

CAS President's Report August 2021

This is the second year in a row that the CAS annual general meeting will be held in a virtual format and, while there are positive signs on the horizon, it is still disappointing not to be able to see friends and colleagues in person. Hopefully, we will be able to return to our normal conference next year.

Now on to the business at hand and I will keep these remarks brief in the interest of time.

CAS Student Essay Prizes – The winners of the 2020 prizes were...

- **Undergraduate Essay:** Sarah Sturken (McGill University) for her essay, “Honour and Glory to the Heroes: Cultural Memory, Politics, and the Controversial Legacy of Poland’s ‘Cursed soldiers.’”
- **Graduate Essay:** Benyamin Villani (McGill University) for his essay, “The Refugees’ Revolution: Displaced Persons, the Eastern Bloc, and the United Nations.”

Thank you to Zina Gimpelevich, Kristy Ironside, and Kevin Windle for volunteering to serve on the prize committee.

CAS/Taylor & Francis book prize – this year’s prize was awarded to Jeff Sahadeo for his monograph entitled, *Voices from the Soviet Edge*, which was published by Cornell University Press. Thank you to Oleksa Drachewych, Alexey Golubev, and Kristy Ironside for their work on the committee that decided the winner. Submissions for the next prize have come in and I know the new committee is already hard at work reading the titles. I would like to thank Taylor & Francis for the \$500 prize that comes with this award.

CAS/Taylor & Francis article prize – the Article of the Year award has been given to James W. White for his essay, “Russian Orthodox Monasticism in Riga Diocese, 1881-1917,” *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, 62, 3-4 (2020: 373-98). Thank you to the members of the jury for their service. Taylor & Francis should also be recognized since they are providing \$250 to the winner and making his article available for free downloading.

Moving On...

Canadian Slavonic Papers – This year our journal moved to its new home at McGill University and into the capable hands of new editor, James Krapfl and his assistant Guillaume Sauvé. They have stepped into these roles with gusto, and we are fortunate to have them. While I am sure there may have been logistical issues to work out behind the scenes, from the outside, the transition appeared seamless. Thank you to Heather Coleman who has been gracious during the process and to Bradley Smith who edited the CAS newsletter again this year.

ICCEES – As we hold the CAS AGM in the middle of the 10th ICCEES World Congress, I am pleased to report that the pandemic did not derail the event. At last count, roughly 340 panels and three dozen special events have been scheduled. Many of them feature papers and

lectures by CAS members, or they publicize various groups and think-tanks that have been established in Canada and which tap the expertise of CAS members on a regular basis. In other words, the congress is proving to be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the diverse nature of the research being conducted by our colleagues.

I will leave it to Andrii Krawchuk, Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee, give a more detailed report about the congress and ICCEES affairs in general.

Final remarks: As I wind up these remarks, and my time as President of CAS, I would like to thank the members of this year's Executive who were always generous with their time and ready to handle CAS business quickly. On a personal note, I do not think I would have made it through the challenges of this year without Heather Coleman and Elena Baraban, who often served as sounding boards when I needed advice or support. In general, we are fortunate to have such a strong collegial spirit in our organization since that makes everything run more smoothly.