

# INNER ASIAN & URALIC NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES | COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

**Expanding Knowledge** celebrating  
**of Central Eurasia 50 Years**

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## Spring 2017 Newsletter

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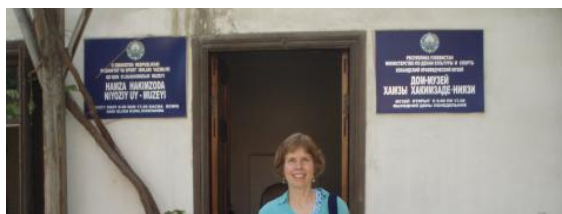
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### Spring 2017 Newsletter

This newsletter highlights the Spring 2017 activities of the IAUNRC and its associates, as well as future plans. In this issue, we feature a variety of travelogues from CEUS students who were willing to share their experiences and research projects with us. We look forward to sharing even more content with you in our Fall 2017 newsletter!

### New Faculty Spotlight CEUS Welcomes Preminent Scholar of Central Eurasian Studies to department



### Director's Note



Dr. Edward Lazzarini

As the 2016-2017 academic year draws to a close, we can take stock of both successes in fulfilling our Title VI mandates and uncertainty regarding the immediate and ultimate fates of the federal programs that have supported area studies for decades. The news from Washington, DC,



**Dr. Marianne Kamp is one of the leading experts of gender studies in post-Soviet Central Asia. She is pictured here at the entrance to the Hamza Hakimzoda Niyozzi house museum in Qo'qon, Uzbekistan**

The Central Eurasian Studies department at Indiana University is renowned worldwide for its assemblage of talented scholars and experts in the field. This year, the department has added another top-notch scholar to its roster. Dr. Marianne Kamp, associate professor of Central Eurasian studies, brings with her over 25 years of research in the fields of women, gender, and social change in Central Asian states both before and after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The IAUNRC spoke with her about her work in Uzbekistan, her research interests, and her planned course offerings.

When asked what piqued Dr. Kamp's interest in Central Asia, she can't help but laugh. "It was about as far from Indiana as you could possibly get," she said. Dr. Kamp grew up in Evansville, Indiana - a moderately-sized city located approximately 120 miles southeast of Bloomington. She remembers being interested in the Soviet Union even during her youth. "I was a child of the Cold War, and I was always fascinated by it for some reason," she said. Read more [here](#).

## **In Memoriam: CEUS Remembers Tibetan Scholar Dr. Elliot Sperling**



**Students of Dr. Sperling gathered for a memorial service in his honor at Bloomington's Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center. From left to right: Ben Michaels, Gendun Rabsal, Sara Conrad, Lee JiYoung, Katie Ottoway, Elliott Ubelhor (Standing), and Tenzin Tsepak.**

On January 29, the world lost one of the leading historians of Tibet and Tibet-China relations when Dr. Elliot Sperling passed away unexpectedly in his native New York City. His parting has been especially hard for many of his colleagues and students at IU who

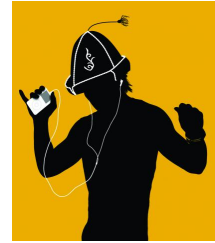
insofar as the federal budget for the new fiscal year is concerned, reflects President Trump's commitment to cutting expenditures in areas of support for higher education programs, including those that have long served the hard sciences, social sciences, and the arts and humanities. Directly impacting area studies is the recent announcement that along with the Fulbright Program, Title VI funding is to be terminated, although the general assumption is that Congress will not allow such a draconian end to many of these time-honored programs. Much discussion, nevertheless, is ongoing to identify alternative sources of public and private funding to ensure that international programming at IU, one of its hallmarks, does not suffer unduly.

On a more positive note, our work with MSIs and Junior Colleges continues to expand. We have identified a student at Claflin University in South Carolina, who will attend IU's 2017 Summer Intensive Language Program to study Turkish with a fellowship from our Center. Kasia Rydel-Johnston, my Assistant Director, and I recently visited Ivy Tech to attend a meeting of its International Programs Coordinating Committee to lay plans for AY 2017-2018, whereby we can contribute to a variety of activities and institute new ones drawing upon the areas of our competency. Finally, as part of the Center's collaboration with Kazan Federal University in Russia, we hosted two specialists of the Tatar language for a week-long visit to IU. Professors Alfiya Yusupova and Kadriya Fatkhullova shared a presentation on language policy in Tatarstan, and Professor Fatkhullova led an energetic "master class" introducing the Tatar

remember him not only as an outstanding scholar but also as a supportive mentor who always made time in his busy schedule to share his knowledge and ideas with others. Two of Sperling's students, Sara Conrad and Elliott Ubelhor, say that Sperling taught them the fundamentals of scholarship and inspired them to pursue Tibetan Studies. Read more [here](#).

language to a packed room of IU faculty and graduate students.

## Podcasts



When permitted by the speaker or performers, the IAUNRC records lectures, concerts, and performances that it supports so that they may be made available online as a learning resource for the public. In addition to several Fall 2016 lectures we have featured in this newsletter, you can hear past recordings by visiting our [website](#)

## First Student Participates in the Sinor Inner Asian Studies Research Exchange program

by Hosung Shim



**Hosung Shim is a PhD Candidate in Central Eurasian Studies. This spring semester, he is conducting dissertation research in Beijing. This is the first year that a student has participated in the program; In the past, it has only been available to faculty. Hosung agreed to write about his research and experience for the IAUNRC newsletter.**

For the spring semester of 2017, I have been staying in Beijing, China as the Sinor Inner Asian Studies Research Exchange student. With the generous support of the CEUS department and the Tang foundation, I am currently doing my dissertation research at Peking University and the First Historical Archive of China. My dissertation project discusses the internal dynamics of state-formation and state-management in the Central Asian steppe of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. To be specific, my research tackles the history of the Zunghar principality, the last independent nomadic state of the Central Eurasian steppe. The main purpose of this project is to prove the political agency of the Zunghars (i.e. Mongolic nomads in the Central Asian steppe) over the course of the rise and fall of their own state during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Since the Zunghars were considered the arch-rivals of the Qing Dynasty in Central Eurasia and were then finally destroyed by the same dynasty, China has contained the most numerous and detailed historical sources regarding the Zunghar principality. Therefore, China, especially Beijing, is the most appropriate place to develop my dissertation research considerably. Read more [here](#).

## Iranian Studies Workshop



This year, graduate students in Iranian Studies had the chance to share their research with both professors and peers who share a likened interest in Iran. Beginning in the fall semester, CEUS and Islamic Studies hosted a monthly workshop series that gave current graduate students a venue to share their current projects. The workshops began in the fall semester and were championed by Keith Wilson, Ph.D. candidate in Political Science, who presented his dissertation titled "Rethinking Domestic Explanations of Rivalry Fluctuation: Iran and Its Response to Shocks."

The workshop is the brainchild of Dr. Seema Golestaneh, assistant professor of Central Eurasian Studies. "I was inspired by the students," she said.

## SRIFIAS Library Settles into New Home

**Aybike Tezel Provides an Update about the SRIFIAS Collection**





**Aybike has been working with the SRIFIAS library for over four years.**

When the IAUNRC invited me to write something about the SRIFIAS library for their newsletter, I realized that this place has become one of those things in my life that I can write and talk about for days if only I could decide where to start! I was a visiting graduate student at the Center for Research on Ancient Chinese History at Beijing University when I got admitted to the department of Central Eurasian Studies at IU. My advisor there, Professor Luo Xin, who at the time was packing his bags for a research trip to Bloomington, could not stop talking about the SRIFIAS library. "I'm sure you'll spend all your time in Bloomington in the SRIFIAS," he would say repeatedly. When I think about it now - after spending the past four years of my life at the SRIFIAS, both as a patron of the library and a graduate assistant - professor Luo Xin's omen seems to be well proven! Read more [here](#).

## Not-So-Small Talk: Reflections on Fifteen Years of Working in Central Asia

by Sam Buelow



**Samuel Buelow in 2008 at the Medeu Skating Rink outside of Almaty, Kazakhstan. He will soon graduate from Indiana University with a PhD in Anthropology. Throughout his time at IU, he has volunteered with the IAUNRC, giving presentations about Kazakhstan to elementary and middle schoolers and syllabus design for graduate students.**

As my time at IU draws to a close (I defended my dissertation in February), it seems like an opportune

"We have many fantastic students working on very diverse aspects of Iranian Studies, so I thought it would be nice to develop a showcase where the students can share their research but to also foster a sense of an intellectual community and see what other people are working on in our field."

Golestaneh said she likes the workshop format because it is informal and gives graduate students the opportunity to receive helpful feedback from their peers. She said she has been pleased with the response from both students and faculty. "I've noticed that we have students asking to present, which is great because sometimes graduate students can be shy when it comes to sharing their work," she said. "It made me really happy that people see this as a supportive environment where they can collaborate." Golestaneh said she also appreciates the support from CEUS faculty, many who volunteered to be discussants.

**Talks this semester included:**

- "Rethinking Domestic Explanations of Rivalry Fluctuation: Iran and Its Response to Shocks" given by Keith Wilson

- "Ali Shariati: Ideologue of the Iranian Revolution" given by Alexander Shepard

- "Eating Their Kurds and Whey: Turkish-Iranian Relations, 1979-2000" given by Matthew Kuhl

"A Semantic Analysis of Mood Selection in Complement Clauses in Persian" given by Narges Nematollahi

- "From the Ashes: Khomeini's Role in the Transition to the Islamic Republic during the Bazaragan Era" given by Kenneth Weber

moment to reflect on my travels to Central Asia. Since coming to IU in 2006, I have been to both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan five times. Over the years, my project changed several times before settling into its final incarnation – an examination of the relationship between ethnonationalist trends and LGBT experience, centering around a group of young, ethnic Kyrgyz who call themselves “crossdressers.” While LGBT issues had been on my radar since I first travelled to Kazakhstan in 2002 as an undergrad at the University of Pittsburgh, it would be several years before I would give in to the desire to center them in my research. Read more [here](#).

## Resources for Partner Institutions

The IAUNRC is dedicated to working with partner institutions to develop long-term and sustainable relationships. The Center can provide videoconferences, targeted teaching materials, and funding for travel to interested institutions. To learn more about what the IAUNRC can do for your institution, [click here](#).

## Wild Horses, Wolves, and Weddings

by Brendan Devine



**My experience teaching in the Bridges language program**  
*in Madina*



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