Our spring newsletter supplement typically features guests who will be making presentations in the spring series, “At the Melikian Center.” This spring we are fortunate to have a rich agenda, and we ask that you make a special note of the dates and times. The highlight of the programming this spring will be the visit of former U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia Christopher Hill, one of the architects of the Dayton Agreements in 1995, and prominent diplomatic envoy in four U.S. presidential administrations. Ambassador Hill, who is currently Dean of the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, will deliver the annual Mary Choncoff Lecture.

In addition to the scheduled events highlighted in chronological order in the Newsletter, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be hosting the visits of finalists for the position of the next director of the Melikian Center. Those visits will include presentations by each of the finalists, who will also be asked to comment on their vision for the future of the Melikian Center. We will be announcing those visits in separate e-mail notices. On April 15, the Melikian Center will be hosting the semi-annual luncheon meeting of the Center’s faculty affiliates, at which time we will be honoring Russian/East European baccalaureate certificate awardees alongside other business.

Finally, please note that we have attached a copy of the announcement for the 2016 Critical Languages Institute. We are expecting a record enrollment in the CLI this summer, but places are still available in most language offerings, notably in the least commonly taught languages. A limited number of competitively awarded Title VIII graduate student fellowships are also still available for this summer’s institute. Please be sure to inform your graduate students of this opportunity. Best wishes to all of you.

– Stephen Batalden
THURSDAYS AT THE MELIKIAN CENTER

February 4: Darius Staliunas on Nineteenth-Century Lithuanian History

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February 25: Elana Jakel on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union

Dr. Elana Jakel, program manager of the new “Initiative for the Study of the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union,” will be making two presentations on February 25. She will be speaking in the “At the Melikian Center” series at 3:00 p.m. in Coor Hall 4403 on “Turning East: The New Initiative for the Study of the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.” She will also be speaking at 7:00 p.m. that same evening at Temple Emanuel (5801 S. Rural Rd.) in Tempe on “The Fate of Soviet Jews Immediately after World War II.”

The visit of Dr. Jakel to ASU builds on the earlier campus visit of Paul Shapiro, research director at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Patrick Desbois, the famous French Catholic priest who has led the effort unearthing World War II mass grave sites in Ukraine and Belarus. Prior to taking on her new post at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jakel defended in 2014 her doctoral thesis in history at the University of Illinois, “Ukraine without Jews?: Nationality and Belonging in Soviet Ukraine, 1943-48.” Her research in Ukraine was funded in part by Fulbright and IREX Fellowships. The Jakel visit to ASU is made possible in part thanks to the support of the Piotr and Basheva Polsky Memorial Initiative for the Study of Ukrainian Jewry.

March 17: Iveta Silova on Remapping National Identity Through Post-Soviet Textbooks

We welcome to the Melikian Center its newest faculty affiliate, Professor Iveta Silova, who joined the ASU faculty in January 2016 following a position she held in international education at Lehigh University. She is the author of numerous studies on education in Eurasia, including Globalization on the Margins: Education and Postsocialist Transformations in Central Asia (2011); How NGOs React: Globalization and Education Reform in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia (2008); From Sites of Occupation to Symbols of Multiculturalism: Reconceptualizing Minority Education in Post-Soviet Latvia (2006); and Postsocialism is Not Dead: Rereading the Global in Comparative Education, published as volume 14 of International Perspectives on Education and Society (2010). Her 2006 volume on minority education in Post-Soviet Latvia won the annual best book award from the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. She is a recipient of the UN Best Practices Award (2013) for inspiring students to act on issues of global concern. Also in 2013, Silova received the George Bereedy Award for her co-authored article (with Stephen Carney and Jeremy Rappleye) in Comparative Education Review, “Between Faith and Science: World Culture Theory and Comparative Education.” The Silova presentation at the Melikian Center, “Literacies of Postsocialist Childhood: Remapping National Borders, Territories, and Identities through School Textbooks,” will be on Thursday, March 17, at 3:00 p.m., in Coor Hall 4403.

April 1: Natalia Ablazhey on the Repatriation of Armenians to Soviet Armenia

On Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., April 1, the Melikian Center will be sponsoring at the Melikian Hall, Armenian Cultural Center, St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church (8849 E. Cholla St., Scottsdale), a special U.S. premier screening of the documentary film, “My Unfamiliar Fatherland,” an account of the repatriation of Armenians from Abroad into the Soviet Union after World War II. The film will be preceded by an introductory presentation by the film’s creator, Dr. Natalia Ablazhey, senior research scholar at the Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian Branch. This is a unique opportunity to join visiting Russian scholar Natalia Ablazhey and the Armenian-American community in Arizona, some of whom experienced the repatriation, in a riveting evening of film and discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

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2016 ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
CRITICAL LANGUAGES INSTITUTE

**STUDY AT ASU**
May 31–July 15
- Albanian
- Armenian
- BCS
- Indonesian
- Russian
- Turkish
- Uzbek
- Hebrew
- Macedonian
- Persian
- Polish

**THEN STUDY ABROAD**
July 18–August 12
- Tirana, Albania
- Yerevan, Armenia
- Sarajevo, Bosnia
- Bali, Indonesia
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Izmir, Turkey
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**SUMMER ABROAD**
June 20–August 12
- Albanian in Tirana
- Armenian in Yerevan
- BCS in Sarajevo
- Indonesian in Denpasar
- Russian in Bishkek
- Advanced Russian in St. Petersburg
- Turkish in Izmir

*All programs contingent upon funding and enrollment*

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