



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

INNER ASIAN & URALIC NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Bloomington



Spring 2018 Newsletter

This newsletter highlights the Spring 2018 activities of the IAUNRC and its associates, as well as future plans. We look forward to sharing even more content with you in our Fall 2019 newsletter.

Jumping into the Deep End Studying Kyrgyz (Kind of)

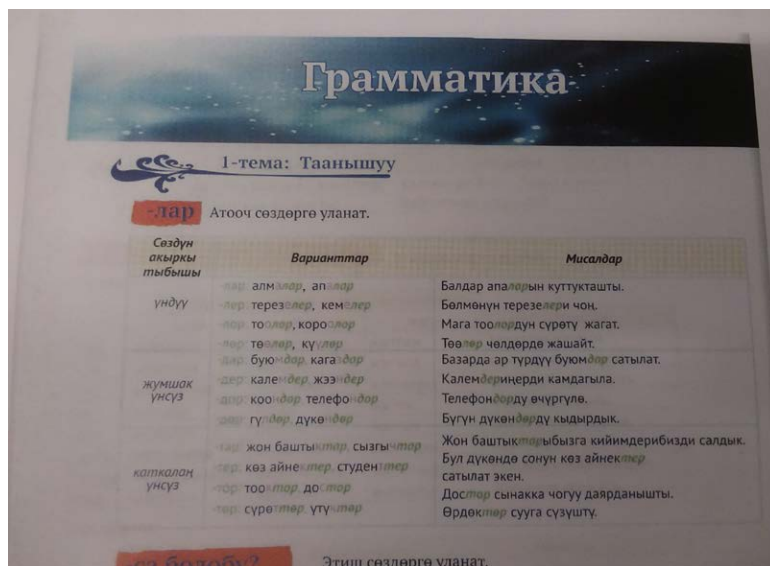
By Michael Krautkraemer

Director's Note



Dr. Edward Lazzerini

This is my final semester as director of the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center at Indiana University. In 2002, I joined IU as Associate Director and as a member of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies; the former title became Director beginning in 2009. Much has changed since my first year with the NRC. The amount of funding in succeeding



The first page of a Kyrgyz grammar that I have found particularly helpful

Michael Krautkraemer is the editor of this newsletter a PhD candidate in Central Eurasian Studies, and an enthusiastic Turkologist-in-training

This semester, I embarked on what everyone told me was an ambitious project, but I simply thought sounded like good, clean fun. I decided that I would learn Kyrgyz in an hour a week. Every year the IAUNRC's affiliate department, Central Eurasian Studies (CEUS), hosts a number of Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants from the various regions that we cover. This year, we have native speakers of Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Pashto, Turkish, and Uzbek. When CEUS language coordinator Piibi-Kai Kivik sent out an email reminding us that we had a Kyrgyz instructor with no students, I contacted her about arranging something.

Read more [here](#).

Tsagaan Sar— Mongolian New Year

Celebrating the turn of another year

by Brendan Devine

cycles has declined significantly, as has the number of FLAS awards and the number of Title VI Centers across the US. We, however, have been fortunate to receive continuous support from the US Department Education for over fifty years and hope to add to that record with success for 2018-2021. We remain the sole Center with our particular regional focus.

I continue to be blessed with the assistance of Assistant Director Kasia Rydel-Johnston, who has survived the idiosyncrasies (with more than an occasional headache) of two directors for extended periods, always diligent and hard-working, and someone who could be counted upon to be smart and perceptive. I have also been extremely pleased to have had a parade of graduate students serve the Center in a variety of capacities, all necessary for its operation across quite varied activities and responsibilities. The most recent, Emily Stranger, Brendan Devine, and Michael Krautkraemer, have all maintained a grand tradition of service, bringing to the Center varied strengths and unique areas of specialty.

As a 19th-century Tatar scholar noted, we are



Singers and Musicians performing at Tsagaan Sar 2018

Every year, as the calendars flip to the new year, the Bloomington Mongolian community comes together to celebrate the Mongolian New Year, Tsagaan Sar. This February more than 100 people—including language students, faculty, staff, and friends—gathered together to celebrate the beginning of the new year. Usually celebrated during late January or early February, Tsagaan Sar is a celebration of the lunar new year. Traditionally, in Mongolia, Tsagaan Sar is a three-day celebration representing the end of winter and the first days of spring. It is common for families to travel to the gers (traditional Mongolian homes) of family and friends to visit and bring well wishes for the New Year.

Read more [here](#).

Tamerlane Chess: On Recreating a Fourteenth-Century Chess Variant

by Michael Krautkraemer

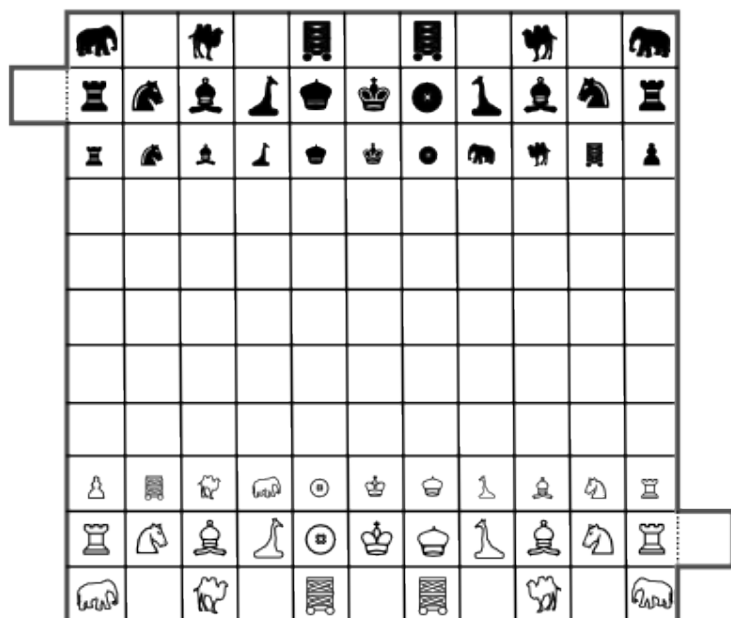
always obliged to maintain a chain of transmission from the past to the present so as to not lose our collective memories for the sake of momentary distractions and inconsequential pursuits. I wish all the very best to my associates as they work tirelessly to support area studies to education, the acquisition of deep knowledge, and greater global understanding.

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. You can hear past recordings by visiting our [website](#)

Resources for Partner Institutions



The starting board of Tamerlane Chess

This past semester was a busy one at the IAUNRC. In addition to all of our normal activities, like videoconferencing, in-person outreach, and arranging for guest lecturers on campus, we are reapplying for our Title VI grant. Between business as usual and the added headache of writing the grant proposal, no one around here has had terribly much leisure time. Despite all of the craziness slowly encroaching upon the office, I did manage to find the time to undertake a small project of my own: recreating Tamerlane Chess. At the time of writing, I plan to donate the set and a rulebook to the IAUNRC for use by a larger audience.

Read more [here](#).

Disciplinary in Form, Area Studies in Content

My Experience Teaching World History at a Regional IU Campus

by Brian Cwiek

As an advanced graduate student in an area studies department, I have spent many sleepless nights wondering about how my training will prepare me for

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](#).

2017-2018 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants

This year, the Department of Central Eurasian Studies (CEUS) has welcomed six Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs). The FLTA program is sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program gives instructors of English as a Second Language the opportunity to strengthen their teaching skills at colleges and universities throughout the U.S. In addition to teaching their native languages, FLTAs are given the opportunity to take university level classes of their choosing.

This year's FLTAs are native speakers of Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Mongolian, and Pashto. We've taken the time to sit down with a few of them to chat. Transcripts can be

professional life after graduation. Like many other PhD students, I hope to secure an academic job, ideally on the tenure track. But will those semesters studying obscure languages, regional political dynamics, and the intricacies of history really prove to be a wise investment?

Only time will tell, but I am closer to having an answer to this vexing question. I had the distinct pleasure of teaching in the Department of History at Indiana University South Bend during 2016-2017 as an IU Future Faculty Teaching Fellow and again in the Fall of 2017 as a member of the department's associate faculty. During this time, I was responsible for designing and delivering two undergraduate courses each semester. I quickly learned that my fears were unfounded in this case. Area studies training was excellent preparation for my role as a visiting faculty member tasked to teach several world and Asian history courses.

Read more [here](#).

found at the following links:

[Uzbek FLTA Alisher Khamidov](#)

[Mongolian FLTA Temujin Nyamdavaa](#)

Recent Events

Navruz 2018

By Emily Stranger

On March 24, the IAUNRC sponsored the annual Navruz celebration.



Kahveh Mehrabani tasting a batch of ghormeh sabzi at Navruz 2018

The 2018 Navruz celebration at Indiana University, organized by the Association of Central Eurasian Studies, was a huge success despite less-than-ideal

weather conditions. Over 200 people braved an unusual Spring blizzard to attend the event, which was held on Saturday, March 24 in the GISB auditorium. Festivities began with a concert at 6 p.m. followed by a reception that was catered by Samira's. Read more [here](#).

Lectures

Recent lectures concerning Inner Asian and Uralic regions and topics.

Every year our center is proud to support talks from experts around the world that come to Indiana University to contribute to our rich intellectual community. These are some of the speakers that we have hosted this semester.

[January 26. Symposium for Sustainable Development keynote speaker Liisa Past- "Cybersecurity as a State of Mind"](#)

[February 1. Donald S. Lopez Jr.- "The Trials of Gendun Chopel"](#)

[February 6. Jennifer Wilson- "Queer Harlem. Queer Tashkent: Langston Hughes's Boy Dancers of Uzbekistan"](#)

[February 22. Balázs Trencsényi- "A History of Modern Political Thought in East Central Europe: Volume I: Negotiating Modernity in the 'Long Nineteenth Century'"](#)

[March 2. Roundtable with Dr. Yangbum Gyal- "Tibetan Medicine and its Application in the United States"](#)

[March 28. Zvi Ben-Dor Benite- "Treason, Prison, and Muslim Cookies: Fresher Perspectives on the History of Islam in China"](#)

[April 16. Andrei Dörre- "Sustainable Hydrosocial Arrangements in the Western Pamirs, Tajikistan"](#)

IAUNRC Outreach

Teaching Persian in Bridges- A CEUS MA Student on doing outreach in the community

by Emily Stranger



(From left) Sean Hall, Persian students, Emily Stranger, and Su Abbas at girls, inc.

One of our primary goals at the IAUNRC is to educate others about the Central Eurasian region through a variety of live outreach activities. Every year, IAUNRC graduate assistants visit local schools and libraries to give presentations about the regions and peoples that we love so much. We also participate in various cultural events, such as the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar and International Night at The Project School. As the graduate assistant outreach coordinator this academic year, I was in charge of organizing the center's activities for these events, which included making Tibetan prayer flags, stamping paper pishtaq doors, and fashioning yurt Christmas ornaments. It was always fun to watch how engaged and involved the children became, especially when they had the chance to play with glitter!

Read more [here](#).

Editor: Michael Krautkraemer



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