



REES CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As most of you know, the period since our last REES Newsletter has been acutely difficult. For the Center, it started out on several high notes. Our latest Project GO grant application was a wonderful success – not only were we renewed at double our previous funding levels, but we were also recognized as the only Project GO-funded Advanced Russian program in the country. During the summer, we successfully administered our first STARTALK program to a diverse group of high school students from Chicago and Pittsburgh; REES and the Slavic Department enjoyed near record-level enrollments in the annual Summer Language Institute (SLI); and REES Assistant Director Susan Hicks led a group of mostly professional school students on a continent/discipline/sector-spanning, energy-focused study abroad trip. REES also looked forward eagerly to launching a competition for two post-doc positions and debuting its Language Teaching and Learning Research (LTLR) grant to coincide with the 2016 SLI. Each of the REES team members was finding his or her stride in their now not-so-new positions and the 2015-16 academic year was off to a very, very promising start.

The evening of October 23rd changed much of that. The loss of our dear friend and colleague Susan Hicks shook REES and the entire UCIS community, leaving a major void in our Center. Susan dedicated herself fully to promoting knowledge about our region, she tirelessly advocated

for and carefully mentored our students, she simmered with new ideas and innovative solutions...and she was just getting started. Much of that energy and her many accomplishments seemed to disappear in this one, so terrible moment.

Over a month later (a fact that itself seems unreal), Susan's family, friends and colleagues are gradually recovering and unsteadily finding their feet. We at REES are beginning the process of locating candidates who can continue her excellent tradition of advising, while simultaneously developing and maintaining a diverse portfolio of innovative programming. The task will not be easy.

Throughout this difficult time, we have each been heartened by the outpouring of support shown by all who were touched by Susan's brief, but remarkable life. As I have mentioned now on several occasions, Susan will live on in many ways – particularly in her work and the inspiration that she provided to so very many people.

With this thought in mind, REES has worked closely with Susan's friends and family to create a fund in her memory, which supports students in the endeavor that she poured so much of herself into: study abroad. From the moment that it opened, the fund has quickly grown through the generous donations of a broad array of friends, loved ones, students, faculty, staff, alumni and many others. As we surpass our initial humble expectations,



Andrew Konitzer

we dare ourselves to imagine larger, more impactful goals ... and it feels like Susan is imagining right alongside us.

I personally encourage everyone who has not learned of this opportunity, or who perhaps simply has not gotten around to visiting, to stop by the fund webpage at: engage.pitt.edu/hicksmemorial. We at REES can think of no better way to honor Susan's life and work and continue her memory.

Anyone who has read my past columns knows by now that I like to finish with a word of thanks to my REES colleagues and all members of the REES and UCIS community. Given recent events, the usual words of gratitude seem inadequate. I would instead ask that everyone reading this reflect on how all of your colleagues have shaped, and more often than not, bettered your personal and professional lives. The stuff of everyday life will once again clutter the moment of clarity brought on by this tragedy, but before it does, let's take one more second to appreciate those around us.

Andrew Konitzer

CONTENTS

From the Director 1

Faculty Spotlight 3

Center News 4

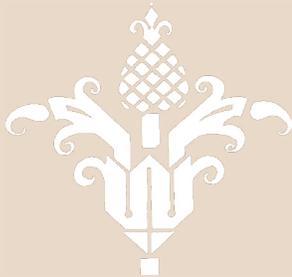
Faculty News 6

Student News 8

Visiting Scholars 9

Alumni and Associate News 9

Study Abroad Programs 10



Dr. Paul Harper with American Councils Kaliningrad Group



American Councils Kaliningrad Work Group (photo by Dr. Paul Harper – see article on page 3)

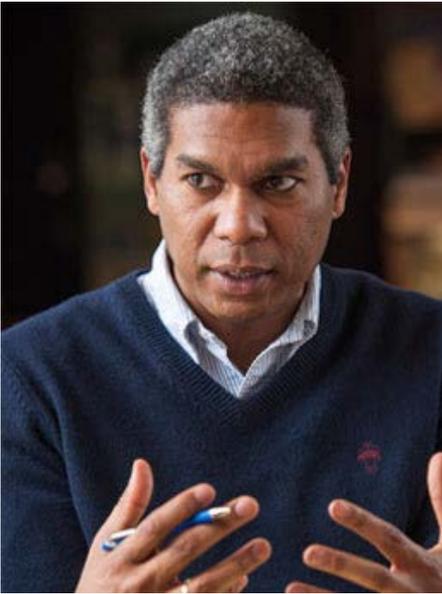
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



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.

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: PAUL HARPER



Dr. Paul Harper is Clinical Assistant Professor of Organizations and Entrepreneurship at the Katz Graduate School of Business.

By invitation of the Washington, D.C.-based NGO, American Councils for International Education, I visited Russia twice in 2015. American Councils conducts distinguished executive learning and faculty exchanges around the world. Recently, that organization developed programs specifically tailored to aiding in the fomentation of a more entrepreneurial business culture in Russia and some of its neighbors. “Enhancing University Research and Entrepreneurial Capacity” (EURECA) and the “Russia Professional Fellows Program” (PFP) create opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration and knowledge sharing between leaders in Russia and the U.S. This year I had the pleasure of working with both of these significant programs and their constituencies.

The EURECA engagement took place on May 18-22 in the cities of Moscow and Nizhni Novgorod. A conference at the Bauman Moscow State Technical University comprised the first two days of my travel. During the conference, several high-level government officials led panels related to the important role that entrepreneurs could play in Russian as it faces the

challenges of having a commodity-based economy. More specifically, the theme of the event was the role of Russian universities in creating the conditions for more and better entrepreneurs through their teaching and also through the commercialization of university-based technologies. I had the opportunity to moderate and provide a summary of the social entrepreneurship panel. Through the panel, I learned that social entrepreneurship is a new concept in Russian universities and saw that they are still in the nascent stages of thinking through how that business model would work in Russia. For now, social entrepreneurship is mostly just another name for non-profit management in Russia.

The remainder of my first trip to Russia was spent in the town of Nizhni Novgorod, four hours away from Moscow by high-speed train. Lobachevsky State University has the best example of a technology transfer center in Russia, and the visiting American professors were invited to help screen current projects, mentor students, and teach a short “master-course” on a topic of choice. I used my three hours to teach students how to develop a value proposition for their company and how to begin a competitor analysis.

I greatly enjoyed the deep and intense interactions that I had with the Russian students and practitioners, both in Moscow and Nizhni Novgorod. It was clear that my style of teaching and my interest in their projects left an impression, even across a major language barrier. In both sites, Russian was the common language, and I had never before had to think about teaching across a language barrier. It was a valuable lesson and, I believe, helped me to think about what is most essential in my message. I also felt it was important to project a sense of humility, which was easy to do given the quality of the speakers and the audience at both universities. I was learning as I was teaching, and I let the students know that. It was as rewarding to me as it

seemed to be to them. I was eager to return to Russia and build on my experience.

That opportunity came in October. The program director for the Russia Professional Fellows Program had attended the social entrepreneurship panel in Moscow and asked if I would be interested in designing a teaching engagement around that concept. Having taught social entrepreneurship for many years at Katz, I was happy to have the challenge of extending my work into the Russian context. That planning culminated in a 1.5-day engagement at the alumni meeting of the fellows from October 16-18 in Kaliningrad.

There were 31 fellows in attendance, all of whom had traveled across Russia to be in Kaliningrad. Before coming, the attendees had to apply to be a part of the weekend engagement. As a part of the application, each fellow had to submit a proposal for a non-profit educational event that could be used as a platform for teaching entrepreneurship in their home cities and regions. During our day and a half together, I delivered lectures on the topics of entrepreneurial strategy, social venturing, and inclusive innovation. The overall goal was to show how entrepreneurship could be a driver of economic development.

The Russia PFP alumni were a great group; I wish I had more time to work with them as they develop their ideas. Entrepreneurship in the Russian context is very challenging due to the lack of intellectual property protection, lack of prestige, and low-functioning business support infrastructure. I am inspired by the example of this bright group of young professionals who have chosen to push the agenda of entrepreneurship for their home country. More than anything, I felt that my most important goal was to provide them encouragement and hope. I know that they are doing the same for the youth in their home communities. In the future, I hope to find ways to connect my Katz MBA students with the Russian PFP alumni through an international collaboration.



East European Festival 2015

REES hosted the 7th annual East European Festival on Thursday, November 12 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Ballroom of the O'Hara Student Center. The festival featured performing artists from the University and a range of East European ethnic foods. Pitt's Carpathian Music Ensemble performed, while the Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia and the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Turkish and Ukrainian student organizations contributed time, effort and food. Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) credit was available for Pitt students who attended the festival, and donations were accepted for the Bob Donnorummo Study Abroad Scholarship Fund. Students, staff, faculty and members of the community were invited and participated in this popular and enjoyable event.

Project GO

REES continues to have great success with its Department of Defense-funded Project GO (Global Officers) grant to support Russian language training for ROTC stu-

dents. In the summer of 2015, 26 ROTC students participated in Pitt Project GO programs: 6 studied beginning Russian at Pitt's Summer Language Institute and 20 enrolled in 2nd- and 3rd-year Russian language courses held in Narva, Estonia, a predominantly Russian-speaking city located on the Estonian-Russian border.

In addition to their 8 weeks of intensive Russian language courses, which ran from 9am-3pm Monday – Friday, students in both Pittsburgh and Narva participated in rigorous cultural programs. The Pittsburgh-based students attended weekly lectures on contemporary topics, attended a Russian film series, practiced cooking Russian fare, and learned to sing both folk and pop songs. Those studying in Estonia attended excursions and lectures on Estonian folk culture, military history, and industry. For their final project, students in the 3rd-year Russian class integrated information learned on these excursions and from lectures with online research and interviews that they conducted in Russian into a collaboratively-created online report on contemporary Estonia (<https://narvaanamericanstory.wordpress.com/>).

We're particularly proud to announce that REES received two new Project GO grants for 2015-2018, totaling nearly \$500,000 annually. These grants will allow us to continue to offer intensive Russian courses at the 1st-3rd year levels, and also award scholarships for students pursuing begin-

ning-level Turkish and, at the other end of the spectrum, 4th-year Russian. This highly advanced Russian language course will be held abroad in Narva and will feature homestays, a Russian-language job shadowing experience, and an intensive course on Russian foreign policy that considers questions related to regionalism vs. globalization, economics, and environmental issues, taught entirely in Russian.



REES Introduces Our New Staff



Tricia McGough returns to REES as our Publications Coordinator and Communications Assistant. Tricia

is a gr--aduate 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. Tricia joined REES in 2013 as our Editorial Assistant and has been working closely with Wendy O'Donnell, Marketing & Communications Manager, designing publications for the University Center for International Studies.

NEH “Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges” Project Update

As of fall 2015, the NEH-sponsored “Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges” partnership between REES and the Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) has entered its second year. The 14 CCBC faculty participants, who attended a workshop series last winter and spring on East European history, cultures and literature led by REES faculty members **Joel Brady** and **Ljiljana Duraskovic** (Slavic Languages and Literatures), began developing original learning modules on Eastern Europe to be introduced into courses they teach at CCBC. Two participants already incorporated their modules into courses they are teaching this fall, and three others plan to implement their modules in spring 2016. The remaining participants will introduce their modules into courses they are teaching in the 2016-17 academic year. In addition, a new section of CCBC’s existing World Literature course focusing on East European literature was introduced this fall. This course is being co-taught by **Joel Brady** and **Cynthia Marshall**, a CCBC project participant, with the goal of having it be taught solely by CCBC faculty members starting in 2016-17.

A monthly speaker series is being held during the 2015-16 academic year to link CCBC project participants via videoconferencing with expert speakers at East European universities and with community



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

members in Eastern Europe through U.S. State Department-sponsored “American Corners” in the region. In addition, the series will include events featuring local scholars and East European ethnic community leaders from Western Pennsylvania. **Andrew Konitzer**, REES Acting Director and Pitt’s “Bridging Cultures” Project Director, spoke on contemporary Balkan politics at the initial session on August 29. The next two sessions, held on October 2 and November 13, featured videoconferences connecting CCBC faculty with the American Corners located in Sarajevo and Belgrade to compare viewpoints on current issues and everyday life experiences in each country. Lively discussions took place on both occasions.

Cooperation between REES and CCBC on the “Bridging Cultures” project has stimulated broader collaboration between Western Pennsylvania community colleges and the various area studies centers housed within Pitt’s University Center for International Studies (UCIS). Using funds from the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI National Resource Center program and other grants to the UCIS centers, Pitt presented a faculty development workshop on the CCBC campus in April

2015 on “Mobilizing People, Students, and Ideas: Social Movements across the Globe and in the Undergraduate Curriculum.” This event received very positive feedback from the approximately 20 faculty members who attended from CCBC and the Community Colleges of Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties. Administrators at Westmoreland County Community College requested a similar workshop on their campus, which the UCIS centers presented on October 6, focusing on the theme of international higher education.

REES and UCIS outreach staff also met with administrators at the Community College of Allegheny County in summer 2015 and are developing plans to organize a faculty workshop there in 2016, as well as a second annual UCIS workshop at CCBC. Thus, initial plans for UCIS to present one workshop per year for community college faculty have expanded to up to three workshops to be hosted by different institutions across the Pittsburgh region this academic year, illustrating the importance of the “Bridging Cultures” project in advancing the longer-term goal of internationalizing community college curricula throughout Western Pennsylvania.



David Birnbaum (Slavic Languages and Literatures) was awarded the “Marin Drinov” medal for distinguished contributions to Bulgarian studies by Academician Stefan Vodenicharov, the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. It is the highest honor that the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences bestows

on foreign scholars of Bulgarian studies. “My nomination and selection to receive this award is a great honor for me and an important recognition of the importance of the collaborative work I have been able to pursue over the course of more than two decades with the Institute of Literature of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,” said Birnbaum. His principal project with the institute is the Repertorium of Old Bulgarian Literature and Letters. This website allows researchers in medieval manuscript studies to compare the structure and contents of (at present) 157 miscellany manuscripts, which include 3,244 content items and 1,520 unique content items.

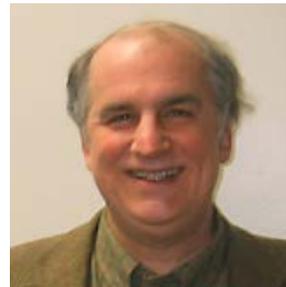
Birnbaum is well known for his work in the digital humanities, recognized for developing computational tools to conduct new and improved types of humanities research. He has built a digital library containing hundreds of medieval Bulgarian manuscripts. In addition, he has taught at Pitt since 1990 and has chaired the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures since 1996 after receiving a PhD from Harvard and a master’s degree from The Ohio State University in Slavic languages and literatures.



Nancy Condee (Slavic Languages and Literatures) has been awarded a Gaidar Fellowship from the Center for Russian Studies (School of Public Policy) at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). She will spend two weeks in late fall in Moscow at RANEPA, where she

will be conducting graduate seminars and giving a public talk in the Open Wednesday series. Professor Condee’s recent media interviews include remarks on FKT (Russian Federal Cable Television) on 11 June 2015 concerning Mikhail Mestetskii’s 2015 drama *Rag Union* [Triapichnyj soiuz]; VGTRK (Russian federal state television and radio service) on 14 May 2015 concerning Viktor Ginzburg’s 2015 film *V Ampir*; and the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* on 19 April 2015 concerning cultural diplomacy. She has also been appointed Associate Editor for Film at *Slavic and East European Journal*. Her recent publications include four essays:

- “Cold Snap (Part I): Russian Film after *Leviathan*.” *All the Russias* website essay. New York University Advanced Center for the Advanced Study of Russia. Online at http://jordanrus-siacenter.org/news/cold-snap-part-russian-film-leviathan/#.Va_c_vlViko
- “Cold Snap (Part II): Russian Film after *Leviathan*.” *All the Russias* website essay. New York University Advanced Center for the Advanced Study of Russia.
- “Sky. Plane. Girl.” Essay on Vera Storozheva, dir. *Director of World Cinema: Russia*. Vol 2. Ed. Birgit
- Beumers. Bristol: Intellect, 2015. 191-92.
- “The Russian Pavilion at Cannes 2015: Film Politics after *Leviathan*.” *KinoKultura* Issue 49 (2015). Online at <http://www.kinokultura.com/2015/49-condee.shtml#16>



Robert M. Hayden (Anthropology, Law, and Public & International Affairs) spent the spring term of 2015 on sabbatical in Belgrade. While there he took part in a UNESCO conference on “Evidence Based Heritage Policies for Inclusive Societies” in Leiden in May, and presented a paper (with Mario Katić of

the University of Zadar) on “Religiously Nationalizing the Landscape in Bosnia and Herzegovina” at an international conference on “Movements, Narratives & Landscapes” that was held at the University of Zadar in June. In the late fall he also presented a keynote address on “Sufis, Dervishes and Alevis-Bektaşis: Interfaces of Heterodox Islam and Nationalist Politics from the Balkans, Turkey and India” at a conference on “Sufi Islam and the Politics of Belonging in South Asia,” University of Heidelberg. In addition, Hayden gave two lectures: “Između trozupca i polumeseca: zajedničko poštovanje i osporavanje hindu-muslimanskog sveca u centralnoj Indiji” (in Serbian), Dept of Anthropology, University of Belgrade, March 26, 2015; and “Between Trident and Crescent: Sharing and Contesting a Hindu-Muslim Saint in Central India,” Dept. of Anthropology, Haifa University, April 30, 2015.

Irina Livezeanu (History) took part in the international conference of the Society for Romanian Studies dedicated to “The 25th Anniversary of Regime Change in Romania and Moldova.” She presented the paper “Post-communist Projects: Recuperating the Avant-Garde and the New Generation” on the panel “Bringing Back the Avant-Garde since 1990.” She led the discussion of the documentary film “Searching for Maxy” about the 20th century



visual artist M.H. Maxy (she has been the historical consultant for the film directed by Lee Dragu). She moderated three other panels: “A Seat at the Table: Women Intellectuals in Post-Communist Romania,” “Feminism for Post-Communism,” and “Patterns of Resistance and Collaboration among Writers, Academics and Architects,” and she participated in the roundtable “The Society for Romanian Studies: Past, Present and Future.” Professor Livezeanu is co-editor of the book series *Studii Românești/Romanian Studies/Études Roumaines/Rumänische Studien*, recently inaugurated at the Polirom Publishing House in Iași, Romania. The first two volumes in the series appeared in August. They are Romanian translations of Roland Clark’s *Holy Legionary Youth: Fascist Activism in Interwar Romania* (Cornell, 2015), and Vladimir Solonari’s *Purifying the Nation: Population Exchange and Ethnic Cleansing in Nazi-Allied Romania, 1940-1944* (the Woodrow Wilson Center Press & Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010).

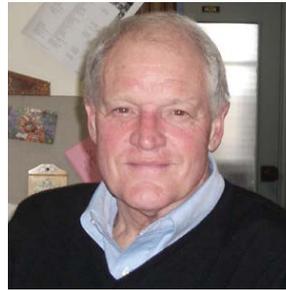


John Markoff (Sociology) and former graduate student **Piotr Konieczny** (Sociology) published “Poland’s Contentious Elites Enter the Age of Revolution: Extending Social Movement Concepts” in *Sociological Forum* 30 (2), 2015 (June):286-304. Professor Markoff also did two entries for *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (second edition) – on “Revolutions” and “Archival Methods”. In May he spoke at the University of Santiago de Compostela on recurrent issues in the modern history of democracy and discussed the future of Spanish democracy with students at Pablo de Olavide University in Seville.



Gina Peirce (REES Assistant Director) completed her second MA degree in August 2015 through Pitt’s Department of Linguistics, specializing in Applied Linguistics with a focus on Second Language Acquisition. She presented the results of her thesis project, “Representational and Processing Constraints on the Acquisition of Case and Gender by L1 English Learners of Russian: A Corpus Study,” at the Linguistics Department Colloquium session on October 9.

Oscar Swan (Slavic Languages and Literatures) has published two recent articles:



- “Oboje ‘both-collective’: Normative Grammar, the Polish National Corpus, Google, and Contemporary Standard Polish.” *Polish Review*. 60/3.
- “Polish ‘Partner Nouns,’” in *Slavic and East European Journal*. 59/3 (‘partner nouns’ being nouns that refer to marital or other sexual partners).

In addition Professor Swan has been awaiting the appearance of *Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia*, University of Pittsburgh Press, 430 pp., EDP October 2015.

One of two annual Milan Hodža Awards of Honor was presented to **Martin Votruba** (Slavic Languages and Literatures), head of the Slovak Studies Program. The Milan Hodža Awards are named after the last prime minister of Czechoslovakia before Nazi German influence and recognize the sciences and work that links Slovakia and the rest of the world. The award was given “for the advancement of knowledge of Slovak history and culture in the Slavic department at the University of Pittsburgh and for his support to the preservation of Slovak culture in the awareness of Slovak-Americans and public at large,” according to the award citation. Robert Fico, prime minister of Slovakia, and Miroslav Pekník, chair of the award committee and director of the Institute of Political Science within the Slovak Academy of Sciences, signed the citation. Votruba received the award earlier this summer.



Pitt is the only university in the United States where students can enroll in Slovak language and culture classes and receive a minor in Slovak studies. An endowment created by the Slovak-American community underwrites the Slovak Studies Program. Votruba received a PhDr and PhD from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, and a diploma in English studies from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He has written about Slovak filmmaking and linguistic minorities in Slovakia. Votruba delivers talks on Slovak topics in Pittsburgh and other locations and has been invited by the U.S. Department of State to give presentations annually for over two decades.

Adam Brode (PhD candidate, History) is conducting on-site archival research in Riga, Latvia during the academic year 2015-2016. Adam's dissertation focuses on interethnic relations and urban space in Riga during the period between the world wars. In addition to undertaking archival research in Latvian, Russian, and German this year, Adam also looks forward to further developing his skills in the former two languages (both widely spoken in the Latvian capital), his study of which was enabled through generous support from REES through Pitt's Summer Language Institute over the past three summers.

Undergraduate student **Thomas Elvins** (German) and PhD candidate **Madalina Veres** (History), two students from the University of Pittsburgh, won the Midwest Slavic Association Student Essay Prize Competition. Thomas' paper was entitled "In the Shadow of the Sword: The Evolution of St. Nicholas Icons within a Russian Context," and Madalina's paper was entitled "Mastering Space: The Great Military Map of Transylvania." Congratulations to our students!

Contributing to the never-ending goal of transparency in U.S. foreign assistance globally, REES student **Almir Hodzic** (Public and International Affairs) interned at the Center for International Policy's Security Assistance Monitor (SAM). The Security Assistance Monitor provides a one-of-a-kind online database that catalogues all of the publicly available data from numerous disparate U.S. government reports on foreign security assistance into an on-

line, interactive, and downloadable database. The global database is for the benefit of government and nongovernment professionals, scholars, and the public in general as a citizen's guide to U.S. security and defense assistance.

Almir was responsible for the Central Eurasia region, where he followed developing events in the former Soviet republics in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. He contributed to daily and weekly newsletters that provided news to subscribers. Utilizing his knowledge of the region, Almir was able to contribute to fact sheets, blogs, and other resources that analyzed the security situation in Central Eurasia. Concluding his time at the Center for International Policy, Almir has enhanced his knowledge of the region and become aware of the lingering political, economic, and social issues plaguing the people of Central Eurasia and the effect U.S. policy has on these issues. Continued work by organizations like the Center for International Policy will go a long way in creating more light on an often overlooked region and influencing future U.S. policy decisions.

Andrew Nitz (Russian/Computer Science) was at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul for the summer with an ARIT-BU fellowship studying intensive advanced Turkish. He said "I've seen some interesting stuff here, such as the police shutting down the pride parade and some protests recently against nationalistic violence against East Asian tourists/immigrants and the government's alleged support of ISIS." He was also able

to spend a weekend in Georgia, putting his Russian skills to good use.

Jonathan Sherry (PhD candidate, History) is studying under **William Chase**. His dissertation looks at the impact of Soviet intervention in the Spanish Civil War and espionage trials during the conflict. In July he published an article, entitled "Exporting Stalin's show trial? Performing justice in the Spanish Civil War," *Studies in Slavic Cultures XII, Pop and Propaganda* (July 2015): 55-106. He was also awarded a Fulbright Full Grant for Research in Spain to study the impact of Soviet intervention on espionage trials of dissident Spanish Marxists during the Spanish Civil War, for the 2015-2016 academic year. He is living in Barcelona and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, conducting research and writing his dissertation.

REES

Certificate Recipients

Congratulations to **Alexis McMaster**, **Samantha Nuttall**, and **Lindsey Woolcock**, who received their REES certificates in August 2015, and to **Stanislav Averin** and **Alyssa Waryanka**, who are receiving their REES certificates in December 2015.

VISITING SCHOLARS



Dr. **Lea David** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev and Haifa University) is visiting the Department of Anthropology for the academic year 2015-2016, as a Fulbright Fellow under the supervision of Prof. **Robert M. Hayden**. Her research focus is “Memory Content as a Trade Cur-

rency: A Comparative Analysis of National Calendars in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia – Herzegovina, Israel and Palestine.” Dr. David also received Fulbright’s Rabin Fellowship for the best Humanities candidate selected each year. Dr. David wrote her doctoral thesis at Ben Gurion in 2014, entitled, “No-One’s Memories and a Monument to No-One: The Process of Collective Memory Construction in Post-War Serbia,” under the supervision of Prof. Lev Grinberg and Dr. Jackie Feldman. She is currently doing post-doctoral research at Haifa University (Joint Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Anthropology Department and the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research) under the supervision of Dr. Carol Kidron, on “Human Rights and Memory Politics: A Comparative Study of Serbia and Croatia.”



Jana Lokajova is a visiting scholar from the Centre of Languages at Slovak Technical University (STU). She studied at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, where she majored in English linguistics and Slavic studies (2011). Her M.A.

thesis dealt with the discourse analysis of communicative strategies that American and British politicians were using in one-to-one interviews; particularly with the concept of political ‘non-replying’ and ‘evasiveness’. As an instructor of English for Science and Engineering at STU, she has focused on the didactic aspect of appropriateness in course material development and design (2011-2015). In September 2015 she was awarded the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh to conduct her research into lexical analysis of different technical English texts. Jana’s interests include computational linguistics and second language acquisition. In the future, she would like to devise a series of e-learning language modules for less commonly taught languages and also help develop an online Slovak corpus database.



Erika Moravčíková is a visiting scholar from the Hospital Bulovka in Prague, Czech Republic. Erika is conducting her research in lung cancer development at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center under the mentorship of Dr. **Vera Donnberg**. She also received a Ruth Crawford

Mitchell Fellowship through Pitt’s Nationality Rooms Program to support her research in Pittsburgh in fall of 2015.

ALUMNI & ASSOCIATE NEWS

Whitney Grespin (Public & International Affairs, 2009) was awarded a Studentship position to complete her PhD with King’s College London’s Defence Studies Department, including teaching responsibilities at the UK Joint Services Command and Staff College.

REES undergraduate alumni **Rachel L. McVey** (History) and **Stephen Sloto** (Anthropology and Linguistics) were awarded Fulbright grants to serve as English teaching assistants in Hungary and Turkey, respectively. Both graduated with REES certificates in 2014-15.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



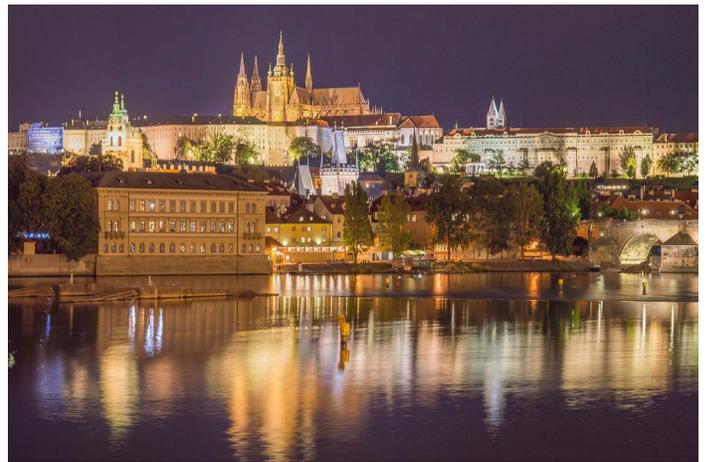
Chain Bridge in Budapest, Hungary

REES Short-Term Undergraduate Summer Programs

Professor **Adriana Helbig** (Music) will lead a six-credit program (three credits in the Music Department and three credits in Urban Studies, pending approval from the Urban Studies Program) to the Czech Republic and Hungary in May – June 2016. Students will experience Romani culture on stage, as part of the Khamoro World Roma Festival in Prague, as well as in everyday contexts through visits to Romani settlements. Meetings with scholars and public figures from the Czech Republic and Hungary will offer insights to enhance student understanding of Roma-related issues in the European Union and on its borders. Students wishing to enroll in this exciting course are encouraged to consider taking related classes at Pitt, “Introduction to World Music” and “Gypsy Music,” and to view updated information and open an application at www.abroad.pitt.edu/romani. Students should also contact Professor Helbig at anh59@pitt.edu.

In addition, REES will offer a six-credit Integrated Field Trip Abroad (IFTA) program in Prague, Vienna and Zagreb in May 2016, led by Professor **Drew Armstrong** (History of Art and Architecture). Titled “Architecture and the City in Central Europe:

19th and 20th Centuries,” this program is designed for students who have taken one of Professor Armstrong’s courses, “Architecture: Texts + Theory,” “Modern Architecture,” or “18th Century Architecture” at Pitt. Other interested students may attend with instructor permission. This program will explore the process of modernization in Central European cities and the impact of new ideas about design, technology, and social organization on the development of new building types and urban infrastructure in the 19th and 20th centuries. For more information and to open an application, go to www.abroad.pitt.edu.



Prague, Czech Republic

Also in May 2016, for the eleventh consecutive year, the Center will offer a three-credit program in Prague and Krakow. The program, to be led by Professor **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics), will explore the theme “Czech Republic and Poland: Economy and Policy.” Participants will examine current economic, political, business, social and cultural developments in the new European Union member states through daily lectures, meetings with local scholars and officials, and field trips to sites of interest in the region. Students are encouraged to view updated information and open an application at www.abroad.pitt.edu/praguekrakow.



Moscow, Russia

Intensive Summer Language Programs

Pitt's 2016 Slavic, East European, and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute (SLI) will offer language-based study abroad programs in Moscow, Russia; Sofia, Bulgaria; Prague, Czech Republic; Debrecen, Hungary; Podgorica, Montenegro; Krakow, Poland; and Bratislava, Slovakia (contingent on minimum enrollments in each program). Most of these courses involve several weeks of intensive study in Pittsburgh followed by an immersion program in the target country; some also offer abroad-only options at the intermediate and/or advanced levels of language study. In addition, eight-week intensive intermediate through fourth-year Russian language courses will be offered in Narva, Estonia for ROTC students through Pitt's Project GO program.

The 2016 SLI will also offer intensive summer courses on the Pitt campus in Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, 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 Russian and Turkish language scholarships for ROTC students, and tuition remission awards. For more information on any SLI programs, please visit sli.pitt.edu or contact SLI Executive Director Dawn Seckler at sliadmin@pitt.edu.

CONTACT REES

REES GENERAL MAILBOX: crees@pitt.edu

ANDREW KONITZER, *Acting Director*: konitzer@pitt.edu

DAWN SECKLER, *Acting Associate Director*: das200@pitt.edu

GINA PEIRCE, *Assistant Director for Grants, Outreach, & Assessment*: gbpeirce@pitt.edu

ANNA TALONE, *International Programs Coordinator*: ant28@pitt.edu

TRICIA MCGOUGH, *Publications Designer & Communications Assistant*: tmcgough@pitt.edu

SLAVIC DEPARTMENT GENERAL MAILBOX: slavic@pitt.edu

REES: www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees

REESWeb: www.ucis.pitt.edu/reesweb

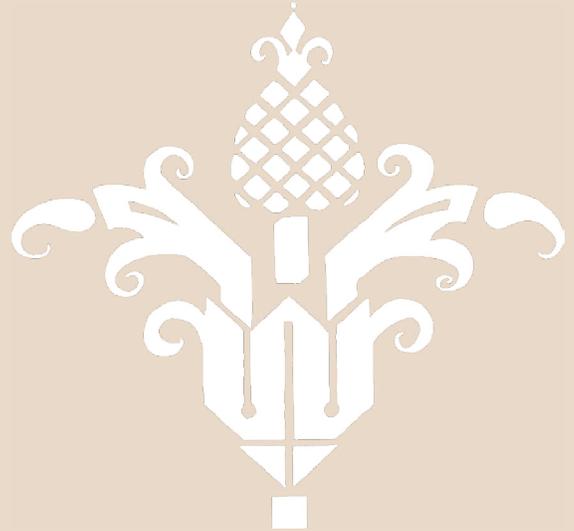
SLAVIC DEPARTMENT: www.slavic.pitt.edu

SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN FILM COLLECTION: www.pitt.edu/~slavic/video

REES OUTREACH RESOURCES: www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/k12_resources.html

REES Newsletter is a publication of the Center for Russian and East European Studies, part of the University of Pittsburgh's Center for International Studies. Please send all comments and contributions to:

Gina Peirce
University of Pittsburgh
REES, 4415 Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-648-2290
gbpeirce@pitt.edu



CENTER FOR
RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

University of Pittsburgh
4400 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
230 South Bouquet Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 511