With the 2014 Winter Olympics fast approaching, street protests in Ukraine heating up, and Europe marking the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, there is much brewing at the Harriman Institute. Thanks to Kim Marten for organizing a series called, “The Sochi Olympics and Sport in Russia,” which covered topics ranging from transnational LGBT activism (co-organized with Alex Cooley), to contemporary Russian politics and the role of athletes in the Olympics—you can watch some of these events on video here: http://harriman.columbia.edu/events/videos and read more specifically about the LGBT panel in on page 3 of this newsletter.

I am also grateful to Alex Cooley and Alan Timberlake for putting together such a great program for social science and the humanities in the fall. Alex moderated a provocative discussion with the CEO of Hermitage Capital, William Browder, and the Russian-French journalist Elena Servattaz about Europe and the Magnitsky Law (which you can read about on page 3). We also hosted the British journalist and writer Thomas De Waal, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, for a talk about his updated book, Black Garden, which continues to be the definitive history of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of World War I, Alan Timberlake organized an interdisciplinary conference about its origins and impact (among other exciting events); I am happy to report that it was stimulating and well attended. You can watch the panels here: http://harriman.columbia.edu/event/origins-and-impact-world-war-i-interdisciplinary-conference-0. And, of course, we have some great programming coming up this spring, which you can read about it within the pages of this newsletter.

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OLESYA GERASIMENKO NAMED 2014 PAUL KLEBNIKOV FELLOW

We are excited to announce the selection of Olesya Gerasimenko, Special Correspondent at Kommersant, as the 2014 Paul Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellow. Ms. Gerasimenko was chosen from a truly exceptional pool of nominees, and we are grateful for your dedication in helping us find and support Russia’s young journalists and civil society professionals.

Ms. Gerasimenko has been with Kommersant for two years, and last year became a special correspondent. A graduate of Moscow State University’s Faculty of Philology, Ms. Gerasimenko previously wrote for Gazeta.ru, covering emergencies, criminal and judicial chronicles. Her pieces include reports on the 2009 Nevsky Express bombing and 2010 Moscow Metro bombings. Her current beats at Kommersant are nationalism, extremism, regionalism, and political opposition. Last year she published her book Ununited Russia, which explores social and economic separatism through research on six main regions, eighteen cities, and dozens of characters. You can follow Ms. Gerasimenko on Kommersant.ru.

During her time in New York, Ms. Gerasimenko plans to focus on a number of projects, including a comparison between Russian and U.S. immigration problems, specifically between the cities of New York and Moscow; the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes and efforts to prevent hate crime; and a comparison of the arrests and trials of the May 6th protesters with those of Occupy protesters.
We are proud to have launched the Civil Society Graduate Fellowship fund in December 2013, which we hope to have fully funded by this coming spring. Graduate students will receive, on a competitive basis, travel and modest living expense stipends, allowing them to take unpaid, practical, summer internships that contribute to the development of civil society in Russia, Eurasia, and/or East-Central Europe. Graduate students from across the university are eligible to apply, and we think this will be especially attractive to our own Harriman Masters degree students, as well as SIPA, Law, and Business students. The fund will support students who are interested in working for non-governmental organizations, UN offices, and other appropriate venues, trying out new career paths and making valuable network connections for the future.

This fund provides a new, practical element to the existing support we offer graduate students through academic year fellowships, PepsiCo Junior Research Grants, and language study fellowships. It also adds to the work we are already doing on behalf of civil society in the region through the Paul Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellowship. That said I would like to extend a big welcome to Olesya Gerasimenko, our 2014 PKF Russian Civil Society Fellow, who will be in residence at the Harriman Institute in February 2014. Gerasimenko has been with Kommersant for two years, and last year became a special correspondent. Her current beats are nationalism, extremism, regionalism, and political opposition. This year she published a book, Ununited Russia, which explores social and economic separatism through research on six main regions, eighteen cities, and dozens of characters.

I’d like to take a moment to remember Peter Juviler, our friend and colleague who passed away this fall. Peter made invaluable contributions to the field of human rights and we miss him dearly. In September we celebrated his life in a moving ceremony at the James Memorial Chapel at Union Theological Seminary. We will be featuring a profile of Peter in the Summer 2014 issue of Harriman Magazine.
Transnational LGBT Activism and the Sochi Olympics: Opportunity or Backlash?

On June 30, 2013, Russia’s President Vladimir Putin enacted a law banning the “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations to minors” in Russia. The language of the law is vague—there is no definition of what constitutes “propaganda”—and it is uncertain how the government plans to implement it, as few people have been prosecuted thus far. But the effects of the legislation have been tremendous; it has unleashed a wave of homophobic sentiment, often violent, across the country. In protest, many international activists have urged the international community to boycott the Sochi Winter Olympics. But no official boycott has taken place and the Olympics will go on as planned. Many fear that once the games end, and Russia recedes from the international spotlight, the situation for the LGBT community will worsen.

On November 6, 2013, four distinguished panelists gathered at the Harriman Institute to discuss these issues as part of the “Sochi Olympics and Sport in Russia” lecture series. Tanya Domi, LGBT Human Rights Activist and Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs at the Harriman Institute, has been reporting on the LGBT “propaganda” laws adopted by regional governments across Russia, for The New Civil Rights Movement, since 2011. She kicked off the discussion with an overview of the history leading up to the federal law, stating that, “the roots [of the law] emanate from various intersections within Russian society.”

The journalist, author, and LGBT activist Masha Gessen, who left Russia last fall after the head of the Committee on the Family in the Russian Duma promised to enact a law that will remove children from same-sex families (Gessen has three children), argued against the popular narrative that the law was a “diversionary tactic” used by the government to distract people from Russia’s economic and social problems. In her view, the law is a “reflection of Putin’s views and Russia’s search for a place in the world.”

Julia Ioffe, journalist and senior editor at The New Republic, contended that, “unlike most laws, which start from the top down,” the anti-LGBT propaganda law “started from the bottom up.” She explained that homophobia is “linguistically and psychologically embedded in the culture”—in Russian LGBT people are referred to as “people of nontraditional sexual orientation,” while heterosexual people are called “naturals”; there is a widespread societal perception that LGBT people are “an unnatural deviation from the norm.” The government, she says, is playing on these sentiments.

Jane Buchanan, Associate Director, Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch (HRW), is leading HRW’s research and advocacy on human rights abuses linked to the Sochi Olympics. She explained that instead of supporting a boycott on the Olympics, HRW advocates for engagement of the media and “people who can potentially influence the situation.” HRW has met with, written letters to, and addressed via media the International Olympic Committee, National Olympic Committees from key countries, Olympic corporate sponsors, the Russian government, and others, informing them of the organization’s findings and urging them to adopt behaviors that would “remedy the abuses.”

A video of the full panel is available on our website: http://harriman.columbia.edu/event/transnational-lgbt-activism-and-sochi-olympics-opportunity-or-backlash

—MashaUdensiva-Brenner

Why Europe Needs a Magnitsky Law: Should the E.U. Follow the U.S.?

November 2013 marked the fourth anniversary of the death of the lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, killed in pre-trial detention, seven days before the end of the one-year legal term during which he could be held without trial, after uncovering and exposing the theft of $230 million dollars of taxes—the largest tax fraud in Russian history. On November 20th, William Browder, CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, current head of the global campaign for justice for Sergei Magnitsky and his former employer, came to the Harriman Institute for a discussion, moderated by Professor Alexander Cooley, with the Russian-French Journalist Elena Servetaz, staff correspondent and anchor at Radio France Internationale (RFI), the Paris-based correspondent for the independent radio station Echo of Moscow, about her edited volume: Why Europe Needs a Magnitsky Law: Should the EU follow the US?

Browder was working in Russia when he noticed corrupt practices in the companies he was investing in. He became the first shareholder activist in Russia and was expelled from the country in November 2005. In 2007, his offices were invaded and his corporate documents seized. He hired Magnitsky to represent him, and the lawyer uncovered the abovementioned tax fraud, for which he was continued on page 6
the poet, editor, critic, and director of the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York, Doina Uricariu. Participants will include Alex Zucker (translator of Topol’s City Sister Silver (Sestra), Petra Hůlová’s All This Belongs to Me (Paměť moji babičce), and Sean Cotter (translator of novels of Cărtărescu and other Romanian writers, author of the analytic study Literary Translation and the Idea of a Minor Romania).

February 12, 6:00-7:30, Kraft Center, Rennert Hall, 606 W 115 St. Sergei Guriev, “Economics and Politics of Russia’s Stagnation 2.0.”

The Harriman Institute is excited to bring back the tradition of the Harriman Lecture and host Sergei Guriev, who has been a leading public intellectual in Russia. In addition to advising governments and businesses, Guriev played a key role in turning the New Economic School in Russia into a world-class academic institution. He was pressured to leave Russia in the wake of a controversial investigation into his role in preparing a report evaluating the second trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky at the request of then President Medvedev.

Sergei Guriev holds the position of Visiting Professor in the Department of Economics at Sciences Po and was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. His research interests include contract theory, corporate governance, labor mobility, political economics, economics of development and transition.

February 27-28. “Russia in East Asia: Imagination, Exchange, Travel, Translation.” Conference co-sponsored with the University Seminar on Slavic History and Culture and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. Does Russia belong to East Asia? What is Russia’s position within the geopolitical and cultural imaginary called “the Far East”? The panelists will explore these questions by investigating cross-border perceptions, connections, and cultural exchanges between Russia and its neighbors in East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan.

March 5, 5:00-7:00 pm. HI will host Hugh Williamson, Director of the Europe and Central Asia Division at Human Rights Watch, and Myles Smith, an Eurasian affairs analyst and Senior Program Officer at IREX, for a roundtable discussion, moderated by Professor Alexander Cooley, titled, “Purchasing Credibility? Image-Crafting and PR Strategies in Eurasia.” The participants will explore how Eurasian states are increasingly preoccupied with image-making and public relations as acts of diplomacy and substitutes for implementing actual political reforms.


April 1. “Beijing’s March Westward: Eurasian Energy Pipelines and China,” the 8th annual conference on International Eurasian and Central Asian Energy. The conference will focus on China as the dynamic economic and political driver of Eurasian energy development. This is part of the Harriman Institute’s colloquia series titled “Eurasian Pipelines – Road to Peace, Development and Interdependencies.” Co-hosted by Professors Jenik Radon and Alexander Cooley.

April 6, 4:00-5:30. Rawi Abdelal, “Russia, Europe, and the Gas Revolution: Firms and Geopolitics in the Age of Shale.” Rawi Abdelal is the Herbert F. Johnson Professor of International Management at Harvard Business School and the Chair of the MBA Required Curriculum. His primary expertise is international political economy, and his research focuses on the politics of globalization and the political economy of Eurasia. “The European-Russian energy relationship has been deeply affected by the unconventional gas revolution in the United States. As European and Russian energy firms respond, those same firms are remaking patterns of geopolitics.”

April 24-26. 19th Annual ASN World Convention. Registration is required. For more information: http://www.nationalities.org/convention/convention.asp
America’s East Central European Immigrants: Migration & Identity  
NEH Summer Institute, June 8-29, 2014  
Edward Kasinec & Robert Davis, Co-Directors

This NEH Summer Institute looks at twentieth-century Baltic, Western Slavic, South Slavic, Hungarian, as well as Jewish immigration to the United States from East Central Europe. Twenty-five NEH Summer Scholars will come together on the campus of Columbia University with some fifty master teachers and community representatives to address three core questions: First, what are some of the methodological and conceptual issues we should consider in the study of the East Central European emigrations? Second, how can we define the particular characteristics, motivations, and experiences of these immigrants? Finally, can we create a narrative synthesis of the “East Central European Experience” in America that could be integrated into broader courses on politics and immigration, sociology, and ethnic studies? College teachers, independent scholars, museum curators, librarians and advanced graduate students are encouraged to apply for this competitive program. The application deadline is March 4, 2014, and successful applicants are notified March 31. Application information is available at http://nehsummerinst.columbia.edu/ or contact Co-Director Robert Davis (rhd2106@Columbia.edu) 212 854-4701.

The Harriman Institute was privileged to mount an exhibition of works by the noted ballet photographer Nina Alovert, brought to the Institute by New York Plus Plus. Alovert, a native of Leningrad, received her master’s degree in history from Leningrad State University. She began following the Kirov Ballet (now the Mariinsky) with her camera in the early 1950s. Alovert’s photographs were featured in books on ballet published by Iskusstvo Publishing, as well as numerous magazines and newspapers in the USSR. Alovert immigrated to the United States in 1977. She is a freelance photographer and writer for the American and Russian press in New York and other countries. She is also the author of several books on ballet.

“The Dancers, curated by Natasha Sharynova,” is a retrospective of photographs from both the Russian and American periods.

The photo below is a portrait of Vera Arbuzova in the role “Red Giselle,” choreography by Boris Eifman.

East Central European Center to Host NEH Summer Institute

The Harriman News 5
Rad Borislavov is an ACLS New Faculty Fellow (2013-2015) in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Columbia University. He is a 2011 graduate of the Ph.D. program in Russian at the University of Chicago. His interests lie in the areas of avant-garde and modernist culture, Russian Formalism and the history of formalisms in the arts, cinema and visual art, the history of the Cold War, and contemporary Russia. His book manuscript Viktor Shklovskii—Between Art and Life examines the life and work of the Russian Formalist Viktor Shklovskii. Primarily known in the West for introducing the concept of ostranenie (translated as defamiliarization or estrangement) into the critical vocabulary of twentieth-century art, Shklovskii was a fascinating thinker whose insights extended well beyond his famous essays on artistic form and perception from the 1920s. Despite his checkered political past and his numerous public and private indiscretions in the eyes of the Soviet political and cultural establishment, Shklovskii survived the challenging 1920s and 1930s, and continued to make important contributions to film, literary theory and literary history, and media studies well into the 1970s. In Spring 2014 Borislavov will be teaching History of Russian/Soviet Cinema and The Cultural Cold War.

Aleksandar Bošković is the new Lecturer in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian in the Slavic Department. He was previously employed at the Institute for Literature and Art in Belgrade, where he published his book The Poetic Humor in Vasko Papuš’s Oeuvre (2008). Aleksandar holds his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, where he defended his dissertation “Photopoetry and the Bioscopic Book: Russian and Czech Avant-Garde Experiments of the 1920s” in July 2013. His research interests are Central and East European avant-garde literature and visual culture, Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav literature and cinema, literary theory, and BCS language pedagogy. Recent scholarly activities include participation in the Spring School “Digital Mnemonics in Slavonic Studies” in Freising, Germany (March 2013), Njegoš Endowment lecture “I Am Not Ashamed of My Communist Past: Dušan Makavejev’s W.R.: Mysteries of the Organism” at the Harriman Institute (October 2013), and participation in the ASEEES National Conference in Boston (November 2013), where he delivered his paper “Avant-Garde Poetry’s Glyphs: Typography, Photography, and Choreography in Nezval’s and Teige’s Alphabet (1926).” Recent publications include “Yugonostalgia and Yugoslav Cultural Memory: Lexicon of Yu Mythology” in Slavic Review (Spring 2013).

Why Europe Needs a Magnitsky Law, continued from page 3

imprisoned, tortured, and eventually deprived the medical care necessary to keep him alive. “Sergei Magnitsky died because he worked for me,” said Browder, calling it “the best documented human rights abuse case in history.” Magnitsky’s killers went unpunished and some of them were even promoted. “The [Magnitsky] case elucidates that the Russian government is an organized crime group,” said Browder.

Russian leaders prefer to keep their money abroad, and in his quest for justice, Browder lobbied for the Magnitsky Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in 2012, and saw visa bans, asset freezes and the public naming of the Russian officials involved; it also includes provisions to ban entry to the U.S. of any other gross violators of human rights. The law, Browder says, would be much more damaging to Russia if passed in Europe, where the majority of Russian money is kept, and he and Servettaz have been lobbying for this to happen. However, in retaliation to the U.S. law, President Putin banned the U.S. adoption of Russian children. Browder and Servettaz see this as a warning message to Europe, whose leaders have, thus far, refused their efforts, fearing that the retaliation toward the E.U. would be even worse.

—Masha Udensiva-Brenner
Tarik Amar (History) conducted research in Kyiv on Ukrainian nationalism and youth, supported by a Tymkiv grant; participated in a media research project in Lviv, supported by a Harriman PepsiCo travel grant; and taught a course in the summer school of the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe in Lviv (the summer school is supported by the Rothschild Foundation Europe [http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/summerschools/]). Amar co-organized a panel on Euromaidan for the Harriman, and was also interviewed for Madison, WI Public Radio [http://harriman.columbia.edu/news/prof-tarik-amar-and-ambassador-valery-kuchinsky-wisconsin-public-radio].

Vangelis Calotychos's (Hellenic Studies) monograph The Balkan Prospect: Identity, Culture, and Politics in Greece After 1989 (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013) was awarded the Edmund Keeley Prize, a biennial book prize awarded to an academic book in all disciplines dealing with a Hellenic theme and published originally in English. The book benefited from a Harriman Institute Faculty Publication Grant.


Tanya Chebotarev (Bakhmeteff Archive) co-authored, with Robert Scott, an article on Bakhmeteff East European Holdings for the Guide to the East European Collections in the Tri-state area.

Padma Desai’s (Economics) memoirs, Breaking Out: An Indian Woman’s American Journey, originally published in 2012 by Penguin/Viking (India), were brought out with great acclaim by MIT Press in late October 2013. Desai was elected a member of PEN American Center, which has 600 academics and writers as members. Her Magical England: An Indian Student’s Cambridge letters: 1925-1927 (a collection of letters written by her father from Cambridge) will be published toward the end of the year by Penguin India. She is currently working on the book manuscript “Financial Crisis Wrap-up: From Asia to America via Europe.” This will be her third book on the financial crisis.


Media appearances: WPIX TV, NYC on the Russian Stoli Dump in Reaction to Anti-Propaganda Laws Adopted by the Russian government: http://video.pix11.com/NYC-bars-are-dropping-Russian-booze-to-protest-Putins-antigay-policies-24987774#.UrB9zt1BlA


Anna Frajlich (Slavic Langs.) 1993 interview with Tadeusz Konwicki, entitled “Co czytają inni,” was reprinted in the volume Nasze histerie, nasze nadzieje. Spotkania z Tadeuszem Konwickim (Conversations with Tadeusz Konwicki (Warsaw, 2013). Her essay, “The Ghost of Shakespeare in the Poetry of Szymorska,” appeared in the book Szekspioriania, księga dedykowana pamięci Andrzeja Zawrońskiego, edited by Anna Cetry, (University of Warsaw Press, 2013); and the essay “Daty Dedykacji” was published in the volume Obecność, Wspomnienia o Czesławie Miłoszu, edited by Anna Romanik (Warsaw, 2013). Publications of Frajlich’s poems include translations, English by graduate student Ross Ulfberg, in Modern Poetry in Translation (2013); and original verse in Akcent (Lublin, Poland), and Migotania.” She delivered the lecture “Adam Mickiewicz — A Romantic Portrait of a Poet” in Polish at PUL (Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy) Polish People’s University in Philadelphia. On November 15 the Harriman Undergrad Initiative sponsored a reading and discussion with Anna Frajlich and her translator Ross Ulfberg, moderated by Sophie Skupien. A dozen reviews of her new book of poetry have appeared in major Polish literary magazines, as well as World Literature Today.

Timothy Frye (Political Science) and Ora John Reuter, a former HI postdoc, and David Szakonyi a current Ph.D. candidate in Political Science won a National Science Foundation Grant of $327,000 for a project called “Voter Mobilization and Electoral Subversion in the Workplace.” Fry gave a talk in December at the European University in St. Petersburg on “Cooperation with the State: Evidence from Survey Experiments about the Police in Russia and Georgia.”


Elise Giuliano (Political Science) wrote and presented a policy memo entitled “Assigning Blame After Natural Disasters in Russia” for the PONARS Policy Conference in at George Washington University in Washington DC (September 2013). The memo discusses Giuliano’s new research about how the population and political leaders in Russia reacted to recent episodes of death and destruction, including the 2010 wildfires and the 2012 flood in Krymsk. PONARS memos are now translated into Russian and appear on slon.ru and Echo Moskvy.

Edward Kasinec (Harriman) contributed a chapter to Selling Russia’s Treasures, ed. N. V. Illjine and N. Semyonova (Abbeville Press, 2013), and is co-editor of Rublev to Faberge: The Journey of Russian Art and Culture to America (Bob Jones University Museum, 2013). In Nov. 2013 he delivered a talk at the Harriman Institute on “Interwar Sub-Carpathian Rus’: Newly Discovered Visual Sources.”

Thomas Kent (Journalism), the standards editor of The Associated Press, gave an address on U.N. attempts to control hate speech in the news media at the Thomson Foundation's Bali Media Forum in Indonesia in November. Kent is leading the Online News Association's ethics initiative; during the summer and fall he spoke on ethics issues at the ONA conference in Atlanta; at the general assembly of the Organization of Asian News Agencies in Moscow; at the University of Missouri School of Journalism; and the Global Editors Network/ethical Journalism Network conference in Paris. Recent publications: “Who’s a Journalist? Closing in on a Definition” and “Whole New Kind of Journalism: A Dissenting View,” both in The Huffington Post.


and spoke at the Institute’s “Ukraine’s Euromaidan: A Discussion” (Dec. 2013). Kuchynskyi was interviewed on the latest developments in Ukraine by Wisconsin Public Radio, WORT 89.9 FM’s A Public Affair, (Dec. 13, 2013). He was the main speaker at the Eastern Partnership Roundtable at the Kosciuszko Foundation (Dec. 2013). Kuchynskyi delivered a talk to the Ukrainian Students Society of Columbia University (Oct. 2013) and made a presentation on “Today’s Challenges of the United Nations” at an event, organized by the undergraduate magazine, The Birch (Nov. 2013). His course “Ukraine’s Foreign Policy” was ranked one of the “Top Five” at SIPA during Fall 2012 semester.

Kimberly Marten (Political Science) was named the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, as well as the Deputy Director for Development at Harriman. Her recent publications include: “Warlords and Governance,” in The Transnational Governance of Violence and Crime: Non-State Actors in Security, ed. Anja P. Jakobi and Klaus Dieter Wolf (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013); “A New Explanation for Russian Foreign Policy: The Power of Informal Patronage Networks,” Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS Eurasia) Policy Memo 274. Washington, DC: George Washington University Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (Sept. 2013), translated into Russian on the Slavic Langs., Barnard) delivered the paper, “The Moscow State University Pinup Girls: The Calendar as Political Statement,” on the “Gendered Protest in Putin’s Russia” panel at the AATSEEL National Convention, Chicago (Jan. 2014); in November she presented “A New Direction in Nabokovian Intertextuality” on the “New Directions in Nabokov Studies” panel and participated in the roundtable, “The ABCs of Cultural Diplomacy: Historical Traditions and Challenges of Our Time,” at “The Russian Diaspora and Cultural Diplomacy Conference,” Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, NYU (Nov. 2103); and gave the invited lecture, “Calendar Girls, Punk Rock, and a Compromising Kiss: Gender and Creative Dissidence as a Post-Soviet Legacy,” sponsored by the Pembroke Center and the Goldberger Lectureship, and spoke at the “Socialism and Post-Socialism” seminar at the Pembroke Center, Brown University. She was selected American Ballet Theatre’s 2013 Scholars Fellow; accepted into membership in the International Association for the Humanities (MAJ); conducted Russian orientation for the National Youth Orchestra of the USA (NYO-USA) for its inaugural tour under the direction of Valery Gergiev, SUNY Purchase. She is chair of the MLA Prize Selection Committee for the Lois Roth Translation Award.

Catherine Nepomnyashchy (Slavic Langs., Barnard) released the book, “This is a valuable survey of America’s international policies since 1945, and anyone would benefit from and enjoy reading it.”

Gary Shteyngart’s (Writing Program, School of the Arts) memoir Little Failure has been published by Random House to great acclaim.

Alla Smyslova (Slavic Langs.) presented at the international conference “Ontolinguistics 2013,” organized by St. Petersburg
Linguistic Society, which invited her to speak on the interlanguage of American-Russian bilingual speakers "Формирование морфологического компонента языковой системы билингвов". The paper will be published later this year.

David Stark (Sociology) discussed his new book about disappearing farm places on the Great Plains, *This Place, These People* on the public radio program *Marketplace*. He also received an *honorary doctorate* from France’s École Normale Supérieure de Cachan on November 22.

The second edition of Yuri Shevchuk’s (Slavic Langs.) *Beginner’s Ukrainian with Interactive Online Workbook* was published this past summer.

Elizabeth K. Valkenier lectured at the University of Richmond to a class about Ilya Repin and delivered a public lecture on the rise and development of national art in Russia. Her review of Vera Tolz’s *Russia’s Own Orient* appeared last year in *Studies of Ethnicity and Nationalism*.


Krzystof Zanussi, a compelling presence in the discourse of post-Soviet transition for many years, was a guest of the Harriman Institute on February 7. Both in his films and public pronouncements he has consistently addressed the difficult moral dilemmas faced by Poles, Ukrainians, Russians, and all Europeans today. Mr. Zanussi addressed an issue that has galvanized the international community, and the European public in particular, for more than two months now: the Revolution in Ukraine and its Challenges to Europe.

Co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program and the Polish Studies Program with the support of the Harriman Institute and the East Central European Center.

Audio of the event has been posted: https://itunes.apple.com/ca/itunes-u/ukrainian-studies-events/id502970728#

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**FACULTY NEWS, continued from page 9**

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**Maximalist**

*America in the World from Truman to Obama*  
Stephen Sestanovich

**Little Failure**

*Gary Shteyngart*  
A Memoir

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The Harriman Institute at Columbia University is continuing its undergraduate fellowship program, which is open to Barnard College, Columbia College, and General Studies students. This program is designed to provide research support on a competitive basis to juniors and seniors who have a serious interest in the post-Soviet and/or East-Central European regions. It is expected that students will use the fellowship to assist them in researching and writing their senior theses, or to complete an equivalent major research project.

Spring Travel Awards were made to the following students:

PepsiCo Fellowships are awarded annually to support semester and summer travel to and research in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Open to all Columbia faculty and graduate students. The following students were awarded fellowships for spring semester research travel.


The 2014 Columbia University Global Scholars Program Summer Research Workshop “Contemporary Cities of Eurasia: Berlin, Moscow, Ulan Bator, Beijing” offers students the opportunity to participate in a comparative learning, research-oriented program in Berlin, Moscow, Ulan Bator and Beijing.

The 2014 program is centered on the theme of “Socialist and Post-Socialist Cities of Eurasia.” Students will explore the histories, cultures, built environments and lived spaces of the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Mongolia and China through travel and site visits to major cities of the “Eastern Bloc.” Students travel from Berlin to Beijing, including a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railroad from Moscow to Beijing, under the guidance of Columbia faculty members Charles Armstrong and Catharine Nepomnyashchy. Students will investigate how the common problems of urban life in the twentieth century were addressed in the USSR and societies influenced by the Soviet model, and how the collapse of state socialism in the Soviet bloc and its transformation in China have shaped the development of cities there in the twenty-first century. Students will enroll in the spring 2014 Global Seminar “Socialist and Post-Socialist Cities of Eurasia” prior to departure. During the summer seminar, they will prepare a significant research paper, presenting their findings in the last week of the course.

GSP 2014 is a joint collaboration of the Harriman Institute, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Office of Global Programs, and the Columbia Global Center, East Asia.
New York—Where the Energy Manifests Beauty

Alexander Movshovich
22 photographs

Curated by Regina Khidekel. Bold images of New York City—places we probably never visit, and likely would have a hard time finding. Old bridges, railway arches and building towers are mixed with a cunning array of panoramic images of the Manhattan skyline, and a whimsical appearance of the Verrazano Bridge drowned in the fog. The cascade of images reveals to us the interplay between urban texture, light, clouds, water and snow—a glimpse of a city we rarely see.

Alexander Movshovich was born in Moscow in 1955 into a family of medical doctors. Following the family tradition, he graduated from Moscow Medical School in 1978 and soon earned his Ph.D. Since 1991, he has lived in the U.S., pursuing a career as a scientist and physician.

This exhibit is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Russian American Cultural Center and the Harriman Institute.