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

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back from a restful and productive summer break.

As many of you are aware, we have had a great deal of transition at CREES. After 12 years at KU, the last 4 of which she served as the CREES Director, Dr. Edith Clowes accepted the Brown-Forman Endowed Chair position in the Slavic Department at the University of Virginia. We will miss her greatly, but look forward to carrying on her strong tradition of vibrant CREES events.

There was a great deal of transition at the Slavic Department as well. This past year, Dr. Marc Greenberg stepped down and Dr. William Comer stepped up as Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

With all these changes in mind, we dedicate this issue of the CREES Newsletter to three REES leaders: Dr. Clowes, Dr. Greenberg, and Dr. Comer. We thank you for your service!

In June, I assumed responsibilities of CREES Acting Director for AY 2012-13. Dr. Renee Perelmutter kindly agreed to serve as the Associate Director for the Center. We also welcomed Dr. Alexander C. Diener, who joined the CREES faculty as Assistant Professor of Geography after a Fulbright year in Central Asia, and Dr. Erik R. Scott, Assistant Professor of History. Mukaddes Sahin has accepted the Turkish lecturer position, replacing Dr. Karakaya, to whom we said farewell in July.

Despite challenges posed by renewed Title VI grant cuts, CREES is well prepared to continue fulfilling its core intellectual mission. With a strong institutional identity, clear programming focus, and an excellent and dedicated team, the Center is geared up for another great year.

In the academic realm, we will continue broadening and deepening the REES curriculum. Razi Ahmad, who spent several productive weeks in Tajikistan, will be utilizing the collected materials in his Tajik language classes and teaching two new courses – TAJ 532: Tajik for Sociologists, and TAJ 510: Tajik for Geographers – as part of the CREES language across the curriculum initiative.

We began working on developing assessment instruments for graduate students’ language proficiency, and adjusting REES courses to KU’s new core educational objectives. With the view of increasing student enrollment into our least commonly taught languages courses, we designed a proposal for teaching foreign languages using Skype and other online technologies.

CREES has positioned itself as one of the most vibrant KU units with diverse programming and effective outreach. In Spring 2012, following an excellent all-area-studies centers’ K-14 workshop devoted to world heritage sites, CREES collaborated with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Ft. Leavenworth to organize and host its third annual security conference with the theme of “Afghanistan 2014 and Impacts on Global Security Identities.” The use of live streaming made conference presentations available to people who were unable to attend.

As part of our effort to better use social media technologies, we live tweeted the Security Conference, a first time for CREES! This fall we will launch a campaign to increase our social network’s popularity. Join us on Facebook as we share posts about activities and stories from the region! Additionally, over the summer, CREES created its own YouTube page for disseminating video recordings of its programs (http://www.youtube.com/user/KUCREES), which can also be accessed via the CREES website.

We are looking forward to an exciting and eventful fall semester. It will begin in August with CREES’s participation in the Hawk Day EGARC Language Buffet (August 19), and the Slavic Linguistics Society conference, (August 25-27), organized by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and supported by CREES.

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 7, and join us for our annual Fall Mixer and Potluck! Come to mingle with the fun CREES crowd and enjoy great food at the Lawrence Visitor Center. Due to new KU policy, we’re asking all our friends to keep our old tradition of fun alive with the new tradition of BYOB. See you there!

Also in September, we will host a team of NRC external reviewers, participate in Lawrence’s Festival of Cultures in South Park, and sponsor a speaker and a film during the Environmental Film Festival hosted jointly with the other NRCs at KU. Join us at the Spencer Museum of Art on September 19 to watch...
The Battle of Chernobyl and hear paralympic athlete Tatsiana Rhytiski speak on her experience with the Children of Chernobyl Foundation.

In October, there will be a Vadim Havel Remembrance co-sponsored by the Czech Consulate in Kansas City, and a concert and lecture by a Croatian Clarinetist! Dr. Robert Belinic, who will perform during the Young Artists series at the Lied Center. There’s a rumor going around campus that Dr. Marc Greenberg will perform a classical guitar duet with Robert Belinic somewhere on the KU campus...well, keep you posted on the details!

Don’t miss the Backus Lecture by Dr. Brian Porter-Sauss in November, and the many informative Brownbags this fall. The search for a new CREES director will commence in October. Let us know if you’re interested in charting the future of CREES!

And now, we hope you enjoy reading this new issue of the CREES Newsletter, and please let us hear your news at cree@ku.edu!

Saying Goodbye but Not Farewell
An Interview with Edith W. Clowes, CREES Director 2008-2012

With great appreciation and no small amount of sadness, in June 2012 CREES said goodbye to Director Edith W. Clowes as she left KU for a new adventure at the University of Virginia. Dr. Clowes joined CREES in December 1998 as a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She became the CREES Director in 2008, where she excelled at improving the quality of academic programs, creating a vibrant events schedule, and engaging the community with outreach.

Known for her energy and enthusiasm for REES area studies, perhaps her greatest legacy is the relationships she built with other departments at KU and with the wider community. Dr. Clowes worked tirelessly to ensure that CREES remained an interdisciplinary space for specialists across a wide array of disciplines to network and share their research on this complex area of the world. An expert in 19th- and 20th-century Russian literature, philosophy, and politics, Dr. Clowes has and will always be a vocal advocate for the humanities. Yet her directorship focused on inclusivity, building bridges between the social sciences and the arts, and taking steps to include the natural sciences.

Dr. Clowes’ tenure as CREES Director had many highlights—raising funds for new scholarships and paid research assistantship opportunities; creating new joint degree programs in REES area studies and law; winning a 3-year grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies to expand Turkish language, literature, and culture offerings at KU. She also faced a number of challenges during her tenure. After winning a record-breaking Title VI grant of $2.3 million dollars in 2011, CREES, like all US Department of Education National Resource Centers, was forced to cut its Title VI budget by a devastating 46.5%. Never one to shrink before challenges, Dr. Clowes turned this budgetary crisis into an opportunity to educate about the importance of area studies and advocate for the support of REES area specialists.

In the following interview, Dr. Clowes talks about her experiences as CREES Director and identifies her proudest accomplishments. She shares her advice for graduating students and future CREES Directors. She also talks about her new position as the Brown-Forman Professor of Arts and Sciences in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Virginia.

“Professor Clowes has long been one of my greatest mentors and supporters. Not only is she a phenomenal teacher, she is also a tremendous researcher and writer. She is one of the most knowledgeable and hard-working people I know in Russian studies.”

Edith W. Clowes
CREES Director 2008-2012
CREEs: Are there things you wish you had accomplished during your time as Director but couldn’t?

A great idea that we started but have not yet finished, due to Title VI budget cuts, was the “Slavic Great Plans” website, a clearinghouse for resources related to and of businesses world-wide. This was a lovely project that I really hope CREEs will finish in the future. I’ve also been working on a history of CREEs – it’s currently in draft form. I hope that another director will want to finish this, but I’ve really enjoyed working on it. It’s kind of a global community of international communities” by taking abroad an array of KU students, who then start to envision themselves as part of this international community. The profession is in a period of great change and competing for space. This is a way for prospective hiring should consider new ways and formats. The contribution of scholars who bring new perspectives to the Slav studies center influence you as you wrote this book?

“Nothing is more important than ever. CREEs: While you were Director of CREEs, you published a book on the post-Soviet Russian mindset. How did your tenure studies center influence you as you wrote this book?

That book was mainly finished by the time I became director, though I wrote the last chapter on the North Caucasus and the conclusion in 2008 and 2009. Being in CREEs and taking on a regional basis with geographers and working with geographers saw me into the insights that specialists in other disciplines think about the issues in the light of geographical imaginaries. Some – like epistemology geographic – have a major impact on our daily lives, while others are more abstract. The geographical perspective can enrich our understanding of many aspects of human life, from political to cultural to economic issues. Geographers help us to think about space and place in new ways, and to understand how people interact with their environment and how they are shaped by it.

CREEs: What advice do you have for future CREEs Directors?

Admire all the reporting and multitasking take you to ponder the big picture. Be sure to include events that give you a lot of pleasure and help you to grow intellectually.

CREEs: Tell us a little bit about your new position at the University of Virginia. What are your upcoming plans?

I will be the Brown-Forman Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures. The challenge will be to enhance Slavic and REES areas, both of which have suffered setbacks in the last while, and to continue our work on Slavic literature, language, and culture. This will require a strategic approach to the management of our resources and a strong commitment to collaboration and partnership. The department will continue to focus on high-quality teaching and research, while also seeking to engage with the broader community through outreach and public engagement activities.

CREEs: Let’s talk a little about the near 50% cut to the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences REES program. Does this spell the end of the CREEs Program?

No, the Title VI cuts certainly do not spell the end of the CREEs program, though they could mean the downsizing of certain specializations. There will certainly be a new competition in 2014, which CREEs will be well poised to win because of its unique geographical location, its partnership with KU Libraries, its excellent faculty and the significant level of KU’s institutional support. KU and other state universities are being privatized, which means that fundraising and constant application for a broad array of grants will be more important than ever.

CREEs: What advice do you have for future CREEs Directors?

I would tell them that area studies are now a crucial part of the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and that we need to focus on proactive in seeking internships and job opportunities in the private sector, as well as developing partnerships with other institutions. We need to be proactive in seeking new faculty members who can strengthen our programs, and we need to continue to invest in our existing faculty and staff.

CREEs: You were chair of SLL at a time when Slavic and Russian programs across the country were dismantled or significantly reduced in size. Why do you think that KU SLL has survived and even thrived during such a period?

A number of factors came into play. If I step back, I cannot chalk it all up to program quality, though I think that is a significant part of it. Rather, our survival is also a function of the KU culture and the fact that the study of Slavic, literature, language, and culture were essential to our area. Moreover, our specialization in the Western Balkans has been fruitful because it is an interesting inter-disciplinary area and we also have unique strengths in this area. Kansas Slavic is known world-wide for its long association with scholars and outreach, and research focused on the central parts of the former Yugoslavia – Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia – and that reputation has never been more robust than it is now.

CREEs: You oversee the hiring of what seems like a new generation of faculty and staff in the Slavic and REES departments. How are some of these hires and how they fit into your vision for the Department’s future.

We have been fortunate to find exceptional young talents and we thought outside of the box as much as possible in hiring them. Stephen Dickey brought to our department key insights into the Slavic verbal aspect, a key feature of Slavic grammar. He is also an important translator of contemporary literature in the Russian language. Marta recently published Colloquial Slovene in the highly regarded Routledge Colloquial series, and I think that is a significant part of it. Rather, our survival is also a function of the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has a number of strengths in terms of the areas and more. In SL and CREEs we have been able to bear the crises. Having been central to the vision for the Department’s future.

CREEs: How would you describe the relationship between SLL and CREEs. What do you see as key in maintaining a strong bond between the two departments?

SLL and CREEs have always been closely connected, as well as strengthened. We collaborate very closely. The College motto is “Learning without Boundaries” and I think it applies well to the relationship between the regions and their languages, geographic, arts, history, politics, and economics. To understand a region one must understand the complex interaction of all of these areas. It is possible to focus on language, literature, and culture, but we need to develop connections to other disciplines that CREEs provides. I think this relationship is mutually enriching.

CREEs: Is there something you wish you had known when you first began your position as director? Any advice for the new SLL chair and the new CREEs Director?

I had known of the successes to come it would have been easier to bear the crises. Having been chair for nearly 12 years, I value the strengthening of the commitment to the development of patience that being a chair helped me to achieve.

CREEs: While you were Chair, the long lost Russian Jayhawk was found. What is the Russian Jayhawk and why is he so important?

Actually the Russian Jayhawk was not lost—it was well taken care of in the University Archives. Russian Slavic Studies was not only an expert curator but also knew more about the history of the Jayhawk than anyone. My contribution was to dig up the historical background of the Jayhawk.CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE JAYHAWK!

CREEs: What is your favorite piece of Slavic literature?

It would be impossible to choose a single piece of Slavic art, visual, musical, or literary, that is anything—art takes on meaning in context, including the relationships of one work of art to another. But if I had to choose one that is reflective on my own experience, I would choose Drago Janac’s Poemnje insulin (which means “with the way I’ve been”). This book is translated into English by KU PhD Michael Biggs as Making Desire. The story is (in part) about the Slavic experience in the context of the new wave of culture through the perspective of the other. This story encapsulates an lesson to try to understand the world from the same dimensions until you have lived meaningfully in another culture. Perspective is everything.
In January 2012, Professor William J. Comer accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. Professor Comer joined the KU Slavic Department faculty in 1999 and was promoted to Full Professor in Spring 2012. In the following interview, Professor Comer shares his vision for the Slavic Department’s future.

Project Global Officers Center on the KU campus. The grants fund students in the ROTC program to study critical languages and to gain intercultural competence. We have been recommended for funding at the beginning of June and we are waiting to get final notification of the award.

CREEs: How would you describe the relationship between SLL and CREEs? What do you see as key in maintaining a strong bond between the two departments?

What will be most helpful in maintaining a strong relationship is understanding the symbiotic relationship between our units. SLL and CREEs have shared goals and priorities in increasing the study of languages and cultures. Knowledge of cultures and world areas is an integral part of language learning and language learning is a vital component of a deep knowledge of another culture and world region. So we have every reason to collaborate in building strong programs.

CREEs: Are there any initiatives started by the previous Chair that you particularly hope to keep going?

In the past few years, fundraising from outside sources has become a major concern. Former SLL Chair Marc Greenberg did a lot of work to make the Slavic Department more visible to the community, and I hope to be able to continue that work.

CREEs: What is your vision for the Slavic Department over the next few years? What are you looking forward to the most?

One goal is to maintain the department’s strengths in faculty areas of expertise, research productivity, and success in mentoring students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. I also hope to increase enrollments in our undergraduate courses, and the changes to general education requirements seem to be an opportunity for the department to reach new audiences.

I look forward to developing new collaborations with other departments and programs to promote the study of Slavic languages and cultures. Spring 2012 brought one of the first opportunities for this kind of successful collaboration the Slavic Department worked with EALC, CEAS, AAS, and CGS to apply for a grant from the Institute of International Education to establish a new curriculum material for East European literature. It is hard to limit myself just to a single piece of literature – there are so many great reads in Russian and Polish literatures (Pushkin’s Onegin, Tolstoy’s Death of Ivan Ilich, Iwaszkiewicz’s short stories). But that is all very serious literature, so let me tell you about my favorite genre when it comes to reading for pleasure… Boris Akunin’s historical detective novels featuring Erast Petrovich Fandorin. His masterful play with literary and linguistic conventions delights as much as his twisting plots confound the reader to figure out “who done it”? They really are great reads.

CREEs: What is your favorite piece of Slavic or East European literature, and what does your choice say about you?

It seems like a fairly smooth transition for you to step into the position of Chair of the Slavic Department. Was this position as natural a step for you as it seemed?

In a relatively small department, all members of the faculty usually have a good idea about the scope of their department’s operations, their course offerings, and their colleagues’ research interests and areas of specialization. Having a good sense of the department’s identity and general outreach really helped me step into this new role.

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Starting with a tour of the square in its current configuration, his presentation used artistic renderings and period photographs to trace changes in the square during its 500-year history. Special attention was given to modifications made over the last century as Moscow’s leaders remade the square in their own image, only to see elements of tsarist Russia restored and restored after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Red Square has always played a central role in Russian life, and its current architectural configuration serves as a clear reflection of the country’s history and its struggle to define itself in this new century. Following his presentation, Dr. Perkins presented attendees with a ready-made handout and webquest based on the e-resources he used during his lecture. The handout and link to images of Red Square can be found on the CREES website For Teachers section.
Security Conference: Afghanistan 2014

CREES and the Center for Global and International Studies (CGIS), together with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Ft. Leavenworth, hosted the third annual KU-Ft. Leavenworth Security Conference on April 25, 2012. The conference, which was held in the Kansas Union, focused on “Afghanistan 2014 and Impacts on Global Security Identities.” Conference presenters tackled the complicated issues surrounding the reduction of the United States and international military presence in Afghanistan after 2014, and the resulting changes in the global security environment. Colonel (R) Thomas Wilhelm, director of the Foreign Military Studies Office at Ft. Leavenworth, characterized this year’s conference as “a valuable opportunity to understand and appreciate this watershed moment in contemporary security history through diverse perspectives at one of our nation’s leading research universities.”

Keynote speakers at the event included Dr. Graeme Herd (Geneva Centre for Security Policy), Dr. Roger Kangas (Dean, Near East and South Asia Center), and Dr. Marlene Laruelle (Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University). Former CREES Director Edith Clowes noted that the impact of the conference had been heightened by recent events in Afghanistan. “Everyone knows that we are approaching a turning point in Afghanistan. There is a lot that could go wrong if our civilian and military leaders do not keep the big picture in mind. While the public had been focusing on the twin tragedies of Quran burning and an alleged rogue soldier going on a killing spree, this KU conference brought many viewpoints to the table that must be considered—Afghan, Russian, Chinese, Uzbek, among others. I am delighted that KU is at the forefront to make sense of these points of view.”


Betty Laird, Ruoxi Du, and Edith Clowes
This year’s Roy D. and Betty Laird Essay Contest winner is REES MA student, Ruoxi Du, for her essay titled “Anti-Chinese Sentiment in Russia: Threats of Chinese Invasion or Fears of Russian Xenophobia.” Now in its 18th year, the annual essay contest is named after the late Dr. Roy D. Laird, a longtime member of the Russian and East European Studies (REES) and Political Science faculties, and Ms. Betty Laird, whose support makes this prize possible. As a recipient of the award, Ruoxi received $750, $75 worth of academic books, a certificate, and her name on the plaque bearing the names of all previous winners of the competition, which is displayed outside the main CREES office.

Ruoxi graduated from the REES MA program in May 2012 and joined the PhD program in Political Science at the University of Iowa this fall.

Read Ruoxi’s essay on the CREES website:
www.crees.ku.edu/academics/
For over 30 years, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series has been an informal forum for KU and the surrounding community to discuss general topics related to Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. 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
breddf@ku.edu
785-864-5448

In his February 28th Brownbag, “From Arab Spring to the Russian ‘Evolution’,” REES MA student and Fall 2011 FMSO-CREES Graduate Research Assistant Patrick Callen explored the contributions of social media and new technologies in the creation of civic political identities and communities, and how they interact with political regimes in the Middle East and the former Soviet Union. Social media have transformed civic activism by allowing otherwise disconnected or loosely connected activists to collaborate and coordinate their efforts behind a common course of action. The recent Arab Spring revolutions and protests in the former Soviet Union provide evidence of social media’s role in the complex interactions among advanced conventional strategic and non-strategic weapons. Professor Kipp concluded that the world may be moving further from “Global Zero”-like foreign policies and towards a radical decline in strategic stability.

On April 3, 2012, Professor Lesley Rimmel (History, Oklahoma State University) lectured on the city of Leningrad during the Stalinist terror. For many years the well-publicized Moscow show trials of the 1930s defined the essence of the Stalinist terror both to Soviets and around the world. This talk focused on the January 1937 trial of the so-called “Parallel Anti-Soviet Trotskyite Center” and responses to Communist Party propaganda around it in the Leningrad Oblast. Professor Rimmel explained how examining this trial from the vantage point of local propaganda efforts helps illuminate not only the opinions of a wide variety of people on the trial, but also the other political and social concerns in the sprawling oblast, and on problems within the top leadership.

On April 24, 2012, Professor Marlene Laruelle, Senior Research Fellow with the Central Asia and Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program (Johns Hopkins University) gave a talk on Russia’s arctic policy. Professor Laruelle explained how Putin’s Russia played an undeniable role (with Canada) in the escalation of self-assertive rhetoric on Arctic issues when the Russian flag was planted in the Arctic seabed in 2007; however, since then, Moscow has been noticeably focused on creating a new “Arctic brand” and positioning itself as co-leader of international consensus on the region. Professor Laruelle argued that the Arctic has now been transformed into a flagship for the new Russia in terms of international negotiations on territorial issues, strategic de-escalation, energy future, and climate change.

In her March 27, 2012 Brownbag presentation, “Modeling National Identity: the Ukrainian Perspective,” Alexandra Novitchkova, a Fulbright researcher from the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Kyiv, Ukraine) examined current views on the idea of Ukrainian identity in official policies and by intellectuals. Ms. Novitchkova argued that the current discourse on the importance of language policy reforms in Ukraine is overestimated. She explained how ideas to introduce Russian as a second state language, as well as the stereotyping of Ukrainians who speak Russian as being “not the real Ukrainians,” are leading to the alienation of Russian-speaking Ukrainians and further dividing the country. She suggested that more attention should be paid to promoting the sharing of similar cultural values and narrative patterns.

On April 17, 2012, Professor Yulia Uryadova (History, University of Arkansas) talked about Russia’s control and authority over its rural outposts. Among many years the well-publicized Moscow show trials of the 1930s defined the essence of the Stalinist terror both to Soviets and around the world. This talk focused on the January 1937 trial of the so-called “Parallel Anti-Soviet Trotskyite Center” and responses to Communist Party propaganda around it in the Leningrad Oblast. Professor Rimmel explained how examining this trial from the vantage point of local propaganda efforts helps illuminate not only the opinions of a wide variety of people on the trial, but also the other political and social concerns in the sprawling oblast, and on problems within the top leadership.

Miss a lecture? Watch it at your convenience online! Our Brownbag and special guest lectures are available on the CREES website:
www.crees.ku.edu/videos
INCOMING REES MA STUDENTS

Emily Cainsi is from Edgewood, Kentucky and majored in history and minored in political science at the University of Kentucky, where she graduated with a BA in 2009. At UK she took classes on the wars of Indo- Japanes, the Spanish Inquisition, and Brazilian history, but nothing inter- ested her as much as early modern Russian history. In 2007 she studied abroad in Finland, where her interest in the REES area further developed. She is hoping to study the effect history has on Russian thought. She hopes to work for the government as a country specialist following graduation, or continue on to a PhD in early Russian history.

Arnold Rassin is the first KU stu- dent to join the dual degree JD MA REES program. He has com- pleted his first year at KU and seeks to broaden his expertise with REES area studies and acquire a certificate in Interna- tional Trade Law and Finance. Ar- nold was born in the United States just a few months after his parents emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1987. He has always had an interest in the REES areas cultures and traditions. He is especially curious about his own Tatar heritage.

Summer 2012

Drew Burks, PhD History (Polish)
Matthew Cottone, MA REES (Russian)
Emily Cainsi, MA REES (Russian)
Megan Lustrow, MA/DPhil (South American)
Amy Murphy, MA REES (Ukrainian)
Chris Oblon, BA Political Science (Polish)
Allison Schneider, PhD History (Ukraine)
Jared Warren, MA REES (Polish)

Academic Year 2012-13

Drew Burks, PhD History (Polish)
Emily Cainsi, MA REES (Russian)
Gloria Funcheon, MA REES (Russian)
Sandra King-Savic, MA REES (Turkish)
Alessia Mello, MA Law (Ukraine)
David Trimbach, PhD Geography (Russian)
Jared Warren, MA REES (Polish)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE AREA STUDIES FLAS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

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Megan Lustrow, MA/DPhil (South American)
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NEW JD/MA REES ACADEMIC PROGRAM

KU School of Law and CREES are now accept- ing applications for students pursuing graduate degrees in both Law and Russian, Eastern Euro- pean & Eurasian Studies (REES).

Law School

For more information, contact: Webb Hecker (785) 864-9231 whocker@ku.edu

REES MA

For more information, contact: Renae Peralmtier (785) 864-2356 rperalmtier@ku.edu

Friends & Alumni News

In Memoriam

Lubomyra Palij, 1922-2012

In early January 2012, the CREES community lost a dear friend, Mrs. Lubo- myra Palij. Mrs. Palij, or Pan Palij as many of us knew her, was born March 24, 1945, in Chortiv, Ukraine. After high school, she earned a degree in phar- macy at the Pharmaceutical College in Lviv, Ukraine. Shortly after WWII, her family immigrated to Toronto, Canada, where she worked at St. Joseph’s hospital until she retired in 1976.

In 1963, she married Chicago publisher and businessman Mykola Deny- ski. After moving to Chicago, she became co-owner and manager of the Mykola Denyski Publishing Company. The company published hundreds of academic and popular historical books, mostly about Ukrainian culture and the complete works of iconic Ukrainian writers like Taras Shevchenko and Ivan Franko. Lubomyra was also active in the Chicago Branch of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (LAWLA). After Mykola died sud- denly in 1976, however, Lubomyra returned to Toronto in order to be near her family.

In 1979, she married Dr. Michael Palij, a librarian and historian in the KU Library’s Slavic Department. She moved to Lawrence, and for 30 years he taught American students about the history and culture of Ukraine. They sponsored the annual Palij Lecture, bringing national- and international scholars to Lawrence to speak about Ukrainian culture, history and politics. They also became benefac- tors of several religious and cultural organiza- tions in Ukraine, donat- ing over 4,000 books to Ukrainian libraries. Mi- chael Palij passed away in 2009, while Lubomyra lived in Lawrence until her death on January 6, 2012.

Lubomyra is survived by her stepson Peter Palij, his wife Linda Leibengood, and their children Maria and Mark Palij, of An- dieres New York. The family welcomes memorial contributions to the Palij Family Fund c/o University of Kansas Endowment, PO Box 928, Lawrence KS 66044.

On line condolences may be sent to the funeral home in Kansas at: http://rumsey-yost.com/2012/01/lubomyra-o-palij/

Bramlage Family

In June, CREES was shocked and saddened by the tragic loss of six members of the Bramlage family, Ron and Becky Bramlage, along with their four children, died when their private aircraft crashed near Lake Wales, Florida. Both graduates of Kansas State University, Ron Bram- lage, a prominent businessman, and Becky Bramlage, President of the Board of Education for Geary County USD 475, were known through- out Kansas for their commitment to philanthropy and education.

A life of service was held for the family in Junction City where Ron and Becky’s children, Brandon, Beau, Boston, and Roxanne attended school. Our thoughts go out to all members of the Bramlage family at this time, most especially REES alumni and cousin to Ron Bramlage, Mark Wilcox.

Over the years, the Bramlage Family Foundation has supported several CREES students, including our most recent recipients, REES MA students, Gloria Funcheon and Matthew Cotton.
Many of our activities are enhanced through private donations to the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

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

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

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CREES General Fund
The CREEES General Fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community. Among its dedicated sponsors are the Backus Memorial Fund, which allows CREEES to host the annual Backus Memorial Lecture, 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.

Maria Palij Memorial 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 CREEES 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 CREEES

Please mail your donations to:

University of Kansas
Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies
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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 CREEES, please contact us at:

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