



## **Minutes of EAAS Board Meeting, Lausanne 30 March 2017**

### **Present and representing member associations:**

**Mark Amfreville/Isabelle Alfandary AFEA**  
**Teresa Botelho APEAA**  
**Eduard Vlad RAAS**  
**Martin Halliwell BAAS**  
**Tanfer Emin Tunc ASAT**  
**Tibor Glant HAAS**  
**Aleksandra Izgarjan AASSEE**  
**Kostadin Grozev BASA**  
**Mikko Saikku NAAS**  
**Zuzanna Ladyga PAAS**  
**Donatella Izzo AISNA**  
**Philip McGowan (EAAS President) IAAS**  
**Frank Mehring NASA**  
**Cristina Alsina Rísquez AEDEAN/SAAS**  
**Michal Peprnik CSAA**  
**Ralph Poole AAAS**  
**Tatiani Rapatzikou (EAAS Sec.-Gen.) HELAAS**  
**Boris Vejdovsky SANAS**  
**Larisa Mikhaylova RSAS**  
**Adina Ciugureanu EAAS Treasurer**  
**Pawel Frelik EAAS Vice President**

### **Apologies for absence from the following member associations:**

**Carmen Birkle/Udo Hebel DGfA**  
**Jérôme Jamin BLASA**  
**Yuri V. Stulov BELAAS**

### **1. Opening address**

- a. Formal welcome from Vice-Dean Georg Von Arburg from Université de Lausanne (UNIL), Faculté des lettres, Littérature et Culture Américaine, Lausanne, Switzerland.
- b. EAAS President – Philip McGowan (PM): special thank you to Vice-Dean and Boris Vejdovsky (SANAS) for hosting and organizing the EAAS board meeting; warm welcome of EAAS board members; welcomes incoming and thanks outgoing EAAS board members.
- c. SANAS board member – Boris Vejdovsky (BV): thanks everyone for traveling to Lausanne for their participation in the 2017 EAAS Board Meeting.

## **2. Approval of 2016 EAAS Board Meeting in Constanta**

- a. EAAS Secretary General Tatiani Rapatzikou (TR) asks for the approval of the Constanta EAAS Board Minutes that had circulated in pdf form to the board members before the meeting in Lausanne.
- b. These Minutes are approved and added to the EAAS website.

## **3. Financial Report**

- a. EAAS Treasurer – Adina Ciugureanu (AC) distributes copies of the financial reports: She explains that at the end of 2016 there is a decrease in assets (see 2016 I) due to the amount transfer of €10,000 from the Amsterdam Trust to cover the expenses of the EAAS Travel Grants and EAAS Conference Travel Grants. As a result, the amount transferred was not entirely recompensed that is the reason why there is a minus figure of €-131,11 appearing in the report which cannot be covered from the Trust surplus. It should be added that EAAS covered the expense for half of the Conference Travel Grants. Only the remaining amount was covered by EAAS.
- b. Additionally two volumes were published (one from the Hague conference and another from the Rob Kroes Book Publication Award) at a very high cost via Verlag publications.
- c. The amount of €2,360 from 2015 has been transferred to 2016. Also, the amount of €739 has been spent on bank fees since the Romanian Bank charges €10 per bank transfer. With the EAAS conference taking place in Constanta though, money has been saved with regard to the fees and per diems that had to be paid for the expenses of the EAAS board meeting. This is not the case with the expenses that would need to be covered for the EAAS board meeting in Lausanne.
- d. AC refers to the Amsterdam Trust sheet and the fluctuations that have occurred in the total amounts since 2009. She adds that 2015 has been a very good year while 2016 has been relatively good. Usually the Amsterdam Trust money goes into investment and what EAAS uses is the surplus amounts. She then refers to Hans Bak's report and advice [see pg.2 of the report] regarding how the money needs to be used for 2017. As for the amount of money to be used for the EAAS Conference in London in 2018, this again should come up to the usual amount of €10,000 from the Amsterdam Trust which will be divided between early career TGs and 2018 EAAS travel grants.
- e. AC then proceeds with Sheet II where she compares the amounts between 2015 and 2016. The difference noticed in the amounts of the two years should be attributed to the fact that 2015 was a non-conference year, therefore the expenses were lower.
- f. For the balance sheet III for 2017, the amount of €5,000 comes from the Amsterdam Trust Fund. As for the total income, this is expected to come up to €31,000. As regards the expenses of the EAAS board meeting in Lausanne, this comes up to €7,000 while the expenses of the EAAS Officers to visit London in October 2017 are anticipated to be around €1,000. The publication costs of the European Views Series with Heidelberg Verlag (containing articles from the 2016 EAAS Constanta conference are anticipated to reach the amount of €5,000. The costs for the construction of the new EAAS website and the publication of the Rob Kroes Book Publication Award will also need to be considered and introduced in the budget. AC highlights that there is a need for a positive balance in 2017. As for 2018, she believes that all expenses

can be covered due to the money that will be transferred to EAAS from the Amsterdam Trust Fund.

- g. AC seems to be concerned with the Verlag expense for the publication of the Conference volume in the European Views Series. She agrees that a new publisher should be sought for the next year but she believes that we could continue the collaboration with Verlag just for the completion of the current book projects. She also raises a concern about the early career travel grants as there is always a grantee who does not claim the money within the fiscal year. It's important that proof is provided that the money has been put into the expected use. **[Action: A deadline should be set for money claims, a report should be submitted immediately after the completion of the journey, and copies of the plane tickets should be submitted].**
- h. AC then comments on the membership dues for 2016-2017. All associations are doing well overall even though there has been a reduction in memberships in just a few associations.
- i. PM thanks AC and asks the board members to reconsider the EAAS costs.
- j. Pawel Frelik (PF) asks whether the cost that has been anticipated for the visit of the EAAS officers in London is necessary. TR and PM agree that they know the sites to be used for the conference and Martin Halliwell (MH) confirms that TR and PM are cc-ed on all email communications concerning the conference preparations. AC agrees that this cost can be cut out.
- k. PF inquires about the €5,000 amount that is withdrawn from the Amsterdam Trust Fund. AC explains that in 2016 the interest was below €10,000 but if EAAS is cautious in 2017 transfers can go back to €10,000.
- l. PM inquires about the expenses of the board meetings. AC explains that the stipend for 2017 is €260 while in 2016 was €250. Also the expenses of two EAAS officers (AC and PF) traveling from the US to Lausanne for the 2017 board meeting should be taken into consideration.
- m. PF would like to know the reason why the board meeting in Constanta was so costly compared to the board meeting in Lublin. AC responds that it was the board meeting dinner that proved to be more expensive. Also, the number of the board members present was higher. PM observes that board meetings seem to be getting more and more expensive. **[ACTION: introduce a ceiling amount for board meeting expenses.]**
- n. PM refers to the cost of the conference book publications and his conversation with Peter Lang and Palgrave. He believes that both a lower cost publication and a more efficient book distribution plan are needed. AC says that Hans Jurgen has been dealing with the EAAS publications via Verlag. PM believes that the whole publication plan needs to be reconsidered. PF also believes that due to the new conference format a different kind of publication is needed, possibly a monograph with a publisher that does not charge the copy-editing process and is more efficient in the distribution and marketing of the books. Tanfer Emin (TE) suggests that EJAS could possibly serve as an alternative publication option. Aleksandra Izgarjan (AI) suggests that an open-access publication will boost the visibility of the EAAS publications. Conference-centered publications or proceedings are becoming obsolete nowadays. Tibor Glant (TG) believes that the journals that all associations now have could serve as alternative publication sources. AC refers to the three volumes that have been scheduled for publication (one with Verlag and two with Peter Lang) after the EAAS conference in Constanta. MH questions the number of

the volumes to be published and AC justifies it on the basis of the conference open format. She also explains that the papers to be selected will be peer reviewed so as to ensure the quality of the papers to be published. MH questions the cost of such an endeavor. AC explains that Peter Lang charges only €2,500-€2,600 per volume. As for the total amount of up to €4,000 to be needed, this may be provided by RAAS. Teresa Botelho (TB) expresses her concern for the future sustainability of the EAAS publications. PF and PM believe that EAAS should stop publishing proceedings. AC believes that since the call for submissions has been issued EAAS could publish with Verlag only for this year and look for another publisher for all subsequent publications.

- o. The three editors (AC, TR, and Eduard Vlad) responded to all questions raised by other board members about the quality of the papers to be included in the three planned volumes. They also add that all potential contributors have been informed about the peer reviewing process.
- p. PM invites everyone to vote whether continuing or stopping the collaboration with Verlag. Frank Mehring (FM) commends the efforts HJ has put into the Verlag endeavor. Finally, 17 votes are in favor of stopping and 3 are against. There are no abstentions. PM confirms the decision of stopping the collaboration with Verlag due to high costs and continuing with the publication of only two volumes with the cost to be jointly covered by EAAS and RAAS. He outlines that he will look to secure a contract with Palgrave Macmillan at which point we would notify Verlag that EAAS wishes to change publisher.

#### **4. Election of Auditors**

- a. At this point PM asks for the appointment of two Auditors for a final check and confirmation of the EAAS finances. The two board members selected are: MH and Kostadin Grozev (KG).

#### **5. Report on the EAAS website**

- a. PM talks about the need to renew and update the EAAS website. It should be ready to be launched by the EAAS 2018 conference. For this reason, money needs to be put aside to meet this cost. It is important that the new website is functional while all the material that is hosted in the current website is effectively transferred to the new one. The previous EAAS webmaster, Jacques Pothier has already made certain suggestions. PM brings forward the examples of the newly-updated BAAS (€10,000) and IAAS (€3,000) websites.
- b. Larisa Mikhaylova (LM) asks whether any other quotes could be provided. PF says that this is a major undertaking and the cost cannot go below €6,000.
- c. PM suggests that he will approach the current EAAS webmasters (Ben Offiler and Michelle Green) for a few more quotes but it is important that we move quickly. He believes that the new website will attract new members.
- d. Tibor Glant (TG) believes that all board members should vote for the best offer and that we should set a deadline for further quotes to be made available. Frank Mehring (FM) supports that the new website will be an investment for the future. KG suggests that we should be clear of what we are looking for before we ask for an offer.
- e. PM asks for €7,000 to be put aside. AC says that only €5,000 is available. This money comes from the lower cost of the conference volumes (since from the three we have now dropped to two volumes) and decision of the officers not to

- visit the EAAS 2018 conference site due to their familiarization with it. FM asks whether €10,000 euros can be taken from the Amsterdam Trust Fund.
- f. AC says that €5,000 could be spent in 2017 and another €5,000 in 2018.
  - g. PM says that there is a possibility that the money may need to be paid upfront and he asks for the current bank balance.
  - h. PF also asks whether the Amsterdam Trust Fund could be used.
  - i. AC says that currently the bank account is up to €40,000. As for the Amsterdam Trust Fund, she says that we could use the interest but not the actual fund since this is our main investment and the amount fluctuates from year to year.
  - j. PF asks whether €5,000 could be withdrawn from the Amsterdam Trust Fund.
  - k. AC asks everyone to look at the balance sheet of the Amsterdam Trust Fund and in particular at the amounts appearing next to “Value total holdings at year’s end.” She says that the amount has been gradually diminishing and if the interest is low this may cause further decrease in the future.
  - l. TG asks whether we can stay within the initial €10,000 framework since we have already economized on expenses.
  - m. AC answers that the money we withdrew from the Amsterdam Trust Fund last year has already been spent.
  - n. PF asks whether we could withdraw just for once another €5,000. He also says that we could finalize the features of the website by April 15<sup>th</sup>, vote via Slack by mid-May and commission the project at the end of May. He also suggests that we could sign a contract with a developer, view a demo of the site by October and agree on the final delivery by December. So the cost could be covered by the end of the year.
  - o. AC says that the amount of €5,000 can be covered without a transfer from the Trust. Also we could ask the Amsterdam Trust Fund Steward to transfer the money only when we know the final amount that needs to be paid.
  - p. PM confirms that a consensus has been reached. He also believes that if JSTOR is interested the Verlag volumes could be digitized. This could generate further income for EAAS. **[ACTION: all offers to be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>, all quotes to be offered by May 15<sup>th</sup>, decision to be taken by end of May; new website to be launched in April 2018; discuss with HJ the possible digitization of the Verlag volumes].**

## 6. Auditing of Tax Exemption

- a. AC brings forward the issue of the auditing of the tax exemption procedure. She will need to have the report translated into German, the EAAS President’s report and the new amended sheet for 2017. However, somebody from Germany should fill in the online form and deliver all the documents to the right person. **[ACTION: Carmen Birkle has agreed to do it and get in touch with HJ about certain details concerning the process].**
- b. AC also mentions that the Amsterdam Trust Fund Steward needs to be replaced due to Hans Bak’s retirement. It is also important that the person who will take over speaks Dutch. **[ACTION: Gert Buelens (GB) has been contacted. He has agreed to take over].**
- c. AC mentions that for this procedure signature samples need to be provided by the EAAS Treasurer and President.
- d. PM thinks that signature samples can be offered only by GB and the EAAS President.

- e. PM asks thinks that a second signature sample would also be necessary for the EAAS Treasurer.
- f. AC says that, according to Romanian bank regulations the signature sample procedure requires that the person(s) should give the sample at the bank in person.
- g. TE asks about the process of replacing the treasurer in the bank.
- h. PM asks whether he or TR could provide the second signature needed.
- i. AC says that she will ask for the paperwork that is needed when she is back in Romania in August.

## 7. Rob Kroes Publication Award Evaluation Committee

- a. TE introduces the other two members of the Rob Kroes Publication Award evaluation committee, Teresa Botelho (TB) and Michal Peprnik (MP). She says that individual reports have been written for the manuscripts that have been submitted and sent to the officers. She adds that the manuscripts did not meet the standards of the book prize. Manuscript One was not well crafted and the material had not been incorporated properly. Manuscript Two was stronger than the first manuscript but not adequately researched or well organized. **[ACTION: Criteria for future submissions should be set].**
- b. TE recommends certain criteria that could be taken into consideration: candidates could be vetted by national associations; manuscripts should be checked with the use of appropriate authentication software; there should be no conflict of interest between the applicant and the board members.
- c. TB expresses her concern whether the national associations should be notified when it comes to problematic cases.
- d. Boris Vejdosky (BV) and PF believe that EAAS should not get involved and the whole competition should not become very institutional.
- e. PM believes that the candidates should be members of a national association. Their membership could be confirmed by the representative of the national association. Also candidates should be aware of the fact that their manuscripts will be checked for academic integrity. In addition, all associations would need to boost the Rob Kroes Publication Award.
- f. BV asks about the reasons why candidate numbers were so low. Donnatella Izzo believes that possibly this could be due to the lack of visibility of the manuscript publication by Verlag.
- g. MH believes that a standard text for the promotion of the Rob Kroes Publication Award should be used by all associations.
- h. PM believes that the candidate's former PhD supervisor should not be on the evaluation committee. The public integrity of all submitted manuscripts will be tested and this will be announced on the EAAS website as well.

## 8. Subscription rates

- a. PM revisits the EAAS subscription rates for the PhD candidates. He says that if the amount drops to €3 this may double the EAAS PhD community.
- b. TB says that the PhD candidates in her association already pay less.
- c. PF believes that national associations cannot be forced to lower their fees.
- d. PM believes that the amount of money to be saved by each association due to the reduced fee that it will be paying to EAAS will help promote a number of PhD initiatives.

- e. AC expresses her reservations and suggests that this issue should be discussed in the next board meeting.
- f. PM asks about what PhD candidates gain from their €6 membership to EAAS.
- g. LM believes that the fee reduction will not make a difference. Publications should be promoted instead.
- h. TG asks whether the conference fee for PhD candidates could be reduced.
- i. Cristina Alsina Rísquez (CAR) believes that other initiatives should be considered. However, the fee reduction may not bring many changes.
- j. PM believes that associations need to start collaborating with one another.
- k. AI thinks that students are not interested in conferences since they do not count that much. They do need publications. Also she believes that there is a gap between northern and southern countries with regard to member numbers. In certain countries there is the danger not only of losing members but also of losing the associations.
- l. PM believes that only through collaborative initiatives PhD students can see the real value of EAAS.
- m. TG suggests that the students of one association who travel so as to participate in the conference organized by another national association should be treated equally as home students.
- n. PM asks everyone to vote. Everyone votes in support of the above.
- o. Zuzanne Ladyga (ZL) proposes the workshop model that her association uses for the motivation of young postgraduates.
- p. KG suggests whether Fulbright or Erasmus could help in that direction.
- q. TR proposes that clear information about each association young scholar representative should be posted on the EAAS website.
- r. PF believes that the national associations need to be communicating more.
- s. PM asks whether each national association could provide information about the number of its postgraduate student members.
- t. LM believes that the new EAAS website should boost networking and communication between postgraduate students.
- u. AI asks whether each association could post its initiatives online.
- v. PM asks everyone whether associations with a special postgraduate fee should be paying less to EAAS.
- w. PF is not certain whether this will attract new members.
- x. PM argues that this will help national associations boost their profiles.
- y. AI thinks that we should wait for the information per association and then decide. PF agrees to have the numbers of the last three years sent first and then decide.
- z. BV says that students need to be part of a community than simply participate in various events.
- aa. TE adds that the Women's Network events have no fee and have worked very well with the local student communities.
- bb. PM asks everyone to vote as to whether the €6 fee to be kept for 2017. Everyone votes. There are only two abstentions.

## **9. EAAS Travel Grants**

- a. PF informs the board members about the submission of twenty-three (23) travel grant applications. The total amount that could be spent was €14,000. The deadline for submissions closed on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Usually the applications are reviewed by the EAAS Vice President and the other EAAS

officers. This year an extra board member will be invited to participate in the evaluation process for reasons of visibility and fairness.

- b. PM asks if everyone agrees with such an addition. Everyone votes. AI volunteers. Everyone agrees.
- c. AC asks whether there should be a deadline by which the grant money can be claimed. She proposes that the money will have to be claimed by the end of the application year which is March 2017. Any amounts of money that have not been claimed will be put aside for the EAAS website costs.
- d. Everyone votes. Everyone agrees.

#### **10. Links with American Studies Association**

- a. PM informs board members about his communication with the ASA international committee in Denver. He believes that ASA should be represented at the EAAS 2018 conference with a panel and the same should be the case for an EAAS representation in the next ASA conference. Possibly conference fees should be reconsidered with ASA not paying extra for EAAS conferences and vice versa.
- b. BV expresses his concern about this. Even though EAAS participates in ASA events, ASA does not always join EAAS. Also certain ASA presidents have been supporting internationalization, while others have not been interested. Possibly certain actions need to be clarified and formalized.
- c. MH suggests that possibly EAAS should be sending ASA an annual report. There is a need for some kind of dialogue to be sustained.
- d. BV suggests that the members of the ASA international committee should be notified about all this.

#### **11. EAAS Conference 4-7 April 2018 in London, UK**

- a. MH explains that the joint BAAS and EAAS conference in April 2018 could not be advertised as a one-institution event, but as an umbrella collaboration between different institutions. This was also prompted by the cultural significance of the area where the conference will take place. The cfp has already been advertised on the BAAS website. Attention is paid to three thematic strands: environment, place, protest. Also EBAAS will insist on panel diversity. As for the conference organizing committee, its members come from various institutions with great experience in conference organization. As regards the EAAS board meeting, this will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. EBAAS places emphasis on the MLK assassination so for this reason Bettye Collier-Thomas has been invited to give one of the keynote speeches. In addition, Jo Gill will be the other keynote speaker to touch upon literature and architecture and Pekka Hamalainen will be the third keynote to focus on indigenous studies. The conference banquet will take place at Senate House (capacity of 260 people). The conference will finish on Saturday 7 April 2018 with a small event. The number of delegates expected ranges between 400-450. With regard to registration rates, the early bird member fee comes up to £160 and the student member fee to £95. Early registration ends on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Registration process terminates on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There are budget and mid-range hotels as well as hostels recommended. Information about accommodation will be made available. The fee will cover lunch and conference pack. The cfp opens on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and closes on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. A provisional conference program will be made available by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>,



2017. A number of forty (40) conference travel grants will be made available with the contribution of €10.000 from EAAS and €2.000 from BAAS. Finally, a 50/50 risk and profit share between EAAS and BAAS should be considered.
- b. AC says that EAAS cannot support this request. It has not happened before. The amount of money that EAAS can contribute comes up to €6,000 and 1,500 towards the reception costs.
  - c. PF reminds of the EAAS postgraduate student travel grants that will also need to be covered.
  - d. PM asks whether BAAS could contribute €6,000 and not €2,000 for the travel grants and EAAS €6,000.
  - e. LM asks whether these travel grants are for students only.
  - f. MH adds that the conference organizers cannot accept more than 400 people but they are thinking of a conference rate that will exclude lunch so as to attract more numbers.
  - g. PM confirms that EAAS will offer €1,500 towards the reception costs.
  - h. LM expresses the concern that delegates from the Russian Association for American Studies may not be able to request funding from their home institutions for the conference in April 2018 if the acceptance of their papers arrives after September 2017.
  - i. MH confirms that acceptance letters for delegates from Russia, Belarus and Serbia will be provided in advance in support for the visa procedures. He also confirms that a postgraduate forum lunch will be added to the conference schedule. As for the President breakfast, it will be considered.

## **12. Candidacies for EAAS Conference 2020 and 2022**

- a. PM is asking for the 2020 EAAS conference candidacies since Venice cannot undertake the organization of such an event.
- b. CAR offers to ask her association but the budget is an issue. Also she thinks that there will be a problem to find rooms for the parallel sessions. Barcelona and Madrid could be a possibility but the former destination is too expensive.
- c. TG says that he does not think that his association will be able to undertake the organization of the EAAS conference in 2020 due to its timing and various logistics.
- d. KG asks whether the date of the 2020 conference could be pushed to the end of April. If this is possible, he could then ask his association.
- e. PF says that Warsaw could be a possibility. He will need to inquire about it and report back.

## **13. Presenting the request of the Georgian Association for American Studies to join EAAS**

- a. PM talks about the request that has been submitted by the Georgian Association for American Studies to join EAAS but he explains that no full profile has been forwarded.
- b. PF says that it is important to remember what EAAS is for: to integrate already existing associations.
- c. MH asks whether we could ask the association to send us a full portfolio of their activities and information about their membership.
- d. ZL suggests that the representative of the Georgian Association could be invited to the EAAS board meeting in 2018 so as to present the association to all board members.

#### 14. Discussion of criteria for the acceptance of new member associations

- a. AI talks about FYROM joining AASSEE three years ago. She says that they seemed to be going strong but suddenly they have stopped any communication with the other members of the regional association. Even though the Bosnian Association is organizing events, FYROM is not visible any more. As for Slovenia, it does not have American Studies. **[ACTION: PM suggests that a template needs to be put together for associations that wish to join EAAS in the future].**

#### 15. Auditors' Report

- a. The auditors (KG and MH) met, consulted the accounts and relevant documentation, and reported back to the EAAS board that the financial audit indicated that the handling of the accounts is correct.
- b. The Auditors signed a report to this effect (lodged with the Treasurer's files) and the EAAS board accepted the auditors' report unanimously.

#### 16. News from Networks and Member associations

**Mark Amfreville/Isabelle Alfandary AFEA** - The Association Française d'Etudes Américaines held its annual conference in Toulouse from June 25-27 2016. The chosen topic was "Chantiers d'Amérique". The two keynote speakers were Michael Denning (born 1954), an American cultural historian and William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of American Studies at Yale University and Shelley Jackson (born in 1963), a writer and artist known for her cross-genre experiments, including her groundbreaking work of hyperfiction, *Patchwork Girl* (1995). Four issues of *Revue Française d'Etudes Américaines* came out in 2016: N. 149 "Movement, Place, Fixity", N. 148 "Claiming the Right to the City in the American Metropolis", N. 147 "Sizing the American Long Poem", N. 146 "U.S. Festivities." The electronic journal of AFEA, *Transatlantica* published one issue in 2016: "American Revolutions and the Paradigm of the New."

**Teresa Botelho APEAA** - New Board: A new Board was elected and started working on September 2015; Number of Associates: during the year of 2016, the Association updated its membership lists, and conducted a concerted effort to attract Ph.D. Students to its ranks. As a consequence the numbers of Associates increased to 137 by April 2016. Annual Conference: The 37<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Association took place in The Nova University of Lisbon, 21-23 March 2016. The guest speakers were Prof. Santanu Das, Kings' College, London, Prof. Hugh Stevens, University College, London, Prof. Rob J. Corber, Trinity College, Connecticut and the American writer Michael Cunningham. The conference has 139 participants/speakers.

Publications: The Association's Journal, *Op.Cit.: A Journal of Anglo-American Studies (second series N° 5)*. Newsletters: published in 2016 <https://sites.google.com/site/opcitapeaa/2016---2nd-series-no5-1> Monthly Newsletter: The Board publishes a monthly newsletter during the academic year with national and international calls for papers and notices of members' publications and other activities; Facebook page: The Association maintains a very active facebook page (which is updated at least once every week: <https://www.facebook.com/Associa%C3%A7%C3%A3o-Portuguesa-de-Estudos-Anglo-Americanos-APEAA-408804459185126/>). Forthcoming events (2017) -

Conferences: the 38<sup>th</sup> Conference will take place in the University of Minho, on the 27-29 April 2017. The new web page of the Association will be launched at the end of 2016. Its New Web page is: <http://apeaa.pt/> Publications: The 2017 number of the Association's Journal will be published in the fall of 2017. A peer reviewed book with a selection of articles expanded from papers delivered at the 37<sup>th</sup> Conference – *Centers and Margins: New Perspectives in Anglo-American Studies* will be published by the end of 2017.

**Eduard Vlad RAAS** - Apart from the events and activities that each local RAAS group got involved in, the priorities were cooperation for the book form publication of the proceedings of a previous national conference, (Im)migration Patterns: Displacement and Relocation in Contemporary America, as well as the preparation and organization of the 2016 EAAS conference (Constanta, April 22-25).

**Martin Halliwell BAAS** - BAAS held its annual conference in Canterbury, Kent, 6-8 April 2017, hosted by Canterbury Christchurch University. Attended by nearly 300 delegates, the keynote speakers at this 62nd BAAS conference were Brian Ward (Northumbria, the current Chair of BAAS), Marjorie Spruill (South Carolina) and Trudier Harris (Alabama). The November 2016 BAAS Postgraduate Conference was held at the University of Leeds with the theme of 'Negotiating the Borders and Boundaries of Americanism', and the 2017 Postgraduate Conference will be hosted by the Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies at the University of Essex on 25–26 November 2017, with the theme of 'Post Truth and American Myths'. BAAS elected a new Honorary Secretary in April 2017, Professor Sylvia Ellis of Roehampton University. The past Chair of BAAS, and recent President of EAAS, Professor Philip Davies, retired from his post as Director of the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library in autumn 2017. The Eccles Centre will be one of the three hosts, alongside King's College London and University College London, of the upcoming joint BAAS and EAAS conference, to be held in London, 4-7 April 2018, where the keynote speakers will be Bettye Collier-Thomas (Temple), Joanna Gill (Exeter) and Pekka Hämäläinen (Oxford). Details of other American Studies conferences, events and publication opportunities in and beyond the UK are detailed on the BAAS website: [www.baas.ac.uk/conferences-events/](http://www.baas.ac.uk/conferences-events/)

**Tanfer Emin Tunc ASAT** - Conference: November 1-3, 2017: 38<sup>th</sup> International ASAT Conference at Hacettepe University in Ankara on the theme of "Manifestations of Love and Hate in American Culture and Literature." Speakers series hosted at universities in Ankara on topics such as: Is D. H. Lawrence American?, Steampunk, Humor as Resistance in Chicano Cultural Production, A Performance-Lecture on Visual and Sound Poetry; *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* (printed and online/open access): Issue 45 on F. Scott Fitzgerald (Fall 2016), Issue 46 General Issue (Spring 2017) and Issue 47 on Richard Nixon (Forthcoming Fall 2017).

**Tibor Glant HAAS** - HAAS spent the last 4 years expanding our membership, including postgraduate students from about 45 to 60+. We also had to adjust our rules and procedures to the new law regulating nonprofit organizations, which was a multi-year project in the courts. We held our 11<sup>th</sup> biennial conference at Pécs, May 12-14, 2016. The current 60+ membership seems to be the most we can have given the fact that AS is a relatively new discipline in Hungary. We continue to operate four journals: three in English, one bilingual; one in MLA, Ebsco and JSTOR, 3 print, one

online. One key plan is to launch a free-access Hungarian language journal within the next year to reach out to the media and non-professional people interested in matters American.

**Aleksandra Izgarjan AASSEE** - ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE: Members of Serbian, Croatian and Montenegrin Associations for American studies applied for the 2017 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund with the regional project “Balkan Women Voices Network; CROATIAN ASSOCIATION: Organization of the conference “A Cultural History of Capitalism: Britain, America, Croatia – International Symposium”, April 7-8, 2017 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb; Organization of the workshop “Quarter of a Century after the Fall of the Berlin Wall: Perspectives and Directions in Croatian and Regional American Studies.” Papers presented at the conference were published in the journal of HUAMS *Working papers in American studies*; The 4th annual American Studies workshop of the Croatian Association for American Studies, entitled “The (Un)usable Pasts in American Studies,” was held on May 14, 2016; MONTENEGRIN ASSOCIATION: Organization of two conferences in 2016: “Writing Places: The Conceptualization and Representation of Space, Location and Environment in Literature.” Faculty of Philosophy, Nikšić. June 23-25, 2016; “International Conference Renaissance(s).” Faculty of Philosophy, Podgorica, September 15-16, 2016; Working with graduate students and encouraging their interest in American studies and membership in AASSEE; Collaboration with the American Corner in Podgorica; SERBIAN ASSOCIATION: Conference English Language and Literature Today, March 25, 2017, Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad; Rising membership among graduate students and encouraging their interest in AASSEE and EAAAS, as well as in opportunities to apply for travel grants and do part of their doctoral research in the US; Reaching out to departments at universities in Serbia outside English studies (media, political sciences) to illicit their membership in the association; Collaboration with the American Corner in Novi Sad through workshops; Upgrading website of the association and using it to popularize work of the members; MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION: Organization of the workshop “The Role of the USA in the Development of Higher Education and Democratization of the Society in Macedonia” on February 27, 2017; BOSNIAN ASSOCIATION: “3rd International Conference on English Language and Literature Studies (CELLS): Transcending Borders and Binaries: New Insights into Language, Literature, and Culture,” which is to be held at the University of Banja Luka on 9th and 10th June, 2017.

**Kostadin Grozev BASA – He passed away in late 2017. Our condolences to BASA.**

**Mikko Saikku NAAS** - The NAAS General Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at University of Southern Denmark, Odense, in connection with the 25<sup>th</sup> Biannual NAAS Conference, “American Colors: Across the Disciplinary Spectrum.” During the NAAS General Meeting, it was noted that NAAS is currently experiencing a slight downward trend in the number of memberships. The total membership rate was 138 in 2017; it was 128 in 2016, 146 in 2015, and 151 in 2014. Because of a generous grant to ASANOR and NAAS, the association has now established the Henry Wasser Travel Grant for graduate students Janne Lahti and Pirjo Ahokas will serve as the editor and book review editor of the *American Studies in Scandinavia*

until 2019. The next NAAS conference will take place on April 25-27, 2019, at the University of Bergen in Norway, with ASANOR as the organizing national association. Jena Lee Habegger-Conti and Asbjørn Grønstad are in charge of the local organizing committee. More information available on these and other NAAS activities on the association website: <https://sites.google.com/site/naasstudies/>

**Zuzanna Ladyga PAAS** - New journals: In association with the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, PAAS has relaunched the journal *The New Americanist*, the second peer-reviewed Americanist journal next to *Polish Journal of American Studies*: <http://www.paas.org.pl/pjas/> The New Americanist is planning a Fall 2018 release for its inaugural issue; Conferences & Workshops: Poland (University of Warsaw) organized the Tenth Biennial MESEA Conference Cultural Palimpsests: Ethnic Watermarks, Surfacing Histories in June 2016. PAAS Annual Conference “Transnational American Studies: Histories, Methodologies, Perspectives” was held in October 2016 at American Studies Center, University of Warsaw. The conference was preceded by 2-day workshop “Mobilities” which was the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of PAAS Biennial International Graduate Workshop Methodologies in American Studies. Conferences organized by PAAS members: 2016 – “ExRe(y): Spaces of Expression and Repression in Post-Millennial North-American Literature and Visual Culture” Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland, 7-8 April, 2016. Transdisciplinary Conference Transmediating Culture(s)? Szczecin University, Department of English Szczecin (Poland), November 17-19, 2016. Interrupted Discourse, Discontinued Dialog: Diversity, Marginalization, Otherness. September 9-11, 2016 Institute of English Studies, University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland. Crime Fiction Here and There: 3rd International Conference organised by the *Department of English Language Cultures and Literatures at the University of Gdańsk* in cooperation with *Captivating Criminality Network* and *Bath Spa University* 13-15 September 2016. 2017 – April Fourteen Conference. New Perspective in English and American Studies, Cracow, 20-22 April 2017. Media in America, America in Media Department of American Studies and Department of Social Communication, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, 25-26 May 2017. Conferences to come: The Fantastic versus Realism and their relevance as literary conventions to be held in Białystok, November 16-17, 2017. Machines / Ravines: Negotiating the [Technological] Sublime Dates: September 14-16, 2017 University of Łódź, Dept. of American Literature. PAAS Annual Conference Performing America Institute of English, Szczecin University, 18-20 October 2017. During the PAAS Annual Meeting in 2016, the association members have agreed upon political public statement expressing the association’s concern with and condemnation of xenophobia, nationalism and violence in Poland. The statement calls the Polish academic community to support the condemnation and demands that the Polish government recognizes and counteracts race and gender related acts of aggression.

**Donatella Izzo AISNA** - AISNA held its biennial national conference (national conferences are held on even years, international conferences on odd years) in Perugia on September 23, 2016. The conference topic was “Faith in Literature.” On that occasion, AISNA also elected its new President, Professor Elisabetta Vezzosi (University of Trieste). Within the same meeting, the Young Americanists Network “AISNA Graduates” organized a roundtable discussion titled “What’s Next?,” focusing on options and opportunities for post-graduate Americanists in Europe, and a workshop on “American Studies Now,” with parallel sessions affording opportunities

for presentation and discussion of current research projects in the field. During the assembly of members, the AISNA board awarded the Agostino Lombardo Prize and the Caterina Gulli Prize, the yearly prizes that AISNA awards yearly, respectively, to the best and to the most innovative MA thesis in any topic pertaining to US literature, history, and culture defended in the previous year. Other well attended initiatives addressed at graduate and post-graduate students in 2016 were the AISNA-Centro Studi Americani seminar, the annual summer school of CISPEA (Centro Inter-universitario di Storia e Politica Euro-Americana) and the biennial summer school OASIS (Orientale American Studies International School). *Harbors, Flows, and Migrations. The USA in/and the World*, the volume collecting a selection of the essays from the AISNA international conference (held at University of Naples “L’Orientale” in 2015), came out at the beginning of 2017. The volume, edited by Vincenzo Bavaro, Gianna Fusco, Serena Fusco, and Donatella Izzo, was published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. *RSA Journal (Rivista di Studi Americani)*, the journal of AISNA, published its issue 27 in 2016. Devoted to “The United States between Transnationalism and Interculturality,” it features essays by Thomas Bender, Colleen Glenney Boggs, Melani McAlister, Ferdinando Fasce, Fred Gardaphé, as well as by Lombardo Prize-winner Agnese Marino, a forum on Gender, Women’s, and American Studies, and an unpublished work by Edith Wharton introduced by *RSA Journal’s* editor-in-chief, Gianfranca Balestra. The most fruitful and exciting news of 2016, however, were the result of the collaboration with the Embassy of the USA, which generously decided to fund two new initiatives to support American Studies in Italy: two post-doctoral scholarships of € 2,600 each, aimed at supporting two recent Ph.D.s in American Literature and American History in the research needed to revise their dissertations into publishable form; and 6 new contracts for adjunct professorships (three in literature and three in history) at Italian universities where these courses had been put at risk by the retirements of the respective professors.

**Philip McGowan IAAS** - As for the IAAS, it held a very successful postgraduate conference in Cork in November 2016 and an annual conference at Ulster University’s Belfast campus in April attracted over 60 delegates including Shirley Samuels from Cornell as our keynote speaker. The IAAS is in a healthy and active stage of its development and has a new Chair, David Coughlan in the University of Limerick. Its activities are readily accessible via social media: @theIAAS on Twitter, and the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/160392460655720/>). The website of the association ([www.iaas.ie](http://www.iaas.ie)) is accessed on a regular basis by both Irish resident and overseas visitors, and the online, peer-reviewed journal of the IAAS has instituted a rolling format for publishing new articles, reviews, interviews – see [ijas.iaas.ie](http://ijas.iaas.ie) – and submissions are always welcome from EAAS colleagues.

**Frank Mehring NASA** - Among a number of conferences organized by individual American Studies programs in the Netherlands, this year’s NASA conference focused on “American Studies after the Digital Turn” (5 and 16 September 2016). 30 scholars met at the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies in Middelburg to discuss a wide range of ideas about the digital humanities and American Studies, from its impact on American Studies methodology and teaching, to possible tools, projects, databases, and issues of publishing and digitization. A few themes on what digital humanities have brought to American Studies stood out. The conversation German participants of the Digital American Studies Initiative was continued at the yearly conference of the German Association of American Studies in Hannover in June 2016 and will lead to

closer collaboration in exploring opportunities in future conferences, research projects and publications. A number of faculty members of American Studies programs across the Netherlands are participating in the commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marshall Plan in collaboration with the US Embassy in The Hague in a particular effort to reach out to High Schools. Among the many anthologies, guest-edited journals, monographs and articles that Dutch American Studies scholars produced, I would like to emphasize the anthology *American Responses to the Holocaust: Transatlantic Perspectives*, edited by Hans Krabbendam (Catholic Documentation Centre) and Derek Rubin (Utrecht University). This publication grew out of an international conference organized by the Netherlands American Studies Associations, the Belgium and Luxembourg American Studies Association, the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp, the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, and the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation and Holocaust and Genocide Studies. More information under <http://www.netherlands-america.nl/>

**Cristina Alsina Rísquez AEDEAN/ SAAS** - The Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies (AEDEAN) held its 40th conference in Huesca, Aragón last November 2016. The US Studies panel was one of the most successful with 6 sessions. The next AEDEAN conference will be held in November 2017 in La Laguna (Tenerife, Canary Islands). The website is already available and can be reached through AEDEAN's webpage. The Spanish Association for American Studies (SAAS) will hold its biennial conference next week in Cáceres, Extremadura. The topic of this year's conference is "Understanding (Human) Nature." The conference will gather a total of 101 panelists, 24% of them international scholars, distributed in 30 different thematic panels with a total amount of 36 sessions. The conference also hosts the Félix Martín Doctoral Seminar with the participation of 8 young researchers who are presently working on their PhDs on US studies. We are also happy to inform that this year two of the sessions of the Miscellaneous Panel include the contributions of members of the newly created Poe Studies Association in Spain. During the conference, the Javier Coy Biennial Research Awards to best monograph, best edited volume, best journal article and best REN article, and the research grant Washington Irving Aid will be announced. As for the Journals edited by the associations, Atlantis published its latest issue in December and is now working on the June issue. The decision has been reached to gradually stop publishing reviews, which will find their place in Nexus, AEDEAN's newsletter, which is published twice a year online, and to opt for the inclusion of book review articles. REN, the journal of the Spanish Association for American Studies has recently published its issue #20. Both journals are now accepting manuscripts for future issues and would be happy to see increased participation from members of your different associations.

**Michal Peprník CSAA** - CSAA organized in cooperation with Palacký University Olomouc and the U.S. Embassy in Prague the 21st International Colloquium of American Studies (biannual conference), June 22–24, 2017. The conference topic was "Place and Emplacement." The plenary speaker was Robert Brinkmeyer, Director of the Institute for Southern Studies at the University of South Carolina, Emily Brown Jefferies Professor of English and Claude Henry Neuffer Professor of Southern Studies (University of South Carolina). As a special guest speaker on Skype appeared Robert T. Tally (Texas State University). A selection of conference papers will be published in the peer-reviewed *Moravian Journal of Literature and Film*. For more information, see <http://colloquium2017.upol.cz/>. In 2016 a volume of papers from the

2015 International Colloquium of American Studies, *Assimilation – A Good or Bad Word?* was published by Palacký University Press, Olomouc). Print copy available on request, write to [american.studies@upol.cz](mailto:american.studies@upol.cz)), for an online copy see <http://csaa.upol.cz> (see Publications). CSAA managed to obtain a Small Grant Project from the US embassy in Prague in 2016 to contribute towards the costs of editing of this volume and its publication. For other book publications by CSAA members see [http://csaa.upol.cz/?page\\_id=247](http://csaa.upol.cz/?page_id=247). There are several Czech and Slovak academic peer-reviewed journals, published by Czech and Slovak university presses, listed in international databases such as ERIH+ and/or Scopus, which welcome papers in the field of American Studies: *The American and British Studies Annual* (University of Pardubice); *Ars Aeterna* (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra); *CLEaR: International Journal on Language, Literature and Culture in Education* (SlovakEdu, n. o.); *Hradec Králové Journal of Anglophone Studies* (University of Hradec Králové); *Litteraria Pragensia* (Charles University, Prague); *Moravian Journal of Literature and Film* (Palacký University Olomouc); *Ostrava Journal of English Philology* (University of Ostrava); *Prague Journal of English Studies* (Charles University, Prague). Several international conferences with sections dedicated to American Studies are organized by the departments of English and American studies, some of them every year: in Brno, České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, Košice, Nitra, Olomouc, Pardubice, Pilsen, Prague and Zlín: Postmillennial Sensibility in Anglophone Literatures, Cultures and Media, P. J. Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia, 29 June-1 July 2016, 2017; Hradec Králové Anglophone Conference, 22-23 March 2016 – organized by the University of Hradec Králové; From Theory to Practice 2016, conference on Anglophone studies, organized by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Tomas Bata University in Zlín, 8-9 September 2016; 13<sup>th</sup> International Cultural Studies Conference, organized by the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, University of Pardubice, Pardubice, 13-14 October, 2016.

**Ralph Poole AAAS** - The AAAS will have its annual conference November 3-5, 2017 at Salzburg's Schloss Leopoldskron, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Salzburg Seminar in 1947 under the conference motto “ ‘Where are you going, where have you been?’ The Changing Nature of American Studies.” <https://www.uni-salzburg.at/index.php?id=207175>. Furthermore, the first issue of the open access journal *JAAAS (Journal of the Austrian Association for American Studies)* will be published in 2017. And the AAAS book series “American Studies in Austria” will have published three volumes in 2017: *US American Expressions of Utopian and Dystopian Visions* (eds. Fürst/Kaisinger/Poole), *Space Oddities* (eds. Brandt/Fuchs), *Austria and America: 20th-Century Cross-Cultural Encounters* (eds. Parker/Poole). <http://www.lit-verlag.at/reihe/amsia>

**Tatiani Rapatzikou HELAAS** – The association successfully organized the international conference that took place in Thessaloniki between 15-17 December 2017 with the title “The Politics of Space and the Humanities” (see: <http://www.enl.auth.gr/helaas/2017/>) bringing together a total number of 200 speakers. The conference launched the celebratory events for the 70<sup>th</sup> Fulbright Anniversary and American Studies in Greece. Also the first issue of the HELAAS online/peer reviewed journal *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media* was published at the end of 2017. It explores the theme of “Ethics and Narrative” (edited by Helena Maragou and Theodora Tsimpouki). The



launching of the new journal was combined with the construction and launching of the new HELAAS website (<http://helaas.enl.auth.gr/>). HELAAS also successfully organized its 2<sup>nd</sup> Summer School with the title “Crossing Borders and Civic Engagement in a Changing World” (29 June-4 July, 2016) and its 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer School with the title “Exploring Conflict, Sharing a Future in a World in Transition” (June 26<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017), both in collaboration with the Fulbright Foundation Greece. Finally, HELAAS with the election of its Young Scholar representative is taking its first steps towards boosting collaborations between young researchers and promoting their presence in Greece and Europe.

**Boris Vejdovsky SANAS - Conferences & Symposia:** On June 30-July 2, an international conference on the topic of “The Beautiful Game: The Poetics and Aesthetics of Soccer in a Transnational Perspective” took place at the University of Basel, organized by Dr. Ridvan Askin and Dr. Catherine Diedrich and funded by the SAGW/ASSH (The Swiss Academy). The annual Annual General Meeting took place on Friday, November 4 at the University of Bern as part of the SANAS Biennial Conference. This two-day event, organized by Dr. Lukas Etter, Ryan Kopaitich, and PD Dr. Julia Straub, included more than 30 academic talks from speakers from Switzerland, Germany, Poland, France, the UK, the US and Canada. The two keynote lectures were given by Prof. Miranda Joseph, Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies at the University of Arizona, who spoke about “Envisioning Queer Collectivity, Contesting Racial Capitalism” and Prof. Frank Kelleter from the John F. Kennedy Institute at the Freie Universität Berlin, whose talk was entitled “Community, Mediality, Seriality: On Narrative Feedback Loops and Capitalist Self-Reflectivity.” The conference also contained a panel organized with the Swiss Philosophical Society (SPS), represented by Dr. Jörg Lösche and Dr. Christian Budnik. These two guests presented important impulses from the discipline of philosophy. Another special feature was the “Author-Meets-Critics” session, during which Prof. Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet from the University of Lausanne, and Nicole Schneider, doctoral candidate at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, critically discussed an article on the fiction of Louise Erdrich, authored by Prof. Thomas Austenfeld (University of Fribourg), who also joined the panel. The Public Affairs Officer at the US-American Embassy in Bern, Mrs Stephanie Morimura gave a short presentation on Fulbright funding opportunities. The next SANAS AGM will take place in fall 2017 at the University of Neuchâtel as part of the mini-conference with the topic “21<sup>st</sup>-century Thoreau.” The SANAS Spring Reading Group met at the University of Bern on Friday, June 10. US-American novelist Nell Zink read from her two published and highly-acclaimed novels and engaged in a discussion with the audience. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the European Woman’s Caucus held its second annual conference at the University of Lausanne; the meeting was organized by the SANAS EAAS delegate and Prof. Agnieszka Soltysik (SANAS) was the keynote of the conference. The yearly meeting of SANAS in 2017 will take place at the University of Neuchatel (Oct. 27). In addition to the AGM, SANAS is organizing a mini-conference titled “Twenty-First-Century Thoreau.” SANAS Newsletter: The SANAS Newsletter, which is published twice a year and compiled by PD Dr. Julia Straub, was distributed electronically to all members in spring and fall. The Spring Newsletter included contact information for all SANAS members and a report of members’ activities in the preceding calendar year.

**Larisa Mikhaylova RSAS** - Slow but steady development of American Studies in Russia in 2016 - the first half of 2017: American Studies in Russia were actively performed in more than 20 Universities around the country, as can be deduced from the programs of two major international conferences held annually in December at Lomonosov Moscow State University (LMSU) and biennially in May at Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH). In this way, Russian Americanists have more opportunities to present the results of their studies. The 42<sup>nd</sup> conference of Russian Society of American Culture Studies theme was “Creative Communication: American Culture as Communication System”, it was held December 7-10, 2016 at Journalism Department of LMSU. Full program can be accessed at: <http://www.rsacs.org/en/program-of-rsacs-xlii-international-conference-creative-communication-american-culture-as-communication-system-december-7-10-2016/>

There were six sections working and two round table discussions: on 2016 Elections in the USA and a traditional one *Imprints: Image of America and Image of Russia*, both coordinated by Professor Yassen Zassoursky (LMSU). Sections included Journalism (Coordinator Prof. Irina Arkhangelskaya (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia), American Culture of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries (Coordinator Prof. Elvira Osipova (Saint-Petersburg, Russia), Literature and Culture of the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries (Coordinator Prof. Natalia Vysotska (Kiyev, Ukraine), Ethnic Components of American Culture (Coordinators Dr Oksana Danchevskaya (Moscow, Russia) and Dr. Andrew Wiget (Albuquerque, USA). Gender Aspects of American Culture (Coordinators Dr. Nadezhda Shvedova and Dr. Larisa Mikhaylova (both Moscow, Russia), Fantastic in American Arts (Coordinator Dr. Larisa Mikhaylova), Over 60 participants from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and the USA took part in the discussions of 40 papers and in round table discussions at RSACS conference. RSUH 5<sup>th</sup> Zverev International Biennial Conference on American Studies, Revolutions and Revolutionary Discourse in the USA, was held on May 11-12, 2017 (coordinators Dr Irina Morozova and Dr Valentina Zhuravleva ). Papers were presented in three panels: Poetics and Discourse of the Revolution in American Culture, American Aesthetic and Social Revolutions, Revolutionary Discourse in the Context of the Russian American Dialogue. Full program is available at URL <http://litda.ru/images/v-zverev-programm.pdf> Number of participants – 50. The XLIII International conference of the Russian Society of American Culture Studies will be held December 7-9, 2017 at Lomonosov Moscow State University Journalism Department. Its theme – “American Satire and Humor: Forms of Comic Expression in American Culture.” Sections: Journalism, American Culture of the 17-19th Centuries, Contemporary Literature and Culture, Ethnic Aspects, Gender Studies, Fantastic in the Arts, Canadian perspectives. A traditional Round Table discussion: *Imprints – Image of America and Image of Russia* will be held and a Round Table dedicated to Henry Thoreau’s Bicentennial. Official languages of the conference are English and Russian. Deadline for abstracts – September 25, 2017 (half a page to [larmih@gmail.com](mailto:larmih@gmail.com)). Information about visa support: As it is a lengthy process – please send the needed materials [copy of two first pages of passport and info on place of birth (city and country), affiliation and position, office address, phone and fax numbers, place of visa application, dates of arrival and departure, place of visa application] to the address [larmih@gmail.com](mailto:larmih@gmail.com) no later than September 25, 2017.

**Carmen Birkle GAAS** - Past Conferences: Political Science Conference: “Balancing the Scales. The United States in an Age of Inequality” in Berlin (November 10-12, 2016), Literary and Cultural Studies Conference: “Productions – Genres – Encounters

– Negotiations” in Passau (October 27-29, 2016), Literary and Cultural Studies Conference: “The Environment and Human Migration: Rethinking the Politics of Poetry” in Bamberg (November 25-26, 2016); Meeting of the Postgraduate Forum in Hamburg, jointly organized by PGF members from Hamburg and Bremen (October 6-8, 2016); Historians' Conference: “The United States and World War One: Perspectives and Legacies” in Heidelberg (February 10-12, 2017); Annual Meeting of the GAAS: in Hannover June 8-11, 2017: Modernities and Modernization (all are welcome; <http://dgfa.de/annual-meeting/>): for the first time, we will have a panel on current political affairs, which we call: “The State of the Nation: Scholarship, Culture, and Politics in Times of Donald Trump.” We decided to have it in German since we want to draw a larger audience from outside of academia. We will see if it works. We have five speakers of all ages and disciplines and one moderator from the University of Hannover. Information on the conference is online already, the panel as such not yet. In addition to the panel, the keynote speakers are: Ulla Haselstein (John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität, Berlin), Laura Horak (Carleton University), Michael North (University of California, Los Angeles), Anita Patterson (Boston University), Andreas Reckwitz (Europa-University Viadrina, Frankfurt/ Oder). The GAAS slowly continues to grow.

**Yuri V. Stulov BELAAS** - Belarusian Association for American Studies held its XXVth International conference “Culture and Literature of America and Europe: a view from the 21<sup>st</sup>-century perspective” on May 12-14, 2016 at Minsk State Linguistics University with participants from Belarus, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and USA. BELAAS members took part in various American Studies conferences in Constanta, Kyiv, Moscow, Paris, St. Petersburg, and Warsaw. A biennial “European and American Studies Book: 2012-2014” and a course book “American Literature: XVII-XXth centuries” were published. Dr. Irina Kudrayvtseva had her monograph “Southern Accent: Genre and Style peculiarities of the US Southern short story” published. Elections of the new BELAAS board took place. Our next conference will take place on May 13-15, 2017.

**Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou**  
**EAAS Sec.-General**