It’s difficult to believe my first year as director is drawing to a close. It has been extraordinarily rich, as we continue to reaffirm the institute’s strong institutional purpose and embark on some new endeavors.

We are delighted to announce that Gail Buyske will take over as chair of the Harriman Institute’s National Advisory Council (NAC) on July 1. Gail is a current NAC member and a Harriman alumna, having received a Harriman certificate in ‘93 and a Ph.D. from Columbia’s political science department in ’97. Currently a non-executive director and emerging markets banking consultant, Gail has extensive experience engaging with the boards of directors of banks and advisory boards of private equity funds. She has also worked on a wide range of issues related to financial sector development for leading international organizations including the World Bank, the IFC, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Standard & Poor’s, the Interamerican Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Center for Financial Inclusion. Gail brings to the NAC this unique mix of academic and business acumen, extensive knowledge of the region and an unwavering commitment to strengthening Harriman’s role as a world class hub for promoting innovative research, programming and the exchange of ideas about the rapidly changing Eurasian landscape. You can read about Buyske in the Winter 2015 issue of Harriman Magazine.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to Grace Warnecke, who has served as the NAC chair since 2012, for her knowledgeable and steady leadership as the Harriman Institute reconstituted its advisory council. Grace was particularly instrumental in helping to create a new strategically focused format for NAC, and to expand Harriman’s intellectual base and identify and recruit new NAC members. We are grateful that she will continue to serve as a NAC member.

In other good news, Valentina Izmirlieva (chair of the Department of Slavic Languages), and Jack Snyder (Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Relations) each received competitive awards from the President’s Global Innovation Fund at Columbia to fund two noteworthy projects. Izmirlieva will be principle investigator in a three-year teaching and learning initiative at Columbia, in which the Harriman Institute will play a key role. “Black Sea Networks: Rethinking Slavic Studies in the Global Age” aims to reconceptualize existing programs within a larger Black Sea framework and create multidisciplinary undergraduate and graduate tracks in “Black Sea Studies” at Columbia’s Department of Slavic Languages. The project offers us an exciting opportunity to collaborate with the Global Centers in Istanbul and Paris, which are also partners. And Snyder will co-direct with Elazar Barkan (Professor of International Affairs) an endeavor titled, “Human Rights Treaty Body Reform Process: Towards a Stronger Human Rights Protection Regime.”

This fall we are honored to welcome historian Catharine Evtuhov to the History Department. Evtuhov, who has been Professor of History at Georgetown University since 1992, has published extensively on the history of Russian thought in the European context, material culture and local history, and the history of the Black Sea region and Russian-Ottoman relations. In 2013 she was awarded the Wayne S. Vucinich Prize for her Portrait of a Russian Province: Economy, Society and Civilization in Nineteenth-Century Nizhnii Novgorod (University of Pittsburgh Press). She will teach two seminars in the fall, “The Black Sea,” and, “New Directions in Russian History,” and organize a symposium in Black Sea History as part of the Black Sea initiative mentioned above.
On February 23, 2016, the Harriman Institute welcomed Dunja Mijatović, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM), to deliver the annual Harriman Lecture. The RFoM is the world’s only intergovernmental media watchdog, mandated to ensure OSCE states’ compliance with the organization’s freedom of expression principles. Mijatović, who was elected to the post in 2010, has served two terms in the position. During her lecture she discussed the major issues affecting free media in the OSCE region, including journalists’ safety, Internet freedom, and propaganda as a tool for war and hatred. She also discussed challenges international anti-terrorist legislation can pose to freedom of expression and what can be done to preserve civil liberties in the face of terrorist threats. Mijatović, who was supposed to step down from her position on March 10, will stay in the post for an additional year due to the OSCE’s inability to agree on a replacement. [Watch her address on video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m45--tbUlqI) Look out for an interview with her in the summer issue of *Harriman Magazine*. 

Clockwise from top: Harriman Director Alexander Cooley with Dunja Mijatović before the lecture; Mijatović at the lectern; Professor Tom Kent asks a question after the lecture.
On February 11, 2016, the Harriman Institute honored Rachel Denber, deputy director of the Europe and Central Asia Division at Human Rights Watch (HRW), as 2016 Alumna of the Year. Denber has courageously promoted human rights in the post-Soviet region for nearly 25 years. She started at HRW in 1991 as a researcher on the Soviet Union just months before its collapse and spent the ensuing months travelling around the former Soviet republics on human rights fact-finding missions, and working to open the inaugural Helsinki Watch office in Moscow. She was soon promoted to Moscow office director, staying in Moscow until 1997, when she returned to New York to become deputy director of the Europe and Eurasia Division.

Over the years Denber has authored reports and articles on a wide range of human rights abuses throughout the region. Currently she is working on important issues such as inadequate palliative care in Russia and Armenia, obstacles to people with disabilities and mistreatment of children with disabilities in Russia, migrant worker mistreatment in Russia, LGBT rights in Russia, the crackdown on NGOs and human rights in Russia and Azerbaijan, domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan and much more. We celebrated Denber with a reception at the Columbia Club of New York and a panel discussion titled, “The Russian Media and Propaganda Debate Revisited.” The Summer 2016 issue of Harriman Magazine features a profile of Denber.
Anna Frajlich-Zająć retired from teaching in the Columbia Slavic Department after 34 years. It is no exaggeration to say that she has been the mainstay of Polish studies at Columbia. She will be sorely missed.

Friends, colleagues and former students gathered on May 10, 2016, on the 15th floor of the International Affairs Building, to eat, drink, and enjoy a reading of Frajlich’s poetry in Polish with former student Ross Ufberg reading his English translations.

Clockwise from top: Valentina Izmirliova, Chair of the Slavic Department, and Anna Frajlich-Zająć; Frajlich with Urszula Gacek, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, and Mateusz Stąsiek, Deputy Consul General; Frajlich and Ufberg; another view of the poetry reading.
The Harriman Institute hosted the 21st Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (April 14-16, 2016). Featuring the most international lineup of panelists amongst North American-based conventions, more than half of the 400+ scholars delivered papers (and more than half of those who delivered papers were based outside of the United States in nearly 50 different countries). There were over 150 panels, including the screening of 14 new documentaries.


Photograph: Timothy Snyder speaks about “Black Earth” at panel devoted to his new book. ASN Convention Director Dominique Arl and Zeynep Bulutgil, member of the ASN Program Committee, look on.

Pavel Kanygin, a journalist with *Novaya Gazeta* in Russia, was in residence at the Harriman Institute this April as Harriman’s 2016 Paul Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellow.

Kanygin began his professional career at the Moscow daily *Moskovskii Komsomolets* and later joined the Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* as a staff writer. He began reporting on the crisis in Ukraine at the inception of the Maidan events. He has since served as his newspaper’s special envoy in Kiev, Crimea, Odessa and Donbas.

While at the Harriman, Pavel met with a variety of media and nonprofit professionals, attended several classes at Columbia’s Graduate School of Journalism, observed the presidential primary campaign process in New York City, and was a featured speaker on a joint Harriman Institute-Journalism School panel entitled, “Image Crafting and the Role of the Media in Presidential Campaigns in the U.S. and Russia.”
HARRIMAN SUMMER 2016
UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

GRADUATE SUMMER LANGUAGE
Arie Veenendaal (GSAS, History)
John Webley (GSAS, Art History and Archaeology)

Joss Meakins (GSAS, MARS-REERS)
Aliya Sagandykova (SIPA)
Lucia Savchick (SIPA)

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER LANGUAGE
Samuel Coffin (CC ’18)
Isabelle Rabin (Barnard ’17)
Nihal Shetty (CC ’18)

Thalia Ertman (GSAS, MA World History)
Lotte Francoise Maria Houwink ten Cate (GSAS, History)
Milica Illic (GSAS, Slavic)
Joselynn Jurich (GSAS, Communications)
Marina Kaganova (GSAS, Anthropology)
Ilya Karnaukov (SIPA)
Monique Kil (GSAS, History)
Ani Kodzhasheva (GSAS, History)
Egor Lazarev (GSAS, Political Science)
Erik Lin-Greenberg (GSAS, Political Science)

PEPSICO TRAVEL AND RESEARCH

Beatrice Santa-Wood (SIPA)

CIVIL SOCIETY FELLOWSHIP

Yi Da Jeremy Ng (CC Economics)
Maria Snegovaya (GSAS, Political Science)

PADMA DESAI FELLOWS

I would like to congratulate Liza Knapp (Associate Professor of Slavic Languages) who was honored with the 55th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, for her “unparalleled dedication to both the Department of Slavic Languages and the Core Curriculum.” The honorees are selected annually by a committee of Columbia College students to recognize faculty members for their contributions to academia and publishing. The honor is much deserved!

In addition, I’m happy to report that Alan Timmerlake, who has directed the East Central European Center since 2012, will stay in the post for two more years. And former Harriman director Timothy Frye will be taking over as chair of the Department of Political Science this fall.

On a bittersweet note, Anna Frajlich-Zajac (Senior Lecturer in Polish) will retire this spring after teaching Polish language and literature at Columbia for thirty-four years. Anna has been a vital force in shaping Columbia’s Polish program and we will miss her passionate teaching and lively spirit around campus.

As summer nears, I’d like to congratulate all of our wonderful graduates. We will miss you—you are now part of the Harriman family and we look forward to staying in touch and following with great pride your future accomplishments!

My very best,
Alexander Cooley
Karen Barkey’s (Sociology) recent publications include “The Ottoman Empire (1299-1923): The Bureaucratization of Patrimonial Authority.” In *Empire and Bureaucracy*, edited by Peter Crooks and Timothy Parsons (Cambridge University Press. 2016) and “The Ottoman Millet System: Non-Territorial Autonomy and Its Contemporary Legacy,” co-authored with George Gavrilis *Ethnopolitics* 15, 1 (2016).


Tanya Domi (International Affairs) was interviewed by Global Journalist about why the EU should forge ahead with Bosnia’s application to join the union. Domi argues that a serious effort on the part of Brussels could help reform Bosnia’s politics. Global Journalist is a NPR-produced program at University of Missouri’s NPR affiliate (Apr. 22, 2016). Other media appearances include interviews for *International Business Times* also on Bosnia and the European Union (Feb. 16, 2016) and Voice of America regarding their conference marking the 20th anniversary of genocide in Srebrenica (May 3, 2016).

Anna Frajlich (Slavic) has been invited to participate in Vilnius Crossroads, a poetry forum, to be held at the Tomas Venclova House Museum in Vilnius. The forum will feature several poets from Eastern Europe and the diaspora. In October the University of Rzeszów and Jagiellonian University will convene a conference, dedicated to Frajlich’s writings.

Gulnar Kendirbai (History) gave a paper on “Redefining Sovereignty Under the Tsar: The Kazakh Khanship and Russia in the Eighteenth Century” at the Annual Conference of the Northeast Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies held at NYU’s Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia (Apr. 2, 2016); and chaired the panel “Normative Orders and Kazakhstani Practices. Outcomes of Contestation in a Post-Soviet Field” at the 2016 ASN Conference.

Christopher Harwood (Slavic) was elected to serve a two-year term (2016-17) as president of the New York chapter of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU--Společnost pro vědy a umění).

Tom Kent (Journalism) has been appointed President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), effective June 27, 2016. This past academic year Kent delivered presentations or moderated panels on journalism ethics and Russian journalism at Moscow State University; South By Southwest; the Harriman Institute’s alumni reception and its Moscow correspondents’ reunion; the Newseum in Washington; the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia; and the Online News Association in Los Angeles. Kent also published a chapter titled “Qui est journaliste”—Who’s a journalist?—in a Quebec journalism textbook. He gave interviews to *Etica Segura*, a Gabriel Garcia Marquez Foundation publication; United Nations Tele-
vision; *Le Monde*; and the Austrian media journal *MedienManager*.

**Liza Knapp** (Slavic) was honored on May 4, 2016, with the 55th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, for her unparalleled dedication to both the Department of Slavic Languages and the Core Curriculum.

**Valerii Kuchynskyi** (SIPA) took part as panelist in a two-day International Conference: “Contested Grounds: The Legacy of the Second World War for Eastern Europe” (Oct. 2015, Edmonton, Canada). That same month he participated and made presentations at the Consulate General of Austria in New York, together with Austrian politicians and New-York based political analysts at the panel discussion “Russia-Ukraine: Which Way Forward?” He organized and moderated a meeting at the Harriman Institute with governor of the Kharkiv Region of Ukraine Ihor Raynin and his delegation (Feb. 29, 2016). Under the aegis of the Harriman Institute’s Ambassador’s Forum, Kuchynskyi organized and moderated a presentation by Dr. Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations on Security and Development (Mar. 1, 2016) and a presentation “Ukraine’s Priorities at the UN Security Council” by the newly-appointed Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN Volodymyr Yelchenko (Mar. 23, 2016). Last November he briefed an international group of University Consortium Fellowship holders on the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict and took them to Ukraine’s Mission to the UN to meet with the ambassador and his staff. In Sept. 2015, Kuchynskyi was involved in organizing a visit to Columbia University by President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko.

**Robert Legvold**’s (Political Science, Emeritus) new book, *Return to Cold War*, was published earlier this year by Polity.

Cornell University Press has published *The Soul of Armies: Counterinsurgency Doctrine and Military Culture in the US and UK* by **Austin Long** (International Affairs).

**Kimberly Marten** (Political Science) presided at a Council on Foreign Relations event, “Expression, Creativity, and Culture in Putin’s Russia,” in January 2016, and was an invited participant in a “Russia Experts Meeting” at the Carnegie Corporation of New York in March. She presented a paper on “The ‘KGB State’ and Russian Foreign Policy” and participated in three additional roundtables at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association in Atlanta in March, and co-authored along with Rajan Menon an article, “Putin’s Mission Accomplished? Why Russia Is Taking Troops out of Syria,” for ForeignAffairs.com on March 15. She served once more as the Chair of the Selection Committee for International Affairs Fellows at the Council on Foreign Relations, and was named to the editorial board of *Foreign Policy Analysis*.


**Deborah Martinsen** (Slavic) was awarded the Donald Barton Johnson Prize for best essay published in *Nabokov Studies*. Martinsen received the prize for her essay “*Lolita* as a Petersburg Text.” She is co-editor, with Olga Maiorova (University of Michigan), of *Dostoevsky in Context*, published by Cambridge University Press (2016).

**Ronald Meyer** contributed the chapter “Dostoevsky’s ‘White Nights’: The Dreamer Goes Abroad” to the volume *Border Crossing: Russian Literature into Film*, edited by A. Burry and F. White (University of Edinburgh Press, 2016). He presented a paper on translators and translation in the writings of Mikhail Shishkin during the plenary session of the conference organized by Jagiellonian University (Kraków) in the writer’s honor.

**Jenik Radon** (International & Public Affairs) was awarded a national decoration by Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves on the eve of the 98th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia in gratitude for his dedication to the country.


**Stephen Sestanovich** (International Affairs) compared Obama’s speech in Havana with Reagan’s in Moscow; discussed nuclear weapons in East Asia; and wrote about Putin’s annual televised call-in, in the *Wall Street Journal*.

**Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier** chaired a panel on art at the annual ASEEES convention in Nov. 2015 and chaired a panel at the “100 Years of Suprematism” conference held at Columbia in Dec. 2015. She reviewed a book on Levitan and Antokolsky for *Russian Review*.
Columbia University Press has published Robert L. Belknap’s book, PLOTS, which he first delivered as the Leonard Hastings Schoff Lectures.

Belknap’s theory of plot illustrates the active and passive role literature plays in creating its own dynamic reading experience. Literary narrative enchants us through its development of plot, but plot tells its own story about the making of narrative, revealing through its structures, preoccupations, and strategies of representation critical details about how and when a work came into being.

Through a rich reading of Shakespeare’s King Lear and Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment, Belknap explores the spatial, chronological, and causal aspects of plot, its brilliant manipulation of reader frustration and involvement, and its critical cohesion of characters. He considers Shakespeare’s transformation of dramatic plot through parallelism, conflict, resolution, and recognition. He then follows with Dostoevsky’s development of the rhetorical and moral devices of nineteenth-century Russian fiction, along with its epistolary and detective genres, to embed the reader in the murder Raskolnikov commits. Dostoevsky’s reinvention of the psychological plot was profound, and Belknap effectively challenges the idea that the author abused causality to achieve his ideological conclusion. In a final chapter, Belknap argues that plots teach us novelistic rather than poetic justice. Operating according to their own logic, they provide us with a compelling way to see and order our world.

From the review by Michael Wood (London Review of Books, May 5, 2016):

“...the formulation [of fabula and siuzhet] allows [Belknap] to read Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment as both lurid and subtle at the same tie, a feat not too many critics have achieved. Raskolnikov is not living a double life; he is caught up in two incompatible plots, the one he has devised for himself, and the one Dostoevsky has devised for the reader. Or more technically: ‘the siuzhet programs the reader’s experience to track the hero’s experience in the fabula.’ ...This is a magnum opus with no pretensions to greatness or even to the status of a ponderous work; but one that does represent imaginative reading and thinking done over a considerable period of time.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert L. Belknap (1929–2014) was professor of Slavic languages, former dean of Columbia University, and director of the Russian Institute. He authored two major studies of Dostoevsky’s masterpiece, The Brothers Karamazov: The Structure of The Brothers Karamazov and The Genesis of The Brothers Karamazov, and was a coauthor of Tradition and Innovation: General Education and the Reintegration of the University.
Frank Miller (1940-2016)

Frank J. Miller, Professor of Russian Language at Columbia University, died on January 24, 2016 after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson’s disease. Professor Miller devoted his entire life to studying, teaching, and writing about the Russian language. He was a vital member of the Columbia Slavic Department for thirty years, down to his very last day, teaching language—and language teaching—at every level, directing the Russian language program for decades, and chairing the department from 1994 to 1998. He was a long-term colleague of the Russian School at Middlebury, served as president of AATSEEL (1999-2000), and was the recipient of the Hettleman Award for Distinguished Teaching and Service at Columbia University in 1988 and the AATSEEL Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1996.

A prolific author, Frank was endlessly fascinated by the beauty and subtleties of the Russian language. His *Handbook of Russian Prepositions* and *Handbook of Russian Verbs* became classics. But his magnum opus will remain the three volumes of Russian language textbooks, *Beginner’s Russian*, *В Путю: Russian Grammar in Context*, and *Russian: From Intermediate to Advanced*, all written in collaboration with Professors Olga Kagan and Anna Kudyma.

However distinguished, Frank’s scholarship always came second to his teaching. He lived for the classroom, for interaction with students, and they in return adored and respected him. His enthusiasm was contagious, as were his laughter and the jokes he liked to tell. He trained and inspired several generations of Russian scholars, leaving his most enduring imprint on the field through them.

The Harriman Institute and the Department of Slavic Languages celebrated Frank’s life and work with a memorial service on April 29th.

SYMPOSIUM IN MEMORY OF CATHARINE NEPOMNYASHCHY: SOVIET, POST-SOVIET, AND EMIGRÉ CULTURE

On April 8, 2016, the combined forces of the Harriman institute and Columbia’s Department of Slavic Languages celebrated Catharine Nepomnyashchy’s contribution to the study of Soviet, post-Soviet, and émigré culture with a daylong symposium in her memory. Presenting were her fellow alums from Brown and Columbia, her colleagues throughout the field, and her students from over the years, all of whom became her friends and interlocutors for life. This event was mounted to continue the conversation. Program and video of the event has been posted to the Harriman website: http://harriman.columbia.edu/event/symposium-memory-cathy-nepomnyashchy-soviet-post-soviet-and-emigr%C3%A9-culture
Russian photographer Leonid Lazarev was born in 1937 in Moscow. In 1957 he received the Second Prize of the International Photo Competition during the 6th World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of Cinematography (VGIK). Lazarev is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including Soviet Woman Magazine (1960), USSR Photo Exhibition (1961, 1962), and the International Competition by New Time magazine in 1974. He participated in many exhibitions, including solo shows at the PhotoSoyuz Gallery in Moscow (2008), the Angel Orensanz Foundation in New York (2010); the Russian Cultural Center (Washington D.C.). From 1961 to 1984 he worked for the International Youth and Students Festival in the USSR as special events photographer for the USSR Ministry of Culture. Since 1985 he has worked as a syndicated photographer with freelance assignments for the Moscow City Department of Cultural Affairs. Photographs by Lazarev are featured in many publications and books, including Leonid Lazarev: Selected Photographs (2008) and Leonid Lazarev: Moscow—Waiting for the Future (2009). Lazarev lives and works in Moscow. The Lazarev exhibit at the Harriman was presented by the Kolodziei Art Foundation. Above: Nikita Khrushchev and Yuri Gagarin, Vnukovo, Moscow, April 14, 1961.
NOSTALGIA BY PAVEL ROMANIKO

Untitled (Smolny), 2014, by Pavel Romaniko, from his Nostalgia series, on exhibit at the Harriman Institute (January 29-March 6, 2016). Romaniko’s photograph is based on Isaak Brodsky’s famous painting “Lenin at Smolny.” You can read about Romaniko and his Nostalgia series in the summer issue of Harriman Magazine.