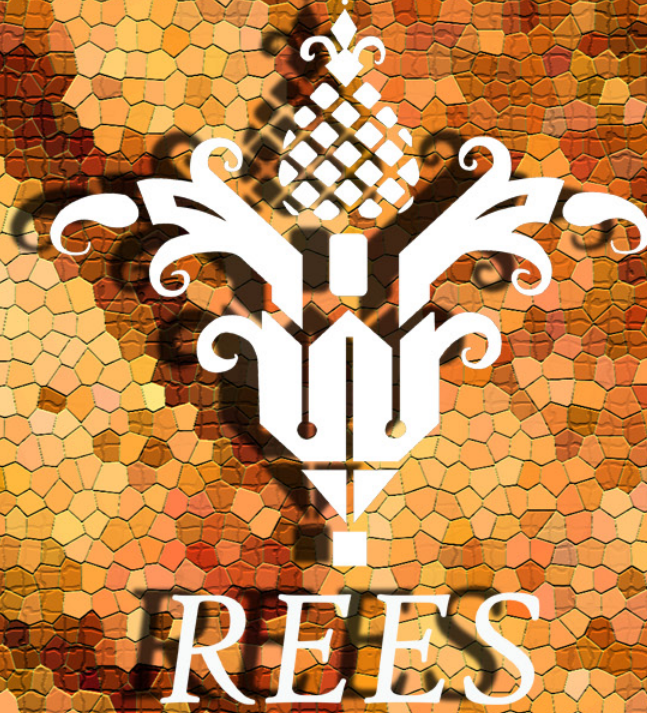


CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

# NEWSLETTER

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UCIS

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR  
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## From the Director



Greetings! Like other firsts, one's first Director's column comes with a certain amount of anxiety. What to focus upon? What tone to strike? How to avoid tumbling into another lament about "the state of international studies?" Fortunately, events of the past few months have significantly eased my task. That's right—all I have is *good news!*

First, in late September, we learned that our many months of extremely hard work on yet another Title VI proposal were rewarded with REES's 10th consecutive National Resource Center grant and another cycle of FLAS funding. Given the unique challenges of this specific round, our latest victory was particularly sweet. I want to once again take the opportunity to recognize and thank all of the past and present *REESniki* who contributed to this outstanding success.

This summer also marked a new stage in our ongoing relationship with the Slavic Department. Starting July 1, REES Acting Associate Director Dawn

Seckler formally took on a new role as Summer Language Institute (SLI) Executive Director. This constitutes a significant step in our joint administration of this highly successful intensive language program. During the coming year, Dawn, Christine Metil and Oscar Swan will be working closely together to ensure a smooth and successful transition to the new administrative model. We look forward to this next chapter in our partnership with all of its promise of new and innovative SLI opportunities.

In other developments, working closely with our faculty advisory board, we re-launched the REES faculty small grants program with a new rolling application process and clearer guidelines. Our noon speakers event has given way to four separate, thematically focused series, including the Carl Beck Speaker Series, which will bring in leading outside academics and experts to speak on innovative research and critical issues. On the study abroad front, we will once again be working with Bill Chase on his highly innovative Spain and Turkey program, will roll out the first offering of "Competing Perspectives on Global Energy: From Western PA to Eastern Europe," and will bring back our Study Abroad Consortium on Eastern Europe and Eurasia (SACEEE) offering after last year's course was cancelled due to events in Ukraine. We are also looking forward to repeating the highly successful Project GO-sponsored

Russian language course in Narva, Estonia.

I could easily go on, but as the following pages attest, we have quite a bit to squeeze into this meager newsletter! So to summarize: the Center is as strong as ever and we continue to seek out innovative ways to maintain our excellent standards, meet oncoming challenges and seize new opportunities. Thank you all for your continued support in these endeavors and please keep sending us your ideas, updates and suggestions. Best wishes for a successful academic year!

**Andy Konitzer**  
*Acting Director of REES*



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### Ukraine: The Failure of the West

By Tymofiy Mylovanov



Ukraine is in a deep security, economic, and political crisis. The situation is very tense. The economy has entered a recession and the projected GDP growth is negative; systemic corruption has not been touched; the risk of a gas shortage in the winter is growing; the foreign exchange market remains turbulent, endangering an already heavily-hit banking sector; and despite the unstable ceasefire, there is no feasible lasting solution in sight for the war in the East. The capacity of the executive power continues to be extremely limited, with incompetent bureaucrats populating most of the offices, and their incentives have not been aligned with that of the public. The public is increasingly disillusioned with the political will of the new government and the president to reform the country, as well as with some of the new-wave activists.

The new government's and the president's strategy to avoid this scenario appears to be involving the frustrated political forces, which are at risk of radicalization, into the political process, elections, and ensuring that they get some political power in the new parliament. This is a wise approach. Nevertheless, it is not enough to win over and pacify the key political players. The public will continue to be frustrated by the lack of real change and by the deteriorating economic

situation and will hold the president and, to a lesser extent, the government responsible for the failure of the revolution. To survive in office, the president has no choice but to unite with the government and conduct radical reforms.

The president's position is partly justified by his reliance on Western support. The politicians in the West have endorsed President Poroshenko politically and have committed to provide economic support to the Ukrainian government to ensure the survival of Ukraine as a sovereign state. Prior to Poroshenko, the Western politicians similarly extended their support to interim Prime Minister Yatsenyuk. The problem with this strategy is that it strengthens the political power of those in the Ukrainian government and protects the government from constructive political competition and accountability within Ukraine. The West compensates by demanding reforms in exchange for support on a case-by-case basis. However, this approach is not ideal as it requires decisions about the most needed reforms to be worked out in the West. A better strategy would be to focus on creating healthy and stable political pressure within Ukraine and supporting both the government and the new opposition forces in order to provide incentives for all involved parties to stabilize Ukraine and make it prosper.

Author Bio: **Tymofiy Mylovanov** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh and a co-founder and co-editor of the blog VoxUkraine.org, dedicated to the research-based analysis of policy for Ukraine. He was born in Kyiv, Ukraine and moved to the U.S. for graduate studies in 1999. Dr. Mylovanov holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and has taught at the University of Bonn, Penn State University, and the University of Pennsylvania before finally finding his home at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on optimal design of political and economic institutions, and he is actively involved in applied policy design in Ukraine.

### REES Awarded New Title VI National Resource Center and FLAS Grants for 2014-18



We are very pleased to announce that REES has been awarded new grant funding by the U.S. Department of Education for the next four years through the Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship programs. As the total number of funded NRCs nationwide for the Russian, East European and Eurasian world area was reduced in this round of competition, we are particularly proud of our successful application. In 2014-18, REES's renewed Title VI funding will support a wide range of instructional and outreach programming, library and information resources, and Academic Year and Summer FLAS Fellowships for graduate and undergraduate students. We would like to extend our gratitude to all REES faculty members, students, and associates, whose outstanding achievements contributed to the Center's continuing success in this prestigious grant competition.

### Report from 2014 Summer Language Institute

*by Dawn Seckler, SLI Executive Director/REES Acting Associate Director*

The University of Pittsburgh's Summer Language Institute (SLI) enrolled a record 142 students in Slavic, East European, and Near Eastern intensive language courses this summer. This marks a 25% increase over 2013 enrollments and a whopping 50% increase over 2012 enrollments. Several factors help to explain the high number of students. For instance, in 2014 the SLI expanded its language offerings to include an 8-week intensive Arabic course. Also, for the third year in a row the SLI hosted the Baltic

Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), which augments regular language offerings with Estonian, Lithuanian, and Latvian classes. Finally, Pitt's Project GO (Global Officers) critical language program, which provides scholarships to nationally recruited ROTC cadets and midshipmen, drew 50 students into multiple levels of Russian courses held both in Pittsburgh and abroad.

Impressively, over half of all SLI 2014 students studied abroad. They gathered real-world language practice in locations as diverse as Krakow, Poland; Prague, Czech Republic; Moscow, Russia; and Podgorica, Montenegro. The largest abroad program ran in Narva, Estonia, a Russian-speaking city on the border with Russia, where 34 Project GO scholarship awardees from across the U.S. convened at Narva College of the University of Tartu. This group was originally destined for summer language study in Yakutsk, Russia, located in the far northeast corner of Siberia. However, just six weeks before the students were set to depart, the U.S. Department of Defense (as the funding agency for Project GO scholarships) cancelled all ROTC student programs in Russia this summer due to increased U.S.-Russian tensions. Pitt's SLI and REES, which administers the Project GO grant, were both thrilled and relieved to be able to establish an alternate program location on such short notice (see the following article for more details).

The students who remained in Pittsburgh for the summer were rewarded with a variety of special events and unique visitors. After nearly a decade of the SLI sending Pitt students to Moscow State University (MGU), geography students from Moscow's most prestigious school of higher education paid Pittsburgh a visit this summer! On a tour from New York to the Great Lakes, a group of 30 MGU students and professors stopped in Pittsburgh and visited with third- and fourth-year Russian SLI students, who provided Russian-language tours of the Cathedral of Learning. The event was a great success: by the end of the brief get-together, students were exchanging contact information and making plans to be in touch in the future.

Language practice isn't everything, even at the SLI—those hard-working students have to eat! A

weekly Friday picnic, which might more appropriately be called the weekly Friday feast, gave students the opportunity to try homemade fare from the various world regions studied at the Institute. The Middle Eastern picnic, in particular, was a sensorial feast: in addition to the mouth-watering salads, doner kabab, dolmas, and baklava, there were two beautiful belly dancers, a treat for our eyes! And at both the Baltic and Russian picnics, our ears welcomed folk songs performed by pitch-perfect choirs composed of SLI students and instructors.

## Report on Project GO 2014 Summer Program in Narva, Estonia

by Dawn Seckler, SLI Executive Director/REES Acting Associate Director, and Susan Hicks, REES Academic Advisor



Academic Advisor Susan Hicks with Project GO students in Narva, Estonia.

The University of Pittsburgh was one of only 11 universities nationwide to be awarded a U.S. Department of Defense-funded Project GO grant in 2013-14 to support Russian language training for ROTC students. In April 2014, REES was prepared to send a cohort of 18 ROTC students to a unique summer language program in Yakutsk, Russia, located in the far northeast corner of Siberia. Needless to say, this region is rarely visited by American students. REES Academic Advisor **Susan Hicks** spent significant time there while completing her Ph.D. research, and it was thanks to her

contacts in Yakutsk, as well as nearly a year's worth of planning—which included international site visits, Skype calls made late at night to catch colleagues abroad during working hours, and countless emails—that REES was able to establish a program in this far-flung corner of the world.

Then, just six weeks prior to the scheduled June 20 departure date, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a diplomatic note prohibiting U.S. active duty service members from traveling to Russia. Although ROTC students are not yet active duty service members, the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, which oversees Project GO, concluded that this distinction may not be fully appreciated abroad. Therefore, out of concern for student safety, all Project GO scholarship awardees were prohibited from traveling to Russia this summer, and a program developed over the better part of an academic year was effectively canceled.

Of course, the 18 ROTC students on the Pitt program were not the only ones affected. All Project GO university programs planned for Russia were canceled, leaving many other students nationwide without overseas training options. Happily, Pitt was able to create a solution for both its own students and a number of those funded by Project GO at other universities. REES drew on Acting Director **Andrew Konitzer's** extensive contacts in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to identify an alternative program site, providing an eight-week immersive Russian language experience in a safe, stable non-Russian environment. Within weeks of hearing that their original program was canceled, the students learned they would be heading to Narva College of the University of Tartu in Narva, Estonia, a Russian-speaking city on the Estonian-Russian border.

Pitt's new alternative summer program proved so appealing that 16 students from Virginia Tech, six students funded by San Diego State University, two originally funded by the University of Wisconsin – Madison, one supported with Project GO funding from Indiana University, and one with a scholarship from the University of Mississippi joined the program. In sum, in just over one month, the group expanded from 18 to 37 students, of whom 34 were Project GO scholarship recipients. Pitt representatives **Olga Mukhortova** (Slavic Languages and Literatures), who served as the

lead instructor, and **Susan Hicks**, who served as the program administrator, accompanied the students to Estonia.

The city of Narva turned out to be an ideal location for studying Russian outside of Russia. In fact, from Narva one can really see Russia (Sarah Palin, eat your heart out!), and students walked past the border crossing almost every day on their way to classes. With a Russian-speaking population of over 93%, the language of Narva is Russian—it is spoken at the college, on the street, in shops and in cafes. Thus, in addition to their five hours of daily language classes, the students watched Russian television, listened to Russian radio, made Russian friends, and heard Russian opinions on current events. Indeed, their immersion began on the very first night in-country, when students participated in the all-night summer solstice festival of St. John's Eve and formed friendships with local Russians that lasted all summer.

followed by an excursion to relevant war memorials and sites. A particularly memorable experience was the Song Festival in Tallinn, which commemorates Estonia's peaceful struggle for independence from Soviet rule. This event occurs only once every five years, draws an audience exceeding 100,000 people, and is on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage events.

Thus, 2014 was a full and exciting summer for the Pitt Project GO cohort. The students are now back at their home universities across the U.S., most continuing their pursuit of Russian. REES has successfully renewed its Project GO grant award for another year, and the Center staff are already—much in advance—planning the second annual Pitt Project GO program in Narva for the summer of 2015!

### **REES Awarded NEH Grant for Partnership with Community College of Beaver County**

*by Gina Peirce, REES Assistant Director/Outreach Coordinator*

REES was recently awarded a grant through the “Bridging Cultures with Community Colleges” program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through this federally funded project, which will run from September 2014 through February 2017, REES will partner with the Community College of Beaver County to internationalize CCBC's curriculum by introducing humanities content on Eastern Europe into existing courses and developing a new course on the literature of the region.

The central theme of this “Bridging Cultures” project will be change and adaptation as viewed through the lens of East European cultural studies. Four subthemes will also be explored: economic adaptation; changing gender roles; cultural differences in changing communities; and values, traditions and social mores. Countries in which a significant number of Beaver County residents had ancestors—including Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine—will be highlighted as case studies to draw on the interest of CCBC students and instructors in their own family backgrounds. CCBC faculty will benefit through exposure to culturally diverse readings that can be used as springboards to both academic and student-focused discussion. Students at CCBC will benefit through



Project GO students enjoying the streets of Tartu, Estonia.

This festival was the first event in a rigorous and lively cultural program that engaged students beyond their regular language classes and introduced them to Estonian and Russian folk culture, military history, and industry. Among the highlights were opportunities to meet the U.S. ambassador to Estonia; visit a Russian-owned industrial park in Narva; explore the Seaplane Harbor Museum located on the same port that is home to the Estonian Navy; and attend a lecture on the role and significance of World War II for Estonia and Narva,

developing a greater appreciation of their ancestral cultures when faced with change and adaptation, therefore acquiring enhanced intellectual resources and resiliency in the context of Beaver County's loss of thousands of industrial jobs since the collapse of the local steel industry three decades ago. They also will gain knowledge of current cultural studies scholarship in a context relevant to their academic and professional goals.

Up to 20 full-time and adjunct faculty members from a variety of CCBC departments and programs will be selected to participate in the project. The first stage will be a bi-monthly evening workshop series in spring 2015 on East European history, cultures and literature, with discussions based on readings selected by the two REES faculty co-coordinators (**Joel Brady**, Slavic Languages and Literatures/Religious Studies, and **Ljiljana Duraskovic**, Slavic Languages and Literatures). Next, a monthly speaker and discussion series in fall 2015 through spring 2016 will connect the CCBC faculty participants with leaders of East European ethnic communities in Western Pennsylvania, international scholars, and community members in several East European cities, facilitated in part through videoconferencing with U.S. State Department-sponsored "American Corners" located in countries throughout the region.

During the project, all faculty participants will develop learning modules in their own academic fields to incorporate into their courses at CCBC, using content from the workshop readings in consultation with Drs. Brady and Duraskovic. In addition, a new Eastern Europe-focused section of CCBC's existing "World Literature" course will be introduced in fall 2015, initially team-taught by Pitt and CCBC instructors and then taught solely by a CCBC instructor in subsequent terms. The faculty participants will present their course modules to their peers at a showcase event in fall 2016 and post them on a website designed to encourage replication of the project activities at other institutions, such as the Community College of Allegheny County, Butler County Community College, and Westmoreland County Community College. REES and CCBC look forward to disseminating the curriculum enhancement model developed through this project to support internationalization initiatives at other community

colleges, both in the Western Pennsylvania region and nationally.

## REES Inaugurates New Speaker Series

Starting this academic year, REES will introduce changes to its noon speaker series in order to better target specific topics and audiences and afford more opportunities to bring high-profile speakers to campus. Rather than one ongoing weekly series, there will now be four separate monthly or bi-monthly series, featuring specifically themed speakers and events. The first is the monthly "Contemporary Eurasia" series, featuring talks focused on important current events in the region. The second series is a monthly "Graduate Research Symposium," which invites Pitt graduate students and professors to present on the practical aspects and challenges of the research process. The third is the "Film, Art and Culture of Eurasia" series, including a mix of academic presentations and events showcasing the art and culture of the region. Finally, REES is especially pleased to announce the new Carl Beck Speaker Series, which will sponsor high-profile academics and practitioners presenting talks on critical topics and cutting-edge research related to the Center's world area. Carl Beck Speaker Series events will generally take place twice per semester during the afternoon and will be followed by a reception for the speaker and audience members.

Event podcasts will be made available on the new REES blog that is scheduled for launch later in the Fall 2014 semester. The blog will be curated by REES's social media coordinator, **Dr. Sean Guillory**.

## REES Certificate Programs Update

2013-14 was a banner year for the REES Undergraduate Certificate program. Last year the program had record enrollments with 47 new students, and it is on track for a similar number this academic year, with seven new students already as of September 2014. In December 2013 and April and August 2014, REES awarded certificates to a combined total of 31 graduating students. Many of these alumni have gone on to prestigious positions elsewhere, including two Fulbright Scholars, **Erin Harrington** (History/



Russian) and **Jacob Boehmer** (Russian); **Kaitlynn Douglass** (Economics), who is now a Research Assistant within the Public Financial Management Division (M2) at the International Monetary Fund; and **Jaqueline Dufalla** (Politics & Philosophy/Slavic Studies), who began a graduate program at Central European University in Budapest.

At present, 32 students are lined up to graduate with a REES Undergraduate Certificate in 2014-15. These include such impressive students as **Stephen Sloto** (BPhil, International & Area Studies–REES Track/Anthropology/Linguistics), a two-time Critical Language Scholarship recipient and two-time FLAS awardee; **Brosha Tkacheva** (Political Science/Linguistics), who was awarded a legislative fellowship at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg; and three ROTC students who received Project GO scholarships to study advanced Russian language in Narva, Estonia in Summer 2014 (**Helene Caniac**, Russian/Economics; **Jacob Foehr**, History; and **Haley Sarver**, Russian).

The REES Graduate Certificate program has seen its fair share of recent successes as well. **Heidi Cook** (History of Art and Architecture) just returned from Croatia, where she held a Title VIII fellowship through American Councils for International Education, and **Jessica Kuntz** (Public and International Affairs) also returned from the Balkans, where she was a Boren Fellow. **Julie Nelson** (Public and International Affairs/Business Administration) returned from Turkey, where she was interning at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, and **Thomas Espy** (Public and International Affairs) returned from Moscow, where he interned at the SOVA Center, researching xenophobia in Russia; see the Student News section for more information. REES's graduate program enrollments are also expanding, and the Center is working particularly closely with GSPIA and other professional schools at Pitt to recruit and retain certificate students.

## East European Festival 2014

REES is pleased to host the 6th annual East European Festival on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 from 6–10 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union. The festival will feature multiple performing

artists from the greater Pittsburgh area and a range of East European ethnic foods. Pitt's Carpathian Music Ensemble and the Junior Tamburitians will perform, while the REES Undergraduate Student Association and the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Turkish and Ukrainian student organizations will contribute time, effort and food. The Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia (GOSECA) will present a film screening of "Border Café (Café Transit)" at 8 p.m. in the WPU Assembly Room. Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) credit will be available for Pitt students who attend the festival, and donations will be accepted for the **Bob Donnorummo** Study Abroad Scholarship Fund. Students, staff, faculty and members of the community are all invited to participate in this popular and enjoyable event.

## "Russia 2014: Economy, Technology and People" Mini-Course

On October 24-26, 2014, REES and Pitt's Global Studies Center will offer an intensive one-credit mini-course, "Russia 2014: Economy, Technology and People," on the Carnegie Mellon University campus. The course, which is also co-sponsored by Pitt's schools of Business and Engineering, will explore how various intersections of economy, society and identity interact in Russia and in its perceived position as an emerging world economy. This course is designed for undergraduate and graduate students, but K-12 educators, business and community members are also welcome to attend all or portions of it free of charge on a non-credit basis. Course sessions will open with two keynote lectures on Friday evening, followed by instructional lectures on Saturday, while two case studies and a panel discussion on future challenges and potential recommendations will be presented on Sunday morning.

The course will have a prestigious roster of speakers, including **Harley Balzer** (Georgetown University), **Boris Barkanov** (West Virginia University), **David Greene** (host of NPR's Morning Edition), **Jonathan Harris** (University of Pittsburgh), **Barry Ickes** (Penn State University/The New Economic School in Moscow), **Thomas Remington** (Emory

University), **Andrei Tsygankov** (San Francisco State University), **Judith Twigg** (Virginia Commonwealth University/Georgetown University), and **Stephen Wegren** (Southern Methodist University). For more information or to register for “Russia 2014,” please visit

[www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/mini-course/727](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/mini-course/727).

## GOSECA Conference 2015



The 12th annual REES graduate student conference, organized by Pitt’s Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia (GOSECA), will be titled “Re-imagining Eurasian Geographies: Conceptions of and Approaches to Territory, Resources, and Borders in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union.” It will take place at the University of Pittsburgh on February 20-22, 2015. This year’s call for papers encourages participants to think creatively about the impact that fluid, adaptable conceptions of political, cultural and linguistic geographies have had on their specific regions of study, as well as the impact of physical geography. Douglas Rogers, an anthropologist from Yale University, will deliver the keynote address. Abstract submissions are due on December 5. For more information, please contact [info.goseca@gmail.com](mailto:info.goseca@gmail.com) or visit <http://goseca.ucis.pitt.edu/>.

## Europe: East and West Undergraduate Research Symposium 2015

REES, the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence, the International Business Center, and the School of Arts & Sciences will sponsor the 13th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

(URS) on March 27, 2015. The “Europe: East and West” symposium is an opportunity for undergraduate students from Pitt and other colleges and universities to improve their academic writing and presentation skills and participate in an event modeled on a graduate-level conference.

Students who have written a research paper on Eastern, Western or Central Europe, the European Union, Russia or other countries of the former Soviet



Union from a social science, humanities or business perspective are welcome to apply. The application form is available at [www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium), with a deadline of January 20, 2015. Those students who are selected to participate may work with their instructors or the URS’s graduate student assistants to revise and polish their papers prior to the event. Presenters will be grouped into panels according to their paper topics. The panels will be moderated by Pitt faculty members and doctoral candidates, who will provide constructive feedback on the students’ papers and presentations.

REES would like to encourage faculty and graduate students who teach undergraduates to share information on the URS with their students. We would also be glad to hear from faculty members who are interested in serving as panel discussants. For more information on this event, please contact REES Assistant Director **Gina Peirce** at [gbpeirce@pitt.edu](mailto:gbpeirce@pitt.edu).



Participants at the previous Undergraduate Research Symposium





Professor **Nancy Condee** (Slavic Languages and Literatures/ Global Studies Director) gave a talk at Princeton University on 2 April 2014, as part of a four-part yearlong series *Soviet Modernity and Empire*, sponsored by Princeton REEES and Slavic. The talk was entitled “No Animals Were Harmed in the Filming of the Abattoir: Paradoxes of Post-Soviet Culture.” She recently served as a member of the jury for the *KinoKultura* International Essay Competition (Spring 2014). In the summer, she attended three international film festivals: Cannes International Film Festival (May 2014), Kinotavr Open Russian Film Festival (June 2014), and the Moscow International Film Festival (June 2014). She gave an interview on the Moscow Film Festival to *Voice of America* (Russian Service) on 1 July 2014, available at <http://www.golos-ameriki.ru/content/os-on-moscow-film-festival/1948404.html>.

In August 2014, Prof. Condee conducted a two-week research seminar at Maison Suger (Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme) in Paris. She continues to serve on the editorial and/or advisory boards of Academic Studies Press (two Slavic series), *boundary2*, *Critical Quarterly* (UK), *KinoKultura* (UK), *KINORUSS* (Brazil), *Russian Studies in Literature*, and *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema* (UK).



On March 21, 2014, **Professor Ronald A. Brand** (Law/CILE Director) spoke on “Kosovo Accession to International Organizations: Private International Law,” at the Workshop on “Kosovo as a Member of the International Community—Accession to International Organisations,” at the University of Graz, Austria. The Workshop was co-sponsored by the University of Graz and the University of Pristina Faculties of Law. Participants included the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, and President of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo.

On April 3-18, 2014, Professors Ronald Brand and **Harry Flechtner** accompanied the Pitt Law Vis

International Commercial Arbitration Moot team to Vienna for the 2014 Vis Competition. The team began the trip at the University of Belgrade Pre-Moot, followed by practice arguments at the University of Zagreb. The Consortium teams included the American University of Kosovo, Alexandria University (Egypt), the University of Bahrain, the University of Belgrade (Serbia), Dar El Hekma University (Saudi Arabia), the Faculte des sciences juridiques politiques et sociales Tunis II (Tunisia), the University of Jordan, Kyiv-Mohyla National Academy (Ukraine), Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University (Ukraine), the University of Pristina (Kosovo), Qatar University, and UAE University.



**Professor William Harbert** (Geology) gave two recent presentations about energy: “Russian and Eastern European Energy Review – The Impact of Shale Gas” (with **Dr. Bob Donnorummo**), Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh; and “Global Energy and Hydrofracturing”, University Honors College, University of Pittsburgh. He also had a number of peer-reviewed publications:

Karimi, Bobak, McQuarrie, Nadine, Lin, Jeen-Shang, and Harbert, William, 2014, “Determining the Geometry of the North Anatolian Fault East of the Marmara Sea Through Integrated Stress Modeling and Remote Sensing Techniques”, *Tectonophysics*, 623, 14-22.

Carter, Kristin M., Schmidt, Katherine, W., Harbert, W., and Parrish, Jay B., 2014, “Using Geophysical and Remote Sensing Techniques to Evaluate Deep Geologic Formations in Indiana County, Pennsylvania”, *Pennsylvania Geological Survey*, Fourth Series, 12

Kutchko, Barbara, Moore, J., Gill, M., Haljasmaa, I., Spaulding, R., Harbert, W., Bengel, G., Cunningham, E., Lawrence, D., DeBrujin, and Shine, J., 2014, “Assessment of foamed cement used in deep offshore wells”, SPE, SPE-170298-MS.



REES Acting Director **Andrew Konitzer's** report on Serbia's 2014 parliamentary elections was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Electoral Studies*. His chapter, "Croatia's Party System – From Tudmanism to EU

Membership," appeared in the European Policy Center's Issue Paper, *EU Integration and Party Politics in the Balkans* (EPC Issue Paper No. 77). Over the past summer, he conducted field research in Croatia as part of a European Policy Center sponsored project entitled *EU Member States and Enlargement towards the Balkans*. On October 16-17, he presented some of the results of this research at a second project authors conference in Brussels.

## READ GREEN

If you would prefer to receive the REES Newsletter electronically, please let us know by sending your request, along with your name and email address to [crees@pitt.edu](mailto:crees@pitt.edu).

From that point, you will receive an email with a link to the most recent edition of the REES Newsletter, which can be viewed as a PDF file. You can access topics in the table of contents, email addresses, and web addresses by clicking on the respective hyperlinks. As always, thank you for your continued interest in the REES Newsletter.



Professor **Daniel E. Miller** (History, 1989) presented “The Creation of the Conditions for Consociational Democracy and Its Development in Interwar Czechoslovakia” that he wrote with **Philip J. Howe** (Adrian College, MI) and **Thomas A. Lorman** (School of Slavonic Studies, University College London) at the conference titled “Between Politics and Culture: New Perspectives on the History of the Bohemian Lands and the First Czechoslovak Republic (1880s–1930s),” organized by the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Department of German and Austrian Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, in Prague on 30 May 2014.

Professor **Russell Martin** (History, 1986) presented, “Импровизируя династической преемственности: ритуал и династия в свадьбах первых царей дома Романовых” [Improvising Dynastic Continuity: Ritual and Dynasty in the Weddings of the First Romanovs Tsars],” at the international conference, “The 400th Anniversary of the Romanovs: The Politics of Memory and the Monarchical Idea, 1613–2013,” at the European University of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Russia, on March 27–28, 2014.



Professor Martin also was selected for the W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize, awarded by ASEES for an author’s first published monograph or scholarly synthesis that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for the understanding of Russia’s past, for his book *A Bride for the Tsar: Bride-Shows and Marriage Politics in Early Modern Russia* (Northern Illinois University Press). He will be recognized during the ASEES Annual Convention award ceremony on

Saturday, November 22 in San Antonio. *Forthcoming (accepted for publication):*

“The Encounter Between Personal Commitment and Scholarly Curiosity”: A Reappreciation of Sergei Fedorovich Platonov’s *Ocherki po istorii smuty.*” *Kritika* 15, no. 4 (Winter 2014).

*Current projects:*

Professor Martin is currently completing two books. The first is on the symbol and meaning of royal wedding rituals in 16th, 17th and 18th-century Muscovy, currently entitled: “The Tsar’s Happy Occasion: Ritual and Dynasty in the Weddings of Russia’s Rulers, 1526–1629”. The second is a study of law, legal culture, and the development of a law of succession for the Romanovs. It is currently entitled: “Romanov Dynasty, Romanov Family: Law, the Imperial Family, and Succession in Modern Russia”.

**Alexia Bloch** (Anthropology, 1996) recently received a major grant from the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to support her research project, “Stateless in Russia: Migrant Women, Children, and Social Abandonment,” over the next three years.



**Artan Karini** (MPA 2001/Fulbright Fellow) is a Visiting Research Scholar and Adjunct Professor with the School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) and the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (EURUS) at Carleton University. Dr. Karini’s research is supported by Canada-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue (CETD) through the Center for European Studies, a designated Carleton University Research Center and an EU Center of Excellence.



**Denise (Pomarico) Shupiko** (Sociology, 1999) received her Ph.D. in Women's Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park, in May 2014. Her dissertation was titled *The Development of the Russian Counter-Trafficking Movement: The Angel Coalition and International Politics on Civil Society, Feminism, and Human Trafficking*.

**Jay Evick** (Russian/Linguistics, 2011) has been working as a writer/translator/English language copywriter at Saint-Petersburg.com, one of the leading English-language sources of travel information about St. Petersburg. He has also started working for Moscow.info, an English-language website with travel information about Moscow.

## Student News



**Thomas Espy** (Public and International Affairs) spent the summer in Moscow, Russia, where he studied in the Department of Philology at Moscow State University and

worked as an intern at the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis. While working at the SOVA Center, Thomas translated reports and articles for the center's English-language website. He also participated in the organization of a press conference led by the SOVA Center at Interfax. Lastly, Thomas gathered data from a variety of the center's publications for a quantitative data analysis project on xenophobic hate crimes and radical nationalist groups in the Russian Federation. The project included both a linear analysis and a network analysis of the center's data. Thomas' travels were a part of an NGO internship program in the School for Russian and Asian Studies (SRAS).

In Fall 2014, Thomas is working as a graduate student assistant in the REES office and serving as President of Pitt's Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia (GOSECA).

**Julie Nelson** (Public and International Affairs) spent 10 weeks this summer as an intern in the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Funded by the James W. Knox Memorial Award, Julie embraced the opportunity to gain professional experience with the State Department while building on her Turkish language skills developed through the Summer Language Institute and Turkish courses taken as a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow. Julie's main activities included:

- Representing the Cultural Attaché on selection panels for the bilateral Fulbright Commission;

interviewing Turkish graduate students for prestigious Fulbright Scholarships to study in the United States.

- Editing sensitive Press Section documents; revising daily summaries of Turkish media which are distributed to the entire U.S. Mission to Turkey and colleagues in the State Department.

- Managing and approving data entries in the Mission Activity Tracker (MAT), a database used by the State Department to illustrate its work and to justify funding requests to the U.S. Congress.

- Developing a social media project to highlight the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program in order to open doors to cooperation on issues of people-to-people exchange, mutual understanding, and countering negative stereotypes and imagery of the United States; working as part of a team to capture photos, videos, and interviews with American students learning the Turkish language in Ankara and Bursa to be posted on the Embassy's website and social media platforms.

**Helene Caniac** (Russian/Economics) was one of seven Air Force cadets in the nation selected to join the Office of Special Investigations next year. Helene also received a Project GO scholarship to participate in REES's intensive advanced Russian language study abroad program for ROTC students in Narva, Estonia in Summer 2014.



**Katherine Haas** (Anthropology) and **Alicia Ventresca Miller** (Anthropology alumna) co-authored an article in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, vol. 42, titled “Subsistence and social change in central Eurasia: stable isotope analysis of populations spanning the Bronze Age transition.”

**Elise Thorsen** (Slavic Languages and Literatures) was the recipient of a Fulbright award, funding travel to Kazan, Russia with a nine-month living stipend and institutional support for archival research (September 2014 - June 2015).

### **FLAS Fellowships**

Congratulations to REES’s graduate Academic Year 2014-15 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows: **Alyssa Cypher** (Public and International Affairs), **Richard Gyenes** (Law), **Katherine Haas** (Anthropology), **Julie Nelson** (Public and International Affairs/Business), **Allison Reefer** (Public and International Affairs), and **Theodora Trimble** (Slavic Languages and Literatures); and to the undergraduate 2014-15 FLAS Fellows, **Andrew Nitz** (Russian) and **Stephen Sloto** (Linguistics/Anthropology/International and Area Studies).

Congratulations as well to **Adam Brode** (History), **Erin Harrington** (History/Russian), and **Andrew Nitz** (Russian), who received Summer 2014 FLAS Fellowships through REES for intensive study of Latvian (Brode) and Russian (Harrington and Nitz).

In addition to these three Pitt students, REES awarded Summer FLAS Fellowships for participation in Pitt’s 2014 Slavic, East European and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute to students from Bryn Mawr College, CUNY—Queens College, Emory University, Florida International University, Georgetown University, Penn State University—Harrisburg, University of Kansas, University of Massachusetts—Amherst, University of Minnesota, University of Texas—Austin, and University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, FLAS Fellowships provide tuition plus a living stipend to students whose academic program includes foreign language and area studies courses (or, for Summer FLAS Fellowships, intensive language study). Eligibility

is limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. In addition to graduate students, undergraduates who are studying a less commonly taught language at the intermediate level or above are eligible to apply. Applications for Academic Year 2015-16 FLAS Fellowships will be due in mid-February 2015. Please be aware that graduate students must apply through their major department or professional school rather than directly to REES, and individual departments may have earlier deadlines, so be sure to check with your major department. Applications for Summer 2015 FLAS Fellowships will be due on March 6. For more information, contact REES Academic Advisor **Susan Hicks** at [smhicks@pitt.edu](mailto:smhicks@pitt.edu).

### **Undergraduate Internship Awards**

REES certificate students **Leah Kaufman** (French/Psychology) and **Andrew Nitz** (Russian) are serving as REES’s undergraduate student interns in Fall 2014. Both Leah and Andrew have completed Pitt’s Summer Language Institute program in Moscow, and they bring with them a diverse set of skills and experiences. For more information about REES’s Undergraduate Internship Awards and how to apply for a paid internship for an upcoming term, please contact **Susan Hicks** at [smhicks@pitt.edu](mailto:smhicks@pitt.edu).

### **August 2014 REES Graduates**

Congratulations to **Erin Harrington** (History/Russian), **Joseph Krafczynski** (History/Philosophy), and **Minuet Kurjakovic** (Political Science), who graduated from Pitt and received their REES Undergraduate Certificates in Summer 2014.



## Visiting Scholars

**Agata Biernat**, a Ph.D. student in Political Science at the University of Nicolaus Copernicus, is joining the University of Pittsburgh from August 25 – November 7, 2014. She has two bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees in Balkan Philology and Political Science from the University of Nicolaus Copernicus in Poland. Ms. Biernat arrived at Pitt with a Kosciuszko Foundation grant, and she is continuing her research on Albanian foreign policy since 1991 to show how it has evolved over time. She has received various grants and fellowships, including a fellowship from the Casimir Pulaski Foundation. Ms. Biernat has published and presented extensively on her topics of interest in Europe, including EU relations with Asia, the political crisis in the Republic of Moldova, and the geopolitical situation in Albania and its impact on national security policy.



**Martin Mikeska**, Senior Lecturer and Researcher at Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Czech Republic, is joining the University of Pittsburgh from August 16 – December 15, 2014. Dr. Mikeska came to Pitt as a Ruth Crawford Mitchell

Fellow and is conducting research in the field of Economics and Management. Currently he is working on projects related to the importance of innovation in knowledge management sharing in business, knowledge activities and their role in the performance of national economies, and KIA analysis as a tool for increasing the economic sustainability of the Visegrad 4 countries. He has also served as a member of the Academic Senate of Tomas Bata University in Zlín, the Tomas Bata University Economical Committee, and the Council of Zlín regional international affairs committee.



**Marius Lazar**, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Anthropology section in the Sociology Department of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work at the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj Napoca, Romania, is

joining the University of Pittsburgh from August 26, 2014 – March 31, 2015. Dr. Lazar came to Pitt as a Fulbright Scholar and is conducting research related to his project, “Intellectuals, Writers, Politics and the Recomposition of the Cultural Field in Romania after 1989.” This project presents the transformations of the cultural field after 1989 in Romania in relationship to the political field. It seeks to describe and explain the mutual dependencies, transfers, and conversions between different segments of the cultural sector and areas of civic and political activities.

**Orest Tarita**, the Political Science and International Relations Chair and Associate Professor at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Moldova, is joining the University of Pittsburgh from



August 23, 2014 – February 28, 2015. Dr. Tarita is a Fulbright Scholar and is conducting research at the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership in the Graduate School for Public and International Affairs. The Johnson Institute is dedicated to promoting ethics and accountability in leadership through teaching, research and outreach, with the goal of improving the quality of leadership in government, the nonprofit sector and public-serving businesses.



## Study Abroad Programs

### Short-Term Undergraduate Programs

In 2015 REES will once again offer two “Maymester” faculty-led study abroad programs, “Pitt in Prague/Krakow” with Prof. **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics) and “Pitt in Spain/Turkey” with Prof. **William Chase** (History) and **Cengiz Haksoz** (Anthropology). Program descriptions appear below. For more information, please contact REES Academic Advisor **Susan Hicks** at [smhicks@pitt.edu](mailto:smhicks@pitt.edu).

“Prague and Krakow: Economics and Policy in the Czech Republic and Poland”. This program will focus on the history, politics, sociology, economics and culture of post-war Czech Republic and Poland. Topics will include the history of the European Union, political and economic developments in Eastern Europe, analysis of the main industries in each country, international trade, banking, education, health care and tourism.

“Spain and Turkey: Cities of Cultural Conquest”. This program takes place in Istanbul, Turkey, and Cordoba and Granada, Spain. Students will take two courses, one in Anthropology and one in History/Urban Studies, as they explore the ways these three cities have changed over time as a result of cultural conquest. The course themes will be explored through daily lectures and walking tours of various historical sites and neighborhoods.

In addition, next summer the Study Abroad Consortium on Eastern Europe and Eurasia (SACEEE) will offer the course “Russia and Its Neighbors: Historical Legacy of Empire and Current Politics” over three weeks during late June and July 2015 in Estonia and St. Petersburg, Russia. The SACEEE program is open to Pitt students, as well as undergraduates from the other consortium member institutions: Allegheny College, Mercyhurst University, Washington & Jefferson College, and Westminster College.

With lectures and site visits in Russia and neighboring Estonia, this SACEEE course will focus on the evolution of domestic politics in Russia and its post-1991 neighbors; the challenges of the post-Soviet economic transitions; the complexities of post-Soviet cultural spaces (with a specific focus on

Russian-speaking minorities outside of Russia); the expansion of NATO and the EU to Russia’s borders; contemporary energy relations; and a host of other issues. Given Estonia’s location, the presence of a large Russian minority in the country, and its status as an EU member, this combination of locations will provide students with a firsthand view of many of the components that contribute to the challenges facing an increasingly complex part of the world. For more information, please contact **Dawn Seckler** at [das200@pitt.edu](mailto:das200@pitt.edu).

### Short-Term Graduate/Professional School Program

REES will introduce a new study abroad course in May 2015 through the Katz Graduate School of Business, titled “Competing Perspectives on Global Energy: From Western PA to Eastern Europe.” This two-week course will provide professional school students in Business, Law, Engineering, Public Policy and other areas with firsthand experience of the global impact of contemporary developments in the natural gas and other energy sectors. Study sites include Washington County, PA; Washington, DC; Moscow, Russia; and Sofia, Bulgaria. Participants will first witness the effect that Marcellus Shale has had in Western Pennsylvania and then see how these developments are impacting U.S. foreign policy and trade practices.

Next, students will be familiarized with a very different side of the global natural gas and energy equation by traveling to Moscow, where they will see the Kremlin’s view of global and regional gas and energy markets. The course will end with an exploration of the role that transit states such as Bulgaria play in global energy markets and efforts by these players to use their territory and energy alternatives to bargain with larger states at both ends of energy pipelines.

Throughout this program, students will learn about energy’s impact on domestic and international politics, economies, societies and the environment. They will make site visits to companies, extraction and transportation facilities, and various government

and civic organizations and will participate in lectures by local stakeholders and specialists. By the end of the course, participants will have a much broader understanding of the global impact of energy developments and more clearly understand how local activities, such as those related to Marcellus Shale, can have far-reaching consequences in different sectors and geographic locations. For more information, please contact **Susan Hicks** at [smhicks@pitt.edu](mailto:smhicks@pitt.edu).

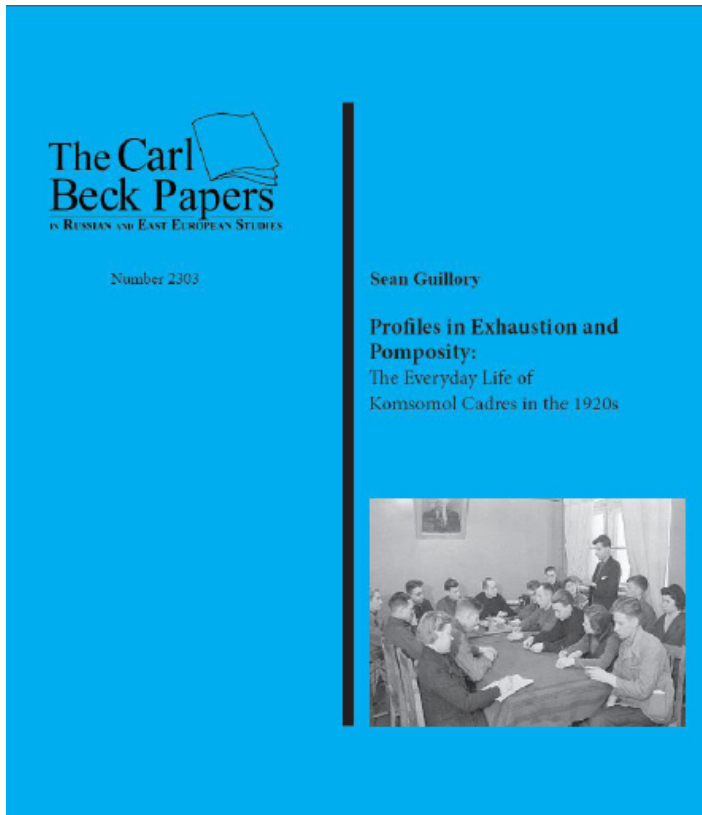
## **Intensive Summer Language Programs**

Pitt's 2015 Slavic, East European, and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute (SLI) will offer language-based study abroad programs in Moscow, Russia; Sofia, Bulgaria; Prague, Czech Republic; Debrecen, Hungary; Podgorica, Montenegro; Krakow, Poland; and Bratislava, Slovakia (contingent on minimum enrollments in each program). Most of these courses involve several weeks of intensive study in Pittsburgh followed by an immersion program in the target country; some also offer abroad-only options at the intermediate and/or advanced levels of language study. In addition, eight-week intensive intermediate and advanced Russian language courses will again be offered in Narva, Estonia for ROTC students through Pitt's Project GO program.

The 2015 SLI will also offer intensive summer courses on the Pitt campus in Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Farsi, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Turkish, and Ukrainian. Multiple levels of instruction are available in most languages. A variety of competitive scholarships are available each year to SLI participants, including FLAS Fellowships for both graduate and undergraduate students, Project GO scholarships for ROTC students, and tuition remission awards. For more information on any SLI programs, please visit [sli.pitt.edu](http://sli.pitt.edu) or contact SLI Executive Director **Dawn Seckler** at [sliadmin@pitt.edu](mailto:sliadmin@pitt.edu).



**Interested in submitting a piece for our next newsletter? Send the info to Matt Clews at [mac355@pitt.edu](mailto:mac355@pitt.edu)**



The Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) supports its own publication, The Carl Beck Papers in Russian and East European Studies, now published online by the University Library System of the University of Pittsburgh. This scholarly paper series, named after the first director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), publishes work of both new and more experienced scholars in many disciplines and areas of inquiry. This series is an excellent opportunity for anyone who is trying to have a paper published.

Submissions to the Papers are anonymously refereed in a double blind review process and published as occasional papers at <http://carlbeckpapers.pitt.edu>. The Papers are devoted to topics ranging across the entire field of Slavic, Russian, Soviet, post-Soviet and East European studies. Each Carl Beck Paper is published on an individual basis, which allows for rapid turnaround, individual advertising, and wide and flexible distribution.

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- 2303. *Profiles in Exhaustion and Pomposity: The Everyday Life of Komsomol Cadres in the 1920s*. Sean Guillory (2014)
- 2302. *The House of Writers in Ukraine in the 1930s: Conceived, Lived, Perceived*. Olga Bertelsen (2013)

## Upcoming Titles

- *The Public and Private Lives of Mennonite Kolkhoz Chairmen in the Khortytsia and Molochansk German National Raiony in Ukraine (1928-1934)*. Colin P. Neufeldt (2014)
- *Limits of Protection: Russia and the Orthodox Co-Religionists in the Ottoman Empire*. Victor Taki (2014)
- *Remembering and Forgetting the Malyn Massacre: Memory, Ethnicity and the Second World War in Eastern Europe*. Jared McBride (2014)

For more information, contact:

Matt Clews  
Editorial Assistant  
[cbpapers@pitt.edu](mailto:cbpapers@pitt.edu)  
412-648-8716

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# CONTACT REES

REES GENERAL MAILBOX: [crees@pitt.edu](mailto:crees@pitt.edu)  
ANDREW KONITZER, *Acting Director*: [konitzer@pitt.edu](mailto:konitzer@pitt.edu)  
DAWN SECKLER, *Acting Associate Director*: [das200@pitt.edu](mailto:das200@pitt.edu)  
GINA PEIRCE, *Assistant Director/Outreach Coordinator*: [gbpeirce@pitt.edu](mailto:gbpeirce@pitt.edu)  
SUSAN HICKS, *Program Manager*: [smhicks@pitt.edu](mailto:smhicks@pitt.edu)  
ANNA TALONE, *International Programs Coordinator*: [ant28@pitt.edu](mailto:ant28@pitt.edu)  
MATT CLEWS, *Editorial Assistant*: [mac355@pitt.edu](mailto:mac355@pitt.edu)  
SLAVIC DEPARTMENT GENERAL MAILBOX: [slavic@pitt.edu](mailto:slavic@pitt.edu)

REES: [www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees)  
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Matt Clews  
University of Pittsburgh  
REES, 4416 Posvar Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-648-8716  
[mac355@pitt.edu](mailto:mac355@pitt.edu)

