

Teachers of Russian and East European Studies



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REES Brings Cultural Presentations to Local Schools

The educational outreach program of Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) kept up a busy schedule of cultural presentations at Pittsburgh-area schools and other organizations in 2009-10. Some highlights of these activities included:

- "Passport to Russia" program at the Children's Department of the Carnegie Library in Oakland, including a fairy tale performance and folk dancing lesson.
- Presentations at the Jubilee Christian School in Mt. Lebanon on Russian fairy tales, Russian language, and traditional folk dancing.
- Presentations on Russian culture at Avonworth Middle School and on Bulgarian and Russian cultures at the Student Ambassador Conference, organized by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and the Nationality Rooms Program at Pitt.
- Demonstrations of Ukrainian egg decorating and Russian/East European folk dancing at the "Cultures Day" held at Harrold Middle School in Greensburg.
- Presentation on Russian holidays and folk dancing lessons for Russian language students in the International Baccalaureate program at Pittsburgh Schenley High School.
- Conversations with Schenley's Russian language students, led by visiting doctoral students from the Slavic language departments of Princeton University and Ohio State University. These events included discussion of study abroad and career opportunities involving Russian, with special emphasis on the experiences of African-Americans in the field of Russian studies.



Left: Pitt Law student Aleksandra Williams and her daughter give a presentation on Russia at Jubilee Christian School, March 2010.

Below: Children learn about Russian culture at the Carnegie Library's Passport to the World program, December 2009.



REES would like to thank all of the teachers and community organization staff members who worked with us to arrange these fun and educational activities for local K-12 students, as well as our Pitt graduate and undergraduate students and community partners who shared their expertise by delivering presentations. Please see the "Teacher Services" section of this newsletter for more information on how you can work with REES to bring such valuable learning opportunities to the students at your own school, free of charge.

Upcoming Events

INTENSIVE SUMMER LANGUAGE CLASSES AT PITT

The University of Pittsburgh's Slavic and East European Summer Language Institute (SLI) offers intensive courses in a variety of languages each summer. These courses, which attract students from colleges and universities all over the country, are also open to qualified high school students and to adult learners. Classes meet on Monday through Friday for five hours per day, and also include an extensive cultural program giving students hands-on exposure to the music, dances, and cooking of the country whose language they are learning, as well as films and lectures on cultural topics. Most classes are taught by native speakers of the language. Each course covers the equivalent of a full academic year of college-level language study. Students who complete an SLI course receive six to eight University of Pittsburgh credits.

In Summer 2010, four levels of Russian language will be offered at Pitt from **June 7 – July 30**. Courses will also be offered in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, and Slovak from **June 7 – July 16**. Some courses include optional study abroad components. For more information or to request an application form, please contact Christine Metil at (412) 624-5906 or slavic@pitt.edu, or download the form at www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli. Information on Summer 2011 courses will be available on this site in the fall of 2010.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2010

The University of Pittsburgh's annual International Week includes a wide variety of educational and cultural offerings such as lectures, discussions, films, music, dance, arts and crafts, and more, featuring all regions of the world. International

Week 2010 will take place on **September 26 – October 2**. Check www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/intlweek.shtml throughout the summer for updates on the schedule of International Week events. Most events are free and open to the public.

PITT MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2010



The 14th annual Pitt Model United Nations conference on **Monday, November 8, 2010** will provide a stimulating and competitive environment to challenge teams of high school students on an array of internationally provocative issues. The Model UN is a simulation of the sessions of the real United Nations, and is organized by the University of Pittsburgh's international studies centers, Citizens for Global Solutions Pittsburgh, the United Nations Association of Pittsburgh, and Pitt's student Model UN Club. Participating students are able to apply their prior research and studies in a "real-world" context and practice diplomacy, negotiation and resolution writing as they assume the roles of UN delegates. If your school would like to send a team to our Model UN, be sure to register as soon as possible, since this popular event fills up fast! For more information, please visit the Pitt Model United Nations homepage at <http://www.pitt.edu/~modelun>, or contact Luz Amanda Hank at (412) 648-7394 or modelun@pitt.edu.

As in past years, we will offer on-site workshops at individual schools and possibly also a workshop at Pitt to assist you with preparing your students to participate in Model UN. For more information, please contact Dan Giovanelli at (412) 471-7852 or dan@globalsolutionspgh.org.

Upcoming Events



Participants in the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium

“EUROPE: EAST AND WEST” UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The tenth annual “Europe: East and West” Undergraduate Research Symposium will take place at the University of Pittsburgh in Spring 2011. Co-sponsored by the Center for Russian and East European Studies and the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence, this event provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to present their own research papers in an environment similar to that of a graduate-level conference. At the conclusion of the event, winners are selected to receive cash awards based on the quality of their research papers and presentations, as determined by panels of faculty and graduate student judges.

Participants in the ninth annual Symposium on April 9, 2010 included a total of 24 students from Bethany College, Bucknell University, Mercyhurst College, Muhlenberg College, the University of Pittsburgh, and Washington and Jefferson College.

Student presentations focused on a variety of topics related to Eastern, Western and Central Europe and Russia, such as: “The Russian Mafia: Failures of the Yeltsin Government”, “Domestic Policy and Values: The Transatlantic Bargain Challenged”, and “Catholic Responses to the Jewish Question in Vichy France and Hungary during WWII.”

Applications to participate in the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium will be posted this fall on the Symposium website, www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium, and will be due in January. The event will again be open to students from higher educational institutions throughout the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia/Eastern Ohio area. We would like to encourage all faculty members whose undergraduate courses on Europe include research paper assignments to inform their students of the opportunity to participate in the Symposium at Pitt. For more information, please contact Gina Peirce at (412) 648-2290 or gbpeirce@pitt.edu.

The events described above are supported by the Title VI National Resource Center program of the U.S. Department of Education.

Teacher Services Through the REES Outreach Program

TEACHER SERVICES THROUGH THE REES OUTREACH PROGRAM

REES's outreach program offers **expert speakers** free of charge to Pittsburgh area schools (as well as other community organizations). School visitors may speak on a wide variety of topics related to Eastern Europe, Russia and the former USSR, including language, culture, current issues, and the arts. Lessons on the Russian alphabet and basic phrases, folk dancing, Ukrainian egg decorating, etc. are available. A school visit may be requested by contacting REES outreach coordinator Gina Peirce at (412) 648-2290 or gbpeirce@pitt.edu, or by submitting an online form at www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/k12_visits.html.

REES also maintains a **lending library** of educational resources for K-12 and college-level teachers. Available materials include books, maps, videos, slide collections and teachers' curriculum guides covering all countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. To view the current list of materials, please visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/k12_resources.html, or contact Gina Peirce to have a hard copy of the resource directory mailed to you. Materials are lent to educators free of charge for two-week periods, and may be renewed. Most materials are available for lending by mail.

Our resource collection includes eleven **curriculum guides** to those Central and East European nations that either already became members of the European Union, or are on a path to EU membership in upcoming years. Guides are available on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. All of the guides may be viewed, printed or downloaded free of charge on the "Outreach World" website at www.outreachworld.org/center.asp?centerid=130.



Curriculum guides to Central and East European nations of the European Union, available for download on the Outreach World website (see address below).

(If you prefer to receive hard copies of one or more of the guides by mail, please contact Gina Peirce.) The "Outreach World" website also is a valuable source of downloadable educational resources developed by international studies programs at universities throughout the country. You can search these resources at www.outreachworld.org/searchresources.asp.

The REES curriculum guides provide an overview of the history and current political situation of the new and soon-to-be European Union member countries, as well as various cultural topics such as national customs, holidays, cuisine, music, and educational systems. They include lists of additional resources to consult for more in-depth information on particular subjects. The guides are organized into sections of approximately one to five pages, each of which can be used independently of the rest, so that educators may select specific sections to print for use as handouts in class. While primarily designed for use in high school social studies and world culture classes, the guides are also appropriate for use in introductory college-level courses, and

Teacher Services Through the REES Outreach Program

may be particularly useful for preparing students to study abroad.

In addition, REES works together with the African, Asian, European Union, Global, International Business, and Latin American Studies programs at the University of Pittsburgh to organize annual **professional development workshops** on teaching international studies, as well as events for secondary school students such as Model United Nations and international career days (please see “Upcoming Events” for more information).

If you would like to be added to the main **REES mailing list** and receive the monthly calendar of REES activities, including weekly lectures on the Pitt campus, film screenings and other special community events, please contact the Center for Russian and East European Studies at (412) 648-7407 or crees@pitt.edu. If you are not currently on the **K-12 teachers’ mailing list**, and would like to be added to this list to receive the TREES newsletter and event announcements for K-12 teachers and students, please contact Gina Peirce at (412) 648-2290 or gbpeirce@pitt.edu.

The REES School Visits Program, resource lending library, professional development workshops and other outreach events are supported by the Title VI National Resource Center program of the U.S. Department of Education.



Pitt Law students Gunesh Bakgalova of Turkmenistan and Aleksandra Williams of Russia share cultural items with children at the 2009 Collegiate YMCA International Festival.



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