



University of Pittsburgh
SUMMER 2013 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

REES NEWSLETTER

TEACHERS OF RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

RECENT REES OUTREACH EVENTS

Panel Discussion With Pittsburgh Irish And Classical Theatre

In recent years, Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) has engaged in a number of fruitful outreach collaborations with local arts and cultural organizations. This spring REES worked with the Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre (PICT), Polish Cultural Council, Classrooms Without Borders, and Pitt's Jewish Studies, European Studies and Global Studies centers to present a panel discussion on May 5 in connection with PICT's production of the play "Our Class." The play addressed the theme of genocide against Polish Jews during World War II, while the panel investigated "Good Neighbors, Bad Neighbors: How War and Conflict Change Us," with emphasis on relations between different national, ethnic and religious groups living in close proximity to each other during periods of violent conflict. Former US Ambassador and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* columnist Daniel Simpson moderated the panel, which included faculty experts from Princeton University, Penn State University and the University of Pittsburgh.

REES will collaborate further with PICT in Summer 2013 on community outreach programming connected with a production based on Leo Tolstoy's famous story, "The Kreutzer Sonata." Such outreach activities help to enhance

knowledge and appreciation of Russian and East European history and cultures among members of the Pittsburgh-area community. More information about this season's PICT productions is available at picttheatre.org/plays-events/2013-season/.

Teachers' Workshop: "Global Issues Through Literature"

On February 5, 2013, 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. The February workshop introduced participants to cross-cultural comparisons between Russia and the U.S. through discussion of the essay collection *Amerika: Russian Writers View the United States*. Irina Anisimova and Andrew Chapman, both doctoral candidates in Pitt's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, facilitated the workshop session and explored ways that teachers could introduce material from the book into their classrooms. 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.

Elementary School Cultural Visits

In Fall 2012, REES organized visits by

two speakers to local elementary schools to speak to the students about East European cultures. Maja Konitzer, a native of Serbia who currently works at Pitt's Global Studies Center, visited Kentucky Avenue School in Shadyside to give a presentation including Serbian music (complete with live accordion performance), words and phrases in the language, story books, food, family life, and other cultural topics. In addition, local community member Iryna Bidochko visited Ramsey Elementary School in Monroeville to give a presentation on several aspects of Ukrainian culture. To arrange a cultural presentation at your school on a country(ies) of your choice from the Russian and East European world area, please contact Gina Peirce at gbpeirce@pitt.edu.



Maja Konitzer shows her accordion to children at Kentucky Avenue School during her presentation on Serbian culture.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Intensive Summer Language Classes At Pitt

The University of Pittsburgh's Russian 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 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 2013, four levels of Russian language will be offered at Pitt from June 3 – July 26. Courses will also be offered in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Slovak, and Turkish from June 3 – July 12. 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 2014 courses will be available on this site in the fall of 2013.



Pitt Model United Nations club members.

Pitt Model United Nations Conference 2013

The 17th annual Pitt Model United Nations conference on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 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 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 your students to participate in Model UN. For more information, please contact Michele Cahill at cahillmichele@gmail.com.

Europe: East And West Undergraduate Research Symposium

In Spring 2014, REES will present the 13th 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 12th annual Symposium on April 12, 2013 included a total of 29 students from 16 educational institutions, including the College of Saint Elizabeth, College of William and Mary,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dickinson College, Kalamazoo College, Mercyhurst University, New College of Florida, New York University, SUNY Fredonia, Temple University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Bristol (UK), University of Oklahoma, University of Pittsburgh, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Washington & Jefferson College, and York University (Canada). This was the most geographically diverse group of participants in the history of the Symposium, with schools from nine US states and two other countries represented. Student presentations focused on a wide variety of topics, such as: “Redefining Foreignness: Second Wave Black Metal, Xenophobic Violence, and the Price of Cultural Capital,” “Of Pride and Prejudice: An Analysis of the Two 2012 Belgrade Pride Parades,” and “Media Coverage of Euroscepticism in Great Britain.”

Applications to participate in the 2014 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 gipeirce@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.



Students present their papers at the 2013 Europe: East and West Undergraduate Research Symposium at Pitt.

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 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 avail-

able 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 "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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

New Scholarship Opportunity For ROTC Students

REES and Pitt's Department of Slavic Language and Literatures received a federal grant this year 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. Seven Pittsburgh-area ROTC students enrolled in beginning and intermediate Russian language courses at Pitt in the 2012-13 academic year, including a hybrid (in-person/online) beginning Russian course sequence that was scheduled in the evening to accommodate non-traditional student schedules. A hybrid intermediate Russian course sequence, to be

launched in Fall 2013, will be available via videoconferencing to Project GO students at colleges and universities beyond the Pittsburgh region. Pitt's Project GO is also providing ROTC students with Russian language practice through free individual tutoring, a weekly conversation table and a series of cultural events.

Pitt's Summer Language Institute (SLI) awarded Project GO fellowships, consisting of full summer tuition plus a living stipend, to 16 ROTC students from throughout the U.S. to participate in either the SLI's Russian language program in Pittsburgh and Moscow or the intensive Russian program at Pitt in Summer 2013. Fellowship recipients will have the opportunity to complete the hybrid intermediate Russian course sequence in 2013-14, followed by a new eight-week advanced study abroad

course for ROTC students to be held in Russia during the 2014 SLI. Most of these students are enrolled at home institutions that do not offer Russian language courses; therefore, REES is pleased with this success in reaching out to underserved populations to provide critical language training. In addition, a high percentage of Project GO students major in engineering or other STEM fields, and thus belong to yet another underserved group in international studies.

For information about how ROTC students at your school can apply for Project GO fellowships to begin Russian language study in Summer 2014, please visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/projectgo.html or contact Dawn Seckler at das200@pitt.edu.

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SLAVIC DEPARTMENT: www.slavic.pitt.edu

SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN FILM COLLECTION: www.pitt.edu/~slavic/video



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