



Mark Pekala



Katherine E. Young



Justin Gilstrap



Alexa Voytek

Alumni & Postdoc Notes

Mark Pekala (M.I.A. and Harriman Certificate, 1983) has been the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Latvia since 2012. In his twenty-five years with the State Department, Mark has served in Warsaw, Brussels (at NATO), Tallinn, Paris, and now Riga. In Washington assignments, Mark has served on the Russia Desk, in the State Department Operations Center, as director for Russian affairs on the National Security Council staff, and as a deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs. He also taught graduate courses at Georgetown University on U.S.-Russia relations and European security. Mark's most recent publication is "Latvia: Out of the Crisis, Coming into Its Own" in the Fall 2013 issue of *The Ambassadors Review*.

Katherine E. Young's (M.I.A./Harriman, 1985) *Day of the Border Guards*, a collection of poetry about Russia and the former Soviet Union, was selected for publication as part of the 2014 University of Arkansas Miller Williams Prize series. In the summer of 2013, Young was invited to speak on translation theory at the Translator's Coven, convened by Robert Chandler and Oliver Ready at St. Anthony's College, Oxford. Young's translations of poet Inna Kabysh are forthcoming in a dual-language iPad edition that includes text, audio, and video. You can find more information about Young on her website: www.katherine-young-poet.com.

Justin Gilstrap (SIPA/Harriman Certificate, 2008) is currently managing the fellowships component of the U.S.-Russia Social Expertise Exchange, facilitating U.S.-Russian collaboration in twelve areas of pressing interest (www.usrussiasocialexpertise.org/#fellowships).

Since graduation, Justin has worked on issues including interethnic relations in Serbia and journalism and the rule of law in Russia. He and his wife live in Washington, D.C., where they recently had a son.

Alexa Voytek (MARS, 2013) is working at the international corporate practice at Ketchum, doing PR work and providing communications counsel for the Russian government and Gazprom.

Jessica Teickenson (née Teicher) (Human Rights/Harriman Certificate, 2009) currently works as the human resource specialist at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Transition Assistance (OTI) in the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA). Teickenson serves as a technical expert in OTI's Management and Operations Division. She guides OTI staff through HR benefits and regulations, manages the office's performance evaluation process, facilitated the first-ever OTI Training for Supervisors of United States Personal Service Contractors (USPSCs), and organized the first-ever PSC Benefits Fair. In 2012–13, Teickenson served as vice president of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and Pride in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA), the officially recognized employee resource group of LGBT and allied employees in U.S. foreign affairs agencies, and works to achieve full equality (in policy, treatment, benefits, etc.) for its members serving in the United States and abroad. Teickenson provided USAID leadership with essential post–Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) guidance, which later served as a model for

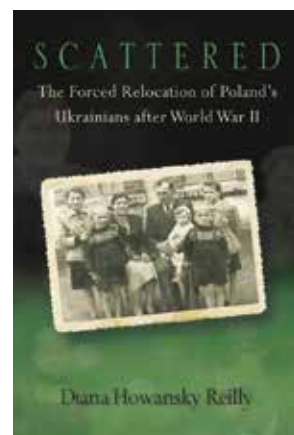
broader Office of Personnel Management (OPM) LGBT policy for the broader federal government. Before USAID, Teickenson worked at the Public Interest Law Institute, now PILnet, where she coordinated PILnet's fellowship program for human rights advocates from Russia, Serbia, Nigeria, Cameroon, China, Nepal, and Indonesia.

We also want to congratulate **Diana Howansky Reilly**, former staff associate for the Harriman's Ukrainian Studies Program and graduate of the Columbia Journalism School, on the publication of her well-received monograph *Scattered: The Forced Relocation of Poland's Ukrainians after World War II* (University of Wisconsin Press,

2013), which is shortlisted for *ForeWord Review's* 2013 Best Book of the Year Award (Adult Nonfiction History). The reviewer for the *Times Literary Supplement* writes: "The context for *Scattered* is complex and remains controversial in both Poland and Ukraine. Yet Reilly's narrative, written in short vignettes, is clear and balanced, and she successfully weaves the wider history into a rich fabric containing details of everyday life. . . . The result is a short, but skillfully crafted synthesis of family memoir and micro-history that is as interesting for its uncovering of a neglected tragedy as for its portrait of a little-known culture."



Jessica Teickenson



Diana Howansky Reilly

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