

CENTRAL SLAVIC CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

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CSC 46: “Meet Me in St. Louie”—Again!

The Central Slavic Conference (CSC) will hold its 46th annual meeting at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri in conjunction with the International Studies Association—Midwest (ISA—Midwest) from November 2–4, 2007. The CSC will host several panels and roundtable forums ranging from teaching Russian and Central European history, politics, and civilization to others that focus on East and Central European security and defense, Russian literature, an undergraduate/graduate student panel, and other topics. If you or someone you know would like to participate in the 2007 meeting, please contact one of the panel co-chairs, Kurt Jefferson or Robin Remington, by July 1, 2007 at jefferk@westminster-mo.edu (or he can be reached by phone at 573-592-5294) or remingtonr@missouri.edu. For those interested in participating in the ISA—Midwest part of the meeting please go to its website at

CSC Making Progress: Slowly, but Surely

By Kurt W. Jefferson

The CSC is moving—even if slowly! Having around 40 participants at our St. Louis meeting in 2006 suggests we are heading in the right direction. Also, the synergy created by working with the ISA—Midwest brought us several new members who knew little or nothing about the CSC. They have joined us given their commitments to teaching and researching about the Slavic world. Our new draft mission statement crystallizes the focus that will lead us further into the twenty-first century, as we move from an

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www.missouri.edu/~isa-m/ or contact Bryan Frederking at bfrederk@mckendree.edu. This year the CSC will have its annual business meeting (more to follow in terms of times and dates of panels, as well as hotel information, in the Fall 2007 newsletter) as well as an endowment board meeting. CSC 46 promises to be a wonderful event and working with our colleagues at the ISA—Midwest, 2007 will see more colleagues and more interest in CSC panels as several ISA—Midwest colleagues sat in on our panels in 2006. The registration fee for the 46th annual CSC/ISA—Midwest conference is \$40 (\$45 on-site). For more information on the annual meeting please contact Kurt Jefferson.

organization with a regional academic feel and hue, to one that is a bit broader in scope as we attempt to work with others who may not be professional full-time academics (non-graduate students). Certainly, the academy will continue to be our base of membership and support, but we hope to reach out to groups that have not been as actively tied to the CSC in the past, such as secondary teachers, graduate and undergraduate students, independent scholars, and non-academic professionals. This transformation will coincide

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CSC Draft Mission Statement

At CSC 45, the membership charged the president and vice president (Kurt Jefferson and Robin Remington), as well as CSC member Byron Scott with formulating a mission statement for the organization. Here is what they came up with:

CSC Mission Statement: "The Central Slavic Conference is an interdisciplinary, regional professional association. Its mission is to stimulate academic, governmental, and nongovernmental research on cultural, economic, historical, political, military and security imperatives transforming states, societies, and identities in the New Russia, Eurasia, and the New Europe. In this manner, the CSC creates a forum for public dialogue between educators, economists, journalists, policymakers,



*Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
President of the Russian*

security planners, NGOs and active members of civil society. We are committed to the shared research for knowledge. We welcome diversity and multicultural approaches." CSC Constituents: Undergraduate and graduate students, faculty from small colleges and universities, faculty from large research universities, exchange students and faculty, independent scholars, journalists, policy analysts, and educators at the secondary level. Your feedback on the statement is welcome and encouraged.

Brian Andrew Hodson, PhD: October 3, 1968–December 8, 2006

Brian Hodson passed away in Cascade Locks, Oregon on December 8th 2006 surrounded by his wife Cheryl, son Nathan Andrew Petr and daughter Viktória Ann Božena. Brian was an Assistant Professor of History at Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS specializing in Habsburg and Ottoman history.

Brian was born in Hutchinson, KS on October 3rd, 1968. He grew up in Hutchinson and Salina, Kansas and graduated from high school in Oklahoma City, OK. He married Cheryl Ann-Kane Sampson in Setburg, Iceland on August 21, 1994.

After teaching English in Košice, Slovakia, he graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service in May 1995. He then received his Master of History degree from Western

Washington University in July 1999. While at Purdue University he received the President Scholars Fellowship, the Purdue Research Grant and a Fulbright Scholars Fellowship that allowed him to research and study in Budapest, Hungary from 2001 thru 2003. He also received the Bernadette Schmidt Research Award from the American Historical Association in 2002. Brian received his Ph. D. from Purdue University in December of 2004.

Besides teaching at Fort Hays State University, Brian has also taught at the University of Indianapolis, Indiana and Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas. Along with teaching, Brian also enjoyed researching early modern

Please see *Dr. Brian Hodson* on page 5

Roman Abramovich, former elected governor of Chukotka in the Russian far east and one of Yeltsin's *oligarki* and owner of the English Premier League team, Chelsea in London, is the second richest person in the United Kingdom with an estimated fortune of \$22 billion or £11 billion (source: *Moscow News*, June 12, 2006, MOSNEWS.com)



Ukrainian football star Andriy Shevchenko (Андрій Шевченко) (on the 2004 Ukrainian postage stamp to the left) has been one of Europe's top strikers. He plays for the English side Chelsea which is owned by Russian tycoon (oligark) Roman Abramovich (Роман Абрамович) (public domain photo)

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, 1931–2007

“A man must live like a great, bright flame and burn as brightly as he can. In the end he burns out. But this is better than a mean, little flame.” **Boris N. Yeltsin**

"Life dictated that our fates crossed. Together in important posts, we had to solve problems linked with the changes that were occurring in the country, democratic changes. We were able to do a lot, but we had serious differences -- very big differences that the forces against perestroika and changes took advantage of." Former Soviet President **Mikhail Gorbachev**

“He was a direct and brave national leader and in this, his positions were always open and honest to the very limit. ... And all misfortunes and all sorrows, the difficulties and the problems of the people, he invariably took to heart.” Russian President **Vladimir Putin**

"We didn't always agree, but I tried to support him in his work and each time we spoke, I was struck by two things: his devotion to his country and its people, and his willingness to look at the facts and make a tough decision he thought was in Russia's long term interest. Fate gave him a tough time in which to govern, but history will be kind to him because he was courageous and steadfast on the big issues—peace, freedom, and progress.” Former US President **Bill Clinton**



The Grave of Boris Yeltsin in Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow (public domain photo)

Please see *Boris Yeltsin* on page 4

Highlights of CSC 45: The 2006 Annual Meeting

By Kurt W. Jefferson

The 45th annual CSC meeting was held in St. Louis at the Hilton at the Ballpark on November 3–5, 2006. It saw a wide array of panels and topics on the Slavic cultures and world, as well as some broader global topics that helped connect the CSC with its ISA–Midwest colleagues. The CSC had five panels on the following topics: 1) “Lessons from the Post–Communist Transition,” chaired by Terry Clark (Creighton University) which saw papers delivered on IR theory, Eastern Europe international relations, and legislative behavior in Lithuania; 2) “Russia and the Near Abroad: Politics, Economics, and Security,” chaired by Kurt Jefferson (Westminster College) which identity politics and EU expansion into the Baltics, NATO’s role in

Eastern Europe, and Vladimir Putin’s use of energy resources as foreign policy tools; 3) “Roundtable Discussion: State Sovereignty and Security: The Role of NGOs,” chaired by Robin Remington (Peace Haven International) which included Waverly de Bruijn, the international coordinator of the NGO Global Action to Prevent War. Ms. de Bruijn talked about her work with the United Nations and other social and political action activities. It was a CSC panel that linked theory and practice for ISA–Midwest scholars interested in global organizations; 4) “Rethinking National Security: Globalization, Co–Dependency, and Regime Change,” chaired by Robin Remington (Peace Haven International) which looked at Russian socio–agriculture advances and the attempts to access the EU in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Albania; and 5)

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CSC Making Progress from page 1

with an enlargement of the CSC's scope which takes it beyond the Slavic world into issues of European regional and global importance. Please join with us and catch the excitement as we continue to build on our fine reputation in the past and move the CSC in the right direction—a direction that is focused on continued promotion of understanding the Slavic world and the issues the world must confront today.

Highlights of CSC 45 from page 3

"Challenges in Education: Recent Developments at Moscow State University," chaired by Byron Scott (University of Missouri School of Journalism) which dealt with the training of broadcast journalists in Russia and the near abroad. Some 40 people in total attended various sessions as well as the annual business meeting. A good diversity of graduate students, faculty, and other professionals made the CSC part of their weekend in St. Louis and the event proved to be very satisfying to those in attendance. Longtime professional relationships were rekindled and some new relationships were developed as well.

President Yeltsin from page 3

President Yeltsin was a historic figure who served his country during a period of momentous change. He played a key role as the Soviet Union dissolved, helped lay the foundations of freedom in Russia and became the first democratically elected leader in that country's history." President **George W. Bush**

"You never should say anything bad about the dead, but Yeltsin left behind nothing good. ... For me, Yeltsin was a criminal who was never punished for his crimes." -- **Zargan Bugaeva**, 36, of Grozny, Chechnya, whose husband and mother died in Russia's war against Chechen separatists.

Editor's Comment: Yeltsin was buried in April 2007, 200 yards from Khrushchev, and in the same cemetery as famous composers Prokofiev and Shostokovich, as well as the Soviet director Eisenstein and Stalin's second wife Nadia Aliluyeva. Stalin's second foreign minister, Molotov, is also buried there.

From "Comments about Boris Yeltsin's Death," Associated Press and on-line edition of *The Boston Globe*, April 23, 2007 <www.boston.com>.

*"Let's not talk about communism.
Communism was just an idea, just pie
in the sky." Boris N. Yeltsin in 1989 on
a visit to the United States.*

Dr. Brian Hodson from page 2

Hungarian and Slovak history, spending time with his two children, traveling, hiking, developing and playing war games and debating politics with his wife. Besides being a Fulbright Scholar, Brian was also a Woodrow Wilson Junior Scholar and an American Council of Learned Societies Fellow. Brian was also a member of the American Historical Association, the Hungarian Studies Association, the Central Slavic Conference, and the Scholar's Initiative. He is survived by his family in Oregon, his father and stepmother, Larry and Shelia Hodson, of Dallas, TX, his brother Randall Hodson of Wichita, KS, and his grandmother Florence Hogan-Burris of Salina, KS. His mother Delores Ann Hodson preceded him in death. Memorials can be made to the Western Washington History Department care of the Western Washington Foundation, Bellingham, Washington and the Hospice Center of Bend-LaPine in Bend, OR. Celebration services were held in Hays and Salina, Kansas in January 2007. Burial was in Setburg, Iceland. [Editor's note: Dr. Hodson and his wife, Cheryl, joined the Central Slavic Conference in 2005 and were active

members, participating in the 44th annual meeting at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Dr. Hodson delivered a paper entitled, "Where are the Slovaks? Problems of Identifying and Representing Nationalities before Trianon." Dr. Hodson was teaching at Kansas Wesleyan University at that point in his career. Though he was with the CSC a brief time, his enthusiasm for students, teaching, research, and collegiality with his colleagues in the CSC and elsewhere will be missed. Thank you, Brian for touching our lives.]



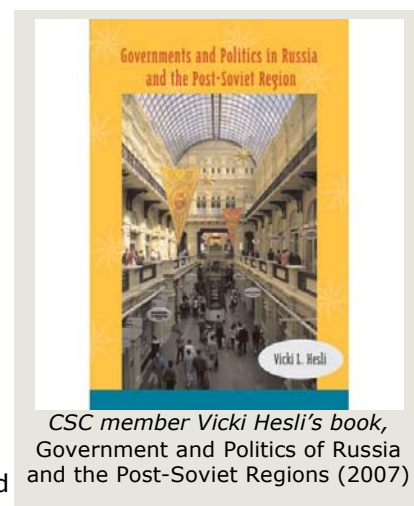
Dr. Brian J. Hodson (1968–2006), Late Assistant Professor of History, Fort Hays State University and CSC member

CSC Members' Corner

Vicki Hesli of the political science department at the University of Iowa published an excellent new book in 2007, *Government and Politics of Russia and the Post-Soviet Regions*. The book gives excellent coverage to post-communist developments in electoral politics, institutions, and political culture in Russia and is especially good on Hesli's specialty—Ukraine and its political development—and viewing Russia as a multinational state (with good discussions and analysis on the Caucasus and groups like the Tatars). **Sam Goodfellow** at Westminster College has been named the director of global education. He also taught French history

and culture as a visiting professor at École Supérieure Internationale de Commerce in Metz France in June 2006.

Robin Remington of Peace Haven International and **Bob Evanson** of the University of Missouri–Kansas City presented papers on co-dependency and security in Central Europe and security in Central Europe, respectively, at an international meeting in Poland in Summer 2006 and at the AAASS in November 2006. One of the CSC founders **Will Adams** has started the "Mad Hot Ballroom" program in the Kansas City public schools in order to teach fifth graders ballroom dancing. **Byron Scott** of the University of Missouri—Columbia's



CSC member Vicki Hesli's book, Government and Politics of Russia and the Post-Soviet Regions (2007)

Please see *Members' Corner* on

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We're on the Web!

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(MU) School of Journalism has been named the director of MU's European Union (EU) Center. It is one of the only EU center (funded by Brussels) west of the Mississippi. **John Ishiyama** is the editor and chief of the *Journal of Political Science Education* and the new president of the International Studies Association-Midwest. **Jerry Morelock** is the Senior Editor-in-Chief of *Armchair General*, one of the globe's top 25 magazines. *ACG* is devoted to military history and can be purchased online at armchairgeneral.com or quality bookstore. **Jacek Lubecki** is the director of the International Studies Program (and professor in the political science department) at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. **Kurt Jefferson** will chair a panel and serve as the discussant on Romanian politics at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago in August 2007. **Juris Pupcenoks** finished his MA in the political science and international relations department at the University of Delaware where he will stay on to complete his doctorate in global governance.

Please send Kurt Jefferson any updates on employment and title changes, professional accomplishments, and honors to be posted in upcoming *CSC Newsletter* editions. His Email is to the left.

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TO: _____
