FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is a true pleasure to greet you as the new Director of CREES. I would like to thank Erik Herron for his three years of fine service and, particularly, for engineering the current Title VI grant. I thank Bill Comer for serving as Acting Director 2007-2008 and for guiding CREES through a productive and eventful year.

We say good-bye to two of our own, Paul D’Anieri, who has become Dean at the University of Florida, and Kate Weaver, who has left for the University of Texas. We wish them well in their new posts. We welcome two new colleagues to campus, Renee Perelmuter in Yiddish and Abbas Karakaya in Turkish.

As we look forward to the coming academic year, we anticipate a program full of interesting speakers and events. The Friday Night at Kino series will start with a four-week showing of the Russian TV movie of Bulgakov’s Master and Margarita. On November 8, CREES will co-host with the Center for East Asian Studies and the Center for Economic Education the teachers’ workshop on “Learning to Negotiate the Peace: International Trade in the 21st Century.” In conjunction with CEAS and the Kansas African Studies Center during Spring Semester CREES is planning a rich series of events devoted to the theme of “Revolution.” More announcements to come.

An exciting new opportunity for our graduate students in all of the departments participating in REES is Erik Herron’s working paper series, “Emerging Perspectives.” We are partnering in this venture with the Universities of Wisconsin and Texas. Erik has agreed to be the editor for “Emerging Perspectives,” and the series will be housed on the KU CREES web site.

With very best wishes for a happy and productive year,

Sincerely,

Edith W. Clowes

Professor Clowes congratulates LHS Senior Rachel Van Horn on her success at Kansas State History Day. Rachel won second place for her exhibit, “Prague Spring 1968: Conflict through a Failure to Compromise,” now on view in 318 Bailey.

A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE
AN INTERVIEW WITH LESLIE DIENES

B.A., Geography and History, McGill University, 1963
M.A., Geography, University of British Columbia, 1965
Ph.D., Geography, University of Chicago, 1968
Assistant professor of Geography, 1968-1972
Associate professor of Geography, 1972-1979
Professor of Geography, 1979
Retired in 2006

In the same year (1968) that KU began granting inter-disciplinary M.A degrees in what has become known as Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, Professor Leslie Dienes began his illustrious career at KU. In many ways Professor Dienes helped to place CRES on the national and international map. His geography courses dealing with Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and energy issues were among the most popular courses taken by REES MA students. We thought it would be interesting to talk with Professor Dienes on some of the insights he gained from 40 years of teaching at KU.

MAJOR WORKS BY LESLIE DIENES:

* Locational Factors and Locational Developments in the Soviet Chemical Industry, 1969
* Soviet Asia: Economic Development and National Policy Choices, 1987
* Energy and Economic Reform in the Former Soviet Union (with Istvan Dobozi and Marian Radetzki), 1994

1. What are the most profound changes you have seen within the university in your nearly 40 years of teaching Geography at KU?

The university has certainly grown much larger and now offers many more courses and programs. Class size has also increased for many courses. These large classes can be a challenge to teach, both logistically and administratively. For instance, I have taught introductory geography courses with over a hundred students, and it is difficult to keep all the paperwork in order. It is also a challenge to find the right balance. Does the instructor try to teach to the middle of the class, and if so, how does he/she prevent losing the interest of those extra-bright or the slower students? An even greater challenge, perhaps, is the wide disparity among the students, from freshmen to seniors. In my Human Geography Course two thirds of the students were freshmen and sophomores, one third, throughout the years, juniors and seniors. What level do you target most consistently and how do you move successfully between the freshmen and junior-senior levels in your explanations and examples? These large classes may also have a negative effect on the individual student’s desire to excel. Prior to retiring, I noticed a greater number of students who were satisfied with doing just the bare minimum to pass. On the faculty side today, I see much greater emphasis (pressure) on faculty not only keep up a rigorous schedule of teaching and publishing, but now also to be adept at competing for external sources of funding.

2. Do you have any memorable teaching moments, something funny or touching?

Yes, there have been a number of memorable moments (mostly favorable) throughout my teaching career. I continue to correspond with some of my former students, some of whom have become quite successful. I was fortunate to have developed a series of courses that helped me weather the changing interests in this region. Besides teaching courses that dealt with the specific geography of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, I developed a course dealing with energy issues. As interest might lag in one area, I could rely on the other. Besides the joy in seeing students learning about this region, I formed a number of solid friendships that have endured for years.

3. In the early summer of 2008, as the price of oil approaches $150 a barrel, would you be willing to conjecture how these price increases will influence Russia’s political, economic and social development? Other countries in the region?

Let’s look at the facts. With all of this money pouring into the Kremlin coffers, is the Russian state becoming more democratic, transparent and less corrupt? Hardly. Russia will continue to grow quite rapidly (economically, at least) for the short term. The long term prognosis, however, is not so good. Unless there is massive capital investment to repair the crumbling infrastructure—everything from schools to roads to hospitals—the country’s future remains doubtful. With its vast energy reserves (though there is no agreement on just how much oil and gas can still be extracted) Russia will remain a key actor in the region. Just how influential is a matter of debate. For instance, the demographics point in a negative direction.

As I’ve often said, what we are seeing today might be called an “economic archipelago,” where the majority of the wealth is concentrated in a relatively small number of cities and regions. Wealth is becoming increasingly concentrated in the larger cities (and those connected with natural resource extraction), while people in the countryside and the majority of other regions remain impoverished. The huge wealth influx is damaging domestic industries (why worry about making decent Russian cars or TVs when they can be imported?), inflation is growing, and upwards of 40% of food now has to be imported. There’s something of a myth that says that under strong leadership, Russia might be able to avoid or even drain the swamp of corruption that has engulfed the country. With Russia’s history and cultural background, I just don’t see this happening.
4. You titled one of your last published papers with something about a “philosopher’s stone or fool’s gold.” Has your assessment changed since the time this paper was published?

The thesis of the paper was twofold: one, to demonstrate that the “one-size fits all” belief that capitalism and free markets will combine with democratic forms of government. Two, that this package can be grafted on to societies or cultures with limited or no experience in these practices is ludicrous. Unfortunately, experience has shown that the economic or political recipe that appears elegant in theory will often not work as well in reality. This article attempts to disprove the notion that the tremendous resource wealth now flooding into Russia will necessarily lead the country toward greater political and economic reform. Some political scientists and economists believe in something like the “trickle-down” theory of reform, which posits that those at the top (with their newfound wealth and power) will begin to create a law-based state to protect their wealth. While there has been considerable rhetoric in this regard, the facts on the ground appear to suggest that corruption and the abuse of political power are as bad as ever (at least in Russia, and in most other post-Soviet states).

5. All the pundits proclaim that the world has changed since 1989 or 1991. Is there still a cogent reason for KU to maintain regional/ geographical expertise in the area known as Eurasia?

Well, you just need to look at a map to understand where the bulk of fossil fuel reserves are located to see that this region will remain a vitally important region for the foreseeable future. Gas and oil reserves aside, this region merits continued study for its cultural, historical and geographical background.

6. Is there any great lesson that you as a geographer, can draw from your experience in studying this region for more than half a century?

Have you heard of the term longue durée used by Fernand Braudel? He used it to describe his approach to the study of history, which gave priority to long-term historical structures over events. In the same vein, despite the great advances in technology, the physical constraints of geography (distance, terrain etc.) tend to take priority over other factors. Consider, for example, the notion of getting natural resources out of the eastern half of Russia. Look at the distances involved. A city like Irkutsk is farther from Vladivostok than it is from Perm. Look at the constraints of physical geography. These incredible distances and physical constraints make any talk of a Pacific orientation pretty much just a pipe dream. The oil pipeline under construction is badly delayed and won’t be completed for several years.

Similarly, the overall population distribution changes very slowly. The population map is a remarkable expression of people’s long term cumulative preferences and their conscious and unconscious appraisal of geographic potential.

7. Have you read anything in the past year that might qualify as a “great” book, or one that at least deserves greater attention?

Yes, let me name just three or four that come quickly to mind, and that I think capture many of the challenges this country (the United States) and the world are now facing. The first is The Shock Doctrine by Naomi Kline. It spells out many of the fallacies behind the misguided notion that American capitalism and our version of democratic governance are the sole solutions to the world’s ills, and that other cultures can be “shocked” into adopting them. As I mentioned earlier, what has worked (and also what hasn’t worked) in America should not be blindly applied to countries and peoples from other cultures. Perhaps because of their experience under Chairman Mao, today for instance, the Chinese, don’t agree with “shocking” the political or economic system, but prefer rather a slow, deliberate, evolutionary approach toward change. This slow-go approach places greater emphasis on cultural and historical factors.

The second one would be American Theocracy by Kevin Phillips, where he describes the dangerous trinity (cheap oil, fundamentalist belief, and massive debt) that have combined to bring the US to its present predicament. While the title of this book is somewhat of an exaggeration, I believe that the author has many valid points and it ought to serve as a wake-up call for Americans to change some of their wasteful habits.

The final books are by Chalmers Johnson: Nemesis and The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic. You can guess from the titles what these books are about. In both of these books, the author lays out a convincing argument as to the dangers behind the growing militarization of American foreign policy. Again, when I arrived in this country 40 years ago (as a refugee after the Hungarian revolution I spent the first nine years in Canada), I was firmly considered to be somewhat right of center on the political spectrum. As my political views haven’t changed much during the same time period, you can see how far the country has moved to the right if I’m now considered to be left of center.

8. What advice would you give to the young student who dreams of becoming an academic or a geographer?

First, know that the academic life involves a lot of hard work. There are constant pressures and the “work” is never really done. In the Geography Department there is a greater push toward pragmatic applications of the discipline (i.e. remote sensing, GIS) that has both positive and negative connotations. It’s great when we have to go to the legislature and demonstrate that our teaching is translating into jobs and economic well-being, but this same pragmatism can result in a narrower approach toward the subject. Regardless, I think that it is a great profession and would encourage any student to pursue a career in geography.

Interview with Prof. Dienes by Ray Finch, 2008.
In early February 2008, CREES hosted Steven Pifer, (former Ambassador to Ukraine and Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia) for a series of talks and presentations. Ambassador Pifer not only delivered the 2008 Palij lecture (“Ukraine: Sixteen Years of Independence”), but also gave an intriguing brown-bag lecture where he explained the high-level mediation efforts during Ukraine’s 2004 Orange Revolution (“The Role of European Mediators during the Orange Revolution”). In both of these talks Ambassador Pifer provided expert analysis of the challenges currently confronting Ukraine and suggestions for how the country can best move toward greater European integration. While there remain numerous obstacles for this young democracy, Ambassador Pifer was quite optimistic regarding the future of Ukraine. Ambassador Pifer spoke with Mariya Omelicheva’s Eurasian Security class and then met with REES MA students where he talked about careers with the U.S. State Department. For a brief excerpt from both his brownbag presentation and Palij lecture, see: http://www.crees.ku.edu/events/Videos_Spring2008.shtml.

SHARE YOUR RESEARCH AT A REES BROWN BAG!
Please contact Ray Finch, Assistant to the Director (CREES):
Phone: (785) 864-4248
E-mail: rayfin3@ku.edu

Dr. William Comer (CREES Director) welcomed a group of visiting academics from Belarus during a lunch forum at the Kansas Union on 22 January 2008.
SAU VEN 2008 BROWN BAGS

(Below) On 6 May 2008, Brett Chloupek, Ph.D. Candidate, Geography was recognized as the 2008 recipient of Laird Essay contest. The title of his winning essay and presentation was titled: “Slovakia’s Gypsies: Centuries of Problems, Few New Solutions.” Mrs. Betty Laird (left), along with CREES Director, William Comer present him with his plaque and award.


Dr. Mariya Omelicheva, Political Science, KU, gave an intriguing brownbag on 4 March 2008 that was titled: “Russia’s Counterterrorism Policy: Variations on an Imperial Theme.”

LIVING AND STUDYING AT KU

The first image that comes to mind is Memorial Stadium, as our apartment on Missouri Street was located less than 100 meters from the front of the stadium. How well we remember the stadium, especially the night when the KU basketball team won the national championship! During that night we could hardly sleep because students were celebrating with such joy. What a great basketball season! All the people in Lawrence were so proud of their team, and even though we come from Ukraine, we were proud of being a part of the KU community.

The second vivid memory associated with the university is the library. It was amazing for me because of its accessibility and holdings. It was so easy to use and obtain information! The situation with libraries is different in Ukraine (and many other countries in Eastern Europe) where students have to stand in line for some time before they can borrow a limited number of books. I just adored Watson Library on campus, and I spent so many hours there. You know a good library is a dream for scholars and researchers.

Another huge advantage for students and scholars in the USA is the Internet which is absolutely free (at least on campus). In Ukraine professors and students must pay for it.

The teaching facilities at KU were equally impressive. Professors in KU have classrooms with computers and projectors that allow for a much greater variety in teaching methods. Moreover, most instructors have their own offices where they can prepare for class. In countries like Ukraine, teachers have to share facilities in something like a teachers’ lounge, where up to 10 teachers work in one room, where they prepare for lectures, and meet with students.

Another big difference between life in Lawrence and in Ukraine concerns the automobile. First, if you don’t have a car in the U.S., your transportation options are quite limited. While the city of Lawrence and KU have decent public transportation, the same can’t be said for Kansas or the wider U.S. On the positive side, auto drivers in Lawrence are much more polite and patient. They respect pedestrians. In Ukraine, drivers are crazy, and, when you visit Ukraine, be extra cautious around automobile traffic. Don’t try to cross in front of an oncoming car; they won’t stop!

All in all, we had a great visit and hope that someday we can return to Lawrence and KU.

Anatoliy Khudoloy and his wife Larissa lived and studied at KU from November 2007 to May 2008. Anatoliy is an Associate Professor at the Ostroh Academy, Ukraine.
Collaborating with representatives from Fort Leavenworth and the Jamestown Foundation, this past semester CREES hosted a Eurasian Security Conference and Panel Discussion, titled “Russian Foreign Policy in the Near Abroad.” The general thrust of the presentations addressed the security challenges for the United States in the area commonly referred to as the former Soviet Union (FSU). This forum allowed analytical experts from Washington and Fort Leavenworth to share their insights on this important topic with both KU academics and students. One major focus of the symposium was the evolving U.S.-Russian relationship, particularly with regard to energy. While Americans have devoted attention to Afghanistan and Iraq for the past six years, there have been a number of developments within the FSU that will influence political, economic, and military policies of the United States and NATO countries in the foreseeable future. Chief among these considerations is a resurgent Russia. Strengthened by the enormous profits from fossil fuel exports, Russia is again beginning to make its presence felt both within the region known as the “near abroad” and on the global stage.

The panel discussion specifically examined how Russia is using its newfound power to exacerbate those unresolved conflicts that developed after the collapse of the USSR (Transdneister, South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh). The discussion also addressed the challenges involved with the possible inclusion of Ukraine and Georgia in an enlarged NATO alliance. There was considerable debate about the role Russia might play both in resolving these conflicts and its response toward an even larger NATO.

Dr. William Comer, Acting Director of CREES, introduced each of the speakers and acted as moderator for the discussion.

Vladimir Socor, a Senior Fellow in the Eurasia Program at the Jamestown Foundation, spoke about the geopolitical fallout the West is bound to feel after recognizing the independence of Kosovo and the impact that this will have upon the territorial conflicts in Russian/Eurasian region.

Dr. Jacob Kipp, Deputy Director, School of Advanced Military Studies, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, talked on the complexity of these security issues and their possible impact both in the West and in Russia, China, and the countries of Central Asia.

Colonel (ret.) Tom Wilhelm, a University of Kansas REES MA graduate and Director of the Foreign Military Studies Office, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, shared some of his personal experiences in working with Russian military personnel in helping to resolve these frozen conflicts.

Dr. Shannon O’Lear, Professor of Geography, University of Kansas, commented on issues relating to human security in Eurasia and the significance of issues of human rights within traditional security studies.

Dr. Mariya Omelicheva, Professor of Political Science, University of Kansas, discussed the differences and similarities between the conflicts in the Caucasus region.

Glen Howard, a University of Kansas REES MA graduate and President of the Jamestown Foundation, provided considerable insight into the geographic and energy interests that underlie some of the conflicts discussed.

For a more detailed synopsis of the speakers’ comments and video footage from the panel, please see: http://www.crees.ku.edu/events/EurasianSecurity.shtml

FACULTY NEWS


http://chronicle.com/weekly/v54/i27/27b02101.htm

Professor Marc L. Greenberg (Slavic Languages & Literatures) participated in the 16th biennial Balkan and South Slavic Conference, sponsored by the University of Calgary, which was held in Banff, Alberta, 1—4 May 2008. His paper “Prekmurje Grammar as a Source of Slavic Comparative Material” was included in a panel on dialectology. More than 40 scholars attended the conference, coming from Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Macedonia, Russian, Serbia, Slovenia, and the U.S. Also presenting was Prof. Marko Snoj, Director of the Fran Ramović Slovene Language Institute, Scientific Research Center, Slovenian Academy of Arts & Sciences, Ljubljana, whose paper “Slovene Place Names with the Suffix -ina: Some Difficult Cases” was part of the plenary panel. On 5 May in Lawrence he gave the paper “Slovene Place Names from an Etymological Perspective” in the Linguistics Colloquy Series, where he was a guest of the KU Slavic and Linguistics Departments. Prof. Snoj is co-editor (with Prof. Greenberg) of the journal *Slovenski jezik/Slovene Linguistic Studies*, which celebrated its 10th anniversary issue in summer 2007 and will also publish Slovene-linguistics papers from the Calgary conference in its 2009 volume.

Professor Greenberg was interviewed by Aleksander Colnik for a one-hour program of “The Evening Guest” (Vecerni gost) by the national television station of Slovenia, RTV Slovenija, in July. The Sunday evening program is scheduled to air 14 September 2008. The show features figures prominent in culture and academia.

Here’s a link to some visuals:

http://picasaweb.google.com/grinbelblauVeErniGost?authkey=8ZWCMCRupQY

(Left to right) Marko and Alenka Snoj, Marc L. Greenberg, Joseph Schallert (University of Toronto) at Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, 3 May 2008.

Professor Norman Saul, History, will publish the *Historical Dictionary of Russian/Soviet-American Relations* in October, 2008 (Scarecrow Press--Roman and Littlefield), and he will be participating in a conference on Americans and Russian Art, 1900-1940, at Dartmouth.

Professor Ron Francisco, Political Science, submitted an article titled, “Dynamics of Conflict,” to Springer Verlag, which will be published in 2008 or 2009.

Professor Mehrangiz Najafizadeh served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Azerbaijan during Summer 2008. As part of her activities, she conducted workshops on curriculum development, participated in an international conference on gender, and consulted with faculty from several universities. In addition, Mehrangiz is continuing her ongoing research on gender issues, war refugees, and NGOs in Azerbaijan.

Professors Shannon O’Lear and Mariya Y. Omelicheva are team-teaching a new inter-disciplinary course titled, “Eurasian Security and Geopolitics” this Fall.

Professor Omelicheva went to the first regional conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) held in the Issyk Kul area in Kyrgyzstan and conducted a series of interviews in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in August.

**YOU CAN HELP CREES WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT**

Many of our activities are enhanced through private donations to the **Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies**. Special events, renowned lecturers, scholarships and study abroad opportunities are just some of the ways your donations can help us to maintain our Center’s vibrancy. We hope that you will contribute generously to strengthen the Center’s programs by sending your gift today.

Please feel welcome to contact us at 785-864-4248.

Please obtain a form at:

http://www.crees.ku.edu/funding/donors/Support$$4.doc

and return with your check to CREES or contact us directly at 785-864-4248.

www.crees.ku.edu/funding/Donor.shtml
CREES SAYS GOODBYE TO DR. TANERI

Before her return to Turkey, Dr. Mubeccel Taneri presented the Center with two farewell gifts, a small bronze vase with stand and a glass stone to ward off evil spirits, called a Boncuk. Dr. Taneri taught Turkish language courses at KU from 2004 to 2008 and will be sorely missed.

Dear CREES Faculty and Staff,

Thank you very much for your warm welcome and assistance during the past three years of teaching Turkish at KU. I truly enjoyed it, and much to my astonishment, learned a lot about the Turkish language in the process. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I hope and pray that this unique CREES program continues to flourish and wish you only the best in the future.

Gratefully,

Mubeccel Taneri

May 20, 2008

CREES WELCOMES NEW TURKISH INSTRUCTOR

Beginning in the Fall 2008 semester, Mr. Abbas Karakaya will be teaching Turkish language courses at KU. Mr. Karakaya has two MA degrees, one in modern Turkish literature from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State University and the other in Central Eurasia Studies from Indiana University. He is now ABD in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University, with a major in Turkish language and literature and minors in folklore and comparative literature. Mr. Karakaya has extensive teaching experience and will be a great addition to the CREES faculty.

OUTREACH EVENTS

In February 2008 a team of outreach personnel from KU area studies centers and Lawrence and Topeka educators attended the International Education Programs Service (IEPS) international education forum “Fostering Connection, Collaboration, and Creative Ideas” in Washington DC. The International Education Programs Service does planning, policy development, and grant management for the international education programs at the U.S. Dept. of Education. Two of the main topics of the forum focused on a mission to prepare competent global citizens by advancing the concept of teaching “languages across the curriculum” and on an effective university-school partnership in order to bring international focus to curriculum development.
An integral part of the mission for the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies is to expose the wider KU community to some of the rich cultural traditions from this region. In March, CREES held its annual Maslenitsa/Martenitsa/Spring Celebration, which this year also happened to coincide with International Women’s Day. Students, faculty, and friends gathered together at the Ecumenical Community Ministry to feast on traditional Slavic foods, learn about some spring rituals, and to celebrate the end of what had been a long winter.

Zhulieta Kaludova, Slavic Literatures and Languages (right) gives her presentation on Bulgarian spring holiday, Martenitsa.

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Dr. Edith W. Clowes gave a lecture entitled: “Utopia in Avant-Garde Russian Art and Literature.” Her talk addressed the rise of the Russian Avant Garde before the Revolution and its interaction with the Bolsheviks.

Dr. Marie Alice L’Heureux in her presentation, “Constructivist Architecture of the Russian Avant-Garde” gave rare examples of early Soviet architectural movements and styles. Kansas and Missouri teachers and students learned how to incorporate Russian Avant-Garde art, literature and architecture into their coursework.

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Kansas and Missouri teachers and students learned how to incorporate Russian Avant-Garde art, literature and architecture into their coursework.
Crees Celebrated the Graduation of Seven REES MA Grads in May 2008, Holding a Reception for Family, Faculty and Friends After the MA Hooding Ceremony.

2008 Palij Family Ukrainian Studies Award

Michael Nelson was awarded the 2008 Palij Family Ukrainian Studies Scholar of the Year Award. Michael graduated in May 2008 with a BA in Slavic Languages and Literatures and a REES co-major.
THE BRAMLAGE FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2008 WINNER

The Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (REES) Program at the University of Kansas is pleased to announce John Bier-sack as the 2008 winner of the Bramlage Family Foundation Scholarship. This $3,500 scholarship is designed to encourage greater interest in the MA Program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Language and Area Studies and is generously supported by the Bramlage Family Foundation. John also received a summer FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Study) fellowship to study Russian in St. Petersburg, Russia during the summer 2008 semester.

FALL 2008 CREES BROWNBAG CALENDAR
Tuesdays from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, 318 Bailey Hall

SEPTEMBER
2 “Russian Military Intelligence, 1914.”
Bruce Menning, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth.
Jacob Kipp, Deputy Director, School of Advanced Military Studies, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
16 “The View from the Street: Communist Dictatorship to Democratic Transition?”
Ron Francisco, Political Science, KU.
23 “Russian Experimental Astrophysics in the post-Soviet Era.”
David Besson, Physics, KU.

OCTOBER
21 “Away From the Office: A Fulbright Semester in Prague.”
Susan Zvacek, Director, Instructional Development and Support, KU.
28 “Behind the Iron Curtain; The Hidden Events of the Early Soviet Space Program.”
Karen Ohmes, Geology, KU.

NOVEMBER
4 “Not Just the National: Modernity and Identity in the Cities of East Central Europe.”
Nathan Wood, History, KU.
11 “Sovhoos and Kolhoos: Collective Farms Estonian-Style.”
Marie Alice L’Heureux, Architecture, KU.
18 “The Burgess Shale of Language Movements among the South Slavs.”
Marc Greenberg, Slavic Literatures and Languages, KU.

DECEMBER
21 “Operation Enduring Freedom: Similarities and Contrasts with the Soviet Experience in Afghanistan.”
Don Wright, Combat Studies Institute, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth.

FALL 2008 & SPRING 2009 EVENTS
SAVE THE DATES!

MIXER: 12 September 6:30-9:30 PM, Lawrence Visitors Center, 402 N. 2nd St.
EURASIAN SECURITY WORKSHOP: “Learning to Negotiate the Peace,” 8 November, 9:00 AM-1 PM, TBA
HOLIDAY PARTY: 9 December, 4:00-8:00 PM
BROWNBAGS: Tuesdays from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, 318 Bailey Hall
FRIDAY NIGHT AT KINO: 7:00 PM, 318 Bailey, 19 Sept.; 3, 10, 24 Oct. and 14 Nov. 2008
MASLENITSA/SLAVIC SPRING CELEBRATION: 20 February 2009, 4:00-8:00 PM, ECM
VITALY KOMAR, ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: 25-28 February 2009
KU Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) staff members and a number of KU professors attended the 2008 CIBER Business Language Conference, held April 9-11 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The conference provided an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to share ideas and best practices. It focused on the role of foreign language instruction in preparing business students for careers in a global economy.

KU’s contingent included Sanae Eda (Japanese), Dennis Karney (School of Business), Irina Six (Russian), Nina Vyatkina (German), and graduate student Michael Gruenbaum (German). CIBER staff members Melissa Birch, Jim Morrison and Suzanne Scales also attended the conference.

“The insights we received from this year’s participants on the teaching of foreign business languages, including related economic and cultural issues, were quite valuable and will guide us to success in next year’s conference,” said KU CIBER Co-Director Jim Morrison.

KU CIBER will host the Business Language Conference in 2009, April 2-4 at the Marriott Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. The theme of the three-day conference, Navigating the World of Business Through Language and Culture, will be explored in participant presentations, business panels, and hands-on workshops.

For more information, contact Suzanne Scales at 785-864-3125, or visit the conference website at www.2009CIBERBLC.ku.edu

(Left to right) Eastern European food, blini (Russian crepes) and pirogi, made for the Spring Slavic Fest 2008.