



TEACHERS OF RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

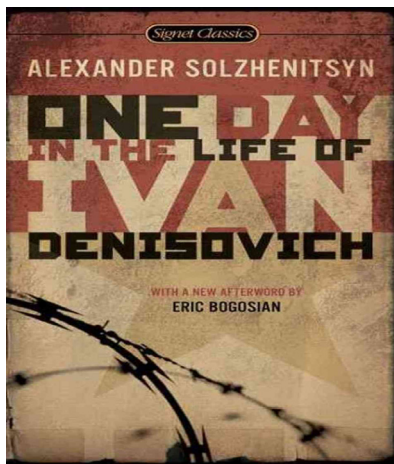
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RECENT EVENTS

TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AT PITT

On February 11, 2014, REES and Pitt's Global Studies Center presented a professional development workshop for secondary school teachers as part of a monthly series on "Global Issues through Literature," sponsored by the University's international and area studies centers. Dr. Joshua Andy, history teacher at Pittsburgh's Winchester Thurston School, and Dr. Roger Rouse of Pitt's Department of Anthropology led a lively discussion with the participating teachers on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's famous novel about the Soviet gulag, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. The workshop situated Solzhenitsyn's novel within the contexts of Russian and world history and human rights, while exploring how the book may be used for teaching secondary school history, social studies, and literature classes.



Additionally, on March 5, REES and Pitt's other international studies centers co-sponsored an interactive, hands-on professional development workshop to help teachers improve their use of social media websites and related tools for educational and personal use. For information on more upcoming professional development opportunities through REES and Pitt's other area studies centers, please contact Gina Peirce at gbpeirce@pitt.edu.

SCHOOL VISITS ON HISTORY AND CULTURES OF RUSSIA/EAST EUROPE

In November 2013, REES organized a visit by two advanced undergraduate students from Pitt's Russian and East European Studies certificate program, Kevin Lyter and Werner Selle, to West Hempfield, Harrold, and Wendover Middle Schools in Irwin and Greensburg, PA. The Pitt visitors spoke to social studies classes at the three schools about the fall of the Soviet Union and its political consequences up to the present day.

In addition, this winter REES hosted visits by two groups of high school students from the Winchester Thurston School to the Pitt campus to tour the Nationality Rooms and discuss Russian language and culture with Center for Russian and East European Studies staff members. Finally, REES arranged for Pitt Ph.D. candidate Evgeny Postnikov to speak about Russian life and culture to 200 students at Elizabeth Forward Middle School in Elizabeth, PA in February 2014 through the Student Ambassador Program, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and Pitt's Global Studies Center.

To arrange a presentation for your school focusing on a country or topic of your choice from the Russian and East European world area, please contact Gina Peirce at gbpeirce@pitt.edu.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

PITT MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2014

The 18th annual Pitt Model United Nations conference on Monday, November 10, 2014 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, Global Solutions Education Fund 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 website at www.pitt.edu/~modelun/generalinfor.html, or contact Diana Shemenski at (412) 648-7394 or modelun@pitt.edu.

As in past years, we will offer on-site workshops at individual schools to assist you with preparing your students to participate in Model UN. For more information, please contact Laura Amster at laura@globalsolutionspgh.org.

EUROPE: EAST AND WEST UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

In Spring 2015, REES will present the 14th annual "Europe: East and West" Undergraduate Research Symposium along with Pitt's European Studies Center/ European Union Center of Excellence and International Business Center. 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, and to receive constructive feedback from panels of faculty and graduate student discussants.

Participants in the 13th annual Symposium on April 11, 2014 included a total of 27 students from 15 educational institutions, including American University, Brandeis University, Dickinson College, Macalester College, Mercyhurst University, Muhlenberg College, North Carolina State University, Northwestern University, Occidental College, Science Po Paris (Paris Institute of Political Science) in Reims, France, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, University of Washington, Washington & Jefferson College, and Williams College. This was one of the most geographically diverse participant groups in the history of the Symposium, with schools from eight U.S. states and two countries represented. Student presentations focused on a wide variety of topics, such as: "Orthodox, Soviet, or Anti-Western? Examining the Roots of Russia's Anti-Gay Legislation", "Islam in Chechnya: Political or Religious?" and "The EU Data Directive: Uniting Europe and Dividing Privacy."



Student presenters and discussants at the 2014 Europe: East and West Undergraduate Research Symposium at Pitt.

Applications to participate in the 2015 Undergraduate Research Symposium will be posted this fall on the event website with a deadline in January. The event will again be open to students from higher educational institutions throughout the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia/Eastern Ohio area and beyond. We would like to encourage all faculty members whose undergraduate courses on Western or Eastern Europe, the European Union, Russia, or the former Soviet Union include research paper assignments to inform their students of the opportunity to participate in the Symposium at

Pitt. For more information, please contact Susan Hicks at smhicks@pitt.edu or visit the Symposium website at www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium.

INTENSIVE SUMMER LANGUAGE CLASSES AT PITT

The University of Pittsburgh's Slavic, East European and Near Eastern 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 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 ten University of Pittsburgh credits.

In Summer 2014, four levels of Russian language and one level each of Arabic and Turkish will be offered at Pitt from June 9 – August 1. Courses will also be offered in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, and Ukrainian from June 9 – July 18. 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 sliaadmin@pitt.edu, or download the form at www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli. Information on Summer 2015 courses will be available on this site in the fall of 2014.

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

PROJECT GO

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR ROTC STUDENTS



REES and Pitt's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures have received federal grants for the past two years from the Project GO (Global Officers) program to provide Russian language training to locally and nationally recruited students from the Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC. Project GO is sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office and administered by the Institute of International Education.

This year, REES awarded Project GO fellowships consisting of full summer tuition plus a living stipend to 21 ROTC students from Pitt and other colleges and universities throughout the U.S. Some are participating in the University of Pittsburgh Summer Language Institute's beginning or intermediate intensive Russian

language courses at Pitt, while others will attend an advanced Russian language program at the University of Tartu in Narva, Estonia in June – August 2014. Fellowship recipients who take beginning Russian this summer will have the opportunity to complete a blended (in-person/online) intermediate Russian course sequence in the 2014-15 academic year, which is scheduled in the evenings and made available via videoconferencing to Project GO students located outside of the Pittsburgh region. Students who successfully complete both the intensive beginning summer course and the intermediate academic year course sequence will then have the opportunity to enroll in an eight-week advanced Russian language program abroad during the summer of 2015. In addition to these courses, Pitt's Project GO provides ROTC students with Russian language practice through free individual tutoring, a weekly conversation table, and cultural events.

For information about how ROTC students at your school can apply for Project GO fellowships to begin Russian language study in Summer 2015, please visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/projectgo or contact REES Program Manager Dawn Seckler at das200@pitt.edu.

TEACHER SERVICES

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 other countries of the former Soviet Union, 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.

REES also maintains a lending library of educational resources for K-12 and college-level teachers. Available materials include books, maps, videos, audio CDs, 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/outreach/resources, 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 12 curriculum guides to those Central and East European nations that either already became members of the European Union, or are on a path to possible EU membership in upcoming years. Guides are available on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, 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 REES website at www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/outreach/resources/curriculumguides. (If you prefer to receive hard copies of one or more of the guides by mail, please contact Gina Peirce.)

The REES curriculum guides provide an overview of the history and current political situation of each country, 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, 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.

Another way of staying up to date on Pitt's internationally themed events and resources for teachers is to like our Facebook page, "Pitt K-12 International Studies Resource," at <https://www.facebook.com/K12IntlOutreach>.

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.

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