

Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund

The first grants of the newly established Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund have been awarded to scholars of the University of Heidelberg. The grants have enabled Elena Matveeva (Ph.D. student, English Department) and Alexander Vazansky (Ph.D. student, History Department) to travel to conferences in Russia and the United States and to conduct archival research. As news of the Ghaemian Travel Fund has spread around the University of Heidelberg, the HCA has received several more grant proposals from graduate students and young researchers working on the United States.

Elena Matveeva took part in the conference “Russian-American Relations: 200 Years of Collaboration” in Moscow in November 2007. The conference was organized by the Russian Academy of Science in cooperation with the American Embassy and Kennan Institute. During the conference, Elena had the opportunity to present her project - an investigation of American journalists who travelled to and wrote about the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s - as well as to meet a number of American and Russian experts in American history and American studies. Participating in the Moscow conference, therefore, was not only an important academic experience; it helped Elena to establish contacts with several American professors, among others with David Engerman from Brandeis University, author of *Modernization from the Other Shore: American Intellectuals and the Romance of Russian Development* (2003).

Alexander Vazansky travelled to Washington D.C. for the duration of the holiday break. During his two week stay he was able to conduct final research for the completion of his dissertation “An Army in Crisis: Social Conflicts in the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army, 1968-1975.” An added bonus was the fact that at the end of his stay he could attend the 122nd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. The four day conference included panels relevant to his own research such as “Voices of Military Resistance: Continuities and Discontinuities among Dissenters in Chile, Vietnam, and Iraq” and “Beyond the “New Military History”: New Histories of the Military, Warfare, and Society.”