

Teachers of Russian and East European Studies



University of Pittsburgh
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Upcoming Events

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP: "ART, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS"

On **Thursday, June 14, 2012** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) and the University of Pittsburgh's other international area studies centers will present a professional development workshop for secondary school teachers on the theme of "Art, Technology & Social Movements." This workshop will be held at City of Asylum on the North Side of Pittsburgh (<http://cityofasylumpittsburgh.org/>). It will open with an introductory talk on contemporary social movements in global perspective. The workshop will also feature presentations by Pitt scholars focusing on East Asia, Russia and the Middle East. Teachers in attendance will have the opportunity to earn Act 48 hours. Pre-registration is required; to register, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/art614>.

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 ten University of Pittsburgh credits.

In Summer 2012, four levels of Russian language will be offered at Pitt from **June 4 – July 27**. Courses will also be offered in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Slovak, and Turkish from **June 4 – July 13**. 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 2013 courses will be available on this site in the fall of 2012.

PITT MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2012

The 16th annual Pitt Model United Nations conference on **Monday, November 5, 2012** 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 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 to assist you with preparing

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Upcoming Events (cont'd.)

your students to participate in Model UN. For more information, please contact Dan Giovanelli at (412) 471-7852 or dan@globalsolutionspgh.org.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2012

The University of Pittsburgh's annual International Week includes a wide variety of educational and cultural offerings such as lectures, discussions, films, music, dance, food, arts and crafts, and more featuring all regions of the world. International Week 2012 will take place on **November 12 – 17**, coinciding with the nationwide International Education Week sponsored by U.S. Departments of State and Education. Check www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/intlweek.shtml throughout the summer and fall for updates on the schedule of International Week events. Most events are free and open to the public.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

In **Spring 2013**, REES and Pitt's European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence will present the 12th annual "Europe: East and West" Undergraduate Research Symposium. 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 11th annual Symposium on March 30, 2012 included a total of 21 students from Bethany College, Chestnut Hill College, James Madison University, Oakland University, Otto-von-Guricke University of Magdeburg (Germany), Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh, Wake Forest University, and Washington & Jefferson College. This was the most geographically diverse group of participants in the history of the Symposium, with institutions from five U.S. states represented as well as the first participant from a non-U.S. university. Student presentations focused on a variety of topics, such as: "EU Counterterrorism Policies," "The Russian Nation as a Political Tool for Justifying Authoritarianism:



Participants in the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium at Pitt

From Nicholas I to Vladimir Putin," and "Parallel Experiences: German Nationalism, Catharsis, and Memory in the First World War."

Applications to participate in the 2013 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 Gina Peirce at (412) 648-2290 or gbpeirce@pitt.edu, or visit the Symposium website at www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium.

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

Past Events

FABERGÉ AT THE FRICK

Over the past few years, REES has pursued several successful outreach collaborations with local arts and cultural organizations. Most recently, in the fall of 2011, REES worked with the Frick Art and Historical Center of Pittsburgh on a series of educational programs in connection with the “Fabergé at the Frick” exhibit, featuring over 100 decorative objects made by the House of Fabergé. Dr. Sean Guillory, a REES postdoctoral fellow in Pitt’s Department of History, presented several lectures on tsarist-period Russian history for museum docent training sessions and K-12 teachers’ professional development workshops. Pitt’s Carpathian Music Ensemble, led by Dr. Adriana Helbig, performed a special “Sounds of Russia” concert at the Frick. REES outreach coordinator Gina Peirce helped to organize several Russian and Slavic-themed activities for children and their families on “Family Fun Day: A Fabergé Holiday,” including a demonstration of Ukrainian pysanky decoration by Stephen Haluszczak of the Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute (UCHI), and a folktale performance from the group Russian Matryoshki led by REES alumna Aleksandra Williams. All of these activities helped to enhance knowledge and appreciation of Russian and other Slavic cultures and history among members of the Pittsburgh community.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF COLOR IN SLAVIC STUDIES (STC)

Following upon REES’s highly successful February 2011 symposium on “African-American Perspectives on Russian and Slavic Studies” (highlighted in the Spring 2011 issue of TREES), the first annual meeting of the new Association for Students and Teachers of Color in Slavic Studies (STC) was held at the November convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in Washington, DC, with Gina Peirce from REES in attendance. This meeting brought together approximately 25 faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, including a group of Russian language students from historically black Howard University, and staff of educational organizations working in the REES world area.

STC’s mission statement declares that the group is “dedicated to better connecting and expanding the network of minority scholars working in the profession. The Association is committed to improving general understanding of the unique challenges faced by



Stephen Haluszczak demonstrates the art of Ukrainian pysanky decoration on Family Fun Day at the Frick Art Museum

students and educators of color studying, teaching, and conducting research in and about the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The Association seeks to serve as a platform for discussions of race and ethnicity in the region.” At the November 2011 meeting, STC members selected officers and planned activities for the upcoming year, including the establishment of a group newsletter and enhancement of its social media outlets. REES looks forward to continuing to work with this important initiative.

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS: CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR WORLD

Together with Pitt’s other area studies programs and International Business Center, REES presented the annual “International Connections” program on February 9, 2012 to inform minority high school students in the Pittsburgh region of a broad range of international studies and career opportunities. This event featured a panel of young African-American professionals working in international fields, including teacher and former Peace Corps volunteer Angela Dunlap Ayukachale, freelance journalist and former Fulbright awardee Terrell Starr, and Nicholas Hamilton-Archer, Director of Operations for Pitt’s Executive MBA Worldwide program. After the opening panel presentations, the high school students in attendance participated in small group discussions with the panelists, along with Pitt international studies advisors and study abroad returnees. Also on February 9, Mr. Starr delivered a lecture for Pitt students, staff and faculty on his experiences as an African-American scholar conducting research on the African diaspora in Ukraine.

For information on bringing your students to attend Pitt’s next “International Connections” program in 2013, please contact Gina Peirce at gbpeirce@pitt.edu or (412) 648-2290.

Past Events (cont'd.)



GLOBAL EXPLORATION AT HAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Recent REES/Pitt Law School alumna Aleksandra Williams gave a presentation on Russian arts and culture at a special end-of-year assembly at Hampton Middle School on May 11, 2012. The assembly was designed to celebrate Hampton eighth graders' exploration of the cultures of China, Russia, Dubai and India through a new course on "Global Networking and Exploration." This class encouraged students to think beyond the West European countries with which they were most familiar in order to learn about other emerging world cultures and languages. The Hampton Township School District also collaborated with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh to create the assembly program featuring these four cultures.

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

Aleksandra Williams speaks about Russian culture at Hampton Middle School



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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/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. (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 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.

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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