Greetings to colleagues and friends of the Melikian Center. As incoming Director, let me start by extending my thanks to all those of you who have extended such a warm welcome, and been so ready to share your ideas and experience. Your generosity of spirit and enduring support have made the Center what it is.

This newsletter provides a wealth of detailed information about activities over the past few months, when the Center was under the leadership of Interim Director Mark Von Hagen. This summer, 143 students attended the Critical Languages Institute, studying 10 languages in Tempe and at six programs abroad. The Center provided research grants to 13 faculty affiliates, and scheduled events focused on our region of interest for students and the community. Through its partnerships with the Institute for International Education (IIE) and World Learning, the Center contributed to national programs in professional training and capacity-building.

What excites me about the Melikian Center is the larger story that ties all these efforts together—especially as we mark the ten-year anniversary of Gregory and Emma Melikian’s generous 2007 gift to support ASU’s engagement with Russia, Eurasia and East Europe. That story has three parts. The first, which Greg and Emma made clear in 2007, is the Center’s commitment to language learning for global engagement, one of ASU’s core design aspirations. Through CLI’s historical experience with the former socialist world, students have the opportunity to learn Slavic and other languages spoken by around 360 million people. But besides the practical benefits for business, diplomacy or graduate study in this key region, language students also acquire the transferable skill of seeing things from a different perspective. Language is our lens on the world; our horizons shift when we try a new one, prompting us to reflect on what we may have taken for granted, and take other viewpoints more seriously.

The Melikian Center will continue to invest energy and resources in the Critical Languages Institute, as well as its STARTALK Russian program for high school students. We will also continue to share ideas and resources with others who share our commitment to language learning and the critical thinking it engenders. Staffing changes this summer will, we believe, encourage such productive collaboration. After a decade at ASU, Kathleen Evans-Romaine left her position as CLI Director to take up a leadership position at Indiana University’s Summer Language Workshop. While she will be sorely missed at ASU, we hope this may allow us to identify synergies to meet language learning needs at the national level. Don Livingston, a senior lecturer in ASU’s School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC) and contributor to CLI over the past several years, is serving as Interim CLI Director for 2017-2018. At this time we are assessing what partnerships will best serve our core aspiration, to promote global citizenship through language learning.

The Melikian Center’s second great strength is the wealth of faculty talent and commitment across multiple campuses, schools and disciplines. This is manifest in both research and teaching centered on the region, supported through the affiliates’ grant program. This fall, affiliates Mark Von Hagen and Ana Olenina are both experimenting with assignments that foster student curiosity and creativity, as ASU undergraduates undertake oral history projects with people who experienced communist rule first hand, and design and host a mini-film festival to showcase post-Soviet cinema.

Continued on page 2
FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the Spring, Ana Holian and Anna Cichopek-Gajraj will convene an interdisciplinary workshop to explore comparative dimensions of the diasporic experience, so central to understanding the contemporary world. Across both semesters, recent grantees will present ongoing research in our new works-in-progress series at the Center. We will also commission short videos in which faculty affiliates share key aspects of their research, as part of our enhancement of the Center’s online presence.

The Center’s third area of distinction is its track record of partnership-building for higher education transformation. Universities have always been sites of inquiry and innovation, with the potential to catalyze larger social movements.

Where this has sometimes been manifest in adversarial protests, ASU has been at the leading edge of a movement to make a positive difference through alliance-making and mutual learning. The Center’s involvement with the Transformational Leadership Project in Kosovo exemplifies this design-driven approach to unlock the potential of the higher education sector. Our hope is that, drawing on the insight and experience gained by Steve Batalden, Shahin Berisha, and other board members and faculty involved in similar projects, the Center can contribute to a future in which public higher education institutions across Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe contribute effectively to their communities’ well-being.

This is the Melikian Center’s story to date. Past investments of energy, intellect and treasure have built a solid platform and yielded impressive returns, especially through the Critical Languages Institute, which can boast over 1400 graduates just in the past decade. What I will be discussing with Board members, friends and affiliates in the year ahead is how to invest for the decade to come. The issues that confront us as researchers of the former communist world transcend the region—especially in the domains of war and security, and migration and displacement. As we approach the thirty-year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and what was once envisaged as “The End of History,” the politics of identity, memory and inequality remain vital areas of concern for policy-makers. Engaged scholarship—the work of assembling evidence, providing analysis and exploring potential solutions—is more important than ever. The Melikian Center has a role to play on campus, in national coalition-building and through international collaborations. I’m excited to have the opportunity to work with you all to make that happen.

— Keith Brown

PAST EVENTS

Wednesday, October 25, 12:15 PM
Works-in-Progress Lunch Seminar Series, ASU Tempe campus, Coor Hall, Room 4403

“The Human Rights Ideal, the Marginalization of Lesser Crimes, and the Question of Confronting Kosovo Liberation Army and Rwandan Patriotic Front Atrocities”

Victor Peskin, Associate Professor, ASU School of Politics and Global Studies. Among other publications, Peskin has authored International Justice in Rwanda and the Balkans: Virtual Trials and the Struggle for State Cooperation (Cambridge University Press, 2008), a CHOICE 2008 Outstanding Academic Title, and, with Erica Stover and Alexa Koenig, Hiding in Plain Sight: The Pursuit of War Criminals from Nuremberg to the War on Terror (University of California Press, 2016).
MELIKIAN CENTER EVENTS

A Week of Film...

Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 PM
ASU Tempe campus, Business Administration A (BAC)
Room 116, 400 East Lemon Street
*Women of 1915* (Director, Bared Maronian; USA, 2016), Q&A with the director Bared Maronian.

Wednesday, November 15, 6:00 PM
ASU Tempe campus, Wrigley Hall (WGHL) Room 201, 800 South Cady Mall
*Sisters* (Director, Sergei Bodrov; Russia, 2001). Introduction and Q&A led by students in Ana Hedberg Olenina’s class, “Post-Soviet Cinema: Art, Dissent, and Social Justice”.

Thursday, November 16, 1:30 PM
ASU Tempe campus, G. Homer Durham Language and Literature (LL), Room 107, 851 South Cady Mall
Classroom discussion with Olha Onyshko, director of *Women of Maidan*. Moderated by novelist Kalani Pickhart (MFA student in ASU creative writing program). This event is open to ASU guests with prior reservation. Please contact Prof. Ana Hedberg Olenina - Ana.Olenina@asu.edu

Thursday, November 16, 6:00 PM
ASU Tempe campus, College of Design North (CDN), Room 60, 810 South Forest Mall
*Women of Maidan* (Director, Olga Onyshko; USA, 2016), Introduction and post-screening discussion by filmmaker Olha Onyshko and Prof. Mark von Hagen.

Friday, November 17, 6:00 PM
ASU Tempe campus, G. Homer Durham Language and Literature (LL)
Room 2 (lower level), 851 South Cady Mall
*Mermaid* (Director, Anna Melikyan; Russia, 2007) Introduction and Q&A led by students in Ana Hedberg Olenina’s class, “Post-Soviet Cinema: Art, Dissent, and Social Justice”.

Wednesday, November 29, 12:15 PM, Works-in-Progress Lunch Seminar Series
ASU Tempe campus, Coor Hall, Room 4403
“The Migrations of Plague in Mongol Eurasia: Reading Genetics as History”


Unless otherwise stated, all events are free & open to the public.
Please help the planning of events by sending RSVPs to melikiancenter@asu.edu
In summer 2017 the Critical Languages Institute offered four distinct types of academic programs:

- **7- and 8-week language programs on the Tempe campus teaching** Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Hebrew, Indonesian, Persian, Polish, Russian, Turkish and Uzbek. These intensive programs allow students to achieve skills, and receive 8-10 college credits in one summer that would demand a standard academic year in a normal language class.

- **4-week language extension programs in Albanian, Armenian, BCS, Indonesian and Russian** to complement the 7- and 8-week programs. These programs allow students to practice their languages in country with native speakers. That real-life experience lets them know the target culture from the inside out and results in excellent oral proficiency scores, as well as providing 3 college credits.

- **8-week language programs in Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and St. Petersburg.** These intensive programs also go through a year’s worth of material (10 credits) in a single summer, but the students also live in host families, giving them a 24-hour language immersion experience. They also meet three times a week with conversation partners of the same age. In short, they experience immersive families, friends and academics all at once.

- **A 3-week introduction to Russian for high school students on the Tempe campus.** High school students from throughout Arizona can apply to this limited-space intensive program where they study four and a half hours a day with lunch included. Students advance from knowing no Russian at all to actually being able to have simple conversation in mere weeks.

**Measurable summer successes…**

Students in all of our programs made strides towards their goals of attaining professional-level language skills. However, the most striking successes came from students in the Indonesian hybrid program. A summer of tropical breezes in Bali with Balinese martial arts might sound like a vacation, but under the able leadership of Drs. Peter Suwarno and Nyoman Riasa these students put in a tremendous amount of academic work that paid off richly. Here is a bit of background to understand just how significant their progress was.

The gold standard of measuring spoken progress in language is called an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). On a scale of zero to three (where zero is a raw beginner and three is basic professional competence) an average language learner’s oral proficiency gets to 0+ or 1 at the end of two semesters. All nine of our first-year Indonesian students all reached at least level 1. Three managed level 1+, and two got to level 2, which is frankly stellar work for first-year students.
Our Russian first-year hybrid program had similar successes. All six of the students who went through OPIc tests (the computer-mediated version of the OPI) achieved level 1 oral proficiency – much harder in Russian than in Indonesian, and all our second-year students reached 1+, which many Russian students often don’t reach until the end of their third year. And two of our third-year students reached level 2, which we do not normally expect until the fourth year. Needless to say, we are very proud both of the hard work of the students and the professionalism of the teachers that made this possible.

**Ukrainian hopes and hardships…**

Ukraine continues to be a country beset by the complexities of a ragged economy and a Russian presence in the Crimean Peninsula and eastern Ukraine. Despite those difficulties we feel it is time to draw Ukrainian into the family of languages taught at CLI. With generous funding from the Mykytyn Trust, James and Patience Huntwork, Stephen and Sandra Batalden and Branch 3 of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, we will teach Ukrainian for the first time in 2018.

Following events in Ukraine in 2014 various restrictions appeared that prevent applying certain scholarships in Russia itself. Therefore, for the third year in a row, our Russian hybrid and intermediate abroad programs were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Highlights of the summer included a visit to the US embassy in Bishkek where the students were briefed on economic and political events in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia; they were also fascinated to learn of cooperation between countries to stem the international drug trade.

St. Petersburg continues to be the host city for CLI’s advanced Russian courses aimed at students in their fifth year and above. The city’s canals and neoclassical buildings illuminated by the White Nights provide the backdrop for classes that are held in the Derzhavin Institute, where students master the high-level skills of speaking in the different registers and styles that distinguish professional communications from casual conversation.

**Fond farewells…**

In July CLI said farewell to its long-time director, Dr. Kathleen Evans-Romaine. Kathleen took on the responsibilities of director in 2009 and had guided CLI with the artful hand of one who truly loved languages and thirsted for the success of CLI’s students. She has now taken on the leadership of the Summer Language Workshop at Indiana University (Bloomington). We wish her the greatest success in her new position, and we look forward to working with the SLW in new projects.

**Familiar faces…**

Filling Kathleen Evan-Romaine’s CLI directorship position is Interim Director Dr. Donald Livingston. Dr. Livingston is on loan from the School of International Letters and Cultures, where he is a Senior Lecturer in Russian. Since 2010 he has served as resident director of CLI’s Russian abroad programs in Kazan (Russia) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), so he brings with him not only a knowledge of pedagogy, but also of the on-the-ground process of running study-abroad programs. He has previously taught faculty enrichment sessions for CLI as well as delivering lectures on cross-cultural misunderstanding. The combination of Dr. Livingston’s pedagogical and practical knowledge, Andrew Gunn’s administrative experience, and Marina Akins’ financial savvy will provide the institutional memory and skills needed to roll out CLI 2018 smoothly and professionally.
Central to CLI’s service to students is the distribution of scholarships from both local and national sources, and over half of CLI 2017’s 143 students received some type of funding (see infographic on pg. 8). Twenty-five students studied with CLI under the auspices of Department of Defense Project Global Officer (Project GO), a nationwide program to bring linguistic and cultural training to students who will commission as officers in the military upon graduation from college. Two studied Turkish, nine studied Indonesian, and fourteen studied Russian.

2017 Project GO Awardees

Indonesian: Jared Abell, North Carolina State University; Vlada Dementyeva, University of Maryland; Craig Manning, American University; Tia Scoggan, Purdue University; Samuel Swanson, University of Portland; Reed Wheeler, Oklahoma State University; Mikaela Zacher, Pennsylvania State University; Javier Bustos Maldonado, Arizona State University; Christian Colbert, Arizona State University.

Russian: Derya Boydston, Howard University; Sarah Ingraham, Norwich University; Michael Scahill, Baylor University; Brett Simmons, George Washington University; Jonathan Westerdale, University of Texas–Arlington; Zachary Wilson, Yale University; Ryan Clark, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Madisen Duke-Bruechert, Rhodes College; Joshua Graves, Liberty University; Trevor Penwell, University of Texas at Austin; Devin Riley, Howard University; William Leshley, Central Washington University; Katherine Wilson, Seton Hall University; Wendy Wurmsstein, Texas Tech University.

Turkish: Mark Mumford, Villanova University; Lukas Pulice, Michigan State University.
Twenty-three graduate students studied with CLI on Department of State Title VIII Funding: four for Albanian, three for Armenian, two for Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, three for intermediate Russian in Bishkek, eight for advanced Russian in St. Petersburg, and three for Uzbek in Tempe.

2017 Title VIII Fellowship Recipients

Albanian: Joseph Casavecchia, University of Chicago Law School; Aleksej Demjanski, University of Texas at Austin; Christopher Kinley, The Ohio State University; Christopher Tushaj, University of Tirana.

Armenian: Alexandra Birch, Arizona State University; Lori Pirinjian, San Francisco State University; Joel Veldkamp, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva).

Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian: Anastasia Tkach, Columbia University; Genta Nishku, University of Michigan; Holly Regan, Arizona State University.

Russian (Bishkek): Michael Corsi, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Caroline Pryor, Florida State University; Andrew Snow, University of Michigan.

Russian (St Petersburg): Chelsea Cervantes de Blois, University of Minnesota; Grace Mahoney, University of Michigan; Devin McFadden, University of Kansas; Alexandra Memmott, Georgetown University; Joshua Meyer, University of Arizona; Frederick Miller, Jr, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Matthew Newton, University of Washington;

Uzbek: Eliza Lorente Duarte, American Military University; Nicholas Shea, University of Kansas; John White, Louisiana State University.

Forty-one awards were given to students to study with CLI with assistance from the Melikian Center Awards program. Funded by the Melikian Center Endowment and other private donations to the Center, the Melikian Center Awards program helps students who are working toward international careers and who are not eligible for other funding to study in CLI programs in the U.S. and abroad. The 2017 Melikian Center Awards program includes: the Melikian Fellows, the Melikian Center Advisory Board Fellows (including the Ron Birks Fellowships for Polish), the Dr. Elaine H. Berkowitz Albanian Awards, the Charles Case and Pamela Culwell Award, the Doris Hastings International Distinguished Engagement Award (IDEA), and ASU Jewish Studies Center Scholarships for Hebrew.

Melikian Fellow Scholarships

Nicholas Alphonso is an undergraduate student majoring in Classics and Foreign Affairs at Hampden-Sydney College. He plans to pursue a career as a Foreign Service Officer. He studied first-year Polish in Tempe.

Amy Beilke is an undergraduate student majoring in Russian & Political Science at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and holds a B.S. in Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies. Beilke plans to work either for the U.S. Department of State or for the U.S. Department of the Interior. She studied third-year Russian in Bishkek.

Erin Bourque is an undergraduate student majoring in Political Science and International Affairs at Northeastern University. She studied in Kazakhstan on a Boren Scholarship in 2016-2017 and in Russia on a State Department Critical Languages Scholarship (CLS) in the summer of 2015. She plans to pursue a career as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. She studied fifth-year Russian in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Samantha Collins received a BA in French with a minor in Art History at Arizona State University. She is considering pursuit of a doctoral degree in linguistics and possibly working for the government on global intelligence. She currently works as both a brand ambassador for a cosmetics firm and as a Spanish interpreter for a law firm in Phoenix. She studied first-year Persian in Tempe.

Samuel Erickson graduated in May with a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry/Energy Technology from Macalester College. He is pursuing a career in science and technology policy. He studied first-year Russian in Tempe and Bishkek.

Zuleika Freyre received a Bachelor’s degree in Law Enforcement Management from Northern
Arizona University. She is interested in pursuing career opportunities with the FBI, the U.S. Air Force, or the intelligence community. She studied first-year Indonesian in Tempe and Denpasar.

**Justin Fuentes-Keuthan** graduated in May from Florida State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Russian and East European Studies. He has plans to pursue a Master’s degree and then a career in international affairs in the U.S. government. He studied fourth-year Russian in St. Petersburg.

**Nicholas Goettl** is an undergraduate student majoring in History at Arizona State University. He plans to pursue a graduate degree in history, particularly focusing on Albania and Kosovo. Goettl is interested in a career with the U.S. Department of State or a private international development firm. He studied second-year Albanian in Tirana.

**Max Gordon** graduated in May with a B.A. in Geography from Northern Illinois University. He is interested in pursuing a career in intelligence in the U.S. Armed Forces. He studied fourth-year Russian in St. Petersburg.

**Tatum James** is an undergraduate student majoring in Spanish and Political Science at Arizona State University. She is interested in pursuing a career in law or in the intelligence community. She studied second-year Albanian in Tirana.

**Natasha Kadlec** is an undergraduate student majoring in Russian Language and Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. She plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Slavic languages and literatures and an academic career. She studied fourth-year Russian in St. Petersburg.

**Julia Kemmer** is an undergraduate student majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies at Arizona State University. She is considering career in the U.S. Foreign Service and as an interpreter. She studied third-year Russian in Bishkek.

**Eri Koroli** graduated from Fountain Hills High School in greater Phoenix in May. He took advantage of the summer program to more deeply connect with his Albanian roots. He studied second-year Albanian in Tirana.

**Ryan Schweitzer** is an undergraduate student majoring in Political Science at Columbia University. He is interested in pursuing a career in the intelligence community. He studied first-year Uzbek in Tempe.
Wayne Seifried received a B.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies from Middlebury College and studied abroad for a year at Moscow State University. He is interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Eurasian Studies with a focus on the Caucasus and is planning to submit Fulbright application for the 2018-2019 academic year. He studied second-year Armenian in Yerevan.

Chanse Sonsalla is an undergraduate student majoring in Business at Baylor University. Her plans include serving in the Peace Corps and pursuing a career working abroad, possibly in with an organization providing humanitarian aid. She studied first-year Polish in Tempe.

Hannah Spencer is an undergraduate student majoring in Business & Global Politics at Arizona State University. She previously took both first-year and second-year BCS in the CLI, receiving the Institute’s Michael Crow Award in 2016. Spencer plans to pursue a career with either in the U.S. Department of State or in the intelligence community. This summer she studied third-year BCS in Sarajevo.

Katy Washburne received an M.A. in Education from the United State International University, which is now Alliant International University. She is an ESL instructor for a public school in the greater Phoenix area. She studied first-year Turkish in Tempe.

John Yildiz is an undergraduate student majoring in International Studies with a focus on the Middle East at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He is interested in a career in the Foreign Service. He studied first-year Turkish in Tempe.

Melikian Center Autumn 2017 Newsletter

Melikian Center Advisory Board Scholarships

Carly Cahill is an undergraduate student majoring in International Affairs at Sweet Briar College. She is considering a career with the U.S. Department of State or a think tank. She studied first-year Russian in Tempe.

John Flott is an undergraduate student majoring in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Kansas. As an Army ROTC student, he is planning for a career as an officer in the Armed Services. He studied third-year Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Justin Fuentes-Keuthan graduated in May from Florida State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Russian and East European Studies. He has plans to pursue a Master’s degree and then a career in international affairs in the U.S. government. He studied fourth-year Russian in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Natasha Kadlec is an undergraduate student majoring in Russian Language and Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. She plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Slavic languages and literatures and an academic career. She studied Fourth-year Russian in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Julia Kemmer is an undergraduate student majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies at Arizona State University. She is considering career in the U.S. Foreign Service and as an interpreter. She studied first-year Armenian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Victoria Keossian is an undergraduate student majoring in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. She plans to use both her Spanish and Armenian language skills as a sociologist. She studied first-year Armenian in Tempe.

Eri Koroli graduated from Fountain Hills High School in greater Phoenix in May. He took advantage of the summer program to more deeply connect with his Albanian roots. He studied second-year Albanian in Tirana Albania.

Megan McShane is an Associate Professor of Art History at Florida Gulf Coast University. She is conducting research on the biogeography in the Art and Ecology of the Balkans and hopes to receive a Fulbright in 2018. She studied first-year BCS in Tempe and Sarajevo.

Raffi Mikaelian holds an MPA from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. He works as a Bilingual Family Advocate at Riverbend Head Start & Family Services in Illinois. Mikaelian plans to use his Armenian language skills to better connect with the Armenian side of his family. He studied first-year Armenian in Tempe and Yerevan.

Hannah Spencer is an undergraduate student majoring in Business – Global Politics at Arizona State University. She previously took both first-year and second-year BCS in the CLI, receiving the Institute’s
Michael Crow Award in 2016. Spencer plans to pursue a career with either in the U.S. Department of State or in the intelligence community. This summer she studied third-year BCS in Sarajevo.

**Allison Stroyan** is an undergraduate student majoring in Russian at Dickinson College. She participated in the 13th International Olympiada of Spoken Russian in Moscow, Russia, in June 2014. Stroyan plans to pursue graduate studies in Slavic linguistics. She studied first-year Polish in Tempe.

**ASU Jewish Studies Center Scholarships for Hebrew**

All students studied first-year Hebrew in Tempe.

**Logan Maro** is an undergraduate student majoring in History and Economics at Arizona State University. He plans to pursue a doctoral degree with a focus on Jewish history, particularly modern Jewish history.

**Norma Owen** is an undergraduate student majoring in Jewish Studies at Arizona State University. She would like to work for an organization helping the survivors of the Holocaust and their families.

**Michelle Gaynor** received a BA in Psychology from Arizona State University. She works in real estate. Gaynor is using the language classes to connect with her heritage.

**Nancy Dallett** is a public historian with twenty-five years of experience. She is Assistant to the Director of the new initiative at Arizona State University, the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement. She is also principal of Projects in the Public Interest, a public history consulting firm.

**Dr. Elaine H. Berkowitz Albanian Award**

**Joseph Casavecchia** is a JD student studying international trade and economic development at the University of Chicago Law School. His studies will open up career opportunities such as in the Foreign Service with the U.S. Department of State, in the Office of Foreign Assets Control with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and in trade negotiation with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. He studied first-year Albanian in Tempe.

**Ron Birks Scholarship**

All students studied first-year Polish in Tempe.

**Nicholas Alphonso** is an undergraduate student majoring in Classics and Foreign Affairs at Hampden-Sydney College. He plans to pursue a career as a Foreign Service Officer.

**Chanse Sonsalla** is an undergraduate student majoring in Business at Baylor University. Her plans include serving in the Peace Corps and pursuing a career working abroad, possibly in with an organization providing humanitarian aid.

**Allison Stroyan** is an undergraduate student majoring in Russian at Dickinson College. She participated in the 13th International Olympiada of Spoken Russian in Moscow, Russia, in June 2014. Stroyan plans to pursue graduate studies in Slavic linguistics.

**Alice Valenzuela** holds an MA in Journalism from the University of Arizona and an MBA from Santa Clara University. She is currently self-employed and is interested in pursuing opportunities to live and work in Poland.

**Charles Case and Pamela Culwell Award**

**Caitlin Grant** graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Politics from Ave Maria University. She has plans to pursue a Master’s degree in International Relations focusing on Russian Studies. She studied first-year Russian in Tempe and Bishkek.

**Doris Hastings IDEA Award**

**Hannah Spencer** is an undergraduate student majoring in Business – Global Politics at Arizona State University. She previously took both first-year and second-year BCS in the CLI, receiving the Institute’s Michael Crow Award in 2016. Spencer plans to pursue a career with either in the U.S. Department of State or in the intelligence community. This summer she studied third-year BCS in Sarajevo.
Promoting Language Learning for Highschoolers

The Melikian Center is pleased to announce that its STARTALK program, a National Security Agency (NSA) funded grant, was renewed for 2017. As popularity for this immersive Russian Summer camp continues to grow, so do participant applications and enrollment. In 2017, 24 participants, ranging from grades 8 to 12, successfully completed the program. Most were from Phoenix-area school districts, but the program did attract several participants from out of state. We anticipate 28 participants for 2018.

STARTALK participants receive a total of 80 program hours in Russian language and culture, during this three week immersive summer camp. While the major emphasis of the program is on speaking, participants also learn to read and write in Russian (print and script).

The Melikian Center is especially proud of this year’s instructional staff, who received glowing reviews from NSA site visitors. The instructional staff consisted of Lead Instructor Yuliana Gunn (Faculty Associate at ASU), and Instructors Alexandra Melnikova (Ph.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Alexey Novikov (Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona), all have committed to the 2018 program.

A favorite among our participants, the ASU-Bishkek online connection was refined in 2017, offering more realistic and organic interactions between ASU STARTALK participants and our overseas CLI partners in Bishkek. These biweekly synchronous and asynchronous sessions are crucial to the STARTALK curriculum and give participants a chance to practice their new Russian skills with real Kyrgyz families. Featured in the image below is a 9-year-old Kyrgyz boy named Ali – now famous with our STARTALK participants. He instantly stole the spotlight from his older sister, and was featured in every session thereafter.

This year’s program participants exceeded language proficiency assessments, testing around the novice-mid level. Starting the program with absolutely no Russian training, they are now able to hold basic conversations about themselves, their families, where they live, flora and fauna in Arizona, etc.

The benefits of STARTALK are already visible, with one of our 2015 participants now applying for CLI 2018. This fits with the larger goal of the Melikian Center attracting high-school students to its language programming, which will lead them to be superior-level speakers by the end of

Continued on pg. 17
FULBRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANTS at ASU

2017–2018 Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants at ASU

ASU is hosting three Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) in the 2017-18 academic year. The FLTAs not only assist with the teaching their own language and culture while at ASU, but also sit in on classes, including teaching methodology and American studies courses.

FULBRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANTS at ASU

Yazid Husain, Zumratkhon Shukurova and Dmitrii Zabelin

Yazid Husain comes from Raha, Indonesia, where he has taught English in private institutions. He believes that he has been given a “wonderful opportunity” as an FLTA. As a “very social person,” Yazid hopes to leave his mark at ASU with the idea that “…the most precious manifestation in [my] life as a human being is not gold or money in [my] bank account but [my] relationships with other people whom I gratefully call as friends.”

From Ivanovo, Russia, about 175 miles from Moscow, Dmitrii Zabelin has been teaching English helpful people are here, “offering a ride for some grocery shopping is a normal thing.”

From the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Zumratkhon Shukurova taught at Uzbekistan State World Languages University before coming to ASU. Since arriving in the U.S., Zumy has enjoyed “the smiles from people in the streets…the positivity that everyone has.” After nine months at ASU, she hopes to leave a better “…understanding of my culture and language…which has already more than 2700 years of history…”

The FLTAs are available to make presentations on their native languages, cultures, and countries. You can contact them through the ASU Melikian Center. The Fulbright FLTA Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The Institute of International Education (IIE) arranges academic placement for most Fulbright FLTA nominees and supervises participants during their stay in the United States.
RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The Melikian Center has over thirty affiliated faculty members, and around twenty graduate students, with interests and expertise in Russia, Eurasia and East Europe. Their commitment to research, teaching and service over the past year has won local, national and international recognition. This is a selection of their awards and accomplishments in the past year.

**Visar Berisha** (School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering, Department of Speech and Hearing Science) was named as an ASU Fulton Entrepreneurial Professor (2017–2019), and a 2017 Mayo Clinic Alliance Fellow.

**Lenka Bustikova** (School of Politics and Global Studies) was awarded the 2017 best paper prize by the American Political Science Association’s Comparative Democratization Section for her co-authored paper with Cristina Corduneanu-Huci, “Patronage, Trust and State Capacity: The Historical Trajectories of Clientelism,” *World Politics*, 69:2, 277-326.

**Lee Croft** (School of International Letters and Cultures, Emeritus) has a new book out entitled *Kaumuali‘i and the Last of Hawaii’s God Kings*. Sphynx Publications, Phoenix, Az., 2017. He will be an invited participant in events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the construction of Kauai’s “Russian Fort Elizabeth” by George Anton Schaeffer (1779-1836) who directed the construction of the fort at King Kaumuali‘i’s request.

**Dan Fellner** (Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communication, College of Integrative Sciences and Arts), was a Fulbright Specialist in Indonesia during the spring 2017 semester. Fellner offered lectures and masterclasses on intercultural communications, travel writing and contemporary US politics at Ngura Rai University in Bali.

**Hilde Hoogenboom** (School of International Letters and Cultures) was awarded a position as Resident Associate at National Humanities Center in North Carolina for 2017-2018.

**Tyler Kirk** (School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies) completed his Fulbright-funded archival research toward his PhD at Syktyvkar State University, Russia.

**Saule Moldabekova** (School of International Letters and Cultures) has served as a consultant for IREX since December 2016, contributing as writer, reviewer and editor to their Corporate Sustainability Education Program.


**Danko Šipka** (School of International Letters and Cultures) was awarded the prestigious foreign research fellowship of the Slavic and Eurasian Center of Hokkaido University for Fall semester 17, for his research project on “Lexical Layers of Slavic Cultural Identity.”


**Stefan Stantchev** (New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences) was elected as President of the West Campus Faculty Senate.

**Laurie Stoff** (Barrett Honors College) was invited to present “The October Revolution and the Dilemmas of Gender” as part of the Kennan Institute’s Commemoration of the 1917 Russian Revolution.
RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The Melikian Center awards competitive research incentive funding to its faculty and graduate affiliates. The Melikian Center Research Funds draws upon monies received by the Center as overhead on its grants and contracts. Twelve proposals were awarded funding in 2017-2018.

Lenka Bustikova (School of Politics and Global Studies) is collecting data on secret service membership and dissident membership of current politicians in the Czech Republic. The project will explore how voting on core laws central to state building may reflect not left-right ideologies but deep links to either the dissident community or to the “deep state” (secret service circles and former collaborators). This is a joint project with the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Eugene Clay (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) is conducting research in Moscow and St. Petersburg on the Sabbatarians (sabbotniki) of Russia (1765-1965). The second largest tradition of religious dissent from the Orthodox Church after the Old Believers, Sabbatarian practices are drawn from various Jewish communities, and proved resilient in the face of severe persecution by both the imperial and Soviet governments.

Monica Green (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) will participate in the international conference, “Migrations in Mongol Eurasia: People, Ideas, Artifacts,” to be held at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2017.

Anna Holian and Anna Cichopek-Gajraj (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) are jointly organizing for 2018 a workshop, “New Approaches to the Study of Jewish Migration.” The workshop will have a strong focus on Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia with many of the participants focusing on the history of Jewish migration to and from these areas.

Hilde Hoogenboom (School of International Letters and Cultures) is conducting follow-up research in Moscow and St. Petersburg in archives, journals, and newspapers for a second book project on representations of corruption in nineteenth-century Russian literature provisionally titled Noble Rot: Corruption, Civil Society, and Literary Elites in Russia. This study aims to compare a literary corpus with the handling of and responses to actual corruption cases that were made public to better understand the discourses around corruption in the nineteenth century in Russia.

Agnes Kefeli Clay (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) is conducting research in Tatarstan of the Russian Federation for her monograph, Literary Approaches to Ecological and Ethnic Apocalypse in Tatarstan. She is interviewing Tatar intellectuals and imams, some of whom argue that if Tatars continue drilling for oil and participate in their colonizers’ plutonium economy, then they will forget the eco-stories that once forged and consolidated their faith.

Ana Hedberg Olenina (School of International Letters and Cultures) is gathering documents from Russian archives for her research project on the influence of physiological psychology on aesthetic theories of the Soviet Avant-garde. She is also working with the students of her course, “Art, Dissent, and Social Justice: Contemporary Cinema of the Post-Soviet Republics,” to host a mini film festival in the fall of 2017.

Victor Peskin (School of Politics and Global Studies) is conducting research in Brussels, Strasbourg, and Geneva on his book project, The New Victor’s Justice: Winners, Losers, & the Hidden Crimes of the Kosovo War. This project investigates the political and legal conditions under which international tribunal chief prosecutors and influential international political actors either transcend the dynamics of the new victor’s justice, or reinforce the impunity often granted to the winners of an armed conflict.

Peter Schmelz (School of Music, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts) is conducting an interview Ukrainian composer Valentin Silvestrov research in ar-
The Melikian Center Research Fund provides support for faculty affiliate research through its annual competitive call for proposals. Typically in the range of $1,000-$2,000, these awards allow affiliates to visit fieldsites or archives, hire research or translation assistance, finance travel to advance collaborations, or present their work. This year we asked recent recipients of Melikian Center funding to identify how this support advanced their work; this is a selection of the responses we received. Going forward, recipients of Melikian Center Research Fund support will also be the principal presenters in regular works-in-progress seminars during the academic year. In 2017-2018, scheduled presenters include Victor Peskin, Monica Green, Eugene Clay and new affiliate Neveser Köker.

Volker Benkert (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) published *Glückskinder der Einheit. Lebenswege der um 1970 in der DDR Geborenen* [Communism’s Last Children: Biography, Socialization and Generation in East Germany before and after 1989] (Ch. Links Verlag, Berlin: 2017). The book traces the biographies of East Germans born between 1967 and 1973 as the last cohort to receive childhood and adolescent socialization in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) as the process of transformation that shaped their adult lives after unification. Even though the GDR invested heavily in the education and indoctrination of its youth, East Germans responded very differently to what only superficially appeared to be a monolithic upbringing and, thus, also met the challenges of transition after 1989 in diverse ways.

Eugene Clay (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) used Melikian Center Research Fund support to spent the summer working in Russian archives on the history of Sabbatarians and other religious dissenters, leading to his published article “The ‘Quaker Heresy’ in Siberia,” *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 51, no. 1 (2017): 122-136.

Monica Green (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) will attend the international conference, “Migrations in Mongol Eurasia: People, Ideas, Artifacts,” at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, International Conference, December 18-20, 2017.

Danko Šipka (School of International Letters and Cultures) is conducting a final round of data gathering and consultation about his book entitled, *Lexical Layers of Slavic Cultural Identity in Serbia and Macedonia*. He will also be participating in a seminar on Macedonian language in Ohrid, Macedonia.

David Siroky (School of Politics and Global Studies) is conducting collaborative work with Emil Souleimanov in the Department of Russian and East European Studies at Charles University in Prague. The book project is currently entitled, *Violence and Vengeance: The Dynamics of Irregular War in Chechnya*.

Laurie Stoff (Barrett, The Honors College) is commissioning the translation of articles for the volume *The Frontline Experience*, which is part of a larger project. She is a member of the editorial team of this larger project working on a multivolume endeavor entitled, *Russia’s Great War and Revolution*, to appear in English and Russian.
2017, to present her paper “The Migrations of Plague in Mongol Eurasia: Reading Genetics as History.”

Laurie Manchester (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies) has used Melikian Center Research Fund support to access archival resources. This has provided the material for two recent papers. “Making Russian Émigrés into Soviet Citizens: The Particularities of the Russian Diaspora in Manchuria and Repatriation to the USSR after Stalin’s Death” was published in Историк, Время, Общество: Сборник посвященный 90-летию член-корреспондента РАН Рафаэла Шоломовича Ганелина [Historian, Time, Society: A Collection Dedicated to the Ninetieth Year of Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Raphael Sholomovich Ganelin] (1926–2014) (Moscow: Novy Kronograf, 2017):487-502.

Manchester also presented, “Imagining the Soviet Union from Abroad: How Post-War Manchurian Russians Reconceptualized their Historic Homeland,” at the inaugural Desert Workshop in Russian History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in March 2017.


Laurie Stoff (Barrett, The Honors College) is one of the editors of the multivolume international project, Russia’s Great War and Revolution. The Melikian Center Research Fund provided funds for the translation of two articles into English by ASU graduate students in history. Yan Mann translated Dmitrii Bazhanov’s article, “Disciplining Baltic Fleet Sailors, 1914 – 1917;” Philip Skorokhodov, translated Alexandr Astakhov’s article, ‘The Other War’ on the Eastern Front during the First World War: Fraternization and Making Peace with the Enemy.

Upcoming spring 2018 events

The Melikian Center will continue to program events in the Spring to serve ASU’s research community and students, and broader publics.

Faculty affiliates Eugene Clay and Neveser Köker will present lunchtime works in progress. The Center is also planning to host book panel discussions for newly published work by affiliates Robert Niehbur and Iveta Silova.

From January through March, Former President of Latvia Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga will be in residence at Barrett Honors College through the new Distinguished Global Leader Series. We hope Melikian board members, faculty affiliates and friends will help us welcome President Vīķe-Freiberga, and we anticipate having her share insights on security and development in Eastern Europe in Center events.

In April, Professor Motoki Nomachi from Hokkaido University will speak on aspects of South Slavic Linguistics, as a guest of Melikian faculty affiliate Danko Sipka.

Finally, this year’s Choncoff Lecture will be delivered by Macedonian film director Milcho Manchevski. Since his award-winning debut feature film Before the Rain (1994), Manchevski has continued to produce provocative film, photography and writings that challenge conventional distinctions between documentary and fiction, and expand the horizons of story-telling. Although much of his creative work has been produced in Macedonia, he addresses universal themes. His most recent film, Bikini Moon, was shot mainly in Germany, and centers on the story of a U.S. Army veteran.

For further details on these and other events, please visit the Melikian Center website
Melikian Center Helps International Fulbrighters Gear Up to Teach American Students

For the eighth summer since 2010, Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) from 30 countries on their way to 25 colleges and universities in the U.S. to teach American students 20 different languages stopped first in Tempe for a week. During this planned layover, the FLTAs worked with ASU faculty and staff to prepare for a yearlong adventure on an American college campus. In addition to taking in some of Arizona’s flora and fauna on a lake cruise, seeing firsthand some of Arizona’s history on a ghost-town mine tour, and practicing some newly-acquired Native American hoop-dance maneuvers, the visiting instructors honed their classroom skills in workshops and put their skills into practice in an individual short lesson demonstration in front of their new friends.

The FLTA Summer Orientations are 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. ASU is one of six sites providing orientation sessions for the over 400 Fulbright FLTAs who visit the United States each year to teach their native languages. During their one-year residency, FLTAs refine their teaching skills, improve their English language proficiency, and deepen their knowledge of the cultures and customs of the United States, while pursuing non-degree study in their chosen field at U.S. colleges and universities.

STARTALK, Continued from pg. 11

their undergraduate careers. In the case of Russian, students could begin with STARTALK, take two years of Russian at CLI before attending ASU, and four more years of Russian at ASU/CLI as an undergraduate student – also working in programs like NYSLI-Y, Boren, and Fulbright, will only help to strengthen their language skills and cultural awareness.

The Melikian Center is very pleased to have this cutting-edge language program, and the training opportunities it offers CLI, ASU, and Arizona at large.

The 2018 ASU Russian STARTALK Program is scheduled for June 11–29, 2018. Please direct any potential participants to the website below for more information, or to apply. Enrollment is limited to just 28 students (grades 8-12). You may also call the Melikian Center with any questions.
https://melikian.asu.edu/startalk
UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

Leading Kosovo University Administrators Visit ASU

The rector (Prof. Dr. Marjan Dema), vice rector for academic instruction and student affairs (Prof. Dr. Naser Sahiti), and vice rector for research (Prof. Dr. Faton Berisha) of the University of Prishtina recently completed a ten-day working visit to ASU, September 20-30, as guests of the Melikian Center under terms of its grant from World Learning, Inc., on behalf of the USAID-Kosovo Transformational Leadership Program (TLP). As ASU PI on the project, Stephen Batalden noted that “one of the primary goals of the Kosovo TLP project is to build capacity at the University of Prishtina, and these university administrators are on the forefront of that process.”

With a focus on research infrastructure and innovative strategies for teaching and learning, the visit became the occasion for the three visiting University of Prishtina administrators (pictured here with Gregory and Emma Melikian and TLP project facilitator Shahin Berisha) to work with colleagues from ASU’s Office of Research and Sponsored Projects Administration and innovative online program officers from ASU Ed Plus and the GateWay Community College Center for Teaching and Learning. UP Rector Marjan Dema addressed affiliates and friends of the Melikian Center on Friday, September 22, noting “the importance of the reform process now under way at the University of Prishtina.” As the rector noted, “We cannot fail.” The flagship public university in Kosovo with more than 50,000 students, the University of Prishtina has as its mission to meet the higher education needs of a Republic of Kosovo in which half of the population is under the age of 25.

Later in October, Melikian Center project team members, Shahin Berisha and Stephen Batalden, return to Kosovo to help launch the new UP Center for Energy and Sustainability, an interdisciplinary research and training unit being developed with the assistance of the Kosovo TLP. For further information on the USAID-Kosovo Transformational Leadership Program and the Melikian Center’s role as the lead university partner on the project, contact stephen.batalden@asu.edu.

15 Years of Albanian

The CLI at ASU’s Melikian Center celebrated 15 years of teaching Albanian language and culture in June 2017. Dr. Linda Meniku was recognized for not only her teaching of Albanian in the CLI from the beginning in 2003, but also for her distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the profession. The evenings program featured recognition of nearly 20 former students who have received Boren and Fulbright fellowships, including several that sent personal congratulations and remarks on the occasion. The efforts of Drs. Stephen Batalden and Shahin Berisha in partnering ASU with the University of Prishtina in Kosovo were also acknowledged. The night was rounded out by the recitation of poems and the performance of traditional dances.
Your support for deserving students, world-class language instruction in the Melikian Center’s Critical Languages Institute, timely public programs and research conferences, and distinguished international scholars-in-residence has helped to make ASU a premier national research and training center for East European and Eurasian studies.

We encourage you to visit the Melikian Center support page at https://melikian.asu.edu/support and learn about our giving opportunities. Your secure online gift to Arizona State University’s Melikian Center and Critical Languages Institute represents an investment in the international leaders of tomorrow. Funds will be deposited with the ASU Foundation, a separate non-profit organization that exists to advance Arizona State University.

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- **□** Melikian Center Fund - Supports the activities of the Melikian Center. Account # 70003865.
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- **□** CLI Polish Fund - Supports CLI summer Polish programs and provides scholarships for students of Polish. Account # 30004876.
- **□** CLI Albanian Fund - Provides scholarships for students of CLI Albanian and its study-abroad programs. Account # 70006526.
- **□** CLI Ukrainian Fund - Supports CLI summer Ukrainian programs and provides scholarships for CLI students of Ukrainian at ASU and its Ukrainian study-abroad programs. Account # 30007213.

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