

THE CEUS MONTHLY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Indiana University Department of Central Eurasian Studies

April, 2009

NEWS

The Central Eurasian Studies Department was awarded an Access the World Through Education award for excellence in accommodating students with disabilities. Language Coordinator **Beatrix Burghardt** was honored for her work at a March 30th luncheon hosted by Disability Services for Students.

Valeria Varga, Gulnisa Nazarova, Rahmon Inomkhodjaev, and Rahman Arman each received the IU Certificate in Distance Education for successful completion of an 8-week course, the Online Certificate in Distance Education Program, offered by the School of Continuing Studies. CEUS and CeLCAR provided funding for the professional development training which will cater to the growing interest in interactive distance language courses offered by the CEUS Department.

The IAUNRC and CEUS participated extensively in the World Language Festival organized by the Center for Language Technology and Instructional Enrichment (CeLTIE) on March 7, 2009. Fifteen presentations, ranging from making small talk in Finnish to building a Kyrgyz yurt, introduced the languages and cultures of Central Eurasia to a large audience of 232. This included 175 high school students from 15 schools, undergraduates from three universities, 32 teachers, and community members. Central Asian performances also featured prominently, as, following the opening remarks, members of the community performed a Mongolian horse head fiddle piece, a Uyghur song, and an Uzbek dance. The IAUNRC and CEUS staffed a joint booth, where Center staff and CEUS language instructors discussed the department with participants and distributed information about studying the region at Indiana University, including the IAUNRC's recently-created CD-ROM.

The IAUNRC was the primary cosponsor of a three-day workshop on foreign and second language pedagogy led by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). ACTFL workshop leader Dr. Karl Otto presented and led daily programs on developing written and oral skills in accordance with ACTFL standards and guidelines. The workshop focused on incorporating the latest models of teaching and evaluation into the classroom, including ways to encourage students to elaborate in their target language and testing students in terms of natural linguistic practice.

This March, **Christiane Gruber** curated and opened the show *From Pen to Printing Press: Ten Centuries of Islamic Books Arts* (on display at the IU Art Museum until May 10). In conjunction with the show, she organized a symposium on March 7th entitled *Islamic Book Arts*. Also in March, Christiane presented two papers: "Real Absence:

Picturing God in Islamic Art,” at The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore; and “The ‘Restored’ Shi‘i *Mushaf* as Divine Guide?: The Practice of *Fal-i Qur’an* in the Safavid Period,” at the international conference *People of the Prophet’s House: Art, Architecture and Shi‘ism in the Islamic World* at the British Museum. She also co-organized (with Dr. Sune Haugbolle, Copenhagen University) an international workshop on modern Islamic visual culture, which took place in Copenhagen (March 20-23). Christiane’s article, “The Writing is on the Wall: Mural Arts in Post-Revolutionary Iran,” was recently published in *Persica* vol. 22 (2008) and was made available online this month.

Dafne Jones (Turkish Studies) has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa to conduct research on the growth of Islamic extremism in Turkey and was acknowledged by President McRobbie for her accomplishment.

Two of **Pia-Maria Paivio**’s graduate students, Kenji Yoshida (doctoral student in Linguistics) and Wil Rankinen (CEUS/Linguistics dual MA), have received a Finlandia Foundation National scholarship for research study in Finland and the U.S. for summer 2009. They join Pia’s other students, Hsin Wen Hsu (doctoral student in Ethnomusicology and a CEUS-minor in Finnish) and Bethany Ann Dusseau (B.A. student in International Studies and a Finnish language student in CEUS), who had received similar grants last year.

Ron Sela presented a paper entitled “The Conversion to Islam of the Qarakhanids in the 10th Century according to Jamāl Qarshī’s *Mulḥaqāt al-Ṣurāḥ*” at the 219th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, held in Albuquerque, NM, in mid-March. He was also Chair of the Inner Asia panel.

Elliot Sperling published “Tibetan Buddhism, Perceived and Imagined, Along the Ming-Era Sino-Tibetan Frontier,” in Matthew Kapstein (ed.), *Buddhism Between Tibet and China* (Wisdom Publications: Boston, 2009). He presented a paper, “The Place of History within the Intellectual World of Modern Tibet,” at the University of Oslo in December, 2008 and addressed the Congressional Executive Commission on China in March, 2009, on the question of whether China was promoting stability in Tibet. He published an opinion piece in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and was interviewed by *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The South China Morning Post*, as well as other news outlets, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising in Lhasa.

Chris Whitsel (MA CEUS 2006 and currently completing his Ph.D. in Sociology) won the Best Graduate Student Paper award at the 2008 CESS conference. He was also chosen to participate in the regional policy symposium, “Prospects and Challenges for the First Post-Communist Generation: Young People Today in Eurasian and Eastern Europe,” sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the International Research and Exchange Board in Washington, D.C. Chris will also participate in the Dissertation Development Workshop, “Resources in Eurasia: Wealth, Scarcity or Curse,” sponsored by SSRC Eurasia, to be held at Georgetown University.

UPCOMING EVENTS*

Wednesday, April 1, 4 pm – 6 pm, Swain Hall East 105

Lecture: MY TIBET: The life story of **Arjia Rinpoche**, Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the Department of Central Eurasian Studies.

Wednesday, April 1, 4:30 pm, IMU Walnut Room

Lecture by Prof. **Paul Losensky**: “To Revere, Revise and Renew: Sa’eb of Tabriz Reads the Ghazals of Rumi.”

Thursday, April 2, 7 pm, TV & Communications Building, Room 251

Screening and discussion of the Finnish film *Aavan meren tällä puolen/Kid Svensk* (That Special Summer).

Friday, April 3, IMU Oak Room

2009 Roundtable on Post-Communism: “Citizenship and Post-Communism.” For more information, visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/events/roundtable09.shtml>

Friday, April 3, 8 pm, Ballantine Hall 109

Turkish Film Festival featuring *Yasamin Kiyisinda* (The Edge of Heaven).

Saturday, April 4, 8 pm, Ballantine Hall 109

Turkish Film Festival featuring *Masumiyet* (Innocence).

Saturday – Sunday, April 4-5, Kelley School of Business

29th György Ránki Hungarian Chair Symposium: “Landscape, Environment and Society - Past and Present Environmental Issues in Hungary.” See details at <http://www.indiana.edu/~ceus/Hungarian%20Symposium%202009.pdf>

Tuesday, April 7, 4 pm, IMU

Faculty Seminar on Texts and Manuscripts of the Muslim World hosts Dr. Florian Schwarz (University of Washington). For details, please contact Ron Sela at rsela@indiana.edu.

Tuesday, April 7, 7 pm, TV & Communications Building, Room 251

Screening and discussion of the Estonian film *Sügisball* (Autumn Ball).

Thursday, April 9, 7 pm, Wylie Hall 005

Central Asian Film Festival featuring *Kosh Ba Kosh* (Tajikistan, 1993)

Wednesday, April 15, 7 pm, Rawels Hall 100

Symposium: From Mumbai to Gaza: Indian, Israeli, and Turkish Responses to Global Terror. With Sumit Ganguly (Political Science and India Studies), Kemal Silay (Central Eurasian Studies), Boaz Ganor (Lauder School of Government and Diplomacy at the International Institute for Counter Terrorism in Herzliya, Israel), and Alvin Rosenfeld (English and Jewish Studies).

Thursday, April 16, 7 pm, Swain East 105

Persian Film Series:

White Balloon (*Badkonak-e sefid*), directed by Jafar Panahi (1995).

Tuesday, April 21, 7:30-9:00 pm, Woodburn Hall 120

Lecture: Dr. **Soner Cagaptay** (Director, Turkish Research Program, Washington Institute for Near East Policy), "Lessons for Counter-terrorism: Turkey's Struggle Against the PKK."

*See an updated list of all CEUS events at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~ceus/events/>

This is the last edition of *The CEUS Monthly* before the summer recess.