

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Greetings to you from the Melikian Center! Rarely has there been more reason for celebration at the Center. The articles in this 2012

newsletter highlight the achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni, their honors and recognitions. Let me simply underscore the significance of four news items that give us special cause for celebration.

First, the Melikian Center is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$1.3 million grant from Higher Education for Development (HED) for a three-year “Armenian Women’s Leadership Project” to be partnered with the ASU Women and Gender Studies Program and Yerevan State University. The broad goals of this international partnership will be to advance gender equality and empower women for positions of leadership in Armenia. Victor Agadjanian (School of Social and Family Dynamics) will direct the project, and Mary Margaret Fonow (School of Social Transformation) and I will serve as co-project directors. The inspiration behind this project, and others like it, is U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, whose commitment to women’s leadership arises out of her conviction that women are the critical catalysts of international development in post-Soviet Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The timing of the award—

announced as the Melikian Center was overseeing in September a 3-week exchange seminar visit to Arizona of 14 Azerbaijani youth leaders under an American Councils for International Education 2-year grant—is worth noting. There is no better way to overcome the paralyzing interethnic conflicts of Transcaucasia than to engage the future leaders of Eurasia in such a manner.

Second, we are extremely proud of Steve Gillen, CLI graduate and current political officer in the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo. This month Steve (CLI Macedonian and BCS student; REES baccalaureate certificate awardee) received the coveted 2012 Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs. It is among the highest honors given to a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, recognizing as it does “sustained excellence and initiative in the substantive policy areas of oceans, the environment, and science; democracy, human rights, and labor; population, migration, and refugees; and international narcotics and crime.” The honor is a tribute to Steve’s hard work and dedication. For the Melikian Center, on whose Title VIII Advisory Board Steve sits, this award draws attention once again to the growing international stature and maturity of the Critical Languages Institute, which helped to launch Steve’s work overseas. It is not coincidental that recruitment officers from the State Department, CIA, NSA, and other federal agencies traveled to Tempe throughout this past summer to attract

our finest 2012 CLI graduates. Hearty congratulations to the 2012 Warren Christopher awardee—a distinguished CLI graduate and role model, Steve Gillen!

Third, we are delighted to announce the first international Melikian symposium, “Post-Atheism: Religion, Society, and Culture in Post-Communist Eastern Europe and Eurasia,” to be held on the ASU campus, February 7-9, 2013. Interest in the symposium has exceeded all expectations, with participating scholars scheduled to arrive from Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Poland, and Lithuania, as well as from institutions throughout the United States and

*Continued on page 2*

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Center Events & News.....        | 3  |
| CLI News.....                    | 5  |
| Affiliate Support.....           | 8  |
| Center Projects.....             | 10 |
| Student Awards .....             | 11 |
| Project Updates .....            | 14 |
| Application Deadlines.....       | 17 |
| Support the Melikian Center..... | 18 |

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*from the Director cont.*

Canada. The keynote address on the evening of February 7 will be given by Jose Casanova of Georgetown University. Registration for the symposium will open in December. Mark your calendars for this important event.

Finally, we are bursting with pride over the honor given to the Center's great friend and patron, Gregory Melikian. This past summer the French Legion of Honor award was bestowed on Greg in recognition of his unique role at the close of World War II, when as a young sergeant in Allied Headquarters in France in 1945 he was the telegraph operator chosen to send out the news announcing the surrender of Germany and the end of World War II in Europe. Some years ago the Melikians gave the original copy of the 1945 telegram to the ASU Libraries. Each summer for the past five years, Gregory Melikian has given a popular talk to the Critical Languages Institute detailing for students the immediate circumstances of Germany's surrender and how he came

to announce the end of World War II. This fall, we shall have the opportunity to honor Greg, and through him all veterans, when his induction as *chevalier* into the French Legion of Honor will be recognized during halftime ceremonies honoring veterans at the ASU-Washington State University football game on Saturday, November 17. Congratulations to *Chevalier* Gregory Melikian!

There has never been a time when it has been more rewarding to participate in the training and outreach work of the Melikian Center. This fall we shall be inviting friends of the Melikian Center to join in forming a national advisory board to assist in guiding the future development of the Melikian Center. We welcome your interest and support, and look forward to talking with many of you about this important service opportunity.

Enjoy this latest news from the Melikian Center, and may the 2012-2013 bring expanded opportunities to all of you!

– Stephen Batalden

## MELIKIAN CENTER STAFF NEWS

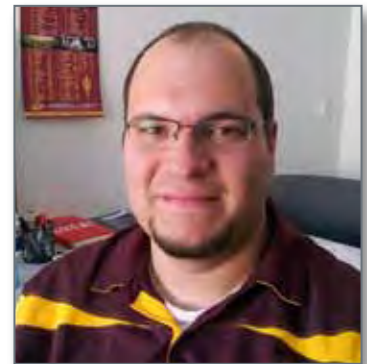


**Alexei Lalo** joined the Melikian Center as Research Administrator in January of 2012. He received an undergraduate degree in English from Minsk State Linguistic University (Belarus), a Kandidat nauk degree in Philology from Gorkii Institute for World Literature of the Russian

Academy of Sciences (Moscow), and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Texas, Austin. His graduate research has focused on the novels of Thomas Pynchon (Gorkii Institute) and sexuality in Russian literature and culture (University of Texas). He also did non-degree work as a visiting scholar for three spring semesters at the Open Society Institute (OSI)/U.S. Information Agency (USIA) Faculty Development Fellowship Program at New York University and Columbia University. Lalo received a Rockefeller Postdoctoral Fellowship for research at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

**Philip Carrano** joined the Melikian Center in December of 2011 as a Business Operations Specialist focusing on post-award management of federal grants. He has been working at ASU for ten years, and his most recent position was as a Senior Specialist with

the ASU School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering. Phil received both a B.A. in History and an M.P.A. from Arizona State University. His public administration background is mainly in finance and procurement, but he is now involved in project management, e.g. Department of State and Department of Education projects. Phil is originally from New Jersey but moved to Arizona 16 years ago. He resides in Gilbert, AZ, with his wife Anita and their daughters, Elizabeth and Julia and son Jonathan.



## MELIKIAN CENTER EVENTS

## Post-Atheism: Religion, Society and Culture in Post-Communist Eastern Europe and Eurasia

February 7-9, 2013, ASU Tempe campus

The Melikian Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Arizona State University is pleased to announce an international symposium on post-atheism in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, to be held on the ASU campus in Tempe, Arizona, February 7-9, 2013. The symposium will feature presentations by scholars from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, and seven other countries of the region. Professor Jose Casanova (Georgetown University), author of *Public Religions in the Modern World*, will keynote the symposium on Thursday, February 7.

The symposium will address one of the most fascinating and controversial issues of the post-communist world—namely, the new public role of religion in East European and Eurasian society. Is

there separation of church and state in post-Soviet Eurasia? Are Iranian-like theocracies a possibility in some regions? Is the forceful entry of religion into the public sphere a fleeting fashion or a deeper phenomenon of lasting importance? How does this recovery of religious identity intersect with prevailing theory on secularization? How has religion been reintroduced into the Academy and public education? What are the relationships between dominant religious faith traditions and minority confessions (often stigmatized as “destructive sects”) in the region?

For more information please visit: [http://melikian.asu.edu/events/20130207\\_Post\\_Atheism](http://melikian.asu.edu/events/20130207_Post_Atheism)

### February 2012 Choncoff Lecture - Ambassador Philip Reeker

On February 14, Ambassador Philip T. Reeker addressed “U.S. Policy Concerns in the Balkans: Twenty Years after the Collapse of Yugoslavia” at the 2012 Mary Choncoff endowed lecture. An enthusiastic crowd filled the ASU Alumni lounge for the event.

Ambassador Reeker assumed his current position as Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs on August 8, 2011. He supervises the office of South-Central European Affairs and is responsible for U.S. relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.

Reeker served as U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia from September 2008 until August 2011. From June 2007 until June 2008, he served at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq as the Counselor to the Ambassador for Public Affairs. He was the Deputy Chief of Mission in Budapest, Hungary from 2004 to 2007.

Ambassador Reeker was Deputy Spokesman and Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of

Public Affairs from 2000-2003. He was recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy in 2003 and traveled domestically and internationally as the “Spokesman at Large” for the State Department, giving talks and interviews on U.S. Foreign Policy and diplomacy from 2003 to 2004.

A career Foreign Service Officer, Ambassador Reeker served as Director of Press Relations at the State Department from 1999 to 2000, as Assistant Information Officer in Budapest, Hungary from 1993 to 1996, and as Public Affairs Officer in Skopje, Macedonia from 1997 to 1999. Born in Pennsylvania, Ambassador Reeker grew up in several parts of the United States, and in Australia. He received a BA from Yale in 1986, and an MBA from the Thunderbird School of International Management in 1991.





## MELIKIAN CENTER NEWS



### Gregory Melikian Knighted

Gregory Melikian, whose family name the Center proudly bears, was notified in July 2012 that he had been selected for induction into the French Legion of Honor with the title of “Chevalier,” or Knight. The induction and the medal shown here honor Melikian’s role in World War II when, as a young sergeant in Allied Command Headquarters, he was the telegraph operator chosen to send out the official telegram announcing the unconditional surrender of Germany and the end of World War II in Europe. As part of the November 17 halftime ceremonies honoring veterans during the ASU-Washington State University football game, Gregory Melikian’s induction into the French Legion of Honor will be recognized. Flanking Mr. Melikian on the football field that evening will be two CLI ROTC Project Global Officer students—Pascal Traylor (Persian student, Naval ROTC) and Chelsea Bejines (Uzbek student, Army ROTC)—representing the commitment of Gregory and Emma Melikian to the Center and its Critical Languages Institute.

### Steven Gillen Selected for 2012 Warren Christopher Award

The U. S. Department of State has announced the selection of ASU Critical Languages Institute alumnus Steven Gillen, Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Sarajevo, as the winner of the prestigious 2012 Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs.

Steve Gillen, who currently serves on the Melikian Center’s Title VIII Selection Committee and Advisory Board, was a CLI student of Macedonian and BCS in 1992, 1993, and 1997 before holding the National Security Education Program Boren Fellowship in Macedonia. In Macedonia at the time of the NATO bombing campaign in Kosovo, Steve assisted U.S. Public Affairs Officer Philip Reeker (2012 Mary Choncoff Lecturer) with communications during the Albanian Kosovar refugee crisis of 1999. Following completion of his M.S. degree at Georgetown University, Steve entered the U.S. Foreign Service. He has served appointments in Belarus and Iraq prior to his current assignment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The 2012 Warren Christopher Selection Committee, chaired by Maria Otero, Under Secretary

of State for Global Affairs, chose Gillen for his “superb substantive and operational leadership in facilitating safe and secure refugee returns, promoting human rights and interethnic reconciliation, and transforming demining efforts to meet humanitarian needs.



Steve leveraged assistance funds, convinced local officials and NGOs to match contributions, rooted out an estimated \$1.5 million in potential fraud and mismanagement, and ensured maximum humanitarian impact of every U.S. dollar spent for the benefit of demining and ensuring returnees’ safety. His initiatives are recognized as best practices throughout the State Department, and Congress introduced a legislative initiative modeled on his work.” The award issued by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton includes a prize of \$10,000.

## CRITICAL LANGUAGES INSTITUTE NEWS

### CLI Opens New Programs, Faces Budget Cuts

The ASU Critical Languages Institute added two new study-abroad programs this summer: a month-long program in Samarqand, Uzbekistan, and a summer-long program in Kiev, Ukraine. At the same time, the Institute is working to maintain capacity despite national funding cutbacks.

CLI celebrated a number of firsts this summer. The Institute trained 168 students in less commonly taught languages and sent a record 97 abroad. Students took courses in Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Farsi, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Tajik, and Uzbek.

Building on the success of its 2011 program in Uzbekistan, CLI expanded its study-abroad program in Samarqand to include Persian, taking advantage of the multilingual culture of the city (where Uzbek, Persian, and Russian are all widely spoken). Fifteen students spent mornings studying Persian or Uzbek and afternoons and evenings practicing their language skills at the bazaar, on the soccer field, in backgammon matches, etc.

Due to visa difficulties, the CLI summer-long program for Russian had to be moved from CLI's traditional location of Kazan, Russia, to Kiev, Ukraine. Instruction in Kiev was provided by the Nova Mova



*CLI 2012 students and faculty - Hayden Lawn, ASU*

Russian School, using CLI curricula. Students spent half of each day in class and half exploring the Ukrainian capital with peer partners and friends. The Ukrainian location also offered students new opportunities to explore, with many visiting the Black Sea cities of Odessa and Yalta, admiring the baroque architecture of Lvov, and blogging about the eerie silence of the Chernobyl region. Meanwhile, students in CLI's four-week program for Elementary Russian were able to get visas on schedule and the program went forward as usual in Kazan.

CLI offered 7 overseas programs this summer, with 32 students studying in Ukraine, 17 in Russia, 16 in Tajikistan, 15 in Uzbekistan, 10 in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 5 in Armenia, and 2 in Albania.

CLI also welcomed new faculty this summer. Elementary Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian was led by Jakov Causević, whose energetic and inventive classes were instrumental in doubling the size of the study-abroad program in Sarajevo (which he also led). Intermediate Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian was taught by Ellen Elias-Bursac, who in addition to being co-author of the



*CLI 2012 students in Kiev, Ukraine*



students' textbook, brought to CLI several decades of experience as an American living and working in Yugoslavia and its successor states. Rumena Bužarovska returned to CLI after a four-year hiatus to teach elementary Macedonian. The institute benefited greatly from the extensive experience of Marina Sari-ad-Din, a graduate of St. Petersburg State University and director of the Russian Language and Cultural Center in Tripoli, Lebanon. Nasiba Mirpochoeva of Khujand State University and Layli Makhudova of Tajik National University joined CLI to teach advanced and elementary Tajik. Finally, two local instructors, Tatiana Konstantinova – who until recently taught at the Thunderbird School of Global

Management in Glendale, AZ – and Nasrin Ghavamishirazi of the Arizona State University School of International Letters and Cultures, joined CLI to teach elementary Russian and advanced Persian.

In 2012, CLI was one of two summer language institutes in the U.S. to receive Title VIII Graduate Student Fellowship funding from the Department of State. (The other was the Summer Workshop on Slavic and East European Languages at Indiana University.) This funding allowed CLI to provide fellowships to 27 graduate students participating in Arizona-based and overseas CLI courses in the upper levels of the least commonly taught languages of Central Asia and Eurasia.



*CLI Students in Kazan, Russia  
August 2012*

## VISITING FLTAs

The Critical Languages Institute is pleased to announce the arrival of five visiting Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs)—Nargiza Vokhidova from Uzbekistan, Khayrina Khudododova from Tajikistan, Maurilio Oliveira da Costa from Brazil, Junaidah Nur from Indonesia, and Joy Belardo from Thailand. They will be teaching their native languages and studying at ASU in the fall and spring semesters. Two of these scholars, Ms. Vokhidova and Ms. Khudododova, are hosted through the Melikian Center and have been working with Dr. Kathleen Evans-Romaine to offer



*Nargiza Vokhidova, Khayrina Khudododova, Maurilio Oliveira da Costa and Junaidah Nur with CLI Director Kathleen Evans-Romaine (not pictured FLTA Joy Belardo)*

instruction in elementary and intermediate Tajik and Uzbek. The Center will be sponsoring special presentations by them this semester. Mr. Costa is hosted by Dr. David Foster of the School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC). Ms. Junaidah and Ms. Belardo are hosted by Dr. Peter Suwarno, also of SILC.

Please note that all 5 FLTAs are available to make presentations on their native countries and cultures, as well as upon topics in their fields. Contact the Melikian Center for details about the Uzbek and Tajik FLTAs, and SILC for details about the Indonesian, Portuguese or Thai FLTAs.



*CLI 2012 Students in Uzbekistan*

Preliminary data suggest that these students made significant and measurable language progress during their time at CLI. Title VIII funding will be available again in 2013.

CLI 2012 also offered expanded support for undergraduate study through the Melikian Scholars program (which funds three students for study abroad and 15 students for study in Arizona, for selected languages), and through an expanded set of International Distinguished Engagement Awards (IDEAs), including: the CLI Friends IDEA, the Emmanuil and Sarra Senderov Memorial IDEA, the Imre Sandor Memorial IDEA, the Gregory and Emma Melikian IDEAs (two), the Doris Hastings IDEAs (two), and the Linda Lederman IDEA.

Since 2008, CLI has been part of the national Project GO coalition of universities authorized to train ROTC students in critical languages. Including the 39 ROTC students who attended CLI this summer, ASU has trained 150 Project GO participants in Russian, Persian, Tatar, and Uzbek.

CLI also hosts the national coordinator for Project GO outreach and recruitment, Marina Akins. Marina works closely with all 25 Project GO universities to coordinate application procedures and outreach efforts, as well as working one-on-one with ROTC units and with individual cadets. When she is not working on Project GO matters, Marina advises ROTC students from ASU as the local Project GO student coordinator.

As in past years, CLI 2012 placed a heavy emphasis on career and grant mentoring, with presentations by job recruiters, scholarship and fellowship agencies, and representatives of U.S. government agencies ranging from the Peace Corps and Foreign Service to USAID and the intelligence community. Rated highly by students, these sessions proved efficacy of such efforts by the fact that an estimated 1 in 7 CLI students has, over the past 10 years, gone on to apply for and receive a nationally competitive scholarship or fellowship for study abroad.

Although CLI 2012 was the largest and strongest CLI to date, the Institute faces significant challenges ahead. Cutbacks in funding for the Department of State's Title VIII program to support training in the languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia will have a noticeable impact on CLI 2013. Of the 13 courses supported by Title VIII in 2012, for example, only 4 will be supported in 2013. Graduate student fellowships will drop from 25 per year to an estimated 15. The result is that the CLI will inevitably become more dependent upon private support and student fees.

Despite these challenges, CLI looks forward to cementing the successes of 2012 to produce a 2013 program that will continue to offer the widest possible range of accessible, high-quality summer language training in less commonly taught languages.

## CENTER AWARDS RESEARCH INCENTIVE FUNDS TO AFFILIATES

For the past two years the Melikian Center has been pleased to be able to award competitive research incentive funding to select faculty and graduate affiliates. The research incentive funds are monies received by the Center as part of the overhead on its grants and contracts. Eleven awardees have been competitively chosen for funding in 2012-13.

**Volker Benkert** (Lecturer, ASU School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies) received support toward publishing costs of his book, *Biographien im Umbuch. Sozialisation und Transformationserfahrung der letzten DDR Jugend* [*Biographies in Transition: The Last Children of the GDR Today*], which explores the socialization of the last GDR youth cohort before 1990 and the shared encounter with the process of transformation after unification. The Links publishing house, which will publish the book, is led by the former East German dissident Christopher Links. Benkert has also established collaboration with scholars working on Polish and Czech youth cohorts in late socialism and the process of transformation since 1989. Publication of the book will foster new comparative research avenues and funding opportunities on socialization patterns and adaptive strategies before and after 1989. Benkert's HST 499 course, that related to this research, led to a Sun Angel Excellence in Humanities Scholarship and an Honors Thesis on East German dissident writers.

**Shahin Berisha** (Mathematics and Physics Faculty, GateWay Community College), who has served as an adviser for the Center's grant projects in Kosovo over the past dozen years, received funding to assist in hosting a delegation from the European College Dukagjini (ECD) in Peja, Kosovo. The European College Dukagjini, accredited by the Accreditation Agency of Kosovo, is one of the leading private universities in Kosovo. The delegation will hold meetings with the Melikian Center and the Gateway Community College Department of Corporate Training and Development, and they will make a site visit to a job training location. They will also make presentations about the future of private higher

education in Kosovo and the current state of workforce development in Kosovo.

**Anna Cichopek-Gajraj** (Assistant Professor, ASU School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies) received funding to assist in hosting Prof. Natalia Aleksion, who will present the paper, "Jewish Historiography in Pre-war Poland," at the Revival of Jewish Studies in Eastern Europe symposium at ASU in November 2012. The Melikian Center, in collaboration with the ASU Center for Jewish Studies, looks to foster collaboration with the Jewish Studies Department at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Such a partnership will facilitate joint research and teaching projects, as well as an exchange of faculty and students.

**Eugene Clay** (Associate Professor, ASU School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies) has been invited by the London School of Economics to participate in a research group of distinguished specialists in new religious movements (NRMs). Travel funds provided by the Melikian Center will allow Prof. Clay to travel to London to present his work on the Russian NRM "The Church of the Mother of God of the Sovereign Icon", one of the most prominent and controversial religious movements in the post-Soviet period. In February 2013, Clay will present his research at the Melikian Center's Post-Atheism conference.

**Paul Hirt** (Associate Professor, ASU School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies) received travel support to host visiting Slovenian immigration scholar Dr. Matjaž Klemenčič, who met in early October with Melikian Center faculty and staff to discuss a research partnership and institutional affiliation between ASU and the University of



Maribor and University of Ljubljana, both in Slovenia. Professor Klemenčič's lecture at ASU addressed "Immigrant Wars? How Have Balkan Immigrants to the U.S. Reacted to the Dissolution of Yugoslavia." Prof. Hirt was a Fulbright Fellow teaching American History at the University of Maribor, Slovenia, in 2012.

**Immaculada Colomina Limonero** (Exchange Scholar, Melikian Center and the School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies) wrote her dissertation, "Spanish Children Refugees in the Soviet Union after the Spanish Civil War", at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia Madrid (Spain). While at ASU, she has been following up her research on refugees of the Spanish Civil War by tracing their steps to the United States. Dr. Colomina Limonero has completed the two-year fellowship from the Catalan Government and is now continuing her research with limited support from the Melikian Center and other sources.

**Laurie Manchester** (Associate Professor, ASU School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies) received support to conduct research in Omsk, Russia, for her study, *"The Real Russians Return: Repatriates from China to the U.S.S.R."* Omsk is the city in Russia with the largest number of living repatriates from China. Manchester will conduct oral interviews and do research in the Omsk Historical Archives and the Omsk ethnographic museum. Prior to her work in Omsk, she has interviewed repatriates in Cheliabinsk, Ekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, and Moscow. The Omsk voices will expand her research.

**Martin Beck Matustik** (Lincoln Professor of Ethics and Religion and Co-Director of the Center for Critical Theory and Cultural Studies in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University West campus) received support from the Melikian Center toward publication of *Out of Silence*, a memoir rooted in his personal story and in the public history that accompanies it. The book tells about his life growing up in Prague as a child of Communist parents, a Czech art historian father and a Slovak-Jewish playwright mother. A twentieth-century oral history of three post-Holocaust generations, their socialist, religious and atheistic responses to the

war trauma, the story spans three continents and key historical events such as the Prague Spring, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, Jan Palach's self-immolation, the birth of "Charter 77," the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the Velvet Revolution.

**Victor Peskin** (Associate Professor, ASU School of Politics and Global Studies) received funding to conduct research at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia in The Hague and at the EU in Brussels for a journal article examining the international politics leading to the 2011 arrest of Ratko Mladic in Serbia.

**Danko Šipka** (Professor, ASU School of International Letters and Cultures) received travel support to present his research on heritage speakers of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian to colleagues at the U.S. Department of State in November 2012.

**Andrew Reed** (graduate student, Ph.D. program, ASU School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies) received travel support for his dissertation work in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the spring of 2013. His dissertation is entitled, "For One's Brothers: Daniil Avraamovich Khvol'son and the Jewish Question in Late Imperial Russia." Reed will conduct research in the Russian State Historical Archives, the Russian Academy of Sciences Archives, and the Russian National Library on the topic of ritual murder charges against Jews.

## **Fall 2012 Meeting of Melikian Center Faculty and Graduate Affiliates**

**Friday, November 2  
12 PM**

**COOR Hall 4403**

## MELIKIAN CENTER PROJECTS

### Azerbaijan-American Youth Leadership Exchange Program Completes First Year

In October 2011, the Melikian Center received two-year \$180,000 funding to conduct an exchange of American and Azerbaijani youth leaders. The Azerbaijani-American Youth Leadership Program is funded in part by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is administered by the American Councils for International Education. The first phase of the project, conducted in July 2012, involved the travel of seven young people and two teachers from Mesa and Phoenix high schools to Azerbaijan for a seminar and site visits in the cities of Baku and Ganja. The September 2012 reciprocal visit of 14 Azerbaijani youth leaders was organized at ASU around a seminar theme of “Cultural Diversity, Civil Society, and Responsible Citizenship.” Sessions were devoted to such topics as the U.S. Constitution, American race relations, Native American cultures of the U.S. Southwest, and voluntarism in American society. According to participant evaluations, the highlights of the session were the visit to the Navajo Nation and the session spent with retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (photo below). Participating youth leaders had the opportunity to stay in local homes both in Mesa and in Baku. In the second year of the exchange, American participants will be selected from competing applicants at Mesa Westwood, Red Mountain, and Dobson High Schools. For further information on the Azerbaijan-American Youth Leadership Exchange, contact the Melikian Center research administrator, Alexei Lalo ([alalo@asu.edu](mailto:alalo@asu.edu), 480-965-4188).



*Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (center) with U.S. and Azerbaijani Youth Leadership groups*

### Melikian Center to Launch Women’s Leadership Project in Armenia

Higher Education for Development, an agency that channels USAID international development funding to institutions of higher learning, has announced the award of a \$1.3 million grant to the ASU Melikian Center for a women’s leadership project in Armenia entitled, “Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Armenia.” In partnership with the ASU Women and Gender Studies Program and Yerevan State University (YSU), the Melikian Center will develop, over the course of the three-year project, a YSU Center for Women and Gender Studies as a hub for curricular development, leadership training, job placement, and public policy outreach in Armenia. The project will be directed by Melikian Center faculty

affiliate Professor Victor Agadjanian (ASU School of Social and Family Dynamics). Professors Mary Margaret Fonow (Director, ASU School of Social Transformation) and Stephen Batalden will serve as co-project directors.

Included within the project are semester-in-residence visits by YSU scholars, beginning with the spring 2013 semester when four Armenian colleagues will be working with their ASU counterparts to develop Armenian curriculum modeled on that of the ASU Women and Gender Studies Program. An initial needs assessment phase of the project begins in October 2012 during the site visit to Armenia of co-project directors Agadjanian, Fonow, and Batalden.

## 2012 CLI STUDENT AWARDEES

The CLI's annual awards ceremony was held this summer on July 19. CLI faculty and outstanding students in each language were given special recognition, as were the State Department Title VIII graduate fellows, the undergraduate Melikian Fellows, and the recipients of CLI's 2012 IDEAs (International Distinguished Engagement Awards). This year the Melikian Center was able to use its endowment funds to support eight undergraduate Melikian Fellows from Arizona State University, Centre College, Brigham Young University and Georgetown University.

The 2012 **Melikian Fellows** are:

**Paula Crawford**, graduate of Ray High School in Kearny, AZ, now majoring in Political Science and Business Communication at ASU, studied Intermediate Albanian in the 2012 CLI and the CLI summer four-week program in Tirana, Albania. Crawford is spending the 2012-2013 academic year on a Boren Scholarship in Kosovo studying Albanian. Her plans include applying for the Pickering Fellowship and a vocation in the U.S. Foreign Service.

**Emilie Doering**, a graduate of Marcos de Niza High school in Tempe, AZ, a National Merit Scholar Finalist (2011), and an ASU student majoring in Global Studies and Biological Sciences, studied Elementary Armenian in the 2012 CLI and the CLI summer four-week program in Yerevan, Armenia. Doering's career plans include work in international affairs.

**Graeme Fox**, a graduate of Greenway High School in Phoenix, AZ, is an ASU student majoring in English and pursuing the Russian and East European Studies Certificate. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society (Fall

2011) and studied third-year Russian in Kyiv, Ukraine, in the 2012 CLI. His immediate plan is to pursue a graduate degree in Comparative Literature and Russian/Slavic Studies and his long-term plan is to teach literature, both Russian and English.

**Anna Hendricks**, a student from Georgetown University majoring in International Politics with a concentration in International Security, studied Intermediate Uzbek in the 2012 CLI. She practiced Uzbek between summers at the CLI with Uzbeks living in the DC area. Hendricks studied abroad in Uzbekistan in the 2011 CLI three-week program. Her plans include pursuing a career in the U.S. Department of State.

**Karissa Jackson**, a student at Centre College (Danville, KY) majoring in Russian Studies and Government and commuting to the University of Kentucky to attend Russian classes, studied third-year Russian in Kyiv, Ukraine, in the 2012 CLI. She is spending the 2012-2013 academic year on a Boren Scholarship in Moscow studying Russian. Jackson's career plans include working as a consular

officer in the U.S. Foreign Service.

**Rachel Kultala**, a graduate of Corona del Sol High School in Tempe, AZ, now majoring in Spanish Linguistics at ASU was a National Merit Scholar Finalist (2009). A student of Advanced Mastery Armenian in CLI 2012, she studied abroad in the CLI 2011 three-week program in Yerevan, Armenia, and received both the Melikian Scholar Award and an IDEA Award in 2011. Kultala has applied for the Pickering Fellowship and hopes to enter the U.S. Foreign Service.

**Nicholas Lambson**, a student at Brigham Young University majoring in Russian and Sound Recording Technology, studied Elementary Uzbek in the 2012 CLI and in the CLI 2012 four-week program in Samarqand, Uzbekistan. Lambson's career plans include the U.S. Foreign Service.

**Mark McCarty**, a graduate of Payson High School in Payson, AZ, and an ASU student majoring in Economics, studied Third-Year Persian in the 2012 CLI and in the 2012 CLI four-week program in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. He studied abroad in Moscow, Russia,





*Melikian Scholars Mark McCarty, Nicholas Lambson, Rachel Kultala, Anna Hendricks, Emilie Doering and Paula Crawford at the CLI Awards Ceremony with Dr. Batalden*

during the 2011-12 academic year. McCarty plans to apply for a Fulbright Fellowship and his career plans include serving as a Foreign Service Officer in Central Asia in the U.S. Department of State.

The **CLI IDEAs (International Distinguished Engagement Awards)** are granted to outstanding students who will be engaging in overseas research as part of an ongoing commitment to international study and/or foreign service. This year's awardees are:

**Nicholas Lambson – CLI Friends IDEA.** Nicholas is a student at Brigham Young University majoring in Russian and Sound Recording Technology, studied Elementary Uzbek in the 2012 CLI and in the CLI 2012 four-week program in Samarqand, Uzbekistan.

**Isabela Cigarroa – CLI Emmanuel and Sarra Senderov Memorial IDEA.** Isabella, a student at the University of Notre Dame majoring in Russian and Political Sci-

ence, studied Third-Year Russian in the six-week program in Kyiv, Ukraine, in the 2012 CLI. She plans on attending law school and working for the United Nations.

**Nicholas Collins – CLI Imre Sandor Memorial IDEA.** Nicholas, a student at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in International Affairs, studied Intermediate Persian in the 2012 CLI and in the CLI 2012 four-week program in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Collins's career plans include working as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, or in another role in the U.S. Department of State.

**Melisa Frost – CLI Gregory and Emma Melikian IDEA.** Melisa, an ASU student majoring in Russian, Global Studies, and Political Science, studied Intermediate Tajik in the 2012 CLI. She is studying abroad in Arme-

nia taking Persian Language classes on a Boren Scholarship in 2012-2013. Frost's career plans include serving as a political analyst for the federal government.

**Amy Stidger – CLI Gregory and Emma Melikian IDEA.** Amy, a graduate student in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, studied Elementary Armenian in the 2012 CLI having received a Title VIII fellowship to do so. She followed this work by participating in the 2012 CLI four-week program in Yerevan, Armenia. Stidger's career plans include working as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, or in another role with the U.S. Department of State.

**Corinne King – CLI Doris Hastings IDEA.** Corinne, a psychologist with an M.S. in Psychology from the University of Phoenix, studied Elementary Albanian in the 2012 CLI in Tempe and then abroad in the CLI 2012 four-week program in Tirana Albania. She plans to conduct research at the American University in Kosovo on the psy-



*IDEA Award Recipient Nicholas Collins with Katalin J. Festy Sandor*



*IDEA Award Recipient Mina Madani with Dean Linda Lederman*

chological effects of the war in Kosovo and is applying for a Fulbright Fellowship to help fund her travel and research in 2013-2014.

**Sarah Kotlar – CLI Doris Hastings IDEA.** Sarah, an ASU graduate with a B.A. in Russian, studied Elementary Armenian in the 2012 CLI and then went abroad to the CLI 2012 four-week program in Yerevan, Armenia. Kotlar's career plans are to work as an analyst or language officer for the U.S. federal government.

**Mina Madani – CLI Linda Lederman IDEA.** Mina, a graduate student in the Ph.D. program of the Payson Center for International Development at the Tulane University Law School, studied Elementary Persian/Tajiki in the 2012 CLI having received a Title VIII fellowship for this work. She studied abroad in the CLI 2012 four-week program in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Madani's academic plans include her Ph.D. research on gender disparities in Tajikistan and continued work on gender and development.

***Congratulations to all  
these deserving  
2012 CLI awardees!***

## **NSEP AWARDEES 2012-2013**

The following CLI students have received the highly competitive Boren National Security Education Program fellowship for overseas study in 2012-2013.

**Paula Crawford** (Boren Scholar), graduate of Ray High School in Kearny, AZ, and now majoring in Political Science and Business Communication at ASU, studied Intermediate Albanian in the 2012 CLI and the CLI summer four-week program in Tirana, Albania. Crawford is spending the 2012-2013 academic year on a Boren Scholarship in Kosovo studying Albanian.

**Melisa Frost** (Boren Scholar), an ASU student majoring in Russian, Global Studies, and Political Science, studied Intermediate Tajik in the 2012 CLI. She is studying abroad in Armenia taking Persian language classes.

**Karissa Jackson** (Boren Scholar), a student at Centre College (Danville, KY) majoring in Russian Studies and Government and commuting to the University of Kentucky to attend Russian classes, studied third-year Russian in Kyiv, Ukraine, in the 2012 CLI. She is spending the 2012-2013 academic year on a Boren Scholarship in Moscow studying Russian.

**Andrew Reed** (Boren Fellow), an ASU graduate student in the History Ph.D. program will be studying abroad in Russia and conducting research toward his Ph.D. dissertation on Christian-Jewish relations in Imperial Russia.

**Matthew Becker** (Boren Fellow), a graduate student at the University of Mississippi in the Political Science Ph.D. program, studied Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian in the 2011 and 2012 CLIs and was a recipient of a 2011 & 2012 Title VIII fellowship to study in the CLI. He is studying abroad in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia conducting research on the topic, "Separate but Equal: The Role of the Educational System in Preventing Democratic Consolidation."

## SPRING 2012 JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (JFDP) FELLOWS

The Center hosted two JFDP fellows in Spring 2012. Jeyhun Mahmudlu (Azerbaijan) and Alban Nimani (Kosovo). Prof. Mahmudlu received his Ph.D. in History from the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. He serves as a senior lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies of the Faculty of Law at Qafqaz University in Azerbaijan. His scholarly interests are in the fields of Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies and International Affairs. Mahmudlu teaches Diplomatic History, International Organizations, and Energy Security. He is the Director of his institution's Center for Conflict Studies and is editor-in-chief of its *Journal for Law, History, and Political Science*. His academic advisor while at ASU was Prof. David Siroky, Assistant Professor of Political Science in the School of Politics and Global Studies.



*JFDP fellow Jeyhun Mahmudlu (Azerbaijan)*



*JFDP fellow Alban Nimani (Kosovo)*

Prof. Nimani serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Graphic Design of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Prishtina. His scholarly interests include: graphic design, web design, video and audio production, interactive media, and installation and performance art. Nimani has worked with the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society and has studied at the Arts Institute at Bournemouth, United Kingdom. At ASU, Prof. Muriel Magenta served as Nimani's JFDP academic advisor. She is a professor in the School of Art in the ASU Herberger Institute.

In Spring 2013, JFDP will have fewer candidates, but the Center still hopes to host at least two fellows.

The Junior Faculty Development program is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State. It is administered by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS. JFDP is a non-degree, professional

development program that provides promising junior university faculty with the opportunity to expand knowledge and expertise, garner new educational perspectives, gather new academic materials and resources and forge relationships between U.S. universities and their home universities.





## NATIONAL ORIENTATION FOR FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS 2012

The Melikian Center welcomed 47 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) to the annual national orientation program held this year from August 27 to 31, at Arizona State University. The orientation is sponsored every year by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Institute for International Education. The orientation seminar marks the arrival of Fulbright international language teachers into the United States before their onward journey to institutions across the country where they will be teaching under terms of the FLTA program.

The FLTA program enables young educators from around the world to teach language courses, supervise language labs, and lead language-table discussions. During their one-year residence in the United States, FLTAs refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the cultures and customs of the United States, while pursuing non-degreed study in their chosen field at U.S. colleges and universities.

The orientation program hosted by the Melikian Center was designed to provide the FLTAs with an introduction to the academic and social cultures of U.S.



*FLTA Orientation Participants at final banquet dinner*

higher education, facilitating their smooth transition to host universities throughout the United States. To accomplish these goals, the orientation incorporated large-group instructional sessions and small-group workshops, introducing participants to the latest and best practices in the field of language instruction. The sessions were led by ASU faculty members recognized for their effective teaching.

The Melikian Center is one of a handful of institutions across the nation serving as national FLTA orientation host sites. In the 2012-13 academic year, more than 400 Fulbright FLTAs will live, study, and teach at U.S. colleges and universities.



## SPRING 2013 COURSE OFFERING

An Upper-Division Undergraduate Course (HST 494) will be offered by Melikian Center post-doc research administrator Alexei Lalo, in Spring 2013. The title of the course is: **Sex and Society in Modern Russia: Gender and Sexualities from 1860s Nihilists to Pussy Riot's Protests.**

The course will be an overview of the development of cultural and social discourses of gender and sex in Russia beginning as early as the 1860s (viz., Chernyshevsky's novels *What is To Be Done* and *Prologue* and Turgenev's love stories) through the "women's liberation movement" and Soviet "emancipation of women" and continuing to Pussy Riots and the crackdown on LGBT movements in present-day Putin's Russia.

The main objective of this course is to look at the ways human sexualities have been represented in modernizing Russian/Soviet/post-Soviet culture and understand how these representations are related to utopian and anti-utopian ideologies in Russia.

The course will feature several movies, documentaries, and music videos, and readings from novels, short stories, essays, and articles, which portray how masculinity and femininity, homo- and heterosexuality as well as such phenomena as prostitution, pornography, sexual and domestic violence, paraphilias, sexual harassment, etc. have been historically expressed in modern Russian literature, culture and society.

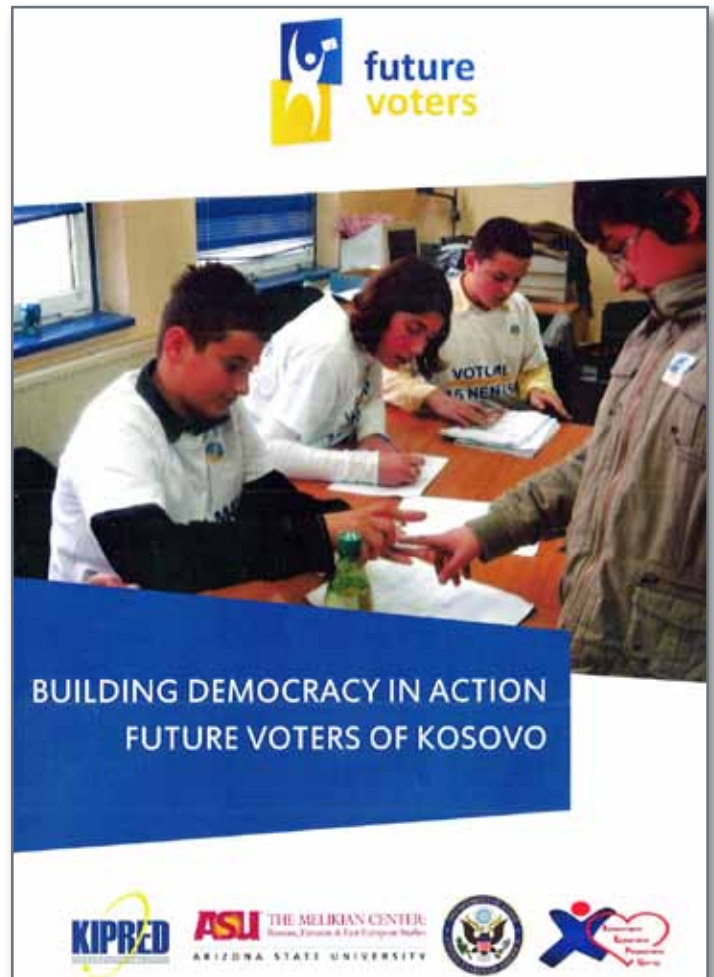
## PROJECT UPDATE: KOSOVO

### Kids Voting—Future Voters of Kosovo Project

Future Voters of Kosovo has completed the planned first round of Municipal Youth Council (MYC) meetings in the seven largest cities of Kosovo, three of which were witnessed by the visiting delegation from the ASU Melikian Center to Kosovo in May 2012. The MYCs are being built from the ranks of existing secondary school student councils.

The training manual for Municipal Youth Councils, *Building Democracy in Action: Future Voters of Kosovo*, a trilingual English/Albanian/Serbian manual, was completed by project intern Zachary Yentzer (Boren Scholar 2011-2012) in April 2012. The manual sets forth a timeline for the implementation of the MYCs, identifies the relevant terminology and operating rules of order, and reviews how delegates should be selected. The manual is an important legacy of the project, and reflects also the hard work of the ASU intern Zachary Yentzer, who prepared the initial draft in English, with translation into Albanian and Serbian done by the project NGO partners, KIPRED and HERC.

Professors Batalden, Berisha (GateWay Community College, Phoenix), and Kader (ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law) observed the first three MYC delegate gatherings in Mitrovica, Gjakova, and Gračanica during their May 12-19 site visit. Following the ASU site visit, KIPRED proceeded to convene the other MYCs. The Prizren MYC was convened in May, and the remaining four MYC gatherings in Prishtina, Peja, Ferizaj, and Gjiilan were held in June. The delegates at the seven gatherings represented more than 70% of all schools operating in the respective municipalities, with several of the MYCs registering participation rates close to 90%. The successful completion of the first round of MYC gatherings in May and June is a tribute especially to the leadership of KIPRED representative Eremire Berisha, whose overall leadership on the project is now shared with Arban Mehmeti and Fjolla Kavaja, the two assistants hired to work with outlying municipalities.



*Front cover of the Future Voters training manual*

The project is gearing up for its fall sessions and the statewide Kosovo Youth Assembly in the spring of 2013. Twenty initial issues for potential youth legislation have been developed. The work on these legislative issues continued over the summer, led by student delegate leaders who are taking upon themselves the initiative to formulate proposed legislation in collaboration with KIPRED and HERC representatives. The Melikian Center has invited U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeastern Europe Philip Reeker to address the first meeting of the multi-ethnic statewide Kosovo Youth Assembly in March 2013.

Future Voters of Kosovo is a project conducted by the ASU Melikian Center in partnership with NGOs in Kosovo, KIPRED and HERC, and funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

## FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES 2012-2013

### ACIE

Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (scholarships available)

Summer deadline .....Feb. 15, 2013

Fall deadline.....Mar. 15, 2013

Academic-year deadline.....Mar. 15, 2013

Balkan Language Initiative (financial aid and scholarships available)

Summer deadline .....Mar. 1, 2013

Fall Semester deadline .....Mar. 15, 2013

Academic-year deadline.....Mar. 15, 2013

Eurasian Regional Language Program (financial aid available)

Summer Program deadline.....Mar. 1, 2013

Fall Semester deadline .....Mar. 15, 2013

Academic-year deadline.....Mar. 15, 2013

### ACLS

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Deadline .....Oct. 24, 2012

Dissertation Fellowships in East European Studies

Deadline .....Nov. 15, 2012

### Critical Language Scholarship Program

Deadline .....Nov. 15, 2012

### IREX

Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO)

Deadline .....Nov. 14, 2012

Short-Term Travel Grants Program

Deadline .....Feb. 6, 2013

### Kennan Institute

Kennan Institute Title VIII Research Scholarships

Deadline .....Dec. 1, 2012

Kennan Institute Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grant

Closing dates.....Dec. 1, 2012; Mar. 1, 2013; Jun. 1, 2013; and Sept. 1, 2013.

Kennan Institute Summer Research Scholarships

Deadline .....Dec. 1, 2012

Kennan Institute Research Assistant Internships

Deadlines .Oct. 1, 2012, Mar. 15, 2013, Jul. 1, 2013

Kennan Institute East European Studies Short-term Research Scholarships

Deadlines Dec. 1, 2012, Mar. 1, 2013, Jun. 1, 2013, and Sept. 1, 2013

Kennan Institute East European Studies Research Grants

Deadline .....Dec. 1, 2012

Kennan Institute East European Studies Summer Research Scholarships

Deadline .....Mar. 1, 2013

### NEH

NEH Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Deadline .....Dec. 4, 2012

NEH Scholarly Editions and Translations Grants

Deadline .....Dec. 6, 2012

NEH Collaborative Research Grants

Deadline .....Dec. 6, 2012

NEH Digital Humanities Implementation Grants

Deadline .....Jan. 23, 2013

### \*\*NSEP

NSEP Boren Fellowships (graduate students)

Deadline .....Jan. 31, 2013

NSEP Boren Scholarships (undergraduate students)

Deadline .....Feb. 13, 2013

### SSRC

International Dissertation Research Fellowship

(IDRF)

Deadline .....Nov. 7, 2012

\*\*ASU maintains earlier internal deadlines for these fellowship programs.

## GRANT APPLICATION MENTORING PROGRAM

The Melikian Center continues the tradition of conducting grant mentoring for prospective Fulbright, NSEP, and Gilman applicants. The Center has generated more than fifty NSEP and Fulbright awards over the past decade. Applications are now open for study abroad fellowships for 2013-14. The mentoring

sessions are open to all undergraduate and graduate students contemplating overseas study in Eastern Europe and Eurasia during the 2013-14 academic year. Interested students should contact Melikian Center offices (480-965-4188).



## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MELIKIAN CENTER

Please consider joining the Friends of the Melikian Center by making a gift to support our faculty and students.

Your support for deserving students, for world-class language instruction in the Melikian Center's Critical Languages Institute, for timely public programs and research conferences, and for distinguished international scholars-in-residence has helped to make ASU a premier national research and training center for East European and Eurasian studies.

We thank you and encourage you to make a gift to support the Critical Languages Institute and our scholarship program. Your investment in an IDEA — an International Distinguished Engagement Award — creates a transformative opportunity for students to travel and immerse themselves in a country's culture while advancing their proficiency in the language learned in the Critical Languages Institute.

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- ☐      Please contact me to discuss a named IDEA student scholarship endowment (\$30,000).

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