

# Reaching Out

**Inner Asian & Uralic**  
**National Resource Center**

Winter 2004 Newsletter





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*Reaching Out* is a biannual publication of the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center. Questions, comments, and suggestions may be sent to the Newsletter Editor at [iaau@indiana.edu](mailto:iaau@indiana.edu)

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The IAUNRC also posts regular announcements, outreach materials and services, and networking opportunities on its website at :

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc>

Cover photograph by Shavkat Boltayev, a photographer from Uzbekistan.

## A Word From the Acting Director

With Bill Fierman taking a much-deserved sabbatical this academic year, I am serving as Acting Director of the IAUNRC. The able assistance of Nancy Boxell and Kasia Rydel-Johnston, along with three new Graduate Assistants (Heidi Bludau, Aimee Dobbs, and Leone Musgrave), has made an unusually busy fall semester pass swiftly with few crises. There was plenty to do, including the usual reports of grant activity, a full schedule of outreach programs, a new proposal to the Fulbright Group Study Abroad Program to fund the Center's two intensive summer language institutes in Almaty and Samarkand, and planning for the 2005 Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages on the IU campus. In addition we had a full complement of foreign visitors under the auspices of the Open Society Institute, the Junior Faculty Development Program, the Muskie Program, and the Fulbright Program.

More challenging and time-consuming was the Center's hosting, along with IU's Department of Central Eurasian Studies, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society. The three-day event, from October 14-17, was held in the Memorial Union and attracted approximately 400 participants from around the world, including a substantial number from the Central Eurasian region itself. By all accounts the

conference was a major success, the thanks for which must go not just to our regular staff, but to the tens of CEUS graduate student volunteers who reliably fulfilled their allotted duties. The conference attracted much attention to IU and its long-standing commitment to Central Eurasia.

With the hiring of Dr. Cigdem Balim as co-director of the Center for the Languages of the Central Asian Region, the two centers are cooperating more fully to coordinate enhancement of instruction, study, and materials development for the major languages that concern both. Dr. Balim is a linguist by training, with a specialty in Turkic languages. Beside her administrative responsibilities, she will teach a course in her area of expertise each semester for CEUS.

Meanwhile, the interactive distance learning of Uzbek and Kazakh, originating at IU, continues in cooperation with several Big-10 institutions, and our recently inaugurated individualized Advanced Directed Language Study (ADLS) option attracts more students each semester. Expanding both the number and level of languages taught through IU is an ongoing challenge, but one that IAUNRC will continue to meet with effort and imagination, as we have done in the past.

—Ed Lazzerini

## Announcements

**February 24: Estonian Independence Day Celebration.** Contact [REEI@indiana.edu](mailto:REEI@indiana.edu) for more information.

**March 4-5: Lotus Blossoms Festival** of international music, crafts and culture for children at various locations around IU and Bloomington. For more information call (812) 336-6599 or see [www.lotusfest.org/blossom.html](http://www.lotusfest.org/blossom.html).

**March 4-5: Annual Soyuz Symposium** of Postsocialist Cultural Studies. This year's topic is "Post Post-Socialism?" For more information see [www.iub.edu/~iaunrc/soyuz/index.htm](http://www.iub.edu/~iaunrc/soyuz/index.htm).

**March 26: Navruz Festival**, marking the beginning of spring as celebrated in many inner Asian countries, at IU's Wilkie auditorium. There will be a free cultural exhibit, dancing and authentic regional cooking.

**March 27: Navruz Festival for Children** at the Monroe County Public Library. Games, crafts and storytelling introduce children to the cultures in which Navruz is celebrated.

**March 26-27, April 1-3: Bloomington Turkish Film Festival** For film titles and locations contact [abbaskarakaya2000@yahoo.com](mailto:abbaskarakaya2000@yahoo.com).

**March 30-April 1: Conference on Gender & Feminism Under Post-Communism** sponsored by IAUNRC and the Russian and East European Institute. For more information contact [reei@indiana.edu](mailto:reei@indiana.edu).

**April 1: Deadline** for applications for **Foreign Language and Area Studies** support for the Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages at Indiana University.

**April 1: Creativity, Mind, and Brain in Hungarian Scholarship: Past and Present** symposium. For more info contact [reei@indiana.edu](mailto:reei@indiana.edu).

**April 9: Association of Central Eurasian Students (ACES)** presents their 12th Annual Conference at IU. For more information or to propose a paper contact [ACES@indiana.edu](mailto:ACES@indiana.edu).

# Mongolian Groups Present Artists, Archery and Ardor

October 15-17 Indiana University hosted the **Mongolia Society Annual Meeting**. Scholars from as far afield as Nanjing and as nearby as IU's own Goodbody Hall presented papers on topics from undergraduate exchange programs to traditional medicine in Modern Mongolia and Uyghur-Mongolian script in China's Mogao cave complex. To find out more (or to find great Mongolian gifts, such as earrings, CDs, and dice games), see the website, [www.indiana.edu/%7Emongsoc/](http://www.indiana.edu/%7Emongsoc/).

Simultaneous with the conference, the Mongolia Society and IAUNRC co-sponsored the exhibit "**Modern Paintings of Mongolia**." From September 20 through October 20 IU students and visiting scholars alike were able to view the works of Munkhtsetseg-Anar Jalkhaajav and Erdenebayer Monkhor at the Indiana Memorial Union Gallery. Erdenebayer was born in Baruun-Urt. His boldly colored and strongly geometrical paintings often depict horses, an essential part of traditional Mongolian culture. Jalkhaajav, Erdenebayer's wife, is from Ulaanbaatar, and more frequently takes traditional Mongolian women as the subjects of her paintings, which are dominated not by geometry but by the curving line. To see examples of their work, visit [www.artbayarmugi.mn/index.htm](http://www.artbayarmugi.mn/index.htm).

This fall the Tibetan Cultural Center hosted Bloomington's **2nd International Mongolian Festival**. (The Dalai Lama dedicated the new Chamtse Ling Temple at the first festival in 2003.) Included in this year's festival, the 13th-19th of September, were both traditional and popular singers from Tibet and Mongolia, contortionists, Native American religious leaders, wrestling, archery, movies, crafts, an art exhibit, religious instruction, and talks on religion and world conflicts.

The Tibetan Cultural Center was established in 1979 by the Dalai Lama's eldest brother, Thubten Norbu. This particular festival, of which IU is a co-sponsor, aims to broaden public awareness of the culture and plight of Mongolia, and all proceeds will benefit Mongolian and Tibetan charities. Mongolia has a long history of involvement with Tibet, and, after state repression of their religion in the 1930s, the great majority of Mongolians today again practice Tibetan Buddhism.

## Lotus Festival Welcomes World-Class Central Asian Musicians

**B**loomington's esteemed eleventh annual Lotus Music Festival took place the third weekend in September, with Inner Asian and Uralic artists particularly well-represented this fall. Named in part for a southern Indiana folk musician, Lotus Dickey, the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation presents multicultural programming year-round, the biggest event of which is the fall festival of music and culture from around the world.

This year's performers included both traditional and popular performers from Tibet, Finland and Turkey. In 1992, Tibetan pop star Dadon traversed the Himalayas in search of refuge and freedom of speech and religion. Persecuted by the Chinese government for her independence-minded lyrics (China annexed Tibet in 1959), she fled first to Nepal, then to India. Now regaling U.S. audiences with songs about the Dalai Lama and the high lakes of her homeland, Dadon mixes traditional motifs with the pop sounds of synthesizer and flute.

Members of Finland's first family of fiddling joined Norwegian folkers to create the unique sound of Frigg, whose songs employ Celtic and Appalachian idioms as well. Also representing Finnic music was Mari Boine, who incorporates elements of the traditional "yoik" style in her new music. Practiced by the indigenous Sami people of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Russia, yoik usually designates unaccompanied, improvised song, often concerning nature themes and deeply influenced by the personality of the individual performer.

The Sufi Music Foundation presented the beautiful ritual of the Mevlevi Order (or Turkish Whirling Dervishes, as they are more commonly known in the United States). Based on the Sufi Islamic teachings of Rumi and dating back to the thirteenth century, this rite combines spinning and prayer as means to transcend the body and channel the divine. As usual, the Mevlevi left standing room only at Buskirk-Chumley Theater.

Kyrgyz duo Nurak Abdyrakhmanov and Bakyt Chytyrbaev brought Bloomington Central Asian melodies developed over centuries. Known together as Jan Yrgagy, the two men performed songs about nomadic life on the steppe and the mountains, demonstrating their virtuosity on the traditional instruments the komuz (a lute) and the kyl kyjak (a two-stringed, horse-hair fiddle). Also popular was Nurak's special children's piece. Playing the komuz with his hands, Abdyrakhmanov used his feet to control a family of hand-carved goat puppets.

The festival also showed Pudovkin's 1928 film *Storm Over Asia* with a soundtrack by Tuvan throat-singing rock band Yat-Kha.



Expert komuz and kyl kyjak players Nurak Abdyrakhmanov and Bakyt Chytyrbaev, from Kyrgyzstan, after their Lotus Festival concert at the First Christian Church.

# Felix Oinas Remembered

Felix Oinas, Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Uralic-Altaic Studies and fellow of the Folklore Institute, died September 25, 2004 at his residence in Bloomington, Indiana, at the age of ninety-three.

Oinas was born in Tartu, Estonia in 1911 and earned his Master of Arts degree at the University of Tartu in 1937. Appointed to the Indiana University faculty in 1951, he received his doctorate from IU in 1952. Oinas also lived and worked in Germany and Hungary in the 1930s and '40s.

Teaching at Indiana University until 1981, Oinas aided in the development of the Estonian studies program, concentrating on linguistics and folklore. The many books he contributed to the field include: *Folklore, Nationalism and Politics* (1978); *A Basic Course in Estonian* (1993); *Essays on Russian Folklore and Mythology* (1985); *Heroic Epic and Saga: An Introduction to the World's Great Folk-Epics* (1978); and *Studies in Finnic Folklore: Homage to the Kalevala* (1985). In 1996 Oinas received the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship Award. In 1998 Oinas received the highest Estonian civil honor, the Order of the State Coat of Arms Second Class.

Survivors include his wife, Lisbet (Kove) Oinas; one daughter, Helina Piano and her husband, Charles, of Gambier, Ohio; one son, Valdar Oinas of New York, N.Y.; one granddaughter, Aili Piano of New York, N.Y.; and one brother, Aksel Oinas of Estonia. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernst and Maria (Saarik) Oinas, and two sisters, Selma Oinas and Johanna Oinas.



Estonian ambassador to the U.S. Kalev Stoicescu presents Professor Oinas with the Order of the State Coat of Arms.

## IAUNRC Visiting Scholars Fall Semester 2004

**Boumairam Ismailova** has been using her Fulbright scholarship at IU to study culture-specific aspects of figurative meaning in both verbal and non-verbal communication in English and Kyrgyz. She is a professor of linguistics at Osh State University in southern **Kyrgyzstan**, director of the Osh Resource Center, and an educational advisor for the Soros Institute.

**Nurmira Jamangulova** serves on the faculty of the American University in Central Asia. An active organizer of environmental preservation initiatives, she is researching new materials and methods for teaching ecology in **Kyrgyzstan**. She is visiting IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs as part of the Junior Faculty Development Program.

**Rustem Kadyrzhonov** is head of the Department of Political Science at the Institute of Philosophy and Political Science in **Kazakhstan**. As a Fulbright scholar at IU he is researching the national idea, national consolidation and the post-Soviet transition.

**Begench Karayev**, also visiting IU under the auspices of the Fulbright program, has served as head of the government's Foreign Political Information and Analysis Department in his native **Turkmenistan**. His research here involves contemporary political processes, democratization and regional security in Central Asia.

**Zarangez Karimova** came to IU with the Junior Faculty Development Program to develop methods of teaching Tajik students the reading and writing of academic English. She is an instructor at Tajik State Pedagogical Union in **Tajikistan**.

**Yelena Kondaurova**, along with other Junior Faculty Development Program scholars, joins IU from **Kazakhstan**. Her chief projects while visiting SPEA include international arts management and music education. At home, she is Associate Professor of Music Theory at the Kazakh National Conservatory in Almaty.

**Munara Mailybekova** directs the Humanitarian Lyceum of Talas State University in **Kyrgyzstan**. At IU's comparative literature department with the Junior Faculty Development Program, Ms. Mailybekova is developing English and comparative literature curriculum. She is especially interested in the relationship between Kyrgyz and Native American literature. Her non-academic interests include playing the komuz, a lute-family Kyrgyz national instrument.

**Nurlanbek Masyibaev**, a Social Science Research Council visiting scholar at IU, has been working on comparative religions, Central Asian studies, and the teaching of religion. He is a teacher of Arabic at the Islamic University of Bishkek, **Kyrgyzstan**.

**Yelena Moissejeva** teaches English and linguistics at Kokshetau State University in **Kazakhstan**. With the Junior Faculty Development Program she is updating her institution's materials and methodology for English-language instruction and working to increase collaboration between American and Kazakhstani scholars and students.

**Asan Saipov** teaches Islamic history at the Islamic University of Bishkek, **Kyrgyzstan**. Under the aegis of the Social Science Research Council he has been in Bloomington studying how the history and philosophy of religion is taught at American universities.

**Saurjan Yakupov** returns to Indiana this year as a Fulbright senior visiting scholar. Yakupov is studying general methodological issues of history and the place of Uzbekistan in world history. At home he is the director of the Shahr va Tavsiya Sociology Center in **Uzbekistan**.



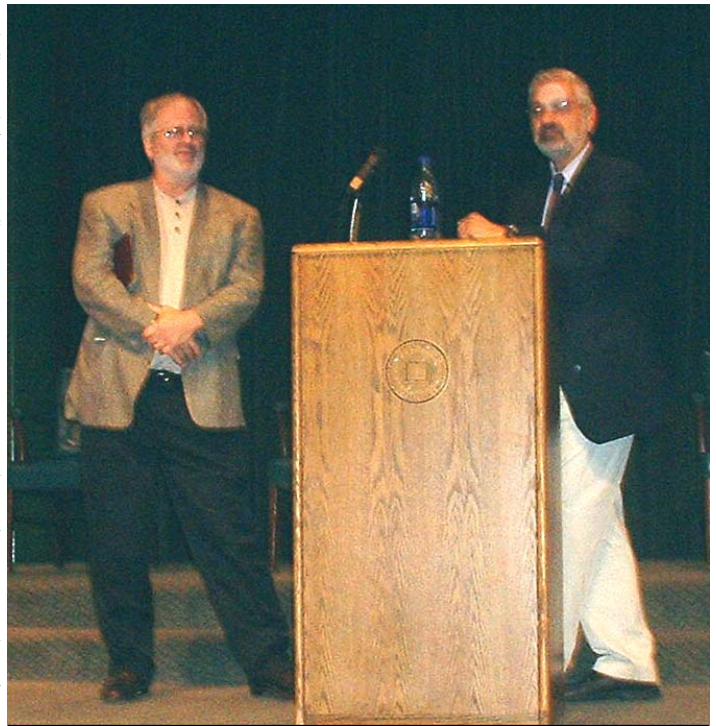
# IU hosts 2004 Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference

October 14-17 IAUNRC hosted this year's Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference. Held at the Indiana Memorial Union, the conference was co-sponsored by Harvard University. Over 400 members and non-members attended, participating in or attending panels on such topics as "Customary Law in the Caucasus," "Contemporary Education Reform Issues in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan," "Distortions in the Discourse of Danger: Small Arms and Conflict Prevention in Central Asia," and "Re-Orienting the 'Turks' in Academe: Where Is the Fit?" The scholars came from as far as Perth, Australia.

On Saturday, Ronald Suny of the University of Chicago gave the keynote speech, "Dialectics of Empire." Professor Suny discussed how the Soviet Union's Bolsheviks and the United States's "Bushheviks" have and have not propagated recognized models of empire.

Presentations by Indiana University scholars included: Henry Hale, "Cause Without a Rebel: Kazakhstan's Unionist Nationalism and Patterns of Secessionism in the Former USSR;" Dodona Kiziria, "Paradox of Toponyms in the City of Tbilisi;" Christopher Atwood, "Is Mongolia Part of Central Eurasia?;" Anya King, "Central Eurasia and the Silk Road;" Gardner Bovington, "Thinking Theoretically about Resistance in Xinjiang;" Barbara and Azamat Junisbai, "Kazakhstan's Democratic Choice Movement: A Case Study;" Christopher Whitsel, "Educational Participation in Tajikistan;" Brent Hierman, "The State's Influence on Patterns of Internal Migration: A Comparative Examination of Rural-Urban Migration to Astana and Tashkent." A number of IU faculty also served as either discussants or chairs on panels.

The conference also featured a program of films on Central Eurasia, an exhibit hall with jewelry, books and clothing from or related to the region, and a program of Central Eurasian music and dance at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater.



IAUNRC acting director Ed Lazzerini and CESS keynote speaker Ronald Grigor Suny



Shahyar Daneshgar, who hails from Teheran, received his musical training at the Teheran Conservatory of Music and Indiana University. Having learned to sing and drum at an early age, he now plays with and directs the Silk Road Ensemble. He is also a co-founder of Bloomington's Lotus Music Festival and a member of the Central Eurasian Studies Department faculty at Indiana University.

## Silk Road Ensemble on Tour

Bloomington hosted the first international symposium, "Azerbaijanis in Iran: Facts and Perspectives," October 15-17. Shahyar Daneshgar organized an international conference and a national educational and cultural project with the Inner Asian and Uralic Center, the Azerbaijani American Cultural and Educational Foundation, and a number of programs at Indiana University. More information is available at [www.aacef.org](http://www.aacef.org).

Dr. Daneshgar also organized a Midwest concert tour featuring some of the best artists of the Silk Road regions (Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey, and Uzbekistan). The Silk Road ensemble, directed by Dr. Daneshgar, gave several concerts, public lectures, and demonstrations. His ensemble also visited a number of classes at universities and elementary, middle and high schools, from 15 October to 22 November. At the fifth annual Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference, the ensemble gave two concerts and held several lectures, demonstrations, and workshops sponsored by the IAUNRC and the AACEF. The Silk Road ensemble was also invited to perform at the University of Wisconsin, Madison by the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (November 6) and at Ohio State University by the Middle East Studies Center (17 November).

Information about the tour and the artists is available at [www.silkroadensemble.com](http://www.silkroadensemble.com). A number of centers have shown interests in producing a CD-ROM featuring the classical music of the East, *Mugham* (modal music), with a special focus on the music of Azerbaijan.

## Meet Anna Pajunen

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**A**nna Pajunen, a visiting lecturer in Finnish language and literature for the Central Eurasian Studies department, hails from Jyväskylä, Finland, where she originally studied literature before discovering “a little linguist in me.” After obtaining her degree, Ms. Pajunen taught elementary and high school teachers at the Open University there.

Jyväskylä is located at the confluence of two lakes, Finland on the whole being known as the “Land of a Thousand Lakes.” Indeed, Ms. Pajunen notes that many similarities between Finland’s and Bloomington’s general landscapes and population sizes have made her feel particularly at home in the Midwest. She and her husband chose the U.S. partly because they knew English best, but she also has studied Swedish, German, Russian, Hungarian and Estonian.

For Pajunen, the biggest difference between teaching students in Finland and the United States has to do with her. Though she was pleased to report that her students here, in an introductory and an intermediate Finnish class, know quite a lot about Finland, she is ever-conscious of being a living ambassador of culture, and not merely a conveyor of knowledge.

Asked about the great literature of Finland, Pajunen recommends starting with recent literature and working one’s way back. Lately, Finland has experienced an explosion of detective stories, (“we have our own Henning Mankells—many”), and earlier on one finds great short stories by Päivi Alasalmi and Rosa Liksom. The national epic is the *Kalevala*, but it might prove a bit difficult for beginners.

Ms. Pajunen’s own research interests center on the period of intensive Finnish language development from 1820-1870, prior to which it was largely supplanted by the Swedish or Russian of the cultures that for centuries occupied Finland. Finally, in 1863, it became law that Finnish would be taught in school.

And when she’s not teaching and researching Finnish language and literature? Anna attends to her award-winning European short-hair cats, Marcel and Jimi.



## Csaba Pleh Returns

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**K**amilla Pleh learned to walk in Bloomington. That was thirteen years ago. Born in Budapest, Kamilla is now back in Bloomington attending middle school while her father, Csaba Pleh, teaches classes at IU on Hungarian language, culture and psycholinguistics as the 2004 György Ránki Hungarian Chair.

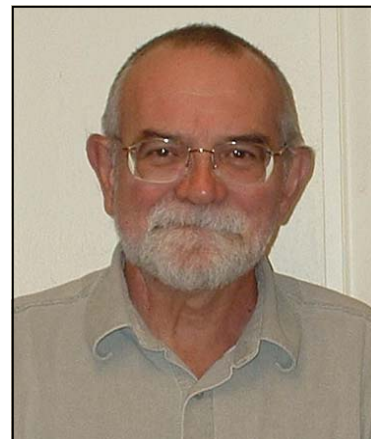
His first visit here, in ‘91-’92, was very productive for him, Pleh says, and he was always eager to return. He has long been a regular faculty member at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest and, more recently, at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, but he is favorably impressed by American libraries, as compared to those in Central European institutions, as well as by comparatively democratic departmental protocols here. Also, in part due to the recent quintupling of enrollment in Hungarian institutions, American students often seem more focused and hard-working than Hungarian students. At the same time, Pleh has found that American students are less bashful about jumping into discussion with their professors, perhaps owing to the more top-down structure of Hungarian schools. In any event, it makes Pleh more likely to lecture here and encourage discussion back home. Still, there are some cognitive leaps Pleh’s American students struggle to make. It seems particularly hard for them to understand how political power, such as that of “desperately tyrannical leaders,” could be so forceful and difficult to resist. Also difficult for them to internalize are the influence of nationality and ethnic tension. Another surprise: in the Hungarian primary school system public institutions usually provide the superior education. “So you pay for having it easier. In the States it’s the reverse.”

Thanks to Pleh, the U.S. and Hungary have actually been working on a number of cooperative research ventures, including an effort he is coordinating with a Purdue professor. Pleh’s own research deals mainly with Williams Syndrome, a genetic disorder that, among other things, impairs a child’s ability to make spatial distinctions. Since Hungarian is a language with particularly fine codings for space, (for example, it has approximately fifty post-positions—words like between, under, among), it is often easier to observe weak spatial concepts in Hungarian-speakers than in English-speakers.

Hungary was also inspiring for this incipient linguist and psychologist because of the unique nature of its multi-lingual communities. In the 1700s, during the reign of Maria Theresia, thousands of Germans migrated to Hungary. After WWII, Hungarians began moving into these villages as well. Of a population of 3,000 as few as 50 might be native Hungarian-speakers. Pleh grew up in such a village. Hungarian was the official national language and was used in schools, so Germans there had to know it, while because of the demographic structure German was the ubiquitous language in informal circumstances. The relationship could be strangely asymmetrical, though. “For example,” Pleh says, “in a...street conversation or store conversation where you buy bread, it was impossible for a Hungarian child to ask for ‘brot,’ even though he picked up some German, because there was a clear ethnic and language boundary that the Hungarians were not going to be integrated into the German community.” The local word for the Hungarians, in fact, meant “settler” or “newcomer.”

Many true Hungarian settlers also came to Michigan and Indiana, according to Pleh, to work in the Midwest’s burgeoning steel industry, farms, and limestone quarries. After World War II IU had a great influx of scholars of Hungarian descent. Still, says Pleh, Hungarian studies in the United States in recent times may actually be waning, one reason IU is fortunate to host the György Ránki Hungarian Chair, endowed by Hungary itself to encourage graduate studies in the field. Compared to the situation during his previous stint in the U.S., Pleh finds Hungarian studies to have become less linguistically and more economically oriented, partly to address Hungary’s accession to the EU.

Outside the University, Pleh’s favorite activities include running and reading 20th Century French Literature. His favorite junk food—Taco Bell. And as it turns out, like Pajunen and her husband, Pleh and his family are particularly fond of their three cats.





# Inner Asian and Uralic Scholars' Recent Activities

**Professor Martin C. Spechler** (Dept. of Economics, IUPUI) presented his paper, "Gradual Economic Reform in Uzbekistan: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back," at the NATO Advanced Research Workshop in Leiden, the Netherlands, September 10th. His article, "Central Asia on the Edge of Globalization," appeared in the July/August, 2004, issue of *Challenge*. He presented the article at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies October 14th. On October 15 he spoke to a gathering of Harvard graduates on "Islam: a Clash of Ignorances?" about the nature of Islamic practice in Central Asia.

In the summer of 2004, **Professor Christopher I. Beckwith** (Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies) published a book, *Koguryo, the Language of Japan's Continental Relatives: An Introduction to the Historical-Comparative Study of the Japanese-Koguryoic Languages, with a Preliminary Description of Archaic Northeastern Middle Chinese* (Brill). He was awarded an IU Summer Faculty Fellowship and spent the summer working on a new research project, a history of Central Eurasia from Common Indo-European times to the present, focusing on the Early Central Eurasian Culture Complex. Professor Beckwith has also been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship (2004-2005) for a related project, and is now in Tokyo at the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Rowman and Littlefield Press this year brought out a new work by **Professor**

**Matthew Auer** (School of Environmental and Public Affairs), *Restoring Cursed Earth: Appraising Environmental Policy Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia*.

**Professor Henry Hale** (Dept. of Political Science) had articles published in the journals *Comparative Political Studies*



Multi-generational approaches to scholarship at the 2004 CEUS reception

and *World Politics*, respectively, "Explaining Ethnicity" and "Divided We Stand: Institutional Sources of Ethnofederal State Survival and Collapse."

**Professor Martha Nyikos** (Dept. of Language Education) and Katalin Nyikos

presented "Bridging Generations and Alphabets: Achieving Bilinguality Using Two Writing Systems," about the switch from the Cyrillic to the Latin alphabet in Azerbaijan, at the NCTE conference in Indianapolis in November.

On May 11, **Distinguished Professor Emeritus Denis Sinor**, (Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies) gave the inaugural lecture, "Reflections on the History and Historiography of the Nomad Empires of Central Eurasia," at the First International Conference on the Medieval History of the Eurasian Steppe in Szeged, Hungary. He then traveled to Moscow as advisor to the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in connection with the forthcoming 37th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies, and to Cambridge for the 37th annual meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference. At the end of August, on board the Russian ice-breaker "Yamal" he traveled along the north-coast of Siberia and reached the North Pole.

Since last spring Sinor has published "My House in the Woods," and "Rediscovering Central Asia" in *Diogenes*, and "Augusti Alemany: Sources on the Alans. A Critical Compilation." *Handbook of Oriental Studies* (Brill 2000), and "Xavier Tremblay: Pour une histoire de la Sérinde. La manichéisme parmi les peuples et religions d'Asie Centrale d'après les sources primaires (Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2001)" in the *Journal of Asian History*.



## IAUNRC Biographical Questionnaire

## Help the IAUNRC help you!

The IAUNRC strives to sustain the interests of those who have taken coursework in Inner Asian and Uralic studies over the years through continued educational and funding opportunities. If you'd like to help us do so, please provide any of the information requested below by mail, fax or email.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail, e-mail, or  
fax your response to:

iaunrc@indiana.edu  
812.855.8667 (fax)

IAUNRC  
Indiana University  
Goodbody Hall 324  
Bloomington, IN 47405

Universities attended other than IU and Degrees Received/Expected

Current or past line of work/employer

Honors/Awards/Distinctions/Publications

# In Memory of Alo Raun

Alo Raun, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Uralic and Altaic Studies, was born in Tartu, Estonia on May 8, 1905 to Mihkel and Anna Reisman. He died on June 14, 2004 at Bell Trace Health and Living Center in Bloomington. Alo Raun obtained all of his education in the city of Tartu, a process which culminated at Tartu University (founded under Swedish rule in 1632) with a Ph.D. in Uralic linguistics in 1942. With its long academic tradition, Tartu served as a natural base for the Estonian national movement that began in the second half of the nineteenth century. During Raun's four decades in his hometown, Tartu was a vibrant cultural center. In the 1920s, it afforded him the opportunity to study piano at a conservatory. He enjoyed playing this instrument throughout his life. Raun taught at Tartu University, beginning in the late 1930s, and also served as scientific secretary of the Academic Mother Tongue Society and first secretary of the Estonian Learned Society.

During World War II Estonia was occupied by both the Soviet Union and Germany, the population being subject to terror in both cases. In 1944 Raun and his family fled the impending return of Soviet rule, first to Germany, where he was able to work at the Baltic University in exile in the early postwar years, and then to the United States. He came to Bloomington on a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1951 and then served

on the IU faculty from 1952 to 1975.

A pioneering figure in Finno-Ugric linguistics, Raun published widely in his field, with both books and articles on numerous Uralic languages. He is perhaps best known for *Essays in Finno-Ugric and Finnic Linguistics* (1971). One of his last published works was a brief etymological dictionary of Estonian (1982), and his interests also ranged to Turkic languages, as seen in his *Basic Course in Uzbek* (1969). His many honors included membership in the Finnish Literary and Kalevala Societies as well as honorary membership in the Societas Uralo-Altaica, the Finno-Ugric Society, and the Estonian Learned Society. For his outstanding service to the scholarship and culture of both Estonia and Finland, the governments of these two countries recognized Alo Raun with major awards.

Raun is survived by his son, also a member of the IU faculty. Toivo Raun teaches courses on Baltic, Finnish, and Scandinavian history; Estonian culture; Uralic peoples and cultures; and Russia as a multiethnic empire. His books include *Estonia and the Estonians* (updated 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2001). He is also academic advisor for the Baltic and Finnic Studies Association.



**Professor Raun, dubbed knight commander of the Order of the Finnish Lion, by the Finnish government.**

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