I’m almost afraid to say it, but REES had a very good year last year, and we are looking forward to another one. Our numbers of certificates awarded keep going up, enrollments in the SLI remain high and reflect a national draw, and our study abroad programs are increasing in number and in student enrollments. As you will see inside this issue, REES and the Slavic Department have also obtained a major new grant, Project GO (Global Officer), under which we are developing innovative programs to teach Russian to ROTC students locally and at “hub” centers in other universities. In fact, through Project GO, we have been able to make up many of the budget cuts imposed on the Title VI programs last year. Our answer to the budget situation has been to develop new programs, and thus far it is working.

My concern with saying this is that nationally, and at Pitt, the economic situation of international studies is not bright. For various reasons, the “flat” funding that Pitt received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania translated into a budget cut in UCIS for all centers, including REES. Thus far we have been able to adjust, so that for this year, at least, REES faculty and students will not feel the impact of these cuts. But we do have to keep moving forward with new programs in order to maintain our long-established and highly successful ones.

Which brings me to a topic not often discussed in messages like this: the exceptional performance of the REES staff. While the reputation of our programs and our ability to compete successfully for new ones depends on our faculty and institutional commitments such as the library, I want to take a moment to recognize the exceptional dedication and effective work of the REES staff. Developing new programs requires negotiations with parts of the University that most faculty members and students do not know about, much less interact with; bridging the demands, capacities and limitations of funders, faculty, students, staff and the many different units of the Provost’s office; making all of the budgets work; and publicizing the programs. Eileen O’Malley, Andy Konitzer, Gina Peirce, Vera Sebulsky, Julie Tvaruzek and Anna Talone have devoted their efforts to making our programs successful. Many of you who are reading this will have heard me say that the primary job description of each REES staff member is to ensure that I as Director have nothing to do (and you will also have heard them say that they know better than to trust me to get anything done!). They also work hard to ensure that faculty and students have to do as little non-academic, bureaucratic work as possible. So I want to thank them all, for all of this good work.

We look forward to another good year. We also look forward to continuing to pursue new opportunities, so if and when we approach you for information, please understand that we are doing so in order to keep all of our programs operating at the same levels (at least) that they have been, and trying to advance opportunities for everyone working in our area.

Robert Hayden

A scene from a Romani music parade in Prague, Czech Republic. For information about REES’s upcoming Romani study abroad program, see page 7. Also, to read an excerpt from Dr. Adriana Helbig’s field notes from this past summer’s trip, see page 12. Photo courtesy of Hope McLaughlin.
**CONGRATULATIONS!**

If you would prefer to receive the *REES News* electronically, please let us know by sending your request, along with your name and e-mail address, to crees@pitt.edu.

From that point, you will receive an email with a link to the most recent edition of the *REES News*, 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 News*.
Dr. Bryan Hanks, who has taught at the University of Pittsburgh and been a member of the REES faculty since 2003, is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and has just begun a three-year term as department chair. He is also Associate Director of the Center for Comparative Archaeology, which is funded by the Dean of Arts & Sciences. The Center produces a scholarly publication series, offers support for the dissemination of comparative data from archaeological research, and supports participation by Pitt archaeology faculty and students in projects around the world.

Professor Hanks’s own research travels this summer included 10 days spent in Serbia in May, conducting pilot work on an archaeological site dating from around 4,500 BCE that has been linked to some of the earliest dated copper metallurgy in Europe. Three Pitt graduate students and one undergraduate had the opportunity to accompany him on this trip. A new geophysics instrument (Bartington fluxgate gradiometer), recently purchased by the University of Pittsburgh for surveying archaeological features below the ground surface, was deployed for the first time on this project in Serbia. Then, in late May through late June, Professor Hanks conducted another phase of fieldwork in Russia which again utilized the new magnetometer.

In mid-July through early August, he worked with British colleagues on a jointly funded National Science Foundation (US)/Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) project examining ancient mining and metal production in the southern Urals Mountains. This three-year (2010-13) project, titled “Metallurgical Practice, Technology and Social Organization during the Middle to Late Bronze Age in the Southern Urals, Russia,” is a continuation of another NSF-sponsored project conducted in 2007-10. Through his role as principal investigator in these two consecutive NSF grants, Professor Hanks has established an inter-institutional agreement between Pitt and Chelyabinsk State Pedagogical University in Russia, which will provide the foundation for completing the present project in the southern Urals and creating new opportunities for bilateral student and faculty exchanges. Five Ph.D. students at Pitt (including international students from Russia and Hong Kong) are now working on the NSF-funded project, and the agreement with Chelyabinsk will promote additional research collaborations in the future.

As the new chair of the Department of Anthropology, Professor Hanks plans to focus strongly on the undergraduate program, which has grown considerably over the past several years and now has around 400 majors. He also plans to work with junior faculty on developing new course offerings, internships and research opportunities for students, including field experiences connected closely with students’ individual interests. For example, as a Research Associate of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, he is working to arrange opportunities for Pitt anthropology students to collaborate with scholars based at the museum.

In addition, Professor Hanks’s two NSF grants have had a number of positive impacts both within his own department and beyond. The first grant included particularly strong British participation at the University of Sheffield, where he attended graduate school; this and the subsequent project have served to expand collaboration by Pitt archaeology students with their British and Russian counterparts. Two of Professor Hanks’s advisees—REES student James Johnson for work in Russia, and Julia Clark for work in Mongolia—have also received NSF grants to support their dissertation work. A monograph based on Professor Hanks’s first grant is now in preparation, and another will be produced from the second grant. Several conference papers and journal articles have also resulted from the NSF projects. Following the final field season for the current grant in 2013, all project data will be posted on the website of the Center for Comparative Archaeology to provide free open-source access for other scholars to incorporate this information into their research. James and another doctoral student in the department plan to initiate their own postdoctoral projects based on the findings from these grants.

In the near future, Professor Hanks and a colleague from the University of Leicester plan to initiate an excavation project at an ancient cemetery site in the Urals, potentially with support from the National Geographic Society, where he was recently invited to give an overview of his research in the Russian Federation. He also is planning to develop a new line of teaching connected with the Department of Anthropology’s new magnetometer technology, focusing on the spatial organization of ancient settlements and cemetery sites.

Professor Hanks notes that all of the external grants he has received came about as a result of seed funding awarded to him by Pitt and REES, and that REES was “tremendously helpful” in arranging the formal agreement with Chelyabinsk State Pedagogical University. He considers a Research Abroad Program grant, which he received from the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) in 2005 to take a team of students to Russia, to have been a particularly crucial step leading to his ability to secure larger external grants. REES is very pleased to have played a role in facilitating expanded faculty and student research opportunities at Pitt in the areas of Russian and Eurasian archaeology.
Ronald Brand (Law/Director, Center for International Legal Education) accompanied the Pitt Law Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team to Vienna for the Vis Competition on March 23 – April 9, 2012. The Pitt Law team consisted of Amelia Brett, Eryn Correa, Brian Fraille, and Andrew Vogeler. The team began the trip at the University of Belgrade Pre-Moot, followed by practice arguments at the University of Zagreb. In Vienna, the team met for informal practice with the Pitt Consortium of teams, which included the American University of Kosovo, the University of Bahrain, the University of Belgrade (Serbia), Donetsk National University (Ukraine), the University of Jordan, Kyiv-Mohyla National Academy (Ukraine), Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University (Ukraine), the University of Pristina (Kosovo), Qatar University, Sultan Qaboos University (Oman), and UAE University. The Pitt Law team made the final round of 64 teams out of 281 teams from 67 countries.

On July 16-20, 2012, Professor Brand taught general international business transactions topics in Zagreb, Croatia as part of the Institute in International Commercial Law & Arbitration, co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Zagreb, and Touro Law Center. The Institute is a four-week course taught in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia, and culminating in skills training with students presenting written and oral submissions on behalf of hypothetical clients in an international commercial arbitration.

Nancy Condee (Slavic Languages and Literatures/Director, Global Studies Center) has been appointed to the 2012 Inaugural Jury for the Historia Nova Prize for Best Book on Russian Intellectual History (Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation). The volume A History of Soviet Literary Theory and Criticism: The Soviet Era and Beyond (University of Pittsburgh Press and NLO, 2011), containing her chapter on contemporary literary theory, was awarded the 2012 Efim Etkind Prize for Best Book on Russian Culture (European University, St. Petersburg, Russia).


During a three-week research visit to Trinity College (Cambridge) from February 29–March 25, 2012, Professor Condee was invited to give a talk at the University of Leeds’s Inaugural Conference “Russia(n) in Global Context,” as well as the keynote address at the University of Groningen, “Cop Angst,” at the conference “Suffering, Agency, and Memory in Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian Films” (part of the multi-year, international collaborative project “Memory at War,” funded by HERA). She also gave talks at Pennsylvania State University for the Department of Comparative Literature (“Strategic Amnesia: Postcolonial Studies and the Second World”) in February; at the University of California, Berkeley for the Slavic, Film Studies, and Comparative Literature Departments (“Postcolonial Recall, the Second World, and Post-Soviet Cinema”) in April; and at Stanford University for the Slavic Department, Film Studies, and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (“Post-Colonial Russia as Conceptual Disorder”), also in April. In June 2012, Professor Condee was invited to participate on a roundtable for members of the Russian Guild of Cinema Scholars and Critics (Union of Cinematographers of the Russian Federation) at the Kinotavr Open Russian Film Festival. Her recent television interviews include Kul’tura Television, Ren-TV, and Dvazhdyj dva, all conducted in June on contemporary Russian film.

William Harbert (Geology) recently co-authored several articles, including “Integration of Core Sample Velocity Measurements into a 4D Seismic Survey and Analysis of SEM and CT Images to Obtain Pore Scale Properties” and “Seismic Reflection Data Processing of 3D Surveys Over an EOR CO2 Injection,” in Energy Procedia. He continues to participate as one of four academics on British Petroleum’s Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for the Joint Industry Program (JIP) CO2 in Salah project and is an expert participating in the CO2 Capture Phase 3 (CCP) Storage Contingency effort, sponsored by a variety of international companies including BP, Chevron, Shell and SUNCOR Energy. He presented lectures at the University of Pittsburgh, College of Wooster, and Slippery Rock University concerning fracking and the Marcellus Shale method of gas extraction. He also met with visiting groups from the Baltics and Poland, who came to Pittsburgh to learn more about fracking.
and Marcellus Shale. Professor Harbert was recently asked to renew his term on the University Senate and Senate Council, and he continues to serve as chair of the Department of Geology and Planetary Science at Pitt. He has received several grants from the National Energy Technology Laboratory (U.S. Department of Energy) and the RPSEA Department of Energy to support his research, and he is currently overseeing eight Pitt graduate students in their studies.


Andrew Konitzer (Political Science/REES Associate Director) spent the summer in Serbia, where he gathered information for a commissioned report on the 2012 Serbian parliamentary elections. In collaboration with Professor Mila Dragojević (Political Science, Sewanee: The University of the South), he also collected data for a project examining the impact of local government coalition size and composition on patterns of local public enterprise employment. They will present preliminary results of their analysis at the 2012 ASEEES conference. Dr. Konitzer also visited Kyiv and St. Petersburg, where he met with partner institutions and examined sites for a planned study abroad course comparing Ukraine and Russia’s post-Soviet political, economic and societal experiences (see the Study Abroad Programs section for more information about this course).

Irina Livezeanu (History) has been appointed an Internal Fellow of Pitt’s Humanities Center for 2012-13 to work on her project, “The New Generation and the Avant-Garde: Ideas, Art and Politics in Romania, 1914-1947.”


As of this fall, Ilia Murtazashvili has been appointed Assistant Professor in Pitt’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. He also co-authored the 2012 book Arms and the University: Military Presence and the Civic Education of Non-Military Students.

Lynda Park, Executive Director of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), has been selected as one of 20 national 2012 Judith O’Connor Scholars by BoardSource, a leading national provider of resources related to nonprofit boards. The Judith O’Connor scholarships enable emerging nonprofit leaders to participate in the annual BoardSource Leadership Forum, which provides them with opportunities to advance their leadership skills, learn about progressive practices in good governance, and interact with nonprofit sector leaders from across the country. The Leadership Forum, which includes approximately 800 nonprofit leaders every year, is the only national conference focused on the impact of nonprofit boards and the unique role they play in advancing the public good.
**Student News**

**Undergraduate Students**
The following students received REES Undergraduate Internship Awards for Fall 2012: Elizabeth Frost (Russian/Psychology) to work at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; Molly Schrepple (Russian/German) to work with Catholic Charities; Alyssa Cypher (Psychology) to work with REES on the East European Festival; and Ana Vitais (Political Science) to work on promotion of the Summer Language Institute and the ROTC Language & Culture Project (Project GO), for which REES and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures recently received a federal grant (see Center News for more information about this project).

REES Undergraduate Internship Awards provide an opportunity for REES Undergraduate Certificate Program students with foreign language skills to participate in internship experiences in Russian and East European Studies. For information on applying for an award for Spring 2013, please contact Vera Sebulskey at (412) 648-7418 or ved5@pitt.edu.

**Graduate Students**
Cengiz Haksöz (Anthropology) presented the paper “Killing for Existence: Sacrifice Gatherings at the Demir Baba and the Yenihan Baba Shrines in Bulgaria” at the Department of Religion Annual Graduate Student Conference, Pray, Kill, Eat: Relating to Animals across Religious Traditions, at Columbia University in April 2012. He also presented a paper entitled “A De-compartmentalized Approach to Post-Socialist Studies: Cases from Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey” this spring at the 50th Midwest Slavic Conference at the Ohio State University.

Cengiz received an International Studies Fund award and a European Union Pre-Dissertation Fellowship from Pitt’s European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center (EUCE/ESC) in Summer 2012. With these grants, he conducted preliminary research in the borderlands of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. He was also awarded a residential fellowship by the American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS) and is spending the Fall 2012 term in Sofia, Bulgaria as a fellow at ARCS.

Madalina Veres (History) recently published her first article, “Putting Transylvania on the Map: Cartography and Enlightened Absolutism in the Habsburg Monarchy,” in the Austrian History Yearbook. She also presented her paper, “Redefining Imperial Borders: Marking the Eastern Border of the Habsburg Monarchy in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century,” at two conferences: the 4th International Symposium of the International Cartographic Association Commission on the History of Cartography in Budapest (with support from a REES travel grant), as part of the panel “Maps, Borders, Boundaries”; and the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction in Minnesota, as part of the panel “Imagined Boundaries.”

Hande Sözger (Anthropology) successfully defended her dissertation, “Managing (In)Visibility by a Double Minority: Dissimulation and Identity Maintenance among Alevi Bulgarian Turks” on September 5, and on September 10 she started a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Middle East Technical University, Northern Cyprus Campus. Congratulations, Hande!

**FLAS Fellowships**
Congratulations to REES’s graduate Academic Year 2012-13 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows: Heidi Cook (History of Art and Architecture), Trevor Krost (Law), Jessica Kuntz (Public and International Affairs), Kate Lasky (Public and International Affairs), Nikolay Markov (Law), Sarah Paulsworth (Law), and Trevor Wilson (Slavic Languages and Literatures); and to the undergraduate 2012-13 FLAS Fellows, Kaitlyn Douglass (Economics), Erin Harrington (History), Joshua Lane (History), Jean Romanowski (Slavic Studies), and Stephen Sloto (Linguistics/History).

Congratulations as well to Jessie Farine (Politics and Philosophy) and Marc Wisnosky (Education), who received Summer 2012 FLAS Fellowships through REES for intensive study of Russian. In addition to these two Pitt students, REES awarded Summer FLAS Fellowships for participation in Pitt’s 2012 Russian and East European Summer Language Institute to students from George Mason University, Indiana University, New York University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Swarthmore College, Texas A & M University, the University of Florida, the University of Iowa, and the University of South Carolina.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, FLAS Fellowships provide full 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 2013-14 FLAS Fellowships will be due in February 2013. 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 2013 FLAS Fellowships will be due in March. For more information, contact Dr. Andrew Konitzer at (412) 648-7407 or konitzer@pitt.edu.
REES will offer a variety of study abroad programs in our world area during the upcoming year. Please see below for an overview of our exciting selection of 2013 offerings. For assistance with choosing a study abroad program, or information on potential sources of funding for study abroad (including REES Summer Study Abroad Awards for students enrolled in the REES Undergraduate Certificate program), please contact Program Manager Vera Sebulsky at (412) 648-7418 or ved5@pitt.edu.

Short-Term Undergraduate Summer Programs

Professor Adriana Helbig (Music) will lead a six-credit program (three credits in the Music Department and three credits in Urban Studies, pending approval from the Urban Studies Program) to the Czech Republic and Hungary in May – June 2013. Students will experience Romani culture on stage, as part of the Khamoro World Roma Festival in Prague, as well as in everyday contexts through visits to Romani settlements. Meetings with scholars and public figures from the Czech Republic and Hungary will offer insights to enhance student understanding of Roma-related issues in the European Union and on its borders. Students wishing to enroll in this exciting course are encouraged to consider taking related classes at Pitt, “Introduction to World Music” and “Gypsy Music,” and to view updated information and open an application at www.abroad.pitt.edu/romani. Students should also contact Professor Helbig at anh59@pitt.edu.

Also in May 2013, for the eighth consecutive year, the Center will offer a three-credit program in Prague and Krakow. The program, to be led by Professor Svitlana Maksymenko (Economics), will explore the theme “Czech Republic and Poland: Economy and Policy.” Participants will examine current economic, political, business, social and cultural developments in the new European Union member states through daily lectures, meetings with local scholars and officials, and field trips to sites of interest in the region. This program is hosted by CIEE in Prague. Students are encouraged to view updated information and open an application at www.abroad.pitt.edu/praguekrakow.

In addition, REES will offer a three-credit Integrated Field Trip Abroad (IFTA) program in Prague, Vienna and Zagreb in May 2013, led by Professor Drew Armstrong (History of Art and Architecture). Titled “Architecture and the City in Central Europe: 19th and 20th Centuries,” this program is designed for students who have taken one of Professor Armstrong’s courses, “Architecture: Texts + Theory,” “Modern Architecture,” or “18th Century Architecture” at Pitt. Other interested students may attend with instructor permission. This program will explore the process of modernization in Central European cities and the impact of new ideas about design, technology, and social organization on the development of new building types and urban infrastructure in the 19th and 20th centuries. For more information and to open an application, go to www.abroad.pitt.edu/viennazagreb.

REES will also offer a new six-credit program in Summer 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey, and Córdoba and Granada, Spain, led by Professor William Chase (History) and Cengiz Haksöz (Anthropology). Each of these cities has witnessed a fundamental remaking of its identity. The Christian conquest of Islamic Córdoba and Granada transformed those cities’ identities, just as the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople/Istanbul fundamentally transformed that city. To appreciate the impact of such cultural conquests, this program focuses on the five types of urban space—sacred, sovereign, commercial, residential, and public—and the impact of urban design and architecture. These themes will be pursued in the daily lectures and walking tours of various historical sites and neighborhoods that will occupy most of each day’s activities. For updated information and to open an application, go to www.abroad.pitt.edu/spainturkey.

From June 15–July 7, 2013, REES and five members of the newly established Study Abroad Consortium for East Europe and Eurasia (SACEEE) will embark on their first joint study abroad program to Kyiv, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. This course will offer a comparative exploration of the history, politics, economics, and societies of Soviet and post-Soviet Ukraine and Russia to a group of students from Pitt, Westminster College, Mercyhurst University, Allegheny College, and Washington & Jefferson College. SACEEE is a new initiative designed to pool students and interested faculty from regional liberal arts schools into regularly scheduled study abroad opportunities. In upcoming years, REES hopes to expand both the course offerings and membership in this exciting new organization. For more information, please contact REES Associate Director Andrew Konitzer at (412) 648-7407 or konitzer@pitt.edu.

Short-Term Graduate and Professional Summer Programs

For the second consecutive year, from May 11–18, 2013, REES Associate Director Andrew Konitzer will lead the Katz Graduate School of Business’s Global Research Practicum, “Business in Russia,” to Moscow and Samara. Organized in partnership with the International Market Institute in Samara, this three-credit course will introduce Katz and GSPIA students to contemporary business in Russia through a...Study Abroad Programs continued on page 8
series of lectures, seminars, visits to local and international enterprises, and meetings with the American Chamber of Commerce, Samara city council, and various regional government institutions involved with foreign investment and economic development.

From May 19 – 28, 2013, Dr. Konitzer will lead a group of faculty and other professionals from across the U.S. on a trip to Russia and Turkey through the Katz School-sponsored Faculty and Professional Development in International Business (FDIB) program. The program will focus on the business environments and economies of two major “non-EU” European economies, with a special focus on how these economic players interact with the European Union and other major global markets. This year’s travel locations will include Moscow and Samara, Russia, and Istanbul, Turkey. For more information on either Katz School program, please contact Andrew Konitzer at (412) 648-7407 or komitzer@pitt.edu.

Undergraduate Semester Programs

REES offers semester-long or academic year undergraduate study abroad opportunities through its affiliations with the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Both universities offer courses in English in a wide variety of academic fields. Tuition rates are significantly lower than the cost of tuition at Pitt, and expenses for housing and meals are also very reasonable. For more information, please contact REES Program Manager Vera Sebulsky at (412) 648-7418 or ved5@pitt.edu.

Summer Language Institute Programs

Finally, the annual Russian and East European Summer Language Institute (SLI) will again conduct its highly successful language-based study abroad programs to Moscow, Russia; Krakow, Poland; Bratislava, Slovakia; Sofia, Bulgaria; Podgorica, Montenegro; and Prague, Czech Republic in 2013. In addition, a new SLI program is being planned for Summer 2013 in Debrecen, Hungary. Most of these study abroad courses involve several weeks of study in Pittsburgh, followed by an immersion program in the target country, while a few courses above the beginning level of instruction take place entirely abroad. Each course provides the equivalent of at least one full academic year of language instruction and carries six to ten Pitt credits, depending upon the course length.

The SLI also offers intensive summer courses at Pitt in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Turkish, and Ukrainian. Multiple levels of instruction and a variety of competitive scholarships are available to participants, including graduate and undergraduate students and members of the community. For more information, please visit www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli/ or contact SLI Associate Director Christine Metil at (412) 624-5906 or sliadmin@pitt.edu.

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**The Bob Donnorummo Study Abroad Scholarship Fund**

You are cordially invited to partner with faculty, friends and alumni in supporting the Bob Donnorummo Study Abroad Scholarship Fund of the Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES), University of Pittsburgh Center for International Studies. This scholarship fund will carry on Bob’s compassion and support for students who study abroad for years to come. Monies from the fund will provide University of Pittsburgh REES certificate students with tuition assistance and/or financial aid pertaining to their study abroad experience. Your gift is important and will make a difference in the lives of students who wish to enhance their education with a study abroad venture. To donate, please complete and return this form with payment to:

Eileen O’Malley, REES
4402 W. W. Posvar Hall
230 South Bouquet Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Contact e-mail: slainte@pitt.edu

- [ ] Yes, I want to support the Bob Donnorummo Study Abroad Scholarship Fund:
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  - [ ] Please charge my gift of $_____ to my credit card:
    - [ ] Visa
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  - [ ] Please contact me regarding payroll deduction gift—only applies to current Pitt faculty/staff.
  - [ ] My employer will match my contribution. Please write your employer’s name ________________________________
  - [ ] I prefer to remain anonymous, but please notify Bob Donnorummo that I participated in supporting the fund—no mention of the amount of your gift will be made.

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REES and Slavic Department Receive ROTC Language & Culture (Project GO) Grant

REES and Pitt’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures were recently awarded a federal grant of over $255,000 through the ROTC Language & Culture Project, known as Project GO (Global Officers). The purpose of this program is to provide critical language education, study abroad and intercultural dialogue opportunities for ROTC students. Project GO is sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office and administered by the Institute of International Education. Pitt’s new Project GO initiative will provide Russian language training to locally, regionally and nationally recruited students from the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC.

REES and the Slavic Department will develop specialized training programs for ROTC cadets and midshipmen in the Pittsburgh region, those within commuting distance from partner “hub” institutions elsewhere, and those located in places where no institutionalized Russian instruction is available. These programs are designed to bring participants to intermediate or higher proficiency levels in Russian. They will include intensive summer language instruction, extended overseas study, and academic year instruction incorporating advanced distance learning technologies for participation by ROTC students from beyond western Pennsylvania. All participants will be able to complete coursework equivalent to at least three academic years of Russian language instruction, including cultural content tailored to the needs of future military officers.

Pitt’s Project GO team will develop these new programs in 2012-13, while providing language instruction to ROTC students currently enrolled at Pitt and other Pittsburgh-area institutions. Evening classes will accommodate student schedules, including a hybrid (in-person and online) Beginning Russian course. A hybrid Intermediate Russian course will be introduced in the fall of 2013, enabling videoconferencing participation by ROTC students at partner hub institutions. For students who cannot attend academic year courses at Pitt or a regional hub, Pitt’s Project GO will develop an online Intermediate Russian course utilizing innovative, web-based “Speak Russian” software from the Pittsburgh-based Carnegie Speech Company, which provides interactive, personalized instruction in speaking, listening and reading.

In the summer of 2013, Pitt will provide intensive language training to ROTC students from throughout the U.S. at the University’s annual Russian and East European Summer Language Institute (SLI). The SLI offers both an eight-week Russian program in Pittsburgh and a ten-week program with a study abroad component in Moscow. Project GO funding will provide full tuition scholarships and living stipends for up to twelve ROTC students in these programs in the 2013 SLI. Furthermore, Pitt will develop a new eight-week advanced study abroad course for ROTC students to be held in Samara, Russia, starting in the 2014 SLI. Pitt’s Project GO team will also provide ROTC students with expanded opportunities for language practice through free individual tutoring, a weekly conversation table, access to authentic online media resources, and the rich cultural program of the SLI with a wide range of activities conducted by native Russian speakers.

For more information about Pitt’s new Project GO initiative, please contact REES Associate Director Andrew Konitzer at (412) 648-7407 or konitzer@pitt.edu.

REES Awarded Lithuanian Foundation, ACLS Grants for BALSSI Language Programs

REES and the Slavic Department received a grant from the Lithuanian Foundation to support intensive instruction in Beginning Lithuanian at Pitt’s 2013 Summer Language Institute. The SLI successfully hosted the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) program, which is sponsored by a national consortium of U.S. universities and scholarly associations, for the first time in Summer 2012 and will continue hosting it annually through Summer 2014. BALSSI offers intensive language courses and cultural programming in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian to undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the U.S. The 2012 courses in Beginning Latvian and Lithuanian were supported by grants from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).

This year’s BALSSI program provided instruction to seven students in two levels of Latvian, five in...
Lithuanian, and three in Estonian. SLI Associate Director Christine Metil reported, “BALSSI was such a wonderful addition to the SLI.” Students came from universities in Florida, Illinois, New York, South Carolina, Washington and elsewhere to immerse themselves in the Baltic languages at Pitt. In addition to language study, the BALSSI students had opportunities to participate in a variety of cultural activities, such as a celebration of St. John’s Day with the Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania, as well as a picnic with Baltic cuisine prepared by the students and their instructors. The program was featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on July 13 (www.post-gazette.com/stories/news/education/program-at-pitt-tackles-tough-baltic-languages-644540/). REES and the SLI look forward to welcoming BALSSI back to Pitt’s campus in the upcoming years.

**University of Pittsburgh Press Publication Awarded Etkind Prize**

A volume published by the Pitt Series in Russian and East European Studies of the University of Pittsburgh Press was selected for the 2012 Efim Etkind Prize for “best book on Russian culture” by an international jury. Professor Jonathan Harris (Political Science), editor of the REES series, reports that the prize was awarded for *A History of Russian Literary Theory and Criticism: The Soviet Age and Beyond*, eds. Evgeny Dobrenko and Galin Tihanov (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011) at a June 2012 ceremony held at the European University in St. Petersburg.

**New HyperKino and KinoKlassika DVD Series**

REES is now distributing historical Russian cinema on DVD, presented in the innovative Hyperkino format, created by Natascha Drubek and Nikolai Izvolov and produced by Ruscico. The films are presented in 2-disc “hyperkino editions.” One disc contains the standard film in the best available print, with optional subtitles in Russian, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The second disc contains the film, plus numerous scene-specific annotations based on archival materials, including film clips and newsreel footage, texts, photographs, posters, graphics, arts-and-crafts, music and audio files. Texts are available in Russian and in English. These can be viewed on screen, contextualizing the film and enhancing the viewer’s understanding. Ten films are currently available. For the complete list and ordering information, see www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/publications_hyperkino.html.

In addition, REES will soon begin distributing the DVD series *KinoKlassika Rossii* on the same website. This series offers some of the best-known Soviet films with subtitles in Russian, English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian. Most of the DVDs include interviews with the film’s cast and crew, including scriptwriters, actors, cameramen and composers. Among the extras are complete filmographies, photo albums, and relevant documentary footage, as well as a selection of bonus video tracks and other bonus information. The series is ideal for coursework in film studies, advanced language training, and Russian culture. Eight films are currently available, with additional DVDs planned in the coming year.

**Symposium on Romani Music, Culture, and Human Rights**

On September 24, REES joined the Department of Music and the Study Abroad Office to present a special “Symposium on Romani Music, Culture, and Human Rights in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia” in Dining Room B of the William Pitt Union. This event featured presentations by 12 undergraduate and graduate students from Pitt, DePaul University, and Franklin & Marshall College who participated in REES’s Summer 2012 study abroad program on the same theme, led by Professor Adriana Helbig (Music). See the “Study Abroad Programs” section of this newsletter for information on a related study abroad program planned for Summer 2013.

Following the student presentations, the September 24 symposium included a special workshop-performance by Fanfare Ciočarlia, a 12-piece Gypsy brass band from Romania, in Bellefield Hall Auditorium. Fanfare Ciočarlia gave an additional performance at the Brillobox (4204 Penn Avenue).
East European Festival

REES is pleased to host the fourth annual East European Festival on Sunday, October 21 from 2–5 p.m. in the lobby of Pitt’s David Lawrence Hall. 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 will perform, while the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovak 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 (title to be announced) at 5:00 p.m. in the David Lawrence Hall Auditorium. Students, staff, faculty, and members of the community are all invited to participate in this popular and enjoyable event.

“Europe: East and West” Undergraduate Research Symposium

REES and the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence will sponsor the 12th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 12, 2013. The “Europe: East and West” symposium is an opportunity for undergraduate students from the University of Pittsburgh 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 posted on the Symposium website, www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium, with a deadline of January 28, 2013.

Applications will be reviewed by a faculty selection committee, and the students who are selected to participate may work with their professors or the Symposium’s graduate student assistants to revise and polish their papers in the months leading up to the event. Participants will be grouped into panels according to their paper topics. The panels will be moderated by faculty members and doctoral candidates, who will provide constructive feedback on the students’ papers and presentations.

REES would like to encourage faculty members who teach undergraduates to share information on the Symposium with their students. We would also be glad to hear from faculty members who are interested in serving on the selection committee or as a panel discussant. If you have questions about any aspect of the event, or would like to receive flyers on the Symposium to distribute to your students, please contact REES Assistant Director Gina Peirce at (412) 648-2290 or gbpeirce@pitt.edu.

Contributions to REES

Monetary contributions from alumni and friends are always welcome to help REES continue its mission.

Please make checks payable to:

University of Pittsburgh-REES

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Center for Russian
and East European Studies
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This summer, REES, in collaboration with Pitt’s Department of Music, the Study Abroad Office, and CET Academic Programs, launched the University of Pittsburgh's newest study abroad program, “Roma/Gypsy Music, Culture, and Human Rights in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia” (May 26–June 12, 2012). Led by Pitt ethnomusicology professor Dr. Adriana Helbig, the group included Vera Sebulsky (undergraduate advisor at REES), 12 students from Pitt, and six students from Charles University together with their professor Dr. Zuzana Jurkova, an ethnomusicologist. Dr. Speranta Radulescu, a researcher of popular Roma music in Romania, and Dr. Iren Kertez-Wilkinson, a specialist on Hungarian Roma music, participated as guest lecturers.

The study abroad program began in Prague, Czech Republic with the week-long 14th Annual World Roma Festival “Khamoro,” one of the largest and most significant Roma music festivals in Europe (May 28–June 3). The festival featured various aspects of Roma culture alongside music and integrated lectures, round tables, and programs for young Roma students and professionals who come to Prague to raise awareness of Roma human rights issues in Europe. The study abroad group then traveled to Poland (June 3–7), where they learned about Roma Holocaust history in Krakow, Auschwitz, and the Ethnographic (Roma) Museum in Tarnow. They then continued on to eastern Slovakia (June 8–12), where students spent time in rural and urban Roma settlements near Kosice.

What follows is an excerpt from Dr. Adriana Helbig’s fieldnotes from the group’s trip to Lunik IX, an impoverished urban settlement near Kosice, Slovakia.

The kindergarten in Lunik IX, used to welcoming international visitors due to its award-winning emphasis on art (our visit was preceded by a visit from Amnesty International the week before), agreed to host us. . . . The children were to sing for us, and in turn, we brought our instruments to play and sing for them. . . . Our bus dropped us off where the Kosice city bus stops to bring workers home to Lunik IX. . . . [and] we walked up a hill past the socialist-era housing that has become the iconic image of Lunik IX on the internet.

These complexes were built in the 1970s with plumbing and electricity for Roma who were pushed out of housing in other parts of Kosice. The buildings have since fallen into disrepair. Two buildings have been condemned, and a third will be pulled down soon. Those who once lived in the demolished buildings have been forced to find shelter elsewhere, whether with family in other communities, or abroad. Some say that all the buildings in Lunik IX will be torn down eventually, and it will cease to exist as a community. Only those who pay their rent regularly will be offered housing in other parts of the city.

The 5,000–7,000 Roma who live in Lunik IX reside in terrible conditions, often without electricity and water because they cannot afford to pay for the utilities. There is a city official who stays at Lunik IX during the day to turn on utilities for those who pay, if only for one day at a time. There is no hot water in the apartments, and cold water is available for those who pay, but for only two hours every day.

There was much nervousness and a feeling of awkwardness as we walked along the paved road towards the kindergarten. . . . The kindergarten entrance . . . seemed to be protected by a cage-like structure with bars. The city official opened the outside door of the cage, and unlocked the kindergarten door from the outside. A woman met us at the door and proceeded to unlock a third (!) door that led us into the kindergarten, where we were met by smiling children.
The kindergarten is quite an impressive complex, with three floors and numerous hallways and doors that had to be unlocked as we passed through. The windows were covered with grates and mesh, and a long hallway that at one time had windows was protected by steel paneling donated by Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel, which has a plant in Kosice, Slovakia. (Kosice was a center of steel production.) The panels shut out all natural light, but the hallway was decorated with the most beautiful and creative artwork done by the students.

The hallway’s artwork was divided into four seasons featuring pieces in a variety of mediums. In fact, when we asked what we could bring to the kindergarten as a token of our visit, they asked for art supplies. We brought markers, colored pencils, crayons, and a variety of other drawing materials that we had purchased in Krakow in preparation for the visit. Our students had brought candy from the U.S., as well, and this was deposited into a big bag from which the young students will receive treats.

. . . It was clear that the kindergarten teachers care very deeply for the children and work very hard to procure materials for the school. Though the school is funded by the state, there is an additional tuition of 10 Euro a month to attend to help pay for supplies. The students receive breakfast and lunch and pay 0.23 cents (Euro) for a light snack and dinner per day. This is, however, too expensive for some families. Those who cannot afford to send their children to the kindergarten send them to other schools, while other parents, mothers in particular, pay for tuition through a work-exchange program with the school, helping with tasks such as maintenance, cleaning, and other jobs. The school employs two Roma cooks and had a Roma teacher, but the pay is only 450 Euros a month after one has worked there for 25 years, so not many can afford to work there at entry-level pay. Most teachers— including the principal—are non-Roma women who choose to work there because they love the work and the children. They write grants to IBM to get computers into the classroom and to other companies and organizations to help cover costs.

The students seem very familiar with computers, and in one of the older classrooms, a 6-year-old boy ran to the computer to start a karaoke mp3 of a song that the students danced and sang for us. The songs we heard were in Romani and Slovak, with teachers often creating new songs by adding Romani words to Slovak folk melodies. Language is a very critical issue in the school, because some parents feel strongly that the school should only teach Slovak. In this way, the students, who speak Romanes at home, can be prepared to enter the Slovak-language grammar school down the hill from the settlement. . . . The principal of the kindergarten says that those who have attended do better in school, and that many of the students she has taught in her 16 years at the school have finished university.

We enjoyed listening to the students sing for us, and then it was our turn to sing for the children. They had been dancing to their songs, and they continued to dance. . . . As I look back on the settlement visit, we should have played our music outside as well, which may have helped ease the situation when we asked the kindergarten principal to unlock the numerous doors to let us out on the community side of the kindergarten to play soccer with the kids who were not part of the kindergarten.

The idea was that the principal would introduce us to parents as they came to pick up their children from the kindergarten, and we could spend some time speaking to them. However, once the principal unlocked the doors and steel bars outside the kindergarten, she did not hang around to mediate — rather, I saw her later on the second floor, observing the situation through the window.

Some of our students had a soccer ball, so they began a game. Slowly, more people gathered, mostly young people who spoke to us out of curiosity. Little boys posed in front of cameras with hip-hop gestures and movements. Girls invited us to play jump rope made out of tied together pantyhose. Some older boys spoke English, and young mothers waiting to pick up their children from the kindergarten talked to us about the kindergarten.

We played and talked with the people for about an hour, and then the police began to drive by. Any large group of Roma gathering brings about suspicion, and we realized we would have to disperse so as not to create any trouble for the community. The presence of the police seemed very vivid for the children, who played a game called “Polizai.” We also noted the figure of the policeman featured in some of the students’ artwork. We were shuffled back through the steel cage, back through the labyrinth of doors, escorted by the teachers through the kindergarten classrooms, and let out the back entrance.

While the verdict is not in as to whether such a visit should continue to be included as part of the study abroad program, the students were visibly affected by it. Some said that if we had begun our trip in Slovakia, they would have not attended Khamoro concerts because those were not “real” Roma culture. They have realized that staged performance is one of the primary ways most non-Roma engage with Roma culture, but it is not the only reality.

We began this program with a week at the Khamoro Festival Prague, where Roma performers from different countries engaged Roma and non-Roma audiences in colorful costumes with expensive instruments on technologically equipped stages. We traveled to Poland, where the trauma of the Roma experiences during the Holocaust put into perspective the historical roots of the present-day human-rights movements in the European Union. Our personal experiences with Roma were augmented by a private concert by Romanian Roma musicians at the Ethnographic Museum in Tarnow, Poland, dedicated to Roma identity. And yet, with all experiences geared toward understanding the ways in which policies and attitudes of non-Roma toward Roma integration influence Roma everyday experiences, it was not until we arrived at Lunik IX that all of these discussions hit home. (Dr. Adriana Helbig, June 8, 2012, Kosice, Slovakia)

The Romani Music, Culture, and Human Rights study abroad program is open to all eligible undergraduates who have completed their sophomore year. The University of Pittsburgh’s Roma/Gypsy music, culture, and human rights program, in collaboration with Charles University in Prague, is officially recognized by the “Khamoro” World Roma Festival and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.
Whitney Grespin (MPIA, Public and International Affairs, 2009) is currently Operations Associate at Atlantean Worldwide, a rapidly emerging business that brings together an experienced business management team and a pool of over 300 subject matter experts in the fields of security, intelligence, diplomacy, government relations, and international business (www.atlanteanworldwide.com), and is formally working with both the Bamyan Mountain Sports Project in Afghanistan and the Rebuild Afghanistan Summit. She was honored with a nomination to be one of the “Top 99 Under 33 Foreign Policy Leaders,” a special project of the Diplomatic Courier that “captures the extraordinary impact that 99 diverse Millennials under the age of 33 are making on international affairs.” Grespin has published several articles in the Diplomatic Courier, including “Drones in Our World, Part III: Non-Kinetic Solutions: Lifesaving and Innovative UAV Usage in Conflict Zones”; two articles in Forbes, including “Afghan Women: Symbol of Past Oppression, Future of Equal Rights”; and an article in Journal of International Peace Operations titled “Breaking the Cycle: The role of Afghan women supporting the build-up of civil society capacity.”

Erin Graney (BA, Russian and Linguistics, 2011) traveled to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for three weeks last October on a U.S. Department of State grant program, during which her group “was exc excitingly detained in the airport in Ufa, Russia for 36 hours because [they] did not have the proper transit visas.” Erin then began a year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in February 2012 and is currently placed in the Pittsburgh Mayor’s Office of Service and Civic Engagement.

Noah Haibach (BA, Mathematics/Economics, 2012) has received a Boren Scholarship to study in Istanbul, Turkey for the 2012–13 academic year. During the summer, he wrote, “While I chose the University of Pittsburgh with the intent of studying biology, four years down the road and with a completely different major under my belt, I am even more satisfied with my decision. Due to Pitt’s breadth of academic excellence, I was able to take Turkish classes while working on my degree. My Turkish professor, Nur Lider, was the best language teacher I have ever had. My initial interest was based on her excellent instruction and the language’s non-Indo-European structure and Turkey’s synchronous rich cultural history. Since then, I have also realized that fluency in Turkish would prove useful to my intended career in international economics.”

“This summer [2012] I am solely improving my Turkish, but in the fall and spring I will take coursework in Turkish economic and political history as well as in international trade. Up until this point, my undergraduate studies have been very technical in nature. I am most looking forward to this experience abroad as an opportunity to ground my perspective in the real-world context. You would be hard-pressed to find a student of international relations or economy who does not find the current situation in Turkey extremely fascinating. There are a myriad of competing factors affecting Turkish foreign policy; energy deposits in the Caspian, instability in Syria, tentative accession to the EU, NATO responsibilities, historical competition with Russia as an influence in the Balkans and Caucasuses, etc. Turkey is also an emerging regional power and a necessary proponent of U.S. interests in the region. An improved understanding of Turkish politics and foreign policy will help me to work in trade relations and ultimately improve the overall bilateral relationship.”

Diane Manovich (BA, Linguistics/Spanish, 2012) was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to work at the Pedagogical Institute of the Republika Srpska in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She was one of only two U.S. students selected for a Fulbright grant to Bosnia for the 2012-13 academic year. The flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government, the Fulbright Program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Currently, the U.S. Student Program annually awards approximately 1,700 grants to U.S. citizens to study, research or assistant-teach in 155 different countries. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Dr. Russell Martin (Pitt BA, History, 1986) published his book, A Bride for the Tsar: Bride-Shows and Marriage Politics in Early Modern Russia (Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2012). According to Amazon.com, “Alongside accounts of sordid boyar plots against brides, the multiple marriages of Ivan the Terrible, and the fascinating spectacle of the bride-show ritual, A Bride for the Tsar offers an analysis of the show’s role in the complex politics of royal marriage in early modern Russia. Russell E. Martin argues that the nature of the rituals surrounding the selection of a bride for the tsar tells us much about the extent of his power, revealing it to be limited and collaborative, not autocratic. Extracting the bride-show from relative obscurity, Martin persuasively establishes it as an essential element of the tsarist political system.”

William Shuey (MPIA, Public and International Affairs, 2012) was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to teach at Miras University in Shymkent, Kazakhstan in 2012–13. He will be teaching American Studies and Management and will organize an international academic conference. Bill also plans to continue his study of Russian, conduct research, and participate in several conferences in Kazakhstan as well as a conference in Nepal.
During the Fall 2012 term, REES is hosting Renáta Zeleníková of Ostrava, Czech Republic through the Pitt Nationality Rooms’ Ruth Crawford Mitchell Scholarship program. Dr. Zeleníková is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ostrava, and editor of the online scientific journal Nursing and Midwifery. She completed her Ph.D. in Nursing at Comenius University of Bratislava, Slovakia in 2011. While in Pittsburgh, Dr. Zeleníková will conduct research on the topic of caregiver strain and gain experience in teaching evidence-based nursing (a relatively new approach to nursing education in the Czech Republic), with the mentorship of Dr. Paula Sherwood of Pitt’s School of Nursing. She also plans to learn more about multiculturalism and transcultural nursing. REES is pleased to welcome Dr. Zeleníková to Pitt and wishes her the best in her research and other professional endeavors.