

CAS President's Report (2018)

Let me begin by saying that it has been another good year for our members, whose scholarship and teaching continues to probe such a wide array of topics and to help shape opinions about the Slavic and East European world. The sheer fact that our annual newspaper runs to so many pages is a testament to everyone's hard work and the overall vibrancy of the CAS community. I congratulate all of you on your achievements and I look forward to seeing what you do in years to come.

Now I turn to the long list of people I must thank for making CAS run so smoothly. It is worth remembering that we are a voluntary organization, so these people take time from other tasks and duties in order to help CAS. They make quite a team. This year, in particular, as ICCEES planning became more intense, I seem to have bombarded the Executives with all kinds of issues that required their input. Their ongoing support has been extremely important, and I thank them for their service and advice.

At CAS headquarters at the University of Alberta, Heather Coleman is the bedrock that keeps everything, including our journal, running. Heather is an outstanding editor-in-chief. Under her direction, *Canadian Slavonic Papers* continues its fruitful partnership with Taylor & Francis and our last issue – devoted to the writer Svetlana Aleksievich – has had very strong metrics, indicating that the articles are being read far and wide. I would also like to recognize our book review editors Elisabeth Elliott, Kate Holland, Tanya Richardson, and Jeff Sahadeo for their contributions to the journal.

Heather has been assisted for the past couple of years by Oksana Vynnyk. Without Oksana, the office could not function as well as it does. She ensured messages were sent and that memberships were up to date, among other things. She has been incredibly helpful to me personally and I am grateful for that. She will be missed as she moves on and I am sure we all wish her good luck when she defends her thesis this summer. With that said, I would like to welcome Brad Smith, the new CSP editorial assistant. While he has big shoes to fill, I am sure he will be up to the task and I look forward to working with him.

Thank you to Anna Herran who set up the CAS Facebook page this year. The page is proving to be a good way to communicate with members and to let people around the world know what is happening as well. Roughly 200 people currently follow the page and more have stopped by to check individual posts. Please note that we can post calls for papers as well as notices about upcoming events that would interest our audience.

Next I would like to thank Maryna Romanets who has served as our Treasurer again this year. Not only has she ably handled our finances, she has also been instrumental in ongoing dialogues with the Federation concerning CAS and ICCEES in 2020.

Speaking of ICCEES, Andrii Krawchuk continues to be a strong voice for CAS on the ICCEES executive and he has done a great deal of work this year vis-à-vis the upcoming

Congress. I will leave him to outline the details in his report, but his dedication deserves to be recognized. Thank you Andrii.

Natalia Khanenko-Friesen and Joy Demoskoff are the reason we have a conference this year. Both deserve a strong round of applause for working with the Federation on this year's event and for giving CAS members a space to present their research. Thank you both for organizing the conference.

To those of you who served on the 2017 Taylor & Francis book prize committee – Andrea Chandler, Andrii Krawchuk and Myroslav Shkandrij – thank you for taking the time to read so many submissions and to evaluate the books in such detail. Your work ensures that the award goes to a monograph of outstanding quality. This year's winning book was *Violence as a Generative Force: Identity, Nationalism, and Memory in a Balkan Community* (Cornell University Press, 2016) by Dr. Max Bergholz. The members who will decide the next prize [Allan Reid, Maryna Romanets, and Joy Demoskoff] are already hard at work.

Earlier this spring Samuel Hull (McGill University) was announced as the winner of the CAS Undergraduate Student Essay Prize for 2017. His essay, entitled "Violence and Power: The Expulsion of the Sudeten Germans and the Fall of the Benes Regime," was completed for a course offered by Dr. James Krapfl.

The 2017 Graduate Student Essay Prize was awarded Rachel Van Fraassen, a recent graduate from the Department of History at McMaster University's MA program. Her paper, "Black Ikons: Experiencing Racial Categorization in the Interwar Soviet Union," was submitted by Dr. Tracy McDonald.

On that note, I end my report. If I forgot anything, I apologize. I wish all of you a healthy and productive next year. See everyone in Vancouver!