Kimberly Marten, Acting Director

September 2012

I’m delighted to welcome our new students, postdocs and visiting scholars to the Harriman Institute, and to welcome back all of you who are returning. For the 2012-13 academic year I’ve been named the Acting Director of Harriman, to allow Tim Frye to take a well-deserved break from the directorship while continuing his research and teaching.

This fall we’re excited to launch our new website, at http://www.harriman.columbia.edu. As part of a university-wide effort, our staff has worked to update and improve the site’s design and graphics. We hope you find it easier to locate and use the information you need about Harriman people, programs and activities. All of the videotapes and summaries of past Harriman events will be transferred from the old site for your continuing reference. We’ve enhanced our weekly events e-mail, which are now linked to the website. In addition, we’ve created an RSS feed for events and we encourage you to subscribe (if you are not already on the list). My special thanks go to everyone on our team whose efforts to upgrade our communications profile have been so successful: Lydia Hamilton, Kevin Eric Laney, Ronald Meyer, Alla Rachkov and Masha Udensiva-Brenner. These upgrades are part of an effort to improve our outreach to all of you, and especially our alumni. In the spring we’ll be issuing our new magazine, available both electronically and in hard copy, which will replace this newsletter as well as the Harriman Review. It will feature in-depth interviews with key Harriman affiliates and alums, profiles of selected students, timely pieces on faculty research, and an alumni news page to help keep our alums connected to each other.

This year we will inaugurate the Harriman Working Papers series. Harriman faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, and advanced Columbia Ph.D. students will be encouraged to submit draft articles and book chapters for friendly critique, and then to present their work-in-progress at a seminar in the Marshall D. Shulman Seminar Room. Revised papers will be posted to our website and Columbia’s Academic Commons. Our goal with this new series is to strengthen the Harriman research community across disciplines. The series begins on September 10th with postdoc Fredrik Sjoberg’s “Making Voters Count.”

We are prioritizing our fundraising and development efforts this year. In these difficult economic times, our students need scholarship support more than ever. We also want to bring more visiting faculty and practitioners to campus for extended stays, to provide our students with a richer, more diverse, and global set of perspectives on the Eurasian region. We are grateful for the integration this past spring of the Paul Klebnikov Fund into Harriman, and hope to expand the Paul Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellowship, inviting Russian journalists, lawyers and other civil society practitioners for short-term visits. These practitioners engage in peer-to-peer discussions with their U.S. counterparts, and provide a valuable resource for our students through conversations and presentations about their fresh-from-the-headlines work. Harriman and the East Central European Center are also cooperating with Columbia’s Blinken European Institute to grow...
the fund for the visiting István Deák Professorship in East Central European Studies. In November a conference on Hungary and the Ottoman Empire will launch a new round in this effort.

As always, we have exciting programs planned for this coming year. This fall we’ll mark the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis with a reexamination of its connection to Cold War competition in Berlin. On October 15-16 last year’s core project will convene a conference on the political and cultural ramifications of Russian migration (see page 17). Then on October 31 we’ll discuss current events with Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, who represented the U.S. in Jordan, Nigeria, El Salvador, Israel, and the United Nations as well as Russia.

Finally, I look forward to leading the next in our series of annual Harriman Core Projects. This year’s theme is “Corruption and Patronage.” The project examines these issues both within Eurasian societies and comparatively, and asks a provocative question: do corruption and patron/client favoritism always impede progress, or instead are they a way to get things done in societies that lack well institutionalized legal systems? On October 17 at 5:30 p.m., World Bank expert and Frankfurt School of Finance and Management Professor Michael U. Klein will open the project with his talk on “Corruption on the Way to Progress: To Heaven through Purgatory?” Responses will be provided on the academic side by our own Prof. Timothy Frye, and on the practitioner side by Harriman alum and Columbia Ph.D. Gail Buyske, who has extensive banking sector experience in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. We hope you can join us for what is sure to be a riveting event.

Kimberly Marten
Acting Director, Harriman Institute (2012-13)

Harriman Seminar Room Named for Marshall Shulman

On April 9, 2012, the day after Marshall D. Shulman, the founding director of the Harriman Institute, would have turned 96, the Institute celebrated the dedication of the Harriman Institute’s seminar room in his honor. The lively evening of political discussion and warm reminiscences brought together nearly fifty guests—a mixture of Marshall’s family, former students, and friends, as well as the Harriman community of today.

Shulman was the longest-serving director of the Russian Institute, which was renamed the Harriman Institute under his leadership in 1982. His dedication inspired his friend, Governor Averell G. Harriman, to endow the Institute with $11.5 million. Shulman devoted his brilliant career to easing tensions between the United States and the former Soviet Union. Not only was he a journalist, scholar, and policy maker, but he also served as a glider pilot for the U.S. Army, information officer in the U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations, special assistant to Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson, and special advisor on Soviet affairs to Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance.

The evening celebrated both Shulman’s many professional accomplishments and his magnetic character. In his opening remarks, Harriman director Timothy M. Frye highlighted Shulman’s charisma, explaining that he was a man “who was deeply adored,” and that the magnitude of genuine admiration for him was extremely rare. “I’ve never heard anyone say a bad word about him.”

In his keynote address, former director Robert Legvold recalled the energy with which Shulman supported scholars of the former Soviet region and the care he would invest in Harriman events, pointing out that this particular evening in honor of Shulman was “the kind of event only Marshall could have organized.” Reflecting on the current difficulties in U.S.-Russia relations through the prism of Shulman’s career, Legvold lamented that the situation between the two global powers was not much different than it had been during Shulman’s time—long after the end of the Cold War relations between Russia and the United States continue to be fraught with tension. Legvold speculated that if Shulman were still with us, observing how Prime Minister Putin blamed Secretary of State Hilary Clinton for “sending a signal” to provoke mass national protests after the parliamentary election, and watching Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney declare Russia to be our “biggest geopolitical foe,” he would have “done what he always did, which was to provide a very calm assessment of what was eating both sides, how they were getting it wrong, and how they might reframe the issue in order to move things forward.”

Legvold’s speech was followed by presentations from two Harriman Institute faculty members who are both past recipients of the Marshall Shulman Book Prize. Alexander Cooley, Tow Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, discussed how the interaction between the U.S., Russia, and China has impacted human rights in Central Asia. Cooley drew on themes from his new book, Great Games, Local Rules. Kimberly Martin, who is also a professor of political science at Barnard, then discussed her new book, Warlords: Strong-Arm Brokers in Weak States (see her interview on p. 6).

The final remarks belonged to Collete Shulman, who remembered the humble manner in which her husband handled the vast number of compliments he used to receive: “My father would appreciate it, my mother would believe it,” he would say. She went on to surmise that her husband would be proud of how the Institute has developed in his absence as “a place of dialogue and vitality.”
The Harriman Institute at Columbia University is pleased to announce the establishment of the Paul Klebnikov Russia Endowment at the Harriman Institute, made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Paul Klebnikov and the Paul Klebnikov Fund. The Klebnikov Fund joined the Harriman Institute this past spring, after several years of mutual cooperation. The Endowment honors the memory of Paul Klebnikov, the American journalist and editor of Forbes Russia who was assassinated in Moscow in 2004. The Fund upholds the growth of civil society in Russia by supporting journalistic integrity, the rule of law, and the preservation of Russia’s architectural heritage.

The Paul Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellowship will support at least two fellowships each year to bring Russian civil society professionals to the Harriman Institute. The Harriman Institute will arrange an extensive visit with experts, policymakers, and professionals in New York to benefit the fellow and their work in Russia. The Harriman Institute and the Paul Klebnikov Fund have worked closely in the past few years to bring fellows to the United States, including Oleg Kashin, a prominent political journalist who was featured in the film Putin’s Kiss, and Ekaterina Kronhaus, a journalist who runs a leading humor and commentary journal, Big City (Bolshoi Gorod).

Photo: Paul Klebnikov.

The Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) held its 17th Annual World Convention on “The Wages of Nationhood: Conflicts, Compromises, and Costs” at the Harriman Institute, April 19-21, 2012. The convention included 150 panels on the region, such as “Thinking the Twentieth Century: A Conversation with Timothy Snyder,” and 13 film screenings, including the documentary My Perestroika. ASN celebrated its 40th anniversary with former presidents and editors of the association’s Nationalities Papers. The 2013 convention will be held April 18-20; visit www.nationalities.org for more information.

Photo: Michael Rywkin, ASN President Emeritus and Russian Institute alumnus, addresses the opening reception of the convention, which celebrated the association’s 40th anniversary.
Sergei Antonov earned his Ph.D. in Russian history from Columbia University in 2011 and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2002. At the Harriman Institute he will work on his first book, exploring personal debt in nineteenth-century Russia as a cultural, legal, and social phenomenon. Based largely on close readings of unpublished court cases, Antonov examines such topics as attitudes and practices relating to debt, insolvency, usury, debt imprisonment, credit fraud, court practice, and the connections between debt and patronage, kinship and family structures. He argues that both debt and related legal practices pervaded Russian life, at once reinforcing and challenging such key categories as the empire’s system of distinct legal estates, the relationship of individuals to the state, notions about criminality, the control of property, gender roles, and kinship and patronage networks. In addition to this book project, Antonov will also work on articles dealing with corruption and organized crime in imperial Russia, as well as military culture in the late imperial period.

Nina Bond received her Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures with a Certificate in Comparative Literature from Columbia University in May 2011. Her research interests include nineteenth-century literature and science, fantastic literature, science fiction, and Francophone literature. Her dissertation “Tolstoy and Zola: Trains and Missed Connections” analyzes the significance of trains in Leo Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina (1873-77) and Émile Zola’s La Bête humaine (1890) through motion parallax. This depth cue makes nearby stationary objects viewed from a vehicle in motion appear as they are moving rapidly while distant objects appear to be moving more slowly. Anchored in close readings of the two texts, Bond’s dissertation explores novelistic representations of technology and broadens its scope to include a discussion on the polemic surrounding the European novel’s future in the age of new scientific developments. At the core of some late nineteenth-century critical-literary debates on the future of the novel were Tolstoy’s realism and Zola’s naturalism, seemingly incongruous approaches that divided literary critics in both Russia and France. At the Harriman Institute, she will expand her dissertation to include the railway novel Dombey and Son (1846-48) by Charles Dickens, whose works had a tremendous influence on Tolstoy and Zola, in order to examine the evolution of the novel in Russia, France, and England through the cross-fertilization of these three key writers.

Zhanara Nauruzbayeva is a sociocultural anthropologist who received her Ph.D. from Stanford University (2011) and her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College (2002). Her research centers on art and culture, emerging markets and social stratification, as well as on political ideologies and public spheres in the former Soviet Union. During her postdoctoral fellowship at the Harriman Institute, she is working towards her book, For the Common Good: Visual Arts and the Market in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan. Based on fifteen months of field research with artists and galleries in Almaty and Astana, this ethnography traces how various groups have adjusted to the withdrawal of state sponsorship and the privatization of art since the 1990s. The resulting aesthetic, ethical, and economic regime, she argues, is a complex interplay of socialist and capitalist elements. As part of her fellowship, Nauruzbayeva is also teaching courses on the Anthropology of Art and Contemporary Central Asia in the Department of Anthropology. (Photo © David Hawxhurst/ Wilson Center)

Jesse Dillon Savage received his Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, in 2012. His primary research areas are in international relations and comparative politics. He is broadly interested in international security, issues of state-building, and sovereignty. During his time at the Harriman Institute, he will be working on a book manuscript, which explores why some groups willingly surrender sovereignty to outside powers and why others resist. By explaining when actors are prepared to give up sovereignty it is possible to explain how different patterns of international governance and authority develop. Elites and individuals are more inclined to surrender sovereignty to an outside power when a high level of political contestation is combined with a high level of rent-seeking. Rent-seeking exploits political power for economic advantage, tying political power to economic competition such that losing political power results in the loss of significant economic
benefits. Rent-seeking increases the value of political survival, while political contestation increases the probability political power will be lost. The increased value of political survival prompts actors to exchange some sovereignty for resources from outside powers to preserve their political and economic position. The book will incorporate different levels of analysis including cross-national data from all former Soviet Republics, case studies of national politics in Georgia and Ukraine, case studies of regional level variation in Georgia, and the analysis of survey data from Georgia and Ukraine. His work has been published in the European Journal of International Relations.

Fredrik M. Sjoberg is a researcher active in the field of comparative politics with an emphasis on emerging democracies. His main focus is on elections, fraud, and monitoring. In 2011-12 Sjoberg was a Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar at the Department of Politics, New York University. He received his Ph.D. from Uppsala University, Department of Government, in the fall of 2011. His dissertation was published as the book Competitive Elections in Authoritarian States (available online). His doctoral studies included three years at the London School of Economics (LSE) working on an M.Phil. dissertation in political science. In 2008-9 he was a Fulbright Fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University. Most of his fieldwork for the doctoral dissertation was done in Kyrgyzstan, where he was a Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy. Sjoberg regularly works for UNDP and OSCE on electoral processes. His fields of interest include Comparative Politics, Experiments in Political Science, Political Economy of Development, Electoral Politics, and Russian and Eurasian Politics.

Link to research: https://sites.google.com/site/fredrikmsjoberg

Harriman Institute Visiting Scholars 2012-13

Alim, Elmira, Ph.D. Candidate, Kazakhstan National University, Kazakhstan. “Public Social Advertising in the Republic of Kazakhstan.” elmira.alim@gmail.com

Bloch, Alexia, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada. “Post-Soviet Migrants and Transnational Circuits of Intimacy.” abloch@mail.ubc.ca

Gershenson, Olga, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Massachusetts. “The Holocaust in Soviet and Russian Cinema.” gershenson@judaic.umass.edu

Hornjak, Arpad, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Pecs, Hungary. “Hungarian-Yugoslavian relationships in the Interwar Period.” bajmok@index.hu

Khvostunova, Olga, Assistant Professor, Moscow State University, Russia. “Role of Think Tanks in Public Political Discourse: The U.S. and Russian Experience.” olga.khvostunova@gmail.com

Mankoff, Jeffrey, International Affairs Fellow, U.S. Department of State Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. “Role of Post-Soviet Eurasia.” jeffrey.mankoff@ava.yale.edu

Mardanova, Zuleikha, Associate Professor, Pavlodar State University, “Migratory Risks of Kazakhstan.” zuleikha_m@mail.ru

Medvedeva, Daria, M.A. Candidate, Uppsala University, Sweden. “U.S.-Russian Nuclear Policy in Changing Modalities.” medvedevadarya@gmail.com

Petrova, Tsveta, Independent Scholar, “What Motivates Transnational Democracy and Human Rights.” pgt1@columbia.edu

Podoroga, Yulia, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin. “Towards a Time-Based Analysis: An Approach to Pasternak’s Poetry in Terms of Bergson’s Philosophy and American Post-Bergsonian Literary Criticism.” podoroga.ioulia@gmail.com

Spoerri, Marlene, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of European Studies, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. “Democratization Processes in the Former Yugoslavia.” marlenespoerri@gmail.com

Tyrrell, Marie, Chief Analyst, U.S. Department of Defense, Fort Bragg. “Policy Toward Central Asia and the Caucasus.” mstyrrell@aol.com

Yaffa, Joshua, Associate Editor, Foreign Affairs, New York. “Demonstrations Against the Rule of Vladimir Putin.” jyaffa@cfr.org
The Harriman Institute recently spoke with our Acting Director for the year, Barnard Professor of Political Science Kimberly Marten. Her fourth book, Warlords: Strong-Arm Brokers in Weak States, was just published in June by Cornell University Press, in their series on Studies in Security Affairs.

Q. What is a “warlord”?
A. That’s a really good question! In popular usage, it can be anything from a character in a computer game to a bellicose world leader—there’s a recent biography of Winston Churchill that calls him a warlord. But I use the term the way that other scholars have since the early twentieth century: warlords are individuals who control small pieces of territory, using a combination of force and patronage. That usage is familiar to people because of current events in places like Afghanistan and Somalia, but the pattern extends deep into history and across the globe today. The term was invented by Chinese warlords of the Republican era, who used it to describe themselves.

In today’s world, where all inhabited territory is divided up into sovereign states that are recognized by the United Nations, warlords operate with at least the tacit cooperation of state officials. If they didn’t, they’d be at constant civil war. Sometimes state officials are afraid of them. Sometimes the officials are themselves corrupt, and inside the warlord patronage networks. Sometimes they think it’s just cheaper to let someone else have the job of controlling difficult territory. In the end, though, these short-term bargains with warlords lead to long-term security headaches. My fundamental argument is that warlords aren’t state-builders. They are parasites on the state instead.

Q. The media often refers to war criminals as “warlords.”
A. Some of these individuals may indeed be warlords. But this gets back to the issue of popular usage. Not all warlords are cruel or malevolent, and not every cruel and malevolent militia leader is a warlord. What matters isn’t how vicious someone is. What matters instead is whether the person controls territory as an individual, using patronage. I’m not talking about ideological leaders of revolutionary organizations who are trying to overthrow the state and put something else in its place—unless a particular rebel leader has subverted those organizational goals for personal interests.

Q. Okay, so what do you mean by “patronage”?
A. Leaders in a patronage-based system hand out resources to their supporters based on personal preference, without being bound by any laws or other abstract social rules. This means that there’s no rule of succession, for example, so warlordism is a very unstable political system.

Warlords are very concerned with maintaining useful personal power balances, and making sure that loyal members of their informal networks get preferential treatment. They hand out some economic and cultural resources to everybody in their area to help keep the peace, but in the end they practice self-interested favoritism.

Q. Sounds like a typical American machine-boss!
A. Maybe, but only if that machine-boss is backed by a militia. Warlords use bullets—not the ballot box and not the boardroom—to stay in power. They threaten to unleash war if they don’t get their way, and they use force as a bargaining tool.

Q. Your book has two case studies from Eurasia. But are there really warlords in that part of the world?
A. One of my chapters looks at Ramzan Kadyrov in the Russian republic of Chechnya. He is a militia leader, and many analysts have provided evidence that he rules by patronage. We know that during his time in power, he has adopted arbitrary procedures that don’t follow Russian law. For whatever reason President Vladimir Putin decided to elevate Ramzan to a position of immense local power, and has allowed Ramzan’s personal militia to take over state security functions on Chechen territory. I argue that as a result, Putin has outsourced a part of Russian sovereignty to a warlord. The chapter explores how and why he did this, and what the consequences are. In one sense it’s not unusual for great powers to do this—it’s the same thing that the British and French did through indirect rule during the time of empire a century ago, and it’s the same thing that U.S. forces have done in Afghanistan, for example. But what makes it unique is that Russia chose to adopt this strategy today on its own territory.

Another chapter examines the cases of two warlords in Georgia, Aslan Abashidze of the province of Ajara, and Emzar Kviristiani of the Upper Kodori district. Former President Eduard Shevardnadze accommodated both of them, even though they used force and patronage to rule their territories outside the bounds of Geor-
Q. Not all of your cases are Eurasia-focused though.

No, one chapter looks at the Pakistani tribal areas in the twentieth century, and another examines how Sunni militias in Iraq cooperated with the U.S. and its coalition allies in the Anbar Awakening and Sons of Iraq programs. From all of the cases I draw out causal hypotheses for social scientists, and policy recommendations for U.S. and other state officials who have to deal with warlords around the world.

Q. Has most of your past work been centered on Eurasia?

A. It’s varied over time. I studied Russian for two and a half years as an undergraduate government major at Harvard, although I’ve been working with the brilliant and wonderful Alla Smylsova on relearning the language, since I lost a lot of it over the years. While I was a Ph.D. student in political science at Stanford I was very active in the Berkeley-Stanford Program on Post-Soviet Studies. My first book was a revision of my dissertation, on Soviet reactions to changes in U.S. and NATO military doctrine in Europe. Engaging the Enemy won the Marshall Shulman Prize from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in 1994. My second book, Weapons, Culture, and Self-Interest, focused on Russian defense industry in the immediate post-Soviet era, asking whether managers were bound by traditional Soviet cultural norms or instead acted in their own rational self-interest. Both of those research projects relied on Russian-language sources, including interviews I conducted in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Nizhny Novgorod.

I’ve been a Harriman Institute faculty member since arriving at Barnard in 1997, and I served as the Associate Director of Harriman from 2002 to 2004. But my 2004 book, Enforcing the Peace: Learning from the Imperial Past, focused entirely on the policies of Western liberal democracies. It made no reference to Eurasia. Nonetheless I’ve continued to travel to Eurasia regularly, including to Georgia in 2009 to conduct interviews for the new book. I went to Kyrgyzstan in 2005 alongside Harriman faculty member Professor Alexander Cooley for a joint research project on U.S. military bases. I researched the oil industry in Kazakhstan in 2006 for an article I wrote on Russian influence there. And I accompanied the Harriman delegation, led by then-Director Professor Catharine Nepomnyashchy, which visited Turkmenistan in 2008.

Also, I’ve been a member of the Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS-Eurasia) since it was founded in the mid-1990s, and I currently serve on the PONARS Executive Committee. PONARS is a terrific organization that allows North American and Eurasian scholars to interact and connect. I’ve participated in PONARS conferences in Nizhny Novgorod, Odessa, and Moscow, in addition to ones held in the US. Q. You’re leading the Core Project at Harriman this year, on the theme of “Corruption and Patronage.”

A. Yes, along with our Core Project Post-Doctoral Fellows, Dr. Jesse Dillon Savage and Dr. Fredrik M. Sjoberg. The project makes comparisons across countries, and it looks at a variety of different patronage systems. It asks a very provocative question: whether corruption is always a bad thing, or whether it can sometimes be a force for progress in societies that lack the rule of law. As I mention in my “Letter from the Director,” our opening panel on October 17 focuses on the role corruption plays in economic development and growth. We also plan to have events focused on election procedures, organized crime, police and security sector reform, and (of course) warlords, among other topics. And I want to involve Harriman alums as much as possible in our events.

Q. Tell us about your teaching.

A. This year I’m continuing to teach two of my long-standing undergraduate courses: the large introductory course on “International Politics,” and the smaller colloquium on “Political Violence and Terrorism.” My Barnard background gives me a strong interest in reaching out to undergraduates, including through the Harriman Undergraduate Fellowship program.

Last spring I was asked to lead an interesting “Capstone Project” course at SIPA. These courses, which are now required for SIPA graduation, allow students to work with think-tanks, NGOs, or government agencies on a major research project that they then write up and also present orally. The students in my course produced a report for the Open Society Foundations Central Eurasia Institute, on “U.S. Military Contracting in Central Asia.” I look forward to meeting all the SIPA students who have a Eurasian regional focus this year!
Mark Andryczyk's (Slavic) monograph *The Intellectual as Hero in 1990s Ukrainian Fiction* was published earlier this year by the University of Toronto Press. His translation of the Kostiantyn Moskalets novel *Evening Med* was published in fall 2011 in the journal *Ukrainian Literature: A Journal of Translations*. Last year he presented papers at the “Diverse Landscapes of Ukraine” conference at Pennsylvania State University and at ASEEES National Convention in Washington D.C.

Vangelis Calotychos (Classics) has edited a volume of essays on the life and work of a significant poet, public figure, and influential commentator of the cultural, social, and political history of Greece post-World War II. Titled *Manolis Anagnostakis: Poetry and Politics, Silence and Agency in Post-War Greece*, it was brought out by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press in 2012. His own contribution included the introduction as well as a chapter on the author’s progressive ethos in his late works. Later this year, his monograph, *The Balkan Prospect: Identity, Culture, and Politics in Greece after 1989* will appear in the Studies in European Culture and History series at Palgrave Macmillan.

Tanya Chebotarev (Curator, Bakhmeteff Archive) presented a paper at an international conference in Prague from the history of Russian Prague and the work of the American philanthropist Charles Richard Craine and Countess Sophie Panina: “Русский Очаг графини Паниной и его роль в культурно-социологическом пространстве русской зарубежной Праги.” Chebotarev also wrote an article on the holdings in the Bakhmeteff Archive related to the Russian Avant-Garde for the *Encyclopedia of Russian Avant-Garde*, to be published in Moscow in 2013.

Alexander Cooley’s (Political Science, Barnard) new book *Great Games, Local Rules: The New Great Power Contest in Central Asia* was published this past summer by Oxford University Press. He gave book-related preview presentations at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the London chapter of the Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S. State Department and the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center. Cooley held book launch events in New York (Open Society Foundations), Washington DC (Center for Strategic and International Studies), and Brussels (European Union Central Asia Monitoring Mission).

In February 2012, Cooley was appointed to the External Steering Committee of Human Rights Watch, Division of Europe and Central Asia, and in April spoke at the Harriman Institute dedication ceremony of the Marshall Shulman Seminar Room. On April 30, Cooley participated in the inaugural roundtable of the newly established U.S.-Kazakh Expert Council in Almaty, Kazakhstan. He was appointed Chair of the Department of Political Science at Barnard College for 2012-2015.

William de Jong-Lambert (Teachers College) is coeditor with Nikolai Krementsov (U Toronto) of the forthcoming issue of the *Journal of the History of Biology* (2012), which collects papers presented at the first International Workshop on Lysenkoism, which de Jong-Lambert organized at the CUNY Graduate Center and the Harriman Institute (Dec. 2009). He recently received a $25,000 Science, Technology and Society grant from the National Science Foundation to fund a follow up meeting.
FACULTY NEWS

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Padma Desai (Economics) was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Middlebury College in June 2011. Her most recent book publication is her memoir, Breaking Out: An Indian Woman’s American Journey (Penguin Books/Viking, India), which was published earlier this year. Other publications include “Russia: From Financial Crisis to Prospects for Economic Recovery and Diversification,” in From Soviet Plans to Russian Reality, in honor of Pekka Sutela, edited by Iikka Korhonen and Laura Solanko (Helsinki, 2011) and “Sharpen the Fund’s Economic Analysis,” an invited piece as part of Lagarde’s To-Do List: What Should Christine Lagarde Do on Day 1 as Managing Director of the IMF?, Foreign Policy (June 28, 2011). Desai was a featured speaker at the Forum on the Formation of a New Agenda in the Age of Globalization, organized by the President of Azerbaijan. (Baku, Azerbaijan, October 10-11, 2011). She was invited by the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration to participate in an International Conference on Russia and the World: New Challenges (Moscow, January 18-21, 2012).

The Szczecin literary journal Pograniczya dedicated a large part of a recent issue to the writings of Anna Frajlich (Slavic), under the title “Laboratorium Anny Frajlich. Jubileusz.” (Frajlich’s recent volume of prose is titled Laboratorium.) The launch of the issue, timed to coincide with Frajlich’s jubilee, was covered by press and radio.


Timothy Frye (Political Science) was interviewed about the Russian political scene for the Columbia University Record (Feb. 23, 2012; http://news.columbia.edu/global/2687) and wrote a piece titled “Russian Resolution” for Columbia Magazine (May 2012; http://magazine.columbia.edu/features/spring-2012/russian-resolution. Frye).


Elise Giuliano (Political Science) received the 2012 ENMISA Book Award of the International Studies Association for her book Constructing Grievance: Ethnic Nationalism in Russia’s Republics (Cornell UP, 2011). The book was also a finalist for the Joseph Rothschild Prize in Nationalism and Ethnic Studies, sponsored by ASN and the Harriman Institute. Her book is the subject of a “Book Symposium” in the most recent issue of Nationality Papers (40:2) The Symposium is comprised of the comments made by the discussants at the book panel devoted to Giuliano’s book at the 2011 ASN conference, followed by her response. She published a piece, co-authored with Dmitry Gorenburg, entitled “The Unexpectedly Underwhelming Role of Ethnicity in Russian Politics, 1991-2011” in a special issue of the journal Demokratizatsiya (Spring 2012). The paper was based on a presentation Giuliano made last fall at a PONARS (Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia) meeting in Washington D.C. She was interviewed by Monocle 24, a London-based radio station, about secessionism and the implications of the recent Scottish referendum on independence.

Radmila Gorup is editor of the volume After Yugoslavia: Cultural Spaces of a Vanished Land, which will be published by Stanford University Press in 2013. Gorup was re-elected President of the Columbia School Linguistic Society.

Christopher Harwood (Slavic) is Co-President of the International Association of Teachers of Czech. In addition to helping organize and chairing Czech-related panels at the
AATSEEL conference and co-editing the Association's newsletter, *Czech Language News*, Harwood has been leading initiatives to expand membership in the Association, establish a student essay prize, and promote the development of curricula for Czech study abroad programs appropriate for students with intermediate to advanced level proficiency in Czech.

Valentina Izmirlieva (Slavic) was an NEH Fellow at the 2012 Summer Institute, “Networks and Knowledge in the Medieval Muslim-Christian-Jewish Mediterranean” in Barcelona, Spain. In 2011-12, she continued serving as the founding Director of the Center for Culture Religion and Communication at Columbia University’s Global Health Research Center in Central Asia and as the convener of the series “Healing Paradigms,” which probes the interface of health, religion, and politics in Central Eurasia. She also co-sponsored, with Karen Barkey, a yearlong project, “Religion and Mobility” at the ICRPL. The volume *Translation and Tradition in Slavia Orthodoxa*, which she co-edited with Boris Gasparov, is forthcoming from LitVerlag, Vienna, in August 2012.


Edward J. Kasinec (HI Staff Associate) played an active role in the planning of READ RUSSIA 2012, held in June 2012 in conjunction with Book Expo. New publications include “Serge Diaghilev’s Last Passion—the Book” (*Experiment* 2012); “Russia’s Art under Armand’s Hammer” in *From Rublev to Faberge* (Bob Jones University Museum Gallery, forthcoming); his coauthored article for the LA Country Museum of Art’s award catalog on *Gifts of the Sultan* (2011) dealt with the visual documentation of Russian-Islamic relations. Kasinec was appointed Consultant to the Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis, for its forthcoming exhibit entitled “The Romanov Dynasties: Empires Ruled, Lost and Reimagined,” scheduled to open in Nov. 2013.


Rebecca Kobrin (History) is the editor of *Chosen Capital: The Jewish Encounter with American Capitalism*, published in August 2012 by Rutgers University Press. The volume examines, among other things, the impact Russian Jewish immigrants had on the development of American business. Kobrin was awarded fellowships from YIVO for research and the Spielberg Shoah foundation for teaching on
Ambassador Valerii Kuchynskyi (SIPA) served as moderator at the Commemorative Conference for International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 70th Anniversary of the Babi Yar Tragedy. The conference, organized by the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN, and the American Forum of Russian Jewry was held at United Nations Headquarters (Jan. 25, 2012). He also moderated the international forum “The Eastern Partnership: A Step Toward Integration,” organized by the Harriman Institute and the East Central European Center. Altogether, 13 ambassadors and 6 deputy permanent representatives from various UN missions took part (Nov. 9, 2011). He delivered a talk to a visiting delegation of political analysts and government officials from Ukraine at the Harriman in September 2011.

Kimberly Marten’s (Political Science, Barnard) was invited to present papers related to the warlords theme, the subject of her Warlords: Strong-Arm Brokers in Weak States, at two conferences: the Frankfurt Peace Research Institute in Germany (Nov. 2011) and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden (Dec. 2011), as well as to give related presentations at the Torino World Affairs Institute in Italy (Summer 2011) and Northwestern University (March 2012). Marten’s article, “Patronage vs. Professionalism in New Security Institutions,” was published in PRISM (the journal of the National Defense University Center for Complex Operations) 2, no. 4 (Sept. 2011): 83-98. A publication-event conference at NDU was cosponsored by the Australian National Defense University Center for International Peace Research Institute in Germany (Feb. 2012). Other invited lectures and conference papers include “Dostoevsky and the Moral Emotions,” Mount St. Vincent College (Mar. 2012) and “Road Trips with Humbert Humbert: Circular Insanity in America,” paper delivered at Southern Conference of Slavic Studies, Savannah (Spring 2012). Martensin’s book Surprised by Shame was brought out in Russian translation by Rossiskii Gosudarstvennyi Gumanitarnyi Universitet in 2011. She is President of the International Dostoevsky Society and chair of the organizing committee for the XIVth International Dostoevsky Symposium to be held in Moscow, 2013.

Ronald Meyer (Slavic) translated short stories by Vadim Levental and Julia Belominsky for the anthology St. Petersburg Noir (Akashic Books, 2012), and essays by the artist Genia Chef and Alexander Borovsky, head of Dept. of Contemporary Art at the Russian Museum, for the exhibition catalog Genia Chef: Glory of a New Century (Russian Museum, 2011). Meyer was an invited speaker on the panel “Translation in Foreign Language Departments” at the conference “The Pedagogies of Translation: Current Methods and Future Prospects” (Barnard College, May 2012). He was a judge for the 2011 National Translation Award (American Literary Translators Association) and the 2012 AATSEEL Translation Prize.

John S. Micgiel (SIPA) was awarded the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland on Sept. 22, 2011, in New York City. The award was presented by Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski at the Polish Consulate.

Deborah Martinussen (Slavic) was invited to Beijing to deliver a lecture on “Chert Ivana Karamazova i voproso o voploshchenii” at Beijing International Studies University. Other invited lectures and conference papers include “Dostoevsky and the Moral Emotions,” Mount St. Vincent College (Mar. 2012) and “Road Trips with Humbert Humbert: Circular Insanity in America,” paper delivered at Southern Conference of Slavic Studies, Savannah (Spring 2012). Martinsen’s book Surprised by Shame was brought out in Russian translation by Rossiskii Gosudarstvennyi Gumanitarnyi Universitet in 2011. She is President of the International Dostoevsky Society and chair of the organizing committee for the XIVth International Dostoevsky Symposium to be held in Moscow, 2013.

Faculty News


Cathy Popkin’s (Slavic) recent publications include “The Spaces Between the Places: ‘Story Without a Title’ and the Art of Being Out There,” Chekhov on Stage and Page, eds. Carol Apollonio and Angela Brindlinger, Ohio Slavic Papers (forthcoming) and “Пересчитывая Чехова, или Сколько сумасшедших в палате, 6?» in Образ Чехова и чеховской России в современном мире, ed. S. A. Kibal’nik (St. Petersburg, 2011). She was chair and discussant on the panel “Chekhov and the Riddle of the Sphinx: Identity, Change, Scrutiny, Objectivity,” AATSEEL Annual Meetings, Seattle (Jan. 2012), was a speaker on the roundtable “Teaching Russian Classics Outside of Slavic,” International Dostoevsky Society, MLA Annual Convention, Seattle (Jan. 2012), and delivered the paper “Semantic Fields, or ‘It’s Snowing—What’s the Meaning of That?’” Association of Literary Scholars and Critics Annual Meeting, Boston (Oct. 2011).

Irina Reyfman’s (Slavic) new book, Rank and Style: Russians in State Service, Life and Literature, was published earlier this year by Academic Studies Press.

Ivan Sanders’ (Hungarian) recent translations from the Hungarian include an excerpt from Yvette Biró’s novel Runner in the Summer 2011 issue of Asymptote, an on-line literary journal. The first chapter of a new novel, Threesome, by Gábor T. Szántó and the prose poem “Dedication” by Zsuzsa Takács can be found in The Hungarian Quarterly (Winter 2011 and Summer-Autumn 2011 issues respectively). Sanders’ review article of Péter Nádas’s novel, Parallel Stories, appears in the July 2012 issue of World Literature Today: http://www.worldliteraturetoday.com/2012/july/parallel-stories. Sanders participated in a panel discussion of a new book about Hungarian Nobel-laureate Imre Kertész, The Holocaust as Culture, by Thomas Cooper. (The event was sponsored by Columbia’s Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and held on Jan. 23, 2012 at the Heyman Center.) He also gave a talk, “Would-Be Émigrés and Internal Exiles in Péter Nádas’s Parallel Stories,” at the 37th Annual Conference of the American Hungarian Educators Association.

Yuri Shevchuk (Slavic) is the author of Beginner’s Ukrainian (Hippocrene Books, 2011).


Rebecca Stanton (Slavic) gave a talk in November 2011 at ASEES on “Bulgakov, Faust, and the Politics of Magic.” She was elected to the Executive Committee of the MLA Slavic and East European Division and to the Executive Council of AATSEEL (as a Vice-President). Her book Isaac Babel and the Self-Invention of Russian
Modernism was published by Northwestern University Press in summer 2012.

David Stark’s (Sociology) 2010 article “Structural Folds” (with co-author Balazs Vedres), published in the American Journal of Sociology, has received the Roger V. Gould Prize, the Viviana Zelizer Award for Distinguished Scholarship (American Sociological Association), the Polányi Award for Best Publication from the Hungarian Sociological Association, and was judged Best Article by the European Academy of Sociology. Stark’s The Sense of Dissonance: Accounts of Worth in Economic Life was published in Japanese translation by McGraw Hill Education (Asia). He has received two grants from the National Science Foundation for “Historical Network Structures of Creative Success” ($159,000) and “Network Dynamics in an Emerging Democracy” ($38,000, co-PI Balazs Vedres), a supplement to his 2009 grant. His essay, “West Must Support Democracy in Arab World as It Did in Central Europe,” co-authored with Laszlo Bruszt, was published in the Christian Science Monitor (July 27, 2011). New publications—all in press—include “Political Holes in the Economy: The Business Networks of Partisan Firms in Hungary,” American Sociological Review (with Balazs Vedres); “The Organization of Dissonance: The Value of Diversity within and across Trading Rooms,” Handbook of The Sociology of Finance, edited by Karin Knorr Cetina and Alex Preda (with Daniel Beunza); “From Dissonance to Resonance: Cognitive Interdependence in Quantitative Finance,” Economy and Society (with Daniel Beunza).

Elizabeth Valkenier (Art History) gave a talk on the rise of modernism in Russian art at the Carnegie Hall celebration of Tchaikovsky (Oct. 2011) and organized a panel on 19th-century Russian art for the ASEEES convention in Nov. 2011. Valkenier travels to Cambridge University in Sept. 2012 to take part in the conference on the “Spiritual in Russian Art.”

Richard Wortman’s (History) article “The Representation of Dynasty and ‘Fundamental Laws’ in the Evolution of Russian Monarchy” appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of Kritika. He presented the paper “Myth and Memory: Evocations of 1812 in Imperial Russia” at the Columbia Slavic Seminar and at the conference “After the Storm. The Year 1812 in the Historical Memory of Russia and Europe,” German Historical Institute (Moscow) in May.

Mark Mazower and Cathy Popkin were among nine Columbia faculty members honored this year with the Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award, in recognition of their teaching and mentoring. The honor, established in 2005 by University trustee Gerry Lenfest, is given annually to recognize and reward faculty members for attributes beyond their scholarship and research. This year’s winners will receive a stipend of $25,000 per year for three consecutive years, and will be honored at a dinner at the Italian Academy on March 1.

Mark Mazower, Ira D. Wallach Professor of World Order Studies and Chair of the History Department, credits John Campbell, his doctoral supervisor at Oxford University, as mentoring exemplar. “He was a deeply humane and inspiring man who believed in allowing his students to find their own way,” says Mazower. “We spent supervisions mostly talking about things other than my dissertation, and I learned a lot from him about treating one’s students as equals.”

Cathy Popkin, Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Slavic Languages, defines the task of a good teacher as “making something happen there in the room in real time—connecting dots, discovering resonances, discerning structures, suggesting ways in which things become meaningful…. The subject of the inquiry most often has something to do with how one might go about figuring something out. At the very least it’s conceived more in terms of verbs than nouns, more intent on provoking process than on offering content. It means putting yourself out there.”

“The most breathtaking part for me is when students get excited about what they’re doing or moved by what they’re reading or stunned by how beautiful something is or floored by what something they’re studying suggests about how they might live.”

“But all of this sounds hopelessly pretentious. It’s pretty impossible to talk about like a normal person.”

Society of Graduates Great Teacher Award

In addition to the Lenfest Award, Mazower and Popkin were both selected last year by the Society of Columbia Graduates to receive their Great Teacher Award. The award honors excellence in undergraduate teaching in the College and in the Engineering School.

VALENTINA IZMIRLIEVA AWARDED NYPL CULLMAN CENTER FELLOWSHIP

Professor Valentina Izmirlieva, Slavic Languages, has been awarded a fellowship at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library for academic year 2012-13. She will work on her book project, “The Christian Hajjis: Mobility and Status in the Ottoman Empire.”

The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers is an international fellowship program open to people whose work will benefit directly from access to the collections at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building – including academics, independent scholars, and creative writers (novelists, playwrights, poets). The Center appoints 15 Fellows a year for a nine-month term at the Library, from September through May. In addition to working on their own projects, the Fellows engage in an ongoing exchange of ideas within the Center and in public forums throughout the Library.
2011-12 MARS Graduates

Katherine Brooks, “Regional Elections and Candidate Competition in Novosibirsk, Perm, and St. Petersburg”

Elizabeth Celms, “The New Face of Latvia: An Exploration of Youth Identity 20 Years After Independence”

Megan Duncan Smith, “An Unwilling Accomplice: Censorship and the Satirical Press During the 1905 Revolution”

Abigail Kret, “We Unite with Knowledge: The People’s Friendship University and Soviet-Third World Relations”

Emily Laskin, “Space: Gilas, Uzbekistan”

Sophie Pinkham, “Blatnaia Pesnia, the Odessa Myth, and Alternatives to Utopia in Soviet Song”

Anna Tchergueiko, “HIV/AIDS and the Role of Civil Society in Ukraine”

Sarah VanWettering, “Between Contestation and Cooperation: Strategies of Women’s Activism in Russia”

Alex Wang, “Reviving the Myth of the Nation: Lessons from Managing the Paradoxical Nature of Minority Integration and Historical Continuity in Central Asian Identity Production”

Virginia Wilkinson, “The Crisis and the Vote in Russia’s Monogorods”


2011-12 Harriman Certificate Graduates

Emily Laskin

Anna Tchergueiko

2011-12 Harriman Undergraduate Fellows

Andrew Hamilton (General Studies), “The Russian Dream: A Student-led Documentary Film on Popular Conceptions of Corruption and Democratic Ideals in Russia”

Hannah Miranda Miller (Barnard College), “What’s in a Name? The Changing Role of Street Toponymy in Budapest, 1782-2012”


Emily Tamkin (Columbia College), “Legal Dissidence in the 1960s in Russia”

Shara Mohtadi (Columbia College), “Women and Microfinance in Post-Soviet Tajikistan”

From left to right: Four MARS graduates, all of whom are setting out on careers or advanced graduate study: Virginia Wilkinson (Alfa Fellowship), Katherine Brooks (Huffington Post), Abigail Kret (History Ph.D. Program, Princeton), Sarah VanWettering (Open Society). Brooks and VanWettering also served as Harriman Program Assistants during their last year of studies.
Katherine Brooks
2012 MARS Alum

Katherine Brooks began her graduate studies at the Harriman Institute with a background in Political Science and Russian from Saint Louis University. "I wrote my undergraduate thesis on the role of various opposition parties in Russia," she recalls. She spent a few months in Bashkortostan, Russia, on a Critical Language Scholarship, and then enrolled in the MARS program, hoping to become immersed in Russian-related events and to study under the professors whose work she had become familiar with during college. “Most of my academic expectations were met and exceeded,” she states. “And the connections I made during my time at the Harriman were very helpful during the internship and job-seeking process.”

While working to complete her Master’s degree, Brooks took advantage of the various organizations located in New York City. “During the summer between my first and second year at the Harriman, I worked full-time at a Tribeca-based non-profit as a research intern in the Planning, Policy, and Special Initiatives division,” she recalls, explaining that her primary responsibilities included conducting research and composing program evaluations for projects dealing with Russian-speaking immigrants and refugees. The following year she was accepted into an internship position at Freedom House, working on their Nations in Transit publication, and was awarded a Program Assistant fellowship by the Harriman Institute. “That year, I was also able to travel to Moscow during the 2012 presidential elections, where I wrote several articles for Transitions Online, Animal New York, and Freedom House.”

Brooks believes that her multi-disciplinary course load, and the wide variety of institute related events she attended, served to broaden the scope of her interests. “I never thought that I would pursue another language after Russian, but I ended up taking Croatian classes,” she notes. The experience also inspired her to pursue career opportunities outside the field of political science—after graduation she accepted a full-time position writing and editing for the Arts and Culture section in the Huffington Post. “I am trying to feature as much about Eastern Europe and Russia as I can,” she says.

Sarah VanWettering
2012 MARS Alum

As an undergrad at the University of Texas, Sarah VanWettering was on track for a career in medicine and public health. It wasn’t until her sophomore year, when she decided to take a course about the history of the conflict in Chechnya, that she developed an interest in the post-Soviet region and started taking Russian language classes. Soon thereafter, she decided to focus primarily on regional studies. “UT is such a large school and all of my pre-medicine courses were at least 50 people whereas my Russian courses usually had 12 people or less. It was the first time that I felt like my professors really cared about my education and my future goals,” she recalls. Initially uncertain about whether to pursue an MA or PhD program, VanWettering applied to the Harriman Institute’s MARS program at the urging of her professors, because the flexibility of its curriculum would allow her to acquire professional experience alongside her studies. “No other school with comparable programs had comparable cultural and professional opportunities as the Harriman Institute did.”

VanWettering started at the Harriman Institute during the fall of 2010. “Being a graduate student at Columbia University has the potential to open many doors to organizations across the city. I made an effort to pursue internship and work opportunities, which I highly recommend,” she notes. She spent her first year interning in UN Women at the United Nations, where she served as the official rapporteur for the Commission on the Status of Women, providing policy briefs and contributing to and editing the Commission’s publications. There she was able to put her interest in public health to use. “Working at UN Women allowed me to focus my studies on women’s rights and women’s health issues in Russia and Eastern Europe.”

VanWettering’s quest for professional experience did not stop there—she also interned at HealthRight International, the U.S. partner to the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health, and to several health and human rights NGOs in Russia. The following year, she was hired both as a Program Assistant to the Harriman Institute, and as an intern for the Russia Project at Open Society Foundations. “At the Open Society Foundations, I learned about the donor side of the philanthropic relationship, which led to my thesis topic looking at funding sources and strategies of women’s movements in Russia.” That winter, VanWettering traveled to Moscow on a Harriman PEPSICO fellowship and interviewed female activists for her thesis. By the time she graduated from the MARS program, she had secured a job as the Program Associate for the International Women’s Program at the Open Society Foundations. “My internship directly led to a job with the International Women’s Program,” she says, adding that she would not have had the same internship opportunities without the support of the Harriman Institute, and highlighting the variety of programs offered by the Institute. “The Harriman Institute hosts a number of events and conferences throughout the year with diplomats, human rights activists, and academics from around the world through which I learned about the various opportunities in the field.”
The 2012-2013 Harriman Institute Core Project, “Corruption and Patronage,” is being directed by Professor Kimberly Marten and two postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Jesse Dillon Savage of Northwestern University and Dr. Fredrik M. Sjoberg of Uppsala University (see the post-doc bios on pages 4-5). The project will investigate from a variety of academic and policy perspectives the definitions, significance, costs, benefits, and trajectories of corruption and patronage (also called clientelism), both within Eurasian societies and comparatively. The questions asked include: Are corruption and patron/client favoritism ills that impede a society’s progress, or instead a good way to get things done in societies without well institutionalized legal systems? Are patronage-based clans a viable alternative to the modern state as a governance mechanism? How did the West get good governance, and is there anything that the outside world can realistically do to encourage its development in Eurasia—or are efforts in that direction naive, bound to be resented, and doomed to have their resources diverted within the very system they hoped to eradicate? The project director has a special interest in how these questions apply to security institutions and armed non-state actors in the post-Soviet space, but the scope of the project is broad and interdisciplinary. Activities will include dedicated workshops and visiting speaker panels.

The 2011-12 Harriman Institute Core Project, “Peoples in Motion,” explored migration. There were two focal events. In December, with the co-sponsorship of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the U.S., the Harriman hosted the “Second International Conference on the Great Migrations: Asia to America”; the conference discussion integrated the evidence of DNA, artifacts, and language to suggest that migration of paleo-Amerindians to the Americas occurred in multiple but limited bursts, beginning around the Great Ice Age or even earlier; the older routes of migration were likely along the coast rather through the Great Plains. “Labor Migration in the Post-Soviet World (Impetus, Experience, Effects, Policy)” (March 2–3, 2012), organized by Alan Timberlake, Adjunct Professor Elise Giuliano, and Harriman Postdoctoral Fellow Marina Mikhaylova, documented the effects of migration on the migrants themselves. Papers from diverse commentators, from scholars to activist Svetlana Gannushkina of Гражданское Содействие, show that labor migrants in the post-Soviet world can look forward to various forms of misery in the receptor country: hostility, exploitation, unpleasant living conditions, alienation.

The lone post-doctoral fellow for the Core Project on Migration, Marina Mikhaylova (Anthropology, Chicago) had a productive year. Marina did fieldwork with Lithuanian labor migrants in England, documenting their difficult lot and their resentment of the homeland for not providing better economic opportunities—a not uncommon response to labor migration. Marina delivered this paper at the March conference; it has already been solicited for publication by *Ab imperio.*

Her other interest is youth in Lithuania and the world. She finished a paper on youth at the ASN conference. All in all, an exemplary stint as postdoctoral fellowship.

The core project continues into this coming year with a conference on the migration of Russia Jews.

**RUSSIAN MIGRATION ACROSS, BORDERS, ACROSS TIME**

October 15-16, 2012

In the nineteenth century, Imperial Russia was home to the largest Jewish community in the world. Over the course of the late nineteenth and twentieth century, millions of Russian Jews left their places of birth and settled in new homes scattered throughout the globe, in the process transforming the politics and cultures of countries throughout the world, spanning from the U.S. to Palestine, as well as the demographic centers of world Jewry. This conference looks at the various waves of this emigration from Russia in order to ask how singular this population shift is. It will compare it with some other population shifts in the region and will highlight the most recent wave, by looking at the autobiographical materials they have produced.

Cosponsored by the Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry (Hebrew University), the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies (Columbia), the Barnard Forum on Migration, and the Genesis Foundation, North America.
In past years, this summary year-end report would have focused exclusively on the progress of collections based at Columbia. Now, thanks to the innovative, multifaceted partnership between Columbia University Libraries and the Cornell University Library (known as “2CUL”) initiated in 2010, one must consider in tandem the development of TWO of the nation’s significant print resources for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies.

In its Slavic & East European context, a single “2CUL” librarian (based at Columbia) manages collection development for both libraries. The resource to be managed is significant: as of June 30, 2012, Columbia and Cornell together held 646,385 titles (not volumes) in the vernacular Slavic, East European, and Eurasian (i.e., Central Asian, Caucasian) languages. The librarian provides public service to faculty and students at both institutions, who also now have reciprocal onsite borrowing privileges. Materials on one or the other campus are easily obtained via the BorrowDirect expedited interlibrary loan network. Established in 1999, the BorrowDirect network today consists of all the Ivies, plus MIT—whose libraries collectively hold some 50 million items. Materials residing on one campus can be at another in just a few days, and to date more than one million items have been shared among these nine partner institutions.

The achievements of the past fiscal year have been significant.

In June of 2011, the 2CUL librarian co-directed with Harriman Research fellow Edward Kasinec a Summer Institute funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Several Columbia and Cornell faculty served as Presenters and Discussants. Videotaped presentations may now be viewed at: (http://nehsummerinst.columbia.edu).

The annual New York BookExpo America was held at the Javits Convention Center June 5-7, 2012, with Russia as the featured country. Among the panel presentations in the large and impressive “Read Russia” Pavilion was “What Are American Slavic Librarians Buying?” Chaired by the 2CUL librarian, the panelists were library colleagues from Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale, NYPL, and the Library of Congress.

Concurrently with BookExpo, the Spring 2012 meeting of the East Coast Slavic Consortium of Librarians took place at Columbia, with meetings held at both Butler Library, and the Harriman Institute. Among the issues discussed were initiatives to collectively enhance acquisitions of Russian imprints from provincial cities. The 2CUL librarian is the incoming Chair of the Consortium.

Finally, beginning in July 2012, the tired-looking quarters of the Area Studies Division of the Columbia Libraries will undergo an extensive renovation, scheduled for completion by late September. This renovation will vastly enhance the availability of private conference spaces for faculty/student consultations with Area Studies librarians. During the renovations, the 2CUL librarian is located in Room 1232 of the International Affairs Building.

—Robert H. Davis
Librarian for Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies

Read Russia 2012, an ambitious undertaking to promote Russian literature at New York’s annual BookExpo, where Russia was the featured country this year, brought together at events held in the five boroughs of New York more that 220 Russian writers (from Russia and abroad). Harriman Staff Associate Edward Kasinec, a member of the Advisory Board, played an active role in planning meetings held in London, Moscow and New York. In addition, Kasinec moderated a publishers’ roundtable and a standing-room-only roundtable at the New York Public Library, “Contemporary Writers on the Russian Classics,” featuring Dmitri Bykov, Olga Slavnikova, Maya Kucherskaya and German Sadulaev. Lively presentations and questions were followed by a reception.

Other Harriman-related programming included Professor Richard Wortman (History) and Russian Institute alumnus Stephen Cohen (New York University) on panels devoted to “Russia in Search of Itself. Rethinking History”; Slavic librarian Robert Davis as moderator on “What Are American Slavic Librarians Buying?”; and Mark Krotov, Slavic Department alumnus, now Assistant Editor at Farrar, Straus and Giroux, who moderated panels on contemporary literary fiction, fantasy and social satire.

Finally, Peter Mayer, Publisher, Overlook Press, together with Vladimir Grigoriev, Deputy Head, Russian Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communication, the primary force on the Russian side for Read Russia, announced the forthcoming The Russian Library, a “unique publishing project featuring Russian classics and the best of contemporary Russian literature” to be published in a uniform edition of some 125 volumes. Ronald Meyer, Director of the M.A. Program in Russian Translation, will sit on the Advisory Board. More details as they become available.
The multilingual (English, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, Hebrew, Japanese, etc., etc.) reading of Milosz poems by students and guests, organized by Professor Anna Frajlich-Zajac to commemorate Milosz’s centennial, was followed by a reception at the Bakhmeteff Archive, which mounted an exhibit to celebrate the Nobel laureate. Facing the camera from left to right: Yekaterina Shraga and Tatiana Chebotarev, archivist and curator of the Bakhmeteff Archive, respectively; Helen Vendler (Harvard University), noted scholar of poetry who spoke about her friendship with the poet; Anna Frajlich-Zajac (Columbia University); and Zygmunt Malinowski, whose photographs of Milosz were on display. Photograph courtesy of Zygmunt Malinowski. (October 27, 2011)
With ten courses, an active events calendar and a superb group of visiting scholars, the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute provided diverse opportunities and approaches to studying the country in academic year 2011-12.

The following courses in Ukrainian studies were offered at Columbia University in academic year 2011-12: “Elementary Ukrainian Language”, “Intermediate Ukrainian Language”, “Advanced Ukrainian Language” (Dr. Yuri Shevchuk); “Fin de siècle Ukrainian Literature: Beauty, Duty and Decadence” (Dr. Mark Andryczyk); “History of Modern Ukraine” and “Nationalities in the Russian Empire” (Dr. Serhiy Bilenky); “Ukrainian Foreign Policy: Russia, Europe and the US” and “Ukraine: Power, Politics and Diplomacy” (Ambassador Valerii Kuchynskyi); “Soviet, Post-Soviet, Colonial, Post-Colonial Cinema” (Dr. Yuri Shevchuk) and “Women in Post-socialist Transformations: Ukraine, Russia and Poland in Focus” (Dr. Oksana Kis).

Seventeen lectures were presented at Columbia covering topics in Ukrainian history, literature, folklore, politics, sociology, music and language. Among them were a talk by politician and world-renowned sports figure Vitaly Klychkko on today’s Ukraine, which drew a standing-room-only audience, and a fascinating presentation and performance by Dr. Yevhen Yefremov on “Songs from the Chornobyl Zone.” Throughout both semesters, the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University presented eight events featuring new and re-mastered works.

The Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute and the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, presented its tenth event in October 2011, continuing, for the fifth consecutive year, to provide a consistent forum in the United States for the best in contemporary Ukrainian literature. The featured guest for this year’s series event was Ivan Malkovych. Malkovych, a leading poet of the visiimdesiatnyky (1980s) generation of Ukrainian writers, is equally famous for his publishing house A-BA-BA-HA-LA-MA-HA. The high quality children’s books he publishes have made Malkovych a face of contemporary Ukrainian culture and a celebrity in Ukraine. Mr. Malkovych’s presentation at the Harriman Institute proved to be a very successful event—the Harriman Atrium was full and, with Dr. Shevchuk interpreting for Mr. Malkovych, Dr. Andryczyk’s public conversation with Mr. Malkovych engaged the audience, which entered into a heated discussion of the state of Ukrainian culture today.

This year, the Ukrainian Studies Program was enhanced by the presence of three leading scholars visiting from Ukraine. Dr. Oksana Kis (Institute of Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) and Dr. Valentyina Kharkhun (Nizhyn State University, Ukraine) were Fulbright Visiting scholars in 2011-12, and Dr. Oksana Yurkova (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) was a Carnegie Research Fellow Visiting Scholar in spring 2012. All three scholars presented lectures at the Harriman Institute and were active in Columbia’s academic life during their stay.

Academic year 2011-12 proved to be a productive year on the publishing front as well. Three scholars with close ties to the Ukrainian Studies Program published monographs: Dr. Yuri Shevchuk (Slavic), Beginner’s Ukrainian with Interactive Online Workbook (Hippocrene Books, 2011); Dr. Mark Andryczyk (Research Scholar), The Intellectual as Hero in 1990s Ukrainian Fiction (University of Toronto Press. 2012); and Dr. Serhiy Bilenky (Jacyk Visiting Professor), Romantic Nationalism in Eastern Europe: Russian, Polish, and Ukrainian Political Imaginations (Stanford University Press, 2012).

For more information on the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, please visit our website; or contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk: ma2634@columbia.edu; 212 854-4697.
The great strength of the Harriman Institute is its intellectual diversity. For those who are unfamiliar with Harriman, I sometimes say that we study everything from “bombs to ballet” in Eurasia and Eastern Europe. And, more importantly, we do it well. For all its benefits, the diversity of the Harriman makes it difficult to write year-end reports that neatly tie the events of the year in a single theme.

One easy strategy is to focus on current events. Certainly we had no shortage of events dedicated to political protest in Russia in the spring semester. Yet, the Institute also brought its intellectual capital to bear on other pressing issues, such as managing ethnic conflict in the Caucasus and the Balkans, the economics of energy pipelines in Central Asia, and the politics of promoting human rights in Eurasia.

Another approach is to describe the deep academic research conducted at the Harriman. The Institute funded conferences and workshops on the nature of gender identity in Central Asia, the legacy of the Russian Avant-Garde, and the sources of Sovietization in the periphery of the USSR. And, of course, we continued to host the major international conference run by the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN). With funding from private institutions drying up or moving to other regions and resources from the government increasingly tied to research on policy-related issues, Harriman is one of the few sources that can fund fundamental academic research across a wide range of disciplines for our faculty and students.

Another approach is to consider developments that were important to the health of the Institute. In the spring, we were extremely fortunate to receive a donation of $200,000 from the Paul Klebnikov Foundation that will help bring journalists, preservationists and legal practitioners from Russia to the Institute for short stays. As an endowment, Harriman will reap the benefits of the Klebnikov Russia Fellowship for years to come. Finally, we made great progress on building a new website and overhauled the requirements for the Harriman Institute Certificate. Important and noteworthy events all.

Or I could write a whole report just detailing the impressive list of visiting scholars and presenters at the Institute over the last year. To name just a few, we hosted Kazakh writer Olzhas Suleimenov, Russian political activist Irina Chirikova, award-winning writer Misha Glenny, National Endowment for Democracy Fellow Nadira Isaeva, NTV anchor Alexei Pivovarov, then President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbayeva, Nation editor Katrina vanden Heuvel, and of course too many renowned academics to mention. And we sponsored a talk by the heavyweight boxing champion of the world, Vitaly Klitschko, who also happens to be a prominent politician in Ukraine.

Yet, I’d like to focus on a few events that, at least for me, embodied some of my favorite things about the Institute. On October 15, the Harriman hosted a Discovery Day at Carnegie Hall that explored the culture, politics, and history of life in St. Petersburg during Tchaikovsky’s prime years. Held in the Weil auditorium of Carnegie Hall, the sold-out event featured lectures by Harriman faculty and others who helped put Tchaikovsky’s music in its proper context. Apart from the quality of the presentations, this event drove home to me just how central New York City is to Harriman’s identity. The Institute benefits tremendously from its proximity to the United Nations, ties to the city’s cultural institutions, and relations with the vibrant émigré communities from the region who live in the city. During her directorship of the Institute, Cathy Nepomnyashchy did a tremendous job of integrating Harriman into the life of the city and it was a pleasure to continue those efforts.

The dedication of the Marshall Shulman Room in April 2012 also stood out for me. The Institute is rich in history and it is easy to point to our successful alumni and faculty as a sign of success. But hearing from so many of Marshall’s former students, friends and colleagues reminded me of the personal side of Harriman that is easy to forget in the day-to-day business of the institute. The e-mail of those who could not come spelled out in detail the reason behind their absence. But most eloquent were the testimonies of people whose lives Marshall touched in ways large and small.

Yet not all the events that stood out in 2012 had such a high profile. Harriman hosts so many good events throughout the year that it is easy to stumble on remarkable works. One of my favorite events of the last year was Sophie Pinkham’s short film Balka that follows two women in Ukraine as they learn they are HIV positive. In sharp
detail, the film depicts how this revelation shapes their lives and friendship. Sophie is not a big budget movie director, but a Harriman MARS student. This event highlighted for me one of our greatest resources: our students.

Perhaps the most touching moment of the year was watching the movie Putin’s Kiss with Oleg Kashin in the audience. Kashin is a liberal journalist for Kommersant, one of Russia’s leading newspapers, and one of the stars of the movie. We were fortunate to have him at the Institute this March as the Paul Klebnikov Fellow. The film depicts the rise and fall of Maria Drokova in the pro-government youth movement in Russia, Nashi. Maria eventually turns against Nashi, partly in response to the savage beating of Kashin—a beating frequently attributed to Nashi activists. The surveillance camera video of Kashin’s beating in the film seemed endless and left the audience stunned. In the question and answer session after the film, Kashin dispassionately described the experience and dissected why it happened. This remarkable discussion made clear the stakes of politics in Russia in a quite personal way and highlighted Harriman’s responsibility for covering current events in the region.

For all the wonderful events of 2011-12, I’m sure that the Harriman will bring more of the same in 2012-13.

IN SEARCH OF EMPIRE:
THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE OF ROMANOV
(February 14-16, 2013)

On February 14–16, 2013, the Bakhmeteff Archive of Russian and East European Culture together with the Harriman Institute will hold a conference, organized by Bakhmeteff Curator Tania Chebotarev, devoted to the 400th anniversary of the House of Romanov. The three-day conference will open on Thursday afternoon with a keynote address by Richard Wortman, Bryce Professor of European Legal History, and author of Scenarios of Power: Myth and Ceremony in Russian Monarchy from Peter the Great to the Abdication of Nicholas II (Princeton University Press, 2006), a one-volume abridgement of his original prize-winning two volumes. The following panels have been formed with an international roster of scholars: Tercentennial Celebration of the Romanov Empire; Jubilation on the Brink of Disaster; Romanovs and the Russian Orthodox Church; Romanovs and the Jewish Question; Romanovs and Art; Successors to the Romanov Empire, Romanovs in Exile. More information will be posted on the Harriman Institute website as it becomes available.
Columbia Slavic Department Grad Students and Alum Team Up to Translate Pussy Riot Transcripts

On August 17, 2012, the members of feminist punk band Pussy Riot were sentenced to two years in prison. Maria Alyokhina, Yekaterina Samutsevich, and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova were arrested on March 3rd on charges of hooliganism incited by “anti-religious hatred” following a very brief performance at Moscow’s Cathedral of Christ the Savior. In brightly colored dresses, tights, and their signature neon balaclavas, five members of Pussy Riot danced to a song calling for the Virgin Mary to drive Putin out of Russia. However, during the trial that ensued, the court ostensibly ignored the political nature of their performance, refusing even to read the lyrics of the song in question. Altogether, the proceedings served to underscore the validity of Pussy Riot’s critique of the relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Kremlin.

As the newest faces of political dissidence in Putin’s Russia, the members of Pussy Riot exemplify acrid and youthful rebellion. Their music and performances combine passionate cries against injustice with humor, marrying the traditions of punk rock with Russian dissident art. In her moving closing statement to the court, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova declared Pussy Riot the heirs of Alexander Vvedensky and the OBERIU poets, who “unintentionally proved that they were right to consider irrationality and senselessness the nerves of their era.” The closing statements from each of the three members of Pussy Riot are powerful documents that put the group’s criticisms of the political system into language as vehement, earnest, and direct as their performances. English texts translated and edited by a team including Columbia Slavic Department students and alumnae Marijeta Bozovic, Maksim Hanukai, Katharine Holt, Rebecca Pyatketich, and myself, Bela Shayevich, appeared on the website of the Brooklyn-based journal n+1: http://nplusonemag.com/pussy-riot-closing-statements. These statements may prove to be the most valuable byproduct of the trial, articulately pronouncing Pussy Riot’s verdict on Russia’s political system:

“In our performance we dared, without the Patriarch’s blessing, to unite the visual imagery of Orthodox culture with that of protest culture, thus suggesting that Orthodox culture belongs not only to the Russian Orthodox Church, the Patriarch, and Putin, but that it could also ally itself with civic rebellion and the spirit of protest in Russia.”
—Yekaterina Samutsevich

“Despite the fact that we are physically here, we are freer than everyone sitting across from us on the side of the prosecution. We can say anything we want and we say everything we want.”
—Nadezhda Tolokonnikova

“…nobody can take away my inner freedom. It lives in the word, it will go on living thanks to openness [glasnost], when this will be read and heard by thousands of people. This freedom goes on living with every person who is not indifferent, who hears us in this country.”
—Maria Alyokhina

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Irene Caesar: Anthropretation

The Harriman Institute will kick off its fall 2012 exhibit calendar with a show of work by the Russian-American conceptual artist and philosopher Irene Caesar (Ирина Цезарь). Caesar came to prominence in Russia in the early 90s, when articles appeared about her in major Russian newspapers. As a way of questioning modern art, Caesar created a series of photographic portraits of some well-known critics, film directors, and artists, including Arthur Danto, Vitaly Komar, Alexander Melamid, Slava Tsukerman, and Vadim Perelman, which she produced as absurdist role games in the spirit of Beckett and Ionesco. Caesar participated in the dissident movement in Russia, was invited by Marina Salye to make a speech at the Founding Conference of the Free Democratic Party of Russia during the 1991 Putsch, and produced a series of portraits of important dissidents, including Elena Bonner, Alexander Esenin-Volpin, Pavel Litvinov, and others, which showed these nonconformists in nonconformist situations.

The project “Anthropretation” is an encyclopedia of conceptual role games, staged as subversive performance and documented in photography and video. The word “Anthropretation” combines two concepts—Anthropology and Interpretation. Anthropretation is a new kind of psychoanalysis through art photography—a truly philosophical analysis of human society in myriad aspects, from individual to collective, from political to psychological, from conservative to liberal, from public to private, from emotional to cognitive.