



# REES NEWS

University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2012  
Volume 14, Number 2

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Not for the first time, we are in a period of uncertainty. Our federal funding has stabilized for one year (or so we think), but real damage to the University is threatened by the governor's proposed budget. We do not know now how great the damage will be, nor how it would be passed down to REES. REES's response has been to aggressively seek new sources of funding for our programs, and the Center's staff have put exceptional effort into this quest. When we learn the results of our recent proposals, we will keep everyone informed.

On the other hand, the range of our programs and number of students enrolled in them continue to increase. We are awarding a record number of REES Certificates this year. The Summer Language Institute is adding Baltic languages by hosting the Baltic Studies Sum-

mer Institute (BALSSI) consortium. We have three undergraduate study abroad programs scheduled this summer: "Architecture & the City in Central Europe" to Vienna and Zagreb; "Economy & Policy in the Czech Republic & Poland" to Prague and Krakow, and a new course on "Romani Music, Culture & Human Rights" to the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia.

REES Associate Director Andrew Konitzer has played a key role in developing the Katz School's "2012 Global Research Practicum in Moscow and Samara." We are also working on a revision to take our Istanbul study abroad program in unprecedented new directions in 2013, but we'll save the news on that project for the next newsletter.

Our regular programs have continued, undisturbed by the financial problems that we have had to face. The GOSECA graduate student conference and the Undergraduate Research Symposium



*Robert Hayden*

*...From the Director continued on next page*



*Professor Adriana Helbig poses for a picture with Romani musicians. Read more about her ground-breaking study abroad program on page 8.*

## From the Director Cont'd

were very successful, as was the Russia Today mini-course. The 14th annual Russian Film Symposium, "Camp Cinema: Russian Style," will be held from 30 April through 5 May. While all credit for this symposium belongs to Professors Vladimir Padunov and Nancy Condee and their graduate students, I am very pleased that REES has been able to help them develop this major international event over all of these years.

All in all, the next year is likely to be a critical one. We will know the extent of budget cuts at the state level, and also we will probably learn whether the Title VI programs will be continued and if so, at what levels. At the same time, if we have been successful in some of our grant writing this year, we will be developing new programs and reinforcing existing ones. So we end this year of potential crisis in reasonably good shape, and have hopes that despite changes to our traditional sources of funding, we will continue to develop REES's programs and activities.

*Robert M. Hayden*

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### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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](mailto: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 hyperlink. As always, thank you for your continued interest in the REES News.

### Contributions to REES

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

*Please make checks payable to:*

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*Gregor Thum, Assistant Professor of History*

This January, REES was pleased to welcome Gregor Thum back to the University of Pittsburgh as an Assistant Professor of History and affiliated faculty member of our center. Professor Thum taught in Pitt's History Department from 2003 to 2008 as a DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor. He then spent two years as a Junior Research Fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in Germany. After that, he returned to the US as a DAAD Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies, before accepting his current position at Pitt.

Professor Thum began studying the history of Eastern Europe as a student at the Free University of Berlin, when both Germanys were experiencing the phenomenon of "Gorbymania" during Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika. He was still a student in West Berlin when he saw the Wall coming down and an entire new world opening right at his doorstep.

While completing a master's degree in history and Slavic studies in Berlin, he studied abroad in Russia and Poland. After graduation, Professor Thum pursued his Ph.D. and taught at European University Viadrina, a school newly founded on the German-Polish border to bring together students and faculty from the rapidly changing world of Central Europe. In 2002, he defended his dissertation on the transformation of Wrocław/Breslau from a German to a Polish city. The English version of this award-winning book was recently published as *Uprooted: How Breslau Became Wrocław during the Century of Expulsions* (Princeton University Press, 2011).

Currently, Professor Thum is working on a second book, to be titled *Mastering the East: The German Frontier from 1800 to the Present*, which examines German perceptions of Germany's eastern border and the impact of these perceptions on the relationship between Germans and non-Germans in East Central Europe. His current position allows him to pursue his dual interest in the history of Germany and East Central Europe and the way these two historical regions are intertwined.

This semester Professor Thum is teaching a course on modern Germany, and he will teach a class on modern Polish history in the fall. Next year he plans to teach a course on "Europe after 1945." The Polish course will focus on the question of how nationalism, socialism and the experience of the Second World War shaped 20<sup>th</sup>-century Poland, while "Europe after 1945" will compare the development of Western and Eastern Europe during the Cold War. Professor Thum is also developing a new course on "Socialism as Civilization," which will explore how the political, economic and social order of socialism affected peoples' daily life and formed the perceptions and values of East European societies. REES looks forward to these significant enhancements to present course offerings for the Russian and East European Studies certificate programs.

# FACULTY NEWS



**Ronald Brand** (Law/Director, Center for International Legal Education) received the Leonard J. Theberge Award for Private International Law on October 15, 2011 at the meeting of the American Bar Association Section on International Law in Dublin, Ireland. This award honors individuals who have made distinguished, long-standing contributions to the development of private international law. In November 2011, Professor Brand was awarded the degree of Doctor Juris Honoris Causa by the University of Augsburg Faculty of Law in Germany to commemorate cooperation between Pitt's School of Law and Augsburg. He has led more than two decades of close collaboration with the Augsburg Faculty of Law, beginning in 1987 with a U.S. State Department grant to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The two law schools have exchanged faculty and students and engaged in novel cooperative teaching experiences.

Last August, Professor Brand was invited to teach a special course on private international law in the 2011 summer program at the Hague Academy of International Law at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands. Titled "Transaction Planning Using Rules on Jurisdiction and Judgments Recognition," the course was attended by more than 300 students from 67 countries. Professor Brand was the only U.S. professor among the 15 who taught courses on public and private international law in the summer program. His lectures are being published in the Hague Academy Collected Courses, one of the world's leading sources of public and private international law scholarship.



**Nancy Condee** (Slavic Languages and Literatures/Director, Global Studies Center) was awarded the Modern Language Association's Slavic Studies Prize (2011 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures) for her volume *The Imperial Trace: Recent Russian Cinema* (Oxford 2009), which had also received the top

2010 research prize from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Her more recent publications include the edited volume *The Cinema of Alexander Sokurov* (co-edited with Birgit Beumers; London: I. B. Tauris, 2011), which includes her article "Endstate Sokurov." Her chapter "The Rebirth of Academism" concluded the volume *A History of Soviet Literary Theory and Criticism: The Soviet Era and Beyond*, co-edited by Evgeny Dobrenko and Galin Tihanov (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011). An expanded version of this

chapter appeared in Russian as "Postsovetskoe literaturnovedenie: Vozrozhdenie akademizma" in *Istoriia russkoi literaturnoi kritiki sovetskoi i postsovetskoi epoch* (Moscow: NLO, 2011). An essay on the Kinotavr Film Festival ("Russian Cinema as a State of Mind"), co-written with Birgit Beumers (University of Bristol, UK), appeared in the online journal *Kinokultura* 34 (2011).

Professor Condee gave three international talks within the past six months: "Fictional Temporalities" at Freie Universität Berlin (Peter Szondi Institute of General and Comparative Literary Studies) and "Strategic Amnesia: Postcolonialist Recall and the Second World" at Humboldt Universität (Institut für Slawistik) in February 2012; and a keynote address at the British Film Institute conference *The Cinema of Alexander Sokurov* in December 2011 in connection with the launch of the Sokurov volume mentioned above. In September 2011, she was a guest of the Eurasian International Film Festival, where she participated on a roundtable on contemporary Eurasian cinema. Also during the Fall 2011 semester, she supervised the work of a visiting Ph.D. scholar, Aidyn Sakhamanov from the Kazakh Academy of Arts in Almaty, who is writing his dissertation on religious issues in contemporary Eurasian cinema.

**Irene Frieze** (Psychology) published her study,



"Psychological Factors in Migration and Place Attachment in Slovene Students," in the Slovene journal *Anthropos*. This project was done in collaboration with four undergraduate

students in Ljubljana, who assisted in designing and administering a survey to Slovene students. Funding from REES for faculty research helped enable Professor Frieze to visit Ljubljana twice in order to meet with the students and finalize the paper.



**Robert M. Hayden** (Anthropology / REES Director) has presented a paper entitled “From Euphoria to EUgoslavia,” informally at Pitt and West Virginia University, and more formally as a keynote speech at a conference on “f.y.+20: the former Yugoslavia twenty years later,” at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

A shortened version of the paper was published in the Belgrade newsweekly Vreme in November 2011. Robert Hayden was also a participant in a conference at the University of Michigan, on Law & Human Rights in Global History, in April 2012.



**Andrew Konitzer's** (Political Science/ REES Associate Director) article, “Speaking European: Conditionality, Public Attitudes and Pro-European Party Rhetoric in the Western Balkans,” was published in a special edition of *Europe-Asia Studies* (Vol. 63, No. 10). The article explores the process by which political

parties in Croatia and Serbia adjust their platforms regarding the question of European Union membership. Dr. Konitzer also presented the paper, “*Istorijska Prijateljstva* as Policy: Myths and Realities of the Russian-Serbian Relationship,” at the 2011 ASEES conference in Washington, DC. This paper presents results from his ongoing research on Russian foreign policy in the Western Balkans and Russian-Serbian relations. In the summer of 2012, Konitzer and **Mila Dragojevic** (Political Science, Sewaunee) will begin research on local-level political party patronage in Serbia as part of a larger project exploring this issue throughout the former Yugoslavia.



**John Markoff** addressed issues in the history of democracy in “A Moving Target: Democracy,” *Archives Européennes de Sociologie/European Journal of Sociology* 52 (2), 2011 and “The Past and Future of Democracy,” in Gregory Papanikos, ed., *Essays on Social Themes* (Athens Institute for Education and Research, 2011). In collaboration with Antonio Herrera, he

published “Rural Movements and the Transition to Democracy in

Spain,” *Mobilization* 16(4), 2011. Also, Jack Goldstone critiques Markoff’s *Abolition of Feudalism*, Markoff replies, and Goldstone gets the last word in Jeff Goodwin and James Jasper, eds., *Contention in Context: Political Opportunities and the Emergence of Protest* (Stanford University Press, 2012).

In October 2011, Professor Markoff was part of “A Conversation about Social Movements and Global Crisis in the Early Twenty-First Century” at Pitt’s Department of Sociology. He chaired a panel on 18<sup>th</sup> century themes at Pitt’s conference on “The Idea of France” in November. Also in November, he participated in two conferences in Spain dealing with a new dataset on local elections in Andalusia and recent research on the Andalusian hill town of Montefrío. While there, he spoke at the town hall on “Why is an American Historian Doing Research in Montefrío?”



Left, Professor Jennifer Murtazashvili; right, Professor Oscar Swan

**Jennifer Murtazashvili** (Public and International Affairs) published an article in *Democratization* entitled, “Colored by Revolution: The Political Economy of Authoritarian Stability in Uzbekistan.”

**Oscar Swan** (Slavic Languages and Literatures) recently published his book, *Russian Sounds and Inflections*, which is a practical reference guide to the sounds, internal structure, and grammatical forms of Russian inflectional words.

# STUDENT NEWS

## Undergraduate Students

### Internship Awards

The following students received REES Undergraduate Internship Awards for Spring 2012: **Maxwell Culbertson** (Russian) to work with the Russian Film Symposium; **Molly Schreppe** (Russian/German) to work with Magee Womancare International; **Kristina Miller** (Russian/Linguistics) to work with Professor Jonathan Platt of the Slavic Department on a Fourth-Year Russian course development project; and **Mike Terak** (Anthropology/History) to work with REES on the East European Festival.

### Study Abroad Awards

The following REES Undergraduate Certificate students were awarded REES Summer Study Abroad Awards for the Summer Language Institute 2012 Pitt to Moscow program: **Celia Gonzalez** (Microbiology/Russian), **Erin Harrington** (History/Russian), and **Jessie Farine** (Politics & Philosophy).



Above, a square in Kraków, Poland, photo by Alicya Alexander; below, students explore Zagreb, photo by Vera Sebulsky.



The following students received tuition assistance for summer study abroad in Russia through AIFS: **Adam Curfman** (History/Political Science), **Rachel DeLong** (Anthropology/History), and **Ainsley Morley** (Actuarial Mathematics).

In addition, the following students received tuition assistance to participate in REES's "Pitt in Prague and Krakow: Economy and Policy" program in May 2012: **Caitlyn Beck** (Political Science), **Daniel Holohan** (Molecular Biology/Neuroscience), **Amanda Shaheen** (Instruction and Learning/English Literature), and **Adrienne Wimberly** (Psychology).

Several students received tuition assistance to participate in REES's "Architecture and the City in Central Europe (Vienna and Zagreb)" program: **Gabrielle Badawy** (Architectural Studies), **Dai Bao** (History/Natural Sciences Area), **Justin Goehring** (Architectural Studies/History), and **Kiley Keibler** (Architectural Studies).

The following students received tuition assistance to participate in REES's "Romani Music, Culture, and Human Rights" program: **Lynsie Clott** (Human Security), **Dylan Crossen** (Anthropology/Music), **Dominique Dela Cruz** (Nursing), **Nicolas Durik-Ha** (Undeclared), **Lucas Durik-Ha** (Communications), **Julian Hayda** (Digital Media), **Christine Lim** (Undeclared), **Hope McLaughlin** (English Writing/Urban Studies), **Rachel McVey** (History/Sociology), **Lisa Wojciechowicz** (Undeclared), and **Evan Zajdel** (Interdisciplinary Studies).

For more information about REES's Undergraduate Internship Awards or Study Abroad Awards, please contact **Vera Sebulsky** at [ved5@pitt.edu](mailto:ved5@pitt.edu).

### Nationality Room Scholarship Awards

The following undergraduate students received scholarships through the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms Program to support study

or research in the REES world area in Summer 2012: **Adam Curfman** (History) received the David L. Lawrence Award to study in St. Petersburg, Russia at the American Institute for Foreign Study; **Erin Harrington** (English Literature) received the Helen Pool Rush Award to study in Moscow, Russia with the Summer Language Institute's Pitt/Moscow program; and **Gabrielle Toborg** (Political Science) received the Polish Room Award/Kosciuszko Award for study at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. For more information about the annual Nationality Rooms Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Program, please visit [www.ucis.pitt.edu/natrooms](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/natrooms).

### *Graduate Students*

**Andrew Behrendt**, a Ph.D. candidate in History, spent two months last summer conducting research and language study in Vienna, Austria as the recipient of a European Studies Summer Dissertation Research grant. He is currently working on his dissertation, provisionally titled "Travelers of an Empire that Was: Tourism, Movie-Going, and the Formation of Post-Imperial Identities in Austria and Hungary, 1918-1948," in which he uses the history of leisure activities to gain new perspective on how individuals adapted to the decades of change that followed the collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy in 1918. Andrew was enrolled at the Cultura Wien language school with other international students to receive intensive, immersive training in the German language and conducted research in the Austrian National Library, the Vienna Library, and Fimarchiv Austria. Andrew then traveled to Budapest to work mainly in Hungarian on the Hungarian aspects of his project.

### *Fulbright Awards*

Awards for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program are granted through the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership in their potential fields. During the 2011-12 academic year, three Pitt students and alumni won Fulbright awards for travel to the REES world area:

**Izabel Galliera**, a Ph.D. candidate studying contemporary art and critical theory in the Department of History of Art and Architecture, received the only Bulgaria-Romania grant offered by Fulbright this year. She is researching how socio-

## APRIL 2012 REES GRADUATES

**Congratulations to the following students, who are receiving their REES Certificates in Spring 2012:**

### *Undergraduate Certificates*

Susanna Bagdasarova • Michael Bane II  
Megan Conger • Glyn Cozart  
Maxwell Culbertson  
Christopher Cullen  
Joshua Henschel • Sarah Jones  
Christina Keller • Gabrielle Kiriloff  
Ian Kolchin • Diane Manovich  
Kayla Marsh • Charlotte McGill  
Anna Mokhna • Elana Muradova  
Valeriya Pinchuk • Aleksandra Pomiecko  
Alicia Salvadeo • Stephanie Trum  
Adam Van Scoyoc • Nicholas Wang  
Trevor Wilson • Cody Wines  
Olga Yasinska

### *Graduate Certificates*

Sarah Freeman • Meredith Fahey

politically engaged and community-oriented contemporary art practices have contributed to the emergence of democratic forms of civil society and citizenship in the post-communist transitional era.

**Karen Melis**, who holds BS degrees in Biological Sciences and Chemical Engineering from Pitt, was selected for one of only two available Fulbright placements in Slovakia. She is studying Slovak emigration from 1870 to 1914 from a village perspective.

**Jay Evick**, who received a BA in Russian and Linguistics with a REES Certificate in 2011, is serving as an English teaching assistant at the Tyumen State University of Oil and Gas in Tyumen, Russia.

# Pitt's New Roma Study Abroad Program Poised to Make History

By Hope McLaughlin



What began two years ago as a campfire conversation between Pitt Music professor **Adriana Helbig** and her mother, a travel agent specializing in travel to Ukraine, has become a three-credit, three-week Pitt study abroad program that was recently recognized by the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. as “the first of its kind.”

On May 26, Professor Helbig will depart for Prague with REES undergraduate advisor **Vera Sebulsy** and 12 Pitt students, where they will begin their up-close and personal study of Romani (commonly known as Gypsy) music, culture, and human rights. The formal name for Gypsies is Roma; the adjective form is Romani.

“Roma have traditionally been known as good musicians, in part because this was one of the few professional opportunities available to them,” explained Helbig, an ethnomusicologist specializing in Romani music, culture, and human rights. “Today, we are in what is known as the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005–2015), a series of initiatives sponsored by European governments to help break the cycle of discrimination regarding Roma. Music festivals are a key feature through which attention is brought to Roma rights.”

Which is why the Pitt program participants will be taking part in the 13th annual Khamoro World Music Festival in Prague, interviewing performing musicians from various countries, speaking to festival organizers, and being interviewed on Czech television regarding their awareness of Roma rights issues in the European Union.

“The program will show students how one person can make a difference in the lives of many,” said Helbig. “Each student brings a unique perspective, coming from different academic backgrounds, pursuing very different careers in politics, economics, the arts, or undecided. At the Khamoro festival, each of them will see how important their presence is to festival organizers, musicians, and audiences.”

Students will spend six of their seven nights in Prague at the Khamoro festival. While in Prague, they will also attend several lectures at Charles University from Professor Helbig’s collaborator and fellow program advisor, ethnomusicologist Dr. Zuzana Jurkova, as well as lectures from renowned Romani music scholars Speranta Radulescu and Iren Kertesz Wilkinson from Romania and the U.K., respectively. At Charles University, they will meet 10 students from the Czech Republic who will join them on their journey through Eastern Europe, traveling from Prague to

Poland and Slovakia with Helbig, Jurkova, and Sebulsy.

In Poland, the students will spend four days in Krakow and one day in Tarnow, where they will visit the Tarnow ethnographic museum, home of the Roma Caravan of Memory—a Romani Holocaust Remembrance Camp held every summer. In Krakow, they will visit the Romani museum with Romani activists. They will also make an excursion to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps from the Holocaust.

“Roma, alongside Jews, were targeted for extermination by the Nazis during the Holocaust,” Helbig clarifies.

From Krakow, students will travel to eastern Slovakia, home to some of the poorest Roma settlements. Professor Helbig lived in similar settlements in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, while doing her fieldwork.

“The environment is harsh and I want Pitt students to talk to people and to incorporate such experiences into their general awareness as they go forth in life,” expresses Helbig. “I believe this program draws a certain type of student—passionate idealists—who wish to see the world become a better place, and I want them to share in the struggles of Europe’s most poor and most discriminated minority.”

Students will spend time in Kosice, the largest town in eastern Slovakia. The poor Roma settlements are on the outskirts of the town. From Kosice, they will take a train to Bratislava, Slovakia, where they will spend their last night. The trip will conclude in Vienna, Austria.





## THE BOB DONNORUMMO STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Planning this trip has been no easy task. Professor Helbig, Professor Jurkova, and Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies have been collaborating for two years to put it together. And the program coordinators have big plans for the future of the program.

"If Adriana wants to keep it going, we will stand behind her," said Sebulsky of the REES center. "We fully back it up and I think the Study Abroad Office does as well."

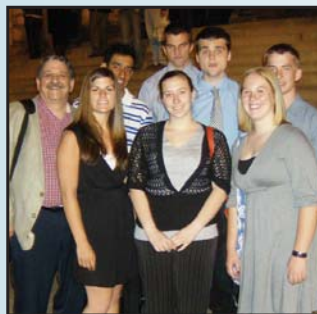
And Adriana does want to keep it going. "This program will run every May/June for three weeks, beginning at the Khamoro Festival in Prague which takes place the last week in May," Helbig said. "We hope to change the itinerary eventually, running the program in Poland and Slovakia for the first few years and then building on the program's success by incorporating different countries such as Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, and Macedonia." All of those countries are home to large Roma communities that have produced prominent musicians over the years.

"We're really excited about it," Sebulsky added. "This is quite a unique opportunity—it's at the forefront of its field. It's a brand new program that's doing something that other universities aren't doing, and I think Pitt is incredibly lucky to have Adriana spearheading this. We hope students will see the value and want to participate."

Professor Helbig is confident that this will be a life-changing experience for all of the participants.

"Unlike other programs, the students get a chance to travel to three different countries, hearing a variety of languages in urban and rural spaces, and taking away the experiences of a lifetime—whether they have a background in music or not. I have no doubt that this program will play a tremendous influence on the ways in which the students mold their future careers."

*Hope McLaughlin is an English major pursuing an undergraduate REES Certificate. She will be among the 12 Pitt students participating in the "Romani Music, Culture and Human Rights" study abroad program.*



*Bob Donnorummo with students during the 2008 study abroad trip to Prague, Czech Republic and Krakow, Poland*

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  
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Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Carl Beck Papers Go Digital

After over 30 years as a traditional print journal, *The Carl Beck Papers in Russian and East European Studies* are now available electronically at <http://carlbeckpapers.pitt.edu>. The Carl Beck Papers publish original research in the humanities and social sciences focused on the region of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The Papers' monograph (40-90 pages) format offers a unique opportunity for scholars to publish works that are larger than the average academic journal article but shorter than a book manuscript. A rigorous double-blind review process ensures that the Papers maintain a high level of quality and continue to make an important contribution to the advancement of scholarly inquiry in the field.



The move to the new format offers new capabilities in terms of the structure and content of articles and provides near-seamless linkages to a vast array of web-based information. Electronic subscribers will be able to: receive instant and exclusive access to titles of The Carl Beck Papers' three most recent series; browse and search the full text of all articles published since 1981; share information about the articles by e-mail or through social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter; allow unlimited access for all faculty, students and employees at subscribing institutions; and access reading tools, such as assistance for citing an article. Electronic back issues older than three years (or three series) will be available to all through Open Access. Annual subscribers will have unlimited access both to these back issues and to the most recent three years (or three series).

In addition to the new electronic format, The Carl Beck Papers is also changing its publication schedule from that of an occasional paper series to a fixed publication schedule of five annual papers. This change will ensure that subscribers receive at least five new issues with each annual subscription, giving subscriber-only access to 15 total issues. Additional special editions or collections may also be included in annual subscriptions free of charge.

## 9th Annual GOSECA/REES Graduate Student Conference

On February 24-26, 2012, the Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia (GOSECA) and REES welcomed 21 presenters from five different countries to the 9th annual interdisciplinary graduate student conference, "Rightly Stated? Contemporary and Historical Considerations of the State in Eastern Europe and Eurasia." Participants from Canada, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and the U.S. presented their latest research in such diverse fields as international relations, political science, economics, history, art and anthropology.

In the weeks leading up to the conference, Pittsburgh residents joined Pitt students and faculty for the second annual GOSECA film series, including screenings of: *The Ambulance* (Goran Radovanovic, Serbia, 2009); *The Lighthouse* (Maria Saaakyan, Russia, 2006); and *Admiral* (Andrei Kravchuk, Russia, 2008). A keynote address was delivered on the opening night of the conference by Dr. **Eugene Husky** (William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Political Science and Director of Russian Studies at Stetson University) on "The Barriers to the Study of the Post-Communist State."

We would like to thank the following REES faculty members, who served as discussants at the conference: **Sean Guillory** (History/UCIS/REES Postdoctoral Fellow), **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science), **Andrew Konitzer** (Political Science/REES Associate Director), **Irina Livezeanu** (History), **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics), **David Montgomery** (Anthropology), and **Jonathan Platt** (Slavic Languages and Literatures). Dr. Konitzer also served as advisor to the GOSECA organizing committee, which was headed by GOSECA President **William Shuey** (Public and International Affairs). Financial support for the conference was provided by REES and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.

### Russia Today

On March 23-25, 2012, REES presented “Russia Today: Energy, Economics, Public Policy in Transition,” a course offered jointly by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. This intensive, interdisciplinary one-credit course explored how current thematic factors interact to influence Russia’s position today and into the future. The topics covered included political and economic transformations; changes in public policy involving health, education, and the recent elections; and pressing contemporary issues of global importance such as energy policy, international trade, and Russia’s position on the war on terror.

Among the lecturers for “Russia Today” were REES faculty members **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science), **Andrew Konitzer** (Political Science/REES Associate Director), and **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics). Another of the speakers, **Judyth Twigg**, Director of the Eurasia Health Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, is a Pitt/REES alumna (MA, Political Science and Soviet Studies, 1986). Pitt’s Global Studies Program, International Business Center, Katz Graduate School of Business, and Swanson School of Engineering co-sponsored “Russia Today” with REES. Co-sponsors at Carnegie Mellon included the H. John Heinz III College, Office of the Provost, and Division of Student Affairs.

“Russia Today” is part of the Pitt/CMU series of one-credit courses focusing on the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China (the so-called “BRIC” countries). These courses are open on a credit or non-credit basis to graduate and undergraduate students, K-12 teachers, and members of the general community.

### 11th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

REES and the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence (ESC/EUCE) presented the “Europe: East and West” Undergraduate Research Symposium on Friday, March 30, 2012. The Symposium is an opportunity for undergraduate students interested in Eastern or Western Europe or the former Soviet Union to improve their academic writing and presentation skills and partici-



*Participants in the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium*

pate in an event modeled on a graduate-level conference. Applicants submitted abstracts of their research papers (most of which were written for a class in the spring or fall of 2011) for review by a selection committee. The students who were chosen to participate had the opportunity to work with the Symposium’s graduate assistants to revise and polish their papers leading up to the event.

At the Symposium on March 30, papers were presented by 21 students from nine institutions, including Bethany College, Chestnut Hill College, James Madison University, Oakland University, Otto-von-Guricke University of Magdeburg (Germany), Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh, Wake Forest University, and Washington & Jefferson College. This was the most geographically diverse group of participants in the 11-year history of the Symposium, with institutions from five U.S. states represented, as well as the first participant from a non-U.S. university (**Ekaterina Ananyeva**, who traveled to Pittsburgh from Magdeburg, Germany).

We would like to thank those REES faculty members who served as panel discussants for the 2012 Symposium: **Sean Guillory** (History/UCIS/REES Postdoctoral Fellow), **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science), **Arpad von Klimo** (History), and **Tony Novosel** (History), as well as REES graduate students **Joel Brady** (Religious Studies) and **Evgeny Postnikov** (Public and International Affairs) and visiting Fulbright Scholar **Viachaslau Yarashevich** (Economics/International Relations). **Brandon Boylan**, a doctoral student in Public and International Affairs, also served as a discussant, assisted REES with organizing the Symposium and helped students to revise their papers.

The next Undergraduate Research Symposium will take place in Spring 2013, and REES would like to encourage

*...Center News continued on next page*

faculty members who teach undergraduates to share information on the Symposium with their students. If you have questions about any aspect of this event, please contact **Gina Peirce** at [gbpeirce@pitt.edu](mailto:gbpeirce@pitt.edu) or **Vera Sebulsky** at [ved5@pitt.edu](mailto:ved5@pitt.edu). Extensive information is also available on the Symposium website at [www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium).

### Russian Film Symposium 2012

What does a camp reading of Russian cinema say about its viewership, from domestic audiences to film festival connoisseurs to film studies scholars abroad? This topic will be explored at the 14th annual Russian Film Symposium, "Camp Cinema: Russian Style," to be held on the University of Pittsburgh campus from April 30 through May 4, with evening screenings at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers' Melwood Screening Room. A screening of Slava Tsukerman's *Liquid Sky* (1982) will be held at the Riverside Drive-in movie theater, with the director Tsukerman himself introducing the film.

The term "camp," originating from the French verb "se camper" and meaning "to flaunt," has no equivalent in the Russian language and invites an area of research almost completely unknown to Russian film scholars. The major working task of this year's Russian Film Symposium is to conceptualize Soviet and Russian camp cinema. Camp is a subject that craves attention: it is performative, improvisational, and defined by stylized acts, regardless of its own self-awareness or audience. Camp cinema can be considered as both a product and a way of queer reading by audiences, who celebrate what is considered (by the mainstream) bad taste. Western discussions of camp and its politics of identity often note the attempt of distinction, a separation from bourgeois, normative, mainstream culture. Explicit representations of gender or sexual transgression in Soviet cinema are almost absent; yet camp performances

arguably have existed throughout Russo-Soviet film history, finding a place within both the heavily centralized state film industry of the Soviet period and the privatized studios of present-day Russia.

This year's retrospective program will investigate a variety of approaches to camp. Films to be screened include: *The Amphibian Man* (1962), Abram Room's recently restored *A Severe Young Man* (1936), *House under a Starry Sky* (1991), *The Goddess* (2004), *Hello, I'm Your Aunt* (1975), Feliks Mikhailov's *Jolly Fellows* (2010), Aleksandr Medvedkin's *Happiness* (1934), Grigorii Aleksandrov's *Jolly Fellows* (1934), Sergei Livnev's *Hammer and Sickle* (1991), Sergei Debizhev's *Two Captains Two* (1992), Iurii Mamin's *Sideburns* (1990), and Vladimir Mirzoev's remake of *Boris Godunov* (2011). For a complete schedule of symposium events, visit [www.rusfilm.pitt.edu/2012/index.html](http://www.rusfilm.pitt.edu/2012/index.html).

The 2012 Russian Film Symposium is supported by the Office of the Dean of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the University Center for International Studies, REES, the Humanities Center, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Film Studies Program, the Graduate Program for Cultural Studies, the Graduate Russian Kino Club, and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a grant from the Hewlett Foundation.

## VISITING SCHOLARS

**Žanina Mirčevska** is a playwright and dramaturge from the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. She received her Master of Arts in Dramaturgy from the Academy of Theater, Radio, Film and Television at the University of Ljubljana, where she is now an Assistant Professor. Žanina's plays have been staged in Macedonia, Romania, Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, France, Russia, Croatia and Slovenia, and she writes in the Slovenian, Croatian and Macedonian languages. She was invited to be a guest writer of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, and since then has worked as a dramaturge of numerous plays. Four of her plays—*Disclosure* (2004), *On the Rainy Side* (2005), *Swallow Hole* (2006), and *Hole* (2009)—have been nominated for

the prestigious Grum's Award, which is an annual award for the best play in Slovenia, and her play *The End of Atlas* (2008) won the Grum's Award in 2009. She has received numerous other awards and nominations for her work and published several plays in anthologies and compilations. As a professor of playwriting, Žanina is interested in the development of methods for the teaching and learning of playwriting and screenwriting. She will be conducting research at Pitt in April through May 2012.

## REES STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

REES will send groups of undergraduate students abroad on three short-term area studies courses in Central and Eastern Europe in May 2012. Professor **Adriana Helbig** (Music) will lead 12 students on a new program about “Romani Music, Culture and Human Rights” in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland. This program is the first of its kind to focus solely on Romani music and culture and to offer students hands-on opportunities to interact with, document, and interview Romani musicians, activists, and community members. Another program titled “Czech Republic and Poland: Economy and Policy,” which is led by Professor **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics), will bring a group of seven Pitt undergraduates to Prague and Krakow to examine current political and economic developments in these European Union member states. Local in-country arrangements for these two courses will be handled by CET Academic Programs.

In addition, this May REES will bring eight students on an Integrated Field Trip Abroad program to Zagreb and Vienna, led by Professor **Drew Armstrong** (History of Art and Architecture) with **Eileen O'Malley** (Associate Director, REES) in cooperation with former REES visiting scholar **Jasenka Gudelj** of the University of Zagreb. Titled “Architecture and the City in Central Europe: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” this course 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. The program will also visit Ljubljana, Slovenia and Brno, Czech Republic. For more information on any of these undergraduate study abroad programs, please contact Vera Sebulsky at [ved5@pitt.edu](mailto:ved5@pitt.edu).

REES Associate Director **Andrew Konitzer** will lead 18 students from the Katz Graduate School of Business on a “Global Research Practicum” course to Moscow and Samara, Russia in May 2012. This course will expose students to the Russian business environment by providing them with hands-on experience visiting Russian and foreign-owned enterprises and attending lectures by various Russian



*Students visiting Istanbul, Turkey.  
Photo provided by Eileen O'Malley*

business specialists. Prior to the trip abroad, students will participate in the “Russia Today” mini-course at Pitt (see Center News), develop a research question and undertake preliminary research. While abroad, they will visit a number of selected organizations and companies to explore current business practices and issues related to their research topics.

The 2012 Slavic and East European Summer Language Institute (SLI) will again conduct its highly successful language-based study abroad programs in Moscow, Russia; Podgorica, Montenegro; Krakow, Poland; and Bratislava, Slovakia; along with a new program in Prague, Czech Republic. 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 to study abroad programs, the SLI offers intensive summer courses at Pitt in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Turkish, and Ukrainian. Multiple levels of instruction are available in most languages. This summer the SLI is also offering new courses in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian through the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), which is sponsored by a consortium of American universities and will be hosted at Pitt in the summers of 2012–2014. A variety of competitive scholarships are available each year to SLI participants. For more information on any SLI programs, please visit <http://www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli> or contact Christine Metil at [slavic@pitt.edu](mailto:slavic@pitt.edu).

**Alexia Bloch** (Ph.D., Anthropology, 1996) published “Intimate Circuits: Modernity, Mobility, and Marriage among Post-Soviet Labor Migrants in Turkey” in *Global Networks: A Journal of Transnational Affairs* in the fall of 2011.

**David Doellinger** (Ph.D., History, 2002) is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Western Oregon University. His current research project focuses on pacifism in East Germany. In particular, he is studying conscientious objectors who served in unarmed units in the East German military from 1964 to 1989. They were known as construction soldiers (Bausoldaten) because they did construction work rather than receiving armed training. During a sabbatical in the fall of 2011, David spent three months doing archival research on this topic, spending time at the Bundesarchiv in Freiburg (a military archive) and the Bundesarchiv in Berlin-Lichterfelde (which contains the East German party and state files). His research was supported by a 2011 Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities and also by a faculty development grant from his university.

David also conducted research at the Open Society Archives in Budapest as part of a book project on pacifism in East Germany. He published an article on Bausoldaten titled “Constructing Peace in the GDR: Conscientious Objection and Compromise among Christians, 1962-1989” in *Christianity and Modernity in Eastern Europe*, eds. Bruce R. Berglund and Brian Porter-Szucs (Central European University Press, 2010).

David lives in Monmouth, Oregon with his wife (Erin Marr) and 6-year-old son (Henry). They are also in the process of adopting a child from China.

**Iva Drasinover** (BA Psychology, 2011) is in Pittsburgh working in a psychologist’s office and starting an initiative to reach out to the Russian and East European community for counseling services.

**Whitney Grespin** (MPIA, Public and International Affairs, 2009) recently published an article in the *Journal of International Peace Operations* titled “Breaking the Cycle: The Role of Afghan Women Supporting the Build-up of Civil Society Capacity.” She also published an article online with the Diplomatic Courier, titled “Pakistani Militant Forces Consolidate under Mullah Omar.”

**Neringa Klumbyte** (Ph.D., Anthropology, 2005) recently published “Europe and Its Fragments: Europeanization, Nationalism, and the Geopolitics of Provinciality in Lithuania” in the *Slavic Review*. With a focus on Gintaras Beresnevičius’s book *The Making of an Empire* (2003) and the marketing and consumption of “Soviet” sausages, this article explores the rise of national ideologies that promote an “Eastern” and “Soviet” identity in Lithuania. Both during the nationalist movement against the Soviet Union and later in the 1990s and 2000s, the West and Europe were seen as sites of prestige, power and goodness. Recently the reinvented “East” and “Soviet” have become important competing symbols of national history and community. In this article, Neringa argues that nationalism has become embedded in the power politics of Europeanization. National ideologies are shaped by differing ideas about ways of being modern and European, rather than by simple resistance to European Union expansion. The resulting geopolitics of provinciality, a nationalist politics of space, thus becomes an integral part of the story of European modernity and domination within a global history.

**Brandon Para** (BA History/Political Science, 2011) is currently teaching English in Volgograd, Russia through Language Links.

**Petre Petrov** (Ph.D., Slavic Languages and Literatures, 2006) recently published “The Industry of Truing: Socialist Realism, Reality, Realization” in the *Slavic Review*. This article notes that most existing accounts of socialist realism rely, implicitly or explicitly, on a commonsense notion of truth as correspondence between representation and its object (the state of affairs being represented). In this view, socialist realism is commonly denounced as an epistemological fraud, while quasi-dialectical

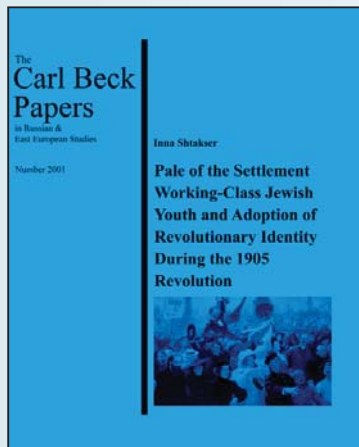
formulas such as “reality in its revolutionary development” are viewed condescendingly as the fraud’s fanciful garnish. Such an approach fails to see in Stalinist culture a radical shift in the understanding of truth—a shift that has less to do with Marxist orthodoxy than with the intellectual reflexes of early 20th-century modernity. In his article, Petre sets out to describe this shift and, in doing so, to propose a novel theoretical framework for understanding Stalinist socialist realism. The work of Martin Heidegger from the late 1920s through the 1930s serves as an all-important

reference point in the discussion, insofar as it articulates in philosophical idiom a turn from an epistemological to an ontological conception of truth.

**Mila Sanina** (MPIA, Public and International Affairs, 2010) is currently the social media editor at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. She previously worked at CNN International and PBS NewsHour. Mila and **Michael Wagner**, an Associate Professor in Pitt’s Department of Biomedical Informatics, recently co-authored *Bulgakov’s Feuilleton*, a book of translations of short stories written by Mikhail Bulgakov in 1919-1926.

## THE CARL BECK PAPERS IN RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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 his/her 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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