



Center for Russian & East European Studies

Littlefield Center, Room 14, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-5013

NEWSLETTER

**Fall/Winter
1995-1996**

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A NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Another academic year is well under way for Russian and East European Studies at Stanford. We are graced this year with a variety of exciting new courses, taught by new or visiting faculty in a wide range of departments. Ronald Suny, CREES Visiting Professor in the History Department, has offered "The Nation and its Others" and "Problems in Soviet History and Historiography." Amir Weiner, new Assistant Professor in History, has added to our curriculum "National Identities in Twentieth-Century Ukraine" and "History, Myth and Memory."

Michael McFaul, Assistant Professor in Political Science, offers "Russian Politics" and a comparative look at revolutions. Andrei Arkhipov, Visiting Assistant Professor in Slavic has taught "Demonology in Russian and other Slavic Cultures," and will be teaching on the tradition of the holy fool in Slavic and other cultures in the Spring Quarter. Christina Kiaer, Acting Assistant Professor in Art offers "Realism, Modernism and Avant Gardes" and "Avant-Gardes and Mass Culture between the Wars," while the Law School is offering "Russia: The Transition of Law and Society."

These are just some of the highlights of new additions to our basic departmental courses on Russia, Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union.

Our Master's Degree in Russian and East European Area Studies is also thriving. This year 11 students are participating in the program; collectively they bring an exceptionally high level of language competence and an impressive breadth in area study background. In addition to Stanford co-terminal candidates, our M.A. students come to us from institutions including the

"CREES is working hard to create those moments of informal interchanges that make the scholarly life of a university so exciting..."

University of Vienna, Georgetown, University of Colorado and West Point; some are associated with the United States Army's Foreign Area Officer Program, selected for language (Polish, Ukrainian, Russian) and area studies and destined for assignment in Eastern Europe or the FSU. Together the M.A. students are a lively and intellectually challenging group whose presence is felt strongly in our classrooms and more informal intellectual interchanges.

CREES is working hard to create those moments of informal (*cont. on pg. 7*)

Reflections of Adventures Abroad

Recipients of CREES Travel Research Grants Discuss Their Summer Experiences

Kyrgyzstan in Transition: The Politics of Central Asia in the New Era

By Kathleen Collins, Political Science

The CREES 1995 Summer Pre-Dissertation Grant allowed me to return to Central Asia, primarily to Kyrgyzstan for three months. I arrived in the city of Bishkek at the end of June, found an apartment and was kindly given an office by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Ministry was also instrumental in introducing me to key figures for my research. I was thus able to meet political players of a less pro-Western perspective than Roza Otunbayeva, as well as many non-governmental political actors (political party leaders, union leaders, academics, students, journalists, Islamic revivalists, and NGO leaders).

While I had been able to maintain some of my contacts from the U.S. during the first half of the year, even sending e-mail and faxes to Kyrgyzstan is extraordinarily difficult, and I was pleased to be able to return to Bishkek to follow up on my earlier interviews. I have quickly learned that in this place where phone directories are non-existent, where telephones almost never work, and where Western business

practices are anathema, developing the right contacts and developing good personal relationships with those contacts is the key to doing any research.

Having established a good rapport with my colleagues at the Foreign Ministry and with other acquaintances, I was able to build their trust and confidence by returning to Bishkek quickly, and by expressing my interest in continuing my dissertation research there. I thus have a large collection of interviews and archival materials documenting the political and economic changes in the country from 1990 to 1995.

Through my extensive interviews and research, I was able to formulate theoretical hypotheses and to develop firmer convictions about the initiation and continued course of democratization in Kyrgyzstan. My research will add theoretical insight to the transitions literature, which poorly explains the post-Soviet, and especially the Central Asian cases. It will also contribute to a scholarly understanding of Central Asia itself, and of the dramatic increase in nationalism, Islamic identification, and ethnic and clan rivalry we now see in the

former Soviet Union.

I have also determined that a comparative regional study within each Central Asian case will be the best way to examine and operationalize such critical variables as nationalism, Islam, ethnicity, and clan politics. By interviewing and conducting survey research, I hope to attain a better assessment of the role of such political cultural factors in the transitional politics. This regional work will balance the inevitable bias of focusing solely on the capital cities, which are populated by the more Russified intellectual elites of Central Asia.

To begin this work, I traveled to several regions of Kyrgyzstan in order to make contacts with local academics, universities, and regional and municipal government administrations. While such work will likely be difficult for a woman, since the regions—even in comparatively “secular” Kyrgyzstan—are significantly more Muslim than the capital, I was fortunate to find much support from Osh State University, whose director, Professor Bakyt Beshimov, is a politologist studying nationalism and clan conflict. Professor Beshimov has contacts in regions of both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, with whom I can meet when I return.

Overall, despite the oppressive summer heat and despite being overfed with lamb stew, I enjoyed a thoroughly stimulating, challenging and rewarding summer.

Russian Political Almanac Provides Data on Regional Trends

By Svetlana Tsalik, Political Science

With the end of the Cold War and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia has become the focus of many social scientists' work. Scholars studying international relations, transitions from authoritarian rule, market reform, processes of democratization and other questions have focused on the dynamic changes in Russia as an application and test of their respective approaches. Despite these differing approaches, there is one commonality to much of this work: a focus on macro-level (Russia-wide) processes.

This “bias” is as understandable as it is serious. Very little data is available that disaggregates this vast country. This is an unfortunate omission because Russia's size and high number of

regions (89) inevitably introduce variation into its processes of political and economic change. Regional political and economic trends play an important role in national politics, and without disaggregated information, we cannot assess and appreciate this impact. The work that I have been engaged in throughout the summer is meant to remedy this glaring paradox in resources: that despite a wealth of information about Russia as a whole, we know very little about what is happening within Russia (except the few hot spots such as Chechnia or Tatarstan).

In more concrete terms, I spent the summer working in the Moscow office of the Carnegie Endowment for (cont. on pg. 6)

Armenian Students Share Perspectives on Politics

By Arthur Kachikian,
Political Science

This summer, with the help of CREES, I travelled to Armenia to teach courses and give a number of seminars on international relations and international security. The Center for National and International Studies in Yerevan, Armenia, is led by the former Foreign Minister of the Republic, Raffi Hoavanissian. The Center has established close ties with the Center for International Security and Arms Control at Stanford. I thought it would be useful to hold a number of seminars on some basic issues discussed in the American literature on international relations and international security, some of which could be new to Armenian researchers.

I also taught a course to political science students at the American Armenian University in Yerevan. The discussions in class were extremely interesting. I found that many students did not accept the theory of democratic peace, but some of them did agree with the concept of economic interdependence and in particular, liked the idea of having Azeri oil flow through their country. While the debates were heated, the papers were graded objectively: I asked the students to write their ID numbers instead of their names on their papers.

One night, after about the first two weeks of class, the doorbell rang at my apartment. I was in the shower and yelled to the visitor to wait a couple of minutes. The bell rang again. Without rinsing the shampoo out of my hair, I got out of the shower, wrapped myself up in a towel, and answered the door. A lieutenant from the district Military Draft Committee gave me a draft notification which ordered me to report on duty at 10 am the next morning. While signing the papers and attending to the lieutenant, the water was cut off. The shampoo stayed in my hair until the next morning.

A couple of weeks later, I left Armenia, frantically grading the final papers and saying goodbye to relatives and friends who came to the airport to see me off. Everything went smoothly, and the extra cash in American dollars which I had for unexpected unofficial expenses helped smooth my way out of the country. My former motherland gave me her last embrace; it tasted so sweet, and at the same time, so bitter.

Czech Intellectual Karel Capek and his "Patecnici"

By Andrea Robyn Orzoff, *History*

I spent the summer in Prague, conducting pre-dissertation research on Karel Capek and his circle. Capek was one of the most beloved intellectuals of 20th century Czech literature. His friends and fellow writers gathered at his home every Friday, and thus became known as the "Patecnici" (Friday men). Among them were intellectuals of every political inclination. Though their discussions were never recorded, the Patecnici extended their debates into the columns of interwar magazines and newspapers. I plan to describe the Friday gatherings as accurately as possible and to follow several of the debates through a number of publications. Current historiography has little to offer on the period. My hope is to gain insight into the reasons for the stability of interwar Czechoslovak democracy and to gain a more complete understanding of the Czech politics of the day.

Snapshots of Daily Life in the Wild, Wild East

By Charles Thuss, *CREES Enterprise Fellow*

The best summary of my experience so far in Moscow is expressed in the lyrics of "Truckin'" by the Grateful Dead— "What a long, strange trip it's been." Moscow is a cross between the Wild West and Berlin. High culture at low prices and low culture at high prices and a shoot-out at least once a month.

I have been living down the street from the White House. Every morning the road is closed for a few minutes as Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin zoom to work in their respective motorcades. I have decided that when Boris goes by after 9 a.m., he is recovering from the night before. Before 9 a.m.— he has been hard at work for the last 24 hours. He usually passes by at about 9:30.

I live with a mother and son. Masha, the mother, is a babushka to be— she has a home remedy for everything and fixes more food than any human could eat. Her son, Sasha, is tightly stuck to his computer and studies at the university, among other reasons, to avoid serving in the army.

I have also met other families. Some, such as Slava and Lena, are on the up and up. Slava is a "business man" and has recently purchased a plot of land outside of Moscow to build a dacha. We all went out to the plot to have a "property warming" party, celebrated with the appropriate (or inappropriate) amounts of alcohol.

The expats in Moscow run the gamut of people: some seem to be here for the lack of

extradition treaties, others just by happenstance and finally others who simply want to be in Russia.

Perhaps the most exciting part of my time here has simply been being in Moscow. In many ways it is a European city. I often go to soccer games which are poorly attended except for the diehard fans. At the last

"High culture at low prices and low culture at high prices and a shoot-out at least once a month."

match we saw, at least 30 people were hauled off by the police for everything from having glass bottles in the stadium to exploding cherry bombs.

It is also a city which is reveling in its new freedom. Walking down Tverskaya street, people buzz like bees and money flows like water. I get strange looks when I exchange \$20 bills for roubles— \$100 is the bill of choice. My jaw no longer drops at the sight of a fist-sized wad of \$100 bills.

Russia is still in the middle of great turmoil and Moscow is in the center of it all. The people I have met have been very warm and kind and the surroundings provide more than enough excitement. In sum, I hope to stay here for a while longer.

Siberian Ethnic Groups Maintain Identity Despite Soviet Integration

By Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov, Anthropology

My dissertation explores the indigenous politics of kinship and sharing among the Evenki, a forest group of hunters and reindeer herders in Sub-Arctic Siberia. In examining the history of the community throughout the 20th century, I am studying the impact of Soviet state policy on the group's cultural development.

Drawing from rich archival materials and my own fieldwork in the Katonga collective farm of the Evenki Autonomous District in 1993-5, I consider how the state's attempt to integrate the Evenki into an internationalist culture paradoxically encouraged cultural practices that today mark the Evenki as a distinct ethnic group. My project was funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the National Science Foundation (both the Anthropology and Polar Social Science Divisions), and by the Anthropology Department and CREES of Stanford University.

Evenki, also known by their older colonial name of Tungus, number approximately 29,000. They inhabit the vast Sub-Arctic forests (*taiga*) from the Yenisei river basin in the west to the Sakhalin island and Manchuria in the east. Known for their skill at riding reindeer, the Evenki developed a unique tradition of reindeer herding in the *taiga* which they combine with extensive foraging and fur hunting.

In 1988-9 and 1993-5, I conducted an extensive study of a group of Evenki that occupies a watershed of the Podkamennaya Tunguska and Nizhnaya Tunguska rivers in the northwestern part of the Yenisei river basin. This is a group of 300 people, who, together with about the same number of Russian newcomers, constitute the population of the village.

There is a significant gap in both Russian and foreign scholarship on Siberian indigenous studies. I focus on the 20th century, which has remained relatively under-researched, in sharp contrast to the pre-revolutionary colonial period.

My research tracks the process of cultural evolution of an Evenki local community within the specific conditions of the Soviet social order. I am also examining how academic images of hunters and gatherers were "returned" to these societies in the course of reforms and how these reforms made local social structures more visible to the state. I am also assessing how local communities encountered these visions, and what cultural forms and relations of power (both within indigenous communities and between them and the state) emerged from this conflict.

In February 1994, I moved to Katonga to conduct the ethnographic part of my research. The village of Katonga is located on the banks of the Podkamennaya Tun-

"The trip enabled me to consider in detail the current economic reforms which have reinforced instead of transformed Soviet-type structures."

guska river. With no roads connecting Katonga to other settlements, the village depends on the state-run transportation system for supply of basic commodities.

Upon arriving in Katonga, I went to the forest almost immediately and stayed there until November. I spent these nine months with a group of 30 Evenki families which stay in the forest the whole year. Supplying these camps, transporting children to boarding schools, and providing other services to the forest Evenki had previously been conducted by helicopters based in Baykit, the district center. Having previously chartered these flights, the collective farms could no longer afford the cost of these flights after the fuel prices rose. After arriving in the forest in February, I later found out that all flights had been cancelled. Consequently, I was forced to remain in the forest until the Evenki came out for supplies before the winter hunting.

This was the main reason why I decided to return to Katonga in the summer of 1995. In addition to conducting long-term observations of the *taiga* hunters and

reindeer herders, I needed to explore the village aspect of local community and the changes in the economic and political organization of the Katonga collective. I gratefully acknowledge the generous contribution of CREES at this stage of my project.

This trip enabled me to consider in greater detail the effects of the current economic reforms which have reinforced instead of transformed Soviet-type structures. Katonga seems to be a stronghold of the conservative collective farm order in the Evenki Autonomous District. It did not split into private farms or clan-based communities. Its director, Nikolai Dmitrievich Krasnikov, successfully bars private fur and shuttle traders. He is, however, one of the most dynamic and shrewd capitalist entrepreneurs in the District.

The structure of the collective farm has allowed Krasnikov to strengthen his monopoly of the Katonga hunting territories to the disadvantage of the Evenki and Russian hunters. Because the collective farm makes the village eligible for state subsidies, a form of low interest rate credit, Krasnikov is able to keep the purchasing price of fur at the lowest in the region and to maintain one of the highest profits from reselling fur.

I extensively studied the interaction between the collective farm and private traders. While it appears that they are in competition, the private traders are, in fact, interested in the preservation of the state collective farm enclaves because they help keep the prices for fur down in the local market. This allows the traders to buy fur at far below its real market value.

The emerging general picture is that new political-economic hierarchies are developing between local producers and the new trade mediators. The collapse of the Soviet infrastructure widened the gap between these hierarchies because it isolated local communities and limited their access to the market. This has resulted in a renewed importance of foraging and a new value of traditional communal structures that are based on subsistence. Once again, the state's efforts to modernize the semi-nomadic Evenki instead encouraged the development of the foraging periphery of the former Soviet economy.

Environmentalists Gather to Protect Russia's Nature Reserves

By Alexander Williams, Slavic Department

Russian nature reserves (*zapovedniki*) currently face overwhelming problems of environmental degradation. Nonetheless, many Russian scientists, rangers, and environmentalists show immense courage and perseverance in their struggle to protect Russian wilderness areas. The 1995 Laplandsky Conference on Deforestation brought Russian and American environmentalists together to discuss issues affecting the reserves. With the help of the CREES Mellon Travel and Research Grant I was able to present a research paper on trans-boundary natural resource protection at last summer's conference.

As part of the conference, participants surveyed current conditions both in Laplandsky Reserve, established in 1930 as a reindeer preserve in the Arctic Circle near Murmansk, and Nizhnesvirsky Reserve, established in 1980 as a

buffer zone around a twenty-six year old ornithological research station on the shore of Lake Ladoga.

Despite the stringent rules protecting Russian reserves in the Soviet period (only rangers and scientists were allowed to enter *zapovedniki*), the impact of warfare and years of negligent Soviet policy can be felt to this day in wilderness areas. Throughout Nizhnesvirsky's territory the land is scarred with trenches and barbed wire, the remnants of intensive fighting during the Second World War. Land mines, ordnance, and various metal fragments still litter the area and lie sunken beneath the waves of Lake Ladoga.

Today the reserve is threatened by poachers and severe pollution. It is chiefly pollution which threatens the integrity of Lake Ladoga

as an important migratory stop-over for more than 170 bird species. The ornithological research station bands approximately 40,000 birds annually and hopes to gauge pollution levels by monitoring fluctuations in bird populations.

At first glance, Laplandsky Reserve seems to be an undisturbed wilderness. Its 1700 square kilometers contain 200 pristine Arctic lakes, a spruce and pine taiga eco-system, and alpine tundra in low-lying mountains. In its sixty-five year history, however, the reserve

has been plagued by poaching, pollution, over-zealous control of the reindeer population, and state-sanctioned deforestation and disastrous manipulation of water resources. Under Khrushchev, the protected status of Laplandsky Reserve was repealed briefly in order to clear-cut two river valleys

"...the reserve has been plagued by poaching, pollution, over-zealous control of the reindeer population, state-sanctioned deforestation and a disastrous manipulation of water resources."

inside the reserve.

Traces of a still darker human history taint parts of the reserve. In the early '30s the first hydro-electric dam on the Kola Peninsula was built just south of Laplandsky Reserve. The newly formed reservoir flooded one of the reserve's lakes, which in turn flooded a second lake around which a dam was built by forced labor in 1938. As our group was exploring this area we came across primitive rock dwellings gouged out of the ground, the remains of where, under inhuman conditions, prisoners labored through ten months of Arctic winter and two months of swarming mosquitoes.

Laplandsky Reserve's headquarters is located in the nearby city of Monchegorsk, known for its nickel factory. (*cont. on pg. 6*)

Social Change Examined Through Bulgarian Press

By Stanislav Dobrev, Sociology

The wave of political, economic, and social changes that spread over Eastern Europe following the demise of the long-lasting communist regimes has presented social scientists with an unprecedented opportunity to test theories about the social order of communism as well as the ways in which social change comes about. This historic development has been taken by many scholars as a great chance to devise and conduct experimental research that is as a rule almost never possible in the social sciences. The output of that growing effort, however, was characterized by a high degree of speculation and uncertainty. The problem was that while the euphoria surrounding the changes was attracting a great deal of interest, a meaningful way to operationalize

and measure these changes was hard to come up with. What it all came to was the difficulty of collecting meaningful data that could confirm either the gloomy pessimism of those who foresaw total institutional collapse or the already discredited optimism of the "shock-therapists" who believed that a capitalism by design can be fostered in Eastern Europe if not painlessly, at least rather quickly.

In my opinion, the best research about the post-totalitarian developments in Eastern Europe started to come out several years after the events of 1989 and it usually entailed a long and laborious process of data collection on the spot during which researchers had to participate fully and make sure that their sources were (*cont. on pg. 6*)

FACULTY AWARDS

Professor Karol Berger was recognized by The Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation for his contributions to musicology. The award is given annually to persons of Polish origin who have made outstanding contributions in the sciences or humanities. Professor Berger was one of 10 laureates for 1995.

(*PRESS*, from pg. 5)

reliable and valid. I believe that this was and still is the only way (although undoubtedly the most difficult one) to explain to the rest of the scientific community and the public what the events taking place in Eastern Europe really mean. As a Bulgarian myself, this is exactly what I try to do in my own research. I have embarked on a massive project that focuses on the organizational survival of Bulgarian newspapers in the post-socialist environment.

In addition to the purely theoretical goals of the research, I also hope to be able to show to my audience and my colleagues that direct measurement is usually inappropriate in studies on Eastern Europe. Consider the following example: The party organization in a manufacturing establishment in Bulgaria published its own newspaper. But following the events of 1989 depoliticization took place (or so some believe) and this party organization was dissolved. The newspaper published by it, however, continued to exist with its editorial board almost intact. So while such a case may be used by the former communists to claim the dismantling of the old power network, it is rather obvious that it has not only been preserved, but given that 1990 and 1991 were both election years, it has been transformed to a more convenient level which can be used for the propaganda-campaign.

I spent almost a month in Bulgaria this summer collecting data on all Bulgarian newspapers and their fate during the transformation period. I was able to recover and enter into a computer file all relevant information for the first part of my project (1987-1989). It was necessary to go to many different places and talk to many people before any given entry is finalized.

I expect to be able to collect the second part of my data set, covering newspaper histories from 1990 to 1992, sometime next year and then to start the analysis. I sincerely hope that it will contribute to an understanding of the complex social developments in Eastern Europe that have changed the course of modern history.

(*NATURE RESERVES*, from pg. 5)

A lunar landscape stretches from the factory into the distance. Toxic emissions have killed off surrounding taiga, including large segments inside the reserve boundary. In the mid-1980s the Monchegorsk city council decided to burn down those parts of the taiga which were dying, the logic being that scorched earth looks better than dying forest. With one layer of forest removed, pollutants were swept even further into the taiga, damaging previously unaffected areas. A land-swap was arranged to give the reserve new territory farther away from Monchegorsk in exchange for abandoning the most heavily impacted portions closer to the factory. The direct human cost of the pollution is evidenced by soaring figures of respiratory illness among Monchegorsk workers and their families (factory workers must wear gas masks during their shifts because emissions are released directly onto the work floor and out through opened windows). Pollution levels from Monchegorsk have actually diminished since perestroika as a result of reduced industrial output. Now, however, with growing interest on international markets for Monchegorsk's low-cost nickel, toxic emissions are likely to rise to new heights.

The situation is generally bleak for Russia's nature reserves. Budget cuts have left them under-staffed, under-trained, and under-equipped to handle the mounting threats posed by poachers, pollution, and lobbyists who are trying to open the reserves to private interests. A non-profit organization called The American Association for the Support of Ecological Initiatives is responding to the situation by promoting minimum-impact projects such as eco-tourism in order to raise capital for the reserves. I encourage readers to look at the following World Wide Web site, <http://www-leland.stanford.edu/AASEI>, to view photographs and learn more about Russian environmental problems and ways to help.

(*TRENDS*, from pg. 2)

International Peace. The Endowment is funding a project organized by Michael McFaul and political geographer Nikolai Petrov to compile a regional political almanac. The project will have two versions: a pre- and post-Duma election report to be published in Russian and in English. The first version is due out at the end of October and the second in early 1996.

The almanac will include demographic, budgetary, economic, and political data on each of Russia's regions. It will also have tables with the voting results of each national election and referendum since 1989 by region, maps depicting Russia's political topography, summaries of political highlights in each region, and information on parties active in each region. Our data comes from a number of sources: the President's Analytic Center, Goskomstat, the analytic center Panorama and includes information currently unavailable to the public.

My job was to oversee the editorial process of the English version. This involved research, writing, translating, editing other people's translations, and organizing the available data. The almanac will be delivered to candidates, journalists, and election observers. We have received a great deal of interest from the analytic and public policy community about this work.

It has also been personally very rewarding with regard to my own academic work. I am interested in the highly dynamic process of Russia's evolving federalism and am already incorporating data from this summer's work into the design of a research question for my field paper which will hopefully blossom into a dissertation topic as well.

My thanks to CREES for helping me get to Russia to engage in this exciting work!

LIBRARY NEWS:

Slavic Librarian Wojciech Zalewski announced that the ABSEES bibliography is available on line to the Stanford community. ABSEES is located at Telnet <CARROUSEL.LIS.UIUC.edu>

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN JULY:

Interested in hosting a high school exchange student from the Former Soviet Union for one academic year? The Freedom Support Act of 1992 funds a program of cultural exchange between the NIS and the U.S. Contact Paige Prior, program administrator, Youth For Understanding, at 1-800-872-0200.

(DIRECTOR, from pg. 1)

interchanges that make the scholarly life of a university so exciting, particularly in an interdisciplinary program like ours. As always we are sponsoring numerous lectures on our own or with other departments, such as the Slavic, Drama and History Departments, the Hoover Institution, and the Center for International Security and Arms Control (CISAC); a complete list will be published in our Spring/Summer Newsletter.

CREES is also bringing people together in a variety of other forums. In November, for example, we sponsored a round-table discussion on the upcoming Soviet parliamentary elections. Chaired by Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Stanford University Provost and Professor of Political Science with an expertise in the Soviet military, panelists John Dunlop (Hoover Institution), Gregory Freidin (Slavic Dept.) and Michael McFaul (Political Science) provoked a lively exchange of views with a packed audience. CREES Visiting Professor Ronald Suny is joining Professor Gail Lapidus of CISAC in organizing a seminar series on "States, Nations and Empires," while CREES and the History Department are sponsoring an ongoing "Seminar in Russian History."

With a much appreciated grant from the Dean of Humanities and Sciences, we are also hosting informal discussions specifically for our graduate students (M.A. and Ph.D level) to meet and talk with some of the many important figures in Russian and East European Studies who come our way. In this setting we have met with Ambassador Oleg Grinevsky, Ambassador to Sweden of the Russian Federation, and with Ryszard Malik, Deputy Foreign Editor of the Warsaw newspaper, *Rzeczpospolita* (The Republic) and a Stanford Knight Fellow in Journalism.

REASONS TO BE THANKFUL YOU LIVE IN MOSCOW

By Wes Cole*

1. LOW SUNBURN RISK.
2. FREE AND PLENTIFUL REFRIGERATION FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH APRIL.
3. CLOSE PROXIMITY TO TOURIST MECCAS LIKE PENSK, MAGNITOGORSK AND ELECTROZAVODSK.
4. FULL DAY'S SUPPLY OF MOST MINERALS OBTAINABLE THROUGH REGULAR BREATHING OF MOSCOW AIR.
5. NO ANNOYING "SERVICE WITH A SMILE."

*Wes Cole went to Russia and Uzbekistan as a CREES Enterprise Fellow in 1992. His recent e-mail included some thoughts on the advantages of living in Moscow.

All this energetic activity would not be possible without the competence and grace under pressure of the CREES staff, Irina Barnes, Assistant Director, and Rosemary Schnoor, Administrator.

CREES is participating in the University's initiative to create undergraduate minors. To minor in REES, an undergraduate will be asked to take up to six courses, including an introductory "core" course on Russia/Formal Soviet Union and one on Eastern Europe (a handful of courses in History, Political Science and Slavic has been designated CREES "core courses") and a "capstone" advanced colloquium or seminar in any of a number of CREES-related departments. Students are strongly urged to include study at Stanford's Overseas Studies campus in Moscow as part of their minor experience.

Our goals at CREES continue to be the

enhancement of the teaching and learning about the Former Soviet Union and East European area. We are fortunate to receive Department of Education funding (as a Title VI National Resource Center) for visiting appointments and graduate fellowships, in addition to the support we have received from friends of the Center to our endowed funds (the Vucinich Fund, the Konstanty and Antonina Stys Fund for Polish Studies, etc.). It is, of course, a challenging environment these days for Russian and East European studies. While governmental and foundation funding for our part of the world is contracting, our awareness of the importance of the many different cultures and peoples of the former Soviet bloc is increasing. Now more than ever it is imperative that Americans be trained well to understand this complex and dynamic part of the world.

—Nancy S. Kollmann

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Address

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Affiliation

Please include your e-mail address, if you would like to be notified on-line: <_____>

Center for Russian and European Studies gratefully acknowledges the support of:

Committee to Aid Ukraine, Northern California Chapter:
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Wayne S. Vucinich Fund for Russian and Eastern European Studies

1995-1996 CREES VISITING SCHOLARS

A finalist in the 1995 Regional Scholar Exchange Program (RSEP), **Dr. Sovetkhan Igibayev** is at Stanford under a three-month research grant awarded by the American Council of Teachers of Russian. By placing participants in American universities, the RSEP helps faculty from Russia in the humanities and social sciences become acquainted with Western specialists, methodologies, and resources. Dr. Igibayev is head of the department of history at Eastern Kazakh State University in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan, specializing in the economic history and industrial development of Kazakhstan.

Under the grant, Dr. Igibayev is researching private gold-mining in Kazakhstan prior to the revolution and its role in the development of the mining industry. While at Stanford, Dr. Igibayev is becoming acquainted with the approach of American research methodologies in the study of economic and industrial history. Dr. Igibayev will be returning to Kazakhstan in April.

Chairman of the Movement for Nuclear Safety, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Chelyabinsk, Russia, **Natalia Mironova** is also visiting Stanford as a finalist in the 1995 Regional Scholar Exchange Program. Mironova is studying the activities of NGOs involved in protecting public health against environmental hazards. In assessing the impact of citizens' initiatives and public opinion on public policy, Mironova hopes to devise more effective methods of NGO management which will facilitate the conversion of military and nuclear sites to civilian control.

The Movement for Nuclear Safety originated out of The Peoples' Front, the first democratic association to emerge during *perestroika*. The Movement's goal is to educate the population of Chelyabinsk on ecological issues related to nuclear sites and to campaign for the public's right to a safe environment.

Last fall, Mironova led a workshop on nuclear contamination at the NGO Forum on Women in Beijing, China.

Pavel Zacek comes to Stanford as a Fulbright Scholar from Prague, Czech Republic, where he is a Ph.D student in the Department of Mass Communication at Charles University. Zacek is currently working on a research project entitled "Czech Society and the Role of Propaganda at the End of World War II".

The project focuses on United States foreign policy towards Czechoslovakia immediately following the World War, specifically examining the use of the press, radio broadcasting, and leaflets as mediums for propaganda. By studying this propaganda campaign, Zacek hopes to gain insight into the extent to which the western democratic powers have exerted their influence on the populations of Central Europe. Their influence will be studied in relation to the relevant shifts which occurred in the social and political climate of Czech society.

Zacek served as founder and editor-in-chief of *Studenske Listy* (Student Pages), the first independent Czech student weekly newspaper.

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