



REES CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I've transitioned into the Interim Director role, I'm as humbled by and as grateful for my colleagues as ever. Late this summer, we had to bid farewell to two members of the REES team—Anna Talone, our Administrative Assistant for International Programs, and Andrew Konitzer, REES Acting Director (2014-16). Sadly, but filled with pride for her ten years (!) of accomplishments, we toasted Anna buon viaggio as she set off to spend several sun-soaked months with family and friends in Italy. It is impossible to deny that Anna's absence is acutely felt. Many have witnessed us trying (with limited success) to handle the many tasks Anna managed effortlessly. Happily, Kiersten Walmsley, a Pitt alumna with substantial academic administrative experience, will join REES in mid-October; be sure to come by and welcome her.

Before leaving REES late this summer, Andrew Konitzer set the stage for the 2016-17 academic year. Under Andy's direction, REES made the decision to dedicate substantial resources to raise Pitt's intellectual engagement with the vast Central Eurasian region. Key to this initiative is our good fortune in awarding Dr. Ainur Begim and Dr. Patryk Reid the two current UCIS/REES Postdoctoral Fellowships. Anchored by their burgeoning, but already impressive academic careers, Ainur and Patryk arrived at Pitt ready to partner with Dr. Jennifer Murtazashvili (Assistant Professor, GSPIA) and Dr. James Pickett (Assistant Professor, History) to provide REES with welcome intellectual leadership in this goal. The earliest result of their energy is a stellar list of Central Asian-focused programming that includes lunchtime talks on contemporary politics and policies, an interdisciplinary reading group, and the event series "Exploration of

Cultural Identity Along the Silk Road," which is being co-organized and co-sponsored by Pitt's Asian Studies Center. The series extends from November through April and is open to the public, and includes:

- Director Lauren Knapp's presentation of her 2015 film *Live From UB*, a documentary about rock and freedom in the new Mongolia (Nov. 3)
- Georgetown Professor James Millward's lecture "Silk Road Journeys of the Eurasian Lute" (Jan. 12)
- Dr. Morgan Liu's lecture "How to Misunderstand Central Asian Islam (and How to Do Better)" (Feb. 10)
- Pittsburgh debut of the documentary film *The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma & The Silk Road Ensemble* (Mar. 3)
- Dr. Rian Thum on Muslim identities among Uyghur populations in China (Apr. 14)

We hope you'll join us for these events.

Lest you conclude this column under the impression that we have foregone the broader REES region in favor of Central Asia, let me reassure you that nothing could be further from the truth. Here at Pitt, 2016-17 has been deemed the "Year of Diversity," and REES is a proud and active promoter of linguistic and cultural diversity, intellectual diversity, and a diversity of opportunities for all students. From June – August 2016, under the auspices of the Summer Language Institute (SLI), over 25 staff and faculty members provided intensive instruction in 9 languages to approximately 160 students, 40 of whom are ROTC students, in 6 locations—Krakow, Montene-



gro, Moscow, Narva (Estonia), Prague, and of course Pittsburgh. Tremendously, these students were supported by over \$625,000 in scholarships thanks to generous funding from the SLI, Project GO, Title VI FLAS Fellowships, REES, the European Studies Center, and the Slovak and Croatian Funds.

As one of the very few language schools of such size and linguistic diversity in the country, the SLI holds great research potential for linguists studying second language acquisition. REES's resident linguist, Gina Peirce (Assistant Director for Grants, Outreach and Assessment), recognized this potential and launched the first annual Language Teaching and Learning Research (LTLR) grant competition this year. REES awarded grants to Olena Sivachenko (University of Alberta), who spent a month examining the motivational profiles of students enrolled in SLI Slavic language courses, and Dr. Victoria Hasko (University of Georgia), who conducted a psycholinguistic eye-tracking study to examine the

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FROM THE DIRECTOR *CONTINUED*

interplay of cognitive and linguistic factors in Russian learners' descriptions of various dynamic events. Interestingly, both projects seek to understand the diversity of our students—including their motivations and how they learn—to develop better pedagogical tools that will respond more meaningfully to the great variety of language learners. Please keep an eye on our webpage, where the reports of their findings will be uploaded soon, as will the second annual LTLR grant application.

I began this column with mention of two team members who have transitioned beyond REES; I am happy to conclude with news of three colleagues who just recently have or soon will join our staff. First, Dr. Andrew Behrendt, a long-time REESnik, now holds a joint position as the REES Academic Advisor and ASEES NewsNet Editor. Andrew is uniquely suited for the role: he received his PhD from Pitt's History Department, where he continues to regularly teach, and has long been active in REES programming. Most notably, he served in our Graduate Organi-

zation for the Study of Europe and Central Asia from) 2010-14. He is an advocate for our students; an active promoter of opportunities on campus, in Pittsburgh, and internationally; and a welcome collaborative spirit, ready to participate in the development of Center strategies and projects. We're very happy to have you on board, Andrew!

Second, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Dr. Zsuzsanna Magdo, who will assume the role of REES Assistant Director for Partnerships and Programming later this fall. Zsuzsa's past experiences at the University of Illinois's Global Studies Center and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center provide her rare familiarity with the work of a National Resource Center like ours. In addition to strengthening already-existing Center programs, Zsuzsa will be developing new and innovative opportunities to meet the needs of students across Pitt's campus, with a particular focus on those in the professional schools.

Last, but very far from least, Dr. Nancy Condee will take on the role of REES Center Director

on January 1, 2017. Professor Condee, a highly accomplished scholar of contemporary Russian film, (post-)imperial and cultural studies, brings extraordinary experience to the position. She previously served as the chair of the Board of Directors of the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER), the President of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (2011-12), the Director of Cultural Studies at Pitt (1995-2006), and, most recently, the inaugural Director of the Global Studies Center (2011-16). REES will be in exceptional hands.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Read on for information about Professor Bryan Hanks's exceptional international collaborations in the field of archeology, the upcoming 8th annual East European Festival, and all of the celebratory news shared by our faculty and students.

Dawn Seckler

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: BRYAN HANKS



Since I joined Pitt's Department of Anthropology in 2003, the majority of my archaeological field research has been based in Russia, where I have directed and co-directed research projects since 1998. The most recent, from 2007-2015, was funded by the National Science Foundation, the Arts and Humanities Council (U.K.), and the Wenner-Gren Foundation and provided opportunities for dozens of students from Pitt, along with other domestic and international institutions, to be involved in a large-scale field research program every summer.

This program, the Sintashta Collaborative Archaeology Project (SCARP), focused on ancient settlements and cemeteries connected with Bronze Age (2100-1700 B.C.) pastoralist communities within the South-eastern Ural Mountains region of Russia. In 2016, this project moved into the post-excavation stage, as team members worked on processing and analysis of artifacts and preparing results for publication. An important outgrowth of this research was the innovative development of remote sensing techniques that combined soil chemistry, utilizing handheld instruments in the field, and non-invasive, sub-surface geophysical survey techniques. Our teams employed these methods to characterize the size and spatial organization of early villages and the

distribution of copper working and other craft activities.

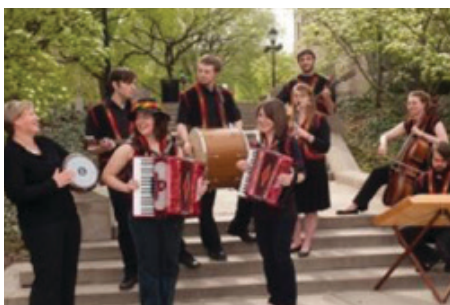
In 2012, I was invited by colleagues at the National Museum in Belgrade to begin a new project in the Republic of Serbia, focusing on early copper metal producing communities during the Neolithic of South-eastern Europe. The goal was to implement some of the novel methods our team had developed in Russia. Evidence for early copper production in Serbia has been connected with the Vinča culture (5700-4500 B.C.) and represents some of the earliest dated metal technology in Europe. In collaboration with colleagues from Serbia and the UK, and with funding from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, we initiated a program of field study (2012-2015) that examined the development of copper craft specialization at the ancient settlement sites of Belovode and Oreškovitca in Eastern Serbia.

In July 2016, a new program of research was conducted at two Neolithic period settlements in Central Serbia. Contributors included two Serbian students, Miroslav Kocić and Gligor Dakovic, who are pursuing doctoral degrees in Anthropology at Pitt. One of the sites examined is Divostin, which was previously the focus of multi-year excavations in the late 1960s that were co-directed by Professor Alan McPherron (Emeritus) of Pitt. In collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute in Kragujevac, our team conducted new geochemical and sub-surface geophysical surveys at Divostin and Grivac, another well-known settlement. The implementation of non-invasive survey technologies provided a rapid means of characterizing the household spatial organization of these early villages and identifying possible defensive enclosures surrounding them. This research also provided detailed information for future management of these important sites. Our research in Serbia has provided remarkable new results and a substantial foundation of pilot data for a longer-term comparative study of Neolithic village organization across Central Serbia. I look forward to developing new opportunities to

involve Pitt faculty and students within our fieldwork.

Also in summer 2016, I initiated a new project in Slovenia with colleagues Dr. Branko Mušič and Dr. Matija Črešnar from the University of Ljubljana, building productively on the partnership agreement formed between REES and Ljubljana. I collaborated with Dr. Mušič and Dr. Črešnar on archaeological surveys at three Iron Age (800 – 400 B.C.) fortified hilltop settlements in Southeastern and Northeastern Slovenia. Former Pitt graduate student James Johnson (Anthropology 2011), who currently holds a three-year Post-Doctoral post at the University of Copenhagen, co-directed a series of pedestrian surveys with collection of surface artifacts and multi-method geophysical surveys. This research aims at improved understanding of the organization of social and economic space within the fortified zones of the hilltop settlements, while examining the relationship of these settlements to surrounding hinterland areas and populations that may have lived there. Colleagues at Ljubljana have made important progress at exploring these issues, and we look forward to developing a multi-year collaborative project including faculty and students from Pitt.

I have enjoyed these unique opportunities to collaborate with wonderful colleagues in Russia, Serbia and Slovenia on important projects and issues relating to management of ancient cultural and heritage resources. Pitt has been a solid supporter of these activities, and REES has helped in numerous ways with developing partnership agreements and organizing research visits to institutions within the host countries. The field of archaeology is developing rapidly in the integration of advanced technologies and implementation of new theoretical approaches to traditional questions of social, technological and political change through time. I am delighted to be involved in projects at the cutting edge of our discipline that create valuable opportunities for Pitt faculty and students.



East European Festival 2016

REES will host the 8th annual East European Festival on Friday, October 28 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Posvar Hall Galleria. The festival will feature performing artists from the University and a range of East European ethnic foods. Pitt's Carpathian Music Ensemble will perform, 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 will contribute time, effort and food. Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) credit will be available for Pitt students who attend the festival, and donations will be accepted for the Susan M. Hicks Memorial Fund and the Bob Donnorummo Study Abroad Scholarship Fund. Students, staff, faculty and members of the community are invited to participate in this popular and enjoyable event.

European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium 2017

REES, the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence, the International Business Center, and the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences will sponsor

the 15th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) on April 7, 2017. This event, formerly known as the "Europe: East and West" symposium, has been renamed the "European and Eurasian" symposium to reflect REES's expanding program offerings on the Central Asian region of the former Soviet Union, as two new UCIS/REES postdoctoral fellows and one History faculty member whose scholarship focuses on this area have joined the Center's affiliated faculty in 2016.

The principal goal of the URS is to provide an opportunity for undergraduate students from Pitt and other colleges and universities to improve their academic writing and presentation skills and participate in an event modeled on a graduate-level conference. Students who have written a research paper on Eastern or Western Europe, Russia and/or Eurasia from a social science, humanities or business perspective are welcome to apply. The application form is available at www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium, with a deadline of January 20, 2017. Those students who are selected to participate will be invited to work with the URS's graduate student assistants to revise and polish their papers prior to the event. Presenters will be grouped into panels ac-

cording to their paper topics. The panels will be moderated by Pitt faculty members and doctoral candidates, who will provide constructive feedback on the students' papers and presentations.

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



Project GO

REES continues to have great success with its Department of Defense-funded Project GO (Global Officers) grant to support critical language training for ROTC students. In the summer of 2016, 44 ROTC students participated in Pitt Project GO programs: 10 studied beginning or intermediate Russian at Pitt's Summer Language Institute and 31 enrolled in 2nd-, 3rd- and 4th year Russian language courses held in Narva, Estonia, a predominantly Russian-speaking city located on the Estonian-Russian border. Another three students took beginning Turkish at the Pittsburgh SLI.



In addition to their 8 weeks of intensive 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 a film series and weekly lectures on contemporary topics, practiced cooking Russian and Turkish 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 overseas Russian program 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.

For the first time this year, REES's Project GO grant allowed us to continue to offer intensive Russian courses at the 1st-3rd year levels, while also awarding scholarships for students pursuing beginning-level Turkish and, at the other end of the spectrum, 4th-year Russian. This highly advanced Russian language course in Narva featured homestays, a Russian-language job shadowing experience, and an intensive course on Russian foreign policy that considered questions related to regionalism vs. globalization, economics, and environmental issues, taught entirely in Russian.

Related Concentration in European & Eurasian Studies

This fall marks the debut of the new Related Concentration in European & Eurasian Studies, which will be administered jointly by the European Studies Center and REES. This undergraduate credential will incorporate study abroad and allow students to choose from numerous themes in humanities and social sciences. The related concentration is also designed to have strong appeal to pre-professional students. For more information, contact Andrew Behrendt at aeb72@pitt.edu.



Russian Film Symposium

The Russian Film Symposium rolled out at the University of Pittsburgh for the 18th time this past May as part of the University's Year of the Humanities.

The well-established event that traditionally has brought together film scholars, critics, and filmmakers from Russia and the former Soviet Union, as well as from Europe and the US, this year looked at the recent crop of Russian-language remakes and sequels under the title "Recycle, Restage, Rewind."

As always, the screenings took place both on the Pitt campus in Oakland and on the

big screen at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers' Melwood Screening Room, with eminent Russian film critics Larisa Maliukova and Denis Gorelov, among others, presenting the films in their artistic, historical, social, and even political contexts. *The Irony of Fate 2* (2007), the remake of Eldar Riazanov's beloved New Year's Eve melodrama from the 1970s, drew quite a lot of members of the city's Russian-speaking community to Wesley W. Posvar Hall, while the steampunk adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's classic 19th century tale "Viy," *Forbidden Empire* (2014), dazzled the cinephile audience of Melwood.

This year the Symposium enjoyed the generous support of the Office of the Deans of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the University Center for International Studies, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, and the Humanities Center, as well as the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Cultural Studies Program, and the Hewlett Foundation.

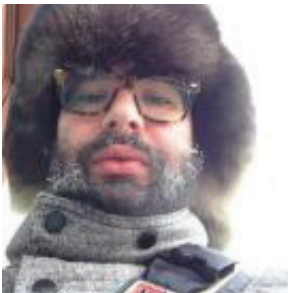
REES Certificate Recipients

Congratulations to **Adelina Stefan** (graduate certificate in East European Studies), and **Evan Scott** (undergraduate certificate in Russian and East European Studies), who received their REES certificates this summer.

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS



David Birnbaum (Chair, Department of Slavic Literatures and Languages) has been awarded a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, through the “Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities” program.



Michael Bobick (REES Postdoctoral Fellow, 2013-16) started a position at the US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Global Development Lab as a Futures Analyst through the American Association

for the Advancement of Science’s Science, Technology, and Policy Fellowship Program.



Nancy Condee (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) presented her work at Cambridge University (May 2016), Columbia University (April 2016) and Yale University (March 2016). Her media

interviews and citations include an interview on Russia’s FKT (Federal Cable Television) and a mention in the national newspaper *Novaia gazeta* (“Geroi v Rossii—eto geroinia,” *Novaia gazeta* # 62: 10 June 2016). She was a guest of three international film festivals—Cannes, Kinotavr (Sochi, Russia), and Moscow—and served on the 2016 jury of Russian Cinema Critics and Scholars for the Short Film Competition in Sochi (Kinotavr Film Festival). Other jury work includes the 2016 Historia Nova jury for Best Book on Russian Intellectual History (Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation) and the 2016 Vucinich Prize Committee (ASEEES) for the

most important regional contribution to scholarship in any discipline. Her advisory and editorial board service includes *Academic Studies Press* (Russia), *boundary 2* (US), *Critical Quarterly* (UK), *KinoKultura* (UK), *KINORUSS Film Art Journal* (Brazil), *Slavic and East European Journal* (US), and *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema* (UK).



Bryan Hanks (Department of Anthropology) has been involved in two archaeological field projects during August 2016 in Serbia and Slovenia. In Serbia, he worked with colleagues from the Cultural Heri-

tage Preservation Institute in Kragujevac to undertake geophysical and geochemical surveys of Neolithic Vinca culture sites (5500-4500 B.C.). One of these sites included Divostin, which is a Neolithic settlement formerly excavated by University of Pittsburgh Professor Alan McPherron (Emeritus) in the late 1960s. This work also included two University of Pittsburgh graduate students (Anthropology), Miroslav Kocic and Gligor Dakovich.

Hanks is also working in Slovenia with the University of Ljubljana by conducting geophysical surveys at Iron Age hill forts (800-200 B.C.) in Southeastern Slovenia. Dr. James Johnson, a former Pitt doctoral student in Anthropology (now at University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology), has been collaborating on this project as well.

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS *CONTINUED*



William Harbert (Department of Geology and Environmental Science) was a visiting scientist recently at Freie Universität Berlin. Harbert also participated in a meeting at the

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) of the US Department of Energy. His research areas continue to be focused in geophysics.

Dr. Harbert has recently published seven articles and given seven conference presentations, including several focusing on hydraulic fracturing activity in Western Pennsylvania.



Robert M. Hayden (Department of Anthropology) is senior author of *Antagonistic Tolerance: Competitive Sharing of Religious Sites and Spaces* (London: Routledge, 2016), which was published in April. Co-authors

are Tuğba Tanyeri-Erdemir, Timothy D. Walker, Aykan Erdemir, Devika Rangachari, Manuel Aguilar-Moreno, Enrique López-Hurtado and Milica Bakić-Hayden. This co-authored volume (not a collection of articles) is the final product of Hayden's multidisciplinary and international project on Antagonistic Tolerance, which was funded by NSF and the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and involved fieldwork in Bulgaria, India, Mexico, Peru and Turkey. Hayden also published a book chapter: "Intersecting Religioscapes in Post-Ottoman Spaces," pp. 59-85 in *Post-Ottoman Coexistence: Sharing Space in the Shadow of Conflict*, edited by Rebecca Bryant (Oxford & New York: Berghahn, 2016) and a long review essay (5,000 words) on Josip Glaurdić, "The Hour of Europe: Western Powers and the Breakup of Yugoslavia," in *Southeastern Europe* 40: 252-264 (2016).



Svitlana Maksymenko (Department of Economics) directed the Pitt study abroad program in the Czech Republic and Poland in May 2016. This program focused on the history, politics, and economics of

the post-war Czech Republic and Poland in a comparative setting. Nine students travelled with her to study political and economic developments in Eastern and Central Europe, and to learn about the main industries in each country, international trade, membership in the EU, banking, education, health care, and tourism.

These themes were explored through guest lectures by academic, political and economic leaders in Prague and Krakow and field trips to the Skoda Auto factory, BRISK spark plugs production in Tabor, and the Heineken financial hub in Krakow. In addition to curricular activities, the group toured the Old City and Jewish district in Prague, visited the museum of communism, escaped for a day to the UNESCO heritage sites of Kutna Hora, Cesky Krumlov and Plzen, and also visited the Auschwitz concentration camp and Nova Huta steel mills in Poland. It was an unforgettable educational experience for the students.



John Markoff (Department of Sociology) spoke at the Forum of the International Sociological Association in Vienna on the role of the past and future in the history of democracy, after spending several weeks in Po-

land during the summer of 2016.

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS *CONTINUED*



Jennifer Murtazashvili's (GSPIA) book, *Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan*, was published by Cambridge University Press. In recent months, she published several articles on a range of topics related

to governance, development, and economic reform that appeared in *World Development*, the *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *Rationality and Society*, *Central Asian Survey*, and *Conflict, Security, and Development*. In June, she was elected by the members of the Central Eurasian Studies Society to serve a three-year term on the organization's Executive Board. Also this past summer, she conducted research on social institutions and local governance in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.



Jonathan Platt (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) published his monograph *Greetings, Pushkin!: Stalinist Cultural Politics and the Russian National Bard* about the 1937 Pushkin Jubilee through

the University of Pittsburgh Press. Platt contributed an article to the Free Home University's experimental pedagogy project on the Musagetes Foundation's ArtsEverywhere platform: "Alternative Institutions and Intimate Counter-Publics: Chto Delat's School for Engaged Art and Rosa's House of Culture" (www.artseverywhere.ca). He translated and wrote the introduction for *Sex of the Oppressed*, an art-book by Nikolay Oleynikov featuring his dialogues with the influential philosophers, poets, and activists Keti Chukhrov, Oxana Timofeeva, Grey Violet, and Kirill Medvedev (published by PS Guelph). His translations of the St. Petersburg-

based poet Galina Rymbu have been attracting attention in contemporary poetry circles. The biggest achievement of the year has been his chapbook, *White Bread*, published by *AfterHours Ltd.* Platt also co-edited, co-translated, and wrote the introduction for a bilingual collection of Roman Osminkin's poems, essays, and songs, *Not a Word about Politics!* (*Cicada Press*).

Platt gave three public talks in St. Petersburg this summer – at the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) on Dmitry Prigov's Pushkin poems, at the Chto Delat School for Engaged Art on the actionist artworks of the Voina group and Petr Pavlensky, and at the European University of St. Petersburg on film noir as unfinished tragedy.



Oscar Swan (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the American Council for Polish Culture. The award recognizes an individual or group

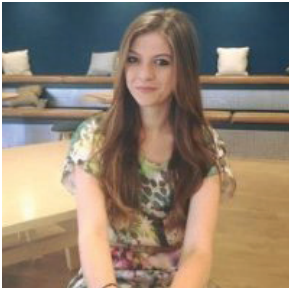
that has made a significant contribution to spreading knowledge and appreciation of Polish culture.

Swan has written more than 15 books, including *Kaleidoscope of Poland* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015). He was previously honored in 2004 with the Best Book in Linguistics prize for *A Grammar of Contemporary Polish* (Slavica Publishers, 2002) by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

STUDENT NEWS



Cengiz Haksöz (Anthropology) presented a paper at the 10th Joint Meeting of Bulgarian and North American Scholars in Sofia, June 2016, entitled “Strategizing Urban Landscapes in Peripheral Minority Cities in Bulgaria: The Examples of Kardzhali, Razgrad, and Smolyan.” He also did research in Bulgaria funded by the History Project (www.histproj.org) and taught a course, “Sociology of Food,” in the summer term at Bogazici University of Istanbul, Turkey.



Kaitlynn Hetzel (Computer Science/History/Slavic Studies) studied abroad this summer as a part of the Pitt in Prague and Krakow program. Throughout her time at Pitt, the focus for her REES certificate has been on Russia, and its impact on Europe as a whole. Rarely had she ever branched out of that focus, despite the fact that she began the certi-

cate with the intention of tracing her Czech roots. She chose the Prague and Krakow program in an effort to diversify her Eastern/Central European knowledge and to gain more context on how Russia fit into her family history.

For three weeks in May, she learned about the social structures, economies, and political structures of the Czech Republic and Poland, from the early twentieth century to the present day. The group covered World Wars I and II, the era of Communism, and the European Union. While Kaitlynn’s previous academic studies made her intrigued by the Communist and Russian influence on the area (the reason her family emigrated to America), she feels the most interesting part of her studies abroad were the pieces of the history of the European Union. Before her experience abroad, she knew little about how the EU functioned as a political and economic body, and learning the intricacies of how national governments interact with a larger governing body was fascinating.

Hetzel states, “I send a sincere thank you to the REES department



for supporting my studies with both the departmental scholarship and the Susan Hicks Memorial Scholarship.”

Steven Moon (Music) participated in The Critical Language Scholarship Program for Turkish in summer 2016. It was moved this year to

Azerbaijan following the series of attacks in Ankara and Bursa, and Moon reports that Azerbaijan presented itself as an excellent opportunity and unique challenge. In addition to language skills, which are the primary purpose of the program, Moon gained a wider view of Central Eurasia and the Caucasus, which he believes will profoundly impact his work on “what Turkic masculinity sounds like.”

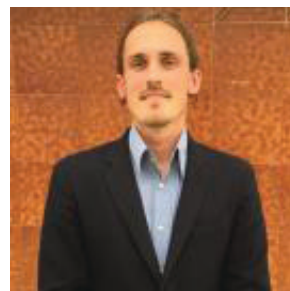


Andrew Nitz (Computer Science/Russian) also studied advanced Turkish in Baku, Azerbaijan with the Critical Language Scholarship program. He is working on enrolling in an Azeri university for his Boren scholarship for the 2016-17 academic year.



Katherine (Haas) Pompeani (Anthropology) received a UCIS International Studies Fund Travel Grant for summer 2016 research on memory, monuments, and politicization of archaeology and cultural heritage in the Republic of Macedonia. She will be presenting a paper in November at the 48th Annual ASEES Convention in Washington, D.C.

The title is: “Memory, Monuments, and Motifs: Representations of Cultural Heritage in Skopje 2014.” Pompeani is also excited to have been elected as President of GOSCA, the Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia, for the 2016-17 school year.



Jonathan Sherry (History) finished a Fulbright year in Spain, and has won a Council for European Studies - Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the 2016-17 year for his dissertation on Soviet intervention in the Spanish Civil War. He has also been accepted as a Visiting Researcher with the Cañada Blanch Centre at the London School

of Economics, where he will spend the duration of the fellowship working with historian Paul Preston. Jonathan has given invited lectures at the London School of Economics (“Stalinism on trial: Republican legality and the prosecution of the POUM”) and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (“Los poumistas en el banquillo: Juan Negrín and the POUM trial of October 1938”).

ALUMNI NEWS & VISITING SCHOLARS



Ainur Begim (REES Postdoctoral Fellow) is a sociocultural anthropologist with research and teaching interests in economic and political anthropology, natural resources, finance, entrepreneurship, gender, Soviet and post-Soviet Eurasia. Her dissertation research, supported by the National Science Foundation, concerns financial markets, oil politics, and the state in Central Asia. She is currently developing a book manuscript based on her dissertation. Aina received her B.A. from Bates College, then an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Yale University.

Donald Buckwalter, an alumnus of the Moscow 5 + 5 SLI program (2006), compiled a map of the SLI 2016 sites to commemorate the 10th anniversary of that career-building experience.



Julie Nelson (MBA, 2016) has accepted a position with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in their International Public Sector Division in Washington, D.C. The International Public Sector division is a consulting arm and currently has contracts with the Peace Corps, the State

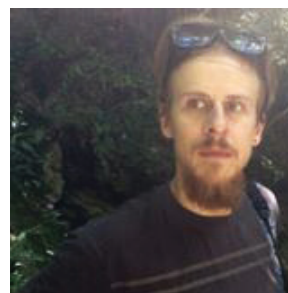
Department, USAID, the UN, the World Bank, and Millennium Challenge Corporation. She has been assigned to work on a project with the Peace Corps.



Vesna Pozgaj-Hadzi is a visiting scholar from the University of Ljubljana, REES's partner institution in Slovenia. REES and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures are hosting her in October 2016. While at Pitt, Vesna is conducting research on the sociolinguistic contexts of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.



Patryk Reid (REES Postdoctoral Fellow) is a historian of Central Asia, Russia, and the USSR. He is writing a book based on his dissertation, "Managing Nature, Constructing the State: The Material Foundation of Soviet Empire in Tajikistan, 1917-1937." This project is an environmental and geographic history of Soviet state building in southern Central Asia up to World War II. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Denis Saltykov is a visiting scholar for the fall and spring terms from REES's partner institution, the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. During his visit, he will conduct research using Pitt's film collection.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



Short-Term Undergraduate Program

In May 2017, for the twelfth 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.

Intensive Summer Language Programs

Pitt’s 2017 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; 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 2017 SLI will also offer intensive summer courses on the Pitt campus in Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, Persian (Farsi/Dari/Tajik), 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.



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The screenshot shows the PittGiving website interface. At the top, the University of Pittsburgh logo is on the left, and "PITT HOME | FIND PEOPLE" is on the right. The main header features the "PittGiving" logo in large, bold letters, with a "GIVE NOW" button to its right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Campaign, Ways to Give, Where To Give, Donor Recognition, News, Events, and Contact. The main content area is titled "The Susan M. Hicks Memorial Fund". It includes a paragraph about Susan M. Hicks, a photo of her, and a description of the fund's purpose. At the bottom, there is a section for donations with a search bar and a "GIVE NOW" button.

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The Susan M. Hicks Memorial Fund

Susan M. Hicks, PhD exemplified all that one would hope for in a professional with a passion for international studies. She was endowed with a sharp intellect. She had the spirit of an educator eager to see young eyes light up with a passion similar to her own. And Susan was deeply concerned about the world and determined to make it a better place.

The Susan M. Hicks Memorial Fund will help to continue Susan's professional mission long beyond her brief tenure at Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies by providing financial support to students studying Russia and countries of the former Soviet Union.

Donations to the Susan M. Hicks Memorial Fund will be a powerful way to honor her memory.

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