FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we shiver through another unseasonably cold New York City winter, the Harriman Institute has been keeping us busy as ever. For me, this period is bittersweet. My term as director ends in June, and after immersing myself in the challenging and rewarding work that comes with the title, I can’t help feeling nostalgic for the time that will soon be behind me. As a former M.A. and Ph.D. student at the Harriman Institute, I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to shape the Institute that I care so much about and to work with such wonderful colleagues.

Over the past half dozen years I’ve watched the Harriman Institute grow and evolve. We created a new National Advisory Committee under the leadership of Grace Kennan Warnecke. We reorganized Harriman’s bureaucracy, a painful but critical task. We broadened our programming, particularly in the areas of energy and Central Asian studies, expanded our course offerings, and brought back the tradition of the Harriman Lecture with last year’s address by the prominent Russian economist Sergei Guriev and with former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul scheduled to speak on April 8, 2015.

Our online presence has grown tremendously, with a new and improved website, a dynamic Twitter account, a bustling Facebook page, podcasts of select events, and a YouTube channel featuring some of our most notable lectures and panel discussions.

We’ve also strengthened ties with alumni, embarking on a new Alumni@Harriman initiative, with our first alumni networking event held in New York on March 10, and a new searchable alumni directory in the works. In 2013, we launched Harriman Magazine, a glossy biannual alumni magazine that features timely and insightful profiles, interviews, and essays, and beautiful photographs. We’re also working to keep you abreast of the diverse interests and achievements of our Master’s students, with a new series of student profiles called “Student Spotlights” that you can find under the “Press Room” section of our website. (Two of these “Spotlights” are published on pages 4-5 of this newsletter.)

In addition, we’re happy to report a number of new student funding initiatives. The Civil Society Fellowship came into force last spring, thanks to the tireless efforts of Kimberly Marten, our Deputy Director for Development and Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Political Science at Barnard College. The fellowship provides travel and living expenses for unpaid practical summer internships at any international or non-governmental organization benefiting from

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AMBASSADOR MICHAEL MCFaul TO DELIVER 2015 ANNUAL HARRIMAN LECTURE

Michael McFaul, former U.S. Ambassador to Russia (2012-14) and Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council (2009-2012), is professor of political science, director and senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Affairs (Stanford University) and the Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. He also works as an analyst for NBC News. McFaul has authored several books, including Advancing Democracy Abroad: Why We Should, How We Can; and Russia’s Unfinished Revolution: Political Change from Gorbachev to Putin. The title of his talk is “A New Cold War? Russia’s New Confrontations with the West.”

April 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m. Rennert Hall, Kraft Center, 606 W. 115 Street
The Harriman Institute is profoundly saddened to announce the passing of our friend and colleague Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy, who has been a cherished member of the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, and Barnard College communities since she enrolled as a doctoral student in Columbia’s Slavic Department in 1973. Nepomnyashchy was the first woman to direct the Harriman Institute (2001 – 2009), and was honored as the Institute’s Alumna of the Year in 2012.

During her eight years as Director of the Harriman Institute, Nepomnyashchy broadened the Institute’s scope in the areas of culture, literature, and the arts. She hosted numerous conferences on topics ranging from Russian ballet to contemporary post-Soviet politics and began the tradition of mounting art exhibits on the Institute’s walls—the first exhibition was a collection of Horst Tappe’s photographs titled “Nabokov in Montreux,” organized in collaboration with the Russian American Cultural Center. She also invited Mikhail Gorbatchev to deliver the 2002 Annual Harriman Lecture, played an integral role in the programming surrounding the Czech playwright and former President Václav Havel’s 2006 residency at Columbia, and deepened the Institute’s ties to Central Asia and the Caucasus. In 2008 and 2009, she led faculty trips to Turkmenistan and Georgia.

In addition, Nepomnyashchy was on the Harriman Institute’s Executive Committee and its National Advisory Council, and was affiliated with Barnard’s Comparative Literature Program and Human Rights Program. She served as President of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Language (AATSEEL), as well as member of the Kennan Institute’s Advisory Council and the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. She chaired the Executive Committee of the Slavic Division of the Modern Language Association and served on the editorial boards of Slavic Review, Novyi zhurnal, and La Revue Russe, and co-founded the Columbia Slavic Department’s graduate student-run academic journal Ulbandus Review. In 2011, she received AATSEEL’s Award for Outstanding Service to the Profession. She demonstrated remarkable commitment to the Harriman Institute’s core course “Legacies of Empire and the Soviet Union,” which she had taught from the mid-90s until the fall of 2014.

Nepomnyashchy joined the Barnard College faculty in 1987, and became Chair of the Barnard Slavic Department in 2000 and Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Russian Literature and Culture in 2003. A groundbreaking scholar who wrote the first comprehensive book on the Abram Tertz works of Russian dissident writer Andrei Sinyavsky (Abram Tertz and the Poetics of Crime, 1995) and co-edited with Nicole Svobodny and Ludmilla Trigos the first English-language volume on the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin’s African heritage (Under the Sky of My Africa: Alexander Pushkin and Blackness, 2006), she was known for exploring topics—such as Russian chat rooms that focus on the English writer Jane Austen and President Vladimir Putin’s fashion choices—that fell outside the conventional boundaries of Slavic studies. In 2008, she wrote the introduction for and co-translated, with Slava Yastremski, Abram Tertz’s Strolls with Pushkin (1994); co-edited Mapping the Feminine: Russian Women and Cultural Difference (2008), with Irina Reyfman and Hilde Hoogenboom. With Nadezhda Azhgikhina she co-authored Три Дня в Августе (Three Days in August, 2014), an eyewitness account of the 1991 Moscow coup. She published extensively on Soviet and post-Soviet literature and popular culture, Pushkin, Russian ballet, Russian émigré literature and culture, and the future of regional studies. At the time of her death, she was working on a book titled Nabokov and His Enemies: Terms of Engagement.

Last summer, shortly before her diagnosis, Nepomnyashchy, together with Professor Charles Armstrong, led a group of fourteen students on a month-long journey from Germany to China as part of a Columbia Global Scholars Program Summer Workshop, co-sponsored with the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, exploring the theme of socialist and post-socialist cities.

Nepomnyashchy passed away peacefully in her sleep on the morning of Saturday, March 21, 2015, after a courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her daughter, Olga Nepomnyashchy, her brother, James Theimer, and her mother, Jo-Anne Theimer. Her husband, Viacheslav (Slava) Nepomnyashchy, whom she met during her first trip to the Soviet Union as a Brown University undergraduate in 1970, died in 2011.

A energetic, and innovative scholar and a kind, caring, and adventurous person known for her insatiable intellectual curiosity, her love of languages, and her extraordinary generosity to students, colleagues, friends and family, Nepomnyashchy was an inspiration. Her students emphasize the democratic approach with which she treated people and remember her as an engaging educator and an invaluable mentor who always pushed them to achieve their potential and believed in them even when they did not believe in themselves.

A memorial service will be held in the fall of 2015. Visit http://www.cathynepomnyashchy.com/ for a compilation of Nepomnyashchy’s writings and interviews.
On February 4, 2015, Stephen Kotkin, John P. Birkelund Professor in History and International Affairs at Princeton University, appeared at the Harriman Institute with New Yorker editor David Remnick to discuss the first volume of Kotkin’s new book, Stalin: Paradoxes of Power. Why, wondered Remnick, did Kotkin choose to write a Stalin biography when so many already existed? Kotkin explained that he had “fantasized” about portraying “the regime level view” of Stalinism since publishing Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization (University of California Press, 1995), a book describing “the Stalin phenomenon from the street level.” He was able to get enough new material to turn his dream into reality after the Communist Party, the secret police, and the military started declassifying top secret archives during the late 1990s and 2000s. His goal for the biography was to zoom out and capture not only Stalin’s upbringing and personal life, but “the world into which he was born” and would “eventually shape”—the type of context that could shed greater light on Stalin and his motivations. Kotkin ended up changing his own view of Stalin during the research process, and decided that if his thinking had shifted, “there might be something to communicate to a wider audience.”

Watch the event on YouTube.

On September 25, 2013, a commemorative plaque for Yuri Shevelov was removed from the façade of the late American émigré scholar’s former Kharkiv home and destroyed by order of the Kharkiv city government. On March 1, 2014, Kharkiv poet Serhiy Zhadan was beaten during a pro-Maidan rally at the city’s regional state administration building. Why were these men, who are among the world’s best-known representatives of the city of Kharkiv, the subjects of violence in that city? What danger did the presence of these Ukrainian intellectuals pose to Ukraine’s second largest city and how does this reflect on Kharkiv’s precarious position in today’s clash between Ukraine and Russia?

Often identified as a Russian-speaking city with strong ties to Russia, Kharkiv has, in fact, been crucial to the development of Ukrainian culture. The conference Kharkiv: City of Ukrainian Culture examined three periods where Kharkiv was at the center of Ukrainian culture. In those periods, Romantic (1830s-40s), early Soviet (1920s-30s) and post-Soviet (1991-today), Kharkiv gathered many of the greatest Ukrainian artists and intellectuals and was a hub of vibrant cultural debate and activity; during each of those three eras, the city defined the dynamics and trends in Ukrainian culture.

Kharkiv: City of Ukrainian Culture gathered an international roster of scholars of Kharkiv at Columbia University on March 12-13, 2015, to analyze the city’s past and present contributions to Ukrainian culture and identity, as well as look at the historical, political and sociological conditions of those three periods that spawned these developments. Participants included Mark Andryczyk, Olga Bertelsen, Serhiy Bilenky, Vitaly Chernetsky, Halyna Hryn, Albert Kipa, Taras Koznarsky, Volodymyr Kravchenko, Michael Moser, Yuri Shevchuk, Myroslav Shkandrij, Tetiana Shestopalova, Tanya Zaharchenko, Serhiy Zhadan, and Tatiana Zhurzhenko.
Stephen Szypulski (MARS-REERS ’15)

In September 2014, less than a month after starting his graduate studies at the Harriman Institute, Stephen Szypulski (MARS-REERS ’15) found himself face to face with Polish President Bronisław Komorowski and some of his top cabinet members in a private room at Columbia University’s Low Library. The meet-and-greet took place after Komorowski’s address at the university’s World Leaders Forum, and Szypulski, who was invited because of his interest in Polish studies, was thrilled. “I want to go into public service one day and possibly to work in Warsaw; meeting the head of state was a rare and exciting opportunity.” Now, nearly six months later, Szypulski sees the event as a testament to the Harriman Institute’s greatest strength: “Your education goes beyond the classroom 90 percent of the time, and Komorowski’s visit certainly highlights that.”

Szypulski, who is the first person in his family to speak the Polish language since his grandparents immigrated to the United States as young adults, started exploring his roots after he joined People to People International (PPI) in high school. The organization, founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, seeks to foster “peace through understanding” by promoting transnational people-to-people contact. It was through PPI that, in 2006, Szypulski first traveled to the post-Soviet space; he was a high school sophomore on a two-week trip led by President Eisenhower’s granddaughter Mary. “We went to Russia and it was one of my first experiences with in-depth cultural immersion,” he says. “It really opened my eyes to life outside of the United States.” The trip solidified his interest in the post-Communist region. Since then, Szypulski has made it his mission to learn everything he can about the culture and politics of his ancestral country.

After finishing high school in 2009, he attended Georgetown University, his “dream school,” where he became an active participant in Polish-American life on campus and in the DC area, joining Georgetown’s Polish Club and eventually becoming its co-President; working with the American Polish Forum; and frequenting events at the Polish Embassy. He finally visited Poland for the first time on a two-week Christian-Jewish Interfaith Travel scholarship sponsored by the Polish Foreign Ministry and Georgetown’s Department of Theology during his sophomore year, and then returned the following year to study at the Warsaw School of Economics. “I loved every minute of it,” says Szypulski, who made an effort to go beyond the confines of his abroad program to meet locals and establish ties with Polish professors. In 2012, he returned yet again, this time on a yearlong Fulbright scholarship to Warsaw, where he researched the Catholic Church and its influence on Polish politics.

Szypulski, who received a FLAS scholarship to study Russian and a graduate grant from the Kosciuszko Foundation, is grateful for the resources and flexibility the Harriman Institute has provided him. “It is a good fit for me because I’ve been able to craft a program for myself within the requirements.” He is studying both Russian and Polish and taking courses on subjects ranging from energy politics and human rights to post-Soviet architecture. In March, he plans to visit Ukraine on a Harriman Pepsico grant to research anti-corruption and lustration. “I’ve only been here for a few months and already I’m receiving another scholarship,” he says.

—Masha Udensiva-Brenner

Photo above: Stephen Szypulski standing to the immediate right of President Komorowski and his wife Anna Komorowska, with students and members of the President’s delegation. September 25, 2014, World Leaders Forum, Columbia University. The event was cosponsored by the Harriman Institute.
Kelsey Davis (MARS-REERS ’15)

Kelsey Davis discovered her interest in Russian history by chance—she was taking a modern European history course at the end of her sophomore year at Texas A&M University-Kingsville when her professor briefly mentioned the Gulag.

“Russia is not really a prevalent field of study in Texas,” says Davis. “So this was just a blip, but it sparked my curiosity.” She went out and read as much about the Gulag as she could find, and decided there was a lack of material. “I wanted to study the Gulag more and contribute to the field,” she says, explaining that the endeavor ignited “this huge interest in Russian history.”

Davis devoted a term paper to the Gulag, and ended up presenting it at various conferences. She dreamed of going on to pursue a Ph.D. in Russian history, but knew that due to the limitations of Russian studies at Kingsville—she had to take private lessons in the Russian language because there was no class offered—she would not be admitted to a doctoral program in Russian history. So, she applied to M.A. programs.

“I wanted to get a master’s so I could boost my resume and learn more about Russia in general, beyond the history of the Gulag. I chose the Harriman Institute primarily because of the researchers I’d be able to work with,” she explains. “Professor Richard Wortman is one of my idols and being able to work with him has been an amazing opportunity.”

The experience, she says, has exceeded her expectations. “I knew that it would be challenging, as it’s definitely a huge step up from where I was before, and I’ve already learned so much.” She has also refined her topic. “Now I’m working on the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church in commemoration of the victims of Soviet repression,” she says, noting that this will be her thesis topic, and that because of her time at Columbia, her interests have now broadened to include the history of the Russian Orthodox Church “throughout all time periods.”

This past summer, thanks to a PepsiCo Fellowship and a Harriman Summer Language Fellowship that she applied for at the encouragement of Professor Elise Giuliano, Davis was able to go to Moscow and take language classes, as well as study with the Russian human rights organization Memorial. “I feel like I can actually converse in Russian now,” she says. “And Memorial was so helpful in letting me use their archives for my research and getting me in touch with contacts in the Orthodox Church.”

Davis, who is currently a program assistant at the Harriman Institute, will start her doctoral studies in Russian history next year. “I feel like I’ve learned so much and that I’m finally prepared to start a Ph.D.,” she says.

- Masha Udensiva-Brenner

MAX DE HALDEVANG (MARS-REERS ’16) AWARDED REUTERS FELLOWSHIP

Max de Haldevang (MARS-REERS ’16), was awarded a Reuters Fellowship from the Overseas Press Club Foundation at the Foundation’s 2015 Annual Scholar Awards Luncheon held at the Yale Club in New York City. De Haldevang was among 15 aspiring foreign correspondents selected by a panel of leading journalists from a pool of 175 applicants from 50 different colleges and universities.

De Haldevang is going to the Reuters bureau in Mexico City. His winning essay was about how the government of Kyrgyzstan does not recognize the existence of novostroikas and thus denies basic services and resident status to desperate villagers. He is fluent in Russian, Spanish and French. de Haldevang received the award from the Pulitzer-Prize winning David Rohde, now of Reuters.

Max de Haldevang accepts his Reuters Fellowship from the Overseas Press Club. Yale Club, New York City.

Karen Barkey (Sociology) is Director of the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life. On March 3, 2015, she spoke on women’s rights in Turkey on the BBC’s *The Inquiry*. You can download the podcast here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/inquiry.


Anna Frajlich’s (Slavic Langs.) new publications include “Recontre avec Lacombe, Lucien, a French translation of her Polish poem by Alice-Catherine Carls, which appeared in the French magazine *Recours au Poème* (Dec. 2014), and “Widzieliśmy ją po raz ostatni” (We have seen her for the last time), a chapter in the book *Zachwyt i rozpac, Wspomnienia o Wisławie Szymborskiej* (Rapture and Despair. Reminiscences about Wsława Szymborska), ed. by Agnieszka Papieska (Warsaw: PWN, 2014). She gave readings of her poetry at PicNic Market & Café (Sept.), the Polish Consulate (Oct.), and the Shevchenko Scientific Society’s Literary Bazaar (Dec.), which was chaired by poet Vasyl Makhno, who presented translations of her poems into Ukrainian.


Lynn Garafola (Dance, Barnard) was co-organizer, with Catherine Nepomnyashchy, of the Harriman conference “Russian Movement Culture of the 1920s and 1930s: An
International Symposium, which brought together over 20 speakers, chairs, and discussants for three days, February 12-14, 2015. The papers from the symposium will be published on the Harriman website late spring/summer 2015.

Boris Gasparov (Slavic Languages) has been appointed director of the new program for the comparative study of literature at the St. Petersburg affiliate of Moscow’s Higher School of Economics.

Elise Giuliano’s (Political Science) article on “The Social Bases of Support for Self-Determination in East Ukraine” will be published in a special issue of Ethnopolitics on the theme of self-determination. She was invited to speak at a symposium on Popular Sovereignty held at the University of Texas Austin Law School in January. Giuliano delivered a talk arguing against establishing a norm recognizing a region’s right to secede due to the inherent difficulty in identifying the popular will in movements for self-determination. She used the cases of Chechnya and Crimea to illustrate the argument.

Radmila Gorup (Slavic Langs., Emerita) was awarded the Mihajlo Misha Djordjevic Book Award by the North American Society for Serbian Studies, for her volume After Yugoslavia: The Cultural Spaces of a Vanished Land (Stanford UP, 2013). The award is given annually to a distinguished scholar in the area of Serbian studies. The Sarajevo journal Sarajevske svese, no. 45-46 (Dec. 2014) published a personal essay by Gorup entitled “U tudjem pristanistu” (In a Foreign Harbor), and a selection from her article on prison camp literature was translated into French and published in the Paris Journal RSE in their culture section. “L’île-prison yougoslave de Goli Otok dans la litterature de la prison,” par Radmila Gorup (pp. 1-4, Jan. 12, 2014) illustrated the argument.

Valentina Izmirlieva (Slavic Langs.) was awarded the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture’s Distinguished Article Prize for her article, “Christian Hajjis—the Other Orthodox Pilgrims to Jerusalem” (Slavic Review, vol. 73, no. 2).


Kimberly Marten (Political Science, Barnard) had three opinion pieces published in the Huffington Post on the Russia/Ukraine crisis in Fall 2014, and wrote invited contributions for the European Leadership Network and the Washington Post’s Monkey Cage Blog. She gave the Dr. Edwin H. Fedder Annual Lecture in Foreign and International Affairs at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, on Oct. 2, and the Annual Class of 1961 International Affairs Lecture at Lafayette College on Oct. 16, as well as an invited presentation on “Putin’s Russia” at the University of Ottawa and at Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development in September. She continued to be a frequent media commentator, appearing on the PBS NewsHour with Hari Sreenivasan, BBC World Service and UK television, and WNYC radio’s “The Takeaway,” among others.


2015). Shevchuk directs the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, the only permanent forum of Ukrainian film in North America (www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc), which celebrated its tenth anniversary by organizing a six-city tour of the feature narrative film The Guide, Ukraine’s official entry for the 2015 Oscars.


Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier (Art History) chaired a panel on Russian art history at the ASEEES meeting in San Antonio, Texas (Nov. 2014).

Faculty News

Andrey Bartenev
THE DREAMER FROM THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The Harriman Institute hosted an exhibit of photographs of the performance art of Russian artist Andrey Bartenev. The exhibit was curated by Alexander Khromov and Natasha Sharymova. Sharymova has mounted a number of exhibits at the Harriman, including last year’s “The Dancers,” by ballet photographer Nina Alovert.

Andrey Bartenev is a contemporary Russian futurist artist, whose works range from installations and sculptures to performance art. In his wild costumes and makeup, Bartenev embodies the artistic medium. Inspired by the mythology of art, the dreams of scientists and porno-anime, his various projects include an “eight-legged dog for high-speed transportation”; a performance titled “Black Caviar Road,” featuring a line of Russian black caviar cans rolling by on car tires; a sound installation titled “Say: I love you,” which uses a computer and two hundred speakers to project an echo of the words “I love you,” and more.

“Times Square” by Andrey Bartenev. Photograph by Pavel Antonov.

Brands Kehris, Ilze (Director, Office of OSCE High Commissioner on national Minorities, The Netherlands), “Conflict Prevention and Human Rights.”


Granick, Jaclyn (Ph.D. Candidate, History, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland), “Jewish Relief Efforts from 1941 to 1929.”


Koss, Juliet (Associate Professor, Scripps College), “Model Soviets, Monumental Snapshots, and the Perfect Future.”

Londo, Etleva (Lecturer, Journalism and Communication, Tirana University, Albania), “Why People Vote the Way they Do: The Effects of Image Construct.”

Meldibekova, Zulfiya, Associate Professor, Media Department, International University of Information Technology, Kazakhstan. “Challenges of Globalization.”


Milbach, Juliette (Research Associate, Cercecc, Paris), “Artistic exchanges between USSR and USA in the 1930s.”

Miller, Martin (Professor, Department of History, Duke University), “Russia Under Western Eyes: Trans-Atlantic Documentary Photography of the Soviet Union.”

Mirkovic, Aleksander (Research Fellow, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, Michigan), “From Gibbon to Gorbachev-Sailing to Byzantium.”

Mujanovic, Jasmin (Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science, York University, Toronto), “Development of the State in the Balkans.”

Mykhed, Oksana (Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute), “Russia Goes West: Partition of Poland and the Incorporation of Right-Bank Ukraine, 1762-1830.”

Pekarchuk, Oksana (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Public Administration and Law, Odessa National Law Academy), “Role of the Ukrainian Diaspora in North America.”

Romics, Gergely (Senior Adviser for Academic Affairs, Hungarian Cultural Center, New York) “Interwar International Political Thought in Central Europe.”

Saikkonen, Inga (Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Political Science, Abo Academy, Abo, Finland), “Electoral Linkages and Post-Communist Transitions: a Multi-method Study with Data from the Russian Federation and Estonia.”

Shestopalova, Tetiana (Professor, Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University, Ukraine), “Ukrainian Literary Criticism of the 20th Century in Archival Collections of the United States.”

Stanton, Rebecca (Independent Scholar) “Magic and Modernity in Soviet Literature.”

Tomkiewicz, Jacek (Assistant Professor, Kozminski University, Warsaw Poland), “Income distribution in Enlarged EU.”

Wang, Chenxing (Ph.D. Candidate, School of Government, Beijing Normal University, China), “Eurasian Union: Theory and Practice.”


civil society in Russia, Eurasia, or East Central Europe, and has already funded three student trips to the region. Thanks to a generous contribution from Padma Desai, Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems, we are also happy to announce the creation of the Padma Desai Summer Fellowship for students of economics, history and political science, which supports travel and living expenses for summer research, travel, language training, or internship opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students whose interests include Russian and/or Soviet Studies. We have also been happy to open up the Institute’s Summer Language Fellowship to undergraduate students.

In all that we have done, we have tried to strike the right balance between promoting the deep academic research for which the Institute is well known, while also continuing to appeal to a more general audience.

This semester our calendar has been full of exciting events. To highlight a few: We have a colorful new exhibit, “The Dreamer from the Northern Lights,” a collection of photographs depicting the performance art of Andrey Bartenev, which will be mounted on the walls of our atrium until March 20, 2015. On February 4th, we were fortunate to welcome Stephen Kotkin, John P. Birkeland Professor in History and International Affairs at Princeton University, and author of the new critically-acclaimed Stalin biography: *Stalin: Volume I: Paradoxes of Power, 1878-1928* (Penguin, 2014), for a lively conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning author and *New Yorker* editor, David Remnick (you can watch a video of the event on our YouTube channel). And on February 12th, we kicked off a three-day international dance symposium, “Russian Movement Culture of the 1920s and 1930s,” organized by Lynn Garafola and Catharine Nepomnyashchy. I was fortunate to moderate a dynamic roundtable discussion on March 9 titled, “What’s Next? The Ukraine Crisis in the Global Context.” The event featured some of our foremost experts on the topic: Alexander Cooley, Kimberly Marten, Jack Snyder and Valery Kuchinsky, and is available on YouTube. We also look forward to hosting once again the 20th Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Annual World Convention, April 23-25.

This year’s Core Project, “Learning from Transition: From the Local to the Global,” co-directed by Katharina Pistor and David Stark, has been a great success so far, with a series of events analyzing the last 25 years of transition in Eurasia, and investigating the possibilities for practical applications of lessons learned from the region’s experience. This semester the series has included a talk by University of California Irvine’s Jeffrey Wasserstrom titled, “Chinese Dreams and Chinese Nightmares 1989 to 2014,” and “Religious Actors and Democratization Processes,” a discussion with Princeton’s Mirjam Künkler. But, these highlights are just a taste: for the full events listing please visit our website.

Please stop by our office to pick up the Winter 2015 issue of *Harriman Magazine*. As the proud namesake of Governor Averell Harriman, we’re honored to feature a cover story about the wartime correspondence of his daughter Kathleen. If you aren’t doing so already, please follow us on Twitter and YouTube, and like us on Facebook to keep up with news about our faculty, students and alumni and stay updated on our events, fellowship opportunities and programs, and remember to check our website (www.harriman.edu) for news.

I step down as Director in June, but I will continue in my position in the Department of Political Science and as a faculty member of the Institute. I look forward to seeing you around the 12th floor this semester and in years to come.

*Timothy Frye*

PS. This newsletter already went to press when we learned of the untimely death of our friend and colleague Catharine Nepomnyashchy, on March 21, 2015. Cathy preceded me as Director of the Institute and was an extremely radiant and energetic presence in our community. You can find a brief bio of her on page 2 and read more about her on our website.
20TH ANNUAL ASN WORLD CONVENTION
April 23-25, 2015
Harriman Institute, Columbia University

160+ Panels on the Balkans, Central Europe, Russia, Ukraine/Belarus, The Caucasus, Eurasia (including China), Turkey/Greece, Migration and Nationalism Studies

Registration
Fees: $100 for ASN members, $130 for nonmembers, $60 for students (and a special rate of $30 for nonpanelist graduate students enrolled in New York area universities). The registration form can be downloaded on the Harriman website. For registration information, please contact Registration Manager Kelsey Davis (asnreg2015@gmail.com). For general convention information, please contact ASN Executive Director Ryan Kreider (rk2780@columbia.edu, 212-851-2174).

As always, the convention boasts the most international lineup of panelists of North American-based conventions, with more than half of the 400+ scholars delivering papers currently based outside of the United States in nearly 50 countries. More than 750 panelists and participants are expected at the convention. The program features 160 panels, including the screening of 12 new documentaries (to be announced in the near future). For a glimpse of last year’s film lineup, which included Watchers of the Sky, Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer, Putin’s Games, and Ukraine is not a Brothel, visit our website.

The Convention offers an exceptionally strong lineup of panels in all regions of the former Communist world and Eurasia: Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asia/ Turkey-Greece/China, the Balkans, Ukraine/Belarus and Central Europe (including the Baltics and Moldova). The Balkans and Central Europe sections are the largest, with 24 and 23 panels respectively, on par with Russia and the Caucasus (23), Ukraine and Belarus (13), Central Asia/ China/Turkey/Greece (a combined 19), Nationalism Studies (17) and the new Migration section (7).

Due to the extraordinary situation prevailing in Ukraine and Russia since 2014, up to ten panels will be devoted to dimensions of the conflict, including a NATO roundtable. Other special events will include a roundtable on the crisis in Greece and a roundtable on Russia’s Oscar-nominated film Leviathan.

The opening reception, celebrating the convention’s 20th Anniversary, will be held on the 6th floor of the International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St., New York, NY on Thursday, April 23 at 8:00 PM. The closing reception will be held in the same location on Saturday, April 25 at 7:15 PM and will feature the announcements of the ASN Harriman Book Prize, the Best Doctoral Student Paper Awards and the Award for Best Documentary.


For more information, visit the ASN website: http://nationalities.org/

PADMA DESAI SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

The Harriman Institute is pleased to announce the creation of the Padma Desai Summer Fellowship, established by a generous gift from Professor Padma Desai, Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems and longtime Harriman faculty member, and her husband Jagdish Bhagwati, University Professor. This endowed fund will support summer research, travel, language training, or internship opportunities for two or more undergraduate and/or graduate students whose interests include Russian and/or Soviet studies. Students from the fields of Economics, Political Science, and History may apply. While preference is given to students who wish to use their fellowships in Russia, other locations that enrich their understanding of Russian and Soviet studies will also be considered. Padma Desai Fellows will be appointed by the Director of the Harriman Institute.
TEMPORARY MONUMENT:
PHOTOMONTAGES FOR
MAYAKOVSKY’S POEM “TO THE WORKERS OF KURSK” BY YURI ROZHKOV

During the 1920s, the graphic artist Yuri Nikolaevich Rozhkov made photomontages for several poems by Mayakovsky. While the whereabouts of many of these are unknown, 17 sheets of original photomontages for Mayakovsky’s poem “To the Workers of Kursk” are kept at the State Museum of Literature in Moscow. Rozhkov’s unique series of photomontages was inspired by the avant-garde energy of the poem and the geological discovery of the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly (KMA), the biggest iron-ore basin in the world. The series was first shown at the “20 Years of Vladimir Mayakovsky’s Work” exhibition, in January 1930, which the poet himself curated. Two months after the exhibition Mayakovsky committed suicide and Rozhkov’s photomontages remained unpublished. The exhibition at Harriman will be showcasing the entire photomontage series, along with the booklet featuring a translation of the poem and brief comments on this interesting monument of the epoch.

Exhibit opening: March 24, 6:00 p.m., Harriman Atrium.
Guests will have the opportunity to see the film project Mayakovsky Forever: 20 Years of Mayakovsky’s Work, by the State Museum of Literature in Moscow, with English subtitles.
Curated by Aleksandar Bošković, Department of Slavic Languages, Columbia University.