THE NANOVIC INSTITUTE
FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES
2008-09 NEWSLETTER
FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am always amazed at what our students can accomplish if you provide them with the resources they need. In recent years, the Nanovic Institute has had tremendous success in stimulating both undergraduate and graduate research. We send our students to Europe, and they prove to be classic self-starters, working in Parisian archives, interviewing policy makers in Spain, and visiting world-class universities in Hungary. In the past year, we have supported two impressive conferences organized entirely by graduate students, one by students in the history department on the “common good” and the other by philosophy students on recent developments in Hegel scholarship.

In this issue of our newsletter, we take pride in bringing you up to date about many of these achievements. In addition, because no university can be great without great faculty, we are pleased to provide you with an overview of the major scholarly activities of our faculty fellows over the past year. Both nationally and internationally, Notre Dame is justifiably recognized for having one of the strongest faculty cohorts in European studies anywhere. This year, the institute has increased interdisciplinary collaborations among these talented individuals as the following pages demonstrate.

Finally, I encourage you to take note of the many areas in which our students and faculty are interacting with each other on an intellectual basis. One of the visions of the Nanovic Institute is that all of our programs should be closely integrated and mutually-reinforcing. In this way, we continue to make progress on our goal to create a culture of European studies at Notre Dame.

I heartily recommend that you look at our new website to get a panoramic view of our many aspirations, and accomplishments at NANOVIC.ND.EDU.

Also, if you would like to have a copy of the student research reports for the past year, please let us know. Last year, we funded over 106 undergraduate and graduate grants. The results are scintillating!

Jim McAdams
A. JAMES MCADAMS, DIRECTOR
WILLIAM M. SCHOLL PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
TERRENCE R. KEELEY VISITING VATICAN LECTURER

The Most Reverend Archbishop Angelo Amato presented the 2008-2009 Terrence R. Keeley Visiting Vatican Lecture, “Catholicism and Secularism in Contemporary Europe.” Archbishop Amato was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. He previously served as secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Archbishop Amato’s visit electrified the Notre Dame community. Nanovic students were thrilled to have breakfast with him and his assistant, Monsignor Sarno. The administration publicized his visit on the ND homepage, hosted a pranzo (luncheon) for him on the fourteenth floor of Hesburgh Library, and distributed copies of his lecture to the entire United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The lecture hall was filled to standing capacity and televised to an over-flow room and to the campus community. In his lecture, the archbishop described the Christian roots of Europe and their impact on the philosophy of human rights, distinguished between secularization and secularism, criticized secularist Europe for its Christophobia, and maintained that adhesion to Christian values remains the best defense against the consequences of relativism, fundamentalism, and xenophobia. He graciously answered questions and met with students and faculty afterwards.

DISTINGUISHED EUROPEAN LECTURER

Marc Crépon, Professor at the École normale supérieure in Paris and researcher at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), gave the 2008-2009 Nanovic Institute Distinguished European Lecture on “The Culture of the Enemy: A Critique of Huntington from Freud and Nietzsche” in April this year. He spoke to a full auditorium and had several meetings with students. He was nominated by Nanovic fellow Olivier Morel from the Ph.D. in Literature Program.

EUROPEAN UNION LECTURE SERIES

This year marks the addition of a new lecture series at the Nanovic Institute. The EU Lecture Series is devoted to furthering the knowledge of students, faculty, and other members of the Notre Dame community of the history, nature, and future of the European Union, with particular attention to issues of interest to both EU institutions and the Catholic Church. Mario Mauro, a vice-president of the European Parliament, gave the fall lecture on “The God of Europe: Christian Roots and the Future of Europe.” Ambassador Guido Lenzi, of the Italian Foreign Ministry, gave the spring lecture on “The Defense of the European Union.” Both EU visitors visited classrooms and met with faculty and students.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES PARTNERSHIP IN ROME

Director A. James McAdams and Assistant Director Anthony Monta travelled to Rome in May 2009 to represent the University at the annual meeting of the Catholic Universities Partnership. This group of educators seeks to promote the exchange of ideas and experiences on the challenges that face modern Catholic universities including such issues as curriculum, spirituality, leadership and research. The focus of this year’s meeting was “Identifying Opportunities for Academic Cooperation.”

The meeting enabled Notre Dame to “strengthen relationships and have an impact upon future generations of prominent academic leaders as they face the challenges and conflicts in building great Catholic universities,” McAdams reported.

The other institutions represented at the meeting were John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland; Catholic University of Ružomberok, Slovakia; Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine; Pázmány Péter Catholic University of Budapest, Hungary; Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy; Institut Catholique de Paris, France; and special guests Monsignor Charles Brown, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Rome, and Father James M. McCann, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.
A total of 64 undergraduate grants were awarded this year, ranging from initiative grants to attend conferences to internships that allow Notre Dame students to spend the summer working in Europe. The following are exceptional.

**THE R. STEPHEN AND RUTH BARRETT FAMILY GRANT FOR BEST RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**Monika Grzesiak** (Germany, Switzerland), “The Censored Playwright: An Investigation into the Motives of Frank Wedekind and the Reactions of His Critics”

**THE KATIE MURPHY MCMAHON GRANT FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST-CENTRAL EUROPEAN STUDIES**

**Thomas Dudro** (Germany), “German-Operations in Bosnia in the late 1990s and a Resurgent German Foreign Policy”

**TRAVEL AND RESEARCH IN EUROPE**

**James Murphy** (Spain, Canary Islands), “The Impending Crisis of Spanish Immigrant Education”

**Claire Brown** (Ireland), “The Construction of Rural Irish Identity as Seen Through the Lens of Connemara Pony Shows”

**Stephanie Mills** (Spain), “The Influence of the Machismo Culture on Domestic Violence and Gender Discrimination in Spain”


**Scott Varian** (France), “The Foundations of Gothic Architecture”

**Joseph Gleason** (England), “A creative Exploration of Post-World War II Religious Attitudes through Short Film,” the first student film at Notre Dame shot on location in a foreign country.

**Aimee Sunny** (United Kingdom), “Applying Historic Solutions to Today’s Problems: An Intensive Study of Urbanism, Architecture, and Historic Preservation in the United Kingdom”

**Vi Thien Ho** (Bosnia-Herzegovina), “Sarajevo, Nvi Travnik, and Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina”

**Caitlin Booth** (United Kingdom), “A Sociological Study of L’Arche Communities”

**Rachel Santay** (France), “The Shifting Balance of Reading and Literacy in the Working Class in Revolutionary France: Le Falot du peuple as Exemplary Text”

**Mary Ann Barge** (Russia), “Body Image and Self-Identity in Women’s Memoirs from the Siege of Leningrad”

**Daniel Krcmaric** (United Kingdom), “Do Nuclear Weapons Make the World a Safer Place?”

**Gabrielle Miller** (Spain), “The Impact of Latin American Poets on the Republican Cause during the Spanish Civil War: Pablo Neruda and Cesar Vallejo”

**Catherine Davis** (France), “Louis XVI & the Gothic Family”

**James Drummond** (Russia), “The Masculine Identity in the Contemporary Russian Cinematic Family”

**Monica Garcia-Blizzard** (Italy), “Immigration & Illicit Vending in Italy”

**Marcus Gatto** (Portugal), “O Lançado: The Tragic Figure of Portuguese Expansion”

**Allison Lang** (France), “Discerning Monarchy through Ambiguity: The Search for Louis XVI”

**Andrew Polich** (France), “Public Reaction to the Installation of the Tramway in Angers, France”

**Kelly Poupore** (France), “Not so Veiled Controversy: The Prohibition of the Veil in Secular France and the Problems and Contradictions that Arise”

**Laura Srebro** (University of California San Diego - home of primary documents from the Spanish Civil War), “Images of Fascism: A Comparative Study of Fascist Propaganda in Spain and Germany, 1936–1939”
Congratulations to 2009 Minor in European Studies (MES) graduates: Kristine Nugent, Laura Srebro, David Crowley, Paula Alfonso, Jason Che Chiu, Alison Ambrose, Kelly Poupore, and Floyd Rose. Not pictured: Monica Garcia-Blizzard, Marcus Gatto, Megan Marsh, and Andrew Polich.

The MES program is offered in collaboration with the College of Arts and Letters. It is open to and pursued by students from multiple colleges. Students enrolled in the MES program gain exposure to diverse aspects of history, politics, culture, and languages of European nations. They are required to complete additional courses on Europe and advanced language training beyond that required by the College of Arts and Letters, and must work alongside a Notre Dame faculty mentor on an individual basis for a semester to complete a final essay. Students often apply for the Institute's undergraduate research grants in conjunction with their essays. The minor serves as a way to enrich the experience of studying abroad in Europe by connecting it directly to the curriculum on campus.

In addition to the academic requirements, minors enjoy a variety of activities throughout the year, including free admission to the institute's film series and invitations to private breakfasts with distinguished European visitors such as French philosopher Marc Crépon and Archbishop Angelo Amato. This spring, the minors particularly enjoyed meeting Merlin Crossingham, a lead animator of *Wallace & Gromit*, along with a few Film, Television, and Theatre majors. The Institute also hosted a special graduation brunch for the departing seniors, who were accompanied by their families and final essay advisors. Having fulfilled the minor's requirements, the minors bring a broader perspective to their professional lives following graduation, which enhances their potential for success in today’s competitive global world.

**Advanced Language Training in Europe**

The Nanovic Institute is working closely with other programs on campus engaged in improving opportunities for students to elevate their skills at the best advanced language training programs abroad. Because demand for such opportunities has increased, the institute has partnered with the university’s Summer Language Abroad (SLA) program administered by the new Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures (CSLC) in addition to supporting independently the most exemplary undergraduate applications for Russian and Portuguese.

DANE REIGHARD ('10) a double Russian and Film major was awarded this year’s **ALEXANDER PUSHKIN GRANT FOR ADVANCED LANGUAGE TRAINING IN RUSSIAN** for eight weeks in St. Petersburg through the prestigious School of Russian and Asian Studies based in California. Additional Russian grant recipients were Thomas Wiseman, attending the University of Arizona Russia Abroad Summer Session, and Helen Syski, who will participate in the American Council of Teachers of Russian Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program.

BRONWEN ELIZABETH MITCHELL ('10) a major in Biological Sciences with a minor in Portuguese won this year’s **PESSOA GRANT FOR ADVANCED LANGUAGE STUDY IN PORTUGUESE** for eight weeks at the Universidade de Lisboa and the Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

**Advanced Language Training Grants**

Margaret Bolotin (Russia), University of Arizona Russia Abroad Summer Session Option 4 - St. Petersburg and Moscow

Trigg Ferrano (France), Summer French Language Immersion in Nice, France

Monika Grzesiak (Poland), Jagiellonian University School of Polish Language and Culture

Michael Fedynsky (Ukraine), Language study at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv

**Internships in Europe**

Thirteen undergraduate internship grants were awarded this year in a variety of fields, including manufacturing, scientific research, medicine, and architecture including the following.

**European Parliament Internship**

Kathleen O’Connor (Italy), Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Office of the Prime Minister, Italy)

**Herrly Internship**

James Ogorzalek (France), Assistant to retired U.S. Army Colonel (and Notre Dame alumnus) Peter Herrly in Paris

**Architecture Internship**

Deirdre Connell (France), Architectural Assistant to STYLES Architects

**Minors in European Studies**

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With the Institute’s support, Nanovic faculty fellow Krupali Uplekar journeyed this March with her class of fourth-year architecture students to the remote Siebenbürgen region in Romania to document unique Transylvanian Saxon villages built in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. This investigation was not a simple academic exercise. Their research and recommendations may contribute to the revitalization and economic growth of the region and represent the first of many possible international efforts there. It is an excellent example of what Notre Dame does uniquely well: research as service.

Specifically, the class’s documentation will enable them not only to assess the conditions of the homes in this region and to understand the architectural style, but will contribute to the drafting of a patternbook that can be used to aid the villagers in simple repair techniques to preserve the architectural features. The students will also be designing possible renovations that would enable each home to convert a room into a guest suite or small store for selling local crafts or other entrepreneurial venture. By preserving the character of these villages, in compliance with European Union regulations, this area may become a destination for ‘eco-tourists’ interested in hiking or exploring the countryside, which is a rare, pristine medieval landscape in Europe.

Consistent with the Nanovic Institute’s goal of fostering interdisciplinary connections, the architects were joined by Marcela Perett, a graduate student from the Medieval Institute, who spent the trip exploring churches in each of the villages and viewing the manuscripts contained in them. Further connections are possible in the future: the region could benefit from lessons in micro-lending from students in the Mendoza College of Business, could host biology or history students interested in the local environment, could provide a place of study for anthropologists interested in changing populations and the Roma, and certainly would appreciate the service of undergraduates who could help to restore their homes.

The architecture students had each studied in Rome during the previous year, but reported that this region differed markedly from any they had previously encountered. They were also able to interact with the local people in greater depth. Students appreciated the opportunity to work on a project that will have a visible impact on a community, and reported greater motivation to pursue their assignments. As their designs and drawings will be collected in a single publishable work, they had to collaborate at a new level. As this article goes to press, the students remain hard at work preparing their designs to present to the university community. Their contributions may soon be used by local residents and their municipal government.
Students examine an Elizabethan recreation garment and authentic articles of clothing from special collections. “Looking at the pictures and examining drawings does not even compare with seeing the real deal,” said Notre Dame senior Carolyn Richer.

MORE EUROPEAN STUDIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Keith Bradley (History) took students to the British Museum in London, England, to the interdisciplinary Hadrian exhibition and explored its connections with the work of the contemporary novelist, Marguerite Yourcenar.

Maryam Zomorodian (English) took twenty-four undergraduates to a Chicago Shakespeare Theater production of Shakespeare’s Macbeth.

Craig Cramer (Music) took ten of his organ students to northern Germany to study contemporary organ-building with master builders, take part in a masterclass with Pieter van Dijk, and to play and explore world-class organs during the course of their renovation.

Catherine Perry (Romance Languages and Literatures) took undergraduates in her course on late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century French literature to a performance of Richard Wagner’s Tristan and Isolde in Chicago, where they were joined by graduate students from the Ph.D. in Literature Program.

NANOVIC SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

by Karla Cruise

Though raised in a one-size-fits-all era, Rick Donnelly’s “History of Costume” class refined their taste for the tailor-made during a recent fall-break research trip to England.

“What pleased me most was how engaged the students were in the research—like kids in a candy shop,” says Donnelly who has taught in the Film, Theatre, and Television department (FTT) for the past eighteen years and has done his own research into English fashions during the Regency period. With grants from several university sources, including Learning Beyond the Classroom, the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), the Nanovic Institute, and FTT, he was able to use his connections at some of the world’s best collections of historic garments to organize a ten-day research trip for eight Notre Dame undergraduates to museums and historic sites in London, Stratford, and Bath.

Only half of Donnelly’s class is about nuts-and-bolts construction issues, the other half treats the costume as historical artifact. The trip not only gave the students the opportunity to think like historians and do empirical research, it also encouraged some to think about their futures. Said senior Kathryn Stelloh, “I’ve always known I wanted to do technical theatre, but with this class I feel like I’ve learned more about costuming than other areas and could actually survive in that world.”

Students enjoy the Chicago skyline before attending the Chicago Shakespeare Theater and organ students study the Schnitger organ in Ganderkesee, Germany.

Students examine an Elizabethan recreation garment and authentic articles of clothing from special collections. “Looking at the pictures and examining drawings does not even compare with seeing the real deal,” said Notre Dame senior Carolyn Richer.
The number of 2008-09 graduate grant applications for travel, research initiatives, and language training surpassed our highest expectations. We supported 42 graduate student grants this year which is just shy of our total from the last seven academic years combined. For a complete list of recipients, visit our website at NANOVIC.ND.EDU.

**THE DOMINICA AND FRANK ANNESE FELLOWSHIP IN GRADUATE STUDIES**

Charles Leavitt IV (Ph.D. in Literature)  
“Reconciling Word and World: Theories of Literature in the Age of Neorealism”

**PAUL G. TOBIN DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS**

Mykola Sorochnisky (Law School, J.S.D. program) “Regional Human Rights Courts: Resolving Disputes or Transforming Countries?”

Bradley Thames (Philosophy) “Historicity, Contingency, and Virtue”

**GRADUATE TRAVEL AND RESEARCH GRANTS**

Natalie Baeza (England)  
“Adorno’s Negative Dialectics and Critical Theory”

James Fetter (Germany)  
“One World, Two Philosophical Traditions: A Comparison of Maritain’s and Kojeve’s Arguments for World Unification and European Integration”

Michael Mawson (Germany)  
“Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Ethics and Hegelian Philosophy”

John McCormack (France)  
“Wounded Faith: Monarchy and Memory in the French Wars of Religion, 1559-1629”

Kunle Owolabi (France)  

**GRADUATE INITIATIVE GRANTS**

Walter Early (England), Museum of Steel Sculpture Summer Residency

Kathryn Gardner (England), Conference: “European Identities: Regionalism, Nationalism and Religion” at the Notre Dame London Centre

Dan Hicks (Germany), “Science and Values: The Politicization of Science”

Kelsi & Keri Matwick (Spain), “A Sociocultural Study of Women in Contemporary Spanish Immigration Films”

Stephen Morgan (Pennsylvania, USA), German Script Course at the Moravian Archives

Jeremy Montemarano (Czech Republic), “Summer School on Crime, Law, and Psychology”

Sonja Stojanovic (France), “The Madeleine Cemetery and the Resting Places of Memory”

**ADVANCED LANGUAGE TRAINING GRANTS**

Goethe-Institute (Germany)  
Michael Francis, Premium Superintensive 4

James Martell de la Torre, Intensive 8 weeks

Institut d’études françaises d’Avignon (France)  
Mark Driessen

Hannah Zdansky

Scuola Insieme (Italy)  
Francis Hittinger

The University of Minnesota/Digurdur Nordal Office of the University of Iceland (Reykjavik)  
Melissa Mayus

The University of Salamanca (Spain)  
Bretton Rodriguez

**MBA STUDENTS VISIT BOSNIA**

As part of a new course titled “Business on the Frontlines,” MBA students examined the impact of local and international business on rebuilding war-torn societies. The course is taught by associate professor of management and Nanovic faculty fellow Viva Bartkus. With the institute’s support, six students spent part of January in Sarajevo, Bosnia, studying developmental economies and topics related to peace-through-commerce efforts. They submitted the following reflections.

“I have never witnessed a sense of hopelessness as the one I witnessed in Bosnia. . . . How to restore hope is the answer we should be looking for. . . . This trip has expanded my view of the responsibilities of business beyond profit.” – Tim Rentenbach

“I was glad to see that my Notre Dame classmates gained the understanding of a native to the life in the Balkans because they got an opportunity to experience the same hardships as a native, something no other business institution offers in the US.” – Ilija Filipov
Organizing academic conferences used to be the exclusive domain of faculty and university administrators. Increasingly, however, graduate students are organizing their own conferences, tailoring them more closely to fit their interests and taking responsibility for all associated administrative tasks. This academic year, with sponsorship from the Nanovic Institute, and additional support from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Graduate School, Notre Dame graduate students in history and philosophy organized two graduate student conferences on campus.

The first was a regional, interdisciplinary conference hosted at Notre Dame on October 9-11, 2008 and was entitled From Res Publica to the Republic of Letters: The Common Good in Transition and Translation. Seven graduate student organizers hosted three guest speakers from the University of Chicago, Indiana University (Bloomington), and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Twenty-seven participating graduate students from fourteen universities and colleges took part in interdisciplinary discussions about the theory and practice of the common good.

“The skills we learned cannot be taught, and will be vital for the proper performance of our jobs in the future. I do think hiring committees will recognize the significance,” said Mike Westrate, Notre Dame graduate student in history. In addition to giving the students important administrative experience, the conference broadened the way some students thought about the subject. “The interdisciplinary study of the theory and practice of the common good . . . seems to me to be fundamentally invested in improving the quality of life for people in the world . . . I think our conference demonstrates that a significant number of up-and-coming scholars are committed to the idea that research need not be focused exclusively in on itself, but may have an object greater than the creation of new knowledge,” said history graduate student in history John McCormack.

On March 6-8, 2009, Notre Dame graduate students in philosophy hosted the conference Hegel and German Idealism. From 85 applicants, the organizers selected fifteen students from all over the country and some from abroad to present papers. Two prestigious scholars from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Toronto delivered keynote addresses. Conference advisor and Notre Dame Professor of Philosophy Fred Rush said of the event: “It was a major conference, with excellent graduate student presentations, with a palpable sense of shared intellectual community developing among the participants.”

Explaining how the idea of having a graduate student conference on Hegel and German Idealism evolved, graduate student in philosophy and conference organizer Jay Miller said: “We felt that we had a small but important contingency among us, and our idea was to bolster visibility of this contingency, as well as to put ourselves in touch with a broader community of young scholars with research interests similar to our own. We wanted to keep the focus relatively narrow to attract students with similar interests, yet broad enough to invite a variety of relevant issues and viewpoints within that framework.”

The conference may have an even greater impact on the scholarly community, as conference organizers are presently in communication with Cambridge Scholars Press about the possibility of publishing the conference proceedings as a collection of essays on Hegel and German Idealism.

The Nanovic Institute will continue its support of graduate student conferences in the coming academic year. In October 2009, a group of history graduate students will host an interdisciplinary conference entitled The Center Cannot Hold: The Movement of Ideas between Imperial Centers and Peripheries. The gathering will focus on the interactions between centers and peripheries, particularly in the context of empires, and how those interactions affect people and cultures. The organizers have issued a successful call for papers and anticipate a lively dialogue, continuing the Nanovic Institute’s latest initiative to support graduate studies.
Nanovic faculty fellow Karl Ameriks, McMahon-Hank Professor of Philosophy, has been elected a fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). Founded in 1780 by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock, and other leaders, the Academy seeks “to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honour, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people.” Prof. Ameriks specializes in the history of modern philosophy, continental philosophy, and modern German philosophy, with a particular interest in Immanuel Kant. He has significantly contributed to the Institute this year through organizing the Modern and Contemporary European Philosophy Workshop and mentoring the graduate students who designed a conference on Hegel.

MAJOR SYMPOSIA AND RESEARCH

CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN IDENTITY: Nanovic faculty fellows Andrew Gould and Anthony Messina from the Department of Political Science gathered European and American scholars at Notre Dame’s London Centre to discuss the nature of regional, ethnic, nationalist, and religious identity in Europe and its implications for the broad project of European integration. Entitled “European Identities? Regionalism, Nationalism, and Religion,” the conference included representatives from history, political science, and sociology, such as Jack Citrin, Jytte Klausen, Bonnie Meguid, and Jonathan Laurence. The first half of the conference focused on empirical data related to categories of self-identification (regional, ethnic, nationalist, ‘European’), the strength of such identifications, and the extent to which they have represented challenges to European integration. The second half of the conference explored the extent to which Islamic identification has represented a similar challenge in specific countries such as Germany and Portugal, and Europe more generally.

The conference was the first sponsored by the institute at the university’s London Centre and was attended by graduate and undergraduate students from Notre Dame and other universities in the London area, including the London School of Economics. Tariq Ramadan, who teaches theology at the University of Oxford and serves as president of the European Muslim Network, delivered an evening address. The institute anticipates that the proceedings of the conference will be published.

Scholars at the conference touched on everything from Pushkin’s early bawdy poetry (still unpublished in Russia), to under-studied or unacknowledged aspects of his biography, to Soviet uses of Pushkin as both a secret code for freedom of expression and a stultifying model of good Soviet behavior. One component of the conference was the discussion of the twists Pushkin’s reputation has taken recently in Russia and the foregrounding of one of his weaker, politically reactionary poems as the new anthem of Russian neo-imperialistic aspirations.

The conference revealed how the various restrictions on treating Pushkin’s life and literary production have impoverished the understanding of the poet and perpetuated “blind spots” in Pushkin scholarship. Even the mere fact of openly discussing and interpreting Pushkin’s ‘taboo’ works allowed scholars to make provocative connections between these texts and his most canonical works, opening up new, formerly unthinkable perspectives.

COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: In October, the Nanovic Institute sponsored a conference entitled, “Church-State Relations and Religious Liberty: Comparative Perspectives,” which honored Nanovic faculty fellow Donald Kommers. Kommers has served as a member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1963 and of the Law School since 1976. He held the Joseph and Elizabeth Robbie Chair of Political Science until his recent retirement. The conference gathered his colleagues from around the globe to discuss hypothetical legal cases from the perspectives of different jurisdictions. Panels addressed issues of religious liberty and the relationship between Church and State in a variety of countries. Dieter Grimm, a former Justice of the German Federal Constitutional Court, delivered the keynote address to which Kenneth Ripple, a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, responded. The participants particularly appreciated the format of the conference, which offered substantial time for dialogue and intellectual engagement.

ON GROUND-BREAKING RUSSIAN LITERARY RESEARCH:

In a landmark event in Pushkin studies, entitled “Alexander Pushkin and Russian National Identity: Taboo Texts, Topics, Interpretations,” Nanovic fellow Alyssa Gillespie brought two keynote speakers and an international group of prominent scholars to delineate how Russian cultural taboos regarding Pushkin continue to be related to Russian national identity. Several scholars noted that such a conference could never occur in Russia, and that they were delighted to participate in such open-minded and wide-ranging evaluations of Pushkin’s life and works. Scholars at the conference touched on everything from Pushkin’s early bawdy poetry (still unpublished in Russia), to under-studied or unacknowledged aspects of his biography, to Soviet uses of Pushkin as both a secret code for freedom of expression and a stultifying model of good Soviet behavior. One component of the conference was the discussion of the twists Pushkin’s reputation has taken recently in Russia and the foregrounding of one of his weaker, politically reactionary poems as the new anthem of Russian neo-imperialistic aspirations.

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NEW VISITING SCHOLAR SEMINAR SERIES

The Nanovic Institute designed this series to welcome leading scholars to campus for extended one-week visits, enabling prominent scholars in Europe to engage in sustained conversations with faculty and students.

This January, the Nanovic Institute welcomed Igor Pilshchikov to campus to inaugurate the series. As a leading researcher at the Institute for World Culture at Moscow State University and the editor-in-chief of both the journal Philologica and The Fundamental Digital Library of Russian Literature and Folklore, Professor Pilshchikov has a wide range of interests and provided a paradigm for the series as it develops in future years.

In addition to presenting a formal lecture on “Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto, and Tasso in Russia,” Professor Pilshchikov offered daily discussions, ranging from an overview of humanities research, politics, and the academy in Russia today to more specialized topics related to translation and the role of classical genres in eighteenth century Russian literature. Professor Pilshchikov also visited two undergraduate classes, including a first-year Russian language class in which the students had the valuable opportunity to practice Russian with a native speaker. Faculty fellow Alyssa Gillespie facilitated the visit.

VISITING SCHOLAR RESEARCH

Andrea Simoncini, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Economics at Florence University in Italy, visited as a Distinguished Fulbright Scholar. He taught “European Constitutional Traditions” in the Law School.

Judit Révész (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary) collected materials for her dissertation in education and met with a variety of administrators in the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program. She plans to publish an article on the ACE program in Hungary.

András Cser (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary), an expert in phonology and the history of linguistics, completed a monograph during his stay.

Jarosław Marczewski (Catholic University of Lublin, Poland), a scholar interested in religious tolerance in sixteenth century Poland, investigated the extent to which American historians have addressed this aspect of Polish history. As a result of his stay, he will publish two book reviews and an article.

Andrzej Cieślik (University of Warsaw) taught a course on the European Union in the Department of Economics and Econometrics while collaborating with colleagues at Notre Dame and Western Michigan University on several forthcoming publications.

Julia López (Pompeu Fabra University) continues to work on the process of judicialization in national labor law in Europe, focusing both on labor market flexibilization and the role of domestic judges in applying international labor law.

César Cantón (University of Navarra, Spain), a specialist in business ethics, worked on a book project entitled Human Foundations of Management.

Oleksandra Vakula (Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukraine) audited classes in the theology department while translating her dissertation from the Pontifical Lateran University into Ukrainian and continuing her research in patristics. She also presented the lecture, “A comparative analysis of the theological systems of the Valentinians, Ireneus of Lyon, and Origen,” sponsored by the theology department.

Emmanuele Vimercati (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy) researched the different terms used by Platonic authors to describe the concept of matter.

Tomasz Sieniow (John Paul II Catholic University, Poland) collected materials to further his research on international migration law.

Ulyanna Holovach (Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukraine) continued her work on ancient Greek philology and literature and prepared a new course for her students.

SUMMER 2009

This summer, the institute will host a visitor from l’Institut Catholique de Paris: Emmanuel Lincot, the Vice-Dean for International Affairs. He plans to research implications of the French presidency of the European Union and is planning collaborations with Notre Dame faculty members. The Institute will also host several visitors from the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin: Fr. Antoni Dębiński, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration; Artur Kuś, Chair of European Union Law; and Fr. Bogusław Migut, Chair of Liturgical Spirituality.
The Nanovic Institute for European Studies

FACULTY SYMPOSIA AND RESEARCH

“Unite or Die: Power Politics and the Construction of the European Union” (Sebastian Rosato) brought a group of faculty from Notre Dame and other universities to respond to his new monograph, which provides a ‘balance of power’ theory of the origins of the European Union.

“New Paradigms in Revolutionary Studies” (Julia Douthwaite), a continuation of a French-American colloquium with colleagues in Aix-en-Provence and Toulouse, was a journée d’études that brought together Francophone and Anglophone scholars for discussions of how recent developments in historiographical theory and practice could advance understanding of the relations between the politics, arts, and literature of the French Revolution.

“Political Theory for Victorian Studies” (David Wayne Thomas) brought an interdisciplinary group to Notre Dame to rethink literary scholarship’s usage of common political terms and concepts and engage a number of historical issues and methodological concerns posed by such questions as: “Can philosophy by John Rawls, or political theory by Jürgen Habermas or Hannah Arendt, be of significant use to a scholarly field with the historical concerns typical in Victorian studies?”

“The Changing Face of Armed Conflict” (Luc Reydams), a symposium followed by a film festival and lectures, marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Geneva Convention.

FACULTY RESEARCH & DISCUSSION GROUPS

The number of institute research and discussion groups almost doubled during this academic year. These are led by faculty and include members from multiple disciplines. Some are reading groups, others function as scholarly workshops. All are given generous support. These groups demonstrate the institute’s commitment to creating strong lateral relationships among faculty so they can focus on research questions which transcend disciplinary boundaries.

Islam and Contemporary Europe, recently-formed, will explore a variety of issues including religious dialogue, church-state relations, ideology, the role of art in society, immigration, and cultural openness. Faculty from departments including anthropology, history, political science, romance languages and literatures, and theology participate in the group’s monthly meetings to discuss the issues by considering a variety of articles and literary works.

NEW FACULTY FELLOWS 2008-2009

MAURIZIO ALBAHARI, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
LANCE ASKILDSON, Director, Center for the Study of Languages & Cultures
VIRGINIE ASKILDSON, Specialist in Foreign Language Pedagogy, College of Arts and Letters
ALESSIA BLAD, Visiting Assistant Professional Specialist in Italian, Romance Languages and Literatures
CRAIG CRAMER, Professor of Organ, Music
BERND GOEHRING, Assistant Professor, Program of Liberal Studies
OMAR LIZARDO, Assistant Professor, Sociology
MONIKA NALEPA, Assistant Professor, Political Science
PIERPAOLO POLZONETTI, Assistant Professor, Program of Liberal Studies
ISABELLE TORRANCE, Assistant Professor, Classics
ERNESTO VERDEJA, Assistant Professor, Political Science and the Kroc Institute for International Peace

War and Revolution is a forum for discussing scholarly methods of studying the relationship between political history, literature, and the arts produced during periods of intense political turmoil.

The Program in Russian and East European Studies, co-directed by Alyssa Gillespie (Russian Language and Literature) and Semion Lyandres (History), formed a faculty research group under the auspices of the Nanovic Institute in fall 2008. The group aims to foster interdisciplinary contact and cooperation among faculty in diverse fields and departments whose research focuses on Russia or Eastern Europe.

“Social and Political Theory Workshop” is dedicated to the study of European philosophy from roughly the 16th century to the present, with special emphasis on 19th and 20th century continental philosophy in the French and German traditions.
EUROPEAN SPEAKERS

The Institute continues to support faculty in bringing a wide range of European speakers to campus.

Ananda Devi (Catherine Perry, Romance Language and Literatures), winner of the 2007 Prix de la Francophonie and the Prix RFO (Réseau France Outre-mer), spoke about “A Question of Engagement” in Francophone literature.

Anna Moï (Alison Rice, Romance Language and Literatures), Vietnamese Francophone author, delivered a public lecture in English about immigration in France, the present status of the “Francophone” writer, and the necessity of forming the new conception of “world-literature in French.”

Deszö Benedek (Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Georgia) presented the lecture “The Last Nomads of Europe: Roma and Their Migrations.”

Paul Begin (Sam Amago, Romance Language and Literatures) addressed how Luis Buñuel’s early documentary films were employed in the interest of promoting social justice for Spain’s most poverty-stricken provinces.

Jordana Mendelson (Sam Amago, Romance Language and Literatures) described how magazines and propaganda published during and after the Spanish Civil War helped to mobilize diverse social groups for the cause of the Spanish Republic.

Nicholas Bonner (Aaron Magnan-Park, Film, Television, and Theatre), a film producer from the UK, came to campus to discuss Crossing the Line, his third documentary film on North Korea.


Pierpaolo Donati (Christian Smith, Sociology), an Italian sociologist and member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, participated in an on-campus conference on “Critical Realism and U.S. Social Science.”

Winfried Löffler (Mike Rea, Philosophy) from the University of Innsbruck came to Notre Dame to give a public lecture, work with discussion groups in philosophy, and participated in the Innsbruck Faculty Exchange.

FACULTY RESEARCH

Tom Kselman (History), spent three months in France working on the emergence of religious liberty as an individual right in post-revolutionary France in conjunction with his NEH grant.

Daniel Groody, C.S.C. (Theology), worked with Marek Majcher from the Slovakia Border Patrol to gain insight into cross-cultural border issues and to inform new theological perspectives.

Ted Cachey (Romance Language and Literatures) coordinated Notre Dame’s participation in an international project to create a historical dictionary of the Italian language as it existed before 1375.

Monika Nalepa (Political Science) worked with Conor O’Dwyer (University of Florida, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies) to construct a game-theory model of how professional civil services in Eastern Europe can be created despite frequent turnover in political institutions.

Alex Martin (History) conducted archival research in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the cosmopolitan life of Johannes Ambrosius Rosenstrauch (1768-1835) in preparation for writing a biography.

Pierpaolo Polzonetti (Liberal Studies) acquired a photographic reproduction of Pasquale Anfossi’s Italian opera, L’orfanella americana. This is a unique resource donated to the Hesburgh Library and is part of Polzonetti’s ongoing study of the American Revolution in Italian opera.

Don Crafton (Film, Television, and Theatre) traveled to European film conferences in Spain, France, and Italy to conduct research on early intersections of film and music.

Keir Lieber (Political Science) presented a paper, “How Much Is Enough? Nuclear Deterrence Then and Now” at the Program on Nuclear Issues (PONI) conference in Reading, England.

Olivier Morel (Romance Language and Literatures) presented his philosophical research on Montaigne, Rousseau, and Blanchot at the colloque international du groupe phi (CELAM).

Craig Cramer (Music) studied the latest developments in contemporary organ building with high-profile firms in Leer and Hamburg.

Jay Skelton (Film, Television, and Theatre) conducted research on classical stage direction in London and Stratford-upon-Avon.
“Maxim Kantor’s paintings do not induce sweet dreams,” admits Vittorio Hösle, Nanovic faculty fellow and Notre Dame’s Paul G. Kimball Chair of Arts and Letters, who was instrumental in bringing the exhibit “Maxim Kantor: Selections from the Wasteland and Metropolis Print Suite” to the Snite Museum of Art. Hösle’s comment is an understatement. In Kantor’s etchings and woodcuts, obese and cadaverous figures engage in every kind of human vice; the landscapes alternate between the apocalyptic and the merely desolate; the perspective is skewed and unnerving; the colors are lurid and unnatural. Kantor’s world is Disney’s antimatter.

This first appears to be the work of a nihilist. “No,” says Hösle, who has known the Russian artist for twenty years. “He does not believe in the collapse of moral authority. Quite the contrary, he views the existence of moral authority to be a fundamental dimension of life.” But to find Kantor the idealist, he explains, you must learn how to “read” his work.

“Kantor grew up with an iconographic knowledge of paintings, and his paintings are very inter-iconic, always alluding to other works,” says Hösle. Take, for example, Kantor’s “St. Luke Draws the Virgin.” This etching refers to Rogier van der Weyden’s “St. Luke Drawing a Portrait of the Virgin Mary” (1435-40) a painting Kantor no doubt first encountered at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. In Van der Weyden’s Renaissance work, St. Luke appears to be painting the Virgin and Child as they appear before him, arrayed in brocade and velvet and flush with the beauty of youth and hope. In Kantor’s expressionist rendering of the threesome, St. Luke still sits before the Virgin and Child, but he paints the Pietà. Seeing beneath reality’s comforting illusions and exposing its tragic inner core. That, in Kantor’s view, is art’s sacred mission.

Russian society, Kantor’s most frequent subject, has a tragic core: all the horror of the Soviet era with its legacy of violence against its own people; the squalor of post-Soviet poverty; and the vulgarity of unbridled capitalism. Sometimes, the images he chooses to represent his native land border on platitude: —Russia the Sphinx; Russia the Chimera—the old “riddle wrapped up in enigma.” But Kantor reinvents these stereotypical images: the sphinx is not half-man, half-lion, but half pig and half bear. The beast’s human half is also split, half welcoming peasant and half hooded executioner. Kantor doesn’t care that there’s nothing attractive about his images because his objective is Truth. Truth, that is, as revealed through satire.

“The idea of satire [in graphics] goes back centuries. Graphics were the first form of mass media. It’s a method perfectly suited to commentary,” says Notre Dame art professor and printer Jean Dibble.

In those prints focusing on Russia’s social ills, Kantor uses his mastery of two art forms, woodcuts and etching, to express the tension between opposing ideas, forces, and traditions.

Elements Kantor associates with Russia’s identity, the “Red” Soviet regime, the Asiatic influence, the primal power of the people, the suffering-centered Christian sensibility, he frequently depicts in red wood cuts. Those elements rendered in black etching reflect Western-influenced reality, its civilized rationalism, its focus on the written word, its bourgeois democracies. In an etching/woodcut entitled “Ecce Homo Russicus,” red skeletons radiate from under black muscle tissue of two Russian men. In the work “Europe and Russia,” a personified Russia turns his actual red leering face aside and holds up a mask of a black-etched civilized man for Europe to kiss.

It’s not surprising that an artist whose works are as message-rich as Kantor’s should find himself equally at home in literature. In fact, his controversial two-volume, 1,400 page epic about post-Soviet society The Drawing Textbook (2006) which depicts the lives of Russian and European intellectuals, artists, politicos, and oligarchs, has made him better known for his fiction than for his art. Kantor follows the time-honored Russian tradition of expressing dissent through art. The artist, now 49, is old enough to have been personally affected by the repressive Communist regime and his art, both literary and visual, bristles with the crushed idealism of one who had high hopes for the post-Soviet era and was betrayed.

Kantor’s reaction to this betrayal? All-out war. From the novel’s first page, Kantor makes clear his creed against all things immoral and false: “A brush is a sword. You must hold it as you hold the hilt of a sword; not clenched, but with assurance.”
NANOVIC INSTITUTE FILM SERIES:
CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN ANIMATION

This year’s series presented the best recent additions to the long traditions of European animation by showing films from France, the Czech Republic, Russia, Portugal, and Switzerland. The series included rare screenings of films by internationally-famous filmmakers, several of whom came to campus, engaged with students in classrooms, and left as new-found friends.

The series was integrated into the college seminar “View World through Animation” during the spring semester with students attending the films and the filmmakers visiting the classroom. Films included titles by legendary stop-motion animators like the Brothers Quay (UK), Jan Svankmajer (Czech Republic), and Merlin Crossingham (of Wallace & Gromit fame). Astonishing two-dimensional animations came from Yuri Norstein (Russia), Abi Feijó (Portugal), and Georges Schwizgebel (Switzerland). With speakers like Don Crafton (Notre Dame), Clare Kitson (UK Channel 4), Malynne Sternstein (University of Chicago), in addition to Feijó, Schwizgebel, and Crossingham themselves, the series attracted wide attention. It also led to invitations to collaborate with the Harvard Film Archive, and put Notre Dame in direct contact with leading film makers in Europe. The last two showings, introduced by Merlin Crossingham, were sellouts at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

NANOVIC INSTITUTE FILM SERIES

Oscar Nominated Short Animated Films from Europe
Banquet of Oddities: Films of the Brothers Quay
Alice (1988) by Jan Svankmajer
The Films of Yuri Norstein: An Animator’s Journey
The Animated Films of Abi Feijó
The Animated Films of Georges Schwizgebel: From Glass to Celluloid
Aardman Animations: A Brief History

NANOVIC INSTITUTE FUNDS EUROPEAN FILM LIBRARY

Nanovic fellow and Chair of the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre, Don Crafton, believes foreign films provide “windows into the world.” If that’s true, then the recent Nanovic funded library acquisition of 300 foreign film DVDs will open a stunning global vista and put Notre Dame’s European film library on par with its peer universities.

With a $15,000 Nanovic grant, the library has ordered 250 new DVDs (plus 50 upgrades from VHS format) with strong representation from the cinematic traditions of France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy. To enhance and diversify their current holdings, the library has also acquired samplings from European countries with smaller scale film industries, such as Hungary, Poland, Sweden and the Netherlands.

“We bought what vendors had available that we didn’t already own...we perused lists and prioritized titles,” explained Dave Jenkins, Notre Dame’s bibliographer for European History who purchased the DVDs for the library. “Our holdings in European films weren’t bad, but we needed an initiative to fill in the holes and provide crucial updates,” Jenkins said. The Nanovic initiative did just that.

Students eager to explore world cinema on their own, may view films on all-region players at Hesburgh Library’s Audio Visual Resource Center. Many of the new films have already been catalogued and are ready to view.

NANOVIC CULTURAL EVENTS

In our support of European culture, the Nanovic Institute partnered with the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center to present “The Mushroom Picker,” a one-man play. Playwright and actor Patrick Dewane told the story of his grandfather, a man whose odd radio-handle during the 1970s—“The Mushroom Picker”—was really a clue to his history as a Czech-American soldier fighting in his ancestral homeland during World War II.
ALUMNI NEWS

In the summer of 2007, the Nanovic Institute funded a research project in South Tyrol (Italy) for Phillip Alday, which ultimately blossomed into his senior thesis in German. That same line of research recently led Alday’s work to be accepted to the International Congress: Ideas of Europe / Ideas for Europe an international conference sponsored by the European Union. Two current Notre Dame graduate students, Joshua Bandoch and James Fetter, who were also funded by Nanovic Institute research grants, joined Alday as presenters. There will be an eventual publication of the conference proceedings.

The interviews that John Grothaus (MES ’08) conducted in Spain during the summer of 2007 with the help of a Nanovic grant have gone beyond his senior capstone essay. His advisor, Andrew C. Gould, thanks Grothaus in the acknowledgements of his article, “Muslim Elites and Ideologies in Portugal and Spain,” which appeared in the January 2009 issue of West European Politics.

EUROPEAN INTERNSHIP: UKRAINIAN ORPHANAGES
by Catherine M. Stecyk

In June 2008, I traveled to central Ukraine to work in two Ukrainian orphanages, those intended for the most physically and mentally disabled children in Ukraine. I arrived with determination to force myself beyond my comfort zone, to connect with my homeland for the first time in my life, and to reach out and serve children directly.

Orphanages are funded and staffed by the Ukrainian government. With the fall of the Soviet Union, a newly-independent and struggling Ukraine inherited these orphanages and other healthcare institutions from the USSR. As a result, orphanages in Ukraine fell into despicable conditions as funding was diverted to other government agencies.

While in Ukraine, our group of nine college students met several times with the founders of the Children of the Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) to discuss the state of the orphanages and changes over the past ten years in terms of healthcare, therapy, and annual child mortality.

The most significant thing I gained during my time in those two central Ukrainian orphanages was the ability to love those cast aside, those placed on the edges of towns in a faraway land, some unwanted and others completely forgotten. I thank the Nanovic Institute and the University of Notre Dame for making this unbelievable experience possible.