LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

"We enter spring 2016 with confidence and resolve, ready to grow from strength to strength, to withstand and overcome the challenges that may rise on our path."

Vitaly Chernetsky, Director
Center for Russian, East
European & Eurasian Studies

It is a pleasure to greet you as your new Director. After serving as Acting Director for a semester, I am excited to receive the mandate to lead our Center as we continue growing and adapting to new challenges and opportunities. My sincere gratitude goes to the search committee and the leadership of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for selecting me for this position. Despite a variety of pressures—especially budgetary ones—faced by our Center and the university at large, thanks to the energy and dedication of all the members of theCREES family, and especially our Center’s outstanding staff, we had a remarkably rich and successful semester.

Our social events continue to be among the liveliest on campus. The Fall Mixer and the Holiday Party serve as traditional bookends to a diverse and stimulating calendar of the fall semester. Both of them were held at the Union Pacific Depot this time and provided wonderful opportunities to strengthen our community ties. Special thanks go to our graduate students who pitched in to decorate for the Holiday Party.

In the meantime, several of our graduate students have been doing research in Ukraine. We have followed with excitement the updates from Austin Charron and Nate Pickett, PhD students in Geography doing their dissertation fieldwork, and are pleased that Josh DeMoss, who is pursuing a REES MA/JD, will be joining the KU in Ukraine cohort this spring, spending a semester at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, one of the country’s premier universities. Looking further ahead, I am pleased to let you know that after a brief hiatus, CREES is poised to resume our own summer program in Ukraine in cooperation with our longstanding partners, the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

The hard work of historians Erik Scott and Nathan Wood paid off in the picture-perfect launch this fall of the Everyday Lives on the Eastern Front lecture series, part of KU’s commemoration of the centennial of World War I, with stimulating presentations by Heather Perry and KU History alumna Laurie Stoff. Two more lectures in the series, by Robert Blobaum of West Virginia University and David Stone of the US Naval War College, are planned for this spring.

Our list of distinguished visitors included the noted political scientist Karen Daviasha, director of the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at Miami University and author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller Putin’s Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia? Her lecture “What’s the Problem with Russia? Or Is There a Problem?” drew widespread attention, as did her followup presentation at the Hall Center for the Humanities, one of our partners who helped bring her to campus.

Events planned for this spring, besides our Brownbags and Friday Night at the Kino film series, also include our traditional Spring Festival, which will take place on March 6, a mini-conference on security issues planned for April 15, and a special program commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Please look further in the newsletter for details, and check our website for updates.

The CREES family has been enriched by several new
This fall semester, a group of REES-affiliated students founded a new campus organization called the Central Asian Students Association (CASA). According to the club’s current president, religious studies MA student Benjamin Ale-Ebrahim, the goal of the organization is to coordinate social and academic events among the KU community related to the Central Asian region, broadly defined as the five former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan as well as Xinjiang, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, and other regions inhabited by Turkic and Iranian peoples.

So far, the organization has hosted social events where club members have cooked Central Asian foods, like plov and mantu, and learned more about each other’s cultures. The organization is made up of KU undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty from the United States and all parts of the Central Asian region.

In the spring, CASA is sponsoring a Uyghur calligraphy workshop, a Central Asian International Night co-hosted by Student Union Activities (SUA), and a Nowruz celebration in honor of the Iranian new year.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, you can join CASA’s Facebook group or contact Benjamin Ale-Ebrahim at baleebrahim@ku.edu. If you are from Central Asia or have any interest in the region, we would love to see you at our events!
THE EXPERIENCE OF WORLD WAR I, PARTICULARLY ON ITS EASTERN FRONT, SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD IN WAYS THAT MANY OF US MAY NOT REALIZE,” WRITE KU HISTORY PROFESSORS NATHANIEL WOOD AND ERIK SCOTT IN THEIR INTRODUCTION TO THE KU WWI EVERYDAY LIVES ON THE EASTERN FRONT LECTURE SERIES.

During the 2015-16 academic year, this four-part series is bringing nationally recognized experts on WWI to Kansas to share their original research and explore new perspectives on 100-year-old themes in workshops with undergraduate and graduate students and members of the community.

“The Eastern Front was where the empires of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and the Ottomans collided and ultimately collapsed, giving rise to new states in Europe, Africa and the Middle East,” they write. “While the Western Front was defined by trench warfare, the Eastern Front was longer and often porous. It shifted back and forth across civilian populations with dramatically transformative effects, impacting lives at the everyday level. In the region, the Great War was inseparable from revolution, undermining imperial allegiances, generating social and national movements, and changing attitudes about gender and authority.”

In this edition of the CREES Newsletter, we sit down with Professor Wood and Professor Scott and talk about their motivation for organizing the lecture series and their experience of participating in the KU WWI Centennial Commemoration Committee, a group dedicated to exploring the First World War throughout the centennial commemoration period, 2014-18.

CREES: Where did the idea for the “Everyday Lives on the Eastern Front” Lecture Series come from and what was the intellectual motivation for the theme?

WOOD: We knew we wanted to do something to commemorate the First World War, and for my own part, in my teaching and my scholarship, I’ve found that the Eastern Front gets less coverage. Our original idea was to have an academic conference where we would bring in scholars to give talks about the Eastern Front. Then we realized that conferences are really, really expensive and we began to recognize the value of a lecture series, something we could tie in with other constituent groups in the community and at the University. Honestly I’m just really excited about how it has turned out. It’s different from the initial idea, but it’s proof that intellectual ideas can grow, shift and change. Its ended up being, in my mind, a really terrific opportunity to still bring top-notch people to KU but actually get more out of their time by giving them the chance to intersect with different groups here in the community. Along with the public lectures, our speakers have meetings with undergraduate and graduate students, with veterans groups, and with a wide range of other people on campus interested in these issues. I think this is what accounts for the good turnout we’ve had at our lectures.

CREES: Tell us about the organizational process—how did you identify speakers? Were there any challenges finding experts on WWI Eastern Front history?

SCOTT: One of the things that has has been exciting for me, as someone who does not really focus on this topic in my research, has been getting to know the field and learning about all the really innovative scholarship on the First World War. It has been a lot of fun, and there has been absolutely no challenge finding people working on WWI history. There has been a real flourishing of scholarship in recent years that is re-examining the war from all sorts of perspectives, and one of these has been the perspective of everyday life. After a broad survey of the field, we decided that one of our speakers had to be Laurie Stoff. She’s an alumna of KU and one of our history department’s success stories. Her work on nursing in Russia during the Great War is truly groundbreaking. She did a great job in November as our second speaker.

WOOD: Heather Perry, our inaugural speaker—I’ve known her for a long time. She and I were in the same dissertation-writing group and attended graduate school at the same time. Her work focuses on medical advancement in Germany during the First World War, and the topic of medicine is really hot right now. It just seemed wise to include her, especially because of the tie in with disability studies and veterans. Robert Blobaum, who is our concluding speaker, was also a really natural fit for the series. He was at KU a few years ago for a Backus Lecture, and I remain very excited about his work on wartime Warsaw. With our choice of David Stone, it was a little different. We originally brought him in as an expert to help us organize [the conference], and then just one day Erik and I realized that he would be a perfect speaker for the series. After a nationwide search, he was one of the best choices, and the fact that he was right here at K-State was all the better.

SCOTT: I still remember how exciting that moment was when we realized that. And the fact that his new book is coming out with University of Kansas press made it seem even more serendipitous.

WOOD: I saw him give the first talk at the National World War I Museum’s recent symposium on “Global War: 1915,” and he really kicked that off so well. I’m just delighted that we have such great local talent.

CREES: The first lecture in this series, “Recycling the Disabled” with Heather Perry, was attended by 119 people. The second lecture, “Women’s Wartime Nursing in Russia During the Great War” with Laurie Stoff, had 90 attendees. These are phenomenal attendance numbers for any history lecture at KU, but especially during the World Series! Why all the interest in WWI history? Is it purely because of the centennial, or do you think there are themes from the Great War that resonate with today’s audiences?

WOOD: The centennial is definitely offering all of us an opportunity to revisit WWI history. But there are definitely also themes that resonate—the break up of empires, science and medicine, terrorism, the refugee crisis—these are all things that certainly resonate today. I think also the structure of the series has allowed us to engage with different groups here on campus, so the audience feels more connected and therefore more likely to come out on a typical evening to learn more.

SCOTT: There’s also a lot of teaching going on right now that engages the themes of the Great War—courses on the subject have been generating a lot of interest. The centennial has been a...
great excuse to look back, but these themes resonate because they illuminate changes that have occurred over the past one hundred years, but also call to mind some of the dilemmas we’re facing in the world today.

WOOD: Jenny Weber and I will be team-teaching HIST 334: The Great War this spring, and that’s one of the most obvious choices for engaging undergraduate students next semester. But there are also a lot of other course options that might not be explicitly WWII history classes, but have significant tie-ins to the themes of the First World War. This fall, Dale Urie taught a first-year seminar on the war and the Office of First Year Experience selected Ernest Hemingway’s A Farewell to Arms as the KU Common Book. The book was given to all freshmen and taught as the KU Common Book. The book was given to all freshmen and taught as the KU Common Book. The book was given to all freshmen and taught as the KU Common Book. The book was given to all freshmen and taught as the KU Common Book.

CREES: Why do you think the Eastern Front has been less studied? Why isn’t it as widely understood as the Western Front?

SCOTT: The WWII experience overshadows WWII in the United States, but it does so to an even greater extent in Eastern Europe. The Second World War has a sense of justice associated with it—it is often described in terms of good versus evil. In Russia, the WWII narrative was that the Soviet Union saved the world by triumphing over fascism. World War I is perceived as being a lot messier and perhaps less necessary. In Russia, the First World War is also overshadowed by the 1917 Russian Revolution and the civil war that followed—these events, for a long time, were viewed as something separate from WWII, and they were seen as more important to the country’s history. In the Soviet Union, WWII was described as the so-called “imperialist war,” and so the Soviets did little to commemorate it.

WOOD: There’s just such an enormous amount of literature and poetry that came out of the Western Front, and certainly the aftermath was well documented. There isn’t the same cultural exposure to the Eastern Front. It’s important to remember that on the Eastern Front—this is where the empires collapsed. This is where governing languages changed. When you consider the logistics of scholarship, the language factor and access to archives is a big one, especially for local scholars doing research. It’s interesting to go to a bookstore in Poland and look at the history section and see that there are multiple shelves, ceiling-to-floor, on World War II, and only a small silver of books on World War I. There just hasn’t been that much research, not by locals and not by Westerners. It’s very fertile ground for study.

SCOTT: Last summer in Moscow I witnessed a WWI reenactment, so I think there’s been a rekindling of interest at the popular level. There’s also been a recent shift in scholarship that now views the Russian Revolution as inseparable from the history of WWII, but all of this is relatively new. And certainly because there was very little American involvement in the Eastern Front means that this side of the war, at least for American audiences, is less defining than the Western Front when it comes to understanding the Great War. But I think this is starting to change as more and more scholars move in the direction of viewing the war from a more global perspective.

CREES: Tell us about your participation with the KU WWII Centennial Commemoration Committee.

WOOD: I was on the advisory board briefly for the European Studies Program and I feel like that’s where Lorie Vanchena [Director of European Studies] and I first started talking. I think the real key to success has been Lorie taking the initiative to make all this happen, to chair the committee, and to seek out people from all over campus. For me, it’s been a real delight to get to know these other members of the KU community—staff and administrators of various institutions like the Lied Center, the Dole Institute, and the Spencer Museum of Art, just to name a few. It’s been really exciting to come to committee meetings and see just how big the circle is around the table, to see how many people are interested and want to be involved.

SCOTT: I feel that same sense of joy in seeing different people from different departments and walks of educational life coming together. There’s been such a sincere willingness to collaborate, and Lorie deserves so much credit for that. It’s a considerable challenge to develop something at this level across so many different departments, and Lorie has done great work building a coalition, not just with faculty but also with staff, so that things actually happen and don’t just stay in the realm of brainstorming. For me, one of the most exciting things about being on this committee is just the realization that KU has so many resources and reasons to make a big deal out of this.

**The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914-1917**

**David R. Stone**

Professor, Strategy and Policy, U.S. Naval War College

The Russian Army’s experience of World War I on the Eastern Front has long been overshadowed, both by the much better known war in the trenches on the Western Front, and by the subsequent development of a new Soviet Army. Understanding how the Russian Army fought in World War I provides us not only with new and valuable perspective on the First World War, but also gives us a much better sense of how and why the war shaped the Soviet Army and the new Soviet state.

**Series Co-Sponsors:** KU Common Book, Big XII Faculty Fellowship Program, Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, Center for Global & International Studies, Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, Department of History, Dole Institute of Politics, European Studies Program, Hall Center for the Humanities, Humanities Program, Max Kade Center, Office of Graduate Military Programs, University Honors Program, University Press of Kansas. This program is part of the University of Kansas Centennial Commemoration of World War I, coordinated by the European Studies Program.

www.european.ku.edu/events and KUWWI.com
It really has been refreshing to see how many legitimately meaningful connections KU has to WWI. The Kansas student union and football stadium are memorials to WWI, the Spencer Museum of Art has one of the best print collections of French art from the Great War—these are just a few examples. One assumption could be that we’re just really lucky at the University of Kansas to have all these connections. But it’s also possible that the war was such a global event that most other universities could find similar meaningful connections if they were to scratch the surface a bit. It’s also worth mentioning that with the National World War I Museum so close by in Kansas City, we’re located in a really exciting part of the country where people come to discuss these ideas and research these topics. World War I is a part of our local community, both past and present.

CREES: Has participation with the committee informed your teaching? Have you developed any WWI courses or modules within current courses?

SCOTT: This semester, I’m teaching HIST 301: The Historian’s Craft, which is the History Department’s introductory methodology course for undergraduate students. I decided to focus the entire course around the theme of World War I. I’ve never taught it this way before, but the results are really promising. My students have found all sorts of resources on campus, from letters in Spencer Research Library to old issues of the UDK and the 1918 KU Yearbook. I have one student who wrote their term paper on the Armenian Genocide, another on the history of military uniforms. One even wrote a history of mud and how it affected the experience of the Great War. What’s really cool about that paper is that she was inspired by the Spencer Museum of Art’s print collection—she found an image of a French soldier stuck in the mud and turned it into a fantastic paper.

WOOD: The History Department has been offering HIST 334: The Great War for quite awhile, but until recently it was taught by one of our doctoral students. He has since graduated, and I think it was being on the KU Centennial Committee that spurred me into team-teaching the course with Jenny Weber this spring. I remember when I was in graduate school and I was taking my oral qualifying exams—my advisor asked if I were to teach a course on WWI, how I would structure it. My answer was that, if I had the choice, I’d prefer to teach a course on WWI because it sets the stage for WWII and is therefore more interesting. It probably wasn’t the most strategic answer, but it was honest. I’m really looking forward to the opportunity to immerse myself in this topic with students this semester.

CREES: Have you begun any WWI-related scholarly projects of your own? Are you advising any graduate students pursuing WWI topics?

WOOD: I thought that my second major research project would be a World War I project. As I was finishing my first book (Becoming Metropolitan: Urban Selfhood and the Making of Modern Cracow, Northwestern Illinois University Press, 2010), I went to do research on everyday life in Galicia during the First World War. But much like the Austrians, I found myself defeated in Lviv. I had a very difficult time using the archives, or even getting access to the archives, despite a great deal of help from the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe and the late Professor Tsiovkh. Unlike the combatants in the First World War, I quickly cut my losses and moved on to other topics. I’m excited to announce that Bob Blobaum and a graduate student I’m advising, Drew Burks, and I are going to work on a WWI project together. It won’t be a book-sized project, but we’re hoping to produce an article—a tangible outcome from the Big 12 Fellowship that is supporting him in coming to KU. Bob will focus on Warsaw, I’ll focus on Cracow, and Drew will focus on Lviv. The article will compare the experiences of these three cities during the First World War. I’m really excited about it and look forward to brainstorming more with these guys. Drew is already doing a really innovative history of advertising in Cracow and Lviv during the decade of 1911-1921, so obviously the Great War is a major component of his interests. His initial research findings are that advertising is remarkably resilient, that even during times of war and the rationing associated with it, people are still buying and selling things. It’ll be fascinating to work out what that really means.

CREES: Tell us about the ELOEFO speakers for the Spring 2016 semester—what is coming up?

SCOTT: The next lecture will be on Thursday, February 25th at 7pm in the Hall Center. David Stone will speak on, “The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front 1914-1917.” David has recently accepted a position at the Naval War College, so I’ll be nice to have him back in Kansas for a bit. His lecture will focus on Russia’s mobilization, and the challenges Russia, a sprawling, multiethnic empire ruled by an autocrat, had in preparing for total war. Then on Tuesday, March 29th, at 7pm in the Kansas Union’s Alderson Auditorium, West Virginia Eberly Professor, Robert Blobaum will conclude the series with his talk, “A Minor Apocalypse: Everyday Life in Warsaw During the First World War.” We hope everyone will come out and join us.

A Minor Apocalypse: Everyday Life in Warsaw during the First World War

TUES MAR 29, 2016
7:00 pm
Alderson Auditorium
Kansas Union

The vast majority of Warsaw’s Polish and Jewish residents experienced an existential crisis caused by the collapse of the local economy and the military requisitioning of basic resources, first by the Russians and then on a much larger scale by the Germans. Nearly universal shortages of growing severity and their impacts on public health and inter-communal relations—to which the fall of empires have been attributed—will be compared to shortages documented for cities such as Berlin and Vienna, thus situating Warsaw’s wartime experience within a larger European context.

Professor Blobaum’s visit to KU is supported by the Big XII Faculty Fellowship Program.

Series Co-Sponsors: KU Common Book, Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, Center for Global & International Studies, Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, Department of History, Dole Institute of Politics, European Studies Program, Hall Center for the Humanities, Humanities Program, Max Kade Center, Office of Graduate Military Programs, University Honors Program, University Press of Kansas. This program is part of the University of Kansas Centennial Commemoration of World War I, coordinated by the European Studies Program.

www.european.ku.edu/events
KUWWI.com

SPRING 2016 5
The CREES community and the Slavic Department were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Miriana I. Jerkovich. Mrs. Jerkovich, a native of Croatia, was the widow of the late Professor George C. Jerkovich—the first PhD of the KU Slavic Department—and, together with her family, a generous supporter of our South-Slavic program. Several generations of BCS students have been grateful beneficiaries of their generosity, having received books and scholarships for the study of the former Yugoslavia from the George C. Jerkovich Scholarship Fund.

Mrs. Jerkovich’s support for our BCS program went well beyond the generosity of the Jerkovich fund. After her husband’s passing, she maintained the connection to our BCS students and faculty through her five grandchildren who have studied BCS with us—a fact that made her, understandably, very proud. The students who were with us a decade ago, when she still lived in Lawrence, will cherish the memory of her visits at our BCS conversation table and how thrilled she was that they were able to converse with her in her native language.

Many will also remember the baskets of little red packets filled with dried and fresh fruit, nuts, and candy that she several times sent to all of our BCS classes on Saint Nicholas Day. It gave us a perfect opportunity to develop a learning unit about this Croatian holiday tradition, which became part of our regular curriculum every December. The unit has provided not only a development of language and cultural knowledge, but also a lesson in generosity and kindness, as students learn how it came about. We hope to pass these qualities that Mrs. Jerkovich possessed in such abundance, to many future generations of students, honoring her memory.

LENIN BANNER DONATED

Ken Nevius, KU Alumnus and former director of Financial Applications & Business Processes at Black & Veatch, has donated a Soviet banner to CREES.

The banner, a gift from a Russian friend, has Vladimir Lenin on one side (with recognition of success in “socialist competition”), and all the emblems of the Soviet Republics on the reverse. The banner can be seen in the display case just outside the CREES office, on the third floor of Bailey Hall.

If you are interested in using it for a class or function, write to us at crees@ku.edu.
FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE KINO

SIX DEGREES OF CELEBRATION

January 22, 2016 | 7PM | 318 Bailey

IN RUSSIAN W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES

One of the biggest Russian hits in years, this epic comedy shows how the largest country on the planet can come together on New Year’s.

FILM WILL BE INTRODUCED BY:
Professor David McVey
Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures
School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

FEBRUARY 2016

THE LIGHT THIEF

February 19, 2016 | 7PM | 318 Bailey

IN RUSSIAN W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In this colorful modern-day parallel of good and evil, a humble village electrician devotes his compassion and ingenuity to disturbing his neighbors in a wind-swept valley of the Urals. His dream to supply wind-generated electricity to the whole valley comes up against the despotism of the KGB and the will of solidaristic ordinariness amid the injustices and hardships of a chaotic world.

FILM WILL BE INTRODUCED BY:
Bar Retford
Associate Director
Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies

MARCH 25, 2016 | 7PM | 318 Bailey

SIBERIAN EXILE

February 19, 2016 | 7PM | 318 Bailey

IN POLISH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Mass deportations to Siberia of the 1940s as seen through eyes of a young boy called Staszek Dolina. His family members are among the 2 million Polish citizens, who were sent to the cruel Siberian work camps.

FILM WILL BE INTRODUCED BY:
Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova
Professor, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures
School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

SPRING 2016
SPRING 2016 CREES NEWSLETTER

**Fall 2015 Palij Lecture with Sophia Andrukhovych**

Award winning Ukrainian author and translator, Sophia Andrukhovych spoke to a KU audience on December 7th. She read excerpts from her novel *Felix Austria* (2014) which was awarded the BBC Ukrainian Book of the Year prize in 2015. In that novel, Andrukhovych introduces the reader to the history of her hometown and uses the example of one unusual family to explore and subvert the Ukrainian myth of “Austrian happiness.”

Palij lectures are made possible by the Palij Family Fund, which supports lecturers specializing in Ukrainian studies and KU students specializing in Ukraine. CREES offers one of the leading programs in Ukrainian studies in the U.S. It includes all levels of Ukrainian language study, as well as courses in Ukrainian history, politics, and culture.

**Fall 2015 Semester Snap**

**LGBTQ Issues in Poland**

**W/ UMKC Visiting Professor Hubert Izenicki**

**Friday 10/23**

*JWB Lecture*: 11AM in 318 Bailey

*Technical Professor Hubert Izenicki* will share his research on LGBTQ issues both past and present in his native country of Poland.

*REES Pizza Party*: 12PM in 318 Bailey

Students interested in majoring or minoring in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (REES) are invited to stay for a pizza party directly after the lecture.

*JWB* is open to all KU students interested in international & area studies. @KUJWBCub

**South Asia Outreach**

**Tabling w/ JWB Club**

Jayhawks Without Borders International Studies Club

CREES Outreach Coordinator Adrienne Landry and GIST Director Mike Wuthrich advised Jayhawks Without Borders International Studies Club through another successful semester. The club now has 107 student members! During the fall, they held 15 events that were attended by 390 students, educators and community members. One of the most popular JWB meetings of the year was the October 23rd lecture on LGBTQ Issues in Poland by visiting UMKC professor Hubert Izenicki. Spring 2016, JWB club will continue to meet every Friday at 11am in 318 Bailey.

**Karen Dawisha**

5-6 November 2015

"Putin’s Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?" with Karen Dawisha

Dr. Karen Dawisha, author of the acclaimed New York Times Bestseller: “Putin’s Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?” visited the KU campus giving a public lecture on Nov 5th and participating in the Hall Center’s Conflict & International Change Seminar on Nov 6th. Dawisha is awarded for her book by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Her book explores the concept of kleptocracy, a type of government where the governing authority is simply a means to accumulate power and wealth for its leaders.
the Walter E. Havighurst Professor of Political Science at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and the director of its Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies. Her newest book, which describes how Putin rose to power and the origins of his regime, has earned an Honorable Mention for the Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize from the Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, and has been featured prominently in The New York Times, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, and Foreign Affairs.

Putin’s Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia? details the rise of Vladimir Putin in the context of linkages between the KGB, business and organized crime, and caused a major stir even before its publication. The original publisher, Cambridge University Press, declined to publish the manuscript, arguing that its subject was too controversial and would leave the company open to charges of libel. While Simon and Schuster did agree to publish the book, fear of lawsuits still prevent it from being sold in the United Kingdom.

Dawisha graduated with honors in Russian and Political Science from the University of Lancaster in England and received her Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. Before teaching at Miami University, she served as a special advisor to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British House of Commons. She later served as a member of the Policy Planning Staff for the U.S. Department of State.

SHOTS

The 2015 CREES Faculty Service Award was awarded to History Professor Erik Scott at the CREES Fall Mixer on September 11th. Prof. Scott was thanked for his service on numerous committees and for his assistance in grant writing. He was also noted for his consultation on numerous outreach projects, including the very successful “Race to Space: Science Saturday” held Spring 2015 and for spearheading this year’s Everyday Lives on the Eastern Front Lecture Series with Nathan Wood, a recipient of the CREES Faculty Service Award in 2010.
WILLIAM ALAN WHITE &
THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

On September 1, 2015, Norman Saul (History Emeritus) described the famed Kansas editor and publisher’s (Emporia Gazette) interest in Russia that began with conversations with Samuel Harper of the University of Chicago on board ship in 1917, his subsequent sponsorship of Harper’s speaking tour on the Russian Revolution which included the University of Kansas in 1918, and White’s appointment to the Prinkipo Conference in 1919 by President Wilson. After his tour of Russia in 1933, White was a strong supporter of recognition of the Soviet Union and then chaired the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies.

A CITY OF SHADOWS: THE PETERSBURG MYTH
IN THE WORK OF MSTISLAV DOBUZHINSKY

On September 29, 2015, KU Slavic Department PhD candidate Megan Luttrell gave a brownbag lecture on the work of Russian Symbolist painter Mstislav Dobuzhinsky. She discussed how his paintings expand upon a common theme in Russian culture: the myth of St. Petersburg. St. Petersburg is infamous for its supernatural, demonic, and unnatural elements. Founded by Peter the Great as a “window to the West” it is often seen as the antithesis of traditional Russia. Analyzing both thematic and stylistic elements of Dobuzhinsky’s paintings and lithographs, Ms. Luttrell showed how his work continues the city’s narrative seen in works by Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, and Bely.

THE CLANDESTINE BETRAYALS
OF ETACRATIC MASCULINITY

On September 8, 2015, David McVey (KU Slavic Department Professor) spoke on the record-breaking Russian television series Homeland (2015). Directed by Russian cinema fixture Pavel Lungin, Homeland is a remake of the Showtime series of the same name. Although Lungin’s politics of late, as well as the series, have been criticized as overly supportive of the current political regime, Homeland’s protagonist Colonel Bragin can, in fact, be viewed to challenge the tradition of state-prescribed gender and religious identity.
Spring 2016 LECTURE SERIES

For over 30 years, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series has been an informal forum for KU and the surrounding community to discuss general topics related to Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

From the arts and literature to political science and current events, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series continues to educate and inform all those interested in this diverse and dynamic area of the world.

318 BAILEY HALL
TUESDAYS
12:00 PM (NOON)
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
GAP CREDIT AVAILABLE

JANUARY 26
Forging the Nation: National Discourse of Ethnic Minorities in Poland
Krzysztof Borowski, Slavic Languages & Literatures

FEBRUARY 2
Forging the Nation: National Discourse of Ethnic Minorities in Poland
Krzysztof Borowski, Slavic Languages & Literatures

FEBRUARY 9
Central Asian Migration to Russia: Gender and Vulnerabilities
Victor Agadjanian, KU Foundational Professor

FEBRUARY 16
On the Ground in Russia & Ukraine
Paul Sonne, Wall Street Journal

FEBRUARY 23
Russia’s Troublesome Echo: One Radio Station’s Survival Story
Ray Finch, FMSO, KU CREES

MARCH 1
Citizenship Capital: A Critical Examination of Citizenship, Ethnicity & Political Power among Estonian Russian-speakers
David Trimbach, Geography

MARCH 8
Уроки свободы – Lessons of Freedom: A Documentary on Attitudes about Euromaidan
Alina Bashirova, REES MA
**INCOMING REES MA STUDENT**

Paul Aldaya is originally from Wenatchee, WA and is married with three children (one more on the way). He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2005 and has been serving in the Army since then. He spent the last year in Kyiv, Ukraine, where he worked with DTRA and the Office of Defense Cooperation. Through the REES MA program, Paul plans to deepen his understanding of the political and societal dynamics of Eastern Europe to more effectively work with our international partners in the region.

**NORMAN SAUL TRAVEL RECIPIENTS**

Two awards were issued for participation in the ASEEES annual convention in November 2015, which took place in Philadelphia.

**Becky Stakun (SSL)** presented a paper titled “Transcendent Nothingness: Incorporality in Egor Radov’s Zmeesos.”

**Bob Jameson (History)** presented a paper titled “Stories and Smokestacks: The Effect of Socialism on Central European Urban Narratives, 1800-2000.”

Additionally, three awards were issued for participation in the AATSEEL annual convention in January 2016, in Austin, TX.

**Luke Franklin (SSL)**, presented a paper titled “‘This is How Literature is Made’: Tyranny and Aesthetics in Nabokov and Bolaño.”

**Amy Lauters (SSL)**, presented a paper titled “From Text to Image: Petr Boklevskii’s Portraits in Gogol’s Portraits.”

**Megan Luttrell (SSL)**, presented at the forum titled “Using Mezhdu nami: Benefits, Challenges, Outcomes.”
Where: Carnegie Building Downtown
9th & Vermont | Lawrence, KS

When: Sunday, March 6th, 2016 | 4:30-7:30pm

CREES SPRING FESTIVAL

POTLUCK!!! Bring your favorite regional dish to share!

FREE EVENT

Everyone Welcome

KU CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES | CREES.KU.EDU
All University of Kansas students actively pursuing interests in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies in any KU academic program are eligible to submit an essay of approximately 2,000 words on any topic dealing with the region.

The essay should be a “think piece,” not a formal research paper. It should explore a key issue in any discipline relevant to the region. For example, students might explore the causes and consequences of recent political changes in the region, discuss the implications of the post-imperial order for national languages and literatures, the role of religion today, or compose an essay on another topic. Students may rework papers from KU classes, but submissions must be reformatted to meet the competition criteria (2,000 words, 12-pt font, double-spaced). See examples of previous winners on the CREES website.

**Undergraduate Award:**
$250 cash prize

**Graduate Award:**
$500 cash prize & $75 of books

All essays must be 12-pt font, double-spaced.

Submit an anonymous version of the essay to the CREES office or email to crees@ku.edu (subject header: “LastName Laird Essay”). Please include whether it is a graduate or undergraduate essay.

Winners may be invited to present their papers at the final CREES Brownbag of the academic year and may have their papers posted on the CREES website.

If you have questions regarding the topic or submission, please contact:

Vitaly Chernetsky
CREES Director
vchernetsky@ku.edu

**DEADLINE**
**MARCH 28, 2016**

The Laird Essay Competition is supported by the Professor Roy D. and Betty Laird Endowment
CREES SPRING DONATION DRIVE & BOOK GIVEAWAY

FEATURING ACADEMIC BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARIES OF:
EMERITUS HISTORY PROFESSOR NORMAN SAUL
ESTATE OF PROFESSOR ALEXANDER TSIOVKH
PROFESSOR DAVID STONE

WILL YOU ACTUALLY BE PURCHASING BOOKS?
Of course not! That’s not allowed. The books will be available in 318 Bailey every Tuesday 11:30-1:30 before and after the CREES Brownbag. Students, Faculty and CREES community members are free to grab a book or two to take home.

HOW DO YOU DONATE?
If you would like to make a donation to CREES, we will provide a computer where you can make an online donation for however much you like. Or you can use your smart phone or tablet. You can even specifically designate your donation to support the Saul Travel Fund or Backus Fund, if that’s your preference.

CREES SPRING DONATION DRIVE & BOOK GIVEAWAY

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KU Political Science

ROGER KANGAS
Center for Strategic Studies

APRIL 15, 2016
Alderson Auditorium
Kansas Union
2:00-6:00pm
The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (CREES) has been a national leader for the study of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since 1959.

The Center is a degree-granting program within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas.

Many of our activities are enhanced through private donations to the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

Special events, guest lecturers, scholarships and study abroad opportunities are just some of the ways your donation can help us ensure our Center’s vitality.

We hope that you will contribute generously to strengthen the Center’s programs by sending your gift today.

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CREES GENERAL FUND

The CREES General Fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community. Among its dedicated sponsors are the Oswald P. Backus Memorial Fund for visiting lecturers in Polish Studies, the Bramlage Family Foundation Fund, which provides scholarships to KU REES MA students who have strong connections to the state of Kansas, and the Norman E. Saul Fund. Named after KU History Emeritus Professor Norman E. Saul, the Saul fund supports REES students with travel grants to collections or to REES-related conferences for professional development.

PALIJ FAMILY FUND

The Palij Family Fund supports visiting lecturers specializing in Ukrainian studies. The fund also supports the Ukrainian Studies Prize for an outstanding student specializing in Ukrainian.

GEORGE C. JERKOVICH FUND

The mission of the Jerkovich Fund is twofold: 1) to support the development of KU’s South Slavic library collection; 2) to provide awards to outstanding students who have demonstrated an interest in the study of Croatian or Serbian history, literature, folklore, or culture.

ROY & BETTY LAIRD FUND

This fund is named after the late Professor Roy D. Laird, a longtime member of the Russian and East European Studies (REES) and Political Science faculties, and Ms. Betty Laird, whose continued support of CREES activities includes sponsoring the annual Roy & Betty Laird Essay Contest. Monies donated to support this fund will primarily contribute to the advancement of Russian Studies.

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The Jarosewycz Family Fund provides scholarships for graduate students who have shown commitment and scholarly interest in Ukraine and Ukrainian Studies.

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The fund is named after the late Professor Alexander Tsiovkh, a longtime professor of Ukrainian Studies at University of Kansas. Monies donated to this fund are used to support students studying Ukrainian Area Studies in the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) at KU.

FOR ONLINE DONATIONS

A secure online donation can be made to CREES via the KU Endowment website at: crees.ku.edu/give-crees

FOR DONATIONS BY MAIL

If you would like to make a donation by check or money order, please make your check payable to KU CREES and mail your donation to:

Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies
Bailey Hall, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 320
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574

THANK YOU