

Fall 2006

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

Newsletter

CONTENTS

Visitors	2	Faculty News	4
Roundtables	2	Impressions	6
Spring 2006 Brownbags	3	Outreach	7
Our Graduates	4	CREES Events	8

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Old Azerbaijani Vessels

Over the past few months, we have been hoping to fulfill the old saying: "good things come to those who wait." CREES held up its part of the bargain, patiently waiting for the results of the Department of Education's Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship and National Resource Center competitions. In late April, CREES was awarded FLAS funding and in late June, CREES received word that it would once again serve as a Title VI National Resource Center. We join sixteen other higher education institutions with this prestigious designation for our world region during the 2006-2010 funding cycle. Thanks again to the CREES staff, faculty, students, and friends who put in countless hours preparing the massive grant application. We can all take pride in the continued national recognition of KU's leadership in the study of Russia, East Europe, and Eurasia.

This good news was accompanied by the sobering reality of changes in federal funding for educational programs. While CREES will receive \$1.88 million over the next four years for scholarships, curriculum, and programming, federal support has dropped from the

previous cycle. Declining federal resources will force us to live by another cliché: "do more with less."

Regardless of changes in funding patterns, the Center has many exciting initiatives in store for the coming academic year. In the Fall semester, we will welcome Marci Shore, this year's Oswald Backus lecturer in Polish studies, and Gisela Erbsloeh, a journalist who recently returned from Chechnya. Our Spring semester programs will focus on the South Slavic region, with special lectures, films, concerts, and other activities dedicated to the Balkans. Of course, we will continue to offer our regularly scheduled Laird Brown Bags and Friday Night at the Kino. You can read about the details of our upcoming programs in this newsletter and on our recently re-designed website (www.crees.ku.edu).

We hope that the summer has reinvigorated you for the coming school year. Please share your summer experiences with old and new friends at our Fall mixer, Friday, September 15, at the Train Depot.

Erik Herron

www.crees.ku.edu

CREES VISITORS

One of the strongest attributes of CREES is its ability to host visitors both from this country and abroad. We arrange logistics, plan events, and help connect scholars to colleagues at KU doing similar research. This is part of our mission as a Title VI National Resource Center. These visiting scholars enlighten the KU community on matters of global interest and spread the influence of our Center and KU throughout the world.

Spring 2006 was certainly no exception. Elmira Muratova, from Crimea, Ukraine, who is doing cutting edge research on political Islam, and Max Tuula from Vladivostok, Russia, who is exploring Russian perceptions of American foreign policy, visited KU as Fulbright scholars. They were joined by Irina Kopaneva from Voronezh, Russia, who arrived in late January on a Carnegie-sponsored research program. Kopaneva specializes in communication studies and worked with Dean Diana Carlin on her research.

CREES also continues to host visitors from Ivan Franko National University in L'viv, Ukraine. Dr. Viktor Krevs and Dr. Volodymyr Kyrylych made primarily administrative visits in the month of March to ensure the continued partnership of KU and IFNU. Other visitors from L'viv included Hanna Khomechko, who spent two months conducting research in linguistics and American Studies, investigating how language is used in business communication, negotiation, and writing; and Yuriy Shveda, who conducted research on elections.

CREES also helps to sponsor short-term visits. For instance, in the Spring 2006 semester, the Center provided logistical, academic, and administrative support for CREES Fellow Dr. Terry Clark from Creighton University while he conducted research at KU. Dr. Sabina Manafova visited KU from Baku, Azerbaijan to discuss various projects with faculty and administrators at KU.

Most CREES visitors arrive to give special talks and presentations on topics related to our world area. In the Spring semester, we hosted Lawrence Korb, a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and a Senior Adviser to the Center for Defense Information, who gave a talk on post-Cold War military structures; Pauletta Otis, Senior Fel-



Lawrence Korb is discussing political issues with CREES Director Erik Herron.

Dr. Alexander Motyl gives the keynote address for the Maria Palij Memorial Lecture.



low in Religion and International Affairs at the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, who spoke on religion and violence; Piotr Wrobel, Associate Professor and Konstanty Reynert Chair of Polish History, History Department, University of Toronto, who gave a lecture about Poles and Jews in the 20th Century; Ambassador Avis Bohlen who spoke about her experiences in Eastern Europe and with arms control; Mr. Paul Saunders, Executive Director of the Nixon Center, who gave a lecture at the Dole Institute regarding the future direction of Russia; and Dr. Alexander Motyl, who gave the keynote address on the current political situation in Ukraine for the Maria Palij Memorial Lecture.

These are just some of the visitors that CREES hosted during the Spring 2006 semester and we are proud of our efforts to make KU a truly international university.

ROUNDTABLES

During the Spring 2006 semester, CREES initiated a roundtable discussion forum, concentrating on Russia, Ukraine, and finally on Central Asia and the Caucasus. The overall intent behind this forum is to allow students and faculty to discuss current events with experts in an informal, open atmosphere. The overall consensus was that these forums helped to deepen understanding of the region. CREES will be holding another full slate of roundtables during the Fall 2006 semester. See the calendar for exact dates and times.

CAUCASUS ROUNDTABLE

JFDP scholar Magdalina Arzakanyan (Armenia), Geography Professor Shannon O’Lear (KU), JFDP scholar Nigiar Isgandarova (Azerbaijan) and JFDP scholar, Azim Bayzoev (Tajikistan) discuss the



Caucasus Roundtable

situation in the Caucasus region with our colleagues in Baku, Azerbaijan using an Internet video camera during the Central Asia/Caucasus Roundtable.

RUSSIAN ROUNDTABLE

Russian Roundtable panelists Dr. Leslie Dienes (Geography), Dr. Jerry Mikkelson (REES), Dr. Alex Tsiovkh (REES), Mr. Max Tuula (Visiting Fulbright scholar,



Russian Roundtable

Vladivostok, Russia), and Ray Finch (REES) discuss their perceptions about Russia.

UKRAINIAN ROUNDTABLE

Ukrainian specialists Dr. Paul D’Anieri (Political Science), Dr. Leslie Dienes (Geography), Dr. Erik Herron (Political Science), Dr. Alex Tsiovkh (REES), and Dr. Victor Krevs (Ivan Franko National University, L’viv, Ukraine) share their views on the recent parliamentary elections (March 2006) during the Ukrainian Roundtable.

Ukrainian Roundtable



SPRING 2006 BROWNBAG SYNOPSIS

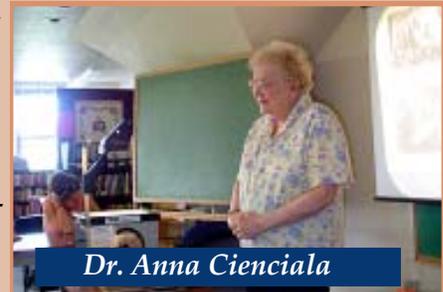
The Spring 2006 semester included a full and varied slate of interesting presentations during the weekly Roy Laird Brownbag series. Topics ranged from the historical to the contemporary, from travelogue to the technical. This forum illustrates the interdisciplinary nature of our Center. Whether it was Dr. Barbara Phipps discussing her educational research in Bulgaria or visiting scholar Taras Senyuta reviewing the 20th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, these discussions help to broaden awareness of the region among faculty, students and the general public.



Ms. Elmira Muratova, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Tavrida National Vernadsky University, Simferopol, Ukraine, helps us to understand the Islamic factor in the Russian-Chechen wars.

Elmira Muratova

Dr. Anna Cienciala, Professor Emerita, History, KU, discusses some of her recent findings surrounding the Polish and Hungarian Revolutions of 1956 and Soviet Reactions.



Dr. Anna Cienciala

Dr. Tom Volek, Journalism, KU, shares some of his research on grassroots Russian media. This particular brownbag was also shared via Internet camera with our colleagues at Ivan Franko National University, L’viv, Ukraine.



OUR GRADUATES

OUR CENTER HAS LONG PRIDED ITSELF ON THE STRENGTH OF ITS ALUMNI AND THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES ARE CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION!



Ray Hackler

attending this program will return to the Army more knowledgeable and wellrounded."

Ray Hackler, Major, US Army, Psychological Operations.

"I had an enjoyable and memorable experience at KU. The faculty and staff of the CREES made this possible through their understanding of the special requirements and needs of Army Officers, and their willingness to cooperate with the Army to meet those needs. Officers



REES co-major and May 2006 graduate Jack Stejskal will be heading off for a two-year Peace Corps assignment to Kazakhstan. We wish him the best.

Jack Stejskal

Sara Rowden spent the better part of Summer 2006 in St. Petersburg, Russia where she continued to refine her Russian language skills. She is looking at a number of different employment opportunities.

Sara Rowden



Upon graduation, Amanda Toombs will be looking for employment in a REES-related field.

Amanda Toombs

OUR GRADUATES -- continued

"When I entered the REES program in the fall of 2004, I didn't know what to expect. I have been extremely impressed by the faculty at the University of Kansas. There are excellent professors that have been at KU for years, and the newest faculty members reflect KU's commitment to building a strong REES program. My favorite courses were: Marxism, History of Russian Thought, and Dr. Mikkelson's new course that is taught in Russian. After graduation, I plan on continuing to build my own consulting and translation business and I may return to KU in a couple of years to work on a PhD."



Matt Miles

Matt Miles



Larry Harrison is currently serving as the Defense Attaché in the US Embassy in Tirana, Albania.

Larry Harrison

FACULTY NEWS

Shannon O'Lear (Geography, KU) and Robert Whiting, have had their article accepted for publication by National Identities, titled: "Which Comes First, The Nation or The State? An analysis of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict in the Caucasus."

Dr. Norman Saul, History, was very busy this past semester, and among his projects, he published Friends or Foes? The United States and Soviet Russia, 1921-1941, (University Press of Kansas) the fourth in a series on Russian-American Relations. His article on "Bernhard Warkentin and the Making of the Wheat State" appeared this year in John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History, edited by Virgil Dean (University Press of Kansas, 2006). Dr. Saul was the keynote speaker for a special program on Russia and America in April at Oklahoma State University; "The Program that Ended the Cold War: The Lacy-Zarubin Cultural Exchange Agreement of 1958" is soon to be published in the proceedings of the

FACULTY NEWS -- *continued*

conference. He also presented "The Program that Won the War: American Lend-Lease to the Soviet Union, 1941-45," to the Kansas Association of Historians at Bethany College in Lindsborg in April.



Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Associate Professor of Sociology, conducted workshops at Ivan Franko University in Ukraine this past May, and she continued her research on gender issues in Azerbaijan this summer. This past year, she also was the recipient of a Mortar Board Outstanding Educator Award.



Dr. Edith Clowes, Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, received the Phi Beta Delta Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education for 2006. She attended the International Studies Conference in San Diego, March 23-24, 2006, to receive the award. Dr. Clowes also received a Fellowship for AY 2006-2007 from the American Council of Learned Societies to work on a book, currently entitled, "The Center at the Periphery: Eccentric Identities in Contemporary Russian Writing Culture."



In June 06, **Brian Rosenblum**, Librarian, Scholarly Digital Initiatives, traveled to the Czech Republic where he gave two presentations: "Institutional Repositories and KU ScholarWorks," a guest presentation at the State Technical Library in Prague on June 20, and "Recent Trends in Scholarly Publishing" at the World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, held at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, June 25-June 30, 2006. In addition to the presentations, he also received support from the KU Library Research Fund (LRF) to visit librarians at several Czech institutions to learn more about their digital library efforts, and purchased a lot of new Czech materials for KU Libraries (and for the EGARC lab).

FACULTY NEWS -- *continued*

Dale Herspring, visiting professor from KSU, recently published the following timely articles: "Dedovshchina: The Problem That Won't Go Away," *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, December 2005; "Undermining Combat Readiness in the Russian Military, 1992-2005," *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 32, #4, 2006; and *The Kremlin and the High Command: Presidential Impact on the Russian Military from Gorbachev to Putin*, University Press of Kansas, 2006.



Marc L. Greenberg (Chair, SLL) gave a day of lectures on the topic of "Language and Identity" in Slovenia at the University of Maribor's International Summer School on 26 June and two days of lectures on "Language in the Balkans" at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia, sponsored by the Northwestern University Summer School in Croatia on 29-30 June.



Professor Emerita **Anna Cienciala** had a review essay on the Polish version of Norman Davies' book on the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 published in Poland; Anna M. Cienciala, "Polityka Mocarstw Zachodnich wobec Polski i Powstania Warszawskiego. Dyskusja nad Dzielom Normana Daviesa," (The Policy of the Western Powers toward Poland and the Warsaw Uprising. A Discussion of Norman Davies's Work), *Bialostockie Teki Historyczne*, tom 3/2005, pp. 261-89. It was published by Bialystok University, Poland and appeared in early 2006.



Richard T. De George, University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, presented two papers in Milan, Italy, in June. The first, entitled "Ethics and the Corporation as a Social Construct," was the opening address at the Third Annual Forum on Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility. The second was at a special roundtable on his work, entitled "The Myth of Amoral Computing," sponsored by SIA (Società Interbancaria per l'Automazione), the largest Italian provider of information technology for financial institutions.



During the semi-annual Stop Day meeting, CREES students and faculty discuss curricular and administrative changes.

IMPRESSIONS OF KU

I have many good words to describe my experience in KU. When my institute first offered me this opportunity, I was very skeptical. Kansas - isn't it located far away from the prestigious institutes? Strange to say, but I have been able to conduct plenty of research here in the field of U.S. foreign policy. I have discovered that there are more materials in small Lawrence than in huge Moscow. I was really surprised to see how deeply the theory of international relations and political science are developed in the USA - it gave me many ideas and incentives for my research. I hope I will be able to bring the ideas and approaches to Russian political science.

Anyway, KU proved to be a very respectable university - and I saw with my own eyes that research in the U.S. is not dependent on the size of the city like in Russia. KU is one of the best places the Fulbright program could have placed me. Though KU does not have a leading reputation in the field of international relations and in US foreign policy, it has top quality faculty and access to most of the documents I needed for my research.

Certainly one of the reasons that the Fulbright program sent me to Kansas is the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES). It was one of their main arguments in convincing me to come here. And again, I was really astonished when I found out how thoroughly and deeply people in CREES study Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia. I think that few institutions in Russia dealing with the USA can show this knowledge of America. And I couldn't believe (and I still don't believe) that so many people can speak Russian here and have never been to Russia.

And I must confess - thanks to CREES and its concentration on Ukraine, I learned much about this country. I mean that the attention CREES at KU gives to Ukraine stimulated my interest to this nation, its language and the peculiarities which make it different from Russia. Only here, in Lawrence - strange, isn't it? - I made friends with a lot of Ukrainians. And, shortly, the idea of concentrated, specialized research of a nation in a center studying a wider area seems very useful and pragmatic to me.

Besides, living in Lawrence gave me a really unique experience. In Lawrence sometimes I felt kind of claustrophobic. My home city of Vladivostok is much larger. Nevertheless, it is interesting to find that the university town I read so much about really

exists. And Lawrence seems quite different from the surrounding cities. I have truly come to appreciate both the small town atmosphere of Lawrence and its splendid university.

Max Tuula, Fulbright Scholar, 2005-2006

IMPRESSIONS OF RUSSIA



"Pushkin's Muse"

This summer I attended the University of Kansas Language and Culture program in St. Petersburg, Russia. I spent six weeks immersed in the Russian language and culture. Although I did not have the conveniences that we Americans take for granted, such as hot water, air-conditioning, and ice, I did not

let that obstruct the quest to improve my communication skills and develop a better understanding of the values and behaviors of the people of St. Petersburg.

I found out that more than anything, Russians want stability. The transition to a free-market economy brought instability to many in the Russian Federation. With low incomes and rapidly rising prices, it is no wonder that many dream of returning to "better times." One night, as I attempted to make American-style cookies for my host mother, I cracked one of the eggs, which turned out to be rotten, and not only ruining my dough, but also giving the kitchen a horrible stench. My host mother, upset over the rotten egg, complained about how none of this ever would have happened during Soviet times. No one would sell you a rotten egg. Those were the good old days, she went on, when prices were low and no one gave you items of inferior quality. As she continued to speak, I wondered whether or not those times really were better, maybe for her, but at another's expense. After all, those rotten eggs had to go somewhere.

In addition, I was exposed to the harsh reality facing many Russian women. Women have numerous obstacles and limited opportunities of success in the new free-market economy. They are discriminated against daily and many are unemployed. Advertisements, directed mainly toward women, emphasize a woman's need to maintain her appearance in order to attract and secure a husband. Housewifery is also heavily emphasized. Russians frown upon the independence and undomesticated nature of American women.

Researching child abandonment in the Russian Federation, to my surprise, I saw only a handful of children begging on the streets of St. Petersburg. I did see

IMPRESSIONS -- continued

evidence of the Russian Federation’s campaign to encourage its own citizens to adopt the growing number of orphaned children in the country. Everyday, passing Ploshad Vosstaniya, a big screen overlooking the square broadcasted children up for adoption. “I am looking for a mother...”, the advertisements read, flashing faces of orphaned children in need of a home. Not far from there, I stumbled across a Dom Rebyonka, or baby house, an orphanage for children up to the age of four. Looking through the gates, I saw an empty playground, furnished with brand new equipment, wondering if these children had ever played on this equipment. Passing by it several more times at different times of the day, I never saw a soul enter or leave the building. Unsurprisingly, I was not able to visit an orphanage while I was in St. Petersburg, as Russians are keeping foreigners out of the orphanages due to the bad publicity they have been receiving on account of these visits. But, there is always next year and another chance to gain their trust.

Danielle Judith Price, MA student in REES

IMPRESSIONS OF TAJIKISTAN

“From the earth to the sky,” my hosts insisted, America is different. Tajikistan is another world.

Some days I agreed. After all, one would be hard pressed to find Kansans who would classify a Daewoo as a luxury car or who would not jump back in disgust if muddy water were flowing from their faucets.

But most days I was also struck by the connections to home. Family life did not seem that foreign as my host niece and nephew begged their grandparents for candy and threw the occasional tantrum. My host family joked and debated. And more importantly, they involved me in their lives and cared for me from the outset. I quickly felt at home.

I also began feeling exhausted, working through four hours a day of one-on-one language instruction (three in Uzbek, one in Russian) and trying to convince my new peers that everything in America is not so different as they imagine.

During a vacation in the north of the country I dipped my feet into some of the water that should probably be in the Aral sea, a sea now beset by an unparalleled ecological catastrophe that I had studied in a somewhat less exotic classroom at KU



just the year before. The water is sitting in a reservoir built for irrigating the region’s vast cotton fields.

I also saw exactly what happened to some of the planned economies after the end of Soviet subsidies. I am still befuddled by the isolated, now-vacant factories I witnessed in one region and still impressed with the massive Nurek hydroelectric facility and Tursunzade aluminum plant I visited in another.

My nine months in Tajikistan was a remarkable, irreplaceable experience. The language skills I walked away with are surely as valuable as they are unusual.

Graduate students and undergraduates alike can access such experiences, including quality one-on-one language instruction, just the way I did: with the support of the KU Office of Study Abroad and funding through the National Security Education Program (NSEP)—also known as the David L. Boren undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships. Similar opportunities throughout the region and with other sources of funding abound.

For me, Tajikistan was another world, but not in the ways I had expected. From the earth to the sky, I found things and people I will not soon forget.

Jay Kimmel, senior in economics and political science, studied abroad in Tajikistan on an NSEP David L. Boren scholarship

OUTREACH

CREES outreach programs have been thriving this year. Tatyana Wilds, the Outreach Coordinator, and our international scholars, such as Elmira Muratova (Ukraine), Max Tuula (Russia), Azim Baizoev (Tajikistan), and Nigiar Isgandarova (Azerbaijan) visited many schools in the Lawrence and Kansas City area with a variety of presentations about Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

The outcome was a great experience for the teachers, students and scholars. A group of Olathe High School students also visited our Center and had a tour and a lecture about Russian Art.

Our international visitors and faculty contributed fascinating items for our Ukrainian and Silk Road trunks.



Nigiar Isgandarova shows students the traditional way of wearing a silk scarf.



CREES EVENTS

For a complete list visit: <http://www.crees.ku.edu>

August 29 Brownbag: "The Program that Ended the Cold War: The Negotiation of the Soviet American Cultural and Student Exchanges (the Lacy-Zarubin or Eisenhower-Khrushchev Agreement of 1958)." Norman Saul, History, KU.

September 19 Brownbag: "St. Petersburg, Russia, Media Update: Building Communities." Tom Volek, Journalism, KU.

September 22 Friday Night at the Kino: "House of Fools."

September 25 Backus Lecture: Dr. Marci Shore, "Caviar and Ashes: A Warsaw generation's life and death in Marxism, 1918-1968."

September 26 Brownbag: "East Central European Avant Garde, 1910-1930." Marci Shore, Blaustein Visiting Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies (2006-2007), Assistant Professor of History, Yale University.

September 28 CREES Roundtable Discussion (Russian-Ukrainian Relations); 3:30-5:00 pm

11th ANNUAL CREES MIXER

WHAT: *A PARTY! CREES will provide wine, beer, and soft drinks; revelers are asked to bring a dish to pass.*

WHO: *Faculty, staff, graduate students, CREES Fellows, significant others, friends of CREES.*

WHEN: *Friday September 15, 2006, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm*

WHERE: *The Old Lawrence Union Pacific Depot, at the corner of Second Street and Locust Street, just over the river. Lots of free parking out front!*

WHY: *To meet new faculty and students, see old friends and colleagues, relax, have fun, gear up for the new semester, and watch the trains go by!*

**WE'RE OFFERING CHILDREN'S
ARTS / CRAFTS / PLAY TABLE THIS YEAR**

You Are Responsible For Supervising Your Own Child/Children

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU AT OUR MIXER!**



The University of Kansas
Center for Russian, East European
& Eurasian Studies
1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 320
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574



Sabina Manafova (Baku, Azerbaijan), Nigiar Isgandarova (Sumgayit, Azerbaijan) and Jean Finch share a meal and their thoughts during a visit to the Finch home.