fully, and traffic had slowly begun to return to normal. It's remarkable that the Czech people were able to recover from the worst floods in perhaps 500 years and also put together one of the largest NATO summits in history.

Tony Mason is an MA/MPA dual degree student in REEI and SPEA.

FAOs active in Area Studies

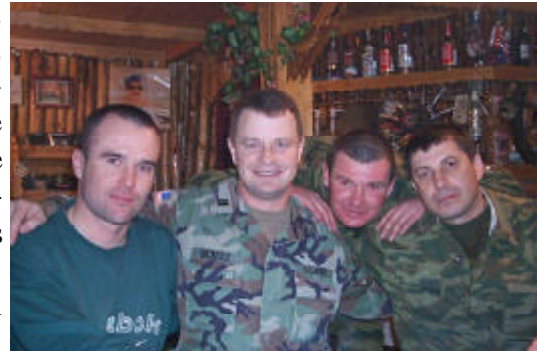
by David Hickcox

At first glance they look like the average graduate student, overstuffed book bags slung across their shoulders, traversing the campus en route to class or the library with that all too familiar “I am so swamped” look in their eyes. However, these students are different – not because they’re any smarter or better prepared than the rest – but because they are active duty U.S. Army Officers, cur-

rently serving as Defense Attachés, Security Assistance Officers, and Staff Officers in embassies across the globe. While their own military experience gives them credibility in dealing with defense matters, skills such as regional expertise, language proficiency, and knowledge of U.S. foreign policy are also a necessity. It is toward this end that many Russian and Eastern European FAOs choose REEI for their graduate studies.

Officers are not the only ones who gain from their IU studies. The entire REEI program is enhanced by their perspective. According to David Ransel, Director of the Russian and East European Institute, “[the officers] bring to our class discussions a wealth of experience and practical knowledge in military and international affairs. The experience of the FAOs balances the civilian knowledge that our other students have acquired as Peace Corps volunteers, participants or staff of international exchange programs, or as interns in business and government. The range of expertise that our students bring to class, including the military expertise of the FAOs, sheds light on issues under discussion from many points of view.”

All FAOs enter REEI with a solid background in their respective language, having already completed a year-long intensive language course at the Defense Language Institute (either in Monterey, California or Washington, D.C.). Russian and Ukrainian FAOs complete an additional 18 months of training at the George C. Marshall European Cen-



Leisure time with Russian staff officers in a cafe in Berijovce, Kosovo

ter for Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany, which is designed to immerse the FAO in a foreign cultural and linguistic environment, provide advanced language studies, and develop a sense of the region through a program of travel, research, study and interaction with foreign militaries. The Center’s rigorous FAO curriculum, conducted in the Russian (or Ukrainian) language, focuses on regional and military studies, advanced language instruction, and is supplemented by practical experience in internships with Russian and Ukrainian educational institutions and various other U.S. agencies operating throughout the region.

For FAOs in graduate school, the transition from professional soldier to professional student can be a bit tricky. Some lack an undergraduate background in this field of study, and all are many years removed from the college scene. What the FAO student does bring to the table, however, is a wealth of experience ranging from the people and organizational skills associated with commanding soldiers, to the unique insights on the language



David and Kirin Hickcox (Left) with Romanian President Ion Iliescu at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany

rently serving as students at Indiana University to earn graduate degrees as members of the U.S. Army’s Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Program.

The FAO Program is a vital component of the U.S. Department of Defense’s effort to engage foreign governments in military and political cooperation. FAOs provide a sophisticated link between U.S. and foreign political and military organizations by

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FAOs

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and area of study gleaned from personal experiences working in the field. I consider my training and experiences (which include one month working in Tashkent with the Uzbek Ministry of Defense; three months working as a Liaison Officer in a Russian Peacekeeping Battalion in Kosovo; and 15 weeks of intensive study and travel with officers and civilians from the former Soviet bloc) to be a solid foundation upon which to enter graduate school, as well as ample compensation for previous lack of experience in the field.

The benefits of attending graduate school as a FAO make this career path very rewarding. The army pays for all tuition and books, and the officer-student continues to draw a regular salary while attending classes. Most FAOs approach their graduate studies as a regular nine-to-five job (hours that are much better, by comparison, to the constant deployments and irregular work schedules associated with army life), and all complete the program in 18 months. Upon graduation, the training cycle (that started with language instruction, progressed through country studies and led to graduate school) is complete, and the officers leave REEI fully prepared to assume their duties in positions of great responsibility throughout Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Dave Hickcox is a graduate student in REEI, and a Major in the U.S. Army's Foreign Area Officer Program. Other current REEI FAOs are Major Timothy Buchen and Captain Matt Atkins.

Spring Coffee Hours

Russian Tea meets every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in Ballantine Hall 004. Contact Jeffrey Holdeman: jeffhold@indiana.edu

Russian Table meets every Friday of classes starting at 4:30 p.m. at Bear's Place at the corner of Jordan and Third. Contact Jeffrey Holdeman: jeffhold@indiana.edu

Czech club meets every other Thursday at the Irish Lion beginning January 23. Contact: Steven Page at stpage@indiana.edu for more information.

Polish coffee hour is held weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Polish Studies Center, 1217 E. Atwater Ave. Contact: polish@indiana.edu

Polish Table meets every Friday of classes starting at 4:30 p.m. at Bear's Place at the corner of Jordan and Third. Contact: polish@indiana.edu

Estonian coffee hour meets every Thursday at 4 p.m. at The Runcible Spoon. Contact Piibi-Kai Kivik: pkivik@indiana.edu

Finnish coffee hour will meet every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the Scholars' Bakehouse, 125 N. College Ave. Contact Tapio Hokkanen: thokkane@indiana.edu

Hungarian coffee hour is at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at Moonstruck Coffee House, 108 E. Kirkwood Ave. Contact: hca@indiana.edu

Latvian coffee hour meets every Friday at 6 p.m. at Soma Coffee House, Grant St., below the Laughing Planet). Contact Mara Lazda: mlazda@indiana.edu

Romanian coffee hour is held weekly on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the International Center. Contact: intlcent@indiana.edu

Uzbek coffee hour is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. in room BH 004. Contact Chris Whitsel: cwhitsel@indiana.edu

Yiddish coffee hour meets every Friday of classes at 4 p.m. at the City Bakery, corner of Jordan and Third. Contact Dov-Ber Kerler: dkerler@indiana.edu

Welcome New MA Students!

Matthew Atkins is a captain in the United States Army serving as a Eurasian Foreign Area Officer. He earned a BA in history from the University of Washington in 1992, and studied Russian language at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California from January 2000 to April 2001. Matt studied advanced Russian language, Russian social, economic, military, and political structures, and the policies and relationships of the former Soviet Union at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany from June 2001 to December 2002. He has conducted area studies in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Samara, and Kiev as well as several Central Asian countries and worked for a time in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. He also served as the US/NATO Liaison Officer to the Russian Peacekeeping Forces in Bosnia. Currently, he is interested in studying the history of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the impact this has on Russian policy, and the relationship between the US and the nations of the former Soviet Union.

Simone Giger studied politics, modern history, and Eastern Europe at the Free University of Berlin and the

University of Fribourg. She spent the summer of 2002 in the Crimean Peninsula. She plans to complete the MA program in a year, and expects to focus her MA thesis on Russian politics.

Jonathan Hudgens earned his BA in history from the University of Vermont in 1998. He then served as an Americorps volunteer at a homeless shelter doing fundraising and grant writing. He joined the Peace Corps in June 2000 and traveled to Kazakhstan where he taught English for two years in the small mining town of Rudny in the north of the country, next to Russia. After having learned Russian, as well as gaining a fascination with the people and culture, he decided to continue this education by attending IU and REEI. Jonathan hopes to join the dual MA/MPA program with SPEA in Fall 2003 with a concentration in international and comparative affairs. He plans to increase his Russian language proficiency and gain more knowledge about the current economic and political transition in Russia. He hopes to return to the region for further work in the development sector, most likely education or democracy enhancement.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European & Central Asian Languages

June 20 - August 15, 2003

RUSSIA

- Intensive 1st through 6th year Russian, (10 hrs. cr.)
- Fellowships available (undergrad & grad)
- 4-week (one semester) courses available starting June 20 - July 18
- Reading Comprehension Seminar (3 cr.)

Travel option

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REEI Mellon Endowment Awards, 2002-03

Faculty Awards

Jack Bloom (Sociology-IUN) received a grant-in-aid for travel to the 2002 International Oral History Association meeting in South Africa, where he presented "Counterrevolution: The Military Coup d'Etat Against SolidarnoscS in Poland, December 12-13, 1981."

Inta Carpenter (Folklore) received a grant-in-aid to support travel to Riga, Latvia, to conduct research for a project entitled "Between Identities: Documenting Family Change through Family Talk."

Ben Eklof (History) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to London where he delivered his paper "Issues in Education: Russia Year 2002" at the Annual Conference of the Study Group on Education in Russia, the Independent States and Eastern Europe conference.

Bernd Fischer (History) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to attend the ASN Special Convention "Nationalism, Identities and Regional Cooperation" in Froli, Italy where he presented a paper "The Development of Albanian Nationalism under Zog and Hoxha."

Barry Johnston (Sociology - IUN) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to the XV World Congress of Sociology in Brisbane, Australia where he presented the paper "Anomie and Deception: Lying in Public and Private Life" and participated in the Russian-speaking forum.

Dov-Ber Kerler (Germanic Studies) received a summer faculty fellowship to lead a research expedition to small towns and villages in Ukraine, where he conducted on-site interviews with elderly Yiddish speakers.

Bronislava Volkova (Slavics) received a grant-in-aid to attend the 21st World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences where she presented a paper "Vanek and Palaverer – Two Sons of the Same Father (The Protagonist as an Axiological Semiotic Device)."

Dina Spechler (Political Science) received a grant-in-aid to deliver a paper "Russian Foreign Policy after September 11: Assessing and Understanding the Changes" at the ASN Special Convention "Nationalism, Identities and Regional Cooperation" in Froli, Italy.

Roman Zlotin (Geography) received a grant-in-aid to support travel to Moscow, where he collected data on current trends in environmental degradation, demography, and public health in five former Soviet Central Asian nations.

Student Awards

Mark Betka (REEI/SPEA) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to Warsaw to participate in the U.S. State Department internship program during the summer 2002.

Martin Blackwell (History) received a grant-in-aid to support travel to the 2002 AAASS conference where he presented a paper "A Regime City of the First Category: Population Control and Resistance in Kyiv, Ukraine, 1943-46."

Kara Brown (Education) received a grant-in-aid of travel to support her participation in the World Congress on Language Policies in Barcelona, Spain, where she presented "Between Two Unions: The Revival of Võro in Post-Soviet and Pre-European Union Estonia."

Jamie Ferguson (Comparative Literature) received a grant-in-aid to support his participation in the 2002 American Literary Translators Association Conference where he presented "Trope for Trope."

David Fisher (History) received a grant-in-aid to support travel to the 2002 AAASS conference where he presented a paper "Russia's Image Problem in Europe and America and the World's Fairs, 1851-1900."

Regina Galer (SPEA/Journalism) received a grant-in-aid to travel to the Lake Baikal region of Russia for participation in the Tahoe-Lake Baikal Institute for the summer of 2002.

Jacquelyn Henderson (REEI/SPEA) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to Minsk, Belarus to participate in the U.S. State Department internship program during the summer 2002.

Chris Howard (Slavics) received a grant-in-aid to support his travel to the 2002 AATSEEL conference where he represented Polish on the Roundtable for Curricular Development of Less Commonly Taught Slavic and East European Languages.

Piibi-Kai Kivik (Linguistics) received a grant-in-aid of travel to attend the 2002 NWAV Conference where she presented her paper "Variation of Estonian Personal Pronouns: Observations in a Language Contact Situation."

Mara Lazda (History) received a grant-in-aid to support her participation in the 2002 AAASS where she presented "Gender, Ideology, and Sovietization: Latvia, 1940-41."

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Faculty News

Jack Bielasiak (Political Science) published “Determinants of Public Opinion Differences on EU Accession in Poland,” in *Europe-Asia Studies* 54, no.8 (December 2002):1241-1266.

Maria Bucur (History) co-edited *Patriarhat si emancipare in istoria gindirii politice romanesti [Patriarchy and Emancipation in the History of Romanian Political Thought]*, with Mihaela Miroiu (Polirom, Iasi, 2002). She also contributed an article entitled “Calypso Botez: Gender Difference and The Limits of Pluralism in Interwar Romania” in the latest issue of *Jahrbücher für Geschichte und Kultur Südosteuropas* (Munich, 3, 2001: 63-78). Bucur’s review for Katherine Verdery’s *The Political Lives of Dead Bodies: Reburial and Postsocialist Change* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999) appeared in *East European Politics and Societies* 16, no. 1, Winter 2002: 218-20.

Linda Dégh (Emeritus, Folklore) spent last summer continuing her fieldwork among the Bucovina Szekely diaspora in Regina and Saskatchewan. She attended a conference on family history and visited several families, descendants of settlers of 1906-15 in the area. Her book, *Legend and Belief: Dialectics of a Folklore Genre* (Indiana University Press 2001) won the

2002 Chicago Folklore Prize. The book was discussed at a special forum, led by Dégh, addressing in particular the questions of the future and direction of international legend research. Dégh recently signed a contract with Greenwood Press to write a book on “the legend” for a folklore genre series intended as textbook for high school and college students as well as the popular readership, which should be completed by December 2003.



Dégh was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa title by the University of Debrecen (Hungary) November 30, 2002. The award recognized her contribution to the study of Folklore (ethnography) and American Studies and to her teaching and research activities in collaboration between Indiana University and University of Debrecen. In conjunction with the award, she gave a public lecture, led three doctoral seminars, and later led discussions and consultations at the Department of Folklore at Eötvös University (Budapest), and at the Ethnographic Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Devin DeWeese (CEUS) had his book, *Islamization and Native*

Religion in the Golden Horde: Baba Tukles and Conversion to Islam in Historic and Epic Tradition, reviewed in the Fall 2002 issue of *Kritika*.

Ben Eklof (History) reviewed *The Russian Peasantry: 1600-1930: The World the Peasants Made* by David Moon in the Fall 2002 issue of *Slavic Review*.

Roy Gardner (Economics) has been named Academic Director of Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC), Ukrainian National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.” EERC, founded by IU Professor Emeritus Robert Campbell, offers the only Western-style MA in Economics in Ukraine and Belarus, and has produced 165 MA’s in the 6 years of existence, 40% of whom are now studying for PhDs in North America and Europe.

Halina Goldberg (Musicology) was invited to lecture on “Chopin’s Concert Works: Questions of Performance” for the Musicology Colloquium at the University of Warsaw, Poland, on January 8, 2003. She published a review of Renata Suchowiejko’s *Album musical de Maria Szymanowska* in the November issue of *Music & Letters*. In the May issue of *Music & Letters*, she published a review of J.J. Eigeldinger’s *L’univers musical de Chopin*.

Faculty News

continued from previous page

Charles J. Halperin (REEI) published a review entitled, "Cultural Categories, Councils and Consultation in Muscovy," which was included in the Fall 2002 issue of *Kritika*.

Jeffrey Holdeman (Slavics) delivered a paper entitled, "Names and Nicknames among the Russian Old Believers of Erie, Pennsylvania," at the AATSEEL National Convention, December 29, 2002. He also served as the chair to the Roundtable on Material and Curriculum Development for Languages Other Than Russian and as a panelist for the Roundtable on Teaching to Mixed Audiences: Native/Heritage/Slavic/Non-Native.

Robert Kravchuk (SPEA) published *Ukrainian Political Economy: The First Ten Years*, Plgrave/Macmillan, 2002.

Hiroaki Kuromiya (History) contributed a three-book review for the Summer 2002 issue of *Kritika*. His review included: *Antifashistskie komitety v SSSR: 1941-1945* by Nina Konstantinovna Petrova; *Polveka zabvenii: Evrei v dvizhenii soprotivleniia I partizanskoi bor'be v Ukraine 1941-1944* by Ster Iakovlevich Elisavetskii; and *Stalin's Secret Pogroms: Postwar Inquisition of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee* by Joshua Rubenstein and Vladimir Pavlovich Naumov.

Nina Perlina (Slavics) recently published *Ol'ga Freidenberg's Works and Days* (Slavica, 2002).

Alvin Rosenfeld (Jewish Studies) attended the White House Chanukah reception on December 4 in Washington, DC.

Nazif Shahrani (Anthropology) presented "The War on Global Terrorism in Afghanistan: A Critical Assessment" at The New York Academy of Sciences in December.

Nicholas Spulber (Emeritus, Economics) published *Russia's Economic Transition: From Late Tsarism to the New Millenium* with Cambridge University Press in 2002.

Eleanor Turk (History, IU East) presented a paper, "Teaching World Civilization Through Role Playing" at the World History Association Conference, Seoul, South Korea, in August 2002. Her manuscript entitled, "Issues in Germany, Austria and Switzerland" has been accepted for publication by Greenwood Press.

Timothy Wiles (English) has been nominated to participate in the scholar exchange between Indiana University and Warsaw University. He is currently researching the impact of the Cold War on Polish drama and theater, which he plans to continue in Warsaw.

Mellon Awards

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Anthony Mason (REEI/SPEA) received a grant-in-aid to support travel to Prague to participate in the U.S. State Department internship program during the fall 2002.

Kathy Metz (Anthropology) received a grant-in-aid to support her participation in the 2002 AAA conference where she presented "Tibetan Medicine and Economic Development in Buriatia, Russia."

Emily Ray (REEI/SLIS) received a grant-in-aid of research to attend the Slavic cataloguing conference at the University of Illinois in June 2002.

Jennifer Sanders (Slavics) received a grant-in-aid to assist in her participation in the 2002 Conference for Macedonian Language and Literature in Ohrid, Macedonia where she presented her paper "The Effects of Sonority Sequencing on Consonant Clusters Resulting from Jer Fall."

Renne Traicova (MA REEI/MPA SPEA 2002) received a grant-in-aid for international travel to Bulgaria to complete research on her master's thesis "Evaluation of the Health Reform in Bulgaria" for the summer 2002.

Nathan Wood (History) received a grant-in-aid for travel to the 2002 New Approaches in Graduate Studies conference at St. Anthony's College, Oxford, where he presented a paper "The Interurban Matrix: Local News and International Sensations in Cracow's Popular Press, 1900-1915."

Tolkien

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pened to Tolstoy.

The Russians have also produced a burgeoning subsidiary literature based on Tolkien. Bookstores carry a series of Hobbit knock-offs, the titles of which all begin with *The Hobbit and ...*. These are written for the chapter-book market and can be best characterized as swords and sorcery without Tolkien's philosophy. There is a book by Nik Perumov, famous or infamous, depending on whom you talk to, as "the man who completed Tolkien." His book can best be described as Tolkien without the humanity. Another book entitled *The Black Book of Arda* was written by a feminine duo, best recognized under the pen name of Nienna, a name taken from Tolkien's *Legendarium*. Her provenance is that of mourning and sorrow. This book has attracted a large enough following that it is possible to speak of the phenomenon of Niennism. *The Black Book of Arda* is the history of *LotR* written from the perspective of the vanquished.

My interest in this line of inquiry started long ago at the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, where one of the instructors suggested that we read a translation of a book that we liked very much, because it gives you a sense of accomplishment. Being familiar with the story, you can read great quantities of text without having to look up every other word. Tolkien was my first choice, but I was disappointed to learn that he had not been translated into any of the languages that I wanted. That only heightened my desire to see what he would sound like in Polish and Russian and Czech. I nevertheless took this instructor's advice to heart, and read other books.



I now have an extensive multilingual collection of Shakespeare, O'Henry, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Catch-22*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *James Bond*, Tolkien—of course—and now *Harry Potter*.

My daughter's intense interest in *Harry Potter* prompted me to take a look at the Russian translations when they came out. They are pedestrian and draw a lot of criticism from Russians who can read the originals. The Russian parodies, however, are another story. There are two. The first is a series of books starring Tanya Grotter. One rather glib review of the series was entitled "Harry Potter Sex Change." While the plot lines have very much in common, the Tanya Grotter stories are peppered with numerous allusions to Russian folklore. The head of the school is named Chernomorov, a name that hints at a famous fairy tale by Pushkin. The style and pace of the tales are reminiscent of *Monday Begins on Saturday* by the Strugatskii brothers, a modern Russian fantasy tale of life in the Scientific Research Institute of Magic and Sorcery, the Russian abbreviation for which—*NIIChAVO*—is homonymous with the Russian word *nothing*.

The second parody is entitled *Porry Hatter and the Stone Philosopher*. (They obviously read the British edition.) It is indeed very well done, mostly on the same level as the changes to the title. It is full of footnotes that poke fun at the fact that not all four of the books of the *Harry Potter* series were done by the same translator. As a result of this the translated names are not uniform across the series. The parody gives a name and footnotes it. For example, the dean of one of the

four houses at the parody's school for wizards was named "Razvnedel" [Once a week]. The footnote for that name says that the name may be seen as "Chetyrezhdvymes" [Four times a month] in other translations. You do not need to have a good sense of humor to study comparative translations, but it helps.

Mark T. Hooker is a Visiting Scholar at REEI. He specializes in comparative translation, concentrating on translations from English into Russian and Dutch. He is widely published in the Tolkien specialist periodic press in English, Russian, Dutch. His book, *Tolkien Through Russian Eyes*, is in search of a publisher. He will be speaking on this topic at Ohio State University in January, and again this summer at MythCon XXXIV, the North American Tolkien Conference. He will be presenting a paper on Tanya Grotter at Nimbus-2003, the first of what is hoped to be an annual international *Harry Potter* Conference.

Retired from U.S. Government service, Hooker does research for publication. His books include *The Military Uses of Literature*, Praeger, 1996; *Implied, but not STATED*, Slavica, 1999; *The History of Holland*, Greenwood, 1999; and the translation of *The Politically Correct Netherlands Since the 1960s* by Herman Vuijsje, Greenwood, 2000.

Ukraine

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Program, the IU multi-disciplinary Ventures Fund, and the Office of International Programs. The scholars plan on continuing with their interviews next summer after solid funding has been obtained.

Student News

Jennifer Cash (Anthropology) was accepted to participate in a two-part workshop series at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center entitled, "Contemporary and Historical Perspectives on Conflict in the Former Soviet Union." The first will take place on February 28-March 1; the second will be held in the fall.

Thomas Cooper (MA CEUS 2000) has accepted a position as assistant professor of Hungarian language and literature at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Alex Dunlop (REEI) delivered a paper entitled, "Trust, Social Capital, and Democratization in South-eastern Europe" at a conference, "Beyond Post-Communist Transition: Reconstruction and Development in South-East Europe" sponsored by the University of Toronto's Centre for Russian and East European Studies on February 7-8.

Amy Eberhart (REEI/SPEA) recently had a daughter, Emma, born August 19, 2002.

Regina Galer (Journalism/SPEA) and **Kathy Metz** (History) participated in a conference, "Russia's Environment: Prospects and Possibilities" in October at the Institute for Environmental Science at Miami University, Ohio.

Larissa Privalskaia (Comparative Literature) was awarded the Stolnitz Yiddish Prize for

Alumni News

Eric Boyle (MA REEI/MPA SPEA 1999) has accepted a position as a Resident Advisor with the Urban Institute, a DC-based think tank, for the USAID Central Asian Republics Local Government Initiative. He relocated to Almaty, Kazakhstan with his family in January 2003.

Steven Duke (PhD History 1999) recently gave a talk entitled, "Russification and Empire at the Edge of the Imperial Capital: Finnish and Estonian Schools in St. Petersburg Province, 1885-1914" at the Kennan Institute in Washington, DC.

John Erickson (PhD Linguistics/CEUS 2001) published "On the Origin of the Directive Case in Turkic." *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 55(4):403-411. He is currently managing editor of *Anthropological Linguistics*, published out of IU by the Department of Anthropology and the American Indian Studies Research Institute, where he has worked for almost 10 years.

Sibelan Forrester (PhD Slavics 1990) published "Where the Dog is Buried: Clues to the Ancestry of Tsvetaeva's Canine "Devil"

her commitment to and research on Yiddish language and culture.

Jennifer Sanders (Linguistics) participated in the December

Canadian Slavonic Papers 44, no. 1-2 (March-June 2002).

Janet Johnson (PhD Political Science 2001) accepted a position with Brooklyn College.

Eve Nilenders (MA REEI/MPA SPEA 2001) was awarded a Fawcett Fellowship and has begun work in Tallinn, Estonia with the State Department.

Brian Randall (MPA SPEA 2002) recently began a job with the Eurasia Foundation as the Associate Country Director of the Georgia office in Tbilisi. He passed the Foreign Service test at the end of October.

Daniel Stone (PhD History 1973) published *The Polish-Lithuanian State, 1386-1795* (University of Washington Press, 2001) and "Diaspora Zydw Polskich" in *DIASPORA POLSKA* (Cracow: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 2001).

Cynthia Werner (PhD Anthropology 1997) received an award from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research to support her research relating to radiation exposure in northern Kazakhstan.

AATSEEL conference in New York. She represented Serbian/Croatian at a round table panel for the "Less Commonly Taught Slavic Languages."

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