

NEWS

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Separatist Conflicts Challenge New Georgian President

by Julie George

When Mikheil Saakashvili became president of Georgia after the Rose Revolution of 2003, one of his first promises was to restore the territory of Georgia, reclaiming the separatist territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Current UN recognition understands both Abkhazia and South Ossetia as Georgian territory, but both operate independently of Georgian law and influence. Of the many bold promises by the young leader, the assurance of territorial unity is his most ambitious.

The politics of Soviet dissolution created opportunities for separatism in the successor states. In Georgia, several factors helped spur the secessionist movements by Abkhazia and South Ossetia. First, the independence movements of the Union Republics (such as Georgia) created a precedent for the Soviet ethnic autonomies to make similar claims for independence and sovereignty, as they did in Chechnya, and Nagorno-Karabakh. Second, the politics of nationalism that helped drive Union Republic independence affected regional politics as well, mobilizing regional ethnic identity (the Abkhaz in Abkhazia, the Ossetes in South Ossetia) and also engendering feelings of alienation by Georgians, who were experiencing their own nationalist surge. Finally, the weakness of the Georgian government and military, combined with external support for both regional governments, created a possibility for military success for the separatist regions.

Georgia experienced three wars between 1990 and 1994, two of secession and one civil war. The first president of Georgia, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, initiated a policy to create a unitary state within Georgia by revoking the autonomous status of South Ossetia. National leaders in South Ossetia responded with a petition to leave Georgia and join the Soviet Union as part of the Russian Republic. Georgian militia groups clashed with South Ossetian forces before signing a ceasefire in 1992, without a permanent political resolution to date. South Ossetia enjoys a porous border with Russia and teems



Map used with permission, GlobalSecurity.org
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/georgia.htm>

with contraband goods: foodstuffs and products for the local markets (Georgian and South Ossetian alike), as well as petroleum, illegal drugs, and weapons for arming Chechen and Georgian (anti-Abkhaz) militia groups.

Gamsakhurdia did not take commensurate action against Abkhazia, although the Abkhaz continued to appeal variously for autonomy, sovereignty, and ultimately independence from Georgia. Gamsakhurdia's power waned and his eventual ouster led to civil war as



Iveria Hotel: The Iveria Hotel housed about 1000 Georgians displaced by the Abkhaz war. Families of four lived in single hotel rooms for over ten years. Recently, the Iveria Hotel, a Western company, purchased the hotel, giving each family \$7,000 for relocation.

militias from his native western Georgia (called Zviadists) battled with Tbilisi-based groups to reinstate him. The Zviadists, based just under Abkhazia, were ultimately routed. Victorious militia groups invited Eduard Shevardnadze into Georgian executive power. Spurred by their political success, Georgian militia

groups based nearby entered Abkhazia to consolidate Georgian power there. War ensued as Abkhaz militias, aided by Chechen troops and Russian arms, fought back. In Abkhazia, where Georgians were 48% of the population and the Abkhaz 18%, most of the Georgian population fled the region entirely, with over 250,000 people newly homeless and jobless. According to Human Rights Watch, both sides committed war crimes against soldiers and civilians,

a common occurrence in ethnic wars. Saakashvili's pledge to bring Abkhazia and South Ossetia back into Georgian control faces several challenges, the most imposing being the search for peaceful leverage to attract the separatist



Abkhazia Destruction: This is what remains of the former headquarters of the Communist Party in Sukhum(i). The Abkhaz *de facto* government has not been able to resort all the devastation from the war, so one in four buildings in Sukhum(i) remains in ruins.

regions back into Georgia.

Contraband flowing through the uncontrolled borders of South Ossetia foments corruption and degrades incentives for peace on all sides. Saakashvili has actively combated corruption within the central government and established customs controls in South Ossetia to varying degrees of success. The *de facto* government of South Ossetia has resisted these measures, and sporadic violence has returned to the region in the last year.

The ongoing discussion of repatriation of the Georgians displaced during the war presents an ongoing hurdle to conflict resolution in Abkhazia. The *de facto* Abkhazian government's official position has been one agreeing with full rights of return in principle, although in practice most attempts to repatriate Georgian families has ended with violence. A key factor in the practical policy for the Abkhaz government would be the demographic impact of a comprehensive return of Georgians to Abkhazian territory. As a result of the war, the Abkhaz hold a stark majority in the region.

The final obstacle to a political resolution of the separatist questions is the most daunting to Georgians, Russia's continued involvement in the regions. Russia's position towards Abkhazia and South Ossetia is contradictory, at one time recognizing the two regions as part of Georgian territory, but later exploiting Georgia's weakness to grant South Ossetians and Abkhazians Russian citizenship. As a result, Georgian officials often frame the separatist wars in terms of wars with Russia, not with the regions themselves – a tendency that exacerbates already conflictual negotiation efforts between the central and *de facto* governments.

Saakashvili's strategy thus far has been to attempt corruption reform while establishing strong relationships with the West in order to deter continued Russian intervention. He has departed from the policies of his predecessors who both sought to create a Georgian unitary state, in January offering South Ossetia the autonomous status it lost in 1990. So far, these policies have had little short-term effect on consolidating Georgian power. The anti-corruption campaign in South Ossetia was met with violence, the offer of autonomy rebuffed. Even so, the president of Georgia has demonstrated his intent to find a resolution to these problems that have plagued Georgia since its independence, guaranteeing tumultuous affairs among the actors in the region in the near future.

Julie George is a doctoral candidate in the Government Department. She spent a year in Georgia on a Fulbright IIE grant, and is currently supported by a FLAS fellowship. Her dissertation deals with secession and autonomy in Russia and Georgia.

Our thanks to Julie George for her presentation in conjunction with the Symposium on the Art and Culture of the Republic of Georgia!

March/ April

March 3	The Graves of Sarmatian Nobility in Ukraine Dr. Oleksandr Symonenko, University of Pennsylvania Classics Lounge, WAG 116	12:30pm
March 4	Scythian and Ancient Greek Applied Arts (7th-4th Century BC) Dr. Aleksander Leskov, University of Pennsylvania Doty Fine Arts Building 2.204	3:30pm
March 5	Explore UT! See page 7 for a description of all CREEES events!	11am-5pm
March 10	Bridging Cultures: Austin to Stanterg Dita Dauti-Heilman, founder of 400 Voices Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102	3:30pm
March 14-18	Spring Break	
March 28	The Caucasian Blues: The Chechen War in Film Dr. Thomas J. Garza, CREEES Director Parlin 203	3pm
April 7	The Holocaust on German-Occupied Soviet Territory and the Response of Soviet Jewish Intellectuals Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA and Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University Eastwoods Room, Texas Union, 2.102	1pm
April 9	Olympiada of Spoken Russian All-day testing of Russian language-skills for high school students	
April 23	Russia Day! Students from Central Texas will descend on the UT campus to be immersed in Russian culture. Students will learn the Cyrillic alphabet, play Russian games, experience Russian food, and explore the history and culture of this fascinating country.	
Don't forget to visit the CREEES calendar page online for updates and additions! http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/creees/		

Czech Film Festival

The Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies is showing the best of Czech cinema every Wednesday at 5pm in CAL422. All movies have English subtitles.

- March 2: Na Samote U Lesa (A Cottage by Wood)
- March 9: Post Coitum (Post Coitum)
- March 23: Rozmarne Leto (Capricious Summer)
- March 30: Je Treba Zabit Sekala (Sekal has to Die)
- April 6: Divoke Vcely (Wild Bees)
- April 13: Anel Exit (Angel Exit)
- April 20: Vychova Divek v Cechach (Bringing Up Girls in Bohemia)
- April 27: Bolero (Bolero)
- May 4: Slavnosti Snezenek (Snowdrop Festivities)



GEORGIA: History, Legends, Myths and Stories

“Georgia is a hospitable country, built by a good architect, with very beautiful people with light skin and eyes”. (Strabo, 1 century).

As early as ancient times, the Black Sea coastal country Georgia (then Colchis) attracted the attention of the cultural world. The first data concerning Georgia are ascribed to Greek and Roman authors, such as Herodotus, Xenophon, Strabo, Plutarch, Tacitus, Flavius Ariane, Archangelo Lamberti, Chardin, and others.

Western Georgia, known as Colchis, was famous for its wealth. Greeks knew of this fabled wealth of western Georgia, described in such legends as Medea and the Golden Fleece. According to Greek Mythology, Jason and the Argonauts sailed to Colchis in search of the Golden Fleece and found a great civilization already flourishing.

Georgia is known as the homeland of the first European. The fact that Georgian and German archeologists found fragments of an ancient human skeleton about 1.8 million years ago attests to the antiquity of the first European’s age. “Georgia is the country of the first Europeans and the discoveries of Georgian scientists put the age of the first Europeans at twice what we formerly thought.” (from “Le Monde”).

According to official sources the first Georgian state was founded 4,000 years ago. The Georgians themselves tell the following story about how they came



Svaneti region, Ushguli village

to possess the land they deem the most beautiful. When God was distributing portions of the world to all the peoples of the Earth, the Georgians were having a party. As a result they arrived late and were told by God that all the land had already been distributed. When they replied that they were late only because they had been lifting their glasses in praise of Him, God was pleased and gave the Georgians that part of Earth he had been reserving for himself.

Georgia has a favorable geographic location situated in the Caucasus, between the Black and Caspian Seas, neighboring Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey, with an area of 69.700 km² and a population of 4.37 million people. Mild Subtropical climate, natural resources, glorious mountains, and sunny sea side make Georgia a very attractive tourist site.



Georgia is known for its wine. Today there are between 500 and 1,000 varieties of grapes in Georgia with almost every village producing its own wine. Stone wine presses and clay containers have been found in Georgia that date back to the 3rd Century B.C.,



and wine leaves and stems have been found in Bronze Age tombs. Most churches are decorated with some kind of vine ornamentation. It was also from here that viticulture spread to many European countries. Xenophon (401-400) recalled in his writings “that Caucasian tribe who lived on the Black sea coast prepared strong wine.”

Georgians do not call themselves Georgians but *Kartvelebi* and their land *Sakartvelo*. These names are derived from the pagan god Kartlos, said to be the father of all Georgians. The foreign name Georgia, used throughout Western Europe, is mistakenly believed to come from the country’s patron St. George. Actually it is derived from the names *Kurj* or *Gurj*, by which they are known to the Arabs and modern Persians. Another theory purports that the name comes from the Greek *geo* (earth); because when the Greeks came to Georgia they saw the Georgians working the land. The Classical world knew the inhabitants of eastern Georgia as Iberians, thus confusing the geographers of antiquity who thought this name applied only to the inhabitants of Spain. The Romans called it *Iberi* and the people *Iberians*; The Slaves called it *Iveria* and the peoples *Ivers*.

The official language is Georgian, the only language in the Iberan-Caucasian family written in ancient script, with its own unique alphabet, being one of the 14 existing alphabets in the world. Georgia has an old tradition of epic literature, art, beautiful polyphonic songs, dynamic dancing, ancient legends, cities, fortresses,

castles and monasteries.

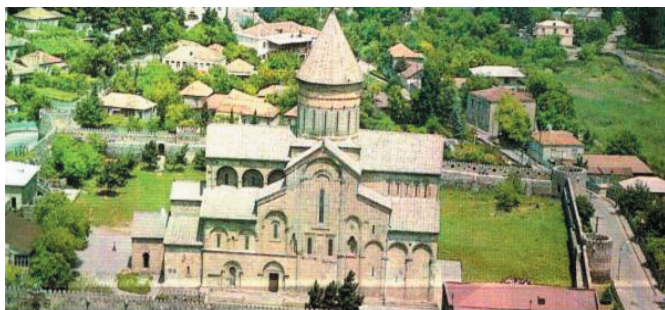
Georgia is known for its rich and unique folk dance and music. The Georgian State Dance Company,



founded in the 1940s, has traveled around the world performing spectacular renditions of traditional Georgian dances. Unique in the folk-dancing tradition, Georgian male performers dance on their toes without the help of special blocked shoes. Georgian folk music, featuring complex, three-part, polyphonic harmonies, has long been a subject of special interest among musicologists. Most Georgian folk songs are peculiar to individual regions of Georgia. The inspiration is most often religious, work, or special occasions. Dancer and choreographer George Balanchine; Lexo Toradze, pianist who lives in the U.S.; opera singer Paata Burchuladze; and prima ballerina Nino Ananiashvili are among many famous Georgians.



Christianity became the state religion in 337 when St. Nino from Cappadocia came to Georgia with a vine cross tied in her hair and baptized the royal family and the people. Pagan idols were systematically destroyed and Christian Orthodox churches and monasteries were built in their place. The building of the first cathedral *Svetitskhoveli* is connected with the place where the woman, Sidonia, from *Mtskheta* (ancient capital of Georgia) was buried. She was interred together with the seamless Chiton of Lord Jesus Christ, which her brother Elioz had brought from Jerusalem. Throughout



Twelve Holy Apostles Cathedral of Mtskheta - "Svetitskhoveli" (1010-1029)

the centuries the cathedral experienced all the adversities that the country faced. It has been destroyed many times but always managed to be rebuilt, as it was a symbol of the vitality and spiritual strength of the nation.

Georgians have built churches and monasteries not only in Georgia but also outside its borders, e.g. in Palestine, Syria, Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria. The most important of these are: the Holy Cross Monastery in Jerusalem, the St. James Monastery in Jerusalem, the Iveron Monastery on Mount Athos and the Petritsoni (now Bachkovo) Monastery in Bulgaria.



Narikala fortress in Tbilisi

The eleventh and twelfth centuries were a

"Golden Age" for Georgia and it is during this time that the medieval monarchy reached its height under the reign of King David the Builder's (1089-1125) great-granddaughter, Queen Tamara (1184-1212). A unique Georgian Christian culture flourished between the reigns of David the Builder and Queen Tamara; this is the era of great architectural buildings such as



Queen Tamar

Gelati and *Vardzia* and also the flourishing of a literary tradition revered to this day.

It was to Queen Tamara that Shota Rustaveli dedicated his great epic poem, "*The Knight in the Tiger's Skin*," a poem which exemplified all the virtues of chivalry and honor that were celebrated throughout the Georgian Kingdom during her reign. As a true son of his epoch, Shota Rustaveli championed brotherhood and mutual assistance irrespective of nationality and religion. Georgian daily life gave rise to a cult of women that was mentioned in Rustaveli's poem. The statue of Mother



Shota Rustaveli

Georgia (*Kartlis Deda*) that stands in the hills above capital city Tbilisi perhaps best symbolizes the national character: in her left hand she holds a bowl of wine with which she greets her friends and in her right is a sword to draw against her enemies.

After the "Golden Age" of cultural and political development that lasted until the 13th century, Georgia entered a long period of political isolation as fratricidal



View of old Tbilisi

conflict between pretenders to the Georgian throne tore the kingdom apart. Mongols seized and divided Georgia into numerous kingdoms and countries. After the Mongol period (15th century) Georgia fell under Turkish and Persian domination.

This was brought to

an end in the 19th century, when the Georgian population was reduced to little over half a million by disease, wars, emigration and slave trading, and Georgia was made a subject of the expanding Russian empire. The modernizing Imperial Russian State produced a new urban culture in Georgia, and an active nationalist intelligentsia, inspired by the European idea of freedom and self-determination, led a campaign for great Georgian autonomy.

With the collapse of the Russian empire in October 1917, Georgia joined a federation with its neighboring states, Armenia and Azerbaijan, but its disintegration in May 1918 led to the declaration of an independent Georgian Democratic Republic with a new government. The Georgian Democratic Republic was recognized by many states of the world. On May 7, 1920 the Georgian government signed a peace treaty with Russia. This treaty was later violated on February 25, 1921, when the Red Army occupied and Sovietized Georgia. Georgia remained one of the 15 Soviet Republics from 1936 until 1991, when it officially declared independence.

Prior to 1991 Georgia appeared to be a relatively well off republic with fairly good growth potential. Since independence, however, Georgia has suffered from intense civil conflict, which has exacerbated the economic plight of the country.

Following 12 years of transition, in November 2003 Georgia showed the world that its civil society had the potential to realize a peaceful transition and bring a new generation of leaders to power. The new government, led by President Mikheil Saakashvili, emerged out of a peaceful revolution, which became known as the Rose Revolution. The government has begun to rebuild its economy and provide opportunities to its citizens,

making Georgia a more attractive place for foreign investment. In addition, it is possible that, as the Georgian state grows stronger, conflicted regions will come to believe that they too can profit from living under a viable Georgian democracy.

The Georgians are very hospitable people, with strong traditions of chivalry and codes of personal honor. They believe that guests come from God. Friendship is prized highest among all the virtues. The Georgians are proud, passionate and fiercely individualistic, yet deeply connected with each other through a shared sense of belonging to a greater Georgian family.

Khatuna Dolishvili is a Graduate student in the Department of Sociology. Eric Barrett is a Graduate student in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies.

From the Library...

When looking for information on the Caucasus, the catalog is only the beginning. Checkout these databases through the Databases and Indexes to Articles links on the library web page for current news and information on the Caucasus:

Factiva Database provides full-text searching of select articles from a number of regional news agencies such as: ARKA and ARMINFO (Armenia); Azer Press, Trend News Agency, and Turan (Azerbaijan); Black Sea Press and Prime News (Georgia). It also provides access to BBC Monitoring Caucasus. Articles from most of these resources are available from 1997 or 1998 to the present.

World Markets Research Centre provides comprehensive country reports, including risk ratings, daily updates and analysis of the economic, political, legal, tax, operational and security environments in 185 countries, including those of the Caucasus.

In addition, there are a multitude of web resources that provide links to information on the Caucasus: REENIC (reenic.utexas.edu/reenic/index.html), REESWeb (www.ucis.pitt.edu/reesweb/), and EurasiaNet (www.eurasianet.org), just to name a few. And don't forget the online map collection at www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/. Maps for the Caucasus can be found under "Maps of Russia and the Former Soviet Republics."

We are at the library to help you with your research needs. Please feel free to contact me, Maria Kiehn, Research Associate, or Don Arthur, Slavic Bibliographer, (darth@mail.utexas.edu) with your questions and suggestions.

Explore UT: March 5, 2005 11:00am - 4:40pm

CREEES Events Schedule

Through Our Lens: Images of Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia

PAR 101 11:00-4:40

In this on-going photo exhibition of images from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, you can enjoy pictures taken by our own students, graduate students and faculty from the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

Russian Folk Art

GAR 100 11:00-4:40

Making a Matryoshka – A Thousand Years of Russian Folk Art. Come and see many examples of unique Russian art forms and woodcraft, make your own set in an origami form, and take home instructions for more!

Origins of the Vampire

PAR 201 12:00-12:40

Over 800 years before Bram Stoker wrote "Dracula," the word "vampire" appears in medieval Russian text. Through a discussion of art, literature and film imagery, Professor Thomas J. Garza will trace the appearance of vampires in Russian and Eastern European cultures.

Slavadillo **PAR 101 12:00 - 12:40**

The Slavadillo ensemble will perform Slavic music and songs on authentic instruments from Russia and Eastern Europe. The performers will discuss the songs and instruments during the course of the concert.

Learn the Russian Alphabet in 30 Minutes or Less

PAR 103 12:00-12:40, 1:00-1:40

Learn the Russian alphabet and how to read simple texts in 30 minutes or your money back! You will become comfortable with the Cyrillic alphabet and be able to read menus, signs and maps after one session with our Russian language specialists.

Romance vs. Reality: Romani Studies at UT **MEZ 2.118 2:00-2:40**

Often mistakenly called Gypsies, people of Romani descent have a rich cultural heritage that dates back 1,000 years. Professor Ian Hancock will explore the culture of the Romani people and explain how the Romani Archives and Documentation Center at UT is documenting the history of this fascinating and misunderstood people.

Czech Performance: Africa - The Czechs Among the Cannibals

PAR 103 2:00-2:40

Come join Professor Craig Cravens and his students of Czech language as they perform scenes from Jara Cimrman's satiric play which documents the first visit of Czechs to the "dark continent" in the late 19th century. Performed in Czech with English supra-titles.

The Tragedy of Chechnya

PAR 103 3:00-3:40

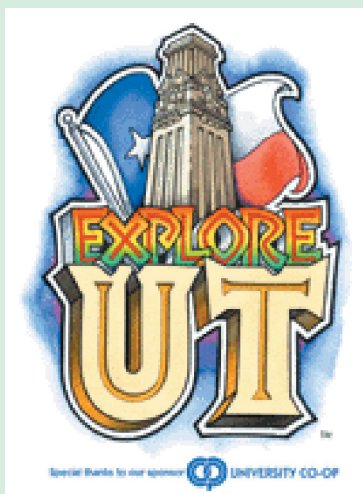
Michael Dennis will discuss the causes and trajectory of the Chechen struggle for independence from the Russian Federation and explore the consequences of this war. These include human rights violations and acts of violent terrorism against the Russian people.

Russia Cooks! Culinary display and discussion **PAR 103 4:00-4:40**

What do Russians eat during those long cold winters? Experience a sampling of some of Russia's most famous dishes and receive copies of the recipes to experiment with at home.

More information on Explore UT can be found at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/>



Outreach News

by Allegra Azulay

The spring semester has quickly filled with activities and events. One of the most significant was the Symposium on Georgian Arts and Culture, which brought to campus not only a beautiful exhibition of Georgian jewelry, but also a series of events to familiarize people with this fascinating country. Events included a screening of the film "A Chef in Love," a lecture on the politics of Georgia by Julie George, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Government, an introduction to the Georgian alphabet by Khatuna Doliashvili, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, and Eric Barrett, Graduate Student in Slavic and European Studies, and a talk by Maka Dvalishvili, President of the Georgian Arts and Culture Center in Tbilisi. Maka also donated a beautiful book on the National Treasures of Georgia to our library, which is available for loan to those of you wishing to gain in-depth knowledge of the history



Amanda Knight wore jewelry based on archaeological finds from Trialeti in Southeast Georgia

and craftsmanship of this part of the world. The Georgian jewelry exhibit, which was partially funded by the International Finance Corporation and the US Embassy in Tbilisi, first exhibited in New York and Washington DC, and arrived in Austin thanks to the efforts of Dr. Cynthia Buckley, Associate Director of CREEES, who spearheaded the effort to have Austin included in the itinerary, and especially thanks to the generous support of Dean Richard Lariviere of the College of Liberal Arts and Dean Bobby Inman of the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Many of our graduate and undergrad students assisted with the set-up of the exhibit, and four lovely undergraduate models were privileged to wear the antique-styled jewelry at the opening reception on February 19th. A special thanks to Derek Walsh and Jefferson McCarty for all their hard work and fine coordination efforts.

February held another useful outreach event: our Teacher Training Workshop entitled "Changing Borders: the Balkans in Transition." This event brought together 26 teachers from 6 school districts and 12 different schools in a workshop presented by University professors and Ph.D. candidates. High school teachers learned about current issues facing this challenging part of the world, and then met with a teacher/facilitator who discussed how to incorporate the new information into their own classrooms.

In the K-12 realm, CREEES and Slavic grad students continue to enrich the lives of youngsters at Matthews Elementary during their "Prime Time"



Eric Barrett at Matthews Elementary

after-school program. Most recently, Eric Barrett gave the kids an introduction to Russian music, ranging from classics, like Tchaikovsky, to modern groups, and even serenaded them with a folk song, accompanying himself on the guitar and balalaika.

Soon students from Porter Middle School in South Austin will learn about the modern history of the Soviet Union and Russia when two graduate students visit their classroom with artifacts, maps, and information. Teachers interested in having students visit their Social Studies, History, Geography or Language classrooms should contact Allegra Azulay, CREEES Outreach Coordinator.

The spring season continues with two of the year's busiest events: Explore UT and Russia Day. Explore UT is an event where all University departments are open to the entire Austin community. This year CREEES and DSES are offering a cornucopia of 8 events, from the serious (a talk on Chechnya) to the light-hearted (a satiric Czech play). In conjunction with Hemispheres, a consortium of 4 National Resource Centers, CREEES will be offering a variety of activities for children, including the ever-popular "Make a Matryoshka." A description of each activity as well as its time and location can be found on page 7. Don't miss any of these events!

The other extravaganza we will produce this spring is Russia Day. This event brings together students from all over central Texas ranging in grades from 6th to 12th. Students will experience everything from Russian food and karaoke to gorodki, the traditional Russian schoolyard game. Teachers, be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23rd and register early!

Several talks this spring run the gamut from ancient history (Scythians and Sarmatians), through WWII (the Holocaust), to current events (Chechnya and Kosova). Don't forget to check the online calendar for additions to the speaker schedule.

On a final note, the holdings of our video library have recently been increased by a generous donation from Bruce Truitt. Among our new items is a 10-video documentary set on the Treasures of the Hermitage Museum, as well as an eclectic collection of classic and modern Russian cinema.

Allegra Azulay is Outreach Coordinator for CREEES

Professor Gilbert Rappaport (Slavic and Eurasian Studies) is co-founder and co-organizer (with Prof. Steven Franks, Indiana University) of a new international professional organization, the Slavic Linguistics Society. Within a month, 300 scholars have enrolled in a listserv-managed mailing list (called 'SLAVICLING') and registered on a website (<http://www.utexas.edu/courses/slavling/sls/>), both administered at UT Austin. The organization hopes to facilitate communication within the scholarly community of those interested in the study of the Slavic languages, regardless of theoretical orientations, academic status, and geography. The large number of registered members from Europe and Eurasia is especially encouraging.

Dr. Rappaport was also invited to participate in the Workshop on Grammatical Aspect, sponsored by UT Austin's Department of Linguistics. His talk, on 23 February, was entitled 'Perfectivizing States in Russian'.

Michael Dennis, Ph.D. candidate in Government, gave a talk entitled, "Between Marx and Muhammad: Militant Islam in Post-Soviet Chechnya" at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference in Bloomington, IN in October, 2004. In March he will attend the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association in New Orleans, LA, where he will be presenting "Image and Self-Image: The Construction of National and Individual Identity in Post-Soviet Russia." In April he will present, "From the Sickle to the Crescent: The Construction of Radical Political Islam in Chechnya" at the Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Conference at Columbia University.

CREEES and
The Institute of Classical Archaeology present:

SCYTHIAN AND ANCIENT GREEK APPLIED ARTS (7TH-4TH CENTURY BC)

DR. ALEKSANDER LESKOV
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Friday, March 4
3:30 - 5:00 pm
Doty Fine Arts Building,
Room 2.204
Trinity and 23rd Street



Professor Ian Hancock (Linguistics Department) met with senators in the Czech Republic and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic during a two-week visit to those countries for the U.S. Department of State, to advise and consult on the situation of the Romani minority there.

His book *We Are the Romani People* has appeared in a Slovak and Hungarian language edition, and a Serbian language translation will appear shortly.

Professor Danilo Ukovicki-Selb (Architecture) will speak on "Stalin's Perestroika: Terminal Architectural Discourses, 1928-1933" at the Annual Conference of Architectural Historians in April. In Groningen, Holland, also in April, he will present "Between Modernism and Socialist Realism: The 1930s Sanatoria in the Soviet Union" at an international conference on "Modernism and the Architecture of Hospitals."

The SCMLA conference "Literary Space(s)" invites abstracts for the Russian Language and Methodology panel. This panel is open topic, and papers on any aspect or time period of Russian literature are welcome. Papers from graduate students are strongly encouraged. Please send all abstracts to **Linda Mayhew** at LMayhew@austin.rr.com by March 15, 2005. The conference will be held in Houston, Texas, from October 27-29. For more information about SCMLA and the 2005 conference, visit their website at <http://www.ou.edu/scmla/default.php>



CREEES and
The Institute of Classical Archaeology present:

"The Graves of Sarmatian Nobility in Ukraine"

Dr. Oleksandr Symonenko,
NEH scholar to University of
Pennsylvania, Institute of
Archaeology, Ukraine



Thursday, March 3
12:30pm
Classics Lounge WAG 116

Travel in Armenia - Gyumri

by George Rivas



Church just outside of Gyumri

Approximately one hour north of Yerevan lies Gyumri, the second largest city in Armenia. Gyumri, up until the Soviet expansion of Yerevan, was the largest city in Armenia. Gyumri was known as Leninakan and before that as Alexandropol. Gyumri was one of the cities devastated in the earthquake of December 10, 1988, which killed approximately 45,000 people and left roughly 500,000 people homeless throughout northwestern Armenia. Much effort has gone into rebuilding the city, though it is still not completed. Last summer, I had the opportunity to travel throughout Armenia and was able to see Gyumri and the reconstruction that had taken place.

The road to Gyumri from Yerevan is fairly good until just outside of the city. There it is marred by potholes, though still paved, which can not be said of many other roads leading to Gyumri. Once inside the Gyumri city limits, the reconstruction was readily apparent. Where

CREEES and the Program in Jewish Studies present:

"The Holocaust on German-Occupied Soviet Territory and the Response by Soviet Jewish Intellectuals"

Thursday, April 7, 1pm
Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102

More than one out of every three Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust had been living on Soviet territory on the eve of the German invasion in June 1941. Throughout the Baltic states, Ukraine, Belarus, and into Russia itself, the Germans carried out open-air massacres, killing entire Jewish communities before they were driven out by the Red Army. At the same time, well-known Soviet Jewish cultural figures, living in Moscow, were learning about the fate of their relatives and the destruction of their hometowns.

Joshua Rubenstein is the Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA and an Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. He is the author of *Soviet Dissidents, Their Struggle for Human Rights and Tangled Loyalties: the Life and Times of Ilya Ehrenburg*. His latest book, *The KGB File of Andrei Sakharov*, is scheduled for publication in May 2005.

there were once gargantuan Soviet style apartment complexes, now stand a series of modest four- or five-storey apartment complexes of about 80 – 100 units complete with small grocery stores and other small businesses on the ground floor. A representative from a local NGO met us in front of these complexes and explained that there were still many homeless people in Gyumri sixteen years after the earthquake. Some of those who weren't homeless were living in *domiks*, temporary shelters set up shortly after the earthquake. Through the efforts of USAID, a significant portion of those residing in *domiks* had been provided with housing certificates that would allow them to move into permanent housing. Approximately half of the 12,000 families in *domiks* have been relocated to permanent housing as a result of the Earthquake Zone Recovery Program (EQZ), however many do still reside in the converted cargo holds.

One of the prominent features of Gyumri is the town square. Before the Soviet government leveled it, there



Scene of city square in Gyumri

once was a covered market. Currently, there are only two churches in the square. While one of the churches is standing, the other still lies in ruins, a reminder of the terrible event of 1988. The ruined church, formerly a



Church damaged in earthquake awaiting reconstruction

town landmark, still awaits rebuilding.

Though Gyumri was devastated by the earthquake of 1988, it is a remarkable destination for anyone traveling in Armenia and should not be missed. There are at least two European-style hotels in Gyumri, including a German guest house and a large hotel near the center of town. Just outside of the city stands a former Russian fortress overlooking the border with Turkey. Additionally, about an hour drive from Gyumri are several magnificent former monasteries and churches that offer unique insight into the former glory and stature of Gyumri that one day may be recaptured.

George Rivas is a Graduate Student of CREES and the LBJ School of Public Affairs



The Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) Indiana University, June 17-August 12, 2005

The **Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI)** in cooperation with SWSEEL will offer the following courses:

- * First and second year Estonian
- * First year Latvian
- * First year Lithuanian
- * Baltic Cultures

The Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), which will be held in the Summer of 2005 and 2006 at Indiana University as part of the Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages, announces the opportunity for students and scholars to increase their knowledge and understanding of the language, history and culture of the Baltic States. In addition to the three languages, the program also offers an afternoon Baltic Cultures course during the first four weeks.

A limited number of **FLAS fellowships** will be available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are accepted for enrollment or are already enrolled in a

graduate program. Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships cover tuition and fees and provide a stipend of \$2,400.

For Summer 2005 we have received funding from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) for **1st-year Estonian** and **Latvian** and **2nd-year Estonian**. **These courses will be tuition free to graduate students specializing in any field related to these languages.** Through ACLS funding and other sources, BALSSI will be able to offer a number of fellowships for students in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian. These fellowships will cover tuition (for those who do not qualify for tuition-free status), fees, and a stipend for housing and food. BALSSI may also be able to provide partial fellowships for qualified applicants.

Eight hours of credit are granted for first-year courses to undergraduates and 6 hours to graduates. Second-year Estonian grants 6 hours of credit to both graduates and undergraduates. The Baltic Cultures course grants 3 hours of credit to both graduates and undergraduates. Tuition is \$212.70 per credit hour. Evening films and a lecture series are included as part of this program.

Students should complete the [online SWSEEL application](#).

Application deadline for Fellowships is April 1, 2005. Thereafter, rolling admissions.

For more information visit:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iuslavic/swseel/languages/balssi05.shtml>

KARTVELIAN STUDIES SUMMER SCHOOL 2005

Summer School in Kartvelian Studies for non-Georgians will be held from 2 July to 8 August 2005.

In a broad sense Kartvelian (Georgian) Studies (Kartvelology) embraces Georgian culture, history and all fields of the humanities: linguistics, literary criticism, art, archaeology, folklore, ethnography and source study.

The Summer School in Kartvelian Studies - the only one of its kind in the world, with a ten-year experience of continuous work - is organized by the Centre for Kartvelian Studies and sponsored by the Government of Georgia, Tbilisi State University and by the Fund for Kartvelian Studies.

The School offers intensive instruction in Modern Georgian - both along the line of spoken as well as grammatical norms of the language - with account of the level of mastery of the language by the participants. They can also attend lectures on Georgian history, literature, language and art and

become acquainted with Georgia's cultural and historical past and her present achievements. Excursions out of town - to various regions of Georgia - are organized at weekends.

The five-week course at the Summer School costs 1500 Euro per student. This includes accommodation (in a student's dormitory or at a private apartment), board, lectures and seminars, and cultural program (excursions to the countryside, visiting museums, seeing Georgian films, etc.). >

Deadline for application is 15 April 2005

For more information contact:

Director of the Centre: Prof. E. Khintibidze

E-mail: kartvcentre@hotmail.com

khintibidze@myoffice.ge

Internet: <http://www.kartvfund.org.ge>



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BRIDGING CULTURES: AUSTIN TO STANERG

DITA DAUTI
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 3:30 PM
EASTWOODS ROOM 2.102

