

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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 Korb 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

MELIKIAN CENTER GUEST SPEAKERS

**Ambassador Christopher Hill, Mary Choncoff
Endowed Lecturer**

Ambassador Christopher Hill, now dean of the Korb School at the University of Denver, joins us on Thursday evening, **April 7, 7:30 p.m.**, in Coor Hall 174, to deliver the annual Mary Choncoff Endowed Lecture. Ambassador Hill is a career diplomat, having served as a four-time ambassador nominated by three U. S. presidents. His latest post was as Ambassador to Iraq (April 2009-August 2010). Prior to Iraq, Hill served as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2005 until 2009 during which time he was also the head of the U.S. delegation to the Six Party Talks on the North Korean nuclear issue. Earlier, he was the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (2004-2005), Ambassador to Poland (2000-2004), Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia (1996-1999), and Special Envoy to Kosovo (1998-1999). He also served as a Special Assistant to the President and a Senior Director on the staff of the National Security Council (1999-2000). Earlier in his Foreign Service career, Ambassador Hill served tours in Belgrade, Warsaw, Seoul, and Tirana, and on the Department of State's Policy Planning Staff and in the Department's Operation Center. While on a fellowship with the American Political Science Association he served as a staff member for Congressman Stephen Solarz working on Eastern European issues. He also served as the Department of State's Senior Country Officer for Poland. Ambassador Hill received the State Department's Distinguished Service Award for his contributions as a member of the U.S. negotiating team at the Dayton Peace Accords, and was a recipient of the Robert S. Frasure Award for Peace Negotiations for his work on the Kosovo crisis of 1999. Ambassador Christopher Robert Hill currently serves as the Dean of the Josef Korb School of International Studies at the University of Denver, a position he has held since September 2010.



Ambassador Hill joins the Melikian Center on the evening of **April 7** to speak about his life as a career diplomat, including his work as U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, as set forth also in his recent 2014 volume, *Outpost: Life on the Frontlines of American Diplomacy: A Memoir* (Simon & Schuster). *Outpost* was named among Amazon's "2014 Best Books of the Year." Copies of his volume will be on sale at the Choncoff event. Ambassador Hill graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, with a B.A. in Economics. He received a master's degree from the Naval War College in 1994. He speaks Polish, Serbo-Croatian, and Macedonian.

THURSDAYS AT THE MELIKIAN CENTER



February 4: Darius Staliunas on Nineteenth-Century Lithuanian History

Professor Darius Staliunas, who visited the Melikian Center in 201X, returns to Arizona State University this spring to launch our “At the Melikian Center” series. Staliunas is deputy director of the Lithuanian Institute of History and teaches courses in Lithuanian history at both Vilnius and Klaipėda universities. His most recent publications include *Enemies for a Day: Antisemitism and Anti-Jewish Violence in Lithuania under the Tsars* (CEU Press, 2015) and, with Dangiras Mačiulis, *Lithuanian Nationalism and the Vilnius Question, 1883-1940* (Herder-Institut, 2015). His presentation on Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in Coor Hall 4403 is entitled, “Lithuanians and Jews in the 19th Century: Antisemitism, Anti-Jewish Violence, and a Pragmatic Alliance.”



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 Bereday 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.



April 14: Laurie Stoff on Russian Nurses in World War I

Dr. Laurie Stoff is a senior lecturer in Barrett, the ASU Honors College, having arrived at ASU in 2014 following her Ph.D. at Kansas University and a teaching position in the History Department at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Stoff is a specialist on gender studies and Russian women’s history. Her first book was a study of Russian women soldiers in World War I and the Russian Revolution (*They Fought for the Motherland: Russia’s Women Soldiers in World War I and the Revolution*, University Press of Kansas, 2006). She joins the series “At the Melikian Center,” on **Thursday, April 14**, at 3:30 p.m. in Coor Hall 4403 to talk about her latest 2015 volume on Russian nurses in World War I (*Russia’s Sisters of Mercy and the Great War: More Than Binding Men’s Wounds*, University Press of Kansas, 2015). Copies of Stoff’s latest work will be on sale at the book talk.

EVENTS LISTING (TIMES & LOCATIONS)

Thursday, February 4, 3:00 p.m., Coor Hall, 4403

“Lithuanians and Jews in the 19th Century: Antisemitism, Anti-Jewish Violence, and a Pragmatic Alliance.”

Darius Staliunas, Deputy Director, Lithuanian Institute of History

Thursday, February 25, 3:00 p.m., Coor Hall, 4403

“Turning East: The New Initiative for the Study of the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union”

Elana Jakel, Program Manager; Initiative for the Study of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Thursday, February 25, 7:00 p.m., Temple Emanuel (5801 S. Rural Rd.), Tempe

“The Fate of Soviet Jews Immediately After World War II”

Elana Jakel, Program Manager; Initiative for the Study of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Tuesday, March 1, 3:30 p.m., Coor Hall 4403

“What Do We Mean When We Talk About Race?: Methodological Reflections on the Theory and Practice of Race in Imperial Russia,” **Nathaniel Knight**, Associate Professor and Chair, History Department, Seton Hall University.

Thursday, March 17, 3:00 p.m., Coor Hall, 4403

“Literacies of Postsocialist Childhood: Remapping National Borders, Territories, and Identities through School Textbooks”

Iveta Silova, Professor and Director, Center for the Advanced Studies in Global Education, ASU Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

Friday, April 1, 7:00 p.m., Melikian Hall, St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church (8849 East Cholla St.)

“Armenians from Abroad: Their Post-War Repatriation and Political Repression” and the premier screening, “*My Unfamiliar Fatherland*”

Natalia N. Ablazhey, Senior Researcher, Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian Branch

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Coor Hall 174

2016 Mary Choncoff Endowed Lecture

Hon. Ambassador Christopher R. Hill, Dean, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

Thursday, April 14, 3:30 p.m., Coor Hall, 4403

Author Presentation: *Russia’s Sisters of Mercy*
Laurie Stoff, Senior Lecturer, Barrett, The Honors College, ASU

Friday, April 15, 12:00 p.m., Coor Hall, 4403

Melikian Center Faculty Affiliates Luncheon Meeting

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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

ROLLING ADMISSIONS UNTIL MAY 13, 2016

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