

CAS President's Report

June 2019

2019 CAS Conference – I must begin my report by recognizing the hard work that Katherine Bowers has put into organizing our annual conference. Despite the fact that the Federation has tried to streamline some of the organizational processes, keeping on top of what they are doing and ensuring that we have a workable program is still a very big task – one that Katia has handled with grace and efficiency. The fact that we get to enjoy ourselves for the duration of the conference is a testament to Katia's efforts and I, for one, am grateful for her hard work.

I would also like to mention that this year's program features a new addition: a book celebration. I'd like to thank Natalie Kononenko who sparked the idea and, moving forwards, I suggest that we make this a regular event at our conference. The idea of taking an hour to learn about and toast the new books that our colleagues have published over the last year strikes me as an extremely good one.

Now on to other business.

CAS Student Essay Prizes – The winners of the 2018 prizes were as follows:

- **Graduate prize** – Sean Patterson (University of Alberta) for his essay “Prefiguring Privilege: Mennonite Self-Defence as a Symptom of Imperial Decolonization.”
- **Undergraduate prize** – The prize was awarded to two students: Flora Deverell (McGill University) for her essay “Rushing the Maidan: Understanding the Relationship between the 2004 Orange Revolution and the 2013-14 Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine;” and Hannah Rudderham (University of Alberta) for her essay “Who Wore the Uniform? The Question of Soldier Identity in Revolutionary Russia, February-October 1917.” I am also delighted to see that Hannah is on the conference program this year.

Thank you to Eduard Baidaus, Natalie Kononenko, and Irene Sywenky for serving on the prize committee.

CAS/Taylor & Francis book prize – this year's prize was awarded to Lynne Viola for her monograph entitled, *Stalinist Perpetrators on Trial: Scenes from the Great Terror in Soviet Ukraine* (Oxford University Press, 2017). Thank you to Joy Demoskoff, Allan Reid, and Maryna Romanets for their work on the committee that decided the award. Submissions for the next prize have just come in and I am sure the new committee is already hard at work reading the titles. I would also note that Taylor & Francis have generously increased the prize to \$500 from the \$250 that it used to be.

CAS/Taylor & Francis article prize – the inaugural CSP Article of the Year award has been given to Jeffery S. Hardy, whose article “Of pelicans and prisoners: avian-human interactions in the Soviet Gulag,” appeared in a special issue of *Canadian Slavonic Papers* that was guest-edited by Eva Plach. Thank you to the members of the CSP editorial board – specifically Norman Pereira, Christine Worobec and Allan Reid – who, along with Heather Coleman,

evaluated the articles. The generosity of Taylor & Francis should be recognized since they are providing \$250 to the winner and making his article available for free downloading.

Moving On...

Canadian Slavonic Papers – While our editor-in-chief Heather Coleman will give a separate report about the journal in a few minutes, I think it is still important to single out her important contribution to it. She puts in countless hours to ensure the quality of the journal remains high, works hard to maintain our very positive relationship with our publisher, and we all benefit from her devotion. Thank you, Heather. I would also like to thank her assistant Bradley Smith. We have been fortunate to have had a series of very capable assistant editors over the years and Brad is certainly continuing that trend. Finally, our annual newsletter – a rather lengthy testament to how productive CAS members are – was put together by another member of the CSP team, Iaroslav Kovalchuk.

ICCEES – As CAS members will remember, we are rolling our next annual conference into the 10th ICCEES world congress, which will be held at Concordia University in Montreal from 4-9 August, 2020. We will have our AGM as part of the congress, and it is possible to have CAS- or CIUS-designated panels on the program. I encourage members to think about that as they plan their submissions for the program.

Concerning the logistics of where we are in the planning process, I will let Andrii Krawchuk, Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee, give you an update in his report, but I am delighted to say that the call for proposals went out a little less than a month ago and within 24 hours we had our first submission.

Finally, other people to thank:

Maryna Romanets – As secretary-treasurer, Maryna ably oversaw CAS' finances for another year.

Members of the Executive – I cannot underscore strongly enough how good it feels to have the support of the members of the CAS Executive, even in years when we are not dealing with major issues requiring lengthy exchanges. The dedication these people have shown to our organization – often over years and decades – should be recognized, so in addition to those people whom I have already mentioned, I would like to thank:

- Myroslav Shkandrij
- Natalie Kononenko
- Volha Isakava
- Serhy Yekelchuk
- Eduard Baidaus
- Ivan Simic
- Irene Sywenky
- Nigel Raab
- Elena Baraban
- Svitlana Krys

- Megan Swift
- Joseph Schallert
- Natalia Pylypiuk
- Anna Herran
- Alex Averbuch