

Connections



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Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

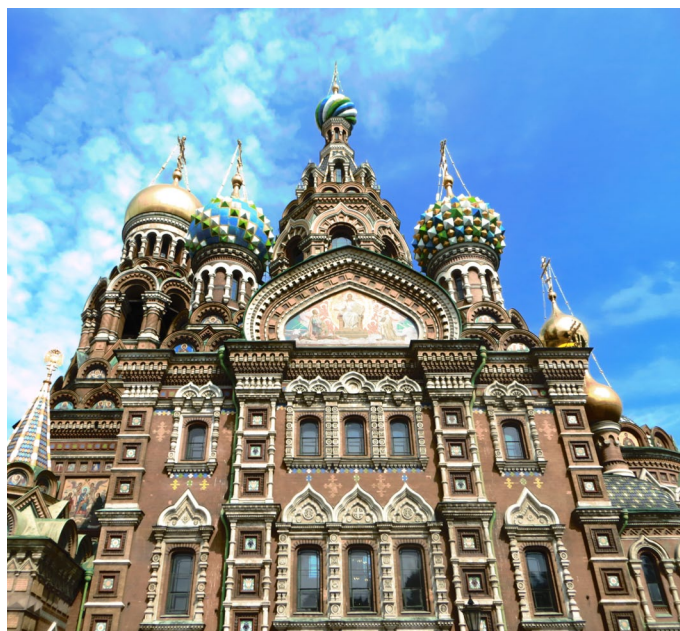


Photo by Donald J. Raleigh

A Note From the Director

We are pleased to present you with the first issue of *Connections* for the 2015-16 academic year and hope that you will find it informative and engaging.

Please join me in welcoming on board CSEEEES's new associate director Adnan (Adi) Džumhur, the five incoming MA students profiled on pp. 4-5, and the five work-study students who are contributing to the successful running of the Center: Lily Herbert, Andrew Thompson, Gabby Schluter, Jennifer Williams, and Logan Smith.

We're up and running! To date we have scheduled our Lunch and Learn Series for the year and are co-sponsoring the Carolina Seminar, Russia and Its Empire East and West. Our Advisory Committee has met and made the first round of speaker and travel awards. We organized a welcome-back reception at which we thanked Bob Jenkins for his many years of service. Adi and I met with Duke colleagues Edna Andrews and Michael Newcity to discuss future collaboration. And we have scheduled talks this fall by sociologist Petru Negura, historian Diana Dumitru who spent the 2003-04 academic year with CSEEEES, and "our own" Madeline Levine. More are on the way. We invite you to generate ideas and to share them with us.

News and Announcements

Kiran Auerbach (PhD Candidate, Political Science) received a Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship to conduct 10 months of field research in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She will investigate the impact of political parties and their patronage networks on democratic accountability, focusing her analysis on local governance.

Chris Bowen (PhD Candidate, Music) spent the 2014-2015 academic year in Prague as a Fulbright Fellow. He returned to Prague recently for the "Sounding Czech" conference hosted by NYU Prague.

Louis Porter (PhD Candidate, History) is researching his dissertation on Soviet participation in UNESCO during the N. S. Khrushchev and early L. I. Brezhnev eras (1954-1967). He spent 2014-2015 conducting archival research in Moscow, on a Fulbright Fellowship, dealing primarily with the papers of the USSR Commission for UNESCO Affairs. He is currently unearthing corresponding archival material in the UNESCO archives in Paris, France.

Audra Yoder (PhD Candidate, History) has been appointed adjunct instructor of history at Texas A&M University, Commerce.

Louise McReynolds (Professor, History) has been selected as the Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor.

Donald J. Raleigh (Distinguished Professor, History) spent three weeks this summer in Chisinau, Moldova, working in state and former CPSU archives on his biography of L. I. Brezhnev. In early August, he accompanied a UNC alumni group on a tour of fabulous St. Petersburg. While there he picked up the author copies of the Russian translation of his *Soviet Baby Boomers*.

Milada Anna Vachudova (Associate Professor, Political Science) published the article "External Actors and Regime Change: how Post-Communism Transformed Comparative Politics," in the May 2015 (29, 2) special of *East European Politics and Society* entitled "Whither Eastern Europe? Changing Approaches and Perspectives on the Region in Political Science."

CSEEEES Alumni

Interview with Colonel Joseph King, MA '00



What was your first post-graduate job?

I had already been in the United States Army for over ten years when I arrived at UNC, and I've continued to serve in the Army ever since. My first assignment after leaving Chapel Hill

was as a conventional arms control inspector with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. In that position I travelled frequently to Russia to verify compliance with the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty. I also escorted Russian officials when they came to Western Europe to inspect our facilities and units.

Describe your current work.

The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies is a unique German-American partnership in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, that provides graduate-level programs to whole-of-government security professionals from around the world. As the Director of Plans and Strategy, I am responsible for ensuring that Marshall Center programs support the objectives of the U.S. Department of Defense and the German Ministry of Defense. We focus on European and Eurasian regional security issues, but also on transnational threats such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, and cyber insecurity.

How did your career path lead you to where you are now?

My assigned career field in the Army is that of a Eurasian Foreign Area Officer (FAO). FAOs serve in political-military assignments, typically in U.S. embassies or in the plans and policy sections of our major joint commands and in the Pentagon. Over the last 15 years, I've served as a liaison officer to a Russian peacekeeping brigade in Bosnia, an arms control inspector, the defense attaché in Lithuania, a policy officer in Special Operations Command Europe, and as a security assistance officer in Pakistan... with a few combat tours in between.

What drew you to studying Eastern Europe?

Earlier in my career, I was a Special Forces officer, mainly serving in counter-drug missions in South America. I spoke Spanish and really enjoyed the people, culture, and landscapes of Latin America. However, when I reached the middle of my military career and had a chance to select a secondary specialty, I wanted to see a different part of the world. I chose Eastern Europe because of the dramatic changes that were occurring there in the 90's and because of Russia's strategic importance. The Army sent me to learn Russian for a year and paid for my graduate program at UNC.

What courses or experiences at UNC best prepared you for your career?

The best part of the experience was to hear so many diverse perspectives from fellow grad students with backgrounds very different from my own. Three courses stand out in my memory: Dr. Raleigh's Russian History Seminar, Dr. Jenkin's Identities and Transitions Seminar, and a course about Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans taught by Robert Greenberg. My work on my Master's Thesis was also a valuable experience. In retrospect, the process was more important than the product. It taught me a great deal about how to conduct thoughtful and informed analysis—skills I continue to apply frequently in my professional work. And, I can't forget to mention... I was in Chapel Hill for a Final Four Tar Heels basketball season (not sure how that helped with my career—but it was awesome)!

What advice do you have for graduate students on starting their careers?

First, I hope that CSEEEES continues to attract some mid-career grad students to round out the experiential backgrounds of the program participants. My advice to new grad students in this field is that Europe is not "done." The headlines may focus on the Middle East and East Asia, but Russia is still a powerful actor and the work of European integration is far from over. There are jobs in this field in the private, non-profit, and academic sectors, but the U.S. government also needs enlightened and hard-working regional specialists. Good careers await you in the military, the foreign service, and the intelligence community.

2015 Burch Field Research Seminar: Student Reflections

Only the word "experience" can be applied to the Burch Field Research Seminar in the Balkans and Vienna. It was more than a trip or even a typical study abroad: instead of spending time in a classroom, my fellow sixteen students and I spoke to, and even critiqued, people from the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and various other groups. We traveled together, lived together, and experienced a totally different world than the United States.



Photo by Augusta Dell'Omo

In Sarajevo, I heard the call to prayer for the first time, watched people celebrate Ramadan, and toured a mosque while listening to a man sing the first lines of the Qur'an. In Dubrovnik, I kayaked and snorkeled around the old walled city and in Kosovo I ended up in the middle of a protest that made national news. I faced my fears about speaking German outside of a classroom environment by giving a taxi driver directions in Pristina, and ordering Chinese food for ten hungry students in Vienna. Every day I was forced to challenge myself, and my ideas, about what the Balkans are like and how international organizations work in the area. I gained an incredible, global experience, and I was lucky enough to have the support of not only sixteen intelligent UNC students but also a great faculty member, Dr. Bob Jenkins, to lead us along the way.

By Augusta Dell'Omo

Being a TA for Dr. Jenkin's seminar in the Balkans was an unforgettable experience. In Chapel Hill, Dr. Jenkins and I had often discussed the political situation in the Balkans, so I felt adequately prepared by the time we arrived in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, there

is only so much one can truly understand from following the latest developments and engaging with academic texts. To be in Sarajevo myself, but also in Mostar, Banja Luka, Pristina, and Mitrovica, and to be able to meet those organizations that are most crucial to the post-conflict environment in the region was really helpful for my own research. Furthermore, the contact with our students felt very refreshing, as they always managed to provide us with different insights and interesting personal observations. Dr. Jenkins and I surely learned as much from our students as they learned from us.

After the seminar, I stayed in the region, as I had been offered an internship at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Belgrade, Serbia. The internship is highly diverse; part of my task description in Belgrade deals with promoting my country and engaging in public diplomacy, but I also represent the Netherlands at conferences, help draft diplomatic cables, and discuss strategies to improve the Rule of Law in Serbia with NGO's. Belgrade is a fantastic

city to live in; it's often called "Europe's new Berlin" because of its vivid cultural scene and lively nightlife. For me it's hard to imagine a place in Europe that's more up-and-coming than Belgrade, and hence I am so thrilled to be here. In 2016 I will return to Chapel Hill to finish my degree, and I am absolutely convinced that my current experiences in the Balkan will prove very valuable in writing my MA-thesis.

By Rainier Jaarsma



Photo by Rainier Jaarsma

Incoming REEES MA Students



From left to right: Alison Futcher, Hailey Dejong, Kristal Bird, Matthew Clute, and Ashley Duggins Photo by Shannon Harvey

Kristal Bird

My interest in Global Studies, specifically Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, developed through my undergraduate studies of business administration. While studying abroad in Switzerland, I participated in multiple international politics classes, which piqued my interest in international security, human rights, and public policy. The following year, I received the opportunity to study in Tbilisi, Georgia, focusing on the South Caucasus and Caspian Region security. It was after that experience that I decided to pursue a Master’s degree focusing on the former Soviet states with a desire to understand and compare their cultural, economic, political, and religious differences. While I’m still exploring what I would like to do in the future, I would like to work in areas of political and economic distress due to conflicts, in an effort to bring aid to civilians and to work with local governments to ensure peaceful resolutions. I am greatly looking forward to the next two years of study at UNC and the opportunity to discover beautiful North Carolina.



Matthew Clute

I was born in Mobile, Alabama. I attended the University of South Alabama as an undergraduate where I majored in History. I have always been interested in European History, and in the spring of 2013 I enrolled in “The History of Russia.” The course changed my life, and I have been fascinated by Russia and Eastern Europe ever since. After I completed my requirements at South Alabama, I had the opportunity to live and study in Saint Petersburg, Russia, for an entire year. My time abroad was one of the richest and most rewarding experiences I have ever had. This is the sort of trite comment made by nearly everyone who studies abroad, but in this case it happens to be true. I have a wide variety of interests, but I am especially interested in nationalism and ethnic conflict. I am excited to be joining the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill graduate community.

We are delighted to acknowledge that Josef Blass has made another generous contribution to CSEEEES to promote our program on the Democratization Process in Eastern Europe and Beyond.

Incoming REEES MA Students



Hailey Dejong

I completed my undergraduate studies at Calvin College and hold a BA in History with a focus on Eastern Europe. While at Calvin I studied abroad in Hungary and also interned at the U.S. Embassy-Bucharest in Romania. Through both semesters I discovered my enthusiasm for diplomacy, specifically regarding rule of law and human rights issues. I am pursuing Russian and East European Studies with a focus on history and politics, and am eager to examine the many effects of Communism within all levels of post-Soviet nations. I am also excited to learn Russian history and politics from a global perspective, specifically regarding international and EU relations. I am ambitious in my studies of the Polish language and look forward to using the language in diplomacy, human rights work, or primary research.

Ashley Duggins

After living for 18 years in rural California, I moved to Charlotte, NC, because it was “far away and had a pleasant sounding name.” I completed my undergraduate coursework at UNC Charlotte, graduating with a BA in Political Science and Anthropology. I chose to study both disciplines because my interests in Political Science lie in the cultural context and processes which affect political institutions. Specifically, I am interested in the development of post-Soviet states. Due to my interests, I studied the Russian language for four years at my home university; studied abroad in Moscow and Tver, Russia; and completed an internship in the political section of the US Embassy, Moscow. Upon completion of my MA in Global Studies, I hope to apply my experience in the field as an officer in the Foreign Service or another US government agency represented abroad.



Alison Futcher

I am entering UNC as a candidate for the MA in Global Studies program under the REES track. Originally from Boston, I attended Northeastern University where I received my BA in International Affairs and Cultural Anthropology. I also participated in two internships working at a refugee resettlement office at the International Rescue Committee and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. These internships, my studies, and travel abroad fueled my interest and passion for migration issues and the Eastern European region. I hope to combine the two in my degree and further develop my research interests on the effects of migration on local development and identities in the region. I also plan to continue to build my project management experience working for the USAID-funded MEASURE Evaluation project, under the UNC Carolina Population

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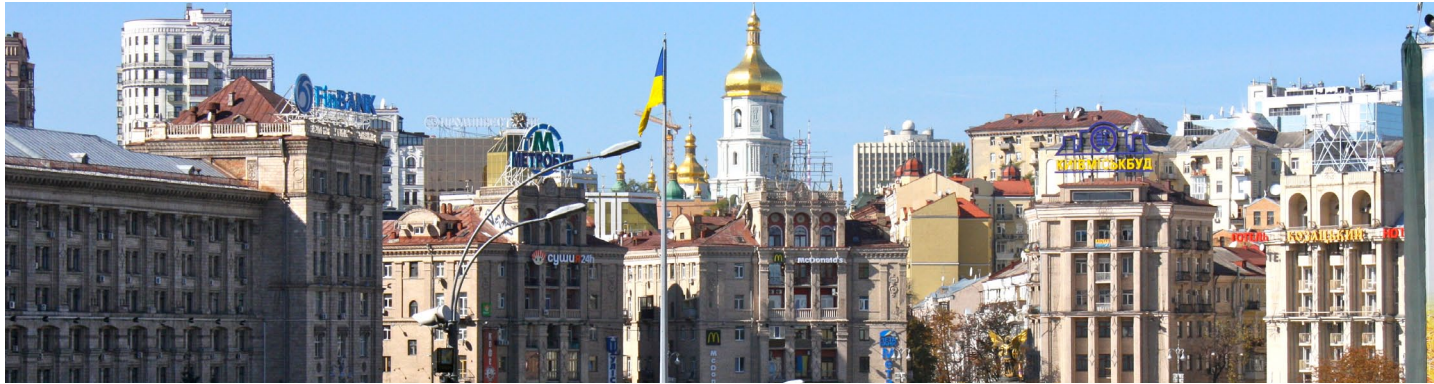


Photo by Trevor Erlacher

A Year in Ukraine

By Trevor Erlacher

During the 2014-15 academic year I lived in Lviv and Kyiv, Ukraine, conducting research in state archives and national libraries as a Fulbright fellow. My project is an intellectual and cultural history of Ukrainian integral nationalism that uses the biography of this ideology's most influential thinker, Dmytro Dontsov, as a framework. I still have more research to do in the National Archives of Canada, especially for the postwar period of my study, but I gathered sufficient material for the bulk of my dissertation while abroad. My host institution (Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv) and in-country advisors (Yaroslav Hrytsak and Oleksandr Zaitsev) were incredibly helpful, as were the numerous archivists and librarians who aided me. I attended conferences and networked with scholars from across the country and around the world; traveled by train from Uzhhorod to Kharkiv, taking in Ukraine's beautiful landscapes and cultural treasures, music, food and drink; and honed my Ukrainian in the west and my Russian in the east. It was a life-changing and immensely productive experience.

And what could be more fascinating for a historian than to personally witness a moment of rapid political and cultural change in the region of his or her focus? The world is only beginning to see and feel the consequences of the unfinished revolution and ongoing war with Russia that erupted in Ukraine just months before my arrival last September. There could not have been a better time and place to reflect on the historical processes and ideas that have shaped the present watershed. I encountered a society that, despite these upheavals, epitomized wartime Britain's best-known meme: "Keep calm and carry on." Day-to-day life was almost placid. The Ukrainians whom I met were kind, generous, hardworking, constantly engaging in political debate, and deeply committed to their country and fellow citizens. Picking up the slack left by a corrupt and incompetent government and military, they organized themselves to acquire and deliver the food and supplies badly needed on the front in the Donbas region. Everyone I spoke with had at least one close friend or relative living or serving there. Others volunteered to go themselves or had been drafted.

Just beneath the veneer of normalcy, however, new values, national cults, and simmering anxieties are everywhere apparent. Altars, street art, and monuments to the "Heavenly Hundred," the fallen "Cyborgs," and other heroes of the "Revolution of Dignity" dot the land and its cities. TV screens broadcast a constant stream of vexing news from the front. Signs of the death and devastation plaguing the country's Russia-occupied southeast are ubiquitous. Refugees and amputees are an increasingly common sight, like the advertisements for lawyers and prosthetics aimed at them. Many are struggling to survive in the ever-worsening economy. Men return physically and psychologically damaged from a war zone where the torturing of POWs and "spies" is endemic. Domestic violence has increased, in some cases as a direct result of veterans' brutalization in combat or captivity. The death toll continues to rise. Families mourn lost loved ones. But the deeply held belief that all this suffering and sacrifice had damn well better be worth it undergirds the total metamorphosis promised by the revolution: on the one hand, an end to government corruption and decrepit bureaucracies, the rotten opulence and political domination of oligarchs, police brutality, censorship and intimidation of the press, inescapable poverty, isolation from the wider world, and the slavish, fatalistic mentality this all engenders; on the other hand, the (re)birth of a confident, civic, unified nation, driven by ideals worth struggling for and a society of individuals made radically conscious of their own and collective power. What has actually been achieved along these lines is up for debate, and whether Ukrainians will ever make it is yet to be seen, but the outcome will have grave implications for Russia and the rest of Europe as well. I encourage everyone to visit Ukraine and see what is happening there for themselves. These are extraordinary times!

Collections

By Kirill Tolpygo, Slavic and East European Studies Librarian

Notable acquisitions:

UNC Libraries acquired the Krokodil Digital Archive. *Krokodil* was a satirical magazine published from 1922 to 2008. The digital archive complements UNC's incomplete print holdings

UNC and Duke University Libraries acquired a joint subscription to the *Slavic Humanities Index*.

These acquisitions were purchased using the *Weather-spoon Library Fund*.

The Rare Book Collection at Wilson Library acquired:

Cesta k svobodě, 1916-1920, an unpublished manuscript memoirs of the Czech legionnaire Antonín Jahelka.

Англия: сборник новых произведений, a rare 1924 anthology of Russian translations from the English, which includes the first known appearance of James Joyce in Russian – a translation of "The Counterparts" from *Dubliners* by Ivan Kashkin. UNC appears to be the only library in the U.S. to hold this item.

Обри Бердслей, a 1912 collection of works by and about Aubrey Beardsley, translated into Russian.

Z mého dětství by Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová, the original 1929 Czech edition of the autobiographical wood-cut novel, an early graphic novel and the first such work by a woman.

The books were purchased using the *Weatherspoon Library Fund*, *William A. Whitaker Foundation* and the *Howard Holsenbeck WWI fund*.

Gifts:

The Estate of Dr. Josef Aderle, Professor Emeritus of His-

tory at UNC, donated 323 volumes of Czech and Slovak studies materials from his private library. Dr. Anderle was born in Czechoslovakia in 1924, escaped Czechoslovakia following the Communist coup of 1948, and eventually settled in the United States. He taught European history at UNC from 1962, specializing in Eastern European, Czechoslovak and Russian history.

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada of Advance, NC, Professor Emeritus of European History at New Jersey City University, donated a nearly full run of *Tatrzański Orzeł* / *The Tatra Eagle*, a bi-lingual quarterly founded and co-edited by Dr. Gromada. Its mission is to help its readers become more fully conscious and appreciative of Podhale's folk culture and its impact on Poland's national high culture.

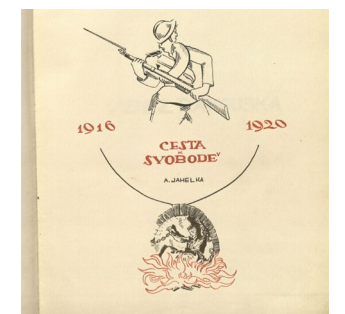
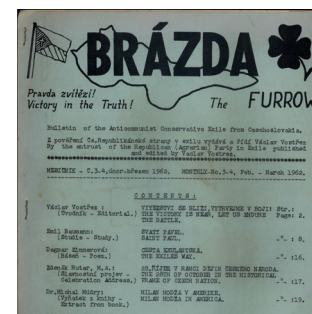
The Sliva family of Bluffton, SC and Norwalk, CT, has donated 688 volumes of Czech and Slovak studies materials and one box of archival materials from the private library of Frank Sliva. Mr. Sliva was a member of the Czech underground resistance during WWII and Frank Sliva's father, Leopold Sliva, was a Czech legionnaire during WWI and a representative in the Czechoslovak Senate for the Agrarian Party.

Dr. Gerald Surh, Professor of History, North Carolina State University, donated 599 volumes of chiefly Russian studies materials following his retirement.

Dr. Christopher Putney, Professor of Russian Literature at UNC, donated 148 volumes of Russian studies materials.

Serial subscriptions and back file acquisitions:

Czech Republic: *Církevní dějiny*, *Dějiny a současnost*, *Kontexty: časopis o kultuře a společnosti*, *Paměť a dějiny*, *Securitas imperii*; Israel (Russian language): *Огни столицы*; Russia: *Вестник Университета Дмитрия Пожарского*, *Рукопись (Ростов-на-Дону)*, *Русский книжник*.



Graduate and Undergraduate Student Profiles

Kiran Auerbach, a PhD candidate in UNC's Department of Political Science, spent two months in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) this summer after receiving the Richard J. Richardson Summer Research Fellowship from UNC's Graduate School. Her research investigates the impact of political parties and their patronage networks on local governance in young democracies. Since she started her PhD in 2012, she has spent each summer in BiH interviewing local academics, politicians, and political experts.

She writes: "the political and economic outlook for BiH is bleak: Despite recent protests that strove to achieve greater accountability to ordinary citizens, they failed to produce any meaningful reform in the country. Parties continue to campaign along ethnic lines rather than to differentiate themselves through concrete socio-economic agendas. This also serves as a means for parties to avert attention away from allegations of corruption. It is a paradox to juxtapose this situation with the spirit of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has endured many greater and worse things than the current political system. Historically, BiH was the meeting point of Catholicism, Islam, and Orthodox Christianity; it was also the intersection of the great Ottoman and Hapsburg Empires, and then the epitome of multi-ethnic, socialist Yugoslavia. Yet it also endured four years of war in the 1990s during which there was an attempt to destroy Bosnia's rich cultural heritage. The Vijećnica, Sarajevo's city hall and national and university library, was set aflame in 1992 and two million books vanished into ash. It lay in ruins for more than twenty years. Yet after most Bosnians and myself lost hope of ever seeing it stand again—a result of other priorities facing the country, political authorities fighting over how and to what purpose it should be rebuilt, and the struggle to find the enormous funds to rebuild it—it finally reassumed its grandeur in 2014. It stands stunning and

sublime, a combination of Austrian and neo-Moorish architecture cloaked in brilliant colors. It is one manifestation of the profound feeling of beauty and pathos that Sarajevo inspires to anyone who has ever visited the capital city of BiH. Let us hope that the resurrection of the Vijećnica also serves as a symbol that the baseness of Bosnia's current politics will eventually be rendered superfluous by this enduring spirit."

Lily Herbert is a senior majoring in Global Studies and Geography at UNC. She began her studies at UNC four years ago after learning Russian in high school and on a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship in the city of Kirov in Russia for a summer. Although interested in Russia and the former Soviet Union, Lily chose the Middle East as her regional concentration within Global Studies in order to explore another part of the world. While intriguing and informative, her classes on Islamic civilization barely brushed Central Asia, a region with a rich history of Islamic cultural development. Therefore, during her sophomore year Lily applied for a Boren Scholarship to study Kazakh in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She studied Kazakh intensively from October 2014 to May 2015 at KIMEP University on American Councils' Eurasian Regional Languages Program in Almaty. While at KIMEP, she was introduced to other Central Asian cultures through KIMEP's diverse array of international students, and began studying Uzbek as well as trying to perfect her Russian. Lily remained in Almaty through summer 2015 to participate in KIMEP's International Summer School, where she took a course on political cultures in Central Asia. She is now a senior at UNC, and is writing her honors thesis on spaces of inclusion and exclusion in Almaty in regards to women and the personal choices they make. She hopes to work in international education after graduation, and after seeing the fantastic transport system in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, would like to complete graduate work on transportation and economic geography in Central Asia.

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