

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

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UCIS

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From the Director



Another spring semester has come to a close and by the time you read this, the 2014-15 academic year will be a somewhat distant and hopefully fond memory. I hope that the year was at least as rewarding as you had hoped and that the inevitable surprises were mostly good ones!

For REES, the past year brought new achievements, growth and change. As presented in our fall newsletter, we welcomed another four-year cycle as a Title VI-funded National Resource Center and FLAS-granting institution. While the news came later than usual, we all rose to the challenge of launching new programs and seamlessly maintaining the flow of funding and other resources to the REES community.

One of the above-mentioned new programs responds to meeting federal priorities oriented towards promoting community colleges' efforts to internationalize their campuses. REES joined this nationwide effort with a significant advantage thanks to the NEH "Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges" grant that the Center received last summer in cooperation with the Community College of Beaver County (CCBC). The NEH program supported text-centered biweekly discussions during which REES-affiliated instructors not only shared their specialized knowledge about the East European region with CCBC faculty, but also served as liaisons between CCBC and Pitt as the two institutions learned about one another's needs and capacities. The program will continue next year with a series of Saturday workshops and a new comparative literature course on CCBC's campus. Plans to develop similar programs with other southwestern Pennsylvania community colleges are underway.

REES also expanded its efforts to serve the language and cultural competency goals of major federal agencies and a diverse set of other actors with the receipt of a STARTALK grant. Our new STARTALK program will provide four weeks of intensive language training to students from the Pritzker College Prep high school in Chicago and Pittsburgh Brashear High

School's recently launched (with input from REES) Russian language program. Aside from promoting the goals of the National Security Language Initiative, the new grant allows us to support high school Russian language training for students from under-resourced and traditionally under-represented communities. In early spring, REES also applied to continue and expand its highly successful Project GO program, through which it has served the language needs of the local and national ROTC community over the past three years. Comments from our funders indicate that, through these two grants, Pitt is establishing itself as a major asset in the Department of Defense's efforts to raise global competency among its personnel.

This year was also marked by change at the top of REES's parent organization, the University Center for International Studies (UCIS). **Dr. Ariel Armony**'s arrival begins a new and very exciting era for all of UCIS's constituent centers. We look forward to working closely with Dr. Armony as he pursues his comprehensive global vision for both UCIS and the University as a whole. I hope that each of you will have an opportunity to personally welcome him, or to at least enjoy one of his always-engaging presentations.

In closing, I wish to once again recognize all of the effort that went into making 2014-15 another fantastic year. I'll start, of course, with the REES team -- **Matt Clews, Susan Hicks, Gina Peirce, Dawn Seckler and Anna Talone** -- for their continuing resourcefulness, collegiality and seemingly boundless energy. This year, the Center took on many new, or at least changed, responsibilities and each of our colleagues handled all the inherent challenges in their usual stellar fashion. Second, I want to thank all of the REES-associated faculty who worked closely with us in developing and implementing the programs that continue to promote the advancement of our students and broader community. I wish you all a happy, restful and/or productive summer, and I look forward to seeing you again at the start of the next academic year!

Andy Konitzer
Acting Director of REES

Faculty Spotlight



This January, REES was pleased to welcome **Tomas Matza** to the University of Pittsburgh as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and affiliated faculty member of our center. Professor Matza joins us from Duke University, where he served as Visiting

Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Slavic and Eurasian Studies from 2011 to 2014. His research has been supported by numerous grants, including through IIE Fulbright, Fulbright-Hays, the Social Science Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. He has published articles in *Cultural Anthropology*, *American Ethnologist*, and *Critical Inquiry*, among other peer-reviewed journals. His REES-related research has focused on psychotherapy in post-socialist Russia, a topic which forms the basis of his forthcoming book from Duke University Press, tentatively titled *Self-Centered: Psychologists, Human Capital, and Social Desire in Russia*.

Professor Matza's interest in Russia began early in high school, when he began studying Russian language and reading Russian literature, an interest he pursued in his undergraduate major at Princeton University. Then, as a journalist in San Francisco from 1996 – 2001, he maintained his connection to Russia through regular short trips. In 2002, he returned to academia as a graduate student at Stanford University's Modern Thought and Literature Program. This interdisciplinary program afforded him the unique opportunity to combine the public engagement he enjoyed in his journalism career and his interests in Russian literary studies. In the process, he found his way to cultural anthropology as well.

Over the years of visiting St. Petersburg during the 1990s, Matza marveled as new malls, cafes, and restaurants remade the city landscape; and yet, he also listened as residents talked in ambivalent ways about

these changes, struggling to reconcile the socialist past and post-socialist present. This led Matza to wonder about the ways broad structural transformations reached into the intimate aspects of people's lives. As he tells it, all of his subsequent research has explored this question in one way or another. Most directly, his PhD dissertation analyzed the post-socialist boom in talk therapy, which swept St. Petersburg in the 1990s, but had hardly been practiced in the Soviet Union. This emergence of psychotherapy mirrored both the subjective and socioeconomic transformations that he was interested in tracing: in talk radio, schools, and commercial trainings, the types of self-work promoted and offered reflected growing class differences, and underscored the ways that personhood itself was tied to political and economic structures.

Subsequent projects have taken Dr. Matza out of the REES region to an examination of children's health in El Salvador and to a study of carbon offsetting projects that link US consumers with forest preservation in Latin America. Nevertheless, he plans to continue his involvement in the region, through both research and teaching. In one future project, he hopes to follow up on his dissertation work by looking more closely at post-Soviet psychiatry and the circulation of pharmaceuticals and anti-depressants. He also plans to offer a course on the Anthropology of Russia or post-socialism ("or possibly post-post-socialism," he jokes), and to include considerable REES content in his courses on Anthropology of the Environment, and the Culture and Politics of Mental Health.

REES welcomes these additions to course offerings for the Russian and East European Studies certificate programs, and looks forward to working with Professor Matza on future projects.

Written by **Susan Hicks**, REES Assistant Director for Academic Affairs

NEH “Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges” Project Update



REES and the Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) have now achieved their major goals for the initial six months of the National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored “Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges” partnership project. The main objectives for this period were, first, to recruit a core group of CCBC faculty members in Fall 2014 who would participate in the project; and second, to organize a biweekly evening workshop series in Winter – Spring 2015 to familiarize the project participants with East European history, cultures, and literature through carefully selected readings and discussions facilitated by two Pitt faculty coordinators, thus preparing them to design original course modules featuring content on Eastern Europe.

Participant recruitment and logistical organization of the evening workshop series was conducted by REES Acting Director **Andrew Konitzer** and Assistant Director **Gina Peirce** in cooperation with **John Gall**, CCBC’s Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and CCBC Project Coordinator **Julie Durbin**. REES-affiliated faculty members **Joel Brady** (Religious Studies/Slavic Languages and Literatures) and **Ljiljana Duraskovic** (Slavic Languages and Literatures) assembled the syllabus and reading list and led the biweekly workshop sessions. The workshop series began in January 2015 and concluded in April with a session held at the historic St. Nicholas Croatian Church in Pittsburgh. Each CCBC participant developed a plan for a course module in consultation with Dr. Brady or Dr. Duraskovic and submitted it to the project directors at the conclusion of the workshop series. They will complete the development of their modules

and introduce them into their courses at a later stage of the project.

The 15 CCBC faculty members who were recruited for this project have proven to be active and enthusiastic participants and provided very positive feedback to the workshop series facilitators. They represent a diverse range of academic disciplines including English, History, Political Science, Communications, Business, Information Technology, Nursing, and Microbiology.

Plans are under way for the next stages of the project, which will include organization of a monthly Saturday morning lecture series in the 2015-16 academic year that will link CCBC faculty, students, and community members via videoconferencing with expert speakers at East European universities and with community members in Eastern Europe through U.S. State Department-sponsored “American Corners” in the region. In addition, a new section of CCBC’s existing World Literature course focusing on East European literature will be introduced in Fall 2015.

Cooperation between REES and CCBC on the “Bridging Cultures” project has also led to broader collaboration between CCBC and the various area studies centers housed within Pitt’s University Center for International Studies (UCIS), including the centers for African, Asian, European Union, Global, and Latin American Studies in addition to REES. Using funds from the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI National Resource Center program and other grants to the UCIS centers, Pitt and CCBC jointly organized a faculty development workshop held at CCBC in April 2015 on “Mobilizing People, Students, and Ideas: Social Movements across the Globe and in the Undergraduate Curriculum.” Over 20 faculty members from CCBC and two other Western Pennsylvania community colleges (in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties) attended this event, which will be the first in an annual workshop series aimed at internationalizing community college campuses across the region. The UCIS centers are also working on development of study abroad opportunities for community college faculty and students, and CCBC representatives

have discussed with REES the idea of opening an international education center on the CCBC campus. Thus, the NEH-sponsored “Bridging Cultures” project is already contributing to progress toward the longer-term goal of internationalizing the curricula at CCBC and other community colleges in the Pittsburgh region.

STARTALK Grant for High School Russian Summer Program

REES was recently awarded a new federal grant through the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) to run an intensive four-week residential program, the “University of Pittsburgh STARTALK Summer Russian Language School” or SRLS, for 20 high school students this year at no cost to the students and their families. REES is



partnering with two high schools that offer academic year Russian language programs: Pittsburgh Brashear, a large socioeconomically and racially diverse public high school, and Pritzker College Prep, a public charter high school in Chicago that serves a primarily lower-income Latino population. The Center will select rising sophomores, juniors and/or seniors from these school who are either taking Russian language classes in AY 2014-15 or will begin taking them in AY 2015-16 as part of their high school curriculum.

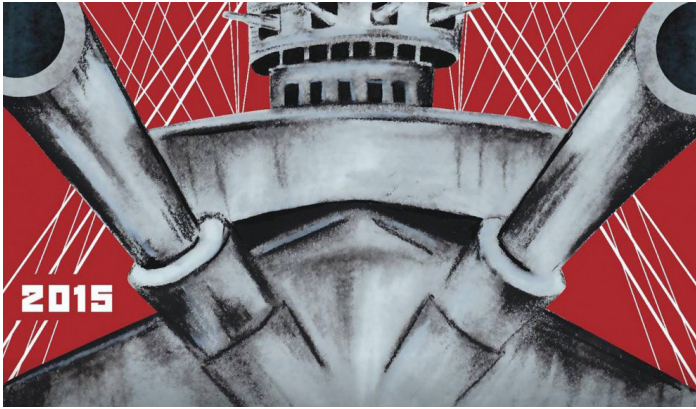
The program rationale is to provide an opportunity for high school students, particularly from underrepresented minority and lower-income populations, to acquire knowledge of Russian language and culture, experience an intensive academic program, and increase their readiness to succeed in college and continue their critical foreign language studies. To develop the SRLS, REES will draw on the extensive experience of its faculty and staff in administering Pitt’s Slavic, East European and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute, which

offers intensive proficiency-based instruction in up to 14 languages annually to college students from throughout the U.S, and in coordinating K-12 outreach programs as a U.S. Department of Education-funded Title VI National Resource Center.

The SRLS will be held on Pitt’s Greensburg campus from June 22–July 17, 2015. It will offer Russian I for beginners and Russian II for students who have had one year of high school instruction. The curriculum will be based on the theme “Cultural Diversity in Russia,” focusing on both ethnic diversity and the diversity of youth and popular culture in contemporary Russia, including music, film, television, print media and internet culture. Classroom instruction will focus on speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, with a goal of ACTFL Novice Mid to Novice High proficiency for students in Russian I, and Novice High to Intermediate Low proficiency for students in Russian II. Other goals include acquisition of cultural knowledge, foundational understanding of Russian grammatical structures, and increased college readiness.

The Program Director will be **Dawn Seckler**, REES Acting Associate Director and Executive Director of Pitt’s Summer Language Institute. Two Russian language instructors (**Tarana Akhmedora** and **Natalie McCauley**), plus two teaching/residential assistants (**Michael O’Brien** and **Kristin Torres**), will live in the students’ dormitory to organize cultural activities connected with the program theme and provide tutoring and extra Russian conversational practice. Classes will be held Monday through Friday with five formal daily contact hours for a total of 100 classroom hours during the program, plus 60 informal contact hours including lunch, study and conversation groups, evening activities and weekend field trips. Students will be assigned daily homework plus quizzes and tests for assessment, and at the end of the program they will organize and perform in a Russian-language talent show.

Russian Film Symposium



The 17th annual Russian Film Symposium, “Red Empire Reloaded,” will be held on the Pitt campus on May 4-9, 2015, with evening screenings at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers’ Melwood Screening Room. The Symposium will host eight panels (each with a screening of a film with English subtitles), two roundtables, and four evening screenings on the big screen. For the complete schedule of events, please visit www.rusfilm.pitt.edu.

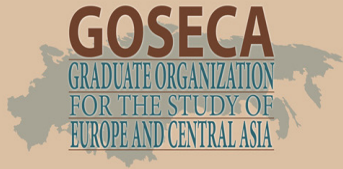
The Russian Federation is quickly approaching the silver anniversary of the Soviet collapse of December 1991. Cinema in the final years of the USSR (Gorbachev’s period of *glasnost* and *perestroika*) was dominated by documentary films that re-examined and filled in the “blank spots” of the empire’s history (revisiting Stalinism and the fate of repressed historical figures, rehabilitating major political individuals like Bukharin and Khrushchev, exposing environmental catastrophes, excoriating the invasion of Afghanistan, cataloguing abuses of power by the political elite, etc.) Suddenly, however, the 1991 termination of state financing for film production had the greatest impact on documentary films, which virtually disappeared for the next decade and a half.

In the aftermath, Russian cinema of the past 25 years has been marked by the dominance of feature films, many of which are dramatic re-examinations of the major events of the 70 years of Soviet rule: from the Revolution to the Civil War, from the New Economic Policy to the Great Break, from the terror to the Great Patriotic War, from the respite of Khrushchev’s Thaw to the octogenarian period

of Stagnation (Brezhnev-Andropov-Chernenko). While there is no consistency in the way individual directors represent the Soviet years, virtually all of these films strip away the rosy tinted mystifications and deceptions characteristic of Soviet depictions of daily life under the “dictatorship of the proletariat.” At the same time, these films for the most part have moved beyond the aesthetics of *chernukha* (literally, “blackening”—that is, focusing on the dark underbelly of Soviet daily life) that was typical of late Soviet and early Russian cinema. Instead, most of the feature films of the last two decades attempt to provide a counter-history, privileging individual or family interests over those of the state, private aspirations over public rhetoric, intimate interactions over collective struggles. As a result, these films (inadvertently or deliberately) marginalize the imperial impulse that had been a defining feature of Soviet history despite its claim of “Building Socialism in One Country.”

At the time of its collapse in 1991, Russia was once again an empire, consisting of 15 republics and including several hundred ethnicities and languages. Russia’s incursions in regional disputes in former Soviet territories (Chechnya, Georgia, Moldova, and now Ukraine) over the past decades, however, provide ample evidence that imperial consciousness has not been displaced by nation-building. The retention and reintroduction of imperial rituals, images, and even social codes—whether Romanov or Soviet—is merely one symptom of this phenomenon. Representations of the Soviet years in Russian films of the last quarter century are more than an exorcism of the past; they are just as likely to presage the future.

Sponsors of the 2015 Russian Film Symposium include the Office of the Deans of the 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 Graduate Program for Cultural Studies at Pitt, as well as Pittsburgh Filmmakers.



The University of Pittsburgh's Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia (GOSECA), the graduate student organization of REES, held its 12th annual Graduate Student Conference, "Geographies in Flux: Territory, Resources, and Borders in Eastern Europe and Eurasia," on February 20-21, 2015. Ten student participants from six different universities presented their research on the East European and Eurasian region across a range of academic disciplines. Among the participants were University of Pittsburgh graduate students **Tetyana Shlikhar** (Slavic Lang. & Lit.), **Olga Kim** (Slavic Lang. & Lit./Film Studies), **Ellina Sattarova** (Slavic Lang. & Lit./Film Studies), **Ognjen Kojanic** (Anthropology), and **Heidi Cook** (History of Art and Architecture). **Douglas Rogers** of the Department of Anthropology at Yale University delivered the keynote address, titled "Putting the Perm Region on the Map: Three Tales of Oil and Cultural Politics from Provincial Russia," on the opening day of the conference.

We would like to thank the following Pitt faculty members, who served as discussants at the GOSECA conference: **Katja Wezel** (History), **Adriana Helbig** (Music), **Michael Bobick** (Anthropology/REES), and **Tomas Matza** (Anthropology). In addition, REES Acting Director **Andrew Konitzer**, along with **Michael Bobick** and **Douglas Rogers**, conducted a panel discussion on "Careers in Russian and East European Studies."

Susan Hicks (REES) served as faculty advisor to the student organizing committee, which consisted of **Adam Brode** (History), **Andrew Behrendt** (History), **Alyssa Cypher** (GSPIA), **Julie Nelson** (Katz/GSPIA), **Thomas Espy** (GSPIA), and **Michael Duane** (GSPIA). Financial support for the conference was provided by REES and the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG). Additional

information and the full conference program are available at

<http://goseca.ucis.pitt.edu/conference>.

"Europe: East and West" Undergraduate Research Symposium

REES, the European Studies Center/ European Union Center of Excellence, and the International Business Center sponsored the 14th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on March 27, 2015. The symposium is an opportunity for undergraduate students interested in Eastern or Western Europe or the former Soviet Union to improve their academic writing and presentation skills and participate in an event modeled on a graduate-level conference. Applicants submit abstracts of their research papers to a selection committee, and those who are chosen to participate have the opportunity to work with the symposium's graduate assistants to revise and polish their papers leading up to the event.



2015 Undergraduate Research Symposium Presenters

At the symposium on March 27, papers were presented by 29 students from 15 different institutions, including University of Pittsburgh, University of Southern Maine, Bowling Green State University, Mercyhurst University, Northwestern University, Princeton University, Georgetown University, Seton Hall University, Sciences-Po Paris, Georgia Tech, University of Michigan, Old Dominion University, Pomona College (CA), Dickinson College, Brigham Young University, and Roanoke College. This constituted one of the most geographically diverse groups of participants in the 14-year history of the symposium, with institutions from thirteen U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and five countries represented.

We would like to thank those faculty members and graduate students who served as panel discussants for the 2015 symposium: **Bernard Hagerty** (History), **Ayselin Yildiz** (ESC/EUCE), **Anthony Novosel** (History), **Artan Hoxha** (History), **Bob Donnorummo** (History), **Shane Killian** (Political Science), **Martha Kuchar** (English, Roanoke College), **Aleksandra Carapella** (History of Art and Architecture), **Susan Hicks** (REES/Anthropology), **Ljiljana Pantovic** (Anthropology), **Stephanie Makin** (History), **Jonathan Harris** (Political Science), **Anne-Kathrin Kreft** (Political Science), **Dawn Seckler** (REES/Slavic Lang. & Lit.), and **Trevor Wilson** (Slavic Lang. & Lit.). UCIS Director **Ariel Armony** gave a keynote address to the participants at the symposium luncheon. The symposium's primary organizers were **Gina Peirce** (REES), **Stephen Lund** (ESC/EUCE), **Susan Hicks** (REES), **Jacqueline Saslawski** (International Business Center/Katz), **Adam Lough** (IBC/Katz), **Eleni Valliant** (ESC/EUCE), and **Thomas Espy** (REES), with photography provided by **Matt Clews** (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.

Project GO Update



For the third consecutive summer, REES is supporting ROTC students' pursuit of Russian language training through U.S. Department of Defense-funded Project GO (Global Officers) scholarships. This year, REES awarded Project GO scholarships to six students for beginning-level and one student for intermediate-level intensive Russian language study in Pitt's domestic Slavic, East European and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute. REES also awarded Project GO scholarships

to six intermediate-level and nine advanced-level students to participate in Pitt's intensive Russian language study abroad program at Narva College of the University of Tartu in Narva, Estonia in Summer 2015. In addition, three ROTC students with Project GO scholarships from San Diego State University and one with a scholarship from the University of Kansas will join Pitt's program in Narva this year.

Project GO is a federally funded coalition of 25 universities providing critical language training and study abroad opportunities to ROTC students. Pitt is one of 13 universities that offer Project GO scholarships for the study of Russian. Since receiving its initial Project GO grant in 2012, REES has enjoyed strengthening its relationships with the three local Pittsburgh ROTC branches: the Army ROTC Three Rivers Battalion, the Naval ROTC Steel City Unit, and the Air Force ROTC Detachment 730. REES recently applied for another year of Project GO funding that would support the addition of a fourth-year Russian language study abroad course for ROTC students in Summer 2016.



Faculty News



Professor **Nancy Condee** (Slavic Languages and Literatures/ Global Studies Director) gave talks this semester at Trinity College, Cambridge (“After Balabanov,” 18 September 2014); at Université Paris 8 (“La question du cinéma ‘post-Balabanovien,’” 10 December); and the College of William and Mary (“Balaclavas and Incense: on Russian Spectacle and Yalta-Film,” 26 February 2015).

Her publications include the article “History in a Time of Premeditated Amnesia: The 25th Kinotavr Open Russian Film Festival” in *KinoKultura* 46 (October 2014); and the essay “Небо. Самолет. Девушка [Sky. Plane. Girl]” on director Vera Storozheva in *Directory of World Cinema: Russia*, Vol. 2 (ed. Birgit Beumers; Bristol: Intellect), 191-92. Her international teaching included a two-week seminar at Fondation Maison des sciences de l’homme (3-16 August 2014).

Recent quotations from interviews with her appeared in *The New York Times* (J. Hoberman, “A Small Batch from Life’s Work”), 25 January 2015; “Arts Section: 16” on Russian director Aleksei German (event at Anthology Film Archives); *The New York Times* (Larry Rohter, “Champion of the Lone Russian Everyman”), 21 December 2014; “Arts Section” on Andrei Zviagintsev’s *Leviathan* [Левияфан, 2014]; and Voice of America Russian Service (Oleg Sul’kin, “V Moskve nikakogo diskomforta ne oshchushchaesh”), 1 July on 2014 Moscow International Film Festival.



Professor **Jonathan Platt** (Slavic Languages and Literatures) curated a four-day conference, titled *No Radical Art Actions are Going to Help Here...: Political Violence and Militant Aesthetics after Socialism*, as part of the Manifesta 10 European Biennial of Contemporary Art in St. Petersburg. The conference included presentations, readings, performances and screenings by numerous Russian intellectuals, artists,

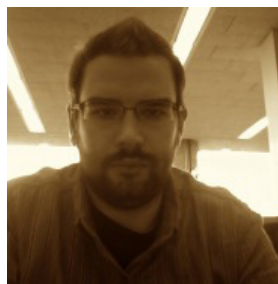
and poets, as well as the international scholars **Jodi Dean** and **Gerald Raunig**. In December, he returned to Russia to give a public lecture as part of the St. Petersburg Cultural Forum and the Future of Cinema conference, organized by the *Séance* journal. His talk, “*Crime and Punishment, Film Noir, and the Law of Fate*,” was held in the Dostoevsky Apartment Museum. The popular newspaper *Moi raion* published an interview with him after the talk, humorously titled, “The Enemy Is Always the Most Interesting” (Враг всегда самый интересный). He has also had three high profile publications in recent months: “The Body Politic: How Pyotr Pavlensky’s Performance Art is Breaking the Mold” in *The Calvert Journal*, “Черный поэт” (an excerpt from the Russian translation of his book, *Greetings, Pushkin!*, forthcoming from the European University in St. Petersburg Press) on www.colta.ru, and “Snow White and the Enchanted Palace: A Reading of Lenin’s Architectural Cult,” in *Representations*. He also published translations of poetry by **Kirill Medvedev** and **Galina Rymbu** in the *PEN Poetry Series* and *Cosmonauts Avenue*, respectively.



Professor **William Harbert** (Geology) was responsible for teaching “Introductory to Geographical Information Systems”, which now has 160+ students; “Advanced Geographical Information Systems”; “Geophysical Exploration”; “Geophysical Well Logging”; and monitoring numerous capstone projects during both the Fall and Spring terms. With respect to international activities, **Bob Donnorummo** and **Prof. Harbert** gave their fun and interesting Russian and East European Energy Review. With respect to other activities, **Prof. Harbert** was one of two externally supported speakers at the PHASE 10th Anniversary Symposium at the Freie Universitaet Berlin, and gave invited talks at the IEAGHG, CMU, PA DCNR, the Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh, and an ITRI-NETL workshop in Hsinchu, Taiwan. At Pitt he became a Faculty Fellow of the Honors College.



Professor **John Markoff** (Sociology) published an updated second edition of *Waves of Democracy: Social Movements and Political Change* with Paradigm Publishers. In November 2014, he spoke at Seville's Pablo de Olavide University on "Where is Democracy Heading?"



Michael Bobick (Postdoctoral Fellow, REES/Anthropology) co-authored an article with **Elizabeth Cullen Dunn** of Indiana University in *American Ethnologist* 41(3), August 2014, titled "The Empire Strikes Back: War Without War and Occupation Without Occupation in the Russian Sphere of Influence."

Alumni News

Professor **Daniel E. Miller**, University of West Florida, presented a keynote lecture on 27 January 2015 titled "Phenomenon Baroque: Mocking the Renaissance and Nature during the Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution" at the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations in Prague, Czech Republic. He also presented "Czechoslovakia as a Consociational Democracy" on 23 November 2014 at the ASEES conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Pitt Slavic PhD alumna **Julie Draskoczy-Zigoris** (Jewish Community High School of the Bay, San Francisco), who has been given the **2014 AATSEEL Award for Excellence in Secondary Teaching**. The award was publicly presented to Julie at the AATSEEL Awards ceremony on Friday, 9 December 2015 at the Renaissance Harbourside in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

READ GREEN

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.



Cengiz Haksöz (PhD candidate, Anthropology) is currently doing ethnographic research for his dissertation in Bulgaria. He presented a paper entitled, “Narratives, Practices, and Performances in/around Religioscapes: the

Cases of Two Peripheral Cities in Post-socialist Bulgaria,” in a workshop “Religion and the Public from 1989/1991” at Justus-Liebig University of Giessen, Germany, held on January 27-28, 2015

Additionally, he will be teaching an undergrad course, “Sociology of Food,” at Bogazici University of Istanbul, Turkey in Summer 2015 in the Department of Tourism Administration.



Madalina Veres (PhD candidate, History) published an article last fall entitled, “Unravelling a Trans-Imperial Career: Michel Angelo de Blasco’s Mapmaking Abilities in the Service of Vienna and Lisbon,” in *Itinerario, International Journal on the History*

of European Expansion and Global Interaction, vol. 38, no. 2, 2014: 75-100.

Madalina also presented a paper entitled, “Transforming ‘Natural Frontiers’ into Imperial Borders: Habsburg Cartography and the Control of Transylvanian Mountain Passes,” as part of the panel “Representing Transylvania: Maps and Cultural Construction of Space throughout 18-20 Centuries” at the 46th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies, San Antonio, November 20-23, 2014.

She also presented, “Tracing Imperial Contours: Mapping the Habsburg Monarchy’s Borders in the Eighteenth Century,” as part of the panel “Identity Questions in the Habsburg (and Post-Habsburg) Lands: Maps, Streets, Textbooks, and Economists” at the 38th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Kansas City, September 18-21, 2014.

Thomas Espy (Public and International Affairs) has submitted a paper on Russian agrarian reform in the context of the August 2014 food embargo for publication in the 2015 *Pitt Policy Journal*, a student-led academic journal based out of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

REES undergraduate alumna **Rachel McVey** has been awarded a Fulbright ETA Grant to study in Hungary for the 2015-16 academic year. She also wrote an article in *Kosovo 2.0* about the demolition of a Roma neighborhood in Tirana while she was in Albania last year working with a Roma NGO. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Jessica Kuntz, REES graduate student, wrote about the Dayton Accords for *Tribune Review*. Jessica is a current MPIA student, a Boren Fellow in Bosnia last year, and former Fulbright scholar to Croatia. Click [here](#) to read the article.

REES undergraduate student **Brianna Gasgonia** (Russian/German) is the recipient of a Boren Fellowship through the American Councils for International Education to study in Almaty, Kazakhstan for the 2015-16 academic year. Congratulations to Brianna.

REES undergraduate student **Marjorie Tolsdorf** also received a Boren Fellowship through the American Councils for International Education and will study in Almaty, Kazakhstan for the 2015-16 academic year. Congratulations to Marjorie.

Stephen Sloto (Linguistics/Anthropology), a two-time undergraduate REES FLAS recipient and two-time Critical Language Scholarship recipient, has recently been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Turkey for the 2015-16 academic year. Congratulations to Stephen.

FLAS Fellowships

Congratulations to REES's graduate Academic Year 2015-16 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows: **Barry Bookheimer** (History), **Stephen Moon** (Music), **Almir Hodzic** (GSPIA), **Julie Nelson** (GSPIA/Katz), **Elise Thorsen** (Slavic), and **Kelly Trimble** (Slavic).

Congratulations as well to **Thomas Elvins**, **Jordan Hayes**, and **Lindsey Woolcock** who received Summer 2015 FLAS Fellowships through REES for intensive study of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Turkish, and Lithuanian respectively.

In addition, congratulations to **Andrew Nitz** (Russian/Computer Science), **Dusica Solic** (Biological Sciences), **Ryan Rugh** (Administration of Justice), and

intermediate level or above are eligible to apply. Applications for Academic Year 2016-17 FLAS Fellowships will be due in mid-February 2016. 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 2016 FLAS Fellowships will be due in March 2016. For more information, contact REES Academic Advisor **Susan Hicks** at smhicks@pitt.edu.

Undergraduate REES Certificate Recipients, December 2014

Congratulations to **Katelyn Feicht**, **Rachel McVey**, and **Bronislava Tkacheva**, who received their REES certificates in December 2014.

Undergraduate REES Certificate Recipients 2015

Congratulations to **M. Scott Bridgehouse**, **Helene Caniac**, **Erin Crooks**, **Jeffrey Danielson**, **Jacob Foehr**, **Christina Hlutkowsky**, **Julianna Jutzi**, **Daryna Koval**, **Jonathan Naser**, **Katie Ronczka**, **Haley Sarver**, **Haley Salera**, **Erin Shields**, **Stephen Sloto**, **Dusica Solic**, and **Taylor Wellman**, who graduated from Pitt and will receive their REES Undergraduate Certificates in Spring 2015.

Graduate REES Certificate Recipients 2015

Congratulations to **Thomas Espy**, **Nazariy Melnychuk**, and **Allison Reefer** who graduated from Pitt and will receive their REES Graduate Certificates in Spring 2015.

Nationality Room Award Recipients 2015

Congratulations to **Michael Duane** (Eugene Manasterski Memorial Scholarship to study in Kyiv, Ukraine), **Caitlin Riley** (Helen Pool Rush Award to study in Podgorica, Montenegro), **Courtney Weaver** (Nationality Council Grant to study in Kyiv, Ukraine), and **Bradley Hanlon** (David L. Lawrence Memorial Award to study in Moscow, Russia).



UCIS Director Ariel Armony delivering words of wisdom at REES' 2015 Graduation

Brianna Gasgonia (Russian/German) for receiving the Undergraduate FLAS Fellowships for 2015-16.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, FLAS Fellowships provide tuition plus a living stipend to 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. In addition to graduate students, undergraduates who are studying a less commonly taught language at the

Visiting Scholars



Larysa Chovnyuk has a PhD in Ukrainian and Comparative Literature from the National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.” She has more than twelve years’ experience in the field of education management, particularly in relation to international cooperation in different spheres of academic life, as well as having experience in the field of individual and institutional support schemes in educational spheres, project initiation, implementation, and reporting.

Larysa visited REES from January 29 - March 17, 2015. She focused on what International Studies means for the University of Pittsburgh and its relevant components; studying the organization and work of the structures (UCIS & individual centers) in charge of international studies from an administrative perspective, and looking into the study abroad strategy of the University of Pittsburgh, possible options within the study abroad programs, and the Study Abroad Office’s portfolio development approaches.

Study Abroad Programs

Short-Term Undergraduate Program

In May 2015 REES will be offering a faculty-led study abroad program, “Pitt in Prague/Krakov: Economics and Policy in the Czech Republic and Poland” with Prof. **Svitlana Maksymenko** (Economics).

This program will focus on the history, politics, sociology, economics and culture of post-war Czech Republic and Poland. Topics will include the history of the European Union, political and economic developments in Eastern Europe, analysis of the main industries in each country, international trade, banking, education, health care and tourism.

For more information, please contact REES Academic Advisor **Susan Hicks** at smhicks@pitt.edu.

Short-Term Graduate/Professional School Program

REES will introduce a new study abroad course in May 2015 through the Katz Graduate School of Business, titled “Competing Perspectives on Global Energy: From Western PA to Eastern Europe.” This two-week course will provide professional school students in Business, Law, Engineering, Public Policy and other areas with firsthand experience of the global impact of contemporary developments in the natural gas and other energy sectors. Study sites include Washington County, PA; Washington, DC; Moscow, Russia; and Sofia, Bulgaria. Participants will first witness the effect that Marcellus Shale has had in Western Pennsylvania and then see how these developments are impacting U.S. foreign policy and trade practices.

Next, students will be familiarized with a very different side of the global natural gas and energy equation by traveling to Moscow, where they will see

the Kremlin's view of global and regional gas and energy markets. The course will end with an exploration of the role that transit states such as Bulgaria play in global energy markets and efforts by these players to use their territory and energy alternatives to bargain with larger states at both ends of energy pipelines.

Throughout this program, students will learn about energy's impact on domestic and international politics, economies, societies and the environment. They will make site visits to companies, extraction and transportation facilities, and various government and civic organizations and will participate in lectures by local stakeholders and specialists. By the end of the course, participants will have a much broader understanding of the global impact of energy developments and more clearly understand how local activities, such as those related to Marcellus Shale, can have far-reaching consequences in different sectors and geographic locations. For more information, please contact **Susan Hicks** at sbhicks@pitt.edu.

Intensive Summer Language Programs

Pitt's 2015 Slavic, East European, and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute (SLI) will offer

language-based study abroad programs in Moscow, Russia; Prague, Czech Republic; Debrecen, Hungary; 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 2015 SLI will also offer intensive summer courses on the Pitt campus in Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, 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.

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economy, policy, and culture

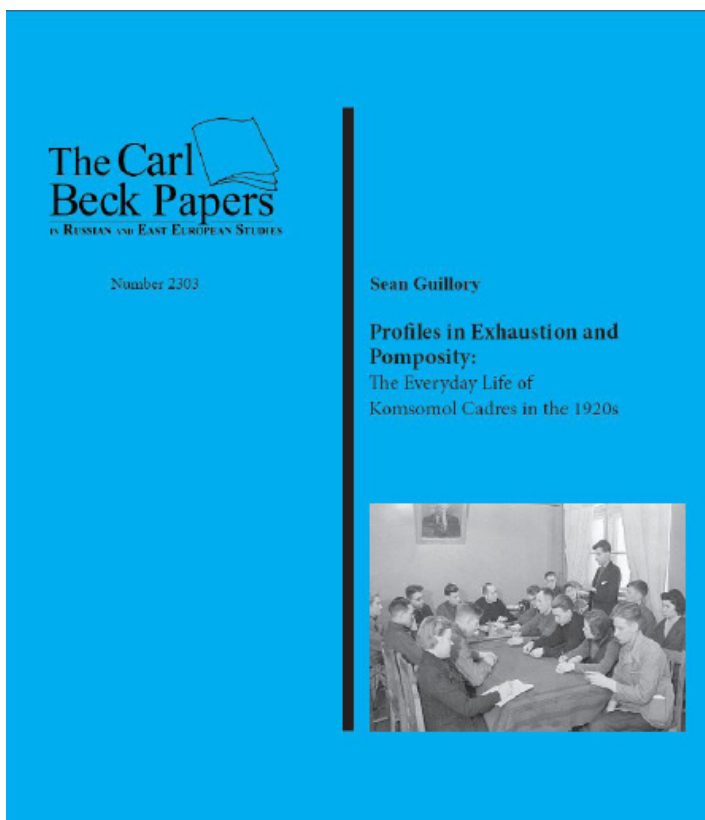
summer | may

This three-credit, economics program focuses on the history, culture, politics, sociology and culture of post-war Czech Republic and Poland. Students examine topics including the history of the EU, political and economic developments in Eastern Europe, analyses of the main industries in each country, international trade, banking, education, health care, and tourism.

www.abroad.pitt.edu/praguekrakow

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The Carl Beck Papers in Russian & East European Studies



The Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) supports its own publication, The Carl Beck Papers in Russian and East European Studies, now published online by the University Library System of the University of Pittsburgh. This scholarly paper series, named after the first director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), publishes work of both new and more experienced scholars in many disciplines and areas of inquiry. This series is an excellent opportunity for anyone who is trying to have a paper published.

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

Visit: carlbeckpapers.pitt.edu.

Submission Guidelines

- Register for an author account online at carlbeckpapers.pitt.edu and follow the guided 5-step submission process.
- The text follows the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in the Author Guidelines.
- Manuscripts cannot be submitted simultaneously elsewhere.

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- *Tragic Past, Agreeable Heritage: Post-Soviet Intellectual Discussions on the Polish Legacy in Western Ukraine*. Eleonora Narvselius (2015)
- *Remembering and Forgetting the Malyn Massacre: Memory, Ethnicity and the Second World War in Eastern Europe*. Jared McBride (2015)

For more information, contact:

Matt Clews
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412-648-8716

The Bob Donnorummo Scholarship Fund



You are cordially invited to partner with faculty, friends and alumni in supporting the Bob Donnorummo Study Abroad Scholarship Fund of the Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES), University of Pittsburgh Center for International Studies. This scholarship fund will carry on Bob's compassion and support for students who study abroad for years to come. Monies from the fund will provide University of Pittsburgh REES certificate students with tuition assistance and/or financial aid pertaining to their study abroad experience. Your gift is important and will make a difference in the lives of students who wish to enhance their education with a study abroad venture. To donate, please complete and return this form with payment to:

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