

SMALL WORLD NEWSLETTER

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Director Retires

Prof. Anthony Mughan, Professor of Political Science and Director of International Studies is retiring at the end of December. Mughan has been a faculty member at The Ohio State University for more than 30 years and Director of International Studies for 25. Under his leadership the unit created new majors in World Economy & Business, Security & Intelligence, and Globalization Studies. He created new minors in Human Rights and Peace Studies, and just this fall added a new minor in Information Security to the university curriculum.

From everyone in International Studies, we wish you a long, happy, retirement!



Photo Credits: Kyle Erickson, holding a falcon in Kazakhstan. Kyle was studying Russian in Kyrgyzstan as a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellow.

Study Russian in Kyrgyzstan

Kyle Erickson is a graduating senior with a double major in Security & Intelligence and Russian, and a minor in Arabic. He was chosen for the prestigious FLAS fellowship to study Russian in Kyrgyzstan during the summer of 2018. Here is his story.

"From June to August 2018, I studied Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with Arizona State University's Critical Language Institute. The decision to study in Kyrgyzstan instead of Russia came down to two reasons; firstly, I was able to live in Central Asia very inexpensively, as compared to living in either Moscow or St. Petersburg. Because of this, I was able to explore Kyrgyzstan and its northern neighbor, Kazakhstan,

pretty freely. Secondly, it was an opportunity to learn about a corner of the world I wasn't very acquainted with. Honestly, I wouldn't be able to point Kyrgyzstan out on a map if you asked me to eight months ago. My time in Central Asia was very culturally enriching; we rode on horseback through the mountains, built a yurt, and drank Kumis (fermented horse milk).

Traveling around Bishkek, however, was an interesting experience too. The Soviet impression on architecture is easily visible- it was built essentially from the ground up during the early Soviet era. Apartment blocks, shopping malls, and government buildings typically have that defining brutalist architecture. There still remain a large number of public parks in the city, another remnant of the Soviet Union. As Bishkek begins to move away from that era, however, you can see more Western influence in the nightlife, cafes, and newer shopping malls.

Living and going to school in Bishkek exponentially helped my Russian. Everyday, from the time I woke up to the time I took a taxi back home to my apartment at night, I would have to use Russian to communicate. You really can't get that sort of useful experience in the States- which is something my Russian instructors told me from the beginning. As an added benefit, my summer program counted for my entire 4th year Russian requirement, so I'm graduating a semester early.

I would strongly encourage anyone looking to improve their Russian or visit a largely unexplored corner of the world to consider Bishkek as a destination!"



Photos: Above is a photo of the city Almaty, Kazakhstan. Below is a photo taken in the Ala-Archa National Park, a few miles south of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

