

CONNECTIONS

CENTER FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back! This year may prove to be one of the most defining moments in CSEEEES's history. Every indication suggests that the Title VI competition will be held, and Adi and I have already begun drafting parts of our proposal, compiling appendices, and strategizing with our Title VI Committee. We will apply alone, without Duke, and as a comprehensive national resource center. That's because we are.

Let me share some news with you. Supplemental support from the College and from the Provost's office has made it possible for us to launch our "Spotlight on Ukraine Initiative," comprising not only guest speakers and the marvelous Image of Ukraine exhibit, but also the first courses at UNC on Ukrainian history. We have set up Southeast Europe and Central Asian work groups and a Russia on the World Stage lecture series. And we are co-sponsoring a national conference on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, the brainchild of two of our PhD students in Music, Jamie Blake and Grace Kweon, "A Century of Movement."

We have lined up this year's Visegrad-4 visitors and others sponsored by our "Democratization Processes in Eastern Europe and Beyond" program. Please watch for upcoming circulars that will provide details. We welcome our incoming cohort of three bright and eager MA students, to be joined by a fourth in January; our visiting scholar Yang Lei from Nankai University; and our Fulbright scholar from Ukraine, Georgiy Kasianov. We also would like to give a shout out to the two new members of CSEEEES's Advisory Committee, Louise Spieler, Senior Associate Dean for Strategy and Administration at the School of Media and Journalism, and Charles Szypszak, Albert Coates Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government.

In need of your help, Adi and I will call upon you throughout the year as we write, revise, and massage our Title VI proposal. We likewise need your material support. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a donation to CSEEEES. To do so, please visit our website.

Please join us in making this year our most successful.

Donald J. Raleigh

DIMITAR BECHEV (CSEEEES Fellow) published a monograph, *Rival Power: Russia's Influence in Southeast Europe* (Yale University Press, 2017).

TREVOR ERLACHER (Teaching Assistant Professor, History) is revising his dissertation into a book and teaching the first modern Ukrainian history course at UNC.

ROBERT JENKINS (Teaching Associate Professor) led the Burch Field Research Seminar in the Balkans and Vienna for the ninth time since 2002. Fifteen UNC undergraduates and Graduate Assistant Sean Norton (Political Science) accompanied him on the trip. The group met with international organizations and NGOs during two weeks in Bosnia-Herzegovina, one week in Kosovo, and three weeks in Vienna. Meetings and briefings were held with 25 organizations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo and another six organizations and individuals in Vienna.

LOUISE McREYNOLDS (Distinguished Professor, History) is currently in Ukraine doing research on imperial archeology, under the auspices of the Fulbright program.

HANA PICOVA (Professor, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures) published "Prague as the Site of Defenestration: On the Twentieth Anniversary of Bohumil Hrabal's Death" in *Slavic and East European Journal*. Themes discussed in her book *The Case of the Missing Statue: A Historical and Literary Study of the Stalin Monument in Prague* also served as an inspiration for the libretto of a Czech opera, *Žádný člověk* (No Man), which recently premiered in Prague on the subject of the dismantling of the gigantic Stalin monument in Prague.

DONALD J. RALEIGH (Distinguished Professor, History) published the introductory essay, "Stravinsky's Russia and the Politics of Cultural Ferment" in *The Rite of Spring at 100*, the volume resulting from the 2012 UNC confer-

ence on Stravinsky's influential ballet. This past summer he conducted research on his biography of Brezhnev in Moscow and in Dnipro, Ukraine.

MICHELE RIVKIN-FISH (Associate Professor, Anthropology) will publish her article, "Legacies of 1917 in Contemporary Russian Public Health: Addiction, HIV and Abortion," in the October 2017 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

STEVE ROSEFELDE (Professor, Economics) published *Trump's Populist America* (World Scientific Publishers, 2017), *The Unwinding of the Globalist Dream: EU, Russia, China* (with Masaaki Kuboniwa, Kumiko Haba and Satoshi Mizobata, Singapore: World Scientific Publishers, 2017), and *The Trump Phenomenon and Future of US Foreign Policy* (with Quinn Mills, Singapore: World Scientific, 2016). Other publications include articles in *The Journal of Comparative Economic Studies* and *The Russian Economy* (London: Routledge, 2017).

MICHAEL SKALSKI (PhD student, History) received the Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for research at Poland and the Czech Republic.

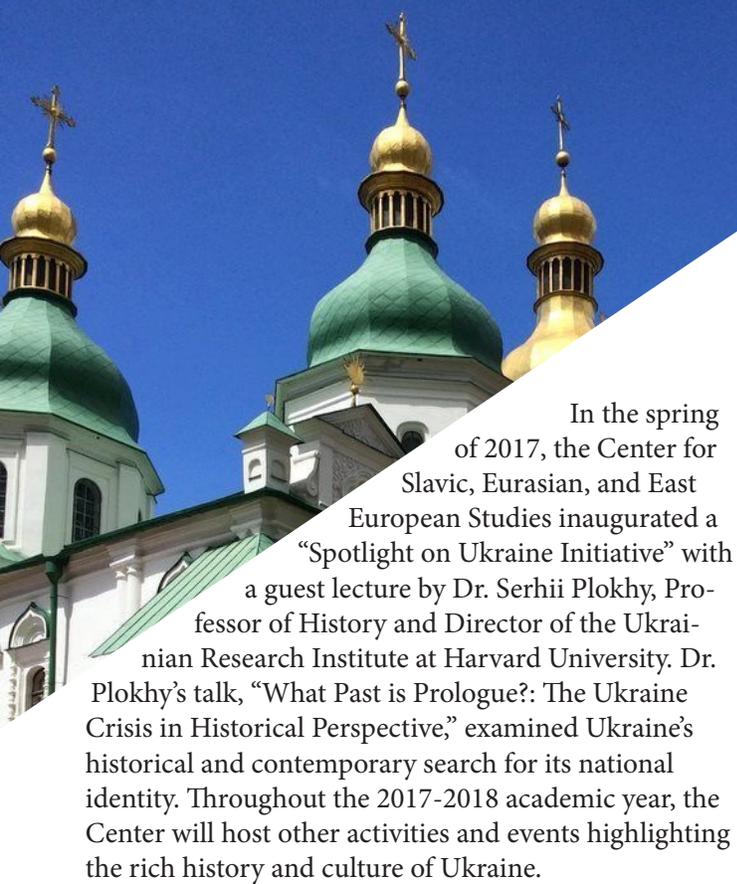
CHARLES SZYPSZAK (Distinguished Professor, Government) taught two courses, Teaching Law Through Analytical Dialog and Learning Law Through Analytical Dialog at the Faculty of Law and Administration of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland.

EREN TASAR (Assistant Professor, History) will publish his book, *Soviet and Muslim: The Institutionalization of Islam in Central Asia, 1943-1991*, with Oxford University Press in December.

SILVIA TOMÁŠKOVÁ (Professor, Anthropology, Women's & Gender Studies) spent two months of the summer in South Africa, supported by the National Geographic Society. Dr. Tomaskova intends to integrate the travels of Czech traveler and doctor Dr. Emil Holub, who spent extensive time in the same region, into a larger story of European colonial expansions at the end of the 19th century. With the dedicated assistance of Dr. Hana Pichova, Dr. Tomášková was able to "establish contact" with Africanists at the Náprstek museum in Prague, where many of Dr. Holub's collected materials are housed.

EWA WAMPUSZYC (Assistant Professor, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures) published an edited volume, *Geograficzne przestrzenie utekstowione* (Białystok, 2017) that features her article "Intertextuality and Topography in Igor Ostachowicz's *Noczywych Żydów*."

CSEEEES welcomes Yang Lei, Associate Professor of International Relations and Director of the Center for Russia and Central Asian Studies at Nankai University in China, who will spend the 2017-2018 academic year at UNC on a yearlong China Scholarship Council stipend. His research at UNC will focus primarily on Russia's diplomatic relations with China and the former Soviet republics in Central Asia.



In the spring of 2017, the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies inaugurated a “Spotlight on Ukraine Initiative” with a guest lecture by Dr. Serhii Plokyh, Professor of History and Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. Dr. Plokyh’s talk, “What Past is Prologue?: The Ukraine Crisis in Historical Perspective,” examined Ukraine’s historical and contemporary search for its national identity. Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, the Center will host other activities and events highlighting the rich history and culture of Ukraine.

The Center’s “Spotlight on Ukraine” initiative also includes the first course on Ukraine’s history at Carolina. Taught by Trevor Erlacher (PhD ‘16), **HIST 490: Modern Ukraine** offers an in-depth exploration of Ukraine’s hard road to independence and democracy through wars, revolutions, totalitarian regimes, and cultural rebirths. The course has generated significant interest among undergraduate and graduate students alike. As Erlacher tells us, “examining Ukraine’s recent history through transimperial, multiethnic, and regional lenses, the course provides background information that is vital for understanding the country’s internal dynamics and geopolitical predicament today.”

The UNC Department of History is also hosting Fulbright scholar Georgyi Kasianov, head of the Department of Contemporary History and Politics at the Institute of History of Ukraine in Kyiv. Dr. Kasianov will teach the sequel to the history course in the spring semester and mentor graduate students.

In collaboration with UNC Global and the Ukrainian Association of North Carolina, the Center organized a semester-long exhibition “Image of Ukraine: Exploring Ukrainian Culture through Embroidery and Painting” highlighting two traditional Ukrainian folk art forms – vyshyvka (Ukrainian embroidery) and Petrykivka (a Ukrainian style of painting named after its city of origin). The opening reception, held on September 14, featured a fashion shown, Ukrainian food, and a keynote lecture, *Ukrainian Folk Art: Magic and Meaning*, by Dr. Natalie Kononenko, Professor and Kule Chair in Ukrainian Ethnography at the University of Alberta in Canada. The exhibition, which also features original artwork by local Ukrainian artist Olena Zintchouk, will be on display at the FedEx Global Education Center through December 8, 2017.



Photographed by: Olena Kozlova-Pates

Emily Lipira, a PhD student in History, knows how life changing a new course can be. “In my case,” she said, “it was an undergraduate course that got me interested in the geographic area and got me to learn the language.” She hopes the new course at UNC will interest students here in all things Ukrainian. Emily spent the summer doing research in archives in Russia,

where Ukrainian voices featured prominently in the journals, diaries, and sketchbooks she encountered. In her research project, Emily looks at the role nationalism played in the avant-garde art movements of late tsarist Russia, and she has found that several prominent artists at the time were not who we would call Russian today, but Ukrainian. Emily underscored the value of studying and representing Ukrainian history and culture, saying “it is important to recognize Ukrainian history and national spirit because, as illustrated by the ongoing conflict, it remains pertinent to Americans today.”

Other events hosted by CSEEEES throughout the academic year will include public lectures, film screenings, and workshops in Petrykivka painting and Ukrainian song. The Center is also helping prepare Ukrainian culture kits for Carolina Navigators, a UNC outreach program providing free resources in global education to K-12 educators in North Carolina. The kits, filled with everyday items from Ukraine, will be distributed for use in the classroom.

“Global Studies as a program sounded great to me from the off, as I am a rabid consumer of all things international, particularly politics and soccer. I am from Charlotte originally, but headed to New England in 2013 to pursue a degree in Politics from Saint Anselm College, graduating in May of this year. I knew I wanted to pursue further education in an international field for a while, but my semester abroad studying at Peter the Great State Polytechnic Institute in Saint Petersburg, Russia, solidified my love of the former Soviet Union. My senior thesis examines the tribal problem solving techniques in Somali culture and their effects on the ongoing civil war, and at UNC I hope to combine my interest in political violence with my interest in the former USSR. Beyond academics, my interests include running, soccer, and reading, and I could not be more excited to return to the South and become part of the Chapel Hill community. Go Heels!”



LIAM ANDERSON



ALBERT CAVALLARO

“In May 2015, I graduated with Honors from The College of New Jersey with a Bachelor’s degree in History and English. At TCNJ, my senior capstone paper “Western (Mis) perceptions of Tsar Ivan IV Vasilevich the “Terrible”” was published in the *TCNJ Journal of Student Scholarship* and was the recipient of the inaugural 2016 Adeline Hoffman Prize for best paper submitted to this journal. Following my graduation, I moved to New York City, where I worked for two years as a research analyst for an insurance archaeology company while, simultaneously, enrolled in night classes for learning Russian: first at NYU, and later with Russian tutors. At UNC, I am excited to conduct research into the Russian/Eurasian region regarding how early modern and later states were created and sustained, not only through their monopolization of intrastate violence, but also through their creation of self-legitimizing ideologies. Following the Master’s Program, I hope to go on to a doctoral program, where I will be able to eventually realize my goal of professionally teaching, researching, and studying Russian history.”

“I am from Greensboro, just up the road from Chapel Hill. I became fascinated with Russian history in high school and I haven’t looked back. I graduated from UNC-Greensboro in 2014 with majors in History and Russian Studies. Having been inspired by my dad’s stories of backpacking around Europe in the 80’s, I took every chance I could to travel. At UNCG I was fortunate enough to study abroad in Wroclaw, Poland, and Lampeter, Wales. After graduating I moved to Ecuador and began working as an English teacher in the city of Riobamba. I fell in love with Latin America and the Spanish language and I found Ecuador a difficult place to leave. I spent this summer at Indiana University to brush up on my Russian after a three-year break from all things university. At UNC I want to combine my interests in Russian history and Latin America as I look to research Soviet-Latin American relations. Besides history and languages, I love camping, cooking, rugby, and gardening.”



WILLIAM ZANG





AD WATTS LANE
ANTHROPOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY,
NEUROSCIENCE

“This summer, I spent 7 weeks in Kazakhstan, a former member of the Soviet Union and largest nation in Central Asia, through the Burch Fellows Program. My time there was spent conducting field research to study the relationship between traditional craft making and national identity branding. Kazakhstan, like many developing countries, is hoping to establish itself internationally, and this requires a unified culture that can be presented to the world. My trip was invaluable for the chance to explore a unique and largely unknown region, as well as to speak with young Kazakhs and artisans about how heritage is passed on through crafts, and how that craftwork can be used to share their culture with the world. My time in the Russian language program was instrumental to my success overseas; Kazakhstan is a Russian-speaking country and without the ability to speak the language my research would have been incredibly difficult.”

“My interest in studying Central Europe stems from my Polish background, as both my parents migrated from Poland in the 1990s. This personal connection compelled me to learn more about Poland, and more generally, Europe. Central Europe has a complicated and fascinating history that is important to study in order to understand not just Europe today, but also its relations to others in our globally intertwined world. The summer of my sophomore year, I spent 6 weeks studying Polish in Lublin, Poland. While doing an intensive language study, I was given the opportunity to explore the culture of the region and to meet fellow students from surrounding countries. I met students from Ukraine, Germany, Portugal, Australia, France, etc, challenged my language skills, and was introduced to new political perspectives.”



KASIA LESZCZUK
CENTRAL EUROPEAN STUDIES AND
CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN STUDIES

“This summer I spent three months in Russia, Estonia, and Belarus on a Burch Fellowship. Part of my fellowship was studying the impact of the USSR on music cultures in the Soviet Republics (the Estonian Song Festival, for example) and in diasporic communities in other areas within Russia. The bulk of my fellowship surrounded a research assistantship with a professor from the Gorky Institute of World Literatures in Moscow. Together we collected oral histories, documented cultural artifacts, songs, and magic spells of a Belarusian community and surrounding communities (mostly Russians and Buryats) in a Stolypin reform village in Eastern Siberia called Akhiny. Afterward, we traveled to their mother village of Lyadovichi, Belarus, to repeat our methods and observe how traditions have changed and what has remained over the past century. Throughout the expeditions and my travels, my knowledge of Russian and other Slavic languages were paramount to the feasibility of this experience since I spent most of my time in remote villages on the White Sea, Siberia, and Western Belarus. Besides living in rural localities, I also was exposed to local dialects of Russian and Belarusian and had to translate song texts and magic spells from these dialects into English for future publications.”



RYAN DAVIS ROWE
MUSIC AND SLAVIC &
EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND
CULTURE

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The Rare Book Collection at Wilson Library acquired a collection of scarce publications by the Czechoslovak Legion, produced along the Trans-Siberian Railway during the Russian Civil War and on Allied ships following the Legion's evacuation from Siberia. Of particular note are long runs of Legion newspapers *Československý denník*, *Československý voják* and *Na stráž*, and the complete run of *Zadní voj*, produced on the American ship U.S.A.T. Logan on route from Vladivostok to Trieste via Southeast Asian ports. Also in the collection are books, journals, pamphlets, and maps printed by the Legion in cities like Yekaterinburg, Cheliabinsk and Irkutsk, and including essays by T.G. Masaryk, collections of soldier's songs, and reprints of classics like Karel Havlíček Borovský and Jan Neruda. The collection was acquired with contributions from the Howard Holsenbeck Gift, the Lawrence Foushee London Fund, the Visegrad University Grant and the Weatherspoon Library Fund.



POLISH PRIESTS IN PARANA

BY KRISSY JUERGENSMEYER, MA STUDENT IN RUSSIAN, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES



This summer, I traveled to Curitiba, Brazil, and the surrounding area to study the Polish migrant community in the southern state of Parana. The villages and towns I visited, Mallet, Palmeira, Santa Barbara, and Rio Claro do Sul, were built by Polish settlers and are still inhabited by their descendants. In one town's church, residents have built a museum that tracks and commemorates Polish families in the community. Photographs, wedding certificates, personal belongings, and church lists are all gathered in one room to show the small village's history.

During my time in Brazil, I conducted 9 full formal interviews and 3 more informal and partial interviews, mostly in Polish. Participants ranged from recent immigrants to 3rd and 4th generation descendants. I asked them about their family history, how and why they spoke Polish (if they did), and their opinions on the future of the Polish language and life in Brazil. In some cases, I interviewed people in their ancestral homes about their efforts to conserve their language, culture, and family heritage for generations to come.

When visiting these small villages, I was often invited to eat lunch or dinner with Polish families, allowing me to observe language switching and bilingual interactions firsthand. On one occasion, I was given a tour of that family's original

settlement area and church and learned about an ongoing attempt to get permission and funding to support a Polish language teacher in the local elementary school. They hoped that my visit would help them revitalize Polish language learning and teaching in their town.

I also spent a day in an archive in a local Catholic church. The church was started by Polish settlers and has hosted a constant yet diminishing line of Polish priests. The individual I met with, a second generation immigrant and the last remaining native Polish speaker in the church, maintains an archive created by generations of Polish priests and families. The archive houses a library with various published and personal books, photo albums, newspapers, and journals produced by or for the Polish community in the state of Parana. A small museum of objects and pictures is filled with statues, relics, money, clothing, crafts, and other miscellaneous items brought from Poland.

My research in Curitiba and the rest of Parana is now being used to complete my MA thesis with Drs. Chad Bryant, Donald J. Raleigh and Rob Anderson. My thesis will examine the decline of language maintenance in the 1930s and the increase in heritage maintenance in the 1980s in Brazil's Polish community. I will also look at the resulting hybrid-identity currently used by members of the Polish-Brazilian community in the Parana area. My work in Brazil provided me with several invaluable contacts, including the Polish Consul, prominent organizers of the Polish-Brazilian community, and several university professors. I was also invited to speak at Unicentro University in Irati on a panel discussion about language and landscapes in intercultural contexts, where I presented along with Professor Vanesa Civila Orellana. In my talk, I discussed the importance of language maintenance work and its place in qualitative research, as well as my own research in Brazil. The university asked me to write a short article on my research to be translated and publish in its yearly Slavic journal.

My time doing field work in Brazil gave me more than just a start to my field work and thesis. Engaging in the whole interview process and working on my own project by myself in a foreign country gave me an experience I never thought I would have. While conducting my field work I really felt like my academic experiences, knowledge, and choices all came together to help me accomplish what at the time felt like an impossible task. After traveling around the country, interviewing individuals from various obscure villages in rural Brazil, I was finally able to step back and reflect on the process, my experiences, and my findings. This experience affirmed my decision to focus on this region, and finally made me feel that all of my hard work had paid off and that I had chosen the right path for my work and future.

LIVING AND RELIVING TRANSNATIONALISM

BY JAMIE BLAKE, PHD STUDENT IN MUSIC

In 1917, musician Sergei Koussevitzky was a rising star in the orchestral world. He became the first conductor of the newly-formed state orchestra, only to exit the country three short years later, never to return. Koussevitzky settled in Paris and again began to build a promising career, but before long, he accepted the position as director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. My research examines Koussevitzky as a musician and cultural figure whose work was deeply impacted by movement, both his own and that of the world around him. Placing Koussevitzky's transnational experience at the center of my inquiry reveals the power and privilege of his mobility as well as his work as a mobilizer.

In considering issues of movement and boundary over the last century, one is inescapably drawn to 1917 in Russia. Though not an isolated moment, the revolution crystallizes dramatic changes that were both mobilizing and immobilizing, rippling outward beyond Russia's borders and around the globe. In discussing this impact with my fellow UNC graduate student, Grace Kweon, we could not help but be struck by the sum and magnitude of cultural encounters that can be traced to movement initiated in one way or another by the revolution. We considered Russian communities, organizations, and professional networks in such places as New York, Paris, Boston, San Francisco, Berlin, London, Sydney, Prague, Kiev, and Tashkent. We discussed the preservation of Russian identity through language and tradition as well as the circulation of Russian cultural products, such as music, art, dance, film, theater, and literature, among greater global audiences.

In contemporary society, I believe such movement is all too often considered in its most negative contexts, and especially so with regard to human migration. We too easily identify the movement of refugees as a crisis, immigration as a problem, and immobility associated with poverty or circumstance as a personal, and perhaps even criminal, failure. I wanted to create a space in which we could foster conversations about the cultural products and profound creative impact of movement and human migration, and specifically that which was catalyzed by the Russian revolution. The more I researched Koussevitzky and his professional networks, both local and international, the more convinced I became that boundary, contact, and mobility lie at the core



of the most remarkable cultural achievements of the twentieth century. As I worked in Moscow last summer, I was enveloped by the transnational experience I was at once researching and living.

Grace and I set to work devising a way in which, in the centenary year of the revolution, we might place culture and community at the center of a meaningful discussion about movement and migration. We wanted not only to create a forum in which to foster such conversation, but also to create opportunities to experience cultural artifacts such as music, dance, and visual art first-hand. From this work, and with the help of Professors Annegret Fauser and Donald J. Raleigh, our conference began to take shape: *A Century of Movement: Russian Culture and Global Community Since 1917*. This two-day international initiative includes keynote speakers Katerina Clark and Marina Frolova-Walker, scholarly presentations, two concerts, a performance of Russian folk music and dance by the dance company Barynya, and a partnership with the Ackland Art Museum. All sessions are open to the public and we hope that our campus and local community will take part in this exciting conference (please see centuryofmovement.unc.edu for a full schedule). We have learned so much through the year-long process of developing this incredible event and are especially grateful for the robust support and encouragement we have received from our advisors, sponsors, and the UNC community.

A Century of Movement will be held October 12-13, 2017. Find out more at centuryofmovement.unc.edu



INTERVIEW WITH KAREN HAUFF, MA '01

DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT WORK.

My professional path has led me to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where I am currently directing a large scale development cooperation program for setting up the Pan African University (PAU), an institution of the African Union. Germany is supporting the university in all aspects of institution building. The PAU is dedicated to the most pertinent themes and challenges for the development of the continent and educates a new generation of African researchers and leaders.

You might wonder how I ended up in Ethiopia with a background in Central and Eastern European Studies. After graduating, I worked for several years for the Robert Bosch Foundation and was responsible for programs on civic engagement and policy education among youth and NGO networks in CEE. The programs also tackled the challenges of EU accession in 2004. Later, I joined the pioneering management team setting up the first school of public policy in Berlin for students from all over the world (a large share from Central and Eastern Europe). The Hertie School of Governance remains a tremendous success and an incredible professional learning experience for me. With my next step into development cooperation overseeing the international portfolio in higher education, I build on this experience. I have always felt the desire of working in regions and societies of transition and in institution building endeavors. The African continent – which I continue to hope is on the rise - is my new CEE. A comparison would of course be a bit daring.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE?

As a German who grew up in the deep West, I could not hold back my curiosity about the world beyond the wall and the prospect of transition and where it might lead. A school exchange in 1990 in Poland resulted in my study of the Polish language and literature and subsequently in Russian and Eastern European Studies at UNC. The work of US American scholars on the role of civil society and also the role of cultural institutions in the transition in the 1990s was interesting to me.

“As a German who grew up in the deep West, I could not hold back my curiosity about the world beyond the wall and the prospect of transition and where it might lead.”



WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF YOUR TIME AT UNC?

I was a member of the first cohort at the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies. Coming from a traditional German university I was in awe at the quality of supervision and teaching (thank you to Robert Jenkins, Don Raleigh, and Beth Holmgren!). While following the core courses, I had the opportunity to tailor the study experience to my professional needs and interests. I took classes in Nonprofit Management, spent a year abroad at the University of Warsaw, and for my Master Thesis project, and took independent study courses. I received support from the Center Director in successfully applying for scholarships from the Fulbright Foundation, the DAAD, and the ZEIT Foundation. I am extremely grateful.

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER TO CURRENT STUDENTS WITH CAREER AMBITIONS IN THE FIELD?

Do not expect to pursue a straight path but rather follow a conviction that will evolve over time as you keep learning. Stay curious and listen! I strive to engage in projects that I believe in or that I can shape into a direction. This provides me with the energy to contribute in a meaningful way.

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