



### Former Amassador to Russia Visits Columbus

by Eileen Kunkler

Ambassador John Beyrle came to Columbus to give two lectures on Thursday, April 11. Beyrle, who served as ambassador to Bulgaria from 2005 to 2008 and to Russia from 2008 to 2012, spoke at a lunch at the Columbus Council on World Affairs and in the afternoon at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. Both lectures were co-sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies.

The lectures, entitled "Putin's Russia: Partner or Adversary," looked at the longer history of U.S.-Russian relations to argue that the U.S. and Russia in fact have had a legacy of good, mutually beneficial relations. However, the memory of communism and Cold War antagonisms have been ingrained in several generations on both sides of the Atlantic, leaving lingering traces of distrust and misunderstanding. Politics between the two countries have been based more on emotion than practicalities. Russia has viewed U.S. policy as paternalistic and insolent, while the U.S. has focused on flaws in the Russian political system and human rights abuses. The news is filled with stories on Russian spy scandals, the ban on U.S. adoptions, the Magnitsky Act, Russian support of the Assad regime, and the expulsion of the U.S. Agency for International Development from Russia. In Beyrle's analysis, both sides are to blame. While the U.S. should not minimize the importance of human rights or democratic development, it should root its relationship in mutually beneficial areas, such as nuclear arms reduction and trade to stabilize and help evolve the connections between the two countries. In the words of former Secretary of State James Baker, a colleague of Ambassador Beyrle, if you go out looking for an enemy, you will likely find one. Flipping the coin on its head, Beyrle ended suggesting that the U.S. and Russia should look for a friend, not an enemy, in each other, and only then can the U.S. and Russia constructively work together to solve the important problems of the 21st century such as climate change, a hostile North Korea, or the rise of China.



CSEES Director Yana Hashamova and Amassador John Beyrle  
*(Photo by E. Kunkler)*

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Both the lunch lecture hosted by the Columbus Council on World Affairs and the lecture at the Mershon Center were recorded and are available online. To access the lunch lecture, visit [CCWA's vimeo website](#). For the Mershon lecture, visit the [event recordings website](#). Ambassador Beyrle devoted about half of each presentation to answering questions about the relationship between the U.S. and Russia, making each event unique and informative.



## From the Director

We are completing the third year of our current Title VI and FLAS grant cycle and I can report with pride that despite the financial challenges that we faced, CSEES has had a productive and impactful year. You will read about our achievements in the following pages. To summarize briefly, I should mention our continuous support of Lesser Commonly Taught

Languages, of area studies courses (three International Studies courses by the visiting scholar Kamol Abdullaev; the Russian and East European History Seminar; the Introduction to Slavic Studies, among others); conference support (Midwest Slavic Conference; Film Adaptation, Marxist Literary Group Summer Institute on Culture and Society; Medieval Slavic Summer Institute); and a series of insightful lectures. The inaugural year of the Polish Studies Initiative (PSI) has been particularly exciting with lectures by prominent Polish Studies scholars and scholarships and grants awarded to a number of students and faculty to pursue study abroad and research in Poland. For our work in general and PSI in particular, we received a Commendation Letter from Senator Sherrod Brown.

We are thrilled that all our second-year MA students have written and successfully defended their theses and will be graduating this spring. Next year, we will welcome 7 new MA students with extraordinary credentials coming from the University of Pennsylvania, St. John Fisher College, the University of Maryland, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), and Ohio State University.

With all this behind us, perhaps many are asking the question what lies ahead. We now know with certainty that the Title VI and the FLAS programs will remain active and that the US Department of Education will issue a call for grant proposals in the fall of 2013 for the next four-year cycle. I believe that CSEES has not only pursued its mission rigorously but has also developed viable programs that will increase its competitiveness. US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has determined that "ED's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access." We continue to improve our impact and to provide access to international education for many students at community colleges: from Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, KY to Lakeland Community College and Cuyahoga Community College, in Cleveland, OH.

While I am writing these notes, a tragic event has unfolded in Boston, MA and we have heard a lot of speculation and misinformation about Chechnya and Russia. The ambassador of the Czech Republic had even to issue a statement that the Czech Republic is not Chechnya! It is extremely regrettable that a part of our broad and diverse region of study has become such a focus of attention and public angst. The media reports and the public awareness, however, reconfirm not only our deep belief that our work is crucial for the understanding of this global and complex world but also add a sense of urgency with which we ought to pursue our goals.

As always, I am profoundly grateful for your support! To sponsor our programs, please click "[igive](#)."

Have an enjoyable and productive summer!

## Congratulations 2013 Graduates

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies would like to congratulate all of our MA students graduating this semester. Thank you for all of your hard work and contributions to the Center and campus community. Best of luck as you move forward!

Kelly Bryant  
Taylor Cluff  
Brittany Cotrell  
Jessi Jones  
Derek Peterson  
Daniel Purdy  
Alex Radsky

CSEES also congratulates our graduating student workers.

Katie Hall  
Kelly Sklavounos  
Ana Tyler



**CSEES Director:** Yana Hashamova  
**Assistant Director:** Eileen Kunkler  
**Office Coordinator:** Maryann Walther-Keisel  
**Outreach Coordinator:** Jordan Peters  
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**Office Assistant:** Taylor Reynolds  
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## 2013 Midwest Slavic Conference

by Jordan Peters

Friday, April 5th through Sunday, April 7th, the Ohio State University hosted the annual Midwest Slavic Conference for the tenth consecutive year. The Midwest Slavic Conference returned to the John Glenn School of Public Affairs in Page Hall. In addition to the conference, the Slavic Center hosted the annual Midwest Slavic K-12 Teacher Workshop (see below).

Dr. Brian Porter-Szucs (University of Michigan) opened the conference on Friday night with his keynote address, "A Perfectly Normal Place: Globalizing Modernity in Eastern Europe." Following the presentation, Dr. Piotr Kosicki (University of Virginia) provided a response to the keynote. The opening reception was held in the Public Policy Forum at the Glenn School. On Saturday, Dr. Irene Delic (Ohio State) gave a luncheon lecture entitled "The Devil's in the Detail: The Virtues of Close Reading."

The 2013 conference welcomed over 148 attendees, including more than 70 presenters from 29 universities, 12 states, and 5 foreign countries. The Midwest Slavic Conference prides itself on the welcoming and inviting atmosphere for students from all disciplines and levels of education and fostering student research, illustrated by the 33 undergraduate students who presented or attended the conference.

This year's Midwest Slavic Conference Committee consisted of Brian Baer (Kent State University), Irene Masing-Delic (DSEELC), Natalya Olshanskaya (Kenyon College), Andrea Sims (DSEELC), and Jennifer Suchland (DSEELC).

The president of the Midwest Slavic Association is Brian Baer (Kent State University). The position of Vice President is currently vacant. If you are interested in it, please email Brian Baer at [bbaer@kent.edu](mailto:bbaer@kent.edu).

The Slavic Center would like to thank the Midwest Slavic Association, the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, the Office of International Affairs, the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and Hilandar Research Library, the George Kalbous Fund, U.S. Department of Education Title VI funding, and the Friends of Slavic, and all the students, faculty and staff who helped with and participated in the 2013 event.



## 2013 K-12 Midwest Slavic Teacher Workshop

Saturday, April 6th the Slavic Center hosted the annual K-12 Midwest Slavic Teacher Workshop in conjunction with the Midwest Slavic Conference. The theme of the workshop this year was "The Balkans and the European Union." Presenters Mary-Allen Johnson, Lauren Ressue, Miroljub Ruzic, and Ana Tyler discussed the history of the Balkan peninsula, including historical, religious, and language conflicts that create tension for Balkan countries wishing to become members of the European Union. Presenters also discussed a brief history of the EU and the importance of membership to these countries. In addition, to learn about these tensions,

teachers were shown resources to use in their classrooms. Educators in attendance represented kindergarden through high school. The theme of the 2014 workshop will be "Paths of (II) Legal Immigration."



Joseph Brandesky is the Guest Curator for “Strings Attached—The Living Tradition of Czech Puppets,” an exhibit currently on display until August 4 at the Columbus Museum of Art. He was also quoted in an article in the Wall Street Journal for his expertise in Czech and Russian theater pertaining to the aforementioned exhibit. Additionally, Brandesky co-conceived and directed *aPOEtheosis: A Fantasy Based on the Life and Work of Edgar Allan Poe*, which will be put on by The Ohio State University Department of Theatre beginning Thursday, April 4, through Sunday, April 14 in Roy Bowen Theatre, Drake Performance and Event Center in Columbus.

In 2013, Gleb Tshipursky had a book chapter published, “Living ‘America’ in the Soviet Union: The Cultural Practices of ‘Westernized’ Soviet Youth, 1945-1964,” in *The Soviet Union & The United States: Rivals of the Twentieth Century. Coexistence & Competition*. He also had two shorter pieces published: “Student-Created Websites as Useful Forums for Reporting on Historical Research,” *Perspectives on History*, (November 2012), and “State Archive of Saratov Oblast” in “Fresh from the Archives, Russia,” *Dissertation Reviews*, (September 20, 2012). He also published a monograph titled *Having Fun in the Thaw: Youth Initiative Clubs in the Post-Stalin Years*, in the series, *The Carl Beck Papers in Russian and East European Studies*, No. 2201.

Danielle Fosler-Lussier gave a keynote lecture, “Music, Mediated Diplomacy, and Globalization in the Cold War Era,” for the conference Music and Diplomacy, Harvard and Tufts Humanities Centers, March 2013. She also gave a lecture titled “‘The Highest Peaceful Arts’: Classical Music and the Mediation of Prestige in U.S. Cultural Diplomacy, 1954-1970” for the Performance/Politics Working Group of the Humanities

Institute and Lectures in Musicology, Ohio State University, February 2013. She presented “Classical Music as Cold War Development Aid: William Strickland’s Asian and European Pilgrimages” at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society, New Orleans, November 2012. Fosler-Lussier received a Faculty Research Grant from the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 2012 and 2013. She published “Beyond the Folksong; or, What Was Hungarian Socialist Realist Music?” in *Music and Ideology* (Ashgate, 2012).

Jessie Labov co-edited *Samizdat, Tamizdat, and Beyond: Transnational Media During and After Socialism*, published in March 2013.

Jennifer Suchland’s essay, “Doubling Framing in Lilya 4-Ever: Sex Trafficking and Postsocialist Abjection,” will be published in the *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 16(3) 2013. It is available online at (<http://ecs.sagepub.ccontent/early/recent>). Suchland was invited to speak at Williams College on a roundtable on Pussy Riot with Eliot Borenstein, Mark Lipovetsky and Ksenia Gorbenko. She presented the paper “Cultural Riot: The Multiple Political Grammars of Pussy Riot” there recently as well.

Ludmila Isurin published a book with Jeanette Altarriba titled, *Memory, Language, and Bilingualism* in November 2012. Isurin also published two chapters in 2012, “Superior speakers or “super” Russian: OPI guidelines revisited” in *Russian Language Studies in Canada and USA: New Perspectives from Theoretical and Applied Linguistics* and “Memory and first language attrition” in *Memory and language: Theoretical and Applied Approaches to Bilingualism*. She also spoke at several conferences: “Speaking Across the Threshold:

## Alumni Spotlight: Luke Wochensky

by Eileen Kunkler

Luke Wochensky graduated from the Slavic and East European Studies M.A. program in 2006. During the program, he studied Russian and Uzbek. As a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow, Luke studied at Saint-Petersburg State University for one year, and also interned at a law firm there. His time at the law firm is what first piqued his interest in Russian law. Upon completing his MA degree, Luke worked as the Assistant Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies for a year before returning to Russia to pursue his interest in law. Through connections he had made at his prior internship, Luke found a job at the Hannes Snellmann Law Firm in Saint-Petersburg. He started out at the firm doing translating, interpreting, and client relations work and now works as a lawyer. While working at the law firm, Luke attended Herzen University for a degree in law; he completed the 5-year program in March 2013 and will take the state exam later in 2013.



As part of the MA program, Luke took a wide variety of courses, from art history, music, history, and political science, to film and literature courses. He credits this wide range of courses with giving MA students a broad understanding of Russian culture, which prepares them for working in Russia, no matter the particular field.



## Student News

2010 Census Enumeration of Russian-speaking Immigrants,” presented at International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations, New Orleans, LA, USA, Nov. 2012; “Cross-linguistic Transfer and L1 Change: The Case of Russian-English Bilinguals,” SLFR, Pittsburgh, October 2012; and “Solving the Mystery of a Lost Childhood Language,” Psychonomic Society of America, November 2012.

Aided by a Mershon grant, Yana Hashamova began to explore a new research topic, media and minorities in the Balkans. She also published a co-edited volume (with Helena Goscilo) *Embracing Arms: Cultural Representation of Slavic and Balkan Women in War* (Central European U P, 2012). <http://www.ceupress.com/books/html/EmbracingArms.htm>

Justin Wilmes published an article in the latest volume of the *Pushkin Review* (Dec. 2012) titled “Anticipating Chekhov: Tragicomic Elements in Griboedov’s *Woe from Wit*.” He also published an article titled “In Between and Beyond: Hybrid Genre and Multicultural Perspective in Sergei Dvortsevoi’s *Tulpan*” in the *Australian Slavonic and E. European Studies Journal* (January, 2013).

Nina Haviernikova was awarded funds to travel to the Canadian Association of Slavists conference at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia. She will present her research “Dialect Choice in Slovakia” at the conference June.

## CSEES Graduate Student Choice Speaker: Zsuzsa Gille

Friday, February 15th the Slavic Center hosted its annual graduate student choice speaker. The event this year featured Dr. Zsuzsa Gille of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Gille, an associate professor in global studies, geography and geographic information science, and the School of Earth, Society, and Environment, discussed the question “Is There A Global Post-Socialist Condition?” Her lecture analyzed politics in Hungary since 1989, including trends perceived as nationalistic, and how this has affected Hungary as part of the European Union and in particular, with the European banking crisis. The CSEES Graduate Student Lecture Series is an annual event organized and run by the Slavic Center MA students.



## Alumni Spotlight: Bryan Stout

by Taylor Reynolds

Bryan Stout graduated from The Ohio State University in the winter of 2009, with an M.A. in Slavic and East European Studies. During his time at the Slavic Center, Stout travelled and studied abroad in Tomsk, Russia in 2006 and 2007. Then in 2008, Bryan joined the teaching staff at Tomsk State University for one year before finishing his degree.

Recently, Bryan participated in and completed the Legislative Service Commission Fellowship with the Ohio Senate in Columbus, Ohio. The Legislative Service Commission is an agency that assists the General Assembly of Ohio with training and research. He is now serving as a legislative assistant with state Senator Chris Widener. Chris Widener is the President Pro-Tempore of the Ohio Senate.

Through his work in the senate, Bryan will have many opportunities to engage in topics related to Russia and Eastern Europe. Frank Larose, another state senator, is the Goodwill Ambassador to Bishkek. He has recently hosted staff from the Russian Duma. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services received a Russian delegation in the spring of 2012 and the Ohio House of Representatives recently hosted a delegation of Ukrainian legislators.

## Margarita Mazo Receives National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

by Maryann Walther-Keisel



Margarita Mazo, Professor Emerita, has received a substantial and highly competitive two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will enable the first publication of Igor Stravinsky's autographs for his seminal 1923 ballet "Les Noces" in facsimile. Mazo's collaborator in this project is Olga Haldey, an associate professor at the University of Maryland and a former PhD student at OSU. The previous grants from the OSU College of

Arts and Sciences and American

Musicological Society helped to lift the project from the ground and support the initial research. The NEH grant makes this publication possible by providing funds to purchase over 800 high-quality images in full color, reproduction fees, fees of multiple copyright holders, libraries charges, color balancing editing, and travels of the authors to research sites for final checking of the materials, all prohibitively-costly expenses that delayed the publication of this monumental project for years.

One of the most powerful and influential compositions of the twentieth century, Igor Stravinsky's 1923 ballet *Les Noces* was re-envisioned multiple times throughout its eleven-year history. Conceived in 1912 as a spectacle for the Ballets Russes, Sergei Diaghilev's lavish pre-WWI enterprise, its ethnographic narrative of ancient wedding ritual in Russian villages was gradually stripped down to create the abstract, stark, and austere work we know.

Mazo began her investigation of Stravinsky's autographs for *Les Noces* in 1997 at the Paul Sacher Stiftung in Basel, Switzerland, then worked with the materials deposited in the archives of Stadtbibliothek Winterthur, University of Lausanne, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, British Library, and The Pierpont Morgan Library, leading to several groundbreaking discoveries, including the original version of the work and two key manuscripts, previously not known to exist. She has published in leading scholarly venues, presented numerous papers and lectures around the world, culminating in 2005 in the much-acclaimed release of the critical edition of the work's score based on the autograph sources – the first new edition of *Les Noces* since its 1923 premiere.

## History Professors Recieve NEH Grants

**Nicholas Breyfogle** received an NEH Fellowship for his book project, "Baikal: The Great Lake and its People." The project is an environmental history of the Lake Baikal region of Siberia from the 17th through the 20th centuries. Over 25 million years in age, Baikal is one of the earth's natural wonders. The lake is the world's oldest, deepest, and largest (in terms of volume of water), holding one-fifth of all surface, liquid freshwater on the planet—more water than all the Great Lakes combined. His research reconstructs the history of this dynamic, world-important body of water and the people who lived near it—how the lake and its environs have changed over time through their own ecological rhythms, how humans have transformed the lake and its ecosystems, and the ways in which human society has simultaneously been changed and directed by Baikal. By exploring the relationship between humans and Baikal (cultural, socio-economic, political, ecological, biological, and technological) over the *longue durée*, this project contextualizes Soviet-era environmental traumas, analyzes broad patterns found at the nexus of Russians and the environment, and discusses the development of Russian conservation efforts. Using the lens of Baikal and the methodologies of environmental history, the study also sheds new light on questions of colonial contact, economic development and resource management, the formation of Russian identity, evolution of Russian science, the historical importance of natural disasters, and the role of the sacred in Eurasian society.

Dr. Breyfogle has also been awarded an International Network Grant from the Leverhulme Trust in the UK on the topic "Exploring Russia's Environmental History and Natural Resources."

**Scott Levi**, Associate Professor, Department of History, was awarded an NEH Fellowship for his current research project, *Central Asia on the Frontier of Empires: The Khanate of Khoqand, 1709–1876*. This project aims to produce the first book to focus direct attention on the ways that early modern Central Asia actively engaged with the globalizing world. The book will also represent the first English-language history of the Khanate of Khoqand, an extraordinarily dynamic state that emerged during the eighteenth century in eastern Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley. The study will analyze ways that global political, economic, technological and environmental developments influenced life in early modern Central Asia and contributed to the rise, and fall, of Khoqand. It will also illustrate the ways that Central Asians influenced the policies of their much larger imperial neighbors on the Eurasian periphery.



## Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Participants- November 15-18, 2012

Jennifer Suchland was a discussant on the panel, "Assessing the Outcomes of Post-Soviet Campaigns to Combat Violence Against Women" and she also presented a paper called "Lost in Transition: Where are Economic Critiques of Violence?"

Alexander Burry was a participant in the roundtable, "Publishing Your First Book: Reflections from Authors and Editors," and chaired a panel titled "Russian and Soviet Stage, Film and Poetic Boundaries."

Yana Hashamova was a discussant on that same panel. In addition, Yana Hashamova presented her paper, "Turks, Gypsies, and National Anxieties on the Bulgarian Screen."

Emily Erken presented her paper titled "Soviet Literary Education and the Contemporary Ballet Audience in Russia: Boris Eifman's 'Updated' Onegin."

Anastasia Kostetskaya presented her paper titled "The Water Of Life and the Life of Water in Poetry, Art and Film of the Russian Silver Age," Izolda Wolski-Moskoff presented her paper titled "Over Water Wide and Clear: Liquescence in a Poem by Adam Mickiewicz," and Irene Masing-Delic was the discussant for their panel, which was titled "Liquescence and Fluidity Across Time, Media and Genre."

David Hoffmann chaired two panels, one entitled "Boundaries of Russian and Soviet Households" and the other called "The State in Communist Eastern Europe: A Research Agenda."

Helen Myers presented her paper, "The Long Road from Femininity to Feminism in Modern Polish Culture."

Helena Goscolo chaired a panel by the name of "Soviet Spy Film: Genre Boundaries and the Borders of Permissible" in addition to presenting her paper, "Naked, Nude, Neglected: Baring the Body in Russian and Soviet Art."

Quintin Beazer chaired a panel called "Politics of Policy Reform: Lessons from Post-Communist Countries."

Theodora Dragostinova was a discussant on the panel, "Muslim Emigration from the Balkans: Causes, Motives and Impact, 1878-1914," as well as a participant in the roundtable, "Conducting Archival Research in Bulgaria and Romania, and Related Resources in Washington, D.C."

Morgan Liu was a discussant on the panel, "The Political Economy of Self-Governing Groups: Perspectives from Central Asia."

Nicholas Breyfogle was a discussant on two panels, one titled "Rediscovering Siberia II: Regional Identities and Scientific Practices" and the other called "Environment and Health in the Soviet Periphery."

Gleb Tshipursky participated in the roundtable, "When Jazz and Rock Cross the Iron Curtain: The Socialist Beat in the Soviet Bloc," as well as presenting his paper titled "Youth Cafes in Moscow: Western Culture in the Soviet Capital during the Socialist Sixties."

Eileen Kunkler participated in the roundtable, "Developing and Delivering Effective and Engaging Outreach Programming in the Digital Age," as well as chairing a panel titled "Screening Minorities and East European Media."

Anna Gawboy presented her paper, "Can the Imaginary be Realized? Performance Challenges in Scriabin's 'Prometheus, Poem of Fire'."

Mary Cavender presented her paper, "Self-Interest and the State: The Russian Nobility."

Jessie Labov presented her paper, "The Velvet Mausoleum: The Paradoxes of Neoliberalism after 1989," as well as chairing a panel titled "Freedom, Border and (Dis)order: Transgressions in East European Film."

Catalina Hunt presented her paper, "Emigration of Muslims from Southeastern Europe to the Ottoman Empire: The Turks and Tatars of Dobruca, 1878-1914."

Carole Rogel chaired a panel called "Frontlines and Frontiers: Diplomatic Divides and Writings of War in Slovenia and Yugoslavia."

## Stephen Patrill to Travel to Russia on Fulbright

by Maryann Walther-Keisel

Dr. Stephen Patrill, professor of psychology, has received a 2013-2014 Fulbright Grant to conduct research on “International Twin Studies Examining Gene - Environment Processes in Mathematics Achievement”. His research, a portion of which will be conducted in Tomsk, Russia, has two objectives: to integrate existing data collected from US, UK, and Russian twin samples in order to examine the genetic and environmental underpinnings of math achievement from an international perspective and to plan pilot studies in US, UK, and Russian twin samples to examine the genetic and environmental etiology of brain-based measures of mathematical ability.

It is generally recognized that there are important country-level differences in mathematics achievement, but there are also significant person-level differences in math achievement within countries. By understanding how genetic and environmental factors influence person-level differences in math achievement, and how these differ/do not differ across countries, Dr. Petrill hopes to obtain foundational information about the mechanisms through which genes and environments work differently under the influence of different cultures; including different curricula, educational set-up, educationally-relevant cultural norms, and linguistic factors. As a Fulbright research grantee at Tomsk State University, in collaboration with the Psychological Institute of the Russian Academy of Education in Moscow, he will accelerate his efforts in these domains by combining and beginning the systematic analysis of the existing (but currently separate) behavioral genetic studies of mathematics in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation, and by planning new international pilot projects using brain-based measures of mathematical processing.

In June 2012, he travelled to Moscow and Tomsk to participate in scientific meetings and take part in a research colloquium and the International Summer School on behavioral genetics with his Russian colleagues. This experience allowed him to accelerate the process of learning to speak and read the Russian language, and also has enhanced his appreciation of the cultural, political, and scientific landscape in Russia.

Ohio State University and Tomsk State University have a positive institutional history of developing joint research as well as student exchange programs in other academic domains. Thus, beyond the scope of his Fulbright research, this work has enhanced potential to promote sustainable and mutually-beneficial ties between the US and Russian academies.

## Eight Weeks in St. Petersburg

by Daniel Williams

For eight weeks last summer, I spent my time in another world. I travelled through the Council on International Educational Exchange with a student group composed of college students from across the US.

The biggest piece of culture shock for me personally was the experience of living with a host family, as opposed to a dormitory. I lived in an apartment not far from central St. Petersburg, conveniently located just a short walk from a metro station. The couple who I lived with spoke very little English, so communication was sparse at first. But over the eight weeks, we grew closer to each other, and simply knowing that I had somewhere to go back to every night was a great thing.

The next hurdle for me was the classes themselves. Ohio State's classes are rigorous, but being in a class of less than ten where less than a handful of words

are spoken in English each day is something else altogether. Classes were six hours a day, four days a week, with breaks on Wednesdays for group events or free time. I took classes focusing on grammar, linguistics, culture, current events, and film. The Russian style of teaching was quite different than what I was used to, with less focus on homework and more on in-class work. The intense nature of the classes, when combined with the purely immersive nature of living in Russia greatly improved my language skills.

While the classes and improving my language skills were the main reasons for studying abroad, being able to experience Russia and its culture was an amazing perk. One experience that stands out was visiting Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery, which is dedicated to the victims of the Siege of Leningrad during WWII. We were shown around by a guide as we were told the story of the devastating 900 day siege.







## Polish Studies Initiative Grants and Scholarships

by Jordan Peters

The Polish Studies Initiative awarded its first research grants this semester to graduate students conducting research in Poland. Any post-candidacy graduate students, lecturers, or faculty members were eligible to apply for a maximum of \$2,000 to subsidize their research expenses. Congratulations to Ian Johnson (Department of History), Jason Morgan (Department of Political Science), Paul Niebrzydowski (Department of History), and Justin Wilmes (Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) for being recipients of the first Polish Studies Initiative Research Grants. As a condition of their award, each student will present their research at Ohio State in autumn 2013 at a special lecture series. More information about the presentations will be available shortly after classes begin in August. PSI will conduct another Research Grant competition in the 2013-2014 academic year for anyone wishing to conduct research in Poland in the summer of 2014. If you are interested in applying for a PSI research grant, visit our website or contact Jordan Peters at [peters.398@osu.edu](mailto:peters.398@osu.edu).

In addition to the research grants, the Polish Studies Initiative awarded scholarships for students for summer study. Eligible students were undergraduate or pre-candidacy graduate students. Applicants were broken into two groups- intensive language study and study abroad. Three students, Meagan Chandler, Michael Haupt, and Adriana Matusiewicz, received scholarships to study Polish language at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Several other students were awarded smaller amounts to aid in the cost of the Global May Hungary program which will spend part of its time in Warsaw, Poland. Congratulations to Lauren Barbour, Lauren Bedal, Carina Carpenter, Maddie Duncan, Katie Huston, Katherine Kamykowski, Haley Mehalik, Rebecca Molnar, Michael Moser, Corinne Rubright, Keegan Scott, and Laveena Sehgal.

Finally, PSI awarded a curriculum development Grant to Izolda Wolski-Moskoff to travel to Poland during the summer to produce materials for the Polish classes at Ohio State and available to the general Ohio State community.

## Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar

by Suhaan Mehta

The Mellon Foundation Seminar on “Language, Politics, and Human Expression in South Asia and the Balkans” will be held during the academic year 2013-2014. This year-long seminar seeks to develop a comparative dialogue on culture, language, and politics in both regions. The group aims to explore comparisons and connections along multiple axes, including common and divergent imperial legacies, gender and nationalism, religion and secularism, and post-colonialism and post-communism.

The Ohio State faculty who collaborated to put this event together are Theodora Dragostinova (History), Yana Hashamova (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies), Pranav Jani (English), Brian Joseph (Linguistics and Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures), Jessie Labov (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures), Scott Levi (History), Andrea Sims (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures), and Mytheli Sreenivas (Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and History). A recent addition is Dr. Ujala Dhaka-Kintgen (Anthropology from Harvard University) who will be a resident post-doctoral fellow from August 2013 through May 2014. Besides working on her research, Dr. Dhaka-Kintgen will be teaching an undergraduate course in spring 2014. The wide ranging expertise of the group is just one indication of the interdisciplinary nature of the seminar.

There are three exciting events planned for next year. One of the seminar’s highlights is a lecture series by distinguished scholars in South Asia and the Balkans. Additionally, there will be a year-long one-credit graduate course (ASC 8194) open to all students interested in the seminar’s themes and methodologies. Those enrolled for the course will have the opportunity to interact with the invited speakers. In October 2014, there will be a conference that will aim to crystallize the links that would emerge from the previous events.

## Kolejka and Malgorzata Mazurek Lecture

by Jessie Labov

In the middle of a snowstorm on a Saturday morning, members of the Polish American Club came to meet with Polish Club students and Polish language students to play a new board game, Kolejka (or “The Queue”). The game was released last year by the Instytut Pamieci Narodowy (Institute for National Remembrance), and designed to teach the younger generation, as well as remind the older generation, about everyday life in 1980s Poland. Players line up tokens representing members of their family in lines in front of shops; when the delivery trucks finally come, there are not enough items to fill the shelves; only the first few people in line receive goods, and the rest go to the black market to barter and trade for what they need to get by. The game is quite complex, and takes place in several stages. It is the brainchild of Karol Madaj, who has been designing games for IPN about a variety of historical subjects.

The idea behind the game is twofold: on the one hand, it serves as a marker of cultural memory, and playing the game often evokes stories from those who have lived through such times. On the other hand, its lighthearted nature and retro design details keep the practice of remembering fun. For families living in emigration, raising a second generation of kids here in the U.S., the stakes of remembering and explaining Polish culture are even higher. Diaspora activities usually revolve around folk elements of Polish culture such as food, costumes, and dancing. A board game like Kolejka introduces information about Poland’s recent past, a life that can feel very remote from today’s market-driven democracy.

The event on Saturday also featured Malgorzata Mazurek, who was the academic advisor on Kolejka, due to her research on consumerism in Socialist Poland. Dr. Mazurek

delivered a talk on Friday, February 1 on her current project, “Reconfiguring Backwardness: Polish Social Scientists and the Making of the ‘Third World.’” Dr. Mazurek discussed the relationship between economists and students studying economics at universities in Poland and Africa during the 1960s. Throughout the decade, universities in Warsaw hosted students from Africa who collaborated with their Polish colleagues on economic theories and systems. Research presented by Dr. Mazurek will ultimately be published in her next monograph, her first English publication.



*Photo courtesy of J. Labov*

## Undergraduate Olympiada of Spoken Russian

by Jordan Peters

Bowling Green State University hosted the third annual Undergraduate Olympiada of Russian in February. Students from Kent State University, Bowling Green State University, Ohio University, and Kenyon College gathered for the daylong event to compete in three rounds of competition to show off their Russian language skills. Each student gave an interview, recited a poem, and presented on a randomly selected topic during the competition. Thanks to the hard work by the Russian club and the faculty at Bowling Green, between rounds of competition, students played Russian card games, scrabble, listened to Russian music and watched Russian cartoons. Students from first year through fourth year Russian competed in the event, which was organized by Tim Pogacar, Irina Stakhanova, and Eugenia Amditis at Bowling Green. Congratulations to all students who participated!

*The Slavic Center wishes everyone luck with summer 2013!*