

# Alumni & Postdoc Notes

**Samuel H. Baron (Russian Institute Certificate, 1948; Ph.D., History, 1952)** studied with Geroid T. Robinson. He is distinguished professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He authored and/or edited ten books, three with Stanford University Press. *Plekhanov: The Father of Russian Marxism* was translated into Spanish, Japanese, and Russian. He has been coordinating a series of lectures and discussions, entitled “Thoughtful People,” at his retirement community in North Carolina for the past five years.



Samuel H. Baron

**Megan Duncan Smith (Harriman Certificate, 2011; MARS-REERS, 2011)** is a doctoral candidate in the History Department at Harvard University, specializing in the history of modern Ukraine and Russia (Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union). She is interested in the cultural construction of geography and conflicts over water in Eastern Europe. Her dissertation is a cultural and environmental history of the Dnieper River, titled: “Taming the Rapids: Transforming the Dnieper River and the Nature of Empire in Eastern Europe, 1837–1975.”



Megan Duncan Smith

**Edin Forto (Harriman Institute East Central Europe Certificate, 2001; M.I.A., SIPA, 2001)** was elected to the cantonal council in the October 2014 general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). He has been CEO of the Nexe Group in BiH, a business that produces and sells concrete and aggregate stone, since 2003.



Edin Forto



Diana Gosselin Nakeeb

**Diana Gosselin Nakeeb (Russian Institute, 1966; Ph.D., Slavic Languages, 1972)**

writes that the first thing she wanted to do upon retirement was to write a work of fiction that would be “pleasantly refreshing, charmingly entertaining, and more than a little educational.” The result is the sci-fi comedic satire, *Venus Turning*, published by Smashwords.com, available for most e-book readers. Nakeeb taught at William Patterson University, Pace University, and Yeshiva University. In all these positions she sought to introduce area studies and the broader Slavic picture, a practice instilled by the “giants of the Russian Institute: Raeff, Ehrlich, Brzezinski, Dallin, Hazard, Maguire . . .”



Anatoly Pinsky

**Anatoly Pinsky (Ph.D., History, 2011)**

has been assistant professor of late Soviet and contemporary Russian history at the European University at Saint Petersburg (EUSPb) since the fall of 2012. He has authored articles that have appeared or are forthcoming in *Slavic Review*, *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, and other publications. He is currently working on an edited volume, *Posle Stalina: Pozdnesovetskaiia sub"ektivnost'* (*After Stalin: Subjectivity in the Late Soviet Union*), to be published by the EUSPb press in 2016, and a book project, “The Individual after Stalin: Writers, Diaries, and the Reform of Soviet Socialism.”

**Susanne Wengle (M.I.A., SIPA 2002; Harriman Certificate, 2003)**

is assistant professor of political science at Notre Dame University. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley. Before coming to Notre Dame, she was a research fellow and lecturer at the University of Chicago. Her research examines the politics that govern markets and market regulations, and she has published on various aspects of Russia’s post-Soviet market transition. Her articles have appeared in *Governance and Regulation*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Economy and Society*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, the *Russian Analytical Digest*, and in the *Chicago Policy Review*. She is currently working on a project on the political economy of agriculture and food systems in Russia and the United States. Her book, *Post-Soviet Power: State-led Development and Russia’s Marketization*, which tells the story of the Russian electricity system and examines the politics of its transformation from a ministry to a market, was published by Cambridge University Press earlier this year.