

Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center Fall/Winter 2009 Newsletter



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The Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center (IAUNRC) at Indiana University is a United States Department of Education Title VI-grant institution dedicated to increasing the general and scholarly understanding of the Inner Asian and Uralic region and peoples. The Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center Newsletter is a biannual publication prepared by the Center's graduate assistants. To submit questions, comments, and suggestions about the newsletter or to request further information regarding the services of IAUNRC, please contact the office at: iaunrc@indiana.edu.

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On the Cover: Tibetan woman and child near Labrang Monastery
Photo credit: Edward J. Lazzarini

A Word from the Director

The 2009-2010 academic year will be an especially busy one for the IAUNRC. The current cycle of Title VI financial support provided by the U.S. Education Department will run its course, requiring us to prepare and submit a new proposal for the next four-year cycle. The Center staff has been busy since the summer months gathering the relevant information that will be included in the proposal, and much of the fall semester is being devoted to determining the direction of our efforts over the cycle that will run from 2010-2011 through 2013-2014. We expect to finalize the proposal sometime in January of 2010.



In keeping with university practice, the Center has undergone an external review by a team of four reviewers, one from IU and three from other universities. The purpose of the review, the first in ten years, is to assess the work of the Center and identify areas both of strength and of possible improvement. We look forward to the team's report.

Helping the Center this year are the usual coterie of three graduate assistants. Michael Hancock continues from 2008-2009 as our outreach coordinator; Kris Rees returns after a hiatus to once again take up responsibility as the Center webmaster; and newcomer Nora Williams will be primarily responsible for our newsletter. Our undergraduate assistant, Willow Spencer, provides administrative assistance. Kristi Elkins and Kasia Rydel-Johnston continue in their respective positions of office manager and assistant director, lending unmatched support to associate director Toivo Raun and yours truly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward J. Lazzarini".

Edward J. Lazzarini

SWSEEL 2010

at Indiana University

Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages
Introductory and Intermediate

**Azerbaijani, Hungarian*, Kazakh, Mongolian,
Pashto, Tajik, Turkmen, Uyghur, & Uzbek**

Advanced

Tajik & Uyghur

* Introductory level only

Course dates: June 18 - August 13, 2010

Application deadline for fellowships: March 22, 2009

For applications and more information, contact Adam Julian:

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The Undergraduate Experience

Central Eurasian Studies Department expands college topics offerings

By IAUNRC Staff

Wednesday at 1:30 pm is a busy time on Indiana University's Bloomington campus. The bus stops sport long lines of students finished with class for the day. The libraries and lounges are packed with the studious and the napping. Many students are moving quickly, striding across campus with ear buds and cell phones firmly in place. The Geological Sciences building sees a steady flow of incoming students, many of whom file into a large classroom on the first floor.

"So," asks the professor, after wrapping up the day's administrative duties, "When you think about the theories of August Comte, what are your reactions?" A student responds, and the professor parlays the response into another question: "And why do you think that?"

Wednesday at 1:30 pm is time to think in Dr. Erdem Çıpa's college topics course, Religion and Revolutions.

Fall 2009 college topics courses

Undergraduate students enrolled in the University Division or the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington are required to take at least one college topics course during their tenure. Each year, the university approves a number of such courses in broad areas like Arts and Humanities or Social and Historical Studies. For the 2009-2010 academic year, the Department of Central



Dr. Çıpa in his Religion and Revolutions college topics course, IAUNRC staff photo

Eurasian Studies (CEUS) had four courses approved for inclusion as topics courses, an unprecedented number for the department. More typically, CEUS has offered around two topics courses a year.

In the fall of 2009, three topics courses were on offer from CEUS: Assistant Professor Çıpa's Religion and Revolutions course, Assistant Professor Gardner Bovingdon's Oil, Islam, and Geopolitics course, and Associate Professor Christopher Atwood's Great Wall of China course. Each class filled with either 65 or 100 students, depending on the enrollment cap set by the professor. As Dr. Atwood, who is also the Department Chair of CEUS, notes, "That's a total of 265 students being

exposed to Central Eurasian Studies in one form or another this semester."

In general, college topics courses serve to welcome incoming students to academic and intellectual processes. "Most of the students will never take a class in this area again," says Dr. Atwood, "Therefore I teach them completely without prerequisites, and I teach them with the aim that students will come out of it with a fairly complete knowledge on the introductory level. It's an all-around introduction to the topic."

The CEUS faculty hopes that some of these undergraduates will discover a passion for Central Eurasian studies. College topics courses serve as an academic

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Central Eurasian Music Delights Lotus Festival Audiences

By IAUNRC staff

From Tuvan throat singers to Hungarian ska rockers, Central Eurasia was well represented at the 2009 Lotus Festival. A showcase of world music and art, the Lotus Festival took over downtown Bloomington, Indiana from Thursday, September 24 through Sunday, September 27. Despite a rainy forecast, large



Hanggai performing at Lotus Festival, IAUNRC staff photo

crowds turned out to wander the streets and listen to a wide variety of musical styles.

The Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center was pleased to sponsor five groups for the 2009 Lotus Festival:

- **Parno Graszt**, an ensemble from Hungary, performed traditional gypsy music and dance in front of enthusiastic audiences on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Energetic songs and dance tutorials from the performers kept the crowds on their toes.
- **Hanggai**, from Beijing, performed for free on Saturday as a part of the Lotus in the Park series and on Sunday in the festival showcase.

Their blend of musical traditions from Mongolia, including folk instruments and khoomei, or throat singing, with rock instruments and song structures was a fine example of successful world musical fusion.



Parno Graszt member, IAUNRC staff photo

LOTUS continues on back page

Reports from the Field:

Central Eurasian Studies Colloquium 2009-2010

by IAUNRC staff

The Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies organizes a colloquium lecture series each academic year with support from the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center and the Department of Central Eurasian Studies. The 2009-2010 colloquium series addresses archeological explorations of Central Eurasia from a variety of perspectives.

The inaugural colloquium lecture took place on Thursday, September 24 with a presentation by Dr. Renata Holod. Dr. Holod, who is Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture in the Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke about her archeological research in Central Eurasia. Her talk, addressed to an overflowing audience in the Indiana University Fine Arts building, was entitled "Trading and Raiding on the Eurasian Steppe: The Grave Goods of a Turkic Chieftain."

Accompanied by a series of detailed photographic slides, Dr. Holod described the excavation of a Qipchaq burial pit in the Chingul Kurgan region. Dr. Holod's research dates the gravesite to the early 13th century. The contents of the grave provide insights into the role of the Qipchaqs in the region and also into the trade

culture of the period.

A second colloquium lecture, by Dr. Michael Frachetti, was held on Wednesday, October 7. Dr. Frachetti's talk, entitled "The Process of Pastoralism in Eurasia: A Mountain View of the Steppes," was attended by more than forty students and faculty. Dr. Frachetti, who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, spoke about his archeological and geographical research in eastern Kazakhstan. His thesis of pastoral networks and mountain corridors provided an interesting counter-

point to the prevailing theories of Bronze Age migrations in Central Eurasia.

Colloquium lectures planned for the spring semester continue the theme of archeological investigation, including a presentation by David Anthony of Hartwick College. Please see the accompanying schedule or check the IAUNRC website for an updated list of colloquium lectures in spring 2010.

Listen Online: Podcasts of the colloquium lectures are available through the IAUNRC website. ☞



Dr. Michael Frachetti and Dr. Edward J. Lazzerini before the colloquium lecture, IAUNRC staff photo

Spring Lecture Schedule: Central Eurasian Studies 2009-2010 Colloquium

All lectures will be held in the Indiana Memorial Union's Distinguished Alumni Room from 4:00 - 5:15 pm. Visit the IAUNRC website for updated information.

February 3:

Anne Pyburn, Indiana University
"Chinggis Khan or Santa Claus:
Choosing a Heritage for
Kyrgystan"

☞

February 24:

**Trista Newyear,
Indiana University**
Lecture title TBA

☞

March 10:

David Anthony, Hartwick College
"The Archaeology of
Indo-European Origins"

☞

March 31:

Elliot Sperling, Indiana University
"Tanguts on the Tibetan Plateau"

☞

April 14:

**Edward J. Lazzerini,
Indiana University**
"Orientals and the Production of
Oriental Knowledge: What Does
Russian Oriental Studies Have to
Tell Us?"

Tulpan comes to Bloomington

Kazakh film shown by the Ryder Film Series

by IAUNRC staff

For three weekends in September, the Bloomington community was treated to *Tulpan*, a new film from Kazakhstan by director Sergei Dvortsevov. The Ryder Film Series, which for twenty-five years has been showing foreign, independent, and classic American films in Bloomington, reported that around one hundred and sixty people attended the film. The screenings of *Tulpan* were underwritten by the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center.

Tulpan has received wide critical acclaim for its portrayal of life on the Kazakh steppe. The story revolves around the trials and tribulations of Asa, a young Kazakh man who returns to his family after serving in the Russian Navy. Asa dreams of becoming a successful herder, but he needs a wife before he will be granted his own herd. His pursuit of the eligible beauty Tulpan, whose name means "tulip," provides the backbone of the sparse narrative.

"I enjoyed most of the movie, and would recommend it to anyone looking to learn more about Kazakhstan," says Michael Hancock, a graduate assistant at the IAUNRC.

Tulpan was released on DVD shortly after the Ryder screenings. If you missed the screenings, a copy of the film is now included in the IAUNRC inventory and can be checked out. Contact the IAUNRC for more information.



Askhat Kuchinchirekov in *Tulpan*, promotional photo

The IAUNRC is sponsoring a free Kazakh film series throughout 2009-2010 academic year. Please visit the IAUNRC website for a list of films and a schedule of screening times. ☞

Scholars of Xinjiang:

A discussion of the study and future of Xinjiang

On October 12th, Associate Professor Gardner Bovingdon and Lecturer Gulnisa Nazarova sat down with the IAUNRC for an interview. The following is an excerpt:

IAUNRC: Please briefly describe your background at IU.

Dr. Nazarova: I came to IU in the summer of 2005 for the SWEESL summer course to teach intermediate Uyghur. I worked for one year with CELCAR developing materials and teaching at CEUS. After one year, I came to work for CEUS. This is my fifth year of teaching at IU; I teach introductory, intermediate, advanced and ADLS Uyghur. Very soon I will be teaching a new 8-week cultural course, entitled "Central Asia: Cultures and Customs." Gardner Bovingdon and the department have helped me a lot in preparing the new course.

Dr. Bovingdon: I came to IU in 2003, two years prior to Gulnisa. I trained in Chinese politics at Cornell. I got interested in Xinjiang and Uyghurs and did field research there for two years, where I learned Uyghur. I moved on to Yale, where I taught for a year, and then I taught at Washington University in St. Louis for two years. In that period, I taught a lot of courses about East Asia, political economy, and also identity and nationalism. Here I've been able to develop a whole portfolio of courses around Xinjiang, and with the arrival of our most excellent teacher it has been possible for us to think together about how to build a rich program with language and culture and history.

IAUNRC: Please tell us a little about your background in Xinjiang and Xinjiang studies.

Dr. Nazarova: I am a native Uyghur from Uzbekistan, but my parents were from Xinjiang. I was born in Kyrgyzstan, graduated from high school in the Tashkent region, and graduated from university in Russia. I studied Russian language and literature, but when it was time for me to pick a theme for my thesis, my father suggested that I should study the Uyghur language. There are so many people who are researching Russian, and there are just a few people in Uzbekistan who are researching Uyghur. I defended my thesis on a comparative investigation of Russian and Uyghur syntax. I was admitted as a graduate student in Almaty at the Institute of Uyghur Studies. In 1992, I defended my dissertation on Uyghur lexicology and in 1993 I received my PhD from the Institute of Linguistics in Almaty. I didn't even imagine that I would teach Uyghur in the U.S. Now I am very happy to have the chance to be a part of the Uyghur program at IU.

IAUNRC: What are the challenges and rewards of studying Xinjiang?

Dr. Bovingdon: Xinjiang is still not well-

known in the world, so it's a challenge to get recognition. When I first came here, it wasn't clear that the field of Xinjiang studies would take off at Indiana. One of the rewards is that we now have a number of students; Gulnisa has trained all these excellent students, who speak Uyghur beautifully. If there is another reward, it's that when I studied Xinjiang at Cornell, it was extremely obscure. My advisor told me there wasn't really anything he could teach me about it. Now there is a field; we have these students who are very bright. It's a pleasure to see the field developing as we teach.

Dr. Nazarova: I have very highly motivated students, and when I see their improvement in Uyghur, I am very glad. All of my students want to go to Xinjiang for their field research, but they worry that it will be difficult for them to get to this region. However, being a specialist in a rare language is a big benefit for students. There are so many people who speak Chinese, but there are just a few who speak Uyghur.

Dr. Bovingdon: Gulnisa is being very modest, so I will praise her. When she came here, one of the biggest challenges was a lack of extensive materials at multiple levels. Gulnisa has done a wonderful job of assembling texts, putting together electronic resources. I've been amazed at what she has produced. One of the biggest challenges she herself has resolved.

IAUNRC: How would you summarize the events that occurred in Ürümqi, Xinjiang this past summer? What happened and what issues were at stake?

Dr. Bovingdon: One of the issues is that we don't really know very much about what happened. There are a lot of people talking about it; plenty of things people are saying sound plausible, but plenty of other things might just be made up. There was some kind of protest on July 5th. There was some kind of police action in response, and there was some kind of violence that included killings of hundreds of people and destruction of property. One of the biggest questions is whether it went peaceful protest, police crackdown, violence, or peaceful protest, violence, police crackdown. There is no doubt that one of the things the violence of that day indicated was that there is a lot of bad feeling between Uyghurs and Chinese. One reason for the protest was an episode of violence in a factory on June 24-25, down in Shaoguan, Guangdong, at a factory where a large number of Uyghurs were employed. Many Uyghurs were injured in this factory violence and two were killed.

One reason for the protest was that the government had not publicized the event

XINJIANG continues on page 10

2009-2010 FLAS Fellows by the Numbers

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships are awarded by the United States Department of Education. The IAUNRC administers the application process and distribution of FLAS fellowships. This year's fellows are impressive. A look at their numbers:

12
FLAS fellows in 2009

7
Foreign languages being funded for study
(Persian, Turkish, Uzbek, Finnish, Uyghur, Hungarian, Mongolian)

3.41
Average number of foreign languages each FLAS fellow already speaks

22
Combined languages the 2009 FLAS fellows already speak
(Farsi, Urdu, Arabic, Hebrew, Uyghur, Azerbaijani, Spanish, French, Russian, Turkish, Ottoman, Hungarian, Romanian, Latin, German, Tajik, Mandarin, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Yiddish, Greek, Uzbek)

14
Countries fellows have lived in
(India, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Russia, France, Greece, China, Mongolia, UK, Czech Republic, Egypt)

350
Total months FLAS fellows have spent outside the USA

News from Central Eurasia

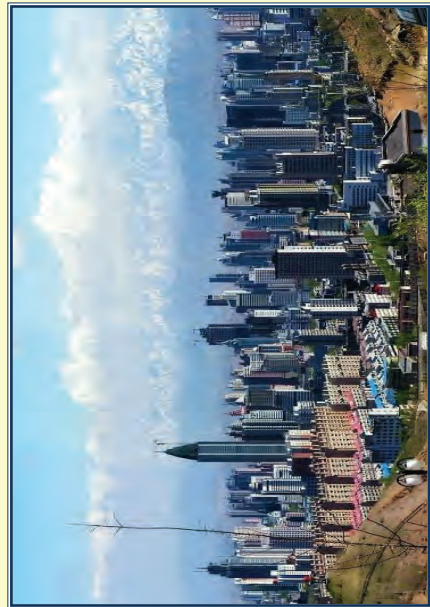
① Xinjiang riots

On July 5, 2009, the city of Ürümqi erupted into riots. According to official reports, at least 197 people were killed and 1,721 were injured. These figures are disputed by other sources. Ürümqi, the capital city of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China, has a large Uyghur population. Uyghurs are a Turkic-speaking ethnic group who are the historical majority in Xinjiang province. Human rights groups and Uyghurs contend that they are subject to discrimination under the Han Chinese.

The riots, which lasted for almost two days, were sparked by tensions between Uyghurs and Han Chinese. The specific events that prompted the riots are disputed. Uyghur participants claim they were protesting the deaths of two Uyghur factory workers in southern China; Chinese sources claim the riots were motivated by international interest groups.

For more information, see page 3 of this newsletter

Relevant Indiana Grade 7 Standards: 7.2.7, 7.2.8, 7.5.1, 7.2.9
Relevant Indiana High School Standards: GHW.3.3, GHW.5.5, GHW.7.1, GHW.10.1



Urümqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China
Photo credited to Creative Commons



Memorial to the 1956 Revolution, Budapest, Hungary

③ Hungarian Revolution Day

October 23 is a national holiday in Hungary commemorating the 1956 revolution that shook the Soviet bloc during the tense years of the Cold War and questioned the legitimacy of communist regimes everywhere. The rebellion lasted about three weeks, from October 23 until November 11, when the Soviet military reestablished control.

The revolution began as a peaceful mass demonstration by students, writers, and workers, but it turned into an armed uprising as the protesters clashed with security forces. At the height of the revolution the Hungarians produced a coalition government (including non-communists), repudiated membership in the Warsaw Pact, and declared Hungarian neutrality.

It is estimated that some 2,500 Hungarian rebels were killed and up to 20,000 were wounded. About 200,000 Hungarians fled to the West while the borders were temporarily open.

Relevant Indiana Grade 7 Standards: 7.5.8

Relevant Indiana High School Standards: WH.10.11, GHW.7.2

④ Manas Airbase to Remain in Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan-American relations have had a tumultuous few months. Kyrgyzstan has hosted Manas airbase, a key base in the NATO mission to Afghanistan, since 2001. In February of 2009, the Kyrgyzstan government announced that it would close the airbase in August. After a national presidential election in July that was denounced by opposition parties, the reelected president Kurmanbek Bakiyev reiterated that he would push to close Manas. However, President Obama and the United States government were able to negotiate to keep the base open. Central to the negotiations was a rise in rent for the airbase: the US has agreed to pay \$60 million annually, up from the previous rate of \$17.4 million.

On October 20, President Bakiyev accepted the resignations of his entire cabinet and announced that new reforms will go into place in Kyrgyzstan courts and political systems soon. Opposition leaders claim the reforms will only strengthen President Bakiyev's power. Keep an eye on Kyrgyzstan — the situation changes almost daily.

Relevant Indiana Grade 7 Standards: 7.1.19, 7.1.21, 7.2.7, 7.2.8, 7.2.9, 7.5.1, 7.5.8, 7.5.9, 7.5.10, 7.5.11, 7.5.12, 7.5.13, 7.5.14, 7.5.15, 7.5.16, 7.5.17, 7.5.18, 7.5.19, 7.5.20, 7.5.21, 7.5.22, 7.5.23, 7.5.24, 7.5.25, 7.5.26, 7.5.27, 7.5.28, 7.5.29, 7.5.30, 7.5.31, 7.5.32, 7.5.33, 7.5.34, 7.5.35, 7.5.36, 7.5.37, 7.5.38, 7.5.39, 7.5.40, 7.5.41, 7.5.42, 7.5.43, 7.5.44, 7.5.45, 7.5.46, 7.5.47, 7.5.48, 7.5.49, 7.5.50, 7.5.51, 7.5.52, 7.5.53, 7.5.54, 7.5.55, 7.5.56, 7.5.57, 7.5.58, 7.5.59, 7.5.60, 7.5.61, 7.5.62, 7.5.63, 7.5.64, 7.5.65, 7.5.66, 7.5.67, 7.5.68, 7.5.69, 7.5.70, 7.5.71, 7.5.72, 7.5.73, 7.5.74, 7.5.75, 7.5.76, 7.5.77, 7.5.78, 7.5.79, 7.5.80, 7.5.81, 7.5.82, 7.5.83, 7.5.84, 7.5.85, 7.5.86, 7.5.87, 7.5.88, 7.5.89, 7.5.90, 7.5.91, 7.5.92, 7.5.93, 7.5.94, 7.5.95, 7.5.96, 7.5.97, 7.5.98, 7.5.99, 7.5.100
Relevant Indiana High School Standards: WH.10.12, GHW.7.1

② A Thaw Between Turkey and Armenia?

Recent diplomatic steps have suggested an improvement in the strained relations between Armenia and Turkey. The Turkey-Armenian border has been closed since 1993, when Turkey shut the border in order to show solidarity with neighboring Azerbaijan, which to this day is engaged in a territorial dispute with Armenia.

However, Turkish-Armenian tensions started long before 1993. During World War I, more than one million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks. Armenians' insistence that Turkey recognize these killings as genocide is a point of conflict for diplomacy. Armenians at home and abroad have protested the reestablishment of relations with Turkey on these historical grounds.

On October 11, with thanks in part to the efforts of US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the foreign ministers of Turkey and Armenia signed an agreement to normalize relations. The agreement will have to be approved by both Turkish and Armenian legislatures before it is put into effect.

Relevant Indiana Grade 7 Standards: 7.2.8, 7.2.9, 7.5.1, 7.5.8
Relevant Indiana High School Standards: WH.10.11, WG.2.7, GHW.7.1

Azerbaijani Jazz Mugham: Fusing East and West

By Aida Huseynova

Azerbaijan is the only country in Central Eurasia where jazz music has become a significant part of the musical landscape. In the early 1960s, the distinctive style of jazz emerged in Baku, the capital city



Vagif Mustafazade, founder of Azerbaijani "Jazz Mugham"

of Azerbaijan. This style known as "jazz mugham" juxtaposes features of American jazz with the idioms of mugham, an improvisational genre of traditional modal music of Azerbaijan. "Jazz mugham" has been one of many successful forerunners of the fusion between musical traditions of the East and the West accomplished in Azerbaijani music in the 20th century, such as mugham opera, symphonic mugham, or choral mugham.

Paradoxically, jazz and mugham, despite having emerged in completely different cultural contexts, have many common features. They are both artistic forms based on egalitarian improvisation; in both phenomena, the flow of improvisation is shaped by certain rules. Both have a strong focus on modality and are based on the principle of alternating soloists during the performance. In Azerbaijan, both jazz and mugham experienced difficult times during the Soviet era, as none of them met the ideological goals of the communist system. At the beginning of the Soviet era, jazz was proclaimed as the "voice of the capitalist world," and mugham was labeled as the "relic of the past," or the "music of the court." Both genres were finally allowed to exist in the context of Soviet art and cultures; however, they were both put under ideological control.

Jazz arrived in Azerbaijan in the early 20th century, due to the rapid Westernization caused by the first oil boom in the country. In the 1930s, the Azerbaijan State Jazz Orchestra was founded, and composers Tofiq Guliyev (1917-2000), Rauf Hajiyev (1923-97) and Niyazi (1912-84) contributed immensely in compiling the

orchestra's repertoire and its successful appearances on stage. However, the Stalin era was definitely not the best time in terms of political agenda for experimenting with Western music styles.

The situation changed drastically in the 1960s, at the time of the relatively relaxed social and political environment in the Soviet Union known as the "Khrushchev Thaw." People gained access to previously forbidden recordings, musical scores, books, and radio broadcasts. A spirit of experimentalism embraced art and music. Among those bold experimentalists was Vagif Mustafazade (1940-79), a pianist and composer, who first juxtaposed mugham with jazz. His compositions combining soul jazz with the centuries-



Jazz center at the Baku Music Academy

old heritage of his nation still remain a source of inspiration for Azerbaijani jazz musicians. In 1978, Vagif was awarded the First Prize at the International Competition of Jazz Themes in Monaco. And after his death, Willis Conover, conductor of the Jazz Time radio program on the Voice of America, dedicated his hour-long show entirely to Vagif. Rafiq Babayev (1936-94), another pianist and composer, was among pioneers of the "jazz mugham" style as well.

"Jazz mugham" has been shaping creative explorations of Azerbaijani musicians ever since. However, the ingredients of "jazz mugham" and the specifics of their juxtaposition have never been the same. Pianists Salman Gambarov (b. 1959) and Shahin Novrasli (b. 1977) combine voices of traditional instruments and modal idioms with the means of the new music of the West and post-bop styles in

jazz. Pianist Jamil Amirov (b.1957) is an apologist of jazz-rock fusion with a strong ethnic component. Aziza (b.1969), Vagif Mustafazade's daughter, is a pianist and singer juxtaposing jazz with traditional music idioms as well as with the music of Baroque and Romanticism. At the age of 18, Aziza won third prize at the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. She has recorded with prestigious companies including Columbia Records and col-

JAZZ continues on the next page

About the Author

Aida Huseynova, Ph.D., teaches Z111-Introduction to Music Theory for the Music in General Studies Department at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her books, articles, and multimedia projects have been published in Azerbaijan, the USA, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Russia. She is the author of the educational DVDs "Music and Culture of Azerbaijan" and coauthor of "Music and Culture of Kyrgyzstan" produced with the support of the IAUNRC. Dr. Huseynova's awards include a Fulbright Fellowship (2007-08) and a fellowship from the Junior Faculty Development Program (2001-02).

Since 2007, Dr. Huseynova has served as a research advisor and interpreter for the Silk Road Project under the artistic direction of Yo-Yo Ma. She has toured with the Silk Road Ensemble throughout the US, as well as in Canada, France and Qatar. On June 9, 2009, Dr. Huseynova was the consultant for the live broadcast from the concert of Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble at the Lincoln Center. Among her many other achievements, Dr. Huseynova is the Secretary General of the National Music Committee of Azerbaijan. ☞



JAZZ *from previous page*

laborated with stars of contemporary jazz, such as Al Di Meola, Omar Hakim, and John Pattituchi.

Nowadays, both parts of “jazz mugham” fusion are enjoying a revival in Azerbaijan. Contemporary Azerbaijani jazz musicians are aware of all recent trends in jazz. In contrast to their predecessors during Soviet era, they tour themselves and host prominent jazz musicians from all over the world. In 2007, Shahin Novrasli was awarded the Second Prize at the International Jazz Solo Piano Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, and in 2009, pianist Isfar Sarabsky (b.1989) became a winner at the same festival. During the last decade, Azerbaijan has hosted international jazz festivals with the presence of Al Jarreau, Herbie Hancock, Joe Zawinul and other musicians of such a high caliber. Mugham is enjoying a revival, too, as Azerbaijanis comprehend their national and cultural roots after the collapse of the Soviet Union. As such, “jazz mugham” continues to develop into the 21st century as a unique revelation of the Eastern-Western essence of Azerbaijani music and culture. ❧



Eric Schluessel, right, consults with discussion section students, IAUNRC staff photo

TOPICS *continues from page 2*

gateway: some students will be inspired to take one of the Central Eurasian languages offered through CEUS or will pursue the newly-available CEUS undergraduate minor.

There was a second motive for increasing the number of college topics courses offered through CEUS, as Dr. Atwood points out: “The impetus for teaching specifically in the college topics curriculum format was, very frankly, to reach a larger number of undergraduate students and to help fund graduate students. The two go together.”

One of the advantages of taking on such large class numbers is the ability to hire Assistant Instructors (AIs). Graduate students selected to be AIs lead discussion sections for the courses, assist students during office hours, and help with grading and class administration. This fall, the high number of college topics courses allowed CEUS to fund five AIs.

AIs in the deep end

Friday afternoon is a difficult time to be an instructor. Just ask Eric Schluessel, one of two AIs for Dr. Atwood’s Great Wall of China course. Schluessel is leading his second discussion for the day, and it’s clear that his students would rather be sleeping or watching a movie than consulting ancient texts. But Schluessel is not easily dissuaded. He varies his approach

while presenting, uses visual aids, and even reads a portion of the text out loud in the original ancient Turkish to inspire his students. By the end of the class, the students have been drawn out and many have shared their opinions about the questions at hand.

For most AIs, leading discussions is their first experience on the other side of the classroom. Dr. Atwood sees these teaching opportunities as one of the successes of the college topics courses: “I think the AIs get a lot out of it. It is sometimes a very difficult experience for them. They are thrown into the deep end of the pool. But as a graduate student, if you think you might want to become a professor, it’s good to get experience right now.”

Schluessel and his fellow AIs had only a week of training before their teaching duties began. It can be quite a challenge, but, as Schluessel says, “I’m learning quickly from my mistakes.” And his students clearly benefit from his enthusiasm and personalized attention.

Students gain new perspectives

Samuel Schilling, currently a senior at IU, took Dr. Çıpa’s Religion and Revolutions course last spring. “It was truly a very valuable educational experience,” he wrote in an e-mail, “I managed to grasp a knowledge base covering Central Eurasia through readings and paper topics.” “I walked away from this class thinking my brain had never worked so hard in my life,” commented Lena Grote, another former student of Dr. Çıpa’s and a junior at IU.

The professors find themselves encouraged by the growth they see in their undergraduate students. “I see many sparks in the students’ eyes,” says Dr. Çıpa. “In the beginning of the course it is the spark of irritation, as dealing with

secularization and a critical approach to religion is not something that they love. But by the end of the class their understanding becomes extremely nuanced. After three months the changes become very clear, and that’s why I continue to teach the class.”

Tailoring the courses

While expanding their intellectual horizons, students also improve their academic skills. “These are students who are being introduced, for the first time, to the demands of a college education. Quite a bit of what you are doing is simply trying to establish habits,” says Dr. Atwood. Former student Samuel Schilling notes that Dr. Çıpa, “was also open to different writing styles, which gave many students much-needed confidence when preparing essays.”

CEUS professors have found that the topics courses require them to adapt their teaching styles and, sometimes, to give facelifts to course titles. “The course title when I initially taught it as an AI at Harvard was ‘Modernization and Secularization,’” says Dr. Çıpa, “When I came with the same title here, the registrar’s office said, ‘why don’t you pick something sexier?’”

While in China in the summer of 2009, Dr. Atwood spent some of his time gathering visual aids from the Great Wall for inclusion in PowerPoint presentations. Undergraduate students have responded well to the design of the courses, which include two lecture periods and one discussion section a week.

It is too early to say what the long term effects of the college topics courses will be on Central Eurasian Studies. But a foundation has been built through these courses that will definitely impact undergraduate students, graduate students, and instructors alike. ❧

Foreign Language Teaching Assistants

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) are an integral part of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University. With sponsorship from the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), FLTAs receive funding to teach their native languages and study American History and English.

Erdenbat Jamaa has come to Indiana University from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where his wife and two sons reside. Besides teaching Mongolian, he is taking courses in American History and English Language. Mr. Jamaa is a PhD candidate and English as a Foreign Language instructor at the National University of Mongolia.

Finnish courses this fall are being taught with the help of FLTA **Marjut Mäenpää**. Ms. Mäenpää comes from Helsinki, Finland, where she studies educational psychology and speech communication. Ms. Mäenpää is using her academic opportunities at IU to specialize in cultural questions and enjoys the lively atmosphere in Bloomington.

Roya Afsharzada is teaching Persian as an FLTA this year. She has been impressed by the hard work of her students and fellow instructors. An undergraduate student originally from Herat, Afghanistan, Ms. Afsharzada is using her time at Indiana University to improve her teaching methods and English language skills.

Indiana University is proud to offer Kyrgyz language classes this year, taught by **Asel Turgunbaeva**. Ms. Turgunbaeva is an English language instructor at the Bishkek Humanities University. She applied to the FLTA program after receiving an email from the American University of Central Asia and so far has been surprised by the size and natural beauty of Indiana University. ☞

Visiting Scholar Profile: Bloomington welcomes Dr. Baláz Ablonczy

By IAUNRC staff

It takes a brave person to travel far from home to a new university in a foreign country. It is very difficult to take on a heavy teaching load, a rigorous publishing schedule, and the György Ránki Hungarian Chair appointment. But it is perhaps most difficult and most brave to enroll a six-year-old Hungarian child in a United States kindergarten. “My son is a very intelligent little guy, but very stubborn,” says Dr. Balázs Ablonczy, visiting professor and chair of the Hungarian program at Indiana University, “He doesn’t speak English very well, so it’s a little bit hard for him.”

Fortunately, Dr. Ablonczy has found the Bloomington community to be accommodating and kind. Some things in Indiana have come as a pleasant surprise: “In Europe, in Hungary, the opinion about the United States is that it is the home of liberty, of freedom,” notes Dr. Ablonczy, “What is very surprising is that there is a bureaucracy and that it works.”

Dr. Ablonczy has had a busy fall. The three courses that he taught were based on Hungarian history and political figures. One course, which covered Hungarian history in the 20th century, was taught in Hungarian and was attended by professors and observers as well as students. While Dr. Ablonczy has taught similar courses before, finding appropriate sources in English was a challenge.

As an instructor, Dr. Ablonczy has found Indiana University students to be eager and ready to learn: “The capacity for analysis is very good for most of the students. Sometimes after I talk for 30 minutes about some huge Hungarian problem, my students can summarize everything in a phrase in a very practical and very useful way.”

Dr. Ablonczy earned his first master’s degree in history and French language and literature from Eötvös Loránd University in 1998. In 1998-1999, he studied at Université Paris 1–Sorbonne, receiving a master’s degree in the history of international relations. Returning to Budapest and Eötvös Loránd University, Dr. Ablonczy continued his studies in history. He received his PhD in 2004 with a dissertation on Pál Teleki between the World Wars. In 2005 the dissertation was published as a book, which was later translated into English as *Pál Teleki (1879-1941): The Life of a Controversial Hungarian Politician*. The book presents political and psychological perspectives on the former prime minister.

Indiana University has a long history with Eötvös Loránd University, where Dr. Ablonczy is an associate professor. Many former visiting Hungarian professors to



Dr. Baláz Ablonczy, György Ránki Hungarian Chair

IU are connected through Budapest’s academic circles. Dr. Ablonczy jokes that, “in a way I was a Hoosier before I knew what it was.” His doctoral thesis adviser, Dr. Ignác Romsics, taught at IU in the 1990s. Currently Dr. Ablonczy is the editor of a review whose board includes Dr. Pal Hatos, who taught in Bloomington twice.

Hungarian Studies at IU Bloomington is “the only program in the United States that has a complete University curriculum, from a Hungarian minor to a PhD degree,” says Dr. Ablonczy. As chair, Dr. Ablonczy is working with current professors to reach as many students as possible and to increase funding for graduate students.

In addition to teaching this fall, Dr. Ablonczy also juggled two upcoming book publications. Both books will be published in the spring of 2010. The first is entitled *Trianon Legends* and focuses on the cultural and social history surrounding the Treaty of Trianon, signed in 1920, which Hungarians see to this day as a great tragedy. Dr. Ablonczy’s second upcoming book covers minority issues in Hungary, specifically the interconnection between ethnicity and identity in Hungary and in neighboring states, and will be published under the title *Evidence Collection*.

Dr. Ablonczy anticipates only being in Bloomington for one year. Professional obligations as a professor and researcher await him in Budapest on his return. Dr. Ablonczy intends to continue his research into Hungarian-French relations between the two World Wars, with the goal of publishing a book on the topic soon. The foundation of his current research is culture and networks and the processes by which influence is built within public opinion and administrations.

Dr. Ablonczy’s students and fellow instructors appreciate his presence on campus this year. With any luck, both Dr. Ablonczy and his son will find their time in Bloomington to be equally rewarding. ☞

and had not shown any signs of handling it in an open and transparent way. Uyghurs wanted to express their dissatisfaction. After the July 5 protest, there was then a counterprotest that turned violent among Han Chinese in Urumqi, where Hans went into the street with weapons and beat and even killed some Uyghurs. This both indicated and probably increased the degree of hostility between Uyghurs and Hans in that city and in other areas in the autonomous region. Later on there was a series of reputed syringe stabbings, and this was particularly interesting. The Chinese government claimed that this created an atmosphere of terror. One reason that many Hans were afraid was that the prevalence of AIDS in the Uyghur community is higher than average in China and the incidence of drug use is higher among Uyghurs than in other populations. A team of medical scientists from Beijing investigated all of the people who had signs of syringe stickings and none of them had any signs of infection in their bodies. The stories about the violence, the stories about the syringe stickings, the stories about hostilities between Uyghurs and Hans have themselves affected the atmosphere in the place. It has increased the level of hostility and mutual distrust.

Dr. Nazarova: Recently I watched a program with Rabiya Kadeer, and she said that about 2,000 people died. A lot of people were put in jail. I think it was very dangerous for Uyghur people to go outside. When I watched the videos, I was so scared. I couldn't imagine how the Uyghur people were feeling.

IAUNRC: What analysis can you offer about the current situation in Xinjiang?

Dr. Bovingdon: There is an enormous police presence, much higher than usual. I think this presence, plus strong warnings from the government, including curfews, have enforced an atmosphere of calm. I think a lot of people are afraid, both Hans and Uyghurs. Right now you have enforced peace rather than any kind of feeling among Hans and Uyghurs that the problems have gone away.

IAUNRC: Any predictions on what will happen in the future?

Dr. Bovingdon: I think it's very hard to say. I was in Taiwan this summer, so I was hearing about all this at second and third hand, but lots of news organizations interviewed me after the July events. I said, "There will be no more protests, there will be no more people on the streets because the government has intimidated everyone." And then there were more Han marches, and then there was a Uyghur protest, and then there were the so-called syringe episodes. So I think it is very hard to make predictions. I think that the Chinese government's refusal to engage openly in discussion of what happened and how to deal with it will not be beneficial.

Dr. Nazarova: I'm really worried about Uyghur culture and the Uyghur language. The elder generation, 60-70 years old, they keep the Uyghur culture. Their children go to Chinese schools, and graduate from Chinese universities, to get a better job and life in Xinjiang. I believe that they want to study Uyghur and go to Uyghur schools, but they are concerned that they won't be able to get a good job. What will happen to Uyghur culture and language?

Dr. Bovingdon: I think these are legitimate concerns. I think lots of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, as well as outside Xinjiang, worry about this a lot. I would say there are more than 10 million Uyghurs. That's a large population. And many of those Uyghurs believe strongly in the importance of Uyghur language and Uyghur culture. Even with pressures to assimilate, I still believe that Uyghur language and Uyghur culture will survive. Unfortunately, Uyghur language and culture and religion have been politicized. In that context, it's not a simple decision to press for the continued study of the Uyghur language.

IAUNRC: Does the perception in some sectors of America that Uyghurs are terrorists come into play in any of your work?

Dr. Nazarova: One of my students' grandmothers read an article in the newspaper, and asked, "Why are you studying this language? Uyghurs are terrorists." He explained to her that it's just that Chinese official reports are not correct. Before, he didn't have any connection, any relation to Central Asia. He took this language because it sounded interesting. Today he told me that although his major is geology, his minor will be Central Eurasian studies. He is planning to go to Xinjiang to combine his research.

Dr. Bovingdon: I have a professional problem with all this talk about Uyghurs as terrorists as well as a deep sympathy with Uyghurs who are not terrorists and have never had any terrorist indications. But as a professional, I have taken it as my responsibility to challenge these reports that suggest that anyone who is Uyghur is Muslim and is therefore a terrorist, because this is nonsense. I take it as part of my responsibility to challenge that. That's one of the purposes of my book, which will be coming out next spring from Columbia University Press, *Strangers in Their Own Land*.

Dr. Nazarova: I like the title of your book. It reminds me of some lines from a poem of Dolqun Yasin: "*Bu nurluq Vetenni basti jahalet / Özimiz bolduquq öz Vetende yat.*" In English: in our own homeland we've become strangers.

IAUNRC: How have recent events affected Xinjiang studies?

Dr. Nazarova: Sometimes I get messages from students at other universities who are interested in Uyghur. Their question is how to get good textbooks, how they can learn and improve their Uyghur. I am happy that

now there are more people who are interested in Uyghur in the United States.

Dr. Bovingdon: We have about ten students studying Xinjiang at the moment; when I arrived there were two people explicitly interested in Xinjiang. So there has definitely been a growth here. I think this is a very good time for the field. I am particularly excited that we have not only a fantastic teacher of the Uyghur language, but also a fantastic author and editor of Uyghur language materials. When I studied Uyghur, I studied it with Chinese textbooks in China, and the textbooks were lousy.

IAUNRC: How will your field change in the near future?

Dr. Bovingdon: We have students with a lot of interests; this is both an opportunity and an obligation to us to develop a rich set of course offerings and to develop more cooperation. There's a lot of potential. ☞

Xinjiang inside the Beltway

In conjunction with the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Career Development Center, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center hosted a lecture by Uyghur human rights expert Ms. Kara Abramson on September 14. Over 50 students and faculty attended the lecture, entitled "Xinjiang inside the Beltway," which addressed the many ways that Uyghur human rights issues are represented in Washington. As Advocacy Director of the Congressional – Executive Commission on China, Ms. Abramson presented unique insights on the Uyghur human rights movement, specifically in regards to advocacy in Congress. Additionally, she offered a comprehensive overview of Uyghur interest groups, such as the Uyghur American Association, the World Uyghur Congress, and the International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation, and their activities in Washington, D.C.

In addition to describing the extent to which these Uyghur interest groups represent the Uyghur population of Xinjiang, Ms. Abramson also discussed women's rights and the sensitive nature of legal representation for Uyghurs in China. Her presentation concluded with a lively question and answer session during which Ms. Abramson fielded questions from the IU students and faculty in attendance. Ms. Abramson also spoke at the East Asia Career Night on September 15, describing the path to her rewarding and challenging career. ☞

Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center

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LOTUS continues from page 2

- **The Zolfonoon Ensemble of Iran**, led by Jalal Zolfonoon on the four-stringed *setar*, played on Saturday evening. Shahyar Daneshgar, senior lecturer of Persian and Azerbaijani languages at Indiana University, joined the ensemble on *daff* and voice.
- Back at Lotus by popular demand, **Little Cow** appeared twice at Lotus Festival. Both Thursday and Friday performances were well attended by audiences ready to rock out to a Budapest blend of ska, punk, rock and pop.
- The members of **Huun Huur-Tu** are famous for bringing traditional Tuvan music, including throat singing, to a global



Members of Huun Huur-Tu perform at Lotus Festival, IAUNRC staff photo, see page 2 for more information

audience. On Saturday night, they showed a new side of their musicianship through a collaboration with **Carmen Rizzo**, a well-known producer of electronic music. With a string quartet also joining them on stage, Huun Huur-Tu and Carmen Rizzo created a rich texture of sound.

More information about Lotus and the 2009 performers can be found on the Lotus website: www.lotusfest.org



A member of Little Cow performs at Lotus Festival, IAUNRC staff photo

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