Dear Friends, Colleagues, Students, and Supporters of CREES!

Happy New Year and Happy Spring Semester!

Please accept my warmest and most heartfelt wishes for a successful, productive, and delightful 2013! Whether or not you are in the habit of making New Year’s resolutions, I hope you share my excitement about the new term and that your plans include reaching new professional goals, keeping your minds active, and taking advantage of the great programming choices and resources that CREES has in store for this Spring.

The year 2012 at KU passed under the banner of major curricular changes designed with the goal of assisting our undergraduates in pursuing their professional aspirations, and preparing them to be active and competent citizens of the world. With these goals in mind, KU developed a common undergraduate curriculum based on six educational goals. In preparation for rolling out the KU CORE in Fall 2013, the new University Core Curriculum Committee carried out an unprecedented task of reviewing hundreds of existing courses for inclusion into the core curriculum. I am happy to report that all REES courses were included into KU CORE through the fast-track and regular nomination procedure.

Changes to curriculum are integral to KU’s strategic plan known as Bold Aspirations, which also highlights teaching excellence as part and parcel of KU’s national and international recognition. CREES has every reason to be proud of its faculty and their teaching accomplishments. Last Fall, two CREES-affiliated professors were recognized for their contributions to KU’s teaching mission. Dr. Erik Herron was awarded the prestigious George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award for outstanding leadership in strengthening KU’s international dimension. Dr. Gerald Mikkelson became one of the finalists for the H.O.P.E. award, which stands for Honor for an Outstanding Progressive Educator and recognizes outstanding teaching. Established by the Class of 1959, the H.O.P.E. award is the only honor for teaching excellence given exclusively by seniors on the Lawrence campus through a ballot-and-interview process.

CREES faculty, curriculum, and language programs received high marks from a team of external reviewers who visited KU in September 2012. Charged with the assessment of four Title VI NRCs and the Center for Global and International Studies, Dr. Anand Yang (The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington) and Dr. Michael Kennedy (Brown University) also commended KU’s reputation and recognition for its accomplishments in international and area studies.

We are very grateful to our faculty for their role in offering exceptional opportunities for learning to our graduate and undergraduate students, who benefit substantially from the their substantive expertise, teaching enthusiasm, and quality of language instruction. We dedicate this Spring 2013 CREES Newsletter to excellence in teaching at CREES and are pleased to share with you some of the remarkable ways our Center and affiliate faculty contribute to KU’s teaching mission.

As we move forward to the Spring term, it helps to take stock of last semester’s events and accomplishments, and chart plans for the future. At the beginning of the Fall semester, the CREES team was presented with a unique opportunity to host a Skype discussion devoted to the arrest and imprisonment of three members of the punk rock group Pussy Riot, and the implications for free speech in Russia. We would like to thank Dr. Erik Herron for providing this opportunity to put together an informal discussion with Moscow-based journalist Kirill Mikhailov. In September, CREES opened the NRC’s Environmental Film Festival with The Battle of Chernobyl, a documentary that reveals systematic cover-up of the true scope of the disaster by the Soviet government. Before the film’s screening, Paralympic athlete Tatsiana Khvitsko, an amazing young woman from Belarus born after the disaster; spoke of its impact on her life. Also in September, CREES co-sponsored several events with Dr. Roman Sukac from the Silesian University, Opava, Czech Republic. We share in the hope that his visit was one step in a series of meaningful cooperative exchanges between KU and Silesian University.

The Classical Guitar duet of the international award winning Croatian musician Robert Belinic and SLL Professor Marc L. Greenberg, who performed on the sidelines of Belinic’s concert at the Lied Center, was a spotlight of the month of October. In November, CREES presented the Fall 2012 Oswald P. Backus Memorial Lecture featuring Dr. Brian Porter-Szucs, a noted authority on nationalism and Catholicism in Poland.

I would also like to take special note of: Professors Dickey, Greenberg and Perelmutter for their very successful 7th Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society; SLL Professor Maria Carlson who had the Hall Center’s largest audience ever for her talk on “Stalking the Primordial Vampire”; Theater Professor Rebecca Rovit, the organizer of the exceptional interdisciplinary conference “Genocide: The Arts, Memorializing Trauma and Reconciliation”; Professor Nathan Wood for taking part in honoring Czech playwright and statesman Vaclav Havel, at the Kansas City Public; and KU Libraries Malgorzata Stamm and...
SLL Professor Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova who organized “An Evening with Wiseawa Szymborska” in November.

The end of the fall semester brought great news about the renewal of the Bramlage Foundation’s support to CREES. This grant will allow our Center to provide scholarships to CREES MA students with ties to Kansas. We also learned that the United States Institute of Peace awarded CREES $2,000 for a project entitled “Path to Peace: Kosovo-Kansas Web Forum.” Envisioned and developed by the CREES staff, this grant will enable CREES to host a weekly web forum in February 2013 with experts from the Balkans and Ft. Leavenworth, KS, who will share their first-hand experiences and knowledge of Kosovo’s path to independence in a series of interactive online meetings.

The size of this letter does not allow me to list the many other events and accomplishments of the fall in full, but I would like to mention the CREES agreement with AmCham Georgia that has resulted in the creation of an internship that will sponsor a KU student’s work and research in Tbilisi, Georgia, in Summer 2013. We have also launched an extensive advertising campaign to ratchet up undergraduate enrollment in CREES courses, and to increase numbers of REES co-majors and minors. This campaign includes new promotional materials, table tents, and TV ads at the KU union. All of these and many other accomplishments were celebrated at the CREES Christmas party. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Runaway Pony and its owner Serina Hearn for providing the welcoming holiday-filled space for this event.

And now, mark your calendars for Spring 2013! See below for a highlighted listing of events that you won’t want to miss!

I hope you enjoy this edition of the CREES Newsletter and please let us hear your news! Write to us at: crees@ku.edu.

Mariya Omelicheva, Acting Director, CREES

Mark your Calendars!

On February 13, KU NRCs, in collaboration with the Lied Center, will sponsor a panel discussion, “Global Pride: LGBT Issues from Around the World.”

Don’t miss the Russian National Orchestra concert at the Lied Center on February 21. Preceding the concert, CREES will organize a lecture for K-12, community college, and KU educators presented by Lisa Mullinger (School Of Music). Lisa will introduce the Russian National Orchestra, which was the first privatized orchestra founded in Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union, as a segue into a discussion of state vs. private arts institutions in Russia. Her lecture will also touch on the appeal of Tchaikovsky’s music for American audiences.

This year’s CREES Spring Festival is fortuitously scheduled for March 8 from 4-8 pm at the Ecumenical Christian Ministries. Bring your favorite ethnic dish and put on your dancing shoes! The Apollo-Soyuz Band will make a return appearance after numerous requests from CREES faculty and students.

On April 27, CREES will hold a Professionalization Workshop for graduate students in collaboration with the Centers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Texas, and University of Illinois.

The last event of the semester will feature a viewing of “The Desert of Forbidden Art” and discussion of the documentary with its LA-based director on May 2. The film tells the incredible story of how a treasure trove of banned Soviet art worth millions of dollars was stashed in a far-off desert of Uzbekistan, and develops into a larger exploration of how art survives in times of oppression.

Please send your proposal by February 1, 2013 to: crees@ku.edu

Put in the subject header of your email: April 10 conference proposal

Mariya Omelicheva, Acting Director, CREES
GLOBAL PRIDE

PANEL DISCUSSION

LGBT Issues From Around The World

Moderator: Tami Albin
KU Libraries

Presented by:
Center for East Asian Studies
Center for Global & International Studies
Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies
Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies
Kansas African Studies Center
Lied Center of Kansas

In association with the Lied Center’s It Gets Better Project:
www.lied.ku.edu/events/it-gets-better.shtml

Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center
Wednesday, February 13th, 7-9 pm
“The aspirations of the University of Kansas are bold: to be recognized as a top-tier public international research university,” affirms Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little in KU’s 2012-17 strategic plan known as Bold Aspirations. The five-year initiative highlights teaching excellence as a key ingredient for transforming KU into a world-class university. There are any number of examples of REES-affiliated faculty and initiatives that enhance student learning at KU, and in this edition of the CREES Newsletter, we feature three remarkable ways our Center and affiliate faculty contribute to the university’s overarching goals for research, education, and internationalization.

Our first feature is an interview with Political Science Professor Erik Herron, who was awarded the 2012 George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award, given to KU faculty members who demonstrate outstanding leadership in strengthening KU’s international dimension. We asked Professor Herron how he uses his research to create ongoing collaborations with international colleagues and partner institutions and how he brings his international experiences into the classroom.

In November 2012, faculty and staff from the KU community came together to honor Political Science Professor Erik Herron with the George and Eleanor Woodyard Educator Award. No stranger to CREES, Professor Herron served as the CREES Director from 2004-2007 and is currently on leave from KU to serve as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C. Professor Herron is best known for his research focus on political institutions with special emphasis on election rules. He has conducted 10 election observer missions throughout the REES region in such countries as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. His involvement with politics throughout the REES area has allowed him to keep learning current and relevant in his courses, providing for greater student engagement and connectivity. In the following interview, we learn how Professor Herron perceives KU’s role as an international research university.

CREES: In your opinion, what are KU’s international strengths?

KU’s commitment to internationalization over many decades has helped build a solid infrastructure that gives students and faculty incredible access to “things international.” The area studies centers are the focal points for internationalization on campus and provide a wonderful home for anyone in the community to engage with global issues. International Programs and the Applied English Center work with visiting scholars and have hosted major training programs for nationally recognized initiatives like the State Department’s Junior Faculty Development Program. The strong tradition of study abroad and the wide range of languages taught on campus are also crucial pillars in KU’s international profile. Even though KU is physically located in the US interior, it has developed strong international connections.

CREES: How does international research and teaching benefit KU’s multiple constituencies?

As a state institution, we have to demonstrate that we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars and that the people of Kansas benefit from the work we are doing on campus. Sometimes international research is challenged as irrelevant to the day-to-day needs of US citizens in general, or Kansas in particular. However, we now live in an era of fluid borders, where communication has become instantaneous and virtually costless, when Korean pop tunes can inexplicably become a global phenomenon almost overnight, and the imprisonment of obscure Russian performance artists can garner international attention. Our peers and our competitors are now located all over the world. To be successful in business, politics, art, engineering, and all of our endeavors, we need to better understand the world. International education equips students to be competitive in an increasingly challenging environment.

CREES: How do you see your role in internationalizing KU whether with regard to its curriculum, relationships with international partner institutions, collaboration with colleagues overseas, or other ways?

I always strive to synthesize my research, teaching, and service activities. Internationalization is at the core of these efforts. One area of my research addresses the integrity of the electoral process, especially in post-communist Eastern Europe and Eurasia. I have served as an election observer for international organizations as part of my service, but also as a way to better understand the process. I not only incorporate stories from these experiences into the classroom, but I have worked with the Douglas County Clerk to train students as election observers and deploy them in polling stations on election day. The students learn about the electoral process in the US, but also gain a perspective about how observers work internationally. Internationalization is a part of every activity I engage in as a scholar at KU.

CREES: What techniques or strategies do you use in order to bring your international experiences into the classroom?

I have often used technology as a gateway to enhance international access for myself and my students. While it is not a solution to all of our problems, communication and social networking has made the world much smaller. I regularly use Skype and other methods to talk with colleagues, and have them interact with students at KU. I regularly incorporate videoconferencing with students and scholars from all over the world in my classes as a way to give students access to more perspectives. As scholars, we have to speak to many communities; new communications technologies help us do this effectively within and outside the US.

CREES: Has the international focus at KU been critical to your research and teaching?

Being a part of a Title VI area studies program provides visibility and access that peers at other institutions lack. Because of KU’s international focus, I have been able to meet and interact with colleagues from all over the world. These interactions have sparked ideas and have inspired my research and teaching.

Next, Marta Pirtnat-Greenberg, a BCS Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, will share with us her innovative approach to language learning. Marta asked her students to interview and publish articles about local Croatian artists from Kansas City’s Strawberry Hill community in the Croatian diaspora magazine Matica.

Our third feature highlights retiring REES Professor Gerald Mikkelson, who will share with us a few of the lessons he has learned in organizing multi-disciplinary online courses involving students and faculty at several universities.

In discussing the need for Bold Aspirations at KU, Chancellor Gray-Little concludes that “…our success will be measured in the lives we change, by the jobs we create and the communities we strengthen, and by the lifetimes brightened through education and research.” We at CREES are proud of the faculty at KU who make this success possible. Please join us as we celebrate Erik Herron, Marta Pirtnat-Greenberg, Gerald Mikkelson, and the many unsung CREES colleagues who work so hard to make KU a top-tier university. For more about our faculty, please read our Faculty News section on page 13!

ERIK HERRON AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AT KU

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There are many benefits to studying a foreign language. It gives learners a better understanding of English, enhances their vocabulary, enriches their cognitive development and broadens perspectives in their thinking. It also promotes cultural awareness and competency when the teaching of a foreign language emphasizes the learning of a new language as a means of communication and connection with others. Usually study abroad programs are the only opportunities for students to establish these kinds of connections and immerse themselves into culturally authentic situations, but not for Lecturer Marta Pirnat-Greenberg’s intermediate level Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian class at KU. While developing new language exercises for last year’s class, Marta came up with the idea of connecting her students to Strawberry Hill, a local community in the Kansas City metro area known for its Croatian diaspora. What resulted were two articles published in the well-known Croatian diaspora magazine Matica about artists in Strawberry Hill written in Croatian by intermediate level BCS students at KU.

A lecturer of BCS and Slovene in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures since 2001, Marta is known for her innovative approaches to foreign language teaching. Her courses tend to keep language learning practical while also immediately useful. Based on many years of experience teaching both BCS and Slovene to American students, Marta recently published the textbook Colloquial Slovene: The Complete Course for Beginners, which was acknowledged for its step-by-step, interactive approach. In the following interview we learn how Marta came up with the curriculum idea for interviewing members of the Strawberry Hill community and how this lesson increased her student’s cultural competency.

CREES: How did you come up with the idea for this project? Do you have a special connection to the Strawberry Hill community and has it been involved with your classes in the past?

The idea developed gradually. For quite a while I had been thinking that I would like to see a feature article about Strawberry Hill in Matica. Its history, continued vibrancy and creativity, attachment of its members to the Hill where most of them no longer live—have fascinated me and I thought that the story should be shared with the readers in Croatia and the Croatian diaspora around the world. I am also always on the lookout for ideas on how to make language-learning relevant to my students, something that will keep them engaged and excited. I thought that the prospect of writing one or two stories about Strawberry Hill, with the possibility of having them published in a major Croatian magazine, would motivate them, while the process leading to that result would provide several pedagogical benefits. Last spring it seemed that the make-up of my fourth-semester BCS class was just about perfect for the job: mostly adult learners; a couple of graduate students, a student of photography, two with roots in Strawberry Hill, all with strong language skills. They got very excited when presented with the idea.

My connections to the Strawberry Hill community are mainly through my students, as I often have had at least one and sometimes several students hailing from the Hill. Although I was familiar with the artwork we were going to examine—I often use it in my teaching—I did not know the artists personally, but some of my students did. That meant that they had to initiate the contact with the artists and do all the preliminary negotiations for the interviews by themselves. But that had its benefits: it gave them complete ownership of the project, which was in the end a great point of pride for them.

CREES: Can you tell us a little about who was interviewed? Why were they chosen and what was the process for interviewing them?

The students interviewed Marijana Grisnik, a self-taught painter of over 250 paintings depicting everyday life on Strawberry Hill as it used to be before the construction of I-70. The second interview was with a photographer, Don Wolf, who on his many trips to Croatia not only returned to the roots of his Strawberry Hill neighborhood, but also found inspiration and subject matter for many of his photographs. They both have interesting life stories and ways of starting their art careers, of which we had learned an outline from publicly available sources. That and their work, which is inextricably connected with, if not representative of their ethnic community, was the basis for our choice.

It was also a source for students’ preparation for the interviews: after reading about the artists and reviewing their work they outlined the central point and direction of their interviews and formulated the questions. The reading was in English (as were the sources), but students had to take notes in Croatian as well as discuss in class what they read, because we knew we had to build up the topic-specific vocabulary and other skills for writing the articles. But the project did have a substantial reading component in Croatian, as its very first step was a close look of some feature articles in Matica, to learn basics of the genre and specifics of the magazine’s standards. Once the preliminary work was done, just before spring break, students in groups of three (including the photographer) spent a couple of hours interviewing each artist at their homes in Kansas City. The interviews were conducted in English and recorded.

CREES: Interviewing and translating articles seems like an ambitious project for intermediate level students. Why did you think your class was up to the challenge?

Since English was the first language of all the participants, there wasn’t a genuine need for the use of Croatian in the interviews, nor did we want the collected information to be “filtered” through the limitations of any participant’s foreign language competency. Therefore the main challenge of the interviews was not the language ability, but asking the right questions and gathering information that would lead to accurate and interesting portraits—not unlike any other reporter’s challenge. Except for direct quotes used in the articles, the interviews were not translated. Some students transcribed the recording to have better control of the material, which was used for writing the article. That was done in steps, but all the way in Croatian: a short introductory paragraph, an outline of all the parts and division of labor, and then several drafts of each student’s writing, somewhere in between also fusing co-authors’ writing into a coherent piece. When you look at the finished product written entirely in Croatian, you might think that it is a daunting task for that level of language proficiency, but when broken down into steps with the right kind of support it is doable and in line with our curricular goals and expectations. I did not charge my students with writing a technical piece about art or history, but with a general-interest story about the personal experiences of two artists. Students at the intermediate level should be already quite capable of speaking and writing about matters of everyday life, describing and narrating in different time frames, and they are learning to communicate topics related to school and work. In fourth semester we also start focusing on coherence of writing—devices that connect discrete sentences into a paragraph. All these skills were employed in the project and I was confident that my students already had them or were in the process of developing them.

CREES: How has this exercise enhanced your student’s language learning and cultural awareness?

The project trained students in all ACTFL standards for foreign language learning, but particularly in communication, gaining knowledge and understanding...
of other cultures, and making connections with other disciplines. Aside from the benefit of great gains in their writing proficiency and cultural understanding, the most valuable part was that they were able to gain these skills while establishing multiple connections outside KU: with the ethnic community in KC, and by having their work published in a Croatian magazine, they reached out to Croatian communities around the world.

CREES: What sort of response have you received about the articles? Were they well received by Matica subscribers?

The greatest compliment came from the editor of Matica immediately after we submitted the articles, who commented how “pleasantly surprised (he) was about the quality of the material: from the excellent text to the photographs and accompanying commentary.” The interviewees themselves were very pleased with their portraits as well. A lot of excitement was generated in the Strawberry Hill community even before the articles were published and the main paper of the Croatian diaspora in the US, Zajednica, also ran an article about them. There was further interest in the artists expressed immediately after publication from as far away as Denmark. The articles are now also available on KU ScholarWorks at:

http://hdl.handle.net/1808/10171
http://hdl.handle.net/1808/10170

Judging by the number of hits, over 100 people have accessed them online just in the short time since they were posted.

GERALD MIKKELSON: LEARNING HERE AND ABROAD

If you were present for the halftime show at the November 17 KU vs. Iowa State football game in Memorial Stadium, you may remember that REES Professor Gerald Mikkelson was one of several people introduced as finalists for the H.O.P.E. Award at the University of Kansas. Established by the Class of 1959, the Honor for an Outstanding Progressive Educator Award recognizes outstanding teaching and concern for students, and is unique in that it is given exclusively by seniors on the Lawrence campus through a ballot-and-interview process.

This is not the first time that Prof. Mikkelson has been recognized for teaching excellence—REES students nominated him in Spring 2012 for the CTE’s Celebration of Teaching and the Central Association of Russian Teachers of America (CARITA) awarded him its Excellence in Teaching Russian award in 2008. Prof. Mikkelson is known for his love of the Russian language and culture, and his fondness for one Russian city in particular, St. Petersburg. His Biography of a City: St. Petersburg course reflects his long acquaintance with this city, and his deep knowledge of its cultural and philosophical history. Alexander Kuhn, a REES co-major who took the course in Fall 2012, said that Mikkelson’s immense personal knowledge of the city was evident throughout the course, as was his love for the subject matter: “He was very engaged, and enthusiastic about discussing anything that related to St. Petersburg.”

In 2012, in fact, Mikkelson was awarded the Petropol Award in St. Petersburg, Russia. The award, given every year to a number of individuals for their outstanding contributions to the cultural life of the city, was given to Mikkelson for his “dedication to Pushkin and Russian literature.” At the ceremony he read several Pushkin poems and his own English translations of them to a large audience gathered in the Russian National Pushkin Museum. Other winners of the Petropol award in 2012 included writer Andrey Bitov, actor Georgy Taratorkin, theatre director Aleksander Bolonin, actress Svetlana Kryuchkova and singer Tatyana Nikitina. Mikkelson was the only non-Russian honored at the ceremony.

Prof. Mikkelson, who has taught at KU since 1967, has taught a variety of courses over the years, but is perhaps known most in recent years for organizing a number of team-taught courses, some of which involve teachers and students from several U.S. and overseas universities. The Siberia and the Circumpolar Arctic course, taught in the spring of 2012, for example, was a collaboration between KU, the University of Alaska at Anchorage (UAA), Gorno-Altaisk State University (GASU), and Tyumen State University, all of which contributed speakers and participants for the online course. The website for the course is viewable online at http://SiberiaClass.org. We asked Professor Mikkelson about some of the challenges associated with organizing such a course, as well as about other aspects of effective teaching.

The project involved 9 KU students, 15 UAA students, and 8 faculty members from GASU, along with myself and colleagues here and at UAA. While there were 8 faculty members from GASU involved, 4 of them were handling the interpreting for the lectures given by their colleagues. CREES Affiliate Faculty Cynthia Annett and UAA Biological Sciences Professor Douglas Causey handled most of the technical arrangements while I organized the course overall, gave a few lectures, and handled the grading. Obviously, for a course like this, one must have colleagues in the participating institutions who are able to cover the topics that we needed to discuss in order to build a course with a solid multi-disciplinary foundation. One of the most challenging aspects was simply the timing of the seminars, since students in Alaska were attending our seminars in their afternoon, KU students were attending in the evening, and the poor people in Gorno-Altaisk were 12 hours ahead of us, so they were up very early for these joint sessions.

We found that many of the topics we discussed were specific to the region, that is Siberia, Alaska and the Northwestern portions of Canada, but that many of the issues had broad applications. The conflict between economic development and environmental preservation, for example, is one that is confronted in virtually every region of the world. The students, as the semester progressed, became very enthusiastic about the joint project, and the Siberians and the Alaskans discovered that they had much in common.

CREES: Can you tell us how the Siberia and the Circumpolar Arctic course came about? How many students (and faculty) from each institution participated, and how were the technical aspects of the online collaboration handled?

CREES: Several of your students have expressed their appreciation of your mentoring abilities. Isaac McPheeters, for example, took one of your courses and afterwards presented at a conference, and even had his paper published in the Fall 2011 issue of Berkeley’s undergraduate journal of East European, Eurasian and Slavic Studies, Troika. How important do you think this sort of interaction, which often occurs outside the classroom, is for teaching excellence?

What I have done for many years is select the 2-3 best papers that have been turned in for my courses, have students revise them after my feedback, and encourage these students to present them at the annual CARTA and Central Slavic Conferences. In most cases, this was the first time these students had ever presented at a conference, and so it was exciting for them. I took great satisfaction in organizing these panels, where students were able to present the fruits of their research efforts and interact with their peers from other institutions.
K-16 Educators who register for a pre-performance lecture are eligible for discounted tickets to the Russian National Orchestra performance at the Lied Center on Thursday, February 21 \textsuperscript{st}. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please contact CREES Outreach Coordinator Adrienne Landry (creesoutreach@ku.edu). Discount vouchers are distributed on a first come, first served basis, so respond quickly to make sure you don’t miss out on this fabulous deal! This event is made possible by the Lied Center of Kansas and KU’s Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

**PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURE**
Lisa Mullinger, KU School of Music
Seymour Gallery, Lied Center
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Lisa Mullinger (KU School of Music) will present on the importance of the Russian National Orchestra’s stature as a privately-funded, independent orchestra, the only of its kind in Russia. The lecture will discuss the socio-political and economic issues surrounding the orchestra in the early 1990s. Ms. Mullinger will address the Russian National Orchestra’s role in exposing an ever expanding international audience to the vast repertoire of Russian music, including America’s fascination with the works of Tchaikovsky. By giving brief biographical information on Tchaikovsky’s life, Ms. Mullinger will emphasize the emotive characteristics of Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in relation to the personal events in the composer’s life, struggles with family, sexuality, finances and temperament. Audience members will hear how these issues make his music accessible and easily relatable.

**ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE**
Main Auditorium, Lied Center
7:30 PM

A panel of international critics named the Russian National Orchestra one of the world’s top orchestras. Known for innovation and excellence, it has pioneered a new structure for the performing arts in Russia and is known for outstanding artistic programs. It has been described as “a living symbol of the best in Russian art,” by the Miami Herald, and “as close to perfect as one could hope for,” by Classics Today.
On 12 November 2012, University of Michigan History Professor Brian Porter-Szucs lectured on “Faith and Fear in Early 20th Century Polish Catholicism” at this year's Backus Lecture.


The Backus lecture is dedicated to the memory of Professor Oswald P. Backus III (1921-72), known as one of the early driving forces behind the development of KU as a national center for the study of Russia and Eastern Europe. This fund is made available through a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

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**2012 BACKUS MEMORIAL LECTURE**

Professor Brian Porter-Szucs speaking on “Faith and Fear in 20th Century Polish Catholicism.”

Professor Porter-Szucs answering questions.

The annual Backus Lecture in honor of Oswald P. Backus III.

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**Fall Semester Snaps**

Free Pussy Riot? Web Discussion. 27 August 2012

Classical Guitar Duet with Robert Belinic and Prof. Marc Greenberg. 22 October 2012

Croatian Classical Guitarist Robert Belinic visits Marta Pimat-Greenberg’s BCS class. 22 October 2012

CREES Staff celebrate Halloween! 31 October 2012

CREES and other NRCs held two FLAS Information Sessions this fall! 15 November 2012

Fall FMSO GRAs present research findings. 4 December 2012

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**CREES NEWSLETTER**
In the fall, CREES participated in the KU International Area Studies Center Environmental Film Festival at the Spencer Museum of Art. Films were shown every Wednesday throughout September and October depicting a variety of environmental issues from around the world. For the duration of the festival, the Spencer Museum Teaching Gallery displayed a special exhibition featuring art made from recycled materials as well as a piece from Edward Burtynsky’s Three Gorges Dam Project. Burtynsky’s photographic exploration of China’s industrial landscapes was the subject of the final film in the festival, Manufactured Landscapes.

CREES kicked the festival off with a September 19th viewing of The Battle of Chernobyl. Based on top-secret government documents that came to light only during the collapse of the Soviet Union, The Battle of Chernobyl reveals a systematic cover-up of the true scope of the disaster.

CREES invited guest speaker Tatsiana Khvitsko to introduce the film. Khvitsko came into the world with no left foot and no right leg below the knee, the result of being born near the Chernobyl nuclear disaster site. Her story is one of sheer perseverance, having traveled from Belarus to Kansas where she is now training to take part in the Paralympic Games in Rio 2016.

This event was co-sponsored by the Spencer Museum of Art, Environmental Studies Program, Office of International Programs, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, KU Biodiversity Institute, European Studies Program, KU Environmental Stewardship Program (KU Recycling), KU Center for Sustainability, and The Department of Film & Media Studies.
NEW SILK ROAD PROJECT

KU Geography Professor Alexander Diener’s September 4th, 2012, Brownbag focused on the vibrant debate that currently surrounds the formation of transit corridors across Central Asia. One camp of analysts, international organizations, and donor states envision overland trade between China, India, Southwest Asia, Europe, and Russia as a catalyst of regional development. Another camp of experts sees little reason to believe that new infrastructure and international agreements will alter twenty-year patterns of limited cooperation, beggar-thy-neighbor politics, free-riderism, and national territoriality. In his Brownbag lecture, Professor Diener applied a critical geographic lens to varied discourses pertaining to the New Silk Road Initiative and suggested that the policy will ultimately propagate geopolitical multipolarity in Central Asia.

EXOTIC ENTREPRENEURS: GEORGIAN TRADE NETWORKS AND THE TENSIONS OF SOVIET EMPIRE

KU History Professor Erik Scott’s October 2nd, 2012, talk explored what Georgian economic networks can tell us about the larger story of interethnic relations in the Soviet Union, and how they can help us understand the troubled contemporary relationship between Moscow and the Caucasus. Among the many outsider groups prominent in Soviet economic life, Georgian traders were perhaps the most visible; their networks intimately linked Moscow to the Caucasus, and were renowned for supplying rare and sometimes illicit commodities. Today, these economic networks remain prominent but face new political and social pressures amidst the current rift between Russia and Georgia.

SAVING THE UNION: THE ROLE OF RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

On October 23rd, 2012, Emeritus History Professor Norman Saul explored the crucial role that Russian diplomats played in demonstrating Russian support for the Union in the American Civil War. Minister Edouard Stoeckl [Stekl in Russian] firmly assisted the programs of President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward, especially in opposing possible intervention by Great Britain and France on behalf of the Confederacy. A major achievement was the visit of the Russian fleet to New York and Washington in 1863 with the significant cooperation of Russian Chancellor Alexander Gorchakov, Minister of Navy Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich, and American Minister to Russia Cassius Marcellus Clay. Stoeckl, who lived much of his life in the United States and was married to an American from an abolitionist New England family, was ably assisted by his secretary, Vladimir Bodisko, and Russian Consul General in New York, Karl Osten-Sacken. Together, with the fleet visit, they helped build Northern morale at a crucial time in 1863.
On November 6th, 2012, Tajik Lecturer Razi Ahmad presented on “A Comparative Appraisal of the Construction of National Identity in Iran and Tajikistan.” When Emomali Rahmon rose to power in Tajikistan, the country had descended into political chaos and bloody civil war. The leader saw Tajik nationalism as an important instrument to end the chaos and establish a strong state. A comparative analysis reveals unmistakable similarities between his official nationalist discourse and that of the Pahlavi monarchs (1926-79) in Iran. Both of the nationalist discourses take pride in the Aryan race and great pre-Islamic history, blame Arabs for misfortunes of their nations, consider Islam an imposed alien religion, and promote New Persian (locally known as Farsi in Iran and Tajiki in Tajikistan). Like the Pahlavis, Rahmon also appears to be succeeding in creating a strong and stable state. Mr. Ahmad concluded that the Tajik ruling class needs to be more careful in formulating policies to deal with radical Islam, as Pahlavis’ suppressive religious policies became an important factor in their downfall.

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. Rather than address specific themes, each semester the lectures cover a variety of topics and areas, and are presented by academics, students, and professionals—anyone with an interesting specialty to share. 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. CREES Brownbags are free and open to the public. They are held every Tuesday at Noon in 318 Bailey Hall. If you have a topic you would like to discuss or are interested in presenting, please contact:

Bart Redford
CREES Assistant Director
bredford@ku.edu
785-864-4248

A COMPARATIVE APPRAISAL OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY IN IRAN AND TAJKISTAN

Fulbright researcher and University of Sofia Associate Professor Reneta Bozhankova lectured on “Eastern European Writers Blogs Between Literary Diaries and Personal Media” on November 20th. Observing mainly Bulgarian and Russian blogs, Professor Bozhankova analyzed two aspects of the blogs’ coherence and belonging to literature: creating a literary work of a specific genre on the one hand, and on the other, writers’ presence in the blogosphere. This presence tends to be more or less complementary to their books and offline cultural roles. Professor Bozhankova pointed at the indicators of the blogs’ evolution in the direction of minimization of the textual component, especially in microblogging, which may not be influential on the literary character of these shortest strings of digital writing. Professor Bozhankova explained the function of blogs as a writer’s laboratory, public diary or journal, a publishing platform, but also as a personal media, where the traditional and emerging generic forms coexist.
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, KU Libraries and its Center for Digital Scholarship were represented at the Berlin 10 Conference this November at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The conference meets yearly to report on global efforts for open access policies.

The KU representatives in attendance were Lorraine Haricombe, dean of KU Libraries; Ada Emmett, scholarly communicator, librarian at the Center for Digital Scholarship; and Marc L. Greenberg, professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and chair of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

The annual conference is an opportunity for research, scientific, and cultural institutions to discuss how they are fulfilling the intentions of the Berlin Declaration of 2003, which calls for the use of the Internet as a vehicle for “open access as a comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the scientific community. In order to realize the vision of a global and accessible representation of knowledge, the future Web has to be sustainable, interactive, and transparent.”

The University of Kansas has been at the forefront of the open access movement, beginning with the pioneering work of then-Provost David Shullenburger in the 1990s. KU was the first public university to adopt a faculty open-access policy (2009) and in 2011, the university launched the Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little signed the Berlin Declaration for KU in October 2011.

The conference had previously met in North America and Europe, making this year’s meeting the first on the African continent. The KU contingent met scholars from institutions around the world.

The meeting permitted a wide-ranging conversation on the benefits and challenges for global scholarly communication with a focus on North-South dialogue. Haricombe moderated a panel “Benefits of Open Access for Scholarship and Wider Society” featuring speakers from e-Maxwell and Associates, USA; The World Bank; and University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Among other news from the conference were reports on improved means of measuring research impact through open access, which will obviate hitherto established practices that are limited to citation indexes; declarations of increased cooperation among American, European, and African scientific organizations and universities; and presentation of a major global astronomy project, based in Africa, which will entail the open sharing of unprecedentedly large quantities of data, the Square Kilometer Array.

“The conference was an eye-opening experience,” Greenberg said. “I am more familiar with the East-West dialogue and so this was a chance for me to observe and participate in the North-South dialogue. Regardless of one’s geopolitical, open-access is the key to opening up a truly global knowledge-culture.”

KU Libraries recently joined the HathiTrust, a digital preservation repository that includes over 10 million volumes from partner library collections that were digitized as part of the Google Books project, the Internet Archive project, or by individual partner libraries. Consult the Libraries’ guide to collections in the HathiTrust (http://guides.lib.ku.edu/hathitrust) to learn how you can search millions of titles made available through KU’s membership.

Voprosy literatury Digital Archive provides electronic access to the full run of Voprosy literatury. The journal was founded in 1957 at the beginning of the period known as the “thaw” in Soviet cultural life and evolved into a major discussion platform for literary critics and scholars.

Literaturnaia gazeta Digital Archive provides electronic access to the full run of Literaturnaia gazeta. “Spanning decades of Russia’s literary and intellectual life,” the newspaper published “commentary from preeminent authors, poets, and cultural figures during Soviet times;” and “pushed the limits of censorship in expressing views on society, culture, art, and domestic policies.”


Microfilm of Zaria vostoka for 1955-1991 has been ordered and should arrive in early 2013. This source was the official paper of the Communist Party of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Microfilm of the Ilustrowany Kuryer Codzienny (Polish Daily Courier) for 1921-1936 has been ordered through our exchange partner at the Jagiellonian University Library and should arrive in 2013. Edited by Maryan Dabrowski, IKC was published daily in Cracow (Krakow) from 1910-1939 and was the most popular newspaper in Poland during the 1920s and 1930s. It is an invaluable source of cultural and historical information about pre-WWII Poland.

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) is in process of acquiring microfilm copies of the Kurier Warszawski (Warsaw Courier) for 1821-1905. Microfilm collections can be borrowed from CRL for up to 1 year at a time.

Gift Collections: In 2012 KU Libraries acquired a large collection (2500 volumes) of Belarusian imprints from the estate of Valentyina and Michael Pashkievich of Toronto, Canada. Volumes to be added will expand KU’s Belarusian holdings nearly ten-fold with remaining materials going to the Center for Belarusian Studies (http://belarusiancenter.org/) at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS. Other gift collections received include Polish and Ukrainian imprints donated by Mary Briggs of Leavenworth, KS; books from Heinrich A. Stammier’s personal collection donated by Ursula Stammier; and albums, children’s books, and works by Jaroslav Hašek donated by Dr. Oldrich Bubenik of Council Grove, KS. A special thanks to these donors for their recent contributions to KU’s Slavic holdings.


On September 4, 2012, Anna M. Cienciala (History, Emeritus) gave a talk in Polish at the Historical Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw on: “How I became a historian of interwar Polish foreign policy and of Katyn in North America.”

Alexander C. Diener (Geography) has written a new book with colleague Joshua Hagen called *Borders: A Very Short Introduction*. The book challenges the perception of borders as passive lines on a map, revealing them instead to be integral forces in the economic, social, political, and environmental processes that shape lives.

Marc L. Greenberg (Chair, German Department; Slavic Languages & Literatures) recently published an article with Slovenian colleague Marko Snoj, Director of the Slovene Language Institute of the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Arts & Sciences (ZRC SAZU), “On the Language of the Medieval Slavic Population in the Area between the Danube and the Adriatic from a Linguistic Perspective” in the prestigious journal *Zgodovinski časopis / Historical Review*. In less than two weeks after being listed in KU’s ScholarWorks digital repository, it was downloaded 200 times in Europe and in the US. Earlier in November he attended the Berlin 10 Conference on open access, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa. At the end of November he was filmed for a television program on Slovenia’s Channel 1, Dobra ura (“A good hour”), devoted to the topic of “language” (aired 6 Dec.) and then gave a joint paper with a Czech colleague, Dr. Zbyněk Holub (University of Opava) “A Circum-Pannonian Word-Prosodic Parallel: The Case of Doubleby Paroxytonic Accent” at the Second Dialectological Conference, hosted by ZRC SAZU.

Jon Giulian (Watson Library) was appointed Co-chair (along with Vickie Doll) of the Libraries’ International Area Studies department for FY 2012-2013. He served as a panelist on two roundtables at the 44th Annual Convention of ASEES, in New Orleans LA: “Online Research Guides for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies: Challenge, Opportunities, and Best Practices” (Roundtable), “Inclusivity and Academic Diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.” In May, Jon organized the 2012 Slavic Librarians’ Summit hosted by KU which was a 3-day biennial conference that brought together a handful of top Slavic librarians nationwide to discuss the most pressing issues in Slavic librarianship and explore avenues for cooperation among major Slavic collections in the region.

Erik Herron (Political Science) was awarded the 2012 George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award, given to KU faculty members who demonstrate outstanding leadership in strengthening KU’s international dimension. He continues to serve as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C., although he made several trips for activities at KU over the fall.

Geoff Husic (Watson Library) has agreed to take on responsibility for Near East and Islamic Studies, which complements his other areas (Balkans, Turkey, and Central Asia).

Marie-Alice L’Heureux (School of Architecture) contributed the chapter “Infrastructure, Social Injustice, and the City—Parsing the Wisdom of Jane Jacobs” that is included in an edited volume about the legacy of Jane Jacobs’ *Death and Life of Great American Cities* published in August 2012 in the Series in Planning, History and the Environment. In November at ASEES in New Orleans, she presented the paper “Binding the City: Mass Transit, Private Cars, and the Organization of Tallinn, Estonia.” This year she is also serving on the National IIE Fulbright review committee.

Gerald Mikkelson (REES) was one of five finalists for the KU’s prestigious Honor for an Outstanding Progressive Educator Award (H.O.P.E. Award). H.O.P.E. awardees are nominated by KU seniors and selected by the KU Board of Class Officers. This has been a banner year for Prof Mikkelson who was also awarded the internationally recognized Petropl award in June 2012. Established to celebrate renowned literary works, Prof Mikkelson was the only US scholar recognized for his study and translation of Alexander Pushkin.

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh (Sociology) has been awarded an American Councils Research Fellowship for a period of 4 months to conduct research on gender and social change in Azerbaijan.

Mariya Omelicheva’s (Director, CREES; Political Science) article, “Russia’s Foreign Policy Toward Iran: A Critical Geopolitics Perspective” came out in *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, and her chapter on Russian Foreign Policy appeared in *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective* (edited by R. Beasley et al.). She was invited to speak at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter; in November at a conference on Islam in Central Asia and participated in a working group on Central Asia at the Center for Strategic and Diplomatic Solutions, University of South Florida, at a workshop “Scanning the Horizon” sponsored by CENTCOM’s Academic Consortium.

Marta Pirnat-Greenberg’s (Slavic Languages & Literatures) intermediate BCS language students’ articles about two Croatian-American artists from the Strawberry Hill (Kansas City) community were published in June and July issues of *Matica*, a Croatian monthly magazine published by the Croatian Heritage Foundation and circulated to Croatian diaspora around the world. Marta wrote a short article explaining the nature of the students’ project, which appeared with the first of the articles. While in Slovenia this summer; she was interviewed for the magazine *Ona* (addition to the national daily Delo), about her newly published textbook, *Colloquial Slovene*, and about Slovene language-teaching to American students.

Ivana Radovanovic (Anthropology) directed the archaeological field project “Settlement and Coastal/Inland Interaction in the Iron Gates Mesolithic - Phase 1” in Eastern Serbia. This was the second season of a project funded by NSF and KU GRF in collaboration with University of Belgrade, University of Leiden, National Museum Belgrade and Regional Museum Negotin.

Norman Saul (History, Emeritus) during the fall completed a book, *The Life and Times of Charles R. Crane, 1858-1939: American Businessman, Philanthropist, and a Founder of Russian Studies in America*. It is forthcoming from Lexington Books (Rowman and Littlefield). His paper; “Saving the Union: The Roles of Russian and American Diplomats during the American Civil War,” was published in the proceedings of the Volgograd conference on “Russia and the American Civil War in Americana, no. 13” (2012). He also published book reviews in...
Professor Herbert J. Ellison (1929-2012)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Herbert J. Ellison on October 9, 2012. A specialist on the history and politics of the USSR and post-Soviet states, Professor Ellison served as director of the Jackson School for International Studies at the University of Washington, and also held leadership positions in many national organizations, including two years as director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian studies in Washington, D.C. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Washington and held faculty positions at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Kansas before returning to UW in 1968. He established a Center for Russian, East European & Central Asian Studies at UW's Jackson School for International Studies, renamed The Ellison Center in honor of his service in 2005. Professor Ellison also helped Professor Ozzie Backus establish the Center for Russian Studies here at KU, which is now known as CREES. An accomplished scholar, published author, and leader in the REES field, he lectured widely at universities and research institutes in the United States, Europe, and East Asia. He was a reoccuring guest speaker at KU, including being one of the early Palij Memorial lecturers.

STUDENT NEWS

Over the holiday break, Matthew Cotton (MA candidate, REES; REESGO President) became engaged to his longtime sweetheart, K-State student Jocelyn Colaw.

Laura A. Dean (PhD candidate, Pol Sci) was awarded a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to conduct dissertation research in Ukraine 2012-2013. Her dissertation entitled “Beyond the Natasha Effect: Determinants of Human Trafficking Policy Variation in the Post-Soviet Region” examines policy approaches aimed at addressing human trafficking in all the countries of the former Soviet Union. Laura was also awarded the Harry S. Truman Foundation, Sherman and Irene Dresesuzn Scholarship for International Studies, Howard Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award, and a University Women’s Club Scholarship in 2012 for her dissertation research, and in the future she hopes to add research in Russia as additional case in her dissertation next summer 2013.

Sandra King-Savic (MA candidate, REES) won first place in the Citizen Journalism contest on the Next In Line website: http://nextinline.eu/

CREES is very grateful to Amy Murphy (MA candidate, REES) for volunteering to lead last fall’s very successful Russian Culture Club at Cordley Elementary School for students ranging from kindergarten to 5th grade. This was the culture club’s second year.

REES MA alumni (2012) and current KU Geography PhD student, Nathaniel Ray Pickett, was awarded the Kollmorgen Graduate Fellowship.

Jared Warren, (MA candidate, REES) was flown to Brussels to present a paper at the ‘“Barbaric’ and ‘Civilized: Polish and World Writers in an Intercultural Dialogue on Poetry” Conference. His paper was called “Appelé à prendre la parole: Adam Mickiewicz and Parisian Romantic Discourse.” He has also submitted the paper for consideration in the Yearbook of Comparative Literature.

Faculty, Students, and Alumni! Please send us your news! We would love to share your professional and personal accomplishments. From babies to books, we want to hear about what you’ve been up to! Please email updates to: crees@ku.edu
PATH TO PEACE:
Kosovo-Kansas Web Forum

The web forum will take place every Monday at 12:00 pm, February 2013.

To participate online, RSVP to: crees@ku.edu

Satellite viewing at the Kansas Union

Feb. 4, 2013, Malott Room
Kosovo: Background to a War
A brief examination of the history of the region, focusing on the ethnic, religious, social, political and economic issues that led to the Kosovo War.
Speaker: Raymond Finch
Senior Analyst
Foreign Military Studies Office

Feb. 11, 2013, Jayhawk Room
Kosovo Today: Part I
Discussion of the current international status of Kosovo and its domestic politics, including inter-ethnic relations and reconciliation efforts. Overview of the plans and challenges for Kosovo’s future.
Speaker: Oliver Ivanovic
former State Secretary,
Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija,
Republic of Serbia

Feb. 18, 2013, Malott Room
Kosovo Today: Part II
Discussion of the current international status of Kosovo and its domestic politics, including inter-ethnic relations and reconciliation efforts. Overview of the plans and challenges for Kosovo’s future.
Speaker: Vjosa Osmani
Kosovo Member of Parliament

Feb. 25, 2013, Malott Room
The International Role in Kosovo
How does the U.S.’s influence in Kosovo compare to that of the EU or other countries? In particular, has the U.S. been effective in supporting democracy in Kosovo and can it do more? These questions will be discussed in a comparative context of the U.S. foreign relations with other states that share similarities with Kosovo.
Speaker: Drilon Gashi
Senior Researcher/Analyst,
D4D Kosovo
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Many of our activities are enhanced through private donations to the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies. Special events, guest lectures, 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.

CREES is designated a National Resource Center for the study of Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia by the US Department of Education, and receives Title VI funds for educational and outreach activities. The center is a degree-granting program within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas. For further information about CREES, please contact us at:

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785-864-4248

Check out our website: www.crees.ku.edu

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 Maria Palij 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.

Jarosewycz Family Fund

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

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

Please mail your donations to:

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Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies
Bailey Hall
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Lawrence, KS 66045-7574

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