

Teachers of Russian and East European Studies



University of Pittsburgh
Volume 11, Issue 1 Summer 2009



REES Partners With Schenley High School's New Russian Language Program

As a National Resource Center selected for Title VI funding by the U.S. Department of Education, the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) views educational outreach as a core component of its mission. We at REES constantly seek to direct our human and material resources to supporting K-12 and college educators at all types of schools in teaching their students about Russian and East European cultures, languages, history, politics and societies. In 2008-09, we were honored to form a particularly fruitful partnership with the Pittsburgh Public Schools' new Russian language program, which is based at Pittsburgh Schenley High School in its new location at

the former Reizenstein building. Russian language instruction was offered to Schenley students this year through the school's prestigious International Baccalaureate program.

REES partnered with Schenley's Russian instructor, Devin Browne, on several activities this year to increase the students' understanding of the cultural context within which Russian and other Slavic languages are spoken. REES graduate student Alexandra Williams of the Pitt Law School, a native of Russia, delivered a presentation on Russian holidays (complete with samples of holiday candy) to the class in January 2009. In April 2009, Stephen Haluszczak of the Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute gave a hands-on presentation on the art of decorating traditional Ukrainian pysanky eggs, at which the students had the opportunity to create their own colorful egg designs. In May 2009, the Schenley students performed a traditional Russian dance at the Pittsburgh Public Schools' "World Arts and Culture Showcase" program, held at CAPA High School's Black Box Theatre. REES Associate Director Emilia Zankina, a former member of the Duquesne Tamburitzans and dance teacher at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, helped the students to learn the dance and prepare for their performance.



Pittsburgh Schenley High School students perform a Russian dance at the World Arts and Culture Showcase.



REES looks forward to continuing our cooperation with the Pittsburgh Public Schools' Russian language program in 2009-10, when the current "Schenley at Reizenstein" facility is scheduled to begin housing a combined middle and high school level International Baccalaureate magnet school.

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 2009, four levels of Russian language will be offered at Pitt from **June 8 – July 31**. Courses will also be offered in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Polish, and Slovak from **June 8 – July 17**. 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 <http://sli.slavic.pitt.edu>. Information on Summer 2010 courses will be available through the SLI in the fall of 2009.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2009

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 2009 will take place on **September 27 – October 3**. Check <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/internationalweek/> 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 2009

The 13th annual Pitt Model United Nations conference on Monday, **November 9, 2009** 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.

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS: A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

The International Connections program is held each spring at the University of Pittsburgh campus to provide information to African-American students from local high schools on study abroad and internationally oriented career opportunities.



Participants in the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium

Speakers include Pitt faculty members, staff, and alumni in international careers, as well as current Pitt students who have studied or lived abroad. Small group discussion sessions facilitate interaction between the speakers, the participating high school students and their teachers. The program is organized by the University of Pittsburgh's international studies centers and Study Abroad Office. For information on bringing your students to attend International Connections 2010, please contact Gina Peirce at (412) 648-2290 or gbpeirce@pitt.edu.

“EUROPE: EAST AND WEST” UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The ninth annual “Europe: East and West” Undergraduate Research Symposium will take place at the University of Pittsburgh in Spring 2010. 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, several 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 eighth annual Symposium on March 27, 2009 included a total of 24 students

from Bethany College, Dickinson College, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh – Greensburg campus, the University of Pittsburgh – Oakland campus, Washington and Jefferson College, and West Virginia Wesleyan College. Student presentations focused on a variety of topics related to Eastern, Western and Central Europe and Russia, such as: “Income Inequality and Population Growth Rates: An Analysis of Post-Industrial Europe”, “The Annan Plan for Cyprus: An Unsuccessful Negotiation”, and “Democracy, Dilemmas, and Dissension: The 2008 Russian Presidential Election and Russia’s Unique Democratic Structure.”

Applications to participate in the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium will be posted this fall on the Symposium website, <http://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

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, 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/schvis.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.outreachworld.org/resource.asp?Curriculumid=406, 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 ten **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, 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. (If you prefer to receive hard copies of one or more of the guides by mail,



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

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 may be particularly useful for preparing students to study abroad.

In addition, REES works together with the African, Asian, Global, Latin American, and European 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 and 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.



Russian language students at Schenley High School learn how to decorate pysanky eggs.



Contact:

Gina Peirce
Assistant Director/Outreach Coordinator
Center for Russian and East European Studies
4400 Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 648-2290
gbpeirce@pitt.edu

Staff of the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Robert M. Hayden, Director	rhayden@pitt.edu
Emilia Zankina, Associate Director	zankina@pitt.edu
Eileen O'Malley, Assistant Director	slainte@pitt.edu
Gina Peirce, Assistant Director/Outreach Coordinator	gbpeirce@pitt.edu
Vera Sebulsky, Program Manager	ved5@pitt.edu
Julie Tvaruzek, Editorial Assistant	jnt10@pitt.edu
Anna Talone, Secretary/Visitor Exchange Coordinator	ant28@pitt.edu
General mailbox	crees@pitt.edu
Outreach program home page	http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/comout.html

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh

Departmental e-mail:	slavic@pitt.edu
Home page:	http://www.pitt.edu/~slavic
Slavic film collection directory:	http://www.pitt.edu/AFShome/s/l/slavic/public/html/video

Center for Russian and East European Studies
4400 Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PITTSBURGH, PA PERMIT NO. 511

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED