



# REEIfication

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

Padraic Kenney, Director  
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## Outreach Notes

### Local Children and their Families Welcome Opportunities to Study Russian and Polish

by Antonina Semivolos and Mark Trotter

Over the past four years, dozens of children in the Bloomington area have been learning Eastern European languages, thanks in large measure to the support of the Russian and East European Institute in collaboration with other units at IU.

Founded in September 2009, the Rosinka Program in Russian Language and Culture currently serves children who speak Russian as a heritage language and meets on Friday

afternoons at the Campus View residential facility in rooms provided by IU Residential Programs. Instruction takes place exclusively in Russian and focuses on development of literacy skills to complement the Russian oral proficiency that students have already acquired through exposure to the language at home. Games, music, art, and craft activities enhance the appeal of the lessons and help to instill a favorable attitude towards the use of Russian. Children in the program also cultivate an appreciation for the diverse cultural heritage of the Russophone world and refine their skills in spoken communication. In 2012-13, Elena Doludenko, a doctoral student in Slavic Languages

and Literatures, serves as principal instructor and has been assisted by freshman Natalia Lunts. Olga Volkova, whose five-year-old son began to attend Rosinka in September, extols the program: "The two instructors create a positive, fun, and, at the same time, ac-

ademically stimulating atmosphere. Organized and well prepared, they are sensitive to the needs of children who range in ages and language levels. Their



Rosinka students and their families at a traditional Russian winter holiday celebration.

caring attitude has won over our son who, preferring Rosinka to all other activities, begins to count the days until next Friday as soon as he returns home from class."

A project spearheaded by the IU Center for the Study of Global Change and the IU School of Education, Bridges: Children, Languages, World coordinates instruction in a variety of less-commonly-taught-languages for children in the Bloomington area. Since January 2012, REEI has participated in Bridges as the sponsor of Azbuka, a program in Russian for children who have no previous contact with the language. During Spring 2012, the Center for the Study of Global Change served

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## INSTITUTE STAFF

Padraic Kenney, Director  
 Mark Trotter, Associate  
 Director/Outreach Coordinator  
 Emily Liverman, Advisor/ Assistant  
 Director for Student Services  
 Mary Belding, Administrative  
 Secretary

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Ilana Miller, Newsletter Editor  
 Leah Jakaitis, Webmaster  
 Tonya Semivolos, Outreach  
 Assistant  
 Jennifer Strayer, Library Assistant  
 Anna Arays, Research Assistant

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Russian and East European  
 Institute  
 Ballantine Hall 565  
 Indiana University  
 Bloomington, IN 47405-6615  
 Phone: (812) 855-7309  
 Fax: (812) 855-6411  
 Email: reei@indiana.edu  
[www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/](http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/)

## IU Awards for REEI Alumni

1994 Irene Meister  
 College Distinguished Alumni  
 1998 Stephen Cohen  
 College Distinguished Alumni  
 1999 James F. Collins  
 Honorary Doctorate  
 2004 Richard Miles  
 Distinguished Alumni Service

## REEI Awards

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1988 Alexander Rabinowitch  
 1988 Charles Gati  
 1995 Gale Stokes  
 1995 Helena Goscilo  
 2002 Howard I. Aronson  
 2002 William Hopkins  
 2009 Donald Raleigh  
 2011 Stephen F. Cohen

## 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  
 2007 Denise Gardiner  
 2009 David L. Ransel  
 2010 Jerzy Kolodziej  
 2012 Henry Cooper

## New REEI Dual Degrees

by Emily Liverman

REEI has recently launched three new degree plans that pair a Master of Arts in Russian and East European Area Studies with the following professional degrees: Master of Public Health (MPH), Juris Doctorate (JD), and Master of Arts in Journalism. These degree plans enable students to study the Russian and East European region in depth while acquiring professional skills that are highly valued in today's job market and pertinent to their chosen career fields.

Approved for Fall 2010, the dual degree with the School of Public Health responds to the growing demand for public health personnel with Russian and East European language competency, area knowledge, and research experience. REEI affiliate faculty member Bryan McCormick, Interim Chair of Environmental Health and Chair of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies at the school of Public Health, played a leading role in the construction of the dual degree plan. Rebecca Mueller, the first REEI MA/MPH student, came to REEI after service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Albania. While studying at REEI, she developed an interest in the implications of de-institutionalization in Albania as it relates to the family care of people with mental illness and other disabilities. She notes that her coursework in the School of Public Health differs from her REEI studies, in that it involves "practical activities, ranging from group work and portfolio preparations to a required culminating internship experience and other opportunities for applied health research, community service and engagement," complementing the academic inquiry and research characteristic of her REEI classes. It is these "technical skills and professional competencies," grounded in deep knowledge of the region, that Rebecca anticipates will help her land a job in international development, applied research, or policy. For more information on the dual MA/MPH, see ([http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/academic\\_programs/IU\\_REEI\\_MA\\_MPH.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/academic_programs/IU_REEI_MA_MPH.shtml)).



Rebecca Mueller (right), the first REEI MA/MPH student, converses with Professor Sarah Phillips (left) at the REEI fall reception. Photo by Ilana Miller

[demic\\_programs/IU\\_REEI\\_MA\\_MPH.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/academic_programs/IU_REEI_MA_MPH.shtml)).

Approved at the end of 2011, REEI's joint degree with the Maurer Law School provides students with the opportunity to pair legal expertise with language and area knowledge. The content and implementation of the new degree plan benefitted enormously from the work of Tim Waters, Associate Professor of Law and REEI faculty member. In January 2012, Antonina (Tonya) Semivolos became the first student of this degree plan. Her research focuses on questions of language policy that emerged after the fall of the Soviet Union as well as the legal and policy issues behind the intersection of internet technology with the terrestrial laws in Russia. Tonya plans to utilize the skills and area knowledge provided by the joint degrees in research abroad and a career in the Foreign Service. For more information on the joint JD/MA, see ([http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/academic\\_programs/IU\\_REEI\\_MA\\_JD.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/academic_programs/IU_REEI_MA_JD.shtml)).

REEI and Journalism have recently approved a new dual degree program in which students can pursue an MA in Russian and East European Area Studies simultaneously with an MA in Journalism. The combination of the two degrees provides students with globally focused journalistic skills as well as in-depth area and linguistic knowledge so crucial to substantive and nuanced reporting

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## SWSEEL Thriving in Its Seventh Decade

IU's SWSEEL: The Summer Language Workshop continues to flourish as the nation's most comprehensive summer program for the study of Eurasian languages. In 2012, the 247 students learning 17 languages comprised the second largest cohort in SWSEEL's more than sixty years of operation. Highlights of the summer included a weekly Russian-language radio program staffed by students of Russian and teacher Snezhana Zheltoukhova, the SWSEEL debut of Persian instruction, and mercifully reliable air conditioning in IU facilities during one of Bloomington's hottest Julys on record. Together the ROTC Project GO program, Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Islamic Studies Center, Center for the Study of Global Change, and REEI provided more than 150 students from IU and other institutions with full fellowships to cover tuition and living expenses.

Each year, SWSEEL trains numerous undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree students representing a wide variety of institutions, disciplines, and sectors, such as business, government, and the military. All bring to SWSEEL a desire to master languages that will enable them to pursue careers across the globe. Recognizing the potential to build on that common goal, SWSEEL has launched its own alumni association. To underscore the importance of such an organization that will connect current and former SWSEEL students, Dr. Ariann Stern-Gottschalk, director of SWSEEL, points to the many overlapping interests and enormous number of alumni. SWSEEL "is 63 years this coming summer. That's a lot of people in a lot of different places who might be more than willing to share their experiences and their expertise." She is confident that the alumni association will lead to collaborations of SWSEEL alumni in research projects of mutual interest and also foster recruitment of recent SWSEEL alumni into businesses and government agencies where more seasoned SWSEEL alumni have established themselves.

Dr. Stern-Gottschalk hopes that more and more alumni will join as word of the association spreads. At the moment plans include mini-reunions at important conferences, such as the gathering of SWSEEL alumni that recently took place at the Indiana University reception during the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) in Boston. Also in the works is an annual newsletter which will provide another forum for connecting people, showcasing instructors, sharing experiences, and disseminating information about funding and study opportunities. Dr. Stern-Gottschalk also hopes that the alumni association will eventually provide a channel for alumni to create scholarships and fellowships that will generate opportunities for others to study the languages that have helped to build their own careers.

Those interested in learning more about and joining the alumni association should contact the SWSEEL office by regular post, email, or phone at:

SWSEEL Alumni Association  
1217 E Atwater Ave  
Room 101  
Bloomington, IN 47401-3703  
[swseel@indiana.edu](mailto:swseel@indiana.edu)  
812-855-2889

As this issue of REEification goes to press, SWSEEL is already receiving applications for the upcoming summer. Classes in first-year Russian and Arabic at the first, second, and third-year levels will begin on May 28, whereas classes in all other levels of Russian as well as Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Yiddish, Dari, Georgian, Kazakh, Mongolian, Persian, Tatar, Turkish, Uyghur, and Uzbek will start up on June 3. For more information, consult the SWSEEL website at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~swseel/>.



DJs Snezhana Zheltoukhova (left) and Liz Lipschultz (right) get down during a broadcast of SWSEEL's "Russkoe Radio."



Substantial portions of this article were adapted from a piece that appears on the website of the Indiana University Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center at: [http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/newsevents/past\\_events/learning-connecting-recruiting-building-over-sixty-years-iu%E2%80%99s-summer-language](http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/newsevents/past_events/learning-connecting-recruiting-building-over-sixty-years-iu%E2%80%99s-summer-language)



## Faculty Profile: Craig Cravens

by Michael Gabe

Dr. Craig Cravens joined REEI last year as a Senior Lecturer in the Slavic Department. He has translated works from a broad range of Czech authors, including Jan Neruda and Ivan Klíma, and contributed to several edited volumes on Czech language and culture. For this issue of REElification, Cravens sat down with REEI alum Michael Gabe to talk a little about his unusual path to Slavics, his work at IU, and his passion for all things Czech.

*What can you tell us about your early life and education?*

Well, to skip to the punch, I was a military brat, which means I'm from nowhere and everywhere. The longest time that I lived anywhere was Hawaii for four years where I had to learn Pidgin English, which really did seem like a foreign language to me. For example, to express the past tense, Pidgin uses "wen" in front of the verb. Example: "Jesus wen cry" instead of "Jesus cried." To express future tense, Pidgin uses "goin" in front of the verb, a declaratory word or *verbum dicendi*, common in many forms of slang American English. Example: "God goin do plenny good kine stuff fo him" Instead of: "God is going to do a lot of good things for him."

*You were in the military. Is that where you first became interested in Russia and Eastern Europe?*

I became interested in Russia during the Cold War, specifically during the 1976 Olympics. I was 11 years old, and seeing representatives of all those nations in one place finally made me see the rest of the world. My father had to explain to me the difference between the "good, upright American and West European teams" and the teams of the "godless Communists." His words, not mine. According to him, whereas we sent amateur athletes to the Olympic Games, the Communists cheated by sending professionals—not to mention the fact that they had horns and tails. Anyway, I became fascinated with Eastern Europe, and in high school I decided to learn Russian and become a spy. The spy thing didn't really work out, but I did join the Army and learned Russian.

*What made you switch your focus from Russia to the Czech Republic?*

A complete accident. After the Army, I went to college and majored in Russian and Russian literature. Then, I went to graduate school to continue the same, but I had to choose a second Slavic language. People chose different languages for different reasons. Some wanted to study Russian poetry, which, in the beginning, was greatly influenced by Polish literature. Some were interested in studying the epics of the southern Slavs. I just wanted to go to Prague. But when I started reading the literature of this tiny nation, the absurdity, the self-deprecation, the "alcoholic realism" simply blew me away. I was used to Tolstoy and Dostoevsky invoking

God, History, Religion, Mother Russia. The Czechs turned everything upside-down. They are a culture that's been traded off among different empires for centuries and, as a result, developed a weird, down-to-earth, absurd worldview, which is reflected in their literature.

*Which language did you find harder to learn, Russian or Czech?*

My first Czech class was with Charles Townsend at Princ-

eton. There were five of us in the class—all graduate students who knew Russian—and we were all thinking, "This is going to be a piece of cake after Russian. We'll just move the stress around, and we'll be speaking Czech." Professor Townsend, however, warned us: "Don't think this language is Russian Lite. If you don't learn it properly from the beginning, it's going to bite you in the ass come Chapter Three." Sure enough. The toughest part about Czech is the greater number of declension endings. As Professor Townsend explained, all Slavic languages used to have both hard and soft endings, but almost all of them generalized either the hard or soft endings, thereby cutting in half the number of declensions. Not Czech. Czech kept them all, and that's why Czech is so much more difficult to learn. It just has so many damned declension endings.

*This is your second year here at IU. What have you enjoyed about the university and Bloomington?*

Coming to the IU Slavic Department was like a breath of fresh air. The professionalism, if that's a word, in this department is beyond compare.

*What courses are you currently teaching and what will you be offering in the spring?*

This semester, I'm teaching Russian and Czech, along with a culture course called "Rock Against the State," in which we study rock music, literature, and politics from the 1970s and 1980s in Central Europe. Basically, we look at the way underground artists, musicians, and writers fought the system under totalitarian Communism. In the spring, I'll be teaching "Robots and Beer Pubs: Czech Culture from 863 to 1989." It's sort of a "greatest hits" of Czech culture, in which we cover the history, geography, literature, and the architecture of the Czech lands.



Cravens relaxing in the Beskydy Mountains in Moravia, Czech Republic.

*Can you talk about any projects or research that you are currently working on?*

I translate a lot, primarily because once you translate something from a small culture, you get on the radar and are offered more translating jobs. I just finished a memoir by Ivan Klíma, *My Crazy Century (Moje šílené století)*, and am working on something by a young Czech writer, Magdalena Platzová. In general, though, I'm interested in Czechoslovak underground literature from the '80s.

*You are frequently a guest lecturer in the summer at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. Could you elaborate on your duties there?*

At my last job, I performed plays in Czech with my third-year Czech students. The students spoke Czech, and I projected English supertitles. They became extremely popular there, and word got to the Czech Republic that some American was interested in Czech theater, specifically the theater of Jára Cimrman, a forgotten Czech genius. Anyway, the director of a Czech summer language program invited me to produce and perform a play with students at Masaryk University in Brno. For three weeks, I work with students of Czech who come from all over the world. Finally, at the end of the program, we perform the play for other students, faculty, and people from the city. The plays are truly interna-

tional. Last summer, our cast was made up of two Spaniards, a Pole, a Serb, and an American. Besides the play, I also give guest lectures on the Czech underground, the Jára Cimrman Theater, and even Dostoevsky. Next summer I'll be speaking about Czech New Wave film.

*And finally, as pub culture and beer are extremely important aspects of Czech culture, what is your favorite pub in the Czech Republic, and what is your favorite Czech beer?*

Yes, as you may know, the Czechs have the highest per capita beer consumption in the world. The first pilsner beer was made in the Czech lands; Czechs came up with the first textbook on how to brew beer; and even though the Czechs did not invent beer, it was a Czech archeologist that discovered who did. My favorite pub is probably one in the neighborhood of Žižkov in Prague. Žižkov, by the way, has the greatest number of pubs per square meter in Europe. Anyway, there's a small pub called "At the Sign of the Shot-Out Eye," (*U vystřeleného oka*) named in honor of the one-eyed Czech general Jan Žižka. Actually, I think I go there just because of the name. You can't get a bad beer in the Czech Republic. At least I don't think so.

**Michael Gabe** is pursuing a Master's of Library Science. Photos by **Ilana Miller**. Ilana is an MA student in History.



Cravens performing with students in Jára Cimrman's *Akt (The Nude)*, the play Cravens also directed, at the 2012 Masaryk University Summer School of Slavonic Studies in Brno, Czech Republic.

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of Russia and Eastern Europe. The input of Owen Johnson, Associate Professor of Journalism and a member of the REEI faculty, was instrumental in the successful construction and implementation of the new degree plan. REEI and Journalism look forward to receiving applications for the dual degree from those who plan to begin their studies in Fall 2013.

In addition to a strong Master of Arts in Russian and East European Area Studies and the new dual and joint degree plans, REEI has long established dual degree agreements with several Schools at IU, including Kelley School of Business, the School for Public and Environmental Affairs, and the School for Library and Information Science. For more information on REEI degree plans, see ([http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/academic\\_programs/degree\\_programs.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/academic_programs/degree_programs.shtml)). REEI is dedicated to the training of area experts with the skills needed to perform in both professional and international contexts. The dual and joint degree plans help us to do just that.

**Emily Liverman** is the Academic Advisor and Assistant Director for Student Services at REEI.



## Armstrong Scholarship Leads Expansion of Support for Undergrad Students of East European Languages

by Mark Trotter

IU undergraduates pursuing mastery of Eastern European languages have benefitted from substantial increases in funding over the last eight years. Together the Russian and East European Institute, the Polish Studies Center, and The Summer Language Workshop administer four different scholarships that support undergraduate study of one or more languages currently spoken in Eastern Europe.

The Daniel Armstrong Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of Daniel Armstrong, who earned his PhD in the IU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, where he subsequently served as a teacher, scholar, and administrator before his untimely death in 1972. Established in 2005 with funds provided by Armstrong's parents and administered by the Russian and East European Institute, the scholarship currently provides incoming freshmen committed to the study of an Eastern European language with an award of at least \$1500. It is renewable at reduced amounts in subsequent years so long as the recipient continues to study the language in question.

The first of ten Armstrong Scholars to complete a degree while at IU, Rebecca Baumgartner has returned to IU as a graduate student in Slavic Languages and Literatures with plans of pursuing an academic career. "As an incoming undergraduate freshman, I had no idea that my enthusiasm for Russian language would develop into such a significant aspect of my future goals, career path, and life in general, and the Armstrong Scholarship certainly helped facilitate that growth," she remarks. "The financial aid helped solidify my decision to attend Indiana University. More significantly, the Armstrong Scholarship provided the encouragement I needed to see my passion for Russian studies in a broader context. With the support of the Russian and East European Institute, I better realized the value of my background in Russian language, literature, and culture, and I found that there were many more Russian related career opportunities than I had previously thought."

Both Russian and Ukrainian have figured prominently in the coursework of Armstrong Scholar Chelsea McShurley, who is currently studying those languages in Kharkiv, Ukraine through an IU-approved study abroad program. "Receiving the scholarship was an encouragement and motivation for my studies before they even began as it indicated that a committee of my future professors saw my potential to succeed in one of the best Slavic programs in America. The award has covered the cost of my textbooks each semester and helped to fund my study abroad experience." In addition to McShurley, sophomore Alexander Turro and freshman Matthew Carter hold Armstrong Scholarships. Both began to study Russian in high school and continue to do so in



Armstrong Scholar Alexander Turro with Ann Armstrong, widow of Daniel Armstrong, the Armstrongs' daughter Nancy, and Nancy's children at the REEI Fall Reception. Photo by Ilana Miller

upper-level courses at IU.

Since 2007, SWSEEL: The Summer Language Workshop has administered the Project GO scholarship program for undergraduate ROTC students enrolled in SWSEEL Russian, Turkish, Arabic, and Central Asian language classes. Funded by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, a division of the US Department of Defense, the Project GO scholarships, valued at \$6500, cover living expenses and full tuition at SWSEEL. Students who accept a Project GO scholarship commit to completing the summer program at IU and continuing study of their chosen language in the following academic year. Project GO scholars who complete SWSEEL can receive additional funds to study in an overseas program as well. To date, more than 150 ROTC students from IU as well as other institutions have undergone language training at SWSEEL with the support of Project GO scholarships. Of that number, more than half have chosen to study Russian.

The US Department of Education's Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Program has provided generations of IU graduate students with funding to support their study of Eastern European and other less commonly studied languages since the late 1950s. In 2010, the FLAS Program was expanded to benefit undergraduate students as well. So far, REEI, a recipient of FLAS grants for more than 50 years, has provided more than 40 undergraduates with summer or academic-year FLAS awards that range in value from \$7500 to \$15,000 for study of Russian at the third-year level or higher.

Members of the former Polish Century Club of Indianapolis and friends of the IU Polish Studies Center have succeeded in raising sufficient funds to launch the Polish

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## Notes from the Field: Macedonia

by Leonard Leid

With the support of a Title VIII Southeast European Language Training Fellowship through American Councils for International Education, I spent the summer of 2012 in Ohrid, Macedonia, where most of my time was taken up with the study of Macedonian under the tutorship of a skilled language professor with very limited English skills. The combination of complex grammatical terms in a foreign language and being the only student required intense attention and constant interaction (as well as frequent breaks for Macedonian coffee).

Ohrid provided plenty of opportunities to practice my language skills. I frequented the green market for fresh produce and chatted with the vendors about growing conditions and the agricultural climate in Macedonia. I also visited the area's numerous churches and monasteries to learn cultural history. Ohrid hosted many cultural events throughout the summer, including the Balkan Folk Festival, which draws music and dance groups from all parts of the Balkan Peninsula and Turkey. Many of these groups include students, for whom the festival provides one of the few opportunities to travel and interact with their peers in the region. The celebrated Ohrid Summer Festival also delighted me with exhibitions, concerts and open air theater. Since the summer of 2012 was one of the hottest summers in memory across Southeastern Europe, on most afternoons (between language hours and cultural events) I took long swims in the surprisingly chilly waters of Lake Ohrid.

My main research interest in Southeastern Europe involves the current situation of farmers and their rural communities. Although my language endeavors left little time for research, I read daily newspapers, watched local documentaries, and consulted numerous people about developments in their home villages. Statistics for Macedonia show a steep demographic decline, felt most sharply in rural areas. Rough estimates indicate that around a tenth of Macedonia's villages are completely aban-

doned, while another tenth have an elderly population of less than 20 people. Reasons for the dramatic population loss in

rural areas include poor living conditions, inadequate infrastructure, inaccessible health-care services, and an idolization of modern urban lifestyles.

The discourse surrounding the population decline in villages was quite varied, with a noticeable contrast between what

I read in the newspapers and what I heard in conversations with individuals, although both contexts featured distress over the rural population decline. Newspapers, often acting as party mouthpieces, find population decline troubling for economic reasons, such as unsustainable pension schemes, and on nationalistic grounds in response to changing ethnic

demographics. Few politicians address the core issues of inadequate access to education, substandard healthcare and a lack of basic infrastructure in rural areas. Most of the people I spoke with expressed concern about the threat to local cultures, wondering who would preserve the traditions of rural life. While folk festivals often celebrate and commemorate traditional costume, song, and dance, many other cultural entities are disappearing as well. Some of the items mentioned by my interviewees were heirloom tomatoes, regionally specific watermelons, and traditional pastries that are being replaced by western hybrid varieties and franchised bakeries. The true rural dilemma in Macedonia is not only the economic decline seen by politicians, brought about by a shrinking and increasingly elderly rural population, but also the literal loss of flavors and food diversity in slowly disappearing villages.



Church of St. John at Kaneo on Lake Ohrid, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ohrid once had 365 churches, one for every day of the year.



Leonard with a Sharplaninac, a Macedonian and Serbian sheepdog named for the Shar Mountains.

**Leonard Leid** is an MA student at REEL.

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Century Club Scholarship. Beginning in the 2013-14 academic year, the award of \$1000 will be presented to an entering IU undergraduate student who expresses interest in Polish Studies and enrolls in Polish language courses. "This scholarship is the product of the strong historic ties between the Polish community of the State of Indiana and our university," comments Padraic Kenney, Director of the Polish Studies Center. "I hope it will encourage applicants interested in exploring Polish studies to think of IU-Bloomington first."

## *In Memoriam: Gale Stokes and John Sheehan*

In November the REEI community lost one of its dearest friends when **Gale Stokes** passed away in Houston. Gale earned a certificate at REEI on his way to a PhD in East European History at IU in 1970, under the tutelage of Charles and Barbara Jelavich. He went on to teach at Rice University, where he chaired the History Department and eventually served as Dean of Humanities.

In 1995, Gale was selected as only the third recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from REEI, and he was a natural choice. Two influential books on Serbian politics were followed by his best-known work, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe* (Oxford, 1993), which won the highest award in the REE field, the Wayne Vucinich Prize from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS); it has just been published in a second edition. These books and others established Gale as one of the leading historians of Modern Eastern Europe in the

world. He was elected president of the AAASS in 2003.

Gale's service to the profession was unmatched and tireless. He was a generous mentor to a generation of East European historians, and was a strong advocate for Area Studies. He was a genial, gentlemanly friend and colleague, and will be greatly missed by all.

REEI reports with great sadness the passing of **John F. Sheehan** (BA Slavics, 1966; MAT Slavics, 1967) in June, 2012. Following his studies at IU, John served as a Russian linguist in the US Air Force and the National Security Agency before entering the teaching profession. A beloved presence in the classroom who was known to his charges as "Dyadya Vanya," John taught Russian for over three decades at Edgewater and Winter Park High Schools in Central Florida and led students on tours of the Soviet Union.

## *Alumni News*

**Christopher (Kit) Collins** (PhD Slavics, 1968; REEI MA, 1962) is the author of *Evgenij Zamjatin: An Interpretive Study* (Mouton, 1973) and *Life as Theater: Five Modern Plays by Nikolai Evreinov* (Ardis, 1973; new edition Overlook Press, 2012). After teaching literature at Syracuse and UVA, Kit went on to broker farm and historic properties in the Shenandoah Valley. A regular participant in masters rowing competitions, he has claimed many age group single sculls national championships since 1998, world championships at regattas in Croatia and Germany, and golds in singles and mixed doubles at Boston's Head of the Charles.

**Sibelan Forrester** (PhD Slavics, 1990; MA Slavics, 1985) has been recognized by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) with the 2012 award for Service to AATSEEL.

**Howard Goldman** (PhD Slavics, 1975) taught at the University of Waterloo, Bates College, and then University of Tel Aviv. He left teaching and took up technical writing for the next 30 years and has since retired.

**Jamie Hyneman** (BA Slavics, 1982) was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award in November for his work in advancing science education on the Discovery Channel program *Mythbusters*. IU's College of Arts and Sciences Dean Larry Singell called his contributions to science education "ingenious."

**Alexander Karagiannis** (PhD History, 1981) is a career Foreign Service Officer currently serving as Visiting Associate Professor at the George Washington University, Department of Organizational Sciences, where he is teaching leadership and management. In summer 2013, he will return to the State Department. From 2009 -2011, he was the Director of the Office of Central European Affairs, where he led a team of 18 that oversaw relations with Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland. Before that, he was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria. He is the recipient of numerous individual and group superior and meritorious honor awards and was promoted in 2011 to the rank of Minister Counselor. He has served in Germany, Greece, Turkey, the UK and Bulgaria.

**Robert Montgomery** (PhD History, 1995) published "Buriat Political and Social Activism in the 1905 Revolution" in *Sibirica*



in 2011, along with several recent reviews on Buryat and Mongol topics. He presented “Issues in Buryat Cultural Survival in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries” for the Spring Colloquia Series “Ethnicity and Development in Siberia” at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in February 2012. In Summer 2011 he studied Buryat language in Ulan-Ude through an intensive program under the auspices of the Eurasian Regional Languages Program of the American Councils for International Education.

**Richard Payne-Holmes** (MA REEI and MPA, 2008) completed his work as a Political Officer at the US Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan and returned to Washington, D.C. to work as the Kazakhstan Desk Officer in the Office of Central Asian Affairs at State Department Headquarters. **Maren Payne-Holmes** (MA REEI, 2008) also completed her assignment as Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer in Kazakhstan and is now an Information Officer in the Press Office of the East Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau of the State Department. They will depart for their next assignment at the US Embassy in Manila, the Philippines in summer 2013.

**Elizabeth Plantan** (MA REEI, 2012) authored an op-ed piece entitled “Rising Temperatures” that appeared in *The New York Times* in September ([http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/13/opinion/rising-temperatures-over-oil-in-the-arctic.html?\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/13/opinion/rising-temperatures-over-oil-in-the-arctic.html?_r=1&)). It addresses commercial and military exploitation of the North Pole.

**Lynn Sargeant** (MA History, 1996; PhD History, 2001) has recently been awarded the Bela Bartok Award from the American Society of Composers and Performers for her 2011 book *Harmony and Discord: Music and the Transformation of Russian Cultural Life*.

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## Faculty/Staff News

**William Bianco** (Political Science) has received funding from the National Council for his study of “The Behavioral Underpinnings of Cooperation between NASA and Roscosmos in Joint Operations of the International Space Station.” This joint project with Jeffrey Hill (Northeastern Illinois University), Robert Landis (NASA), and Maxim Matushin (Moscow State Technical University and Roscosmos) uses interviews and data analysis to analyze organizations and practices developed to facilitate cooperation between the two programs, while also exploring their relevance to future international space exploration programs.

**Maria Bucur** (History) delivered the talk “Eugenics and Maternalism during the Century of Woman: Trends in Eastern Europe” as part of the Wellcome Trust History of Medicine Seminar Series at Oxford Brookes University in October. She also presented the paper “Women’s Empowerment under State Socialism in Eastern Europe: Historiographic Reconsiderations,” at the Gender, Sex and Socialism: Transatlantic Dialogues workshop at Harvard University.

**Ben Eklof** (History) presented a paper entitled “The Revolution Betrayed: Nikolai Charushin, Provincial Cultural Purveyors, and the Legacy of Populism in the Soviet Union (1851-1988)” at the Midwestern Russian Historians Workshop held at Notre Dame in October. In late November, he presented the paper “The Myth of Educational Failure in Tsarist Russia: Measuring the Effectiveness of Learning, 1894-1945” to a conference on The Historical Experience of Soviet Statehood in Kirov, Russia. In the same week he participated in a round table on the American Presidential Elections at the Kirov State Humanities University. He also presented a paper on his recent research at the Herzen State Library, “Nikolai Apollonovich Charushin: Fire Insurance Agent, Renowned Photographer, Famine Relief Expert, Newspaper Founder and Editor, Librarian.....and Lifetime Revolutionary.”

**Annika Frieberg** (History) presented the paper “Pomerania-Germany-Europe? Klaus von Bismarck and His Cultural Diplomacy after 1945” at the German Studies Association in Milwaukee in October.

**Bill Johnston** (Comparative Literature) was recognized by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages with the award for Best Literary Translation into English for his translation of Wiesław Myśliwski’s *Stone Upon Stone* (Archipelago Books).

**Padraic Kenney** (History) published a paperback version of his *Rebuilding Poland: Workers and Communists, 1945-1950*, which first appeared in hardback 15 years ago. He also published two articles: “‘I felt a kind of pleasure in seeing them treat us brutally’: The Emergence of the Political Prisoner, 1865-1910” in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* and an essay on the newly-released documents concerning the Katyń massacre on the History News Network: <http://hnn.us/articles/148347.html>. In October, he began contributing a monthly column on Polish politics and history to <http://kulturaliberalna.pl/>.

**Alexander Rabinowitch** (History, Emeritus) published a German language edition of *The Bolsheviks Come to Power*, with a substantial new preface for contemporary German readers (*Die Sowjetmacht--Die Revolution der Bolschewiki, 1917*, Mehring

Verlag, 2012).

**David Ransel** (History) spoke on recent illegal seizures of land in protected cultural and historical sites in Russia in two papers delivered at Hankuk University in Korea and in Kyoto, Japan in October. He also served as commentator at a conference at Hankuk. His co-edited book *Everyday Life in Russia: Past and Present* has just been accepted by Indiana University Press.

**Steve Raymer** (Journalism) published *Redeeming Calcutta: A Portrait of India's Imperial Capital*, an inclusive and nuanced portrait of Calcutta through compelling photographs and text. In November, IU's India House held a book launch for the publication.

**Mark Roseman** (History) gave the papers "Of Revenge Not a Sign': Revenge and Its Absence in Holocaust Testimony" at the 49th Deutscher Historikertag in Mainz in late September and "With the Benefit of Berghahn: Reading *Continental Britons* and Interviewing Continental Britons" on the panel "Continental Britons: German-Jewish Refugees from Nazi Germany" at the German Studies Association annual conference in Milwaukee in October. He presented the paper "Race, Biology, and Nazi Violence" at the international workshop Fascisms Then and Now: Italy, Japan, Germany at the University of Notre Dame in late October. In November, he organized the panel "Rescuing Jews: The Left Responds" and presented the papers "The Rescue of Memory: the 'Bund Community of Socialist Life' and Post-war German Memories of Rescue and Resistance" and "The wrong answer to the right question" at the 12th Biennial Lessons and Legacies Conference on the Holocaust, in Evanston, Illinois. He held the conference "Holocaust Rescue in History & Memory" at IU.

**Regina Smyth** (Political Science) was awarded a grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Studies to construct a data set of subnational electoral outcomes between 1993 and 2013 in the Russian Federation. Working with Rostislav Turovsky and the Laboratory for Regional Research at the Higher School of Economics, Smyth is using the data to explore a central question in political science: when does electoral competition in unconsolidated regimes foster the formation and durability of authoritarian rule and when does competition undermine authoritarianism? The rise and sustainability of the United Russia party, and its multiplicity of strategies to remain in office after 2011, constitute the central focus of the work.

*continued from page 1*

as the site for Saturday morning Azbuka classes. In 2012-13, Azbuka is being offered through weekday sessions at Bloomington Girls Inc. As in other Bridges programs, Azbuka instructors are student volunteers who receive pedagogical training and guidance from foreign language specialists in the School of Education. Students with affiliations in REEI and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures have enthusiastically embraced this opportunity to share their Russian language expertise with local youngsters. "It's the craziest, most rewarding thing to see kids want to learn the language that I've been obsessed with for years," remarks current REEI MA student Chris Flynn, an Azbuka teacher in Spring 2012 while finishing up his BA as a Russian major. Other Azbuka teachers have included senior Bernadette Patino, junior Chelsea McShurley, and freshman Matthew Carter (for more on McShurley and Carter, see article about Armstrong Scholarship on p 6), as well as Michael Gabe and Rachel O'Connor, both master's degree students in the School of Library Science.

In September, the Polish Preschool began to operate at the Polish Studies Center. The REEI-funded program provides a venue where Polish heritage children as well as children visiting from Poland meet and befriend each other as they learn to read, write, and count in Polish, all the while imbibing Polish traditions and culture. Anna Murawska-Mroz, the



Anna Murawska-Mroz teaches children vocabulary at the Polish Preschool.

principal teacher, holds a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and brings to the program a wealth of experience as an educator in both Poland and the US. Children can attend once or twice a week for sessions that last two or three hours and feature crafts, songs, and many other entertaining activities. "Our children can't wait for the meetings," comments Karolina Serafin, who founded and directs the Polish Preschool. She applauds the program's role in creating a "real community of parents and children who have similar goals" and points to "our wonderful teacher, parents' help, and the support of the Polish Studies Center" as indispensable elements in its success.

Families who would like to enroll their children in any of these programs should contact Mark Trotter at [martrott@indiana.edu](mailto:martrott@indiana.edu) or 812-856-5247.

**Antonina Semivolos** is an MA/JD student at REEI.  
**Mark Trotter** is the Associate Director and Outreach Coordinator for REEI.

## Student News

**Aimee Dobbs** (History) presented a paper entitled “An Institutional Comparison of Muslim Teacher-Training: Administrative Attitudes, Approaches, and Local Outcomes in the Transcaucasus and Kazan, 1876-1890” at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference at IU in October.

**Alyssa Lindley** (Majors, French and Slavics; Minors, International Studies and REEI) has been selected as a recipient of a CIEE Language Intensive Focus Track (LIFT) scholarship for the Spring 2013 semester. She will be studying in the St. Petersburg Russian Language program at the CIEE Study Center in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Joanna Matuszak** (Art History) presented a paper entitled “Appropriation and Artistic Identity in Post-Soviet Performance Art” at the UAAC / AAUC Universities Art Association of Canada Conference, Montreal, Canada in November 2012. In October, she was a panelist on the roundtable “Conducting U.S. Policy-Relevant Research in Eurasia, Challenges and Opportunities” at the Thirteenth Annual Conference of Central Eurasian Studies Society here at IU.

**Chris Molnar** (History) will be publishing the article “Imagining Yugoslavs in Cold War West Germany: From Communist Agents to Ambassadors of Peace” in *Central European History*. In October, he also gave a paper entitled “Transnationalism from Above: ‘Yugo Clubs’ and ‘Model Classes’ for Foreigners in 1970s West Germany” at the annual German Studies Association Conference in Milwaukee.

**Leone Musgrave** (History) presented the paper “*Utro Gor* (Morning of the Mountains): Akhmed Tsalikov in the Spectrum of Revolutionary Politics” at the Midwest Russian Historians Workshop at Notre Dame and the paper “‘Ossetian Garibaldis’ and the ‘Forepost of Islam’: The Socio-Political Landscape of the North Caucasus in the Revolutionary Era” at the annual conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society at IU, both in October.

## Recent REEI MA Essays

**April Wilson:** “Framing in the Human Rights Context: Media Repression & Kazakhstan’s 2010 OSCE Chairmanship,” May 2012/Chair: Hans Ibold; Committee: William Fierman, Christiana Ochoa

**Zach Kelly:** “Food in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature as Novelistic Device and Ethnographic Evidence: Understanding Food Culture through Gogol, Goncharov, Aksakov, and Chernyshevsky,” May 2012/Chair: Sara Stefani; Committee: Jacob Emery, Ari Stern-Gottschalk

**Margaret Browndorf:** “The Physical Legacy of Soviet Library Design: Perspectives on Space, Information Access, and Civic Development in Ukrainian Public Libraries,” May 2012/Chair: Hiro Kuromiya; Committee: Sarah Phillips, Wookjin Cheun

**Elizabeth Plantan:** “Protecting Cultural Heritage: Unexpected Successes for Environmental Movements in China and Russia,” May 2012/Chair: Vicky Meretsky; Committee: Dina Spechler, Scott Kennedy

**Herman Blake Reinhold:** “Reexamining the Soviet Union’s Decision to Invade Afghanistan,” May 2012/Chair: Dina Spechler; Committee: Roman Zlotin, William Fierman

**Jason Vincz:** “Black Monastery and The Forest Hanged: Representations of Collective Identity in the Transylvanian Literature of World War I,” August 2012/Chair: László Borhi; Committee: Maria Bucur-Deckard, Christina Illias

**Meghan White:** “Shadows of the Civil War: Perceptions of Democracy in Tajikistan,” September 2011/Chair: Ron Sela; Committee: Edward Lazzerini, Regina Smyth

**James Joeriman:** “Potemkin or Corporatists’ Civil Society? Public Chambers in Russia and Ukraine,” September 2012/Chair: Hiro Kuromiya; Committee: Leslie Lenkowsky, Regina Smyth

**Jefferson Naylor:** “Small Business Ownership and Employment in Russia,” September 2012/Chair: David Audretsch; Committee: Sameeksha Desai, Barry Rubin

**Eric Adams:** “Finland’s Search for Security: The NATO Question 20 Years after the Cold War,” December 2012/Chair: Toivo Raun; Committee: Dina Spechler, Roman Zlotin

**Ian Karanovich:** “The Failure of Constitutional Reform Efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Failure of a State?” December 2012/Chair: Timothy Waters; Committee: Regina Smyth, Justin Ross

**Emily Young:** “Alt-SHIFT: Queer Online Discourse on Coming Out in Serbia,” December 2012/Co-chairs: Susan Herring and Sarah Phillips; Committee: Steven Franks

**Robert Craig Perry, Jr.:** “Competing Views: Security Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,” December 2012/Chair: Dina Spechler; Committee: William Fierman, Gardner Bovingdon





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