FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is a big year for SRS which celebrates 40 years since its beginnings. La mulți ani SRS, and many happy returns!

As for myself, I am both pleased and a very tiny little bit sad to write the last presidential message of my four-year term. This is the last such four-year presidential term for the time being, and I think that’s a good thing. It’s been a very full, very busy time for me, and I’ll be glad to have fewer responsibilities and thus more time to devote to writing, while still remaining involved as Past President. You may well wonder, “What’s that?” Well, it’s a new position created in the new Bylaws, where we also shortened the presidential term to two years, eliminated the Vice Presidential position and replaced it with the President Elect. You can check out the full Bylaws online, of course. We hoped that these new positions and shorter terms would insure seamless transitions, continuity of projects and leadership, and a larger pool of people willing to take on the presidency for only two years. We are at this very moment in the process of voting for these new positions for the very first time, and for several new board members, including, for the first time, two student representatives. It seems only right that we should double the representation of our fastest growing group of members—the graduate students. This, I think, is proof of our greatest success.

It’s not just that I have been busy, but SRS has been as well. We’ve all done a lot in the past four years and I plead guilty to starting many of the discussions that took us in new directions. I thank the Board for bearing with me and taking part in these decisions. We have successfully changed our presence in cyberspace with a modern website designed by Nathalie Dima and run by Ashby Crowder and now Lara McLaughlin. We have a very active Facebook page, and we have moved from paper to electronic newsletters—this was Roland Clark’s
brilliant idea. We have almost quadrupled our membership numbers to around 200. Very many of our new members stand at the thresholds of their careers, and we hope that SRS will evolve with them in a mutually beneficial connection.

A few years ago SRS became an international organization and we have been enrolling members from across the pond, and even electing Board Members—and quite probably soon—Officers as well from “over there.” Several of our candidates in the current election are Europeans, and one of them teaches at a Romanian university. We have also added institutional memberships and are pleased and honored by our resulting partnerships with Balkanalysis, the Center of Post-Communist Political Studies (CEPOS) in Craiova, and the Faculty of Political Science in Bucharest. New categories of dues—sustaining memberships, sponsorships and patronages—have boosted our financial resources that in turn enable SRS to fund graduate student essay prizes, book awards, conferences, and outreach activities. We have continued to offer a joint membership with the South East European Studies Association (SEESA), and we reached out to build a similar relationship with the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA). The RSAA has promised to help us organize our next international conference in Romania in 2015. The Faculty of Political Science may also partner with us in that adventure.

As SRS’s profile has risen, we have dared to encourage new spheres of activity. We have sponsored the launching of H-Romania, a discussion platform for academic things Romanian and Moldovan that will be edited by R. Chris Davis, Valentin Săndulescu, and Veronica Szabo. In another area altogether, Lavinia Stan and myself are now the editors of a new peer reviewed academic book series Studii Românești/Romanian Studies/Études Roumaines/Rumänische Studien to be published in Romania in partnership with the publishing house Polirom. Andrei Terian is the series consultant, and we have recruited a prestigious Advisory Board.

As always, our prizes this year recognize the highest quality and creativity of scholarship in the field of Romanian Studies. Congratulations to Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery for Peasants Under Siege (Princeton 2011), and to Florin Poenaru for his essay (a chapter of his recent dissertation) entitled “The Illusion of Anti-Communism: Articulating Anti-Hegemonic Struggles in Post-Communism.” I thank the members of the two prize committees—William Crowther, Holly Case and Valentina Glajar; and Roland Clark, Margaret Beissinger and Oana Armeanu—for their effort in judging and selecting from very strong fields of work.

Over the past four years I have relied on a succession of hard-working committees to accomplish the tasks and projects at hand. Many, many thanks are due to everyone who said yes and even more so to those who agreed to chair the committees. It would take too much space to list all of these people here, but I would like to mention the last nominating committee that gave us a fine list of candidates that we can elect this November and that will serve us, and take their turns at committees for the next few years. Margaret Beissinger, Roland Clark and James Niessen, thank you for presenting us with such fine choices.

I wish the new President excellent luck and endurance, and I promise to be there for you in my new role as Past President, and help in whatever way I can. I myself had the wonderful council of Paul Michelson when I began my term four years ago. Thank you Paul.

Irina Livezeanu
University of Pittsburgh
irinal@pitt.edu
President, Society for Romanian Studies
The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to award the 2013 graduate student essay prize to Dr. Florin Poenaru, who successfully defended his PhD in Sociology to Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, in October 2013. The ten submissions considered for this year’s prize included a number of outstanding essays and the committee was at times fascinated, horrified, intrigued, and impressed by the findings of these authors. Poenaru’s contribution entitled “The Illusion of Anti-Communism: Articulating Anti-Hegemonic Struggles in Post-Communism” stood out for its clarity, originality, extensive research, and theoretical depth.

A chapter of the author’s PhD dissertation entitled “Contesting Illusions: History and Intellectual Class Struggle in Post-Communist Romania,” the essay explores the challenges faced by young intellectuals disillusioned with the mainstream critiques of the country’s communist past. Poenaru uses a collected volume entitled Iluzia anti-comunismului: lecturi critice ale Raportului Tismăneanu (Chişinău: Cartier, 2008) as a case study of conflict between politically, economically, and socially influential intellectuals and a group of much younger but passionate and articulate writers. Studying networks of intellectuals as they compete for hegemony over limited resources, Poenaru exposes the limits of Romania’s post-Socialist public sphere and the impact of a transitional market economy on intellectual discourse. He shows how members of the younger generation are forming alliances with their elders to generate a conversation based on universal and standardized values that challenges the celebrity culture of mainstream anti-communism.

Writing on a delicate and highly politicized subject, Poenaru’s approach is balanced, sophisticated, and highly analytical. On behalf of the Society for Romanian Studies the committee would like to congratulate Dr. Poenaru.

The 2013 Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee: Roland Clark, Eastern Connecticut State University (chair), Margaret Beissinger, Princeton University, and Oana Armeanu, University of Southern Indiana.

Institutional Sponsors: CEPOS

The SRS is pleased to have the Center of Post-Communist Political Studies (CEPOS) at the University of Craiova as an institutional sponsor. CEPOS was established in November 2012. Its mission is to foster and enable research and public events series: conferences, workshops, public lectures, round tables, internships, expo photos, discourse contents and debates in interdisciplinary issues such as: political studies and transitional justice, economies in transition, multiculturalism and political history.

CEPOS research is achieved through working groups on (i) State, society and political reform, (ii) Public policies, institutions and administrative reform, and (iii) Rights, liberties and justice reform. CEPOS held its Third Annual International Conference “After Communism: East and West under Scrutiny” on 5-6 April 2013. The next edition of the conference will be organized in Romania, Craiova, University House, 4-5 April 2014. The Center also publishes Revista de Științe Politice / Revue des Sciences Politiques.

For more information please email: cepos2013@yahoo.com, cepos2013@gmail.com
SECOND BIENNIAL BOOK PRIZE

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to award the 2013 Society for Romanian Studies Biennial Book Prize to *Peasants under Siege: the Collectivization of Romanian Agriculture, 1949-1962 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011)*, by Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery. *Peasants under Siege* was selected from among a very strong field of English language books which appeared between January 2011 and December 2012. Entries for the prize included a large number of excellent works from multiple disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

The prize selection committee appreciated the scope and rigor of the research undertaking upon which *Peasants under Siege* is based. The book builds upon the authors’ decades of experience doing field research in rural Romania. Kligman and Verdery make use of multiple types of sources, including archives, the communist press and extensive interviews, to analyze the relationship between the collectivization of agriculture in Romania and the process of party and state building that transformed the countryside and Romanian society as a whole. The authors stress that in the process of collectivization, the Party apparatus and the Securitate were not only changing property relations according to the Soviet model but also creating the new institutions of the Party-state through local practices and policies they devised in and for Romania. An important part of the documentary research that underpins the study was carried out in the Securitate archives (CNSAS). The authors’ field work, along with that of the other nineteen researchers from various disciplines who collaborated on the project, provides a wealth of intimate detail from the point of view of the participants in the collectivization process that refines and modifies the picture that emerges from Party reports and similar documentary sources.

In sum, *Peasants under Siege* represents a central contribution to the literature on Romania during the communist period, and indeed on the history of collectivization in other contexts, as well. Because the communist past is an ongoing battlefield in the present-day politics of memory in Romania, an accurate history establishing the extent of participation in and the full range of responses to collectivization is all the more important. Kligman and Verdery demonstrate with great subtlety the particular ways in which the Soviet model was carried out in the particular Romanian context. As the authors write: “Blueprints may provide a plan, but social practices are not so easily hammered or welded into place.” In Romania collectivization was as much negotiated as it was violent. The authors skillfully reconstruct what it created (a new kind of state, society and “person”) while simultaneously offering a full account of what it destroyed (communities and lives).

This beautifully conceived and clearly written work of history, anthropology and sociology shows how fruitful it can be to ignore the boundaries between disciplines in the interest of gaining insight into the fraught nexus between society and state. *Peasants under Siege* will provide a valuable guide to scholars seeking to understand rural transformation in the region for years to come, and serve as a primary reference point for those wishing to understand what really happened in the long decade of the 1950s in Romania, and what it meant for those who lived it.

*The 2013 SRS Biennial Book Prize Selection Committee:* William Crowther, University of North Carolina at Greensboro (chair), Holly Case, Cornell University, Valentina Glajar, Texas State University.
One major fall agenda item is the election of new officers for 2014-2016. By the time you receive this, balloting information should have been distributed to paid up members of the SRS. In the event that you are paid up, but did not get said information, contact me ASAP. To be elected are four board members, the Class of 2014-2018 (positions currently held by Monica Ciobanu, Matt Ciscel, Dan Pennell, and Peter Wagner), two graduate student representatives (currently we have one, Catherine Hansen), along with President, President-Elect, and Secretary. The Class of 2012-2016 is James Koranyi, Jill Massino, Paul Sum, and Margaret Beissinger. They will be joined by Irina Livezeanu.

A major unfinished business item is the where and when for our next meeting. The consensus seems to be for such a conference to be held in Romania in 2015. We will need a conference chair and a planning committee (suggestions for both are welcome). As for location, Sibiu seems to be the leading candidate. Perhaps some ideas will be generated at our Boston meeting, which you can find out about elsewhere in this newsletter.

At Boston, the 2nd SRS Book Prize will be presented along with the Graduate Student Essay Prize. These initiatives have been successful, both in visibility for the SRS and in giving appropriate recognition to the authors of said works. Our appreciation to Bill Crowther for chairing the book prize committee and Roland Clark for heading up the graduate student essay prize committee.

I am pleased to report that we have finalized our cooperative relationship with the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA). They will work with us on programs and other initiatives, including our next congress. If you are interested in Romanian language and literature, we encourage you to do the joint SRS/RSAA membership and save a few bucks.

I will not be able to attend the Boston meeting, but I hope you have fun. La mulți ani (eventually).

Paul E. Michelson
Huntington University
pmichelson@huntington.edu
Secretary, Society for Romanian Studies

Institutional Sponsors: Balkanalysis

The Society for Romanian Studies is proud to have Balkanalysis.com as an institutional sponsor. Balkanalysis.com is a leading independent website that provides analytical coverage of South Eastern Europe, with input from journalists, academics, researchers and others who are professionally involved with the region.

Recent publications included an interview with Macedonia’s Deputy Prime Minister on EU Accession, a review of the present Romanian-Hungarian political situation by Elena Dragomir, and an interview with Mihai Suta and Dan Vuletici on contemporary art in Romania. Balkanalysis.com has also interviewed Sir Geoffrey Nice on the Hague Tribunal and reported on renewed interest in Kurdish rights in Turkey.
The Society for Romanian Studies and the publishing house Polirom are pleased to announce a

**New Book Series**

**Studii Româneşti/Romanian Studies/Études Roumaines/Rumänische Studien**

**Series Editors:** Lavinia Stan (Department of Political Science, St. Francis Xavier University, P.O.Box 5000, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, B2G 2W5, Canada, lstan@stfx.ca), and Irina Livezeanu (Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA, irinal@pitt.edu)

**Series Consultant:** Andrei Terian (Department of Romance Studies, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, 5-7 Victoriei Bd., Sibiu, 550024, Romania, andrei.terian@ulbsibiu.ro)

**Advisory Board:** Maria Bucur (Indiana University), Magda Cârnci (Universitatea Națională de Arte din București), Tom Gallagher (University of Bradford), Mihai Dîn Gheorghiu (Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” din Iași), Armin Heinen (Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule, Aachen), Gail Kligman (University of California, Los Angeles), Vintilă Mihăilescu (SNSPA, București), Mihaela Miroiu (SNSPA, București), Bogdan Murgescu (Universitatea din București)

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS), the world’s premier academic organization dedicated to the advancement of Romanian Studies, and Polirom, Romania’s largest publisher of academic titles, have partnered to launch a new book series, Studii Românești/Romanian Studies/Études Roumaines/Rumänische Studien. The series will publish scholarly books in Romanian authored or edited by SRS members. We are currently accepting three types of manuscripts:

- Romanian translations of scholarly monographs already published in a foreign language
- Original scholarly monographs written in Romanian
- Edited collections of Romanian-language essays dealing with a unifying theme

Book proposals should deal with Romania and/or Moldova and the populations living on their territories or with the Romanian and Moldovan diasporas and cultures, and they should have primarily an academic profile. Contributions may have a disciplinary, interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary focus, drawing on history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law, economics, linguistics, literature, art history, and other fields. All manuscripts and books will be carefully reviewed in view of publication.

Further information on how to submit a book proposal is available on the SRS website at [http://www.society4romanianstudies.org](http://www.society4romanianstudies.org). For further inquiries, and suggestions please contact either the series editors or the members of the Advisory Board.
**HONORS**

Dennis Deletant was awarded an honorary doctorate of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iași on May 28, 2013.

In November 2013 Monica Ciobanu was nominated as a featured scholar by Plattsburgh State University of New York. She has also recently received a SUNY Plattsburgh Redcay Award for research.

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**Commemorating Forty Years of the Society for Romanian Studies**

James Augerot, University of Washington

James Augerot served as the first SRS secretary and treasurer from 1973-1978 and then remained on as treasurer until 2006, when he took on both roles once again, serving until 2010.

The importance of exchanges such as Fulbright cannot be overestimated. I was given one in 1964 and spent two years in Cluj-Napoca. The experience itself was fascinating and delightful. I stood on the sidewalk with thousands to watch Nicolae Ceaușescu triumphantly drive through town a couple of months after Dej died. But the lasting effect was even greater. After a few years when my initial Romanian experience was beginning to fade into the past, many of the people I met at various conferences and further trips to Romania encouraged us to propose a conference on Romanian Language and Literature. After an AAASS Congress in 1970 I returned to the University of Washington determined not to lose the wonderful connections I had established, so I wrote the “powers that were” in D.C. that we needed to gather some scholars and put out some information about this rather hidden jewel of South East Europe. They agreed and we – Michael Impey (another Fulbrighter whom I had met on the beaches of the Black Sea) and I – sent out an invitation to everyone we thought fit the purpose. It resulted in a conference on the UW campus in 1972 that in turn provided the impetus for our formation of the Romanian Studies Group. We were pleased that many outside our group of mainly literature and language people welcomed our proposition and after a rather informal election in 1973 the deed was done and I became the Secretary-Treasurer. We had many excellent officers and board members in those early days but the crucial one, I believe, was Paul Michelson, who took over the presidency and took the newsletter duties away from me. I believe that it is to him we owe the continuing existence and influence of our Society for Romanian Studies.
Rodica Boțoman, Ohio State University

Rodica Boțoman was a member of the national board from 1978-1982, president from 1982-1984, and an ex officio board member in 1987. She hosted the SRS Conference at Ohio State University in 1985 and chaired the First International Congress on Romanian Studies at the Sorbonne, France, in 1986. She served as vice-president from 1991-1993 and rejoined the board from 2002-2005.

We are celebrating forty years of the Society of Romanian studies in the US. It seems like yesterday when, as graduate students in the mid-seventies at Ohio State University, we learned about an SRS Conference at University in North Carolina. It was there that we met Jim Augerot and Michael Impey, the founders of the organization as well as many of the scholars in Slavic and East European area studies. This was the beginning of a lifelong collegial collaboration and friendship. When I think in retrospect, I realize how much that first conference as well as all those that followed gave me the incentive and the support to initiate and to establish the Romanian program at OSU.

Years went by and every year we looked forward to our meetings, as the Society became a prominent academic forum for our area studies. As a board member starting in 1978, and as President (1982-1984), I learned soon about the complexity of responsibilities in organizing our yearly conferences. I also remember how we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our organization at Kansas City. As the Romanian program at OSU became well established, we hosted several Symposia/Conferences (1977-1981) followed in 1985 by a three day National Conference on Eastern European Studies. We also initiated collaboration with our Western European counterparts, and as a result, the first International Congress of Romanian Studies was organized in 1986 at the Sorbonne. It was soon followed by a joint collaboration for the International Journal of Romanian Studies.

How can we as Board members and organizers not remember also the problems we had those days when scholars from Romania were not allowed to participate at these events simply because some of the research papers and panels were considered “offensive” to the communist authorities? We made sure they understood the importance of academic freedom. The rest is history. What kept us all well connected was the much-needed Newsletter and its dedicated, outstanding editor, Paul Michelson. What would we have done without you Paul? Job well done! You have all our gratitude.

As some of us touch time now, it is so very rewarding to see the legacy of the organization continue with such success. My heartfelt congratulations.

“I realize how much that first conference as well as all those that followed gave me the incentive and the support to initiate and to establish the Romanian program at OSU.”
Henry (Chip) Carey, Georgia State University

Chip served as vice-president of the SRS from 2002-2005 and then on the national board from 2005-2007.

My time of greatest SRS activity began as a graduate student attending the 1996 AAASS conference in Boston and through the past decade. The accessibility and interaction with those senior members who had been studying and visiting Romania for many decades was most exciting. Among others, Professors Radu Florescu, Joe Harrington, Paul Micheleon, Paul Quinlan, and Wally Bacon were extraordinarily welcoming to me and others whom I had not already known. Their crucial work holding conferences in the US, both tied to and independent of the AAASS meeting, as well as the large international conferences in Romania, made the organization a bridge to foreign and domestic scholars specializing in this important country. I spent many hours discussing aspects of their own and my research with them. They were quite tolerant of my sometimes heterodox or critical views of postcommunist Romania, respecting the two years I had spent teaching and studying in Bucharest. For my part, I could not help but respect those who had taken the initiative to work on this country before it was fashionable. They introduced me to many established scholars that helped broaden my interactions and which helped coordinate my 2004 edited volume, *Romania since 1989*, among others. They were also devoted to assuring a smooth transition of the SRS to continue its important work and credit is due to the current leadership for taking up the mantle that had been so ably prepared by the SRS's founders and builders during its previous incarnations.

The Society for Romanian Studies, 1973-2013: A Brief History

Paul E. Michelson (Huntington University) joined the executive board of the SRS in 1976, when he also served as a temporary secretary. He was officially elected secretary and newsletter editor in 1978. He continued doing both jobs for many years, and established the first SRS website in 1995. Paul stepped down as secretary in 2005, but continued editing the newsletter until 2006 and the website until 2010. He became secretary again in 2011 and is standing again for re-election in 2014.

The year 2013 marks the fortieth Anniversary of the Society for Romanian Studies. The SRS originally came into existence as The Romanian Studies Group (RSG, 1973-1977), primarily on the initiative of Jim Augerot and Michael Impey. Their experiences

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in Romania in the 1960s and early 1970s had led them to the realization that there was both a pressing need for a professional organization dealing with Romanian Studies in the United States and a sufficiently large critical mass of scholars – created in large part by the Fulbright and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) programs with Romania that began in the 1960s – to make such an organization feasible and viable. The initial organizational step was taken by Augerot, who called and coordinated a “Conference on Romanian Language and Literature” at the University of Washington on May 12-13, 1972. The meeting had as special guests and speakers the prominent historian Constantin Giurescu, who was teaching for the year at Columbia, Dan Grigorescu of the Romanian Library in New York, and Georgene Lovecky of the Fulbright Program. It was during this conference, the first of its kind in the US after World War II, that conversations, public and private, led to the idea of organizing a Romanian studies group.

The formal steps toward organizing the RSG were subsequently taken at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in April 26-28, 1973, where it was decided that the group would include all areas of the humanities and social sciences, not just language and literature. Michael Impey (Comparative Literature, University of Kentucky) and James Augerot (Language and Literature, University of Washington) were elected as the first executive officers of the Charter Board (President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively), and an advisory board was established composed of Robert Austerlitz (Language and Folklore, Columbia University), Jan Harold Brundvand (Folklore, University of Utah), Charles M. Carlton (Linguistics, University of Rochester), Stephen A. Fischer-Galati (History, University of Colorado), Keith Hitchins (History, University of Illinois), Barbara Jelavich (History, Indiana University), and Eric Hamp (Linguistics, University of Chicago). Forty-one charter members joined the organization.2 Augerot also began publishing the first in a series of RSG newsletters. He served as Secretary-Treasurer until April 1977, and as Treasurer until September 2010.

The first RSG conference was held November 15-16, 1974 at the University of Colorado, hosted by Stephen Fischer-Galati. This was followed on October 12-13, 1975 by the Second RSG conference/Annual Meeting at the University of North Carolina, hosted by Augustin Maisse. Approximately fifty were in attendance including the Romanian Ambassador, Corneliu Bogdan.

In 1976, Radu R. N. Florescu (History, Boston College) became President and E. Garrison Walters (History, Ohio State University) became the Newsletter Editor. Paul Michelson (History, Huntington College), who had been elected to the Executive Board, became secretary pro-tem in 1977. During Florescu's presidency, the third

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2Thereafter, in December 1973 meeting of the Modern Languages Association, Romanian language specialists formed the Romanian Studies Association of America as an affiliate of the MLA. Impey, “Romanian Studies,” 271. Regrettably, this association, led and formed primarily by Romanian émigrés, remained generally apart from the RSG/SRS, but in 2012, the RSAA leadership participated enthusiastically in the SRS Sibiu Congress. Subsequently, a joint membership was created for those who wanted to join both the RSAA and the SRS, and this new cooperation between the SRS and RSAA will continue in the future. In 1974, Sorin Alexandrescu, University of Amsterdam, organized the Asociația Internaționale de Studii Românești. The First Congress on Romanian Studies at the Sorbonne in 1986 was a joint project of the SRS and the AISR.
(and final) RSG conference was held at Ohio State University in Columbus on April 6, 1977, dedicated to the “Centennial of Romanian Independence.” The celebration was co-sponsored by the Romanian Academy and IREX. This was linked to the Association for South Eastern Studies Symposium/Conference on Southeastern Europe which took place on April 7-9, 1977. OSU had taken the lead in the AASES. It had also catapulted into a leading role in Romanian studies since launching the most successful ever Romanian Program in the US under the leadership of Rodica Boțoman in 1975. The success of her first Romanian language course in 1974 led to the establishment in 1975 of the OSU Romanian Culture and Civilization Program which by 1977 had over 140 students. By 1980, the OSU program had over 360 students studying Romanian and Romanian civilization. The 1977 OSU conference was a watershed for South East European Studies and Romanian studies in the US. The Romanian Academy sent a full delegation and the vast majority of American Romanianists participated. Romanian studies emerged as the largest and strongest of the participating South East European area groups, with 4 panels at the RSG conference and 16 panels at the Symposium-Conference (Yugoslavia had 2, Bulgaria 5, Greece 3, Albania 1, and Southeastern Europe had 14). The program committee for the RSG was led by Radu Florescu and included R. V. Burks (Wayne State), Walter M. Bacon (Political Science, University of Nebraska-Omaha), Rodica Boțoman (Slavic and East European Languages, The Ohio State University), and Paul Michelson.

At the 1977 annual business meeting, held during at the conference/symposium, on April 7, the RSG formally emerged as the Society for Romanian Studies. The SRS agreed at this meeting to become an affiliate of the American Association for Southeast European Studies (whose unfortunate acronym AASES provided so much hilarity and ribald commentary over the years that the group eventually changed its name to the South East European Studies Association or SEESA). The AASES had developed out of the American Association for South Slavic Studies and its publication, Balkanistica, became a flagship journal for the RSG/SRS.

The 1978 SRS annual business meeting was also held at Ohio State University on October 14 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), October 12-15, 1978. Special events were again organized by the OSU Romanian Program.

Officers for 1978-1980 were elected in November 1978, with Stephen A. Fischer-Galati chosen as President of the SRS, Walter M. Bacon, Jr. as Vice-President, Paul E. Michelson as Secretary and Newsletter Editor, and Jim Augerot as Treasurer. Michelson served as Newsletter Editor until 2007, publishing 30 volumes of the newsletter, and continues as secretary to the present. The national meeting of the SRS was held in New Haven CT, on October 12, 1979, as part of the AAASS meeting, October 10-13, 1979, though no separate program was held. This was followed in 1980 with a splendid stand-alone SRS conference at Lafayette College in Easton PA, November 8, hosted by Earl A. Pope.

Mary Ellen Fischer (Government, Skidmore College) was elected President of the SRS in 1980-1982, and Gerald J. Bobango (History, Romanian-American Heritage Center) served as Vice-President. The 1981 annual meeting was once more held at Ohio State University, April 9-11, 1981. The SRS program again held in conjunction with the Second AASES Symposium/Conference at OSU. Once more the SRS had the most panels at the symposium with eight full sessions. A similarly sparkling annual meeting was held at Boston College, Boston MA, April 30-May 1, 1982, with a broad program of panels, music, and other activities. The program, celebrating the George Enescu Centennial, was organized by Fischer and hosted by Radu Florescu.

It was during Fischer's tenure as president that the SRS came under increasing pressure (which continued throughout the 1980s) from the Romanian communist regime which was not pleased by some of the papers being presented at our meetings, particularly those dealing with post-1945 Romania. It is almost needless to say that Fischer (and his successor Rodica Boţoman) firmly informed the Romanian authorities that the SRS would brook no attempts to interfere with the academic freedom of conference participants to present their research findings at our meetings and that if they didn't like it they didn't have to send people to participate. This made program planning a bit more difficult as delegations were promised, then withdrawn, then promised, then didn’t show up. In the end, the Romanian regime realized that it was damaging itself more than the SRS and resumed sending people to SRS meetings. The tradition of defending the right of scholars to have their say no matter how unpopular this might be to political or cultural authorities has, I am pleased to say, has continued strong down to the present.

Fischer was succeeded as President in 1982-1984 by Rodica Boţoman and Walter M. Bacon, Jr. was elected Vice-President. The highlight of this period was the 1983 National Meeting, a gala event held in Kansas City MO on October 21-22, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the SRS. Ten panels spanning the breadth of Romanian studies were presented at this meeting and affirmed the solidity of the foundations laid by Augerot and Impey in 1973. (Perhaps exhausted by this outstanding effort, no national meeting was held in 1984.) Discussions of idea of holding an international congress on Romanian studies were begun with Sorin Alexandrescu of the University of Amsterdam.

Walter M. Bacon, Jr. served as President in 1985 and 1986, as the term of office was shifted to a calendar year basis. Michael Impey was Vice-President. A stand-alone Annual Meeting was held at Ohio State University on April 4-6, 1985, a lively program that included Romanian food and dancing as well as eleven scholarly sessions. Rodica Boţoman hosted; her husband, George, was again the star of OSU's Haiducii Romanian dance ensemble.

The events of 1985-1986 were capped by the First International Congress on Romanian Studies at The Sorbonne in Paris, France, July 1-4, 1986. A joint project with the European Asociaţia Internaţionale de Studii Română, this was the largest-ever gathering of Romanian Studies specialists in the world to date. Walter M. Bacon, seconded by Rodica Boţoman and Paul Michelson for the SRS, was North American program chair; Catharine Durandin (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales) and Claude Karnoouh (Institut de Monde
Soviétique, d'Europe Centrale et Orientale, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) were program chairs on the European side. Selected papers from this congress were published in *The International Journal of Rumanian Studies* (Amsterdam), edited by Sorin Alexandrescu. Several members of the SRS also joined the board of the IJRS at this time.

In 1987-1988, Earl A. Pope (Religion, Lafayette College) was President and Barbara Jelavich was Vice-President. Another impressive stand-alone Annual Conference was organized at Emerson College, Boston, by George Ursul (History, Emerson College), held on November 7, 1987. The 1988 Annual Meeting and program were held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE, October 21-22, 1988, excellently hosted by Walter M. Bacon. The program included a number of Romanian guests.

Barbara Jelavich succeeded to the presidency for 1989-1990, with Katherine Verdery (Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University) as Vice-President. This, obviously, was a time of considerable turmoil and exhilaration as the Communist regime in Romania came tumbling down. The future of Romanian Studies in North America also changed significantly. We held our National Meeting in Chicago IL, November 3, 1989, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting of November 2-5, but with no stand-alone program. This was followed in October 18, 1990, with a business meeting also in conjunction with the AAASS, October 18-21, accompanied by a special program at the Romanian Embassy. In 1990, through Jelavich's efforts, the SRS became an official affiliate of the American Historical Association.

In 1991, George R. Ursul was elected President with Rodica Boțoman as Vice-President. They served from 1991 to 1993. The 1991 Annual Meeting was a separate session held in Miami FL, November 22-25, in conjunction with the AAASS. The 1992 business meeting was at the AAASS convention in Phoenix AZ, November 19-22, 1992, though without a separate program.

The major preoccupation of the SRS, aside from adjusting to new conditions in Romania, was the planning and execution of our Second International Congress on Romanian Studies in Iaşi in Summer 1993. The SRS decided that logistically and financially having the meeting in Romania made more sense than a possible meeting in the United States. The cooperation of the Romanian Academy was significant, as were contributions of the Romanian Cultural Foundation. Cornelia Bodea of the Romanian Academy and Paul Michelson were joint program chairs and Dumitru Vitcu handled local arrangements for the University of Iaşi and the Xenopol Institute of History. The congress, held on July 6-10, 1993, was a rousing success, particularly in introducing Romanian academics to American-style congresses, with less formality and a wide variety of panels, round tables, and social events. There were 67 academic sessions at the Iaşi meeting, along with a myriad of...
extra-curricular events, a concert, and other protocol events so beloved by President Ursul.

Joseph Harrington (History, Framingham State College) served as President from 1994 to 1996, and Lory Wallfisch (Music, Smith College) was Vice-President. The indefatigable Harrington organized or promoted more meetings and conferences than any of his predecessors or successors: a National Meeting at the Romanian Cultural Center, New York NY, February 18-19, 1994; another at the Romanian Cultural Center, New York NY, November 15-16, 1994; a business meeting in Philadelphia PA, November 19, 1994, in conjunction with the AAASS, November 17-20; a first-ever SRS Graduate Student Conference at the Romanian Cultural Center, New York NY, April 8, 1995; a National Meeting at the Romanian Embassy, Washington DC, October 24-25, 1995; an annual business meeting Washington DC, October 27, 1995 in conjunction with the AAASS, October 26-29, 1995; a first-ever SRS Conference on Business and Politics at the Romanian Embassy, Washington DC, April 26, 1996; a stand-alone National Meeting at Boston College, Boston MA, November 12, 1996; and the 1996 business meeting in Boston MA, November 15, 1996 in conjunction with the AAASS meeting, November 14-17. The year 1995 was also significant in that the SRS website went live in the summer, hosted at Huntington College and administered by Paul Michelson until 2010.

The 1997-2000 Presidency of Paul Quinlan (History, Providence College) and Vice-Presidency of Grant Harris (Librarian, Library of Congress) also featured a significant number of important conferences. The 1997 Third International Congress on Romanian Studies, held in Cluj-Napoca, July 1-6, was the main achievement. The Romanian Academy again collaborated with the SRS thanks to the work of Cornelia Bodea. Paul Michelson was program chair again, and Vasile Pușcaș and Nicolae Bocean handled local arrangements for the Babeș-Bolyai University. There was an increased number of non-traditional disciplines represented, that is, disciplines outside of history, language, and literature.

Other meetings during Quinlan's tenure were a stand-alone National Meeting at the University of Washington, Seattle WA, November 19, 1997, and a business meeting in Seattle, November 20, 1997, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting, November 20-23; a fine 25th Anniversary SRS Conference at the Romanian Embassy and Georgetown University, Washington DC, March 20-21, 1998, hosted by Charles King; a National Meeting at the Romanian Cultural Center, New York NY, April 17, 1999; an annual business meeting in St. Louis MO, November 19, 1999, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting, November 18-20; and an annual business session in Denver CO, November 10, 2000, in conjunction with the AAASS, November 9-12. It became clear, however

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4 At this meeting, it was unanimously decided that Presidential and Vice-Presidential terms would be three years.

5 The term of office was extended to four years to avoid complications with the planning and execution of our international congresses.
toward the end of the 1990s, that the efforts devoted to the planning and execution of the international congresses meant that the days of stand-alone SRS conferences were coming to a close.

Also in 1999, under the Quinlan presidency, the SRS became an affiliate of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and in 2000 the SRS began a joint-membership arrangement with the newly-refounded South East European Studies Association (SEESA) as well as becoming an affiliate organization of SEESA. The purpose of SEESA was to make sure that Southeastern Europe didn't get lost in the shuffle of changing currents in the AAASS and the potential swamping of Romanian studies interests in favor of Central European and Russian studies. Augerot and Michelson have served as officers of SEESA from the start and have provided strong ties between SEESA and the SRS.

Jim Augerot, President, and Henry (Chip) Carey (Political Science, Georgia State University), Vice-President, were elected for 2001-2004. The Fourth International Congress on Romanian Studies at the University of Suceava on July 9-12, 2001, was another major event for the SRS. Attendance was about the same as at the previous two congresses, but regionalism (or, perhaps better said, “provincialism”) seemed more apparent. Participants were mostly from northeastern Romania as Romanian participants seemed unwilling to travel to other regions of the country, especially if these were a little out of the way. Paul Michelson was program chair; local arrangements were handled by the University of Suceava and the Center for Romanian Studies in Iaşi. We held our annual gathering in Arlington, VA on November 16, 2001, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting on November 15-18. A highlight of that meeting was the publication of a Festschrift for Cornelia Bodea. Other annual business meetings took place at Pittsburgh PA, November 22, 2002, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting, November 21-24; Toronto Canada, November 21, 2003, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting of November 20-23; and Salt Lake City UT, November 4, 2005, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting, November 3-6.

From 2006 to 2010, Paul E. Michelson served as President, and Ileana Orlich (Languages, Arizona State University) was Vice-President; Jim Augerot handled the Secretarial duties along with the Treasury. In 2007, Dan Pennell (Library, University of Pittsburgh) became Newsletter Editor. We held a spring program session at the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York on March 24, 2006, followed by a joint meeting with the Association for the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University in New York on March 25, 2006. The ASN sessions were useful since they brought us into contact with quite a number of graduate students and recent PhDs. The annual business meeting was in Washington DC, November 18, 2006, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting, November 16-19. Michelson, Orlich, and several SRS representatives engaged in dialogue with the Romanian Cultural Institute in several meetings held in Washington D.C. about redirecting their involvement in Romanian studies.

The Fifth International Congress on Romanian Studies was held at Ovidius University in Constanţa on June 25-28, 2007. Paul Michelson was chair and Adina Ciugureanu (Ovidius University) was responsible for
local arrangements. With an attendance of well over 200, this was perhaps the largest congress we have held. We had a better regional turnout than at Congresses 3 and 4. On the other hand, participation by the Romanian Academy was nil and Romanian intra-mural academic disputes affected attendance. The quality of the program continued to rise and for the first time younger scholars outnumbered the veterans of Congresses one to four.

The 2007 business meeting was held in New Orleans on November 17, 2007, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting of November 15-18. Similar business meetings were held in Philadelphia PA on November 21, 2008, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting of November 20-23; and Boston MA on November 13, 2009, in conjunction with the AAASS meeting of November 12-15. We participated in the First Central Europeanists reception at the Philadelphia AAASS in 2008, where SRS members were able to meet others interested in the “Lands in Between” and to publicize the SRS. Another new venture was the presentation of the First 2009 SRS Graduate Student Essay Prize to Roland Clark (History, University of Pittsburgh) at Boston. Margaret Beissinger (Folklore, Princeton University) was chair of the selection committee.

Irina Livezeanu (History, University of Pittsburgh) was elected President for 2010-2014, with Bill Crowther (Political Science, University of North Carolina/Greensboro) as Vice-President. When Jim Augerot retired as Treasurer in the fall of 2010, Bill was persuaded to replace him and Lavinia Stan (Political Science, St. Francis Xavier University, Canada) was chosen as Vice-President. In the same year, Ashby Crowder (University of Maryland) was persuaded to take over as the website guru. In 2011, Roland Clark became the Newsletter Editor and, beginning with Vol. 34 (2011), the newsletter was published electronically which allowed us to expand the size and use improved graphics. In 2013, Lara McLaughlin (independent scholar) became our web site manager.

We added a graduate student representative to the National Board for the first time in 2010 in the person of Ashby Crowder. He was succeeded by Catherine Hansen (Princeton University) in 2011.

Livezeanu's tenure has been a torrent of innovations and activities. In the summer of 2010, a brand new, redesigned SRS website was launched at www.society4romanianstudies.org. Ashby Crowder, who had agreed to edit the site, also set up and handled our new Facebook page. We presented the second Graduate Student Essay Prize to Anca Mândru (University of Illinois) in 2010; Margaret Beissinger was chair of the selection committee. This prize was announced at the annual business meeting in Los Angeles CA on November 19, 2010, held in conjunction with the ASEEES meeting of November 18-21. At the same meeting, Jim Augerot was recognized for his long service to the SRS.

The big news of 2011 was the implementation of a formal set of SRS Bylaws in January 2011. These had been developed during 2010. The major step forward was that, effective in 2011, membership in the Society for Romanian Studies was opened internationally. Obstacles to international membership had gradually fallen by the wayside in an electronic age and we have been pleased by the response from Romania and elsewhere. The SRS also created several new categories of membership, including supporting, sponsor, and patron members, with a view toward increasing funding for the organization.

In 2011, Cristina Onose (University of Toronto) was awarded the third Graduate Student Essay Prize at the National Business Meeting in Washington DC on November 18, 2011, held in conjunction with the ASEEES meeting of November 17-20. Matt Ciscel (English, Central Connecticut State) served as committee chair. The same year we presented the First SRS Book Prize to Tom Gallagher (University of Bradford UK). Margaret
Beissinger chaired the book prize committee. The Romanian Embassy held a reception in honor of Romanian scholars attending ASEEES on November 18, 2011.

As usual, pride of place in 2012 went to our Sixth International Congress on Romanian Studies held at Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania, July 2-4, 2012, with the theme of “Europeanization and Globalization: Romanians in Their Region and the World.” This was our first themed congress, the others had been general conferences. In a great venue and centrally located, we were served a rich intellectual fare in a significant historical ambiance. Support for the congress was provided by Universitatea Lucian Blaga, the Romanian Cultural Institute, the American Embassy, the Universitatea Națională de Arte, and the Sibiu Primăria. Attendance included probably the best mix of nationalities, regions of Romania, and new participants ever. There were three plenary lectures and 52 panels along with collateral events. Things went so well we decided that five year intervals for the congresses is just too long. Matt Ciscel was the chair of the International Conference Committee that included Irina Livezeanu, Narcis Tulbure (Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh), Monica Ciobanu (Political Science, SUNY-Plattsburgh), Lavinia Stan, Margaret Beissinger, and Catherine Hansen; local arrangements were handled by Alexandra Mitrea, Mihaela Grancea, Mirela Ocinic, and Anca Iancu. Later in 2012, we held a business meeting in New Orleans on November 16, 2012, in conjunction with the ASEEES meeting of November 14-17. The 2012 SRS Graduate Student Essay Prize was won by Jonathan Stillo (Anthropology, City University of New York).

In 2013, the major initiative was the creation of an H-Romania site, with R. Chris Davis (History, Lone Star College) as our liaison with H-Net. It is anticipated that this site will become our most widely-used vehicle for scholarly interchange. The Book Prize Committee, chaired by Bill Crowther, awarded the Second Biennial SRS Book Prize to Gail Kligman (Sociology, UCLA) and Katherine Verdery (Anthropology, CUNY); while the Graduate Student Essay Prize committee, chaired by Roland Clark, awarded the annual SRS Graduate Student Essay Prize to Florin Poenaru (Sociology, Central European University). These prizes will be awarded at the annual meeting being held in Boston MA on November 22, 2013 in conjunction with the ASEEES meeting, November 21-24. Lastly, in 2013, the SRS began a joint-membership arrangement with the Romanian Studies Association of America.

NOTE: For an extensive SRS chronology, including a listing of all officers, board members, meetings, and significant events, see www.huntington.edu/history/pmichelson/srs_chronology.pdf
**Obituaries**

**Charles Jelavich (1922-2013)**

Charles Jelavich passed away on April 23, 2013. He was the husband of SRS founding member and president Barbara Jelavich (1923-1995) and co-mentor to several generations of Romanian and East European specialists. He was born in Mountain View CA, earned a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley, and married Barbara Brightfield in 1944. He taught at Berkeley from 1949 to 1961, and from 1961 to 1993 in the Department of History at Indiana University. He made significant contributions to East European studies in the United States and worldwide, editing *The Balkans in Transition* (1963); leading the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies project on East Central and Southeast European studies which produced *Language and Area Studies: East Central Europe and Southeastern Europe: A Survey* (1969); synthesizing the complex modern development of Southeastern Europe in *The Establishment of the Balkan National States, 1804-1920* (1977), co-written with Barbara Jelavich; and serving as the President of the ASEEES in 1987. In 1992, the Jelaviches were jointly given the highest honor of the ASEEES, its “Award for Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies.” Charles Jelavich was a strong supporter and encourager of Romanian studies and through several visits to Romania and hosting Romanian scholars at numerous conferences in the US he eased the way for generations of graduate students to form lasting scholarly relationships with senior scholars in Romania. In 1995, he established the ASEEES Barbara Jelavich Book Prize for monographs dealing with Southeast European or Habsburg studies or Ottoman or Russian diplomacy, which has been awarded several times to Romanian studies. He and Barbara are survived by their two sons, Mark and Peter, and two grandchildren.

*Paul E. Michelson*
*Huntington University*

**George Boțoman (1925-2013)**

George Boțoman passed away July 8, 2013 in Florida. He was the husband of SRS President and long-time SRS Board member Rodica Boțoman, with whom he had celebrated sixty years of marriage on July 4 and with whom he had formed a true lifetime partnership. Born in Viștea, Romania, Ghită and Rodica left Romania in 1969 and settled in Columbus OH. An experienced geologist, he worked more than twenty years for the Ohio Geological Survey. His research publications made important contributions and are still works of reference for the geology of Ohio. Much more importantly, he provided much of the energy that went into Rodica’s vibrant Romanian Studies Program at Ohio State University for thirty years until 2002 when he and Rodica retired to Florida. His work with the Haiducii dancers not only beguiled American students and Romanianists, but the ensemble was good enough to be invited to perform in Romania itself. Ghită’s amazing energy and buoyant disposition had an undeniable positive impact on all he came in contact with, enriching the lives of students, friends, and colleagues, and he was as steadying influence at SRS gatherings everywhere, a true Transylvanian gentleman. His love for Romanian culture and civilization was exceeded only by his love for his wife, their son Alin, and their grandchildren. Dumnezeu să-l odihnească în pace! Să-i fie țărână ușoară!

*Paul E. Michelson*
*Huntington University*
Launching H-Romania

We are happy to report on the progress of H-Romania, an H-Net discussion network, currently under development. To date we have assembled the board of advisors, formulated a mission statement, completed a network plan, created a logo, and certified the reviews and list editors. The next step is to add content, assign book reviews, configure the listserv, and launch a beta version of the site. To be sure, the process has been protracted since submitting our application to join H-Net back in the spring. However, we believe this journey from conception to launch will have been worthwhile. In the meantime, please be on the lookout for future announcements as to the about H-Romania. As well, please feel free to send us any ideas and materials for content, especially teaching resources such as course syllabi; links and portals to other platforms, including digital collections and archival materials; as well as publication, language, and media resources. We are interested in a wide range of content from across disciplines. As well, please feel free to send us updates about recent publications that could be reviewed for H-Romania.

Thanks in advance for your support.

H-Romania listserv editors: R. Chris Davis, Valentin Sândulescu, and Veronica Szabo.

H-Romania is an international interdisciplinary academic forum promoting the professional study, criticism, and research of all aspects of Romanian history, politics, culture and society. It focuses primarily on the countries of Romania and Moldova but also attends to numerous other past and present political, ethnic and social groups, including minorities and diasporas, in terms of their significant connections to present-day Romanian territory. Its intended audience is scholars, professionals, and students who study, teach, and write about Romania, Moldova, and these countries’ cultures and diasporas. It is affiliated with the Society for Romanian Studies (SRS), generally recognized as the major international professional organization for scholars concerned with Romania and Moldova. H-Romania’s editorial rationale is to facilitate the exchange of news, resources, and ideas about Romanian Studies. Specifically, it endeavors to create and strengthen scholarly and professional networks; to commission reviews and other scholarly discussions and debates on historical and contemporary issues important to Romania; to share ideas about teaching and researching; and more broadly to promote activities designed to foster advancement in these fields.
SOUNDBITES ON ROMANIA

Widespread Popular Demonstrations Challenge Mining Project
Lavinia Stan, St. Francis Xavier University

During its first year in government, the unstable Social Liberal Union parliamentary majority remained relatively popular, despite its failure to address the urgent social and economic problems plaguing European Union’s poorest member state. That started to change in early September, when street protests erupted in Bucharest and other Romanian cities over Roșia Montană, a gold mining project that a Canadian company wants to develop in the Apuseni Mountains at great cost for the local community and negligible benefit for the Romanian state. Protesters fear that the use of cyanide in the mining project will cause severe environmental damage, and the project will result in the destruction of some villages and historical sites. Initiated almost 14 years ago, the project has been supported by a broad coalition of politicians and journalists, including the Democrat-Liberal President Traian Basescu, Social-Democratic Prime Minister Victor Ponta, and prominent mass-media outlets. Important politicians and public figures such as Liviu Dragnea (Secretary General of the PSD) and Danut Tiberius Epure (rector of the University of Constanța) remain embroiled in scandals exposing widespread corruption at the highest levels, casting doubt on the motives of those state officials who support the Roșia Montană project. While endorsed by scientists, civil society groups, some minor political formations, and the Romanian diaspora, the street protests failed to convince the Ponta government to kill the project. Instead, a parliamentary commission currently debates its feasibility, thus leaving open the possibility of its inception.

Romania’s Economic Outlook
Narcis Tulbure, University of Bucharest

In spite of the increase in unemployment this year, Romania’s macroeconomic situation is stable. The monetary policy compensated for the poor performance of other economic sectors as both the rate of inflation and the general level of the interest rates have decreased lately. Anxieties about the macroeconomic equilibrium were lessened by the signing of a new Precautionary Stand-By Agreement with the IMF in September. The privatization of CFR Marfă, the state owned freight railway company, has been stopped in a scandal generated by allegations that state officials have tried to favor a domestic bidder by shifting the privatization terms after the procedure has been initiated and later by trying to extend the deadlines for the payment of the shares. Critics draw parallels with the failure to sell Oltchim just one year ago and with the unsuccessful experiment with private management for troubled state companies due to political clientelism. News about the poor collection of state revenues have fuelled speculation about the increase in the level of the flat tax from 2014. However, such rumours were denied by both the prime minister and by the Minister of Finance, as the main parties of the governing coalition seem to disagree over fiscal policy. In the meantime, other taxes and social security contributions have grown. The government is trying to widen the tax base as a way to avoid further increases in tax rates or additional budget cuts.
Moldova – Corruption and Political Impasse, Again
Matthew Ciccel, Central Connecticut State University

In the fall 2012 issue of this newsletter, I noted that the political ineptitude and squabbling that followed the 2009 “Twitter” revolution had finally abated with a degree of stability brought in large part by the long-awaited election of a president (Nicolae Timofti) in early 2012. Alas, it could not last. Less than a year later, in January 2013, a series of scandals and political accusations spiraled quickly into yet another potential constitutional dilemma and possible call for early parliamentary elections. The complex set of events includes the resignation of Attorney General Zubco based on allegations of covering up corruption and possible association with a fatal “hunting accident;” continued accusations of corruption leveled at former vice-speaker Plahotniuc and various associated political leaders; tentative destruction of the ruling coalition by its largest partner, the Liberal Democrats (led by Vlad Filat); and decidedly odd collaborative activities between junior coalition partner Ghimpu from the political right and opposition Communist Party leader Voronin. Add former Communist and linch-pin coalition member Marian Lupu into the mix of accusations of mafia connections and corruption and you have a cocktail that perhaps only Moldovan politics could produce. Next fall, this column will report either on the emergence of a new, third version of the post-2009 Alliance for European Integration or on the inconclusive results of yet another round of early parliamentary elections, or both. Meanwhile, do not expect any progress on Moldovan, much less European, integration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The second conference on Re-Inventing Eastern Europe will be held at the Grand Majestic Plaza Hotel in Prague, Czech Republic on November 15-16, 2013. For details see http://euroacademia.eu/conference/the-second-international-conference-re-inventing-eastern-europe/

A conference on Higher Education in Socialist East-Central Europe will be held at the University of Bucharest on November 15-16, 2013. For details see http://ephe-ro1948-1989.blogspot.com/p/international-conference.html?spref=fb

A roundtable discussion on Historical Memory and Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Eastern Europe will be held at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies on November 19, 2013. For details see http://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/events/historical-memory-and-transitional-justice-post-communist-eastern-europe-roundtable

A colloquium on Sociétés, Expressions Contestataires et Démocratie will be held in Bucharest on November 22-23, 2013. For details contact Damiana Otoiu damiana.otoiu@fspub.unibuc.ro

The third annual Screen Industries in East-Central Europe conference will be held at Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, on November 29 to December 1, 2013. For details see http://www.filmadivadlo.cz/down/SIECE/SIECE_program.pdf

The 21st Ecumenical Theological and Interdisciplinary Symposium will be held in New York on Saturday, December 7th, 2013 under the aegis of the Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality in New York. For details contact Theodor Damian at DamianTh@aol.com

The Society of Historians of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture (SHERA) will be holding a session dedicated to “Decentering Art of the Former East” at the College Art Association (CCA) conference in Chicago on February 12-14, 2014. For more information contact Masha Chelnova at masha_chlenova@moma.org
Roșia Montană is a locality in the Apuseni Mountains, in western Transylvania, Romania. This area is very rich in mineral resources and has been exploited since Roman times. Most recently the region was brought to media attention as the subject of a controversial mining project. The Canadian company Gabriel Resources Ltd, endorsed by the Romanian government, planned to build what would be the largest gold mine in Europe that would produce 600 thousand pounds of gold and over 3 million pounds of silver. Allegedly this project would create jobs in the area and benefit the Romanian state with an important amount of money. The project, however, was firmly rejected by a vast number of Romanians and triggered huge protests in the country and around the world in the last few months that have persisted until now. (In fact, protests have been taking place for years; the project was first proposed in the late 1990s.) These protests deemed the project illegal and unethical and constructed their arguments around environmental, cultural, and humanistic issues. The mining project plans to use 28 million pounds of cyanide each year for gold and silver exploitation; demolish four mountain peaks, creating a massive crater of over 4 miles in diameter, visible from outer space; affect three villages around the site, several historic churches and cemeteries, as well as an ancient Roman site dating back to the 4th century B.C. Moreover, landowners from Roșia Montană who oppose the project would be evicted from their homes. Thus, the mining project will direly pollute the mountain, changing the landscape irreversibly and affecting people’s lives.

To oppose this project and support the people from Roșia Montană the Romanian Studies Organization of Indiana University, Bloomington organized a protest on September 6th at the Sample Gates, one of the main entrances on campus. The protest, “Bloomington for Roșia Montană” received sustained support from IU Romanian and non-Romanian students concerned with this particular campaign and with environmental issues in general. The protest also received a strong support from IU faculty, such as Professor Maria Bucur and Visiting Lecturer Dan Brett, and local media. The protesters were peaceful, played Romanian music, and distributed informative material to attract attention and raise awareness about the brutal mining project in Roșia Montană. In addition, the protesters created a petition and gathered approximately 100 signatures in one hour. This was forwarded to the representatives of the Romanian government in Chicago and Washington D.C.

The Romanian Studies Organization is grateful to all participants for their effort in organizing the protest and showing support and solidarity to the people of Roșia Montană and of other places similarly suffering from resource-exploitation. The organization hopes that the protest has reached its goals and that it will affect the Romanian Parliament’s decision to halt the mining project in the Carpathians.

_Elena Popa_

_Indiana University, Bloomington_
Conference Report

Romanian Studies panel at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago
Paul E. Sum, University of North Dakota

Romanian Studies operates as a related group section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) supporting a panel at the annual meeting. This year the group convened with the APSA in Chicago. The panel theme was *Power and Persuasion* asking participants to address the interplay between structure and agency in the politics of Romania or the Republic of Moldova. Claudiu Tufiş (University of Bucharest) delivered a paper regarding the lack of confidence that citizens have in Romanian political institutions and how other informal institutions and processes fulfill the roles of public institutions leading to deviations from democratic ideals. Marius Matichescu (West University Timișoara) and Oleh Protsyk (University of Flensburg) delivered a paper evaluating how electoral system changes have localized candidate recruitment in Romanian political parties but that this has not led to increases in representation for minorities. Patricia Young (Stanford University) delivered a paper showing how despite predictions of how free market economies would be captured by ex-communists, evidence suggests that the new economic elites throughout Eastern Europe are not accurately characterized by their links to the former regime. Ronald F. King (San Diego State University) and Paul E. Sum (University of North Dakota) served as discussants on the panel. Alla Rosca (Tulane University) chaired the panel. Claudiu Tufiş has agreed to assume the role of APSA Romanian Studies Chair from Paul E. Sum.

Inquiries about the 2014 Romanian Studies panel in Washington, DC can be directed to Claudiu directly at claudiu.tufis@fspub.unibuc.ro or to the APSA at www.apsanet.org.

*Left to right: Patricia T. Young, Alla Rosca, Marius Matichescu, Paul E. Sum, Ronald F. King, and Claudiu Tufiş.*
ASEEES CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies will hold its 18th world convention in Boston Marriott Copley Place on November 21–24, 2013.

Panels and papers relating to Romania and Moldova include:

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

**SESSION I: 12 - 1:45 PM**

**PANEL 05: Human Trafficking in the Post-Soviet Region: Political and Legal Perspectives** (Brandeis) with a paper by Nikki Jo Junker (More Than Purpose) *The Realities of Human Trafficking Legislation in Moldova.*

**SESSION II: 2 – 3:45 PM**

**PANEL 06: Between Empires and Revolutions: Reform Projects in the Balkan Borderlands from the French to the Greek Revolution** (Clarendon) with a paper by Stefania Costache (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) *Between Imperial Expansion and Reform: Nicolae Rosetti-Roznovanu’s ‘Government’ and Russian and Ottoman Rule in Moldavia, 1820-1840.*

**PANEL 16: Ethnographies of the Communist Secret Police** (Grand Ballroom Salon E) with a paper by Katherine M. Verdery (CUNY Graduate Center) *‘Conspirativity’ in the Labor Process of Romania’s Securitate.* The chair will be Florin Andrei Poenaru (Central European University, Hungary).

**PANEL 17: Law and Politics in the post-Communist Region** (Grand Ballroom Salon F) with papers by Alexei Trochev (Nazarbayev U) *Under Pressure: How post-Communist Judges Resist Political Interference* and Maria Popova (McGill U (Canada)) *Prosecuting Political Corruption in the post-Communist Region.*

**SESSION II: 2 – 3:45 PM**

**PANEL 41: Historical Dynamics of Revolution** (Wellesley) with a paper by Sonja Simonyi (New York U) *Revolutionary Road: The Margelatu Series and the Representation of Romanian History.*

**SESSION III: 4 – 5:45 PM**

**PANEL 14: Comparing Communist Dictators in Eastern Europe: New Perspectives on Revolutionary Charisma** (Grand Ballroom Salon C) with a paper by Bogdan Cristian Iacob (Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena, Germany) *A Stalinist Dictator for National Revolution: Nicolae Ceauşescu.* The chair will be Dennis Deletant (Georgetown U) and the discussant will be Vladimir Tismaneanu (U of Maryland).

**SESSION III: 4 – 5:45 PM**

**PANEL 15: Challenges to Democratic Transition in the Balkans** (Grand Ballroom Salon D) with a paper by Lavinia Bucsa (Florida International U) *Democratization, European Integration and Community Development in Post-Communist Romania.*
SESSION III: 4 – 5:45 PM
PANEL 36: Censorship and Ideology under Communism (Suffolk) with a paper by Andru Chiorean (U of Nottingham, UK) ‘Comrades, We Are Well on Our Way to Take Censorship to a Superior Level’: Cultural Revolution and Work Practices in the Romanian Censorial Agency, 1948-1955. The chair will be Maria Bucur-Deckard (Indiana U).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22
SESSION IV: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 06: Free Europe Committee: Changing Policies from the Cold War to Detente (Clarendon) with a paper by Marius Iulian Petraru (California State U, Sacramento) The Establishment of the Romanian National Committee and Its Relations with the National Committee for a Free Europe and the Other National Councils.

SESSION IV: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 16: The Politics of Memory in Romania – Some New Research Directions (Grand Ballroom Salon E) with papers by Lavinia Stan (St. Francis Xavier U, Canada) Unofficial Truth Projects – Competing or Complementary Solutions?, Alexandru Gussi (U of Bucharest, Romania) State Institutions and the ‘Balance’ of Memories, and Monica Ciobanu (SUNY Plattsburgh) Re-assessing the History of the Gulag in the Collective Memory: the Case of Romania. The chair will be Nadya Nedelsky (Macalester College) and the discussant will be Helga A. Welsh (Wake Forest U).

SESSION IV: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 33: Grappling with Inequalities after State Socialism: the Curious Fate of Class Analysis in Eastern Europe - I (Regis) with a paper by Cornel Ban (Boston U) Class, Culture, and Social Science in post-Communist Romania.

SESSION V: 10 – 11:45 AM

SESSION V: 10 – 11:45 AM

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PANEL 23: Changes in Church-State Relations: The Political Power of the Catholic Church in Postcommunist Europe (Harvard). Lavinia Stan (St. Francis Xavier U, Canada) will be the discussant.

The Society for Romanian Studies will hold a reception and Annual General Meeting from 12 to 1:15pm on Friday, November 22, 2013 in the St. Botolph room in the Mariott Hotel.

SESSION VI: 1 – 2:45 PM
PANEL 01: In Honor of Michael Heim: Translation as Catalyst for Change (Roundtable) (Arlington), with participants including Sean Cotter (U of Texas at Dallas).

SESSION VI: 1 – 2:45 PM
PANEL 06: Revolutions Before the Revolution: The 1820s and 1830s in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (Clarendon), with a paper by Holly Case (Cornell U) Burning Questions: The 1830s and the Shared Origins of the Eastern Question, the Jewish Question, and the Polish Question.

SESSION VI: 1 – 2:45 PM

SESSION VI: 1 – 2:45 PM
PANEL 17: Wider Audiences for Scholarship: How to Write and Publish Trade Books (Roundtable) (Grand Ballroom Salon G), with participants including Charles King (Georgetown U).

SESSION VII: 3 – 3:45 PM
PANEL 06: Evolution of Democratic Thought in Eastern Europe (Clarendon) with a paper by Delia Popescu (LeMoyne College) The Politics of Pain and Memory: Meaning and Message in the Testimonials of Anti-Communist Resistance Victims in Romania.

SESSION VIII: 5 – 6:45 PM
PANEL 04: Thawing a Frozen Conflict: Moldova-Transnistria Ten Years after Kozak (Roundtable) (Boylston) with participants including Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creangă (World Bank), Lyndon King Allin (Independent scholar), William H. Hill (National War College), Julia George (Queens College, CUNY), Angela Kachuyevski (Arcadia U), and Matthew Rojansky (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace).

SESSION VIII: 5 – 6:45 PM
PANEL 13: Twenty-first Century Narratives of Subject Formation (Grand Ballroom Salon A). The chair will be Daniel M. Pennell (U of Pittsburgh).
SESSION VIII: 5 – 6:45 PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
SESSION IX: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 13: All the World's a Stage: Histories of Performance as Politics (Grand Ballroom Salon A) with a paper by Antonela Capelle-Pogacean (Sciences Po-CERI, France) Theater, Borders and Boundaries: Staging the (Socialist) Nation in Oradea/Nagyvárad (Romania) (1945-1948). The discussant will be Irina Livezeanu (U of Pittsburgh).

SESSION IX: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 16: Nationalism, Skepticism, and Holocaust Memory in Modern Romania (Grand Ballroom Salon E) with papers Dmitry Tartakovsky (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) The Jewish Refugee Crisis in Bessarabia and the Growth of Jewish National Separatism in Interwar Romania, Cristina Adriana Bejan (Duke U) Mihail Sebastian in Theatre and Memory: Holocaust Education in Contemporary Romania and Michael Benjamin Thorne, (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) Race and Romanipe in Interwar Romania. The chair will be Justin Classen (U of Pittsburgh) and the discussant will be Roland Clark (Eastern Connecticut State University).

SESSION IX: 8 – 9:45 AM

SESSION X: 10 – 11:45 AM

SESSION XI: 1 – 2:45 PM
PANEL 06: Revolutions of the Right in Hungary: The Role of Revolutionary Methods in Facilitating Regime and Social Change in 20th Century Hungary (Clarendon). The chair will be Holly Case (Cornell U).

SESSION XI: 1 – 2:45 PM

SESSION XI: 1 – 2:45 PM
PANEL 16: Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Specialists in Academic Administration: Reflections from Practitioners (Roundtable) (Grand Ballroom Salon G) with participants including Maria Bucur-Deckard (Indiana U Bloomington).
SESSION XII: 3 – 4:45 PM

SESSION XII: 3 – 4:45 PM
PANEL 06: *The Evidence of Experience: The Uses of Autobiography in Recent Eastern European and Soviet Histories* (Clarendon) with a paper by Diana Georgescu (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) *Pioneers into Bloggers and Public Intellectuals: The Politics of Generational Memory and Childhood Nostalgia in Postsocialist Romania*. The chair will be Dmitry Tartakovsky (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

SESSION XII: 3 – 4:45 PM
PANEL 06: *Revolutionary Patriotism in the USSR and Eastern Europe* (Grand Ballroom Salon C). The chair will be Bogdan Cristian Iacob (Imre Kertesz Kolleg, Germany).

EVENING EVENT STARTING 8:30 PM
*Central Europeanists Reception* has moved to Bar 10 at 10 Huntington Ave. Note the new date, time and location!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
SESSION XIII: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 05: *State Violence during Stalinism and Late Socialism: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania* (Brandeis) with a paper by Jill Marie Massino (U of North Carolina-Charlotte) *Reproductive Politics as State Violence in Ceausescu’s Romania*.

SESSION XIII: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 16: *Transitional Justice and Human Rights – National and International Perspectives* (Grand Ballroom Salon E). The chair will be Alexandru Gussi (U of Bucharest, Romania) and the discussant will be Monica Ciobanu (Plattsburgh State U of New York).

SESSION XIII: 8 – 9:45 AM
PANEL 33: *Political Epistemics: The Secret Police, the Opposition, and the End of East German Socialism (Roundtable)* (Regis) with participants including Katherine M. Verdery (The Graduate Center, CUNY) and Gail Kligman (UCLA, Center for European and Eurasian Studies)

SESSION XIV: 10 – 11:45 AM
PANEL 08: *Visions of Commonwealths: The Interwar Polish Republic and the European Community* (Dartmouth). The discussant will be Michael Benjamin Thorne (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College).

SESSION XIV: 10 – 11:45 AM
PANEL 09: *Collections in our Slavic and East European Diaspora: Preserving and (Re)interpreting Collective Memory* (Exeter) with a paper by James P. Niessen (Rutgers U) *Hungarians and Romanians*. 
SESSION XIV: 10 – 11:45 AM

SESSION XV: 12 – 1:45 PM

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Conference: Women, Gender, and Revolution in Slavic Studies
Date: April 10, 2014.
Location: Atlanta, GA

Conference: Transferring the Soviet New Man: Eastern and Central European Perspectives
Date: June 13-14, 2014.
Location: Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Deadline for submissions: December 20, 2013.
Details: [http://new-man-eceu.blogspot.hu/](http://new-man-eceu.blogspot.hu/)

Conference: Labour in East and Southeast Europe: Institutions and Practices Between Formality and Informality
Date: June 26-28, 2014.
Location: Regensburg, Germany
Deadline for submissions: January 13, 2014

Journal: Sociologie Românească
Deadline for expressions of interest: January 15, 2014
Contact Details: [www.arsociologie.ro/ro/sociologieromaneasca/instructiuni-autori](http://www.arsociologie.ro/ro/sociologieromaneasca/instructiuni-autori)

Conference: Paradise Found, or Paradise Lost? Nostalgia, Culture and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe
Date: May 29-30, 2014
Location: Paris, France

Journal: Muddied Masculinities in Central and Eastern Europe
Deadline for Submitting Papers: March 15, 2014
Contact Details: [http://sextures.net/calls](http://sextures.net/calls)
Fellowships & Prizes

The Wilson Center is offering Short-term Research Scholarships to scholars working on policy relevant projects in Romania. The deadline is December 1, 2013. For details see www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/east-european-studies-short-term-research-scholarships

The Wilson Center is offering East European Studies Research Grants to American citizens in the early stages of their academic careers. The deadline is December 1, 2013. For details see www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/east-european-studies-summer-research-scholarships

The Wilson Center is offering East European Studies Summer Research Scholarships to graduate students and scholars. The deadline is March 1, 2014. For details see www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/east-european-studies-summer-research-scholarships

The new Europe College is offering the Black Sea Link Program for young, highly talented scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences from the Black Sea Region. The deadline is December 9, 2013. For details see www.nec.ro

The applications for the 2014-2015 David L. Boren Scholarships and Fellowships are now available at www.borenawards.org. Boren Awards provide funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to study in Central & Eastern Europe. The deadline for Boren fellows is January 28, and for scholars February 5, 2014.

The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) announces the establishment of the Dietrich Reinhart OSB Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies, to be awarded annually for three years beginning with the Academic Year 2013-2014. More details are available at www.hmml.org/scholar-opportunities.html

A number of fellowships usually available this time of year, including the ACLS Program in East European Studies and IREX Short-Term travel grants, have been suspended indefinitely due to lack of funding for Title VIII programs.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


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Literary and cultural images, once considered marginal to the main currents of political and institutional development in southeastern Europe, have been accorded much greater importance by scholars in recent years. In this volume Alex Drace-Francis brings together over fifteen years of work on the topic of representations of Romania and Romanians. Crossing the East-West divide, the book studies both external images of the country and people, and domestically-generated representations of Europe and ‘the West.’ It draws on material in a wide range of languages and offers a long-term view, providing a nuanced and historically-grounded contribution to the lively debates over Balkanism, Orientalism and identities in Romania and in Europe as a whole.

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**Membership Reminder**

We use dues to help with monetary prizes for outstanding publications and to budget and pay for the cost of our upcoming 6th International Conference, which will be held in Sibiu in July 2012. You may renew your membership or join SRS, at the SRS website: ([http://www.society4romanianstudies.org/membership/how-to-join](http://www.society4romanianstudies.org/membership/how-to-join)) by using paypal, or by mail. Contributions from lifetime members are most welcome. In addition, organizational sponsors and patrons may be approved by the Board on a case by case basis. Member organizations do not have a vote but their support will be acknowledged by SRS, including linking to organizational web sites. Please send your dues and/or donations directly by check (made out to SRS) to:

William Crowther  
Department of Political Science  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
UNCG P.O. Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

Dues are:  
First year graduate students free  
$10 for renewing graduate students  
$30 for a regular membership  
$45 for joint SRS/SEESA membership (a savings of $10)  
$37 for joint SRS/RSAA membership  
$50 for sustainers  
$100 for sponsors  
$300 for patrons

**About the Society for Romanian Studies**

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) is an international inter-disciplinary academic organization founded in 1973 to promote professional study, criticism, and research on all aspects of Romanian culture and civilization, particularly concerning the countries of Romania and Moldova. The SRS is generally recognized as the major professional organization for North American scholars concerned with Romania and Moldova. It is affiliated with the South East European Studies Association (SEESA); the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES-- formerly known as the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies or AAASS); the American Political Science Association (APSA); the American Historical Association (AHA); and the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA).

More information about the SRS, including current officers, the national board, and membership information, can be found on the website at [http://www.society4romanianstudies.org](http://www.society4romanianstudies.org)

This newsletter was assembled with the generous assistance of Rachel Leibiger of Eastern Connecticut State University. If you have any recent activities to report (publications, conferences organized, etc.) please send such information to the Newsletter Editor, Roland Clark, rololcark80@gmail.com.