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REES

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Another academic year has come and gone, bringing a time for each of us to reflect on the successes and challenges of semesters past and prepare for summer's welcome change of pace. As a Center, REES is undergoing its own share of stock-taking and preparing for changes of a more profound sort.

I cannot think of another year when members of the REES team were subjected to such a gaping range of emotions and experiences. We started the fall with major achievements, including the expansion of our ongoing Project GO grant and various summer programming successes—a great academic year was in the making. Then October brought a terrible tragedy with the loss of our beloved colleague, Susan Hicks. Over the next months, the Center began a gradual recovery, heartened by the coming together of the REES community and a broader, more general, outpouring of support epitomized in part by the incredible growth of the Susan Hicks Memorial Fund. The new calendar year brought much needed good news in the form of a new and expanded STAR-TALK grant, record application numbers for Project GO and the Summer Language Institute, the launch of our new Language Teaching and Learning Research grants, and a large and incredibly talented pool of post-doctoral applicants that yielded two outstanding Central Asia-focused recipients, Ainur Begim and Patryk Reid. The upcoming summer months will feature a record high number of SLI students, our

first Project GO Turkish and Fourth-Year Russian courses, and an enhanced STAR-TALK program.

REES stands to make a very strong entrance into the 2016-17 academic year. Alongside GSPIA Assistant Professor Jennifer Murtazashvili, the arrival of Assistant Professor of History James Pickett, Ainur Begim (affiliated with Anthropology and GSPIA), and Patryk Reid (affiliated with History) will immediately thrust Pitt into the top ranks of national universities in terms of the number of Central Asia-focused researchers on campus. REES will collaborate with GSPIA and Political Science to ensure that Pitt maintains its faculty resources in the critical area of Russian politics and policy following the retirement of Jonathan Harris. Ljiljana Đurašković's recent move to a full-time Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Lecturer position will secure the long-term stability and growth of our nationally recognized offerings in the languages and cultures of the Western Balkans. On the financial front, REES will enter next year with a firmly sustainable budget and substantial resources to continue supporting its programming and the work of its affiliated students and faculty.

Now for those changes ... As most of you have already learned, I will be stepping down this year to develop my own business. The decision involved a considerable amount of soul searching, and while I'm very excited about this new chapter in my

life, such a substantial change entails a fair number of

sacrifices. The one that currently weighs most heavily is the prospect of leaving the REES colleagues with whom I worked closely over these past years. There are rare moments in one's professional life—many never experience them—when a combination of like-mindedness, love for the task, mutual respect and poorly defined hierarchy creates an effortless, nearly organic, collective dynamic (of course, they may disagree with me on any or all of these points, but this is my column). My relatively brief time with Anna, Dawn, Gina, Susan and Tricia will certainly be remembered as a high point in my professional life. Were it not for their unique personal qualities, the Center would never have performed as well as it did during recent, sometimes difficult, times. Fortunately for Pitt, the bulk of this team will remain intact, now under the immensely capable leadership of soon-to-be Interim Director, Dawn Seckler. I have no doubt that the newest rendition of REES will continue to serve our community, expand its already impressive programming and mark new achievements. With just a hint of healthy sadness, I wish them and the broader REES community all the best with your collective future endeavors.

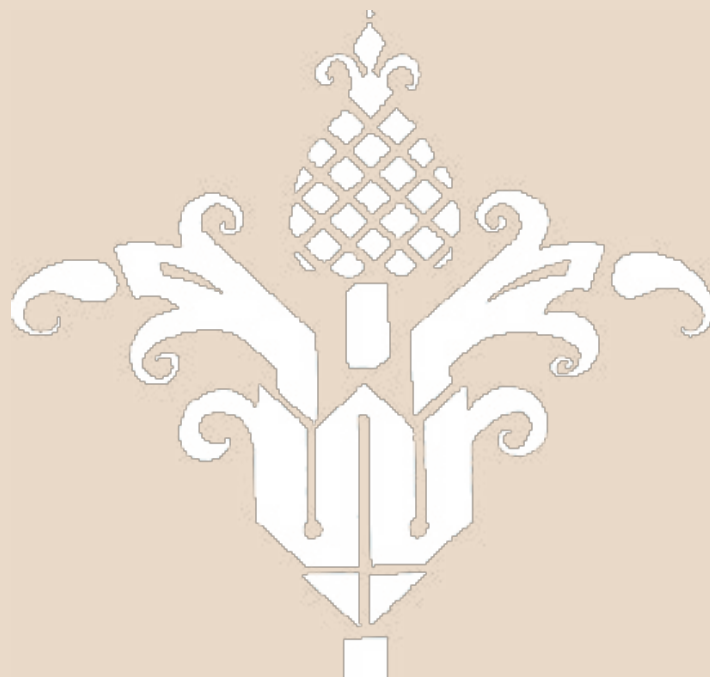
Thank you.



Andrew Konitzer

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JENNIFER MURTAZASHVILI



Jennifer Murtazashvili

It is an exciting time to be working on Central Eurasia here at the University of Pittsburgh. This fall, James Pickett, a new Assistant Professor (Princeton University, History), will join us after completing a prestigious post-doc in the InterAsia program at Yale. James has done remarkable research on the role of ‘ulama across the Persianate world. We will also be joined by two REES post-docs who will be here for up to three years: Ainur Begim (Yale University, Anthropology), who is doing innovative ethnographic work looking at attitudes toward risk through the lens of pension reform in Kazakhstan, and Patryk Reid (University of Illinois, History), who is doing path-breaking research on the formation of Soviet Tajikistan. REES will be an exciting hub of activity for those of us working on this region.

With these new additions to our ranks, Pitt has become a major player for Central Eurasian Studies. We will now have more scholars working on this part of the world than some universities with long-established Central Asian programs. As someone who has done research on this region for the past 20 years, the resources available to study the region—to learn

languages, read local press, listen to news broadcasts, study in the region, and engage with scholars there—has skyrocketed. Most importantly, travel to the region is unprecedented. When I left to join the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan in 1997, there were hardly any resources available to study Uzbek. Now there are several major textbooks and it is offered at various universities here in the US.

With more people working on this part of the world, scholars are now asking how we define the area. In the Title VI world that shapes our area studies programs, it has been bracketed as the five former Soviet Republics in the region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). Given that it has been 25 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, I believe we must look at the region in its broader context to include Iran, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, and of course China, Russia and beyond.

There are no easy answers, but I hope with this new group of colleagues we can begin to tackle regional contours as a team to help the University of Pittsburgh position itself to be a thought leader on many of these issues in the coming years. Our reputation as a hub for Central Eurasian Studies has benefited enormously with the launch of University of Pittsburgh Press’s “Central Eurasia in Context” book series. Also, did you know that Pittsburgh is home to one of the largest Uzbek diasporas in the country?

This broad view of the region has shaped my own research agenda, which focuses on governance issues in weak and authoritarian states. When most scholars or policymakers think about governance, they immediately focus on the state. I tackle this issue in a different way, by focusing on the ways individuals govern themselves when states are either unable or unwilling to do so. In my own work, I employ ethnographic fieldwork, interviews, focus groups, public opinion surveys, and field

experiments to tackle issues of policy concern.

Most of my current work has focused on Afghanistan. My new book, *Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), looks at the strengths and limits of self-governing, customary village organizations in rural Afghanistan. It is based on original ethnographic fieldwork that I did in more than 30 villages in the countryside, along with scores of interviews with government officials and international “state-builders” as well as statistical analysis of two important surveys. I’ve finished a second book on informal property rights and political violence in Afghanistan that is currently under review.

In recent years, I have helped the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) think about how changes to electoral laws in Afghanistan might affect a range of outcomes. To this end, I designed a nationally representative population-based survey experiment that tried to explore how changes to the electoral system might affect a host of outcomes—including support for the Taliban. I’m hoping that the results will help Afghan policymakers as they debate impending electoral reform in the country. Two other papers based on this series of survey experiments have just been published.

This summer I will visit Tajikistan to conduct an impact evaluation using experimental methods to understand the effectiveness of government decentralization programs. It will also explore the extent to which new elected government councils in rural areas have helped fill governance gaps. It will be interesting to see the results: due to seasonal labor migration, women now constitute 70% of the population in many rural areas. Preliminary results show that women are working to rebuild “customary” forms of local governance that were once the purview of men.

REES Introduces Our New Staff



Andrew Behrendt defended his dissertation in History, “Travelers of an Empire that Was: Tourism, Movie-Going, and the Formation of Post-Imperial Identities in Austria and Hungary, 1918-1944,” in December 2015. A longtime member of REES’s graduate student organization, he joined the Center as its Academic Advisor in January 2016.

During the 2015-16 academic year, REES implemented the second stage of a collaborative project with the Community College of Beaver County (CCBC), funded by a “Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). REES and CCBC organized a monthly professional development program series for a selected group of CCBC faculty members, all of whom developed learning modules on East European cultures that are being integrated into a range of courses across the CCBC curriculum.



Highlights of the monthly program series included lively Skype video conversations between CCBC project participants and East European youth gathered at the US Embassies’ “American Corners” in Sarajevo and Belgrade, as well as the American Studies Club at Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv. During these three sessions, the US and East European participants discussed and compared various aspects of contemporary life in each country. Other sessions held at CCBC this year included a panel discussion of winter holiday traditions with representatives of several East European ethnic communities

in the Pittsburgh region; a lecture by **Mat Savelli** of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario on health and medicine in Eastern Europe; a demonstration of traditional Hungarian and Balkan cooking; and a lecture on contemporary East European film and culture by **Yana Hashamova** of Ohio State University.

REES’s NEH-sponsored “Bridging Cultures” project with CCBC has also contributed to the development of wider cooperation by Pitt’s University Center for International Studies (UCIS) with all four Western Pennsylvania community colleges—in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Westmoreland Counties. The UCIS centers have presented three faculty and staff workshops since April 2015 with a focus on internationalization of community college campuses, and are exploring means of providing expanded study abroad opportunities to regional community college students and faculty.



Project GO received over 100 applications this year from Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC students throughout the country seeking language training opportunities in the 2016 SLI. Representatives of REES, the Slavic Department, and Pitt’s ROTC units selected those students who will receive full scholarships for study of beginning Russian or Turkish at the Pittsburgh SLI, or intermediate through fourth-year Russian at Pitt Project GO’s study abroad program at Narva College of the University of Tartu in Narva, Estonia. Pitt’s fourth-year Russian course in Narva is funded by a special “Project GO—Advanced” grant component, which was the only such award made by the Defense Department to a US university for Russian language training in summer 2016. Total Project GO funding to REES this year totals over \$509,000.

THE SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND NEAR EASTERN SUMMER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Pitt’s 2016 Slavic, East European, and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute (SLI), administered by REES and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, anticipates enrolling a record high of 150 students this year in its domestic and overseas intensive courses in nine less-commonly-taught languages. Of these students, 45 are participants in Pitt’s Project GO (Global Officers) language and cultural training program for ROTC students, funded since 2012-13 by annual grants to REES from the US Department of Defense.

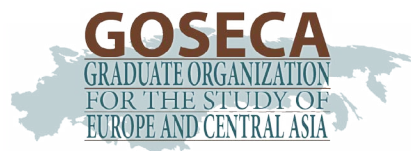


Last year REES received a federal grant through the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) to organize an intensive four-week “Pitt STARTALK” residential Russian language program for high school students. REES partnered with the new Russian language program taught by **Devin Browne** at Pittsburgh Brashear High School, as well as two charter schools in Chicago, to recruit a diverse student body including 14 Latino, three African-American, and three white students for the summer 2015 STARTALK program, held on Pitt’s Greensburg campus. The program sought to strengthen students’ burgeoning foreign language interests and skills, while providing an immersive experience to support their transition from high school to college or other post-secondary education.

REES has been awarded a second STARTALK grant to offer the program again in summer 2016. Thanks to a nearly doubled grant budget from the previous year, this summer’s program will be held on Pitt’s Oakland campus and will feature an expanded list of educational field trips to supplement daily language instruction.

Another diverse group of 20 students drawn from Pittsburgh Brashear, Chicago's Noble Network of Charter Schools, and a few other US high schools will study Russian at the Pitt STARTALK program this year.

REES's ongoing partnership with the Russian program at Pittsburgh Brashear—including Brashear's participation in Pitt STARTALK—contributed to Brashear being honored for the first time this year with a PSMLA Exemplary Program (PEP) Golden Globe Award, the highest level of recognition offered through the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association's PEP program. According to the PSMLA award announcement, "The two-year PEP Awards validate the huge commitment made by teachers, administrators, school boards, and the community of each school to promote effective language study opportunities for their students."



The University of Pittsburgh's Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia (GOSECA), the graduate student organization of REES, held its 13th annual Graduate Student Conference, "Insiders and Outsiders: Belonging and Identity in Eastern Europe," on March 18-20, 2016. Nineteen student participants from various universities presented their work across a range of academic disciplines, including a roundtable discussion by Pitt Master of Law (LL.M.) students from Eastern and Southeastern Europe on contemporary legal issues facing their regions. Dr. **Florian Bieber** of the University of Graz delivered an engaging, timely keynote address, critically evaluating the current state of the "European project" and the outcomes of the European Union's recent expansions.

We would like to thank the following Pitt faculty and staff members, who served as discussants at this year's GOSECA conference: **Andrew Behrendt** (History/REES Academic Advisor), **Joel Brady** (Religious Studies/Slavic Languages and Literatures/CIDDE), **Lea David** (Visiting Scholar, Anthropology), **Andrew Konitzer** (Political Science/REES Acting Director), **Nur Lider** (Linguistics), and **Katja Wezel** (History). Dr. Behrendt also served as advisor to the GOSECA student organizing committee. Financial support for the conference was provided by REES and the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG). Additional information is available at goseca.ucis.pitt.edu/conference.



REES, the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence (ESC/EUCE), and the International Business Center (IBC) presented the 15th annual "Europe: East and West" Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 1, 2016. This year's program included 35 student participants at 11 panel sessions, which was the largest number in the history of the event. These outstanding undergraduate students were selected on a competitive basis from among applicants at universities throughout the US and Canada. They presented research that they had conducted on themes relating to Eastern and Western Europe, the European Union, Russia, and other countries of the former Soviet Union from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives.

We would like to thank those faculty members, graduate students and staff who

served as panel discussants for the 2016 Symposium: **Despina Alexiadou** (Political Science), **Carol Bove** (English), **Bob Donnorummo** (History), **Linda Frank** (Public Health), **Bernard Hagerty** (History), **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science), **Jeanette Jouili** (Religious Studies), **Ronald Linden** (Political Science/ESC Director), **Irina Livezeanu** (History), **Meredith North** (History of Art and Architecture), **Alexander Orbach** (Religious Studies), **Gina Peirce** (REES), **Jacqueline Saslawski** (IBC), **Elise Thorsen** (Slavic Languages and Literatures), and **Katja Wezel** (History). REES Acting Director **Andrew Konitzer** gave the keynote address to participants at the Symposium luncheon. The organizing committee consisted of **Gina Peirce** (REES), **Stephen Lund** and **Kathleen Ayers** (ESC/EUCE), **Jacqueline Saslawski** (IBC), and **Kathryn Loops** (GSPIA/REES). 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.

Language Teaching & Learning Research (LTLR) Grants

REES has awarded its first annual Language Teaching and Learning Research (LTLR) Grants, funded in part by the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), to **Victoria Hasko** of the University of Georgia and **Olena Sivachenko** of the University of Alberta. Both award-ees will conduct their research on-site at Pitt's 2016 Slavic, East European, and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute (SLI). Dr. Hasko will conduct a psycholinguistic eye-tracking study to investigate cognitive and verbal aspects of bilingual processing of temporal, spatial, and motion relations by learners of Russian. Ms. Sivachenko will examine the motivational profiles of students enrolled in domestic and overseas intensive Slavic language courses, while also interviewing language instructors to compare their perspectives with those of the student learners.

REES and the SLI established the LTLR program this year to support innovative research projects that will take advantage of the unique environment and resources available at an intensive campus-based summer language institute. Funded projects must focus on the teaching and learning of one or more of the following priority languages: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Polish, Russian, Turkish, and Ukrainian. Projects involving the development of online language instructional materials are of particular interest, but other types of projects that make significant contributions to language teaching and learning are also considered. LTLR grant recipients are expected to submit a report of their research results to REES and to make their research products (including raw data, if possible) available for dissemination to other language instructors and scholars on a University of Pittsburgh website. More information is available at www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/faculty/LTLR-grants.



The 18th annual Russian Film Symposium, “Recycle, Restage, Rewind,” will be held on the University of Pittsburgh campus on May 2-7, 2016, with daytime panels and screenings in 1500 Posvar Hall and evening screenings at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers’ Melwood Screening Room.

According to the RFS website, “While re-makes and sequels have long been a staple of filmmaking in the US and Western Europe, they were rare during the years of the Soviet Union [...] This tendency continued for the first fifteen years of the post-Soviet period. Over the past decade,

however, re-makes and sequels have been a major presence on Russian screens. While this trend can be explained in part by the Russian film industry’s adoption of Western and international film practices, driven by the displacement of total state financing (with its relative indifference to box office receipts) by private capital investment (with its obsession for profits), the specific kinds of re-makes and sequels in Russia differ dramatically from their Western counterparts. Strangest of all (for the Western view), the boundary between re-makes and sequels is blurred in Russia: both are grounded in popular late-Soviet films (either big screen films or made-for-television films), but are set in present-day Russia, thereby foregrounding the discontinuities between daily life under ‘developed socialism’ and daily life in the conditions of ‘developing capitalism.’”

The 18th Russian Film Symposium is sponsored at Pitt by the Office of the Provost—The Year of the Humanities in the University, the Office of the Deans 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, and the Cultural Studies Program. Additional support is provided by the Hewlett Foundation. The complete schedule of screenings and panels may be found at www.rusfilm.pitt.edu.



Professor of Political Science, Jonathan Harris Retires

After 50 years of outstanding contributions to the fields of Political Science and Russian Studies, Jonathan Harris is retiring. Jonathan joined the Pitt faculty immediately after receiving his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1966. In his time at Pitt, he taught a broad range of courses focused on the Soviet Union and Russian Federation, world politics and foreign policy, building up a large following of students drawn to his engaging class discussions and clear dedication to the cause of undergraduate and graduate education. His extensive research on the Soviet and former-Soviet region produced three books, including the most recent *The Split in Stalin’s Secretariat, 1939-1948* (Lexington Books, 2008) and *Subverting the System: Gorbachev’s Reform of the Party’s Apparatus* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004), and numerous journal articles in *Russian History*, *Russian Review*, *Demokratizatsiya* and *Slavic Review*. In addition, he is editor of the Pitt Series in Russian and East European Studies of the University of Pittsburgh Press. Jonathan also acted as Pitt’s “go to” specialist for local, regional and national media seeking to understand the latest developments in the region. Around REES, Jonathan is treasured for his dedicated service to the Center and University community. He served on the Faculty Advisory Board and numerous committees, acted as a discussant and chair during nearly every REES-sponsored graduate and undergraduate conference, and was always available with useful counsel.

As he has played such a major role in REES operations for so many years, Jonathan’s absence will be dearly felt. We wish to thank him once more for all that he has contributed to enriching our understanding and appreciation of the region, the field ... and just about everything else. And while this is his “official” retirement, we hope to still see him frequently at the Center and around the corridors of Posvar Hall!

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



Short-Term Undergraduate Program

REES will send groups of undergraduate students abroad on two short-term area studies courses in Summer 2016. The program “Pitt in Prague and Krakow”—led by Professor **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics)—will take Pitt undergraduates to Prague and Krakow to focus on the history, politics, sociology, economics, and culture of post-war Czech Republic and Poland.

“Architecture Studies: Central Europe”—led by Professor **Drew Armstrong** (Architectural Studies)—will take students to Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic and Slovenia to examine the relationship between identity and the built environment in Central Europe – how architecture has been used to shape national identities at different time periods in response to changing social, economic, and political

conditions; how technology, new materials, ornament, and building typologies are used to shape individual, corporate and institutional identities. For more information, please contact REES Academic Advising at reesadvising@pitt.edu.

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; 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, eight-

week intensive intermediate and advanced Russian language courses will again 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, Czech, 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 sli.pitt.edu or contact SLI Executive Director **Dawn Seckler** at sliadmin@pitt.edu.



FACULTY/STAFF NEWS



Ronald Brand (School of Law) lectured on U.S. Legal Education on October 19, 2015, at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law. On October 20, he spoke on “Private International Law in the United States and

the European Union,” at the same institution; then on October 21, he spoke on this topic in the class on Private International Law at the University of Zenica Faculty of Law, in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On October 23, Professor Brand was a featured speaker at a conference on “Private International Law on Stage – National, European and International Perspectives,” held at the University of Zenica Faculty of Law. His topic was “Progress and Status of the Choice of Court Convention in the United States.” The conference was sponsored by the German Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe, and the South-East Europe Law Schools Network (SEELS).



Nancy Condee's (Slavic Languages and Literatures) recent publications include a chapter, a film essay, and a review. Her chapter on the work of Russian director Andrei Zviagintsev, “Knowledge (imperfective): Andrei

Zviagintsev and Contemporary Cinema,” appeared in *Companion to Russian Cinema* (ed. Birgit Beumers; Oxford: Blackwell, 2016; pp. 565-84); her essay contribution to the 50th Anniversary Issue

of the Russian cinema journal *KinoKultura* (“A Return to the Museum: Sokurov’s Hermitage”) appeared in October 2015; and her review of Andrei Zviagintsev’s film *Leviathan* appeared in *Slavic Review* 74.3 (Fall 2015): 607-08.

Professor Condee served on the 2015 international jury *Historia Nova* (funded by the Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation and Academic Series Press), which awards an annual prize for the Best Book on Russian Intellectual History. She was also appointed to the Vucinich Prize Committee of the field’s interdisciplinary organization ASEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies), which annually awards a prize for the most important contribution in the field to a book in the humanities or social sciences.

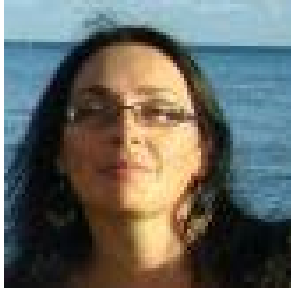
In the last six months, Prof. Condee has given ten talks at US and foreign universities. National talks were presented at the College of William and Mary, Columbia University, New York University (Distinguished Lecture, Jordan Center), Princeton University, and Stanford University. International talks included McGill University (Montreal), the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts (Moscow), and three talks at the Russian Presidential Academy of the National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA, Moscow).

In February 2016, the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) recognized Professor Condee with its distinguished service award. She served as the organization’s president from 2011 to 2012. The award citation

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS *CONTINUED*

praised her “consummate professionalism” and “supreme organizational skills,” in addition to crediting her for increasing the organization’s membership and extending its presence on social media.

REES congratulates two outstanding Pitt language instructors who will move into regular full-time faculty positions in 2016-17:



Ljiljana Đurašković, Lecturer of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and **Ilknur Lider**, Assistant Instructor of Turkish in the Less-Commonly-Taught Languages Center of the Department of Linguistics. Ljiljana and Nur’s excellence in language teaching and assessment (both are ACTFL-certified oral proficiency testers), combined

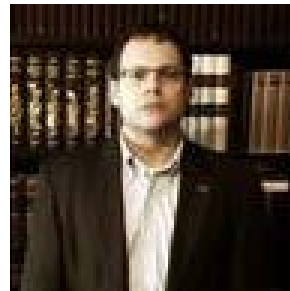
with the University’s commitment to supporting these two critical languages, will help to ensure the continuing strength of Southeast European and Balkan studies at Pitt.



John Markoff (Sociology) contributed a chapter on “Historical Analysis and Social Movements Research” to Mario Diani and Donatella della Porta, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Social Movements Research*. In January

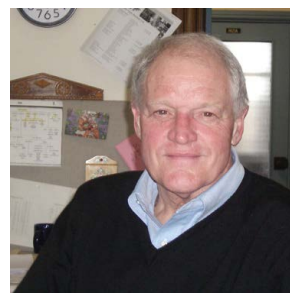
2016, he co-organized a plenary session on social movements and democratization in rural history for the meetings of the Spanish

Society for Agrarian History in Lisbon and spoke on that session’s themes. In February, he lectured on current issues for democracy in historical context at universities in Seville, Granada and Jaén. He also spoke on Latin America’s democratic past at Pablo de Olavide University in Seville.



Dan Pennell, Curator for Slavic, European, and Global Studies, has been named the new editor of *Slavic and East European Information Resources* (SEEIR). SEEIR is the flagship journal in the field of Slavic

librarianship in the English-speaking world. Dan’s appointment as editor marks something of a homecoming for the journal. His immediate predecessor in the University Library System, **Karen Rondestvedt**, founded the publication in 1999 prior to her departure for Stanford University, where she served as Curator for Slavic and East European Collections until her retirement in 2014.



Oscar Swan’s *Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 346 pages) was published just before Christmas of 2015. The book, with over 600 illustrations, contains

thumbnail sketches of important persons, events, traditions, regions, etc. in the thousand-plus-year history of the Polish state.

STUDENT NEWS

FLAS Fellowships

Congratulations to REES's graduate Academic Year 2016-17 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows: **Amy Karabowicz**, **Cass Lowry**, **Steven Moon**, and **Michael Wienczkowski**. Congratulations as well to **Thomas Elvins** and **Leo Johnson** for receiving undergraduate FLAS Fellowships for 2016-17. In addition, congratulations to Pitt undergraduates **Pablo Lindsay** and **Cian Stryker**, who received Summer 2016 FLAS Fellowships through REES for intensive advanced overseas study of Russian.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, FLAS Fellowships provide tuition plus a living stipend to graduate and undergraduate students whose academic program includes foreign language and area studies courses (or, for Summer FLAS Fellowships, intensive language study). Eligibility is limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are studying a less-commonly-taught language at the intermediate level or above. Applications for Academic Year 2017-18 FLAS Fellowships will be due in mid-February 2017. Please be aware that graduate students must apply through their major department or professional school rather than directly to REES, and individual departments may have earlier deadlines, so be sure to check with your major department. Applications for Summer 2017 FLAS Fellowships will be due in March 2017. For more information, please contact REES Academic Advising at reesadvising@pitt.edu.

Undergraduate REES Certificate Recipients, December 2015

Congratulations to **Stanislav Averin** and **Alyssa M. Waryanka**, who graduated from Pitt and received their REES Undergraduate Certificates in December 2015.

Undergraduate REES Certificate Recipients 2016

Congratulations to **Luke Bojarski**, **John Buchner**, **Taylor Diken**, **Hannah Dollish**, **Elizabeth Furiga**, **Brianna Gasgonia**, **Matthew Grogan**, **Bradley Hanlon**, **Leah Kaufman**, **Nataliya Kindiya**, **Jillian Kluss**, **Iris Koryureka**, **Cameron Linton**, **Gregory Markiw**, **Iris Matijevic**, **Joseph McClain**, **Alexandra Nigida**, **Andrew Nitz**, **Michael O'Brien**, **Amarta O'Neil**, **Caitlin Riley**, **Ryan Rugh**, **Evan Scott**, **Christopher Skeriotis**, **Dusica Solic**, **Amina Sosic**, **Frances Tish**, and **Courtney Weaver**, who are graduating from Pitt and receiving their REES Undergraduate Certificates in Spring 2016.

Graduate REES Certificate Recipients 2016

Congratulations to **Kathleen Euler**, **Almir Hodzic**, **Julie Nelson**, and **Oana Adelina Stefan**, who are graduating from Pitt and receiving their REES Graduate Certificates in Spring 2016.

Nationality Room Award Recipients 2016

Congratulations to **Matthew Hadodo** (Stanley Prostrednik Grant to study in Istanbul, Turkey), **Amy Karabowicz** (Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship to study in Budapest, Hungary), **Allison McCann** (Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship to study in Prague, Czech Republic), **Heather Johnson** (Nationality Council Scholarship to study in Budapest, Hungary), **Emma Mosser** (Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship to study in Prague, Czech Republic), and **Goda Tarcijonas** (Lithuanian Room Committee Scholarship to study in Vilnius, Lithuania).



Balkan Night 2015

In early November, Duquesne University invited the University of Pittsburgh's Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian students to present and participate in their Balkan (Continent) Night 2015. The night was devoted to exploring the food and cultures of the Balkans. After a wonderful performance by Duquesne's Tamburitzans, the Pitt students gave a presentation on the histories of Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Following this presentation, the Pitt students performed Adio by Knez, which was Montenegro's Eurovision 2015 entry. Dr. **Ljiljana Đurašković** (Slavic Languages and Literatures) expressed the group's gratitude for the invitation and emphasized the importance of language acquisition in order to gain a better understanding of these cultures.

STUDENT NEWS *CONTINUED*

Student Achievements



Ognjen Kojanic (Ph.D. student, Anthropology) is studying under **Robert M. Hayden**. After taking part in several conferences in 2015 (including the 12th Annual GOSECA Conference at the University of Pittsburgh), in October he published an article, entitled “Nostalgia as a Practice of the Self in Post-Socialist Serbia” in the special issue of *Canadian Slavonic Papers on Nostalgia, Culture, and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe*. He is developing his PhD research project, which will focus on worker-ownership and struggle against dispossession of the working class in neoliberal Croatia. He presented his preliminary research on this topic at two recent University of Pittsburgh conferences: the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Grad Expo and the 13th Annual GOSECA Conference.



Cengiz Haksöz (Ph.D. candidate, Anthropology) published: “Eating in Gezi, Devoured by Gezi: Food and Resistance in Istanbul Gezi Park Protests,” in Koç, G. and Aksoy, H. (eds.) *Another Brick in the Barricade: The Gezi Resistance and Its Aftermath*, Vienna: Wiener

Verlag für Sozialforschung; 2015; pp. 55-78, www.wvfs.at/index.php?link=single_title&titleID=37.

He also presented: Haksöz, C. (2015) Post-Socialism with an EU Face: Comparing Citizenship and Migration Policies of Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey, “From the integration to the Integration: Political Changes on the Balkans and their way to the European Union”, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, December 11-12, 2015; and Immobilizing the Violence: “Yeryüzü İftarları” as a Performance during the Istanbul Gezi Park Protests, “Move on! Mobility Meets (little) Resistances”, Graduate Conference of the interdisciplinary research platform “Mobile Cultures & Societies

Interdisciplinary Studies on Transnational Formations,” University of Vienna, Austria, November 26-28, 2015.

In addition, he recently received a History Project Research Grant, “Minority Economic Landscapes in Post-Independence Peripheral Bulgarian Cities,” 2016. www.histproj.org/projects_full.html



Steven Moon (Music), a graduate student in Turkish 4, has been awarded the Critical Language Scholarship for intermediate level study of Turkish in Turkey this summer.



Andrew Nitz, an undergraduate REES certificate student, has been awarded with two scholarships this year: the Critical Language Scholarship to study advanced Turkish this summer in Bursa and the Boren Award to study at Akdeniz University for one academic year.

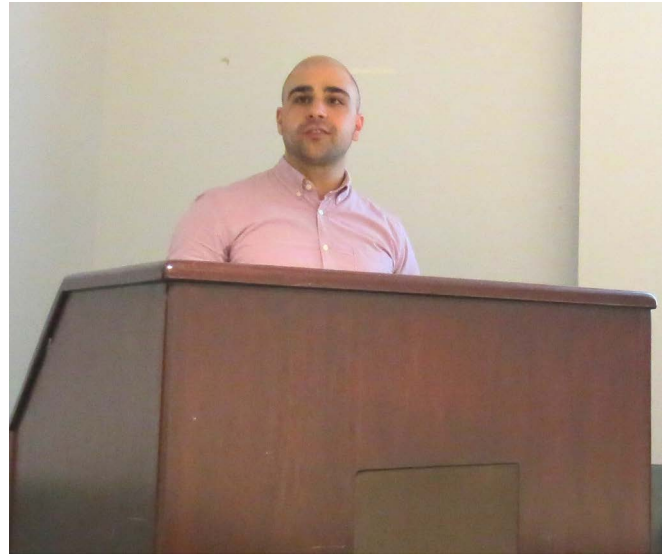
Katherine Pompeani, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology and REES certificate student, presented a paper at the “9th Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies” held November 12-14 in Chicago, IL. The paper, “Authenticity, Continuity, and Antiquity: ‘Skopje 2014,’” examined antiquization as a nation-building policy in the Republic of Macedonia. Specifically, it focused on how the ongoing Skopje 2014 project seeks to reconstruct urban space in the country’s capital that usurps personal memory, and redefines historic memory in the context of modern narratives of ancient descent.

UCIS/REES POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

REES is pleased to announce the selection of two exciting young scholars for the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) Postdoctoral Fellowships in Russian and East European Studies in 2016-18.



Ainur Begim, a 2016 Ph.D. from Yale University's Anthropology Department, conducts research on how the Kazakh state, pension funds, and average citizens conceptualize, prepare for and finance retirement amidst economic and political uncertainty. Her fieldwork advances and cross-pollinates conversations in three bodies of scholarship: within anthropological and interdisciplinary literature on states and markets; the anthropology of oil; and social studies of finance (an offshoot of science and technology studies). Ainur's research interests position her exquisitely well to engage across departments and schools here at Pitt, including Economics and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). She is also developing a second research project based on already-gathered data on post-socialist entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan, which has excellent potential to dovetail with current projects in the Katz Graduate School of Business. Ainur has expressed the goals of teaching new courses on Central Asia and engaging actively with the REES priority of building intellectual and infrastructural strength in Central Asian studies. She also has experience in winning national grants, organizing large-scale conferences, and maintaining a rich network of colleagues both in the US and abroad.



Patryk Reid is completing his Ph.D. in History at the University of Illinois, Urbana. Patryk's research also concentrates on Central Asia; he considers the material foundation of the USSR in Central Asia by analyzing the introduction of transportation and commodity chains in Tajikistan as a Soviet state-building tactic. Given the challenging terrain of Tajikistan, Patryk examines how local nature and transnational logistics affected the constitution of a Stalin-era built environment and economic life using imported people, animals, and capital. His work contributes to understanding of Soviet statehood, empire, geographic and environmental history, and postcolonial economic development. Patryk also has organized and led a reading group on Central Asia and the Caucasus, and his presence on campus will benefit REES thanks to his ability to span multiple disciplines. The Department of History plans to add a course that Patryk designed, "Silk Roads of the Common Era: Material Histories of Central Eurasia," to its offerings. REES additionally looks forward to both his and Ainur's participation in teaching the Center's interdisciplinary undergraduate capstone course.

These two scholars are each promising in their own right, but together they have the potential to be a truly dynamic duo, who will play an exciting role in the development of Central Asian and Silk Road studies at Pitt.



Richard Custer, MBA (KGSB '94); MA, East European Studies (FAS '96) authored "Carpatho-Rusyns in Connecticut: High Drama in a Small State" for the March 2016 issue of the magazine *Naše rodina / Our Family* (St. Paul, Minn.) of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and co-authored with Bogdan

Horbal "Shamokin, Pennsylvania: Перший Центр Лемківського Бізнесу в Америці," *Річник Руской Бурсы/Rocznik Ruskiej Bursy* 2015 (Gorlice, Poland: Stowarzyszenie "Ruska Bursa"). He started a blog, "The Carpatho-Rusyns of Pennsylvania" (rusynsofpa.blogspot), about his upcoming monograph. He presented "The Greater Pittston Area and St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church: A Carpatho-Rusyn Immigrant Hub of the Wyoming Valley," at the "Celebrating Our Past, Understanding Our Future" Seminar at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Pittston, PA, in October 2015, and "From the Carpathians to the Alleghenies: Carpatho-Rusyn Immigrants in the Greater Johnstown Area," at the Johnstown Simply Slavic Festival in Johnstown, PA, in September 2015. He was a recipient in 3rd Quarter 2015 of the Seton Shields Genealogy Grant to support his research on Carpatho-Rusyn immigration. At the end of 2015, he stepped down after 22 years as founding editor of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society's periodical *The New Rusyn Times*.



Luke J. Kluchko, GS-15 (SLIS '86, REES '86, GSPIA '89), completed a nine-year assignment in August 2015 as head of the U.S. Embassy Kyiv's Defense Threat Reduction Office. Upon his return to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency HQs in Virginia, Mr. Kluchko was assigned as the Cooperative Bio Engagement

Program's Branch Program Manager for Eastern Europe/Central Asia. LinkedIn invites are welcome.



Russell E. Martin (History, B.A. - Pitt, Ph.D. - Harvard) published a book with Wendy Salmond and Wilfried Zeisler, *Konstantin Makovsky: The Tsar's Painter in Paris and New York*. London: D. Giles Limited, 2015. On the book and accompanying exhibit, see the Huffington Post article: www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-jaques/konstantin-makovsky-the-t_b_9211064.html.

Dr. Martin has recently given the following lectures: February 27, 2016: "Boyar Life" at "The Tsar's Painter Symposium," at the Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens, Washington DC, see: www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/lectures-and-talks/tsar%E2%80%99s-painter-symposium; March 18, 2016: conference on "Dynasty and Dynasticism," Somerville College, Oxford University, paper entitled: "Boyar Clan and Ruling Dynasty: Commemorations of the Dead and Dynastic Legitimacy among the Romanovs in the 17th Century;" and March 22, 2016: "Muscovite Cinderella," a lecture at the Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens, Washington DC. on bride-shows and royal weddings in 16th- and 17th-century Russia.

He also published a featured Review of Valerie Kivelson, *Desperate Magic: The Moral Economy of Witchcraft in Seventeenth-Century Russia*, in the *American Historical Review* 120, no. 4 (October 2015): 1426–29.

In other news, Dr. Martin has become the new Associate Editor (and as of January 2017, Editor-in-Chief) of *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, a scholarly peer-reviewed journal established in 1967. He welcomes submissions from REES colleagues. Submissions can be sent to martinre@westminster.edu.

Daniel E. Miller (Ph.D., History, 1989) has been elected as the president of the Slovak Studies Association. At its meeting in



November 2016, during the conference of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), the Slovak Studies Association will award its prize for the best article or chapter about Slovakia in the humanities and social sciences published in 2012 or later. The works must be in English, but they can be published anywhere in

the world. The publication's author or authors are to be members in good standing of the SSA. Submissions must be hard copies, unless the work appears only in electronic form, but authors may provide both versions if they exist. The review committee will not return any submitted items. The deadline for postmarking submissions is April 30, 2016. Send entries to Daniel E. Miller, Department of History, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514, USA. Address any questions to Dr. Miller at miller-dem@earthlink.net.

Also at the ASEES conference in Philadelphia, PA, in November 2015, Dr. Miller presented "Remember, Only Photocopies!": Researching in Prague, 1986-1987."

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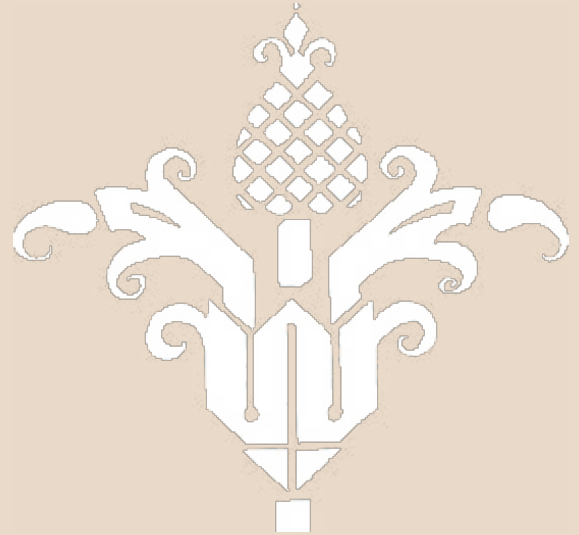
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