



# REES

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

# NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is neither the best of times nor the worst of times – but frankly, we have seen better ones financially. As I write, we have just received word that the National Resource Center (NRC) component of Title VI grants will take yet another small hit in the 2013-14 academic year, which will push us over the 50% mark in terms of a cumulative decline in funding from what we were originally awarded in this round. While the latest cut is due to the sequester, the main political problem apparently lies in the White House, which seems to regard NRCs as “elitist.” What happens next is not clear, but at the moment we have been told to expect another Title VI competition next year. Thus, we are already gearing up to begin drafting our application this summer for the 2014-18 funding cycle with an anticipated submission date in early 2014, and many of you will soon hear from us with requests for information that is required for the proposal.

On the other hand, REES and the Slavic Department have achieved major success on a national scale with Project GO (Global Officers), a program that supports teaching Russian language and culture to ROTC students. While summer language program enrollments elsewhere are dropping, ours remain steady, largely due to enrollments related to Project GO. This growth, in turn, allows us to continue the

SLI’s support for less highly enrolled languages. At a time when all NRCs have lost major funding, our Project GO success enables us to continue operating at full capacity. We have maintained our programs and staffing, and the budgetary savings we achieved have made little or no impact on our faculty and students. Not, at least, for this year, and we anticipate being able to maintain our programs next year as well.

Speaking of staffing, we have had some major staff changes in REES. Dawn Seckler, who received her Ph.D. in Slavic Languages & Literatures from Pitt in 2009, joined us in December as Program Manager for Project GO. Susan Hicks, our new Undergraduate Advisor, earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of British Columbia in 2011 but is also a Pitt alumna, having earned her B.A. and M.Ed. here. REES’s new Editorial Assistant, Tricia McGough, is also a 1996 Pitt alumna, having earned a B.A. in Studio Art and a B.A. in Business Administration, with experience in design and publishing. You can read more about each of them in the Center News section of this newsletter.

And while it may not be the best of times, it is surely a good sign that we are able to initiate two new study abroad programs this year, one to Kyiv and St. Petersburg, the other to Istanbul and Cordoba (yes, that



*Robert Hayden*

Cordoba – REES does have imperial ambitions, though we are letting ESC/EUCE believe that they are involved in this).

Finally, and speaking of the EU, a few thoughts on larger geopolitical developments. At the moment, the conceptual configurations of Europe seem to be shifting from a symbolic geography that posits the inherent superiority of the West over the East, to one positing an innate superiority of the North over the South. REES is therefore considering an offer to ESC/EUCE to reconfigure so that we get southern Europe (thus the best beaches, weather, food and wine, and political black humor) and they get the north (thus most of the money and good beer, but also high prices, cold weather, EUrocracy and Angela Merkel). We will let you know how negotiations proceed.

I wish everyone a summer that is both pleasant and productive.

*Robert Hayden*

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## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



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

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

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



**Ljiljana Duraskovic** has been a REES-affiliated faculty member and instructor of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS) and Russian language in Pitt's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures since 2007. Prior to her arrival in Pittsburgh, Dr. Duraskovic completed her bachelor's degree in Russian linguistics at the University of Montenegro and her master's in Slavic linguistics through a joint program of the Universities of Belgrade and Montenegro, with a concentration in historical linguistics. She then began her doctoral studies in Slavic linguistics at Ohio State University, where she also taught BCS and Russian, and worked as a graduate assistant in the Hilandar Research Library, which has the largest collection of medieval Slavic manuscripts on microform in the world. After passing her candidacy exam in December 2006, she moved to Pittsburgh and subsequently completed her dissertation and Ph.D. degree while teaching at Pitt.

Dr. Duraskovic teaches 1st through 3rd year BCS courses each academic year in the Slavic Department and has also taught Russian courses ranging from the 1st to the 3rd year level. In addition, she teaches

intensive BCS for six weeks each year in Pitt's Slavic and East European Summer Language Institute, and for the past two years has led the SLI's four-week study abroad program to Montenegro following the completion of the Pittsburgh-based BCS summer courses. She describes teaching in the SLI as a "special experience" due to the mixture of students from many different home universities, language levels and backgrounds, and reports that the groups of students coming to Pittsburgh for the SLI get stronger every year.

Dr. Duraskovic has achieved certification by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) as an oral proficiency tester for both BCS and Russian, using the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) and Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) testing protocols, respectively. In 2011, she was invited by the Defense Language Institute to serve as an external reviewer for listening and reading proficiency tests in BCS and Russian. She also developed BCS curriculum materials for training of US Army translators, and in the summer of 2012, she was invited to teach a four-week intensive BCS course to military personnel at the Language Academia School in Honolulu.

At Pitt, Dr. Duraskovic serves as faculty advisor to the student BCS club, which has approximately 60 members. The club maintains a Facebook page to promote its events and produces an annual newsletter written entirely in BCS. Other club activi-

ties include cooking classes and screening of films from the Balkans, and club members are currently translating a story by Croatian author Mira Buljan into English for publication in the Croatian Fraternal Union newsletter, *Zajednicar*.

Dr. Duraskovic describes her overall experience of teaching at Pitt as "amazing" and reports that many of her language students are able to quickly gain an impressive degree of fluency due to the use of the communicative teaching method, as reflected in their oral proficiency test scores. Three of her former BCS students are on Fulbright scholarships this year, including two in Croatia and one in Bosnia, and several other alumni have gone on to use their language skills in government and other professional positions.

Dr. Duraskovic is particularly proud of the strong increase in BCS course enrollments at Pitt over the past six years, as well as the fact that she has seen many students "fall in love with Balkan culture" as a result of their BCS studies. She has also obtained financial support for Pitt's BCS program from the Serb National Federation. In the future, she hopes to work on developing a 2nd year and potentially a 3rd year BCS textbook and to create courses in Business BCS. In conclusion, she states that she is grateful for the support she has received from Pitt, REES and the Slavic Department to build up the BCS language program.

## FACULTY NEWS



**David Birnbaum** (Slavic Languages and Literatures) was selected as the recipient of the 2012 American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) award for Excellence in Post-Secondary Teaching. Congratulations to Professor Birnbaum on this well-deserved recognition!



**Nancy Condee** (Slavic Languages and Literatures/Director, Global Studies Center) published three essays in the past several months. The first, “Sovremennoe rossiiskoe kino i problema vnutrennei kolonizatsii” [“Contemporary Russian Cinema

and the Problem of Internal Colonization”], appeared in Aleksandr Etkind, Dirk Uffermann, Il’ia Kukulin, eds., *Tam, vnutri: Praktiki vnutrennei kolonizatsii v kul’turnoi istorii Rossii* [There, Inside: The Practices of Internal Colonization in the Cultural History of Russia] (Moscow: NLO, 2012), pp.760-86. The second, “Kinoformat goda” [“Cine-format of the Year”], appeared in *Iskusstvo kino* 8 (2012) and is available online at <http://kinoart.ru/archive/2012/08/kinotavr-2012-kinoformat-goda>. Her essay “Fifteen Realities of Russian Cinema: Kinotavr 2012” appeared in the online cinema journal *KinoKultura* 38 (October 2012), available at [www.kinokultura.com/2012/38-condee.shtml](http://www.kinokultura.com/2012/38-condee.shtml).

Professor Condee’s talks in Fall 2012 included one of two inaugural lectures at New York University’s newly founded Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia. The talk, “20 Cossacks on Horseback: 1812 and Civic Spectacle” (2 November 2012), coincided with the two hundredth anniversary of the War of 1812 against

Napoleon. In Spring 2013, Prof. Condee is hosting Fulbright guest Inesa Khatkovskaia from Belarus. Ms. Khatkovskaia, a specialist in film theory and national identity, is affiliated with the Global Studies Center and the Slavic Department through the spring semester.

In addition, as a member of the Inaugural Jury for the *Historia Nova* Prize for Best Book on Russian Intellectual History (Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation), Prof. Condee was part of a team that awarded the 2012 prize to Katerina Clark for her *Moscow Fourth Rome*.



**Linda Frank** (Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Infectious Diseases) is currently the director of the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, MPH Peace Corps program in the Department of Infectious Dis-

eases and Microbiology. Students can opt to get an MPH in IDM with 1 year of classes, 2 years of Peace Corps experience and 1 more year of classes. Professor Frank’s first year student, Marilyn Blasingame, will have her Peace Corps placement for next year in Mongolia.



**William Harbert** wrapped up his duties on the British Petroleum Science Advisory Board (SAB) with a final meeting followed by the SAB report this fall. He published two articles this year: Harbert, William, Purcell, Christopher, and Mur-

Alan, 2011, Seismic reflection data processing of 3D surveys over an EOR CO<sub>2</sub> injection, *Energy Procedia*, v. 4, p. 3684-3690 and Hur, Tae-Bong, Baltrus, J. P., Howard, B. H., Harbert, W. P., and Romanov, V. N., 2013, Carbonate Formation in Wyoming Mont-

## FACULTY NEWS *CONTINUED*

morillonite under High Pressure Carbon Dioxide, *International Journal of Green House Gases*, v. 13, p. 149-155.

He also presented a total of six abstracts this year at the 12th Annual CCUS Conference, the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union, and the SEG 2012 Annual Meeting.

Professor Harbert's work continues to be increasingly focused on water, energy and tectonic related applied geophysics. One of Professor Harbert's graduate students recently finished his Ph.D. and is now employed as a senior geophysicist in Houston.



**Robert Hayden** (Anthropology/REES Director) published *From Yugoslavia to the Western Balkans: Studies in a European Disunion* (Leiden: Brill, 2013), a collection of sixteen of his articles that were published between 1991 and 2011, along with an introduction and a new final essay.



**Andrew Konitzer** (Political Science/REES Associate Director) has a report forthcoming in *Electoral Studies* on the 2012 Serbian Parliamentary elections. He and Mila Dragojević (Political Science, Sewanee: The University of the

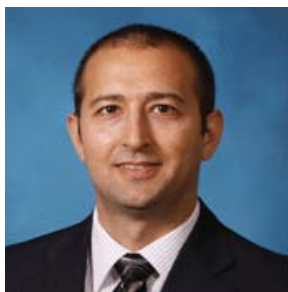
South) also presented their paper, "Punching Your Party Card? Party Membership and Public Employment in Serbia," at the 2012 ASEES conference in New Orleans. The paper presents results of their preliminary analyses of the relationship between local government coalition size and public sector employment in Serbia. Konitzer and Dragojević are using this case study of Serbia as a

pilot for a broader analysis of patronage patterns in the former Yugoslavia. In May Dr. Konitzer will lead the Katz Business School "Business In Russia" Global Research Practicum to Moscow and Samara. Later in the month, he will also lead an International Business Center-sponsored Faculty Development in International Business course to Russia and Turkey.



**John Markoff** (Sociology) published "The French Revolution" in Benjamin Isakhan and Stephen Stockwell, *The Edinburgh Companion to the History of Democracy* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press), pp. 210-220; Verónica Montecinos,

John Markoff, and María José Alvarez Rivadulla, "Un Perfil de los economistas de América Latina y sus relaciones con los centros académicos de Estados Unidos: Convergencia, divergencia y conexión", *Desarrollo Económico* 51 (204), 2012 (January-March), pp. 543-579; and Verónica Montecinos and John Markoff, "Del poder de las ideas económicas al poder de los economistas" in Tomas Ariztia, ed., *Produciendo lo Social: Usos de las Ciencias Sociales en el Chile Reciente* (Santiago: Ediciones Universidad Diego Portales, 2012), pp. 25-72. In November, John spoke at Pablo de Olavide University in Seville on "Where is Democracy Heading?"



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*.

## Undergraduate Students

**Hope McLaughlin**, a student who participated in Pitt's new Romani Music, Culture, and Human Rights study abroad program in May 2012, will have her original research project published in Pitt's new *Forbes and Fifth* undergraduate research



journal. Hope's article is titled "Like My Status If You Like Gypsies: The Role of Social Media in the Roma Rights Movement" and analyzes the ways Czech and American students participating in the study abroad program (as well as faculty) presented their experiences on Facebook. She also analyzes the role of Facebook in Roma activism, a topic that has not been examined in detail by scholars to date. Hope presented her original research at the Romani Music Symposium on September 24, 2012 at Pitt. Last year she enrolled in Professor **Adriana Helbig's** "Gypsy Music" ethnomusicology course, and she is a 2-year member of the Carpathian Ensemble, a world music ensemble in Pitt's Music Department that is also led by Professor Helbig.

**Emily Polakowski**, a student in the Summer 2013 "Pitt in Spain and Turkey"

program (see page 8), has won a Harris Miller Scholarship from the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence.

### Internship Awards

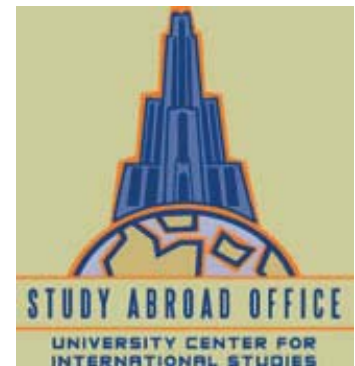
The following students received REES Undergraduate Internship Awards for Spring 2013: **Jacob Boehmer** (Russian) to work with the Russian Film Symposium; **Alyssa Cypher** (Psychology) to work in REES, visit classrooms and attend events to promote the REES Certificate, host Undergraduate Coffee Hours and plan the East European Clubs Potluck, which led to the founding of the REES Undergraduate Student Association; **Abigail Szklarski** (Russian) to work with Lifespan as a Russian language assistant; and **Gabrielle Toborg** (Anthropology) to work with the Polish Falcons of America as a museum design assistant.

### 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 2013: **Kristina Miller** (Linguistics) received the David L. Lawrence Award to conduct directed research in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine; **Aric Berning** (Biology) received the Helen Pool Rush Award to study in Moscow, Russia with the Summer Language Institute's 5+5 Pitt/Moscow program; **Jacqueline Dufalla** (Russian/Political Science) received the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award to study in St. Petersburg, Russia; and **Joseph Krafczynski** (History) received the

Russian Room Committee grant to study in Moscow, Russia.

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).



### Study Abroad Awards

The following students received REES Summer Study Abroad Awards for Summer 2013: **Laila Khan** (Political Science/Economics), **Kaitlyn Douglass** (Economics), **Kristen O'Neill** (CBA), **Aaron Markowitz** (CBA), **Meghan Ryan** (Political Science), and **Marissa Ferrighetto** (Economics) will be participating in the Pitt in Prague/Krakow program; **Tyler Bothel** (Political Science) and **Amarta O'Neil** will be participating in the Pitt in Russia/Ukraine program. **Aric Berning** (Biology) and **Kathleen Blackburn** (Psychology) will be going to Moscow, Russia with the Summer Language Institute's 5+5 Pitt/Moscow program, and **Alexis McMaster** (Slavics) will be going to Podgorica, Montenegro through the Summer Language Institute's 5+5 Pitt/Montenegro program. **Kristina Miller** (Linguistics)

will be taking a directed study through the Linguistics Department to conduct independent research on language politics in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine.

For more information about REES's Undergraduate Internship Awards or Study Abroad Awards, please contact Susan Hicks at [smhicks@pitt.edu](mailto:smhicks@pitt.edu).

### Graduate Students

We are pleased to report that our second UCIS/REES Postdoctoral Fellow will be Dr. **Michael Bobick**, a 2012 Ph.D. in anthropology from Cornell University who has been teaching this year at the American University of Central Asia. Dr. Bobick is a political anthropologist whose dissertation was on performative aspects of sovereignty and state formation in the Transnistrian Moldovan Republic. He will join us in September 2013 and be affiliated with the Department of Anthropology.

**Justin Classen** (History, REES Certificate and GOSECA officer) has been selected to receive a Fulbright grant for the 2013-2014 academic year to study in Romania.



**Heidi Cook** (History of Art and Architecture) presented the paper "Representing the Peasants: Interwar Depictions of Austrian and Croatian Folk Culture" at

the German Studies Association Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in October 2012. Currently a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow, she is attending the University of Zagreb for the spring semester to study language and begin her dissertation research.

**Madalina Veres** (History) spent the fall semester doing research in archives and libraries in Brussels, Milan and Vienna for her Ph.D. dissertation. She presented her work "Caught between Lisbon and Vienna: an eighteenth century cartographer's career and its diplomatic implications," at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New Orleans, Louisiana in January 2013 and at the Fourth Ibero-American Conference on the History of Cartography in Lisbon, Portugal in September 2012. She also presented "A Transylvanian Cartographer in the Service of the Habsburgs: Stephan Lutsch von Luchsenstein (c. 1710 - 1792)," at the conference "Scientific Expeditions: Local Practices and Cosmopolitan Discourses (18-20th century)," in Vienna, Austria in November 2012. REES awarded her a travel grant to present "Joseph II und die Kartensammlung des Hofkriegsrats" ("Joseph II and the Map Collection of the Imperial War Council") at the 16 Kartographiehistorischen Colloquium in Marbach am Neckar, Germany in September 2012.

### April 2013 REES Graduates

Congratulations to the following students, who will receive their REES Certificates in Spring 2013:

#### Undergraduate Certificates

Ursula Aquadro  
Christina Cassidy  
Owen Clark  
Danielle Conley  
Alyssa Cypher  
Leah Farinola  
Elizabeth Frost  
Josh Lane  
Erin Mann  
Thomas Michalik  
Dante Odorisio  
Stephanie Rossi  
Alex Teeney  
Gabrielle Toborg  
Noah Vegh-Gaynor  
Ana Vitas  
Brian Wiacek  
Aleksandra Zaytseva

#### Graduate Certificates

Andrew Behrendt  
Robert Crane  
Sarah Paulsworth  
Joseph Sloan

## STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



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

REES will send groups of undergraduate students abroad on three short-term area studies courses in Summer 2013. The new “Pitt in Spain and Turkey” program will bring 6 students to Istanbul, Turkey, and Córdoba and Granada, Spain, led by Professor **William Chase** (History) and **Cengiz Hakosz** (Anthropology), to explore the impact of historic Ottoman and Christian conquests on urban space and architecture. Another new program, “Pitt in Russia and Ukraine”—led by Professor **Sean Guillory** (History)—will bring 14 students to Kyiv and St. Petersburg to learn about political, social and economic aspects of the fall of the Soviet Union and its aftermath. In addition to Pitt students, this program will include undergraduates from three other Pennsylvania colleges through the Study Abroad Consortium for East Europe and Eurasia (SACEEE) and one student from SUNY Buffalo. Finally, a returning program, “Pitt in the Czech Republic and Poland”—led by Professor **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics)—will bring 12 Pitt undergraduates to Prague and Krakow to examine current economic and political developments in these European Union member states. For more information on these undergraduate study abroad programs, please contact Susan Hicks at [smhicks@pitt.edu](mailto:smhicks@pitt.edu).

In addition, REES Associate Director **Andrew Konitzer** will lead 14 students from the Katz Graduate School of Business on a “Global Research Practicum” course to Moscow and Samara, Russia in May 2013. 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 business specialists. Students will visit a number of selected organizations and companies to explore current business practices and issues related to their individual research topics. Dr. Konitzer will also lead a group of 18 faculty members and other professionals from throughout the U.S. to Moscow, Samara and Istanbul through the Katz School's Faculty Development in International Business (FDIB) program. For more information about these programs, please contact Dr. Konitzer at [konitzer@pitt.edu](mailto:konitzer@pitt.edu).

The 2013 Slavic and East European Summer Language Institute (SLI) will conduct its highly successful language-based study abroad programs in Moscow, Russia; Prague, Czech Republic; Podgorica, Montenegro; and Krakow, Poland. 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, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Turkish, and Ukrainian. Multiple levels of instruction are available in most languages. A variety of competitive scholarships are available each year to SLI participants, including FLAS Fellowships for both graduate and undergraduate students, Project GO scholarships for ROTC students, and tuition remission awards. For more information on any SLI programs, please visit [www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli](http://www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli) or contact Christine Metil at [sliadmin@pitt.edu](mailto:sliadmin@pitt.edu).



*Global Research Practicum students from Katz Graduate School of Business.*



# BOB DONNOROMMO STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND



*Bob Donnorommo 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 Donnorommo 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  
slainte@pitt.edu*

Yes, I want to support the Bob Donnorommo Study Abroad Scholarship Fund:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Please make checks payable to the University of Pittsburgh, with a memo indicating the Donnorommo Fund.

Please charge my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card:  
 Visa       MasterCard       AMEX

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

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact me regarding payroll deduction gift—current Pitt faculty/staff only.

My employer \_\_\_\_\_ will match my contribution.

I prefer to remain anonymous, but please notify Bob Donnorommo that I participated in supporting the fund.

## REES Introduces Our New Staff



**Susan Hicks** is our new Undergraduate Advisor and Program Manager for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Susan is a Pitt graduate (B.A. and M.Ed.), who then earned her Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of British Columbia, where her advisor was Pitt alumna Alexia Bloch, so she has a great Pitt pedigree. Susan's field research was in Siberia, and she adds substantial Russia experience to the undergraduate advising position.



**Tricia McGough** is our new Editorial Assistant who is a graduate of Pitt with a B.A. in Studio Arts and a B.A. in Business Administration.

She worked in publications at Brown University until she became a mother, then worked as a freelance graphic and web designer for over a decade.



**Dawn Seckler** is Program Manager for Russian Area Studies, including the new Project GO program, which is aimed at

teaching Russian language and culture to ROTC students both locally and nationally. Dawn has a strong Pitt background; she received her M.A. in Russian literature and Ph.D. in Russian cinema from Pitt's department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and she has substantial experience teaching Russian cinema, literature, and language courses both in the US and on study abroad programs.



## Project GO (Global Officers)

In August 2012, REES and Pitt's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures were awarded a federal grant through the ROTC Language & Culture Project, known as Project GO (Global Officers), to provide Russian language training to locally, regionally and nationally recruited students from the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC. Project GO is sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office and administered by the Institute of International Education.

During the initial stage of the program, REES and Slavic succeeded in enrolling seven local ROTC students in beginning and intermediate Russian language courses at Pitt during the 2012-13 academic year. Two of these students were enrolled in a hybrid (in-person/online) beginning Russian course sequence, taught by **Yuliya Basina** (Slavic Languages and Literatures), which was scheduled in the evening to accommodate ROTC and other non-traditional student schedules.

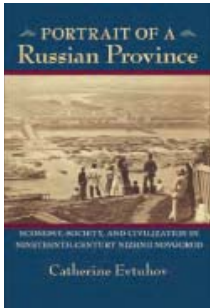
Professor Basina is now developing a hybrid intermediate Russian course sequence to be launched in the 2013-14 academic year and is working with the Pittsburgh-based Carnegie Speech Company to develop enhancements to their SpeakRussian software, which will be incorporated into her intermediate courses to provide speaking, listening and reading exercises customized to the needs of each student. These hybrid intermediate courses will be offered via videoconferencing to Project

GO students at colleges and universities outside of the Pittsburgh region. Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama will serve as a hub for delivery of the hybrid courses to ROTC students from institutions in the Birmingham area, while students at other locations will connect to the courses individually via Skype.

In Spring 2013, REES and the Slavic Department received a supplement to the original Project GO grant, which increased the total amount of the grant to \$288,000. With these additional funds, Pitt's Summer Language Institute (SLI) is able to award Project GO fellowships to ten ROTC students from throughout the U.S. to participate in the SLI's ten-week intensive Russian language program in Pittsburgh and Moscow, plus six ROTC students to participate in the eight-week intensive Russian program at Pitt in Summer 2013. These 16 fellowship recipients will then have the opportunity to complete the hybrid intermediate Russian course sequence in 2013-14, followed by a new eight-week advanced study abroad course in Russia for ROTC students during the 2014 SLI. Pitt's Project GO is also providing ROTC students with additional Russian language practice through free individual tutoring, a weekly conversation table, and a cultural program organized by **Olga Klimova** (Slavic Languages and Literatures).

For more information about Pitt's Project GO, please contact REES Associate Director **Andrew Konitzer** at (412) 648-7407 or [konitzer@pitt.edu](mailto:konitzer@pitt.edu), REES Program Manager **Dawn Seckler** at (412) 648-1228 or [das200@pitt.edu](mailto:das200@pitt.edu), or visit the website at [www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/projectgo.html](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/projectgo.html).

**University of Pittsburgh Press  
Publication Awarded Vucinich  
Book Prize**



A volume published by the Pitt Series in Russian and East European Studies of the University of Pittsburgh Press was selected to receive the 2012 Wayne S. Vucinich Book

Prize for the most important contribution to Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies in any discipline of the humanities or social sciences. The prize was awarded for Catherine Evtuhov’s *Portrait of a Russian Province: Economy, Society and Civilization in Nineteenth-Century Nizhnii Novgorod* at the annual ASEES convention in November 2012. The Russian and East European Studies series of the University of Pittsburgh Press is edited by Professor **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science). For a list of recent titles in the series, see [www.upress.pitt.edu/htmlSourceFiles/pdfs/REES2013.pdf](http://www.upress.pitt.edu/htmlSourceFiles/pdfs/REES2013.pdf).

**GOSECA Conference**

The University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia (GOSECA) and REES presented the 10th Annual Graduate Student Conference, “Threats: Perception and Reality,” on February 22-23, 2013. Fifteen participants from Austria, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Russia and the U.S. presented their latest research on the East European and Eurasian region across a range of academic disciplines. Among the presenters were University of Pittsburgh graduate students **Andrew Behrendt**, **Justin Classen**, and **Samantha Lomb** (History) and **Marc**

**Wisnosky** (Education). A keynote address was delivered on the opening night of the conference by Dr. **Eric McGlinchey** of the Department of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University.

We would like to thank the following Pitt faculty members, who served as discussants at the GOSECA conference: **William Chase** (History), **Sean Guillory** (History/UCIS/REES Postdoctoral Fellow), **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science), **Sheila I. Vélez Martínez** (Law), **David Montgomery** (Anthropology), and **Natalya Stepanova-Sipper** (Law). REES Associate Director **Andrew Konitzer** served as faculty advisor to the student organizing committee, which was headed by GOSECA President **Andrew Behrendt**. Financial support for the conference was provided by REES and the Graduate and Professional Student Government. Additional information and the full conference program are available at <http://goseca.pitt.edu/ocs/index.php/goseca/2013>.



**Russian Film Symposium**

The fifteenth annual Russian Film Symposium, “Re-Imagining Class: Recent Russian Cinema,” will be held on the University of Pittsburgh campus from April 29 through May 4, 2013, with evening screenings at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers’ Melwood Screening Room. This year’s symposium will explore contemporary cinematic portrayals of the Russian middle class. As explained on the symposium website, “The second post-Soviet decade has been

marked by what the Western press refers to as ‘the rising Russian middle class’ [...] While the existence of this ‘middle class’ is beyond dispute, there is an enormous gap between the living conditions of this class (especially in major cities) and the ways in which these lives are represented in Russian cinema of the past decade.” In other words, the very high cost of living in cities such as Moscow forces many members of the “middle class” to work at multiple jobs just to get by; and yet they are portrayed in recent Russian films as living in comfort and luxury.

The films to be screened at this year’s Symposium include: Sergei Loban’s *Chapiteau-Show I and II* (2011), Viktor Ginzburg’s *Generation P* (2011), Roman Prygunov’s *Dukhless* (2012), Dmitrii Fiks’s *White Slave* (2011), Avdot’ia Smirnova’s *Kokoko* (2012), Sarik Andreasian’s *An Office Romance: Our Time* (2011), Renata Litvinova’s *Rita’s Last Fairy Tale* (2012), Angelina Nikonova’s *Twilight Portrait* (2011), Andrei Zviagintsev’s *Elena* (2011), Vladimir Kott’s *Gromozeka* (2011), and Mikhail Segal’s *Short Stories* (2012). For a complete schedule of symposium events, visit [www.rusfilm.pitt.edu/2013/index.html](http://www.rusfilm.pitt.edu/2013/index.html).

The 2013 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 Government at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a grant from the Hewlett Foundation.



## Russian Room Celebrates 75 Years

The Russian Classroom (room 153 in the Cathedral of Learning) was dedicated on July 8, 1938 and is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The donations for the building of the Russian Room were from members of various Russian and Carpatho-Russian and Orthodox Fraternal and other organizations, which is the reason the room incorporates predominantly Russian, but also some Carpathian motifs. The Russian Room was designed by Dr. Andrey Avinoff, then director of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh. The only alteration to the original design was the adding of a corner cabinet to house gifts from former Russian President Dimitry Medvedev, who visited the University of Pittsburgh and the G20 Summit in 2009.

For quite a number of years the Russian Room Committee was inactive, until it was resurrected in 2011 by some members of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Dr. **Robert** and **Christine Metil** (Chairman and Vice Chair) and **Yuliya Basina** (Cultural Consultant). Most Nationality Rooms Committees raise funds for study abroad scholarships as part of their activities. With the help of the students of the Pitt Russian Club, Christine Metil's Russian Tea Cake project and other Russian cultural events have netted over \$2,500 for student scholarships for study abroad in Russia in the past 18 months.

A Cabaret Ball will take place in the William Pitt Union on Sunday, April 21 to celebrate the 75-year anniversary of the Russian Room, together with the Swedish, Scottish, and German classrooms. The celebration is open to the public. Tickets are available by writing to [slavic@pitt.edu](mailto:slavic@pitt.edu) or by contacting the Nationality Rooms Program.



## "Europe: East and West" Undergraduate Research Symposium

REES, the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence, and the International Business Center are sponsoring the 12th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 12, 2013. 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 participate in an event modeled on a graduate-level conference. Applicants submit abstracts of their research papers to a selection committee, and those who are chosen to participate have 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 April 12, papers are being presented by 29 students from 16 different institutions, including the College of Saint Elizabeth, College of William

and Mary, Dickinson College, Kalamazoo College, Mercyhurst University, New College of Florida, New York University, SUNY Fredonia, Temple University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Bristol (UK), University of Oklahoma, University of Pittsburgh, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Washington & Jefferson College, and York University (Canada). This constitutes the most geographically diverse group of participants in the 12-year history of the symposium, with institutions from nine U.S. states and three countries represented.

We would like to thank those REES faculty members who are serving as panel discussants for the 2013 symposium: **Sean Guillory** (History/UCIS/REES), **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science), **Kathleen Manukyan** (Slavic Languages and Literatures), **David Montgomery** (Anthropology), and **Tony Novosel** (History), as well as REES Program Managers **Susan Hicks** and **Dawn Seckler** and REES graduate students **Andrew Behrendt** (History), **Drew Chapman** (Slavic Languages and Literatures), and **Evgeny Postnikov** (Public and International Affairs). **Brandon Boylan**, a doctoral student in Public and International Affairs, is also serving as a discussant and assisted REES with organizing the symposium and the students with revising their papers. We also wish to thank **Patrick Mullen**, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, for addressing the participants at the symposium luncheon. Additional information on the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, as well as the full program from this year's event, is available at [www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium).

## ALUMNI AND ASSOCIATE NEWS

**Dr. Russell Martin** (Pitt BA, History, 1986) is a consultant for the Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens, one of the largest private collections of Russian art and artifacts in the US, on an exhibition in 2013 on the 400th anniversary of the House of Romanov (exhibits starts in March 2013).

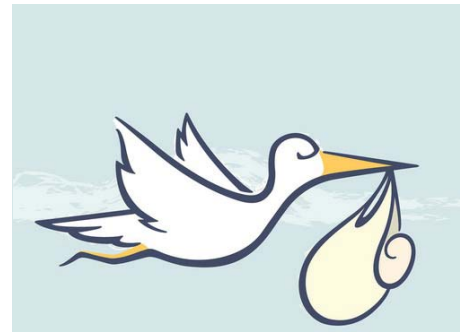
He presented his work “Once More unto the Breach of Ivan the Terrible’s Personality: Madness and Loneliness in the Pavel Lungin Film *Tsar*” at a roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES, formerly AAASS) in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2012. He also presented his paper “The Many Wives of Ivan the Terrible: Truth and Fiction in Sulakadzev’s ‘Excerpts from the Chronograph of the Marriages of Ivan Vasil’evich’” at the ASEEES conference in New Orleans.

Dr. Martin is co-editor (with Brian Boeck and Daniel Rowland) of *Dubitando: Studies in History and Culture in Honor of Donald Ostrowski*, Bloomington, Ind.: Slavica Press, 2012. He has also published “A Tribute to a Doubter and a Questioner” in *Dubitando: Studies in History and Culture in Honor of Donald Ostrowski*, edited by Brian Boeck, Russell E. Martin, and Daniel Rowland, 1–4, Bloomington, Ind.: Slavica Press, 2012; “Law, Succession, and the Eighteenth-Century Refounding of the Romanov Dynasty” in this volume; as well as “Forward” to Cornelia Soldat, *Die Testamente Ivans des Schrecklichen*, Lampeter, UK: Edwin Mellen Press, 2012.

Dr. Martin is also translator of A.N. Zakatov, ed., *Bozhieiu Milostiiu: 400 let okonchaniia Smutnogo Vremeni, vostanovleniia Rossiiskoi Gosudarstvennosti i vsenarodnogo prizvaniia na presto Doma Romanovykh (1613–2013)* [*By the Grace of God: The 400th Anniversary of the Ending of the Time of Troubles, the Reestablishment of the Russian State, and the Ascension of the House of Romanoff (1613–2013)*], Moscow: D. G. Mepurishvili, 2012.

**Dr. Alla Nedashkivska** (PhD, Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1998), now an Associate Professor in Slavic Applied Linguistics, Ukrainian Language and Culture at the University of Alberta, has won the AATSEEL Prize in Language Pedagogy for her *Ukrainian Through Its Living Culture*, available for purchase on amazon.com. AATSEEL is the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, an organization to which most Slavists who teach language belong.

**Carmine Storella** (REES Research Associate) has published his book *The Voice of the People: Letters from the Soviet Village, 1918-1932*, C.J. Storella and A.K. Sokolov. It is part of the Annals of Communism series published by Yale University Press. Sokolov is a Senior Research Scholar of the Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences.



REES congratulates **Jenny Hanlin** (BA, 1998, Certificate in Russian and East European Studies; JD, 2005, Certificate in Russian Studies; FLAS Fellow, 2004-2005) on the arrival of a baby girl, Lucy Hanlin Dammerman, born October 30, 2012. Best wishes to the Hanlin Dammerman family!

## ALUMNI AND ASSOCIATE NEWS *CONTINUED*



### REES Alumnus Launches New Endeavor to Help Ukrainian Children

**Fr. John Hogg**, a 2007 alumnus of REES, has launched a new charity, “Live Tomorrow,” dedicated to helping the most vulnerable children of Ukraine.

While at Pitt, Fr. John majored in Russian, took classes from **Kateryna Dowbenko** in Ukrainian, and completed the REES certificate. During the summers, he put the languages to use by traveling to Ukraine to volunteer at several orphanages for children with severe mental and physical disabilities. Immediately after graduation, he went and lived at one of the orphanages, in Znamianka, Kirovograd Oblast, Ukraine, for a few months, getting to know the children and staff well. Also, through local Ukrainian friends, he became aware of the serious problem of children’s cancer in Eastern Europe, which has increased significantly since the Chernobyl incident.

After returning to the United States, he returned to the orphanage the next summer with a group of friends for another month, during which time they also toured the children’s cancer ward in the regional capital. After seeing the ongoing severity of the need, they all agreed that something needed to be done to provide more aid to the children more consistently. They decided to start a US-based charity that would raise money to help both of these groups of children.

“Live Tomorrow” seeks to aid the children by raising money to 1) help pay for the chemotherapy, surgeries, and radiation that the children need but their parents cannot afford, and 2) work with the orphanages to increase staffing levels, implement needed nutritional programs, and generally increase the quality of life of the children living there. All this is done by working in partnership with local Ukrainian organizations that already work with the children. Rather than seeking large donations, “Live Tomorrow” is trying to build a broad base of small, monthly donations (\$10/mo.) to have a stable budget to know how many kids to commit to every month. Please check out their website at [www.livetomorrow.org](http://www.livetomorrow.org).



## VISITING SCHOLARS



During the Spring 2013 term, REES is hosting Jonida Rystemaj from Tirana, Albania as a Junior Faculty Development Program Scholar. She graduated in July 2007 from the Faculty of Law at the University of Tirana, where she also

received a Master’s degree in 2010 in European Union Business Law and defended her PhD in January 2013. She teaches company law, corporate governance and business law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Tirana.

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO REES

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

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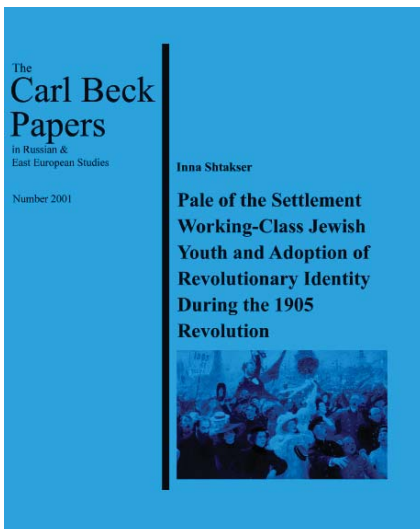
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## THE CARL BECK PAPERS IN RUSSIAN & EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES



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 Stud-

ies (UCIS), publishes work of both new and more experienced scholars in many disciplines and areas of inquiry. This series is an excellent opportunity for anyone who is trying to have a paper published.

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

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### Recent Titles

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- 2108. *Studying the Land, Contesting the Land: A Select Historiographic Guide to Modern Bukovina* (two volumes). Svetlana Frunchak (2011)
- 2107. *The OUN, the UPA and the Holocaust: A Study in the Manufacturing of Historical Myths*. Per A. Rudling (2011)

For more information, contact:

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