FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Associates of the Center:

It is a pleasure to greet you at the start of another academic year. On August 1, I took over from Erik Herron as acting director of the Center for the coming year. In just a week’s time I have come to see the great volume and breadth of activity that is happening throughout the university in connection with our world area. Erik will be spending the Fall 2007 semester in L’viv, Ukraine on a Fulbright fellowship. He will be teaching and conducting research at the Ivan Franko National University of L’viv. Upon his return in December, he will be on sabbatical and will be completing a book dealing with elections in the post-Soviet region.

Our fall programming is replete with visitors and talks, and I will mention just one highlight. We are especially honored to have Shana Penn give this year’s Backus Lecture on November 5th at 4 pm in the Centennial Room, Kansas Union. A visiting scholar at the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, California), Dr. Penn will speak on “Solidarity’s Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland.” This talk is drawn from her prize-winning 2005 book, and at the November 6 Brownbag she will present some of her findings from her new project about the revival of Jewish culture in Post-Communist Poland.

We are delighted that Dr. Mariya Omelicheva (Ph.D. 2007, Purdue University; J.D. 2000, Moscow National Law Academy) has joined KU’s Political Science Department as a new tenure-track faculty member. Since her research focuses on security policy, state security and human rights in Eurasia, she will be a core faculty member for REES, and her expertise promises to enrich our program greatly.

You will hear much more about security and security policy in our world area in spring 2008, as the Center’s programming tentatively includes a joint conference with the Dole Center for Politics on Eurasian Security. More details will be posted soon.

I invite you all to come visit with old and new colleagues at the Fall mixer on Friday, September 14 at the old Train Depot. We will kick off events this year at 6:30pm, turning this event into more of a potluck dinner. We will continue the tradition of recognizing two faculty members at the event who, in the eyes of REES staff, have contributed most to the Center’s programs. Please come and join us in recognizing their contributions.

Sincerely,

William Comer
Acting Director
Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies
Besides the temporary change of Directors, CReES is also in the process of replacing the irreplaceable Kyle King, our Program Assistant. Kyle departed in April and is now working as a writer/copy editor for a scientific journal in Kansas City. This position was briefly filled by recent REES MA grad, Danielle Price, before she departed to look for a full-time legal assistant position. CReES also lost one of its long-serving student workers. Jon Lindberg graduated in May and is now in England pursuing an MA in Political Science/International Relations. CReES is currently interviewing new candidates for these positions and will update the staff roster in the next newsletter.

During the Spring 2007 semester, CReES programming focused on the South Slavic region, with special lectures, films, concerts, art displays, training sessions for Kansas secondary school teachers, and other activities dedicated to the Balkans. This series of events helped to highlight KU’s outstanding and unique resources in language and cultural studies in the important region of the world.


Gene Fishel, Special Advisor to the Vice President, National Security Affairs, during his talk titled, “Putin’s Regional Activism and Its Implications,” 13 March 07.

John Van Orman, REES MA Candidate, KU, gives a music performance during his talk titled: “Music of the Altai Region of Siberia,” 24 April 07.

Dr. Stephen Dickey, SLL, KU, points out some of the historical intricacies in his brownbag titled, “More Than They Could Consume Locally: History in the Balkans,” 27 March 07.

Dr. Alex Tsiovkh, CREES, Dr. Marc Greenberg, SLL, Dr. Erik Herron, CREES and Ales Debeljak, University of Ljubljana after Debeljak’s brownbag lecture.

SPRING 2007 BROWN BAG SYNOPSIS

The Spring 2007 Roy Laird Brownbag series included a full and varied slate of interesting presentations. Topics ranged from the historical to the musical, from literature to the geopolitical. This forum illustrates the interdisciplinary nature of our Center, and whether it is Gene Fishel talking about the intricacies and intrigues of the Putin administration, or renowned Balkan expert, Ales Debeljak, sharing his intimate knowledge of the Balkans, these discussions help to broaden awareness of the region among faculty, students and the general public.
GULAG EXHIBIT ATTRACTED INTEREST

It's always gratifying to see an interest in Russia developing among the students and faculty of a small college in our vicinity, even if the GULAG is the starting point for that interest. That's how it happened recently at Metropolitan Community College/Penn Valley campus, in Kansas City, Missouri.

To launch a photo exhibit on the GULAG that was on display in the Penn Valley campus library through February 07, I was invited to deliver three lectures on the notorious Soviet system of forced labor camps, which existed in one magnitude or another from 1918 until very recently, and reached its peak during the Great Terror of the late 1930s.

In addition to a survey of the history of the Gulags, I emphasized the richness and importance of the literary record on the subject, for example: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, The First Circle, Cancer Ward, and

The Gulag Archipelago, Varlam Shalamov’s Kolyma Tales, Eugenia Ginzburg’s Journey into the Whirlwind, Oleg Volkov’s Plunge into Darkness, and the labor camp theme in the poetry of Anatoly Zhigulin and Boris Chichibabin.

About 150 people, including several adults from the surrounding community, heard my first lecture, on Thursday evening, February 8, and about 50 students and faculty heard each of the other presentations, on Friday morning, February 9, 2007.

The exhibit and lecture program were organized by Ms. Julianne Jacques, International Student Counselor at Penn Valley. Her interest began last summer on a Fulbright grant in Russia where she visited the Ural Mountain city of Perm’ (formerly Molotov), including a visit to Perm’ 36, last of the GULAG camps to be closed, which is now a museum serving as a memorial to the history of political repression in the USSR.

Other faculty and staff participants included Greg Sanford, Gloria Maxwell, and Michael Petersen, whose classes were integrated with the proceedings, and Lisa Spaulding. Each time I visited the photo exhibit myself, I observed students seated around it, taking thorough notes as though they were planning to write something or at least prepare for discussions on the subject. Let’s hope the GULAG will be the gateway through which the regular study of Russia returns to Penn Valley.

Jerry Mikkelson

YOU CAN HELP CREES WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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

Please contact us at:
CREES, The University of Kansas
Bailey Hall, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574

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Thank you for your support!
**Faculty News**

**Marc L. Greenberg**, Chair, Dept. of Slavic Languages & Literatures, participated in the second annual International Guitar Festival, held May 30-June 4 in Iowa City. Greenberg played in master classes on the Russian seven-string guitar with artists Vladimir Markushevich (Moscow), Dmitri Illarionov (Moscow), Tariel Berimaladze (Tbilisi), John Schneiderman (University of California-Irvine) and Nadia Borislova (Puebla, Mexico).


**Jon Giulian** is currently working on the *Guide to Reference* (12. ed.), which is a major bibliography published by ALA Editions, the publishing arm of the American Library Association. In July he traveled to the Library of Congress to work on his section, which is *AC - Language Dictionaries (Baltic. Slavic)*. The Guide will come out in early January 2008.

**Dr. John Alexander** and his wife Maria took a cruise on the Dalmatian coast in June that “was glorious.” They visited Pula, Split, Dubrovnik, Hvar, and spent four days in Venice with trips to Ravenna, Burano, etc… They commented on the great scenery and meeting many interesting colleagues from different universities and colleges.

**Shannon O’Lear** recently coauthored with Paul F. Diehl the article “Not Drawn to Scale: Research on Resource and Environmental Conflict” which appeared in *Geopolitics* in 2007. She was also invited to give presentations on Central Asian Energy and Security and Caspian Basin Geopolitics at the South/Central Asia Orientation Course at Hurlburt Field (Air Force Special Operations Command), Fort Walton Beach, FL in June 2007. Dr. O’Lear is offering a new course for the Fall 07 semester, titled: Environmental Geopolitics.

**Nathan Wood** (Assistant Professor, History) traveled to Central Europe this summer to conduct archival research for his current book manuscript, *Becoming Metropolitan: Cracow’s popular press and the representation of modern urban life, 1900-1915,* and assess the prospects for his second project on the urban experience of the Great War in Galicia. He worked in archives in Cracow, L’viv, and Vienna and was pleased to spend several evenings with students and faculty from KU’s Ukrainian summer language program while in L’viv. In Poland, he attended the First Congress for Foreign Scholars of Polish History, hosted by the Jagiellonian University from June 28-30, which drew more than 500 scholars from across the globe. Wood’s article, “Urban Self-Identification in East Central Europe before the Great War: The Case of Cracow” appeared in a special issue of *East Central Europe/L’Europe du Centre-Est: Eine wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift* dedicated to urban history in East Central Europe.

**Dr. Saul** spent several days in Moscow, in February 07, at a conference celebrating 200 years of Russian-American Relations (that is, formal diplomatic relations). He gave a paper on “Problems and Opportunities for the Future Study of Russian-American Relations” at the State Humanities University which was published in the proceedings of the conference. In April 07, Dr. Saul presented “Charles R. Crane, Globalist and Russophile: A Project for a Biography?” at the Kansas Association of Historians meeting at the Eisenhowe Library in Abilene. This will also be the topic of a presentation at another conference in Moscow in November 07.

During the summer, Dr. Saul was involved in two teachers' workshops, “Issues in World History” and another for a week-long national high school teachers institute on The Great War, sponsored by the Truman Library and the National World War I Museum.
On February 16th, 2007 CREES orchestrated its first Maslenitsa celebration and it was a wonderful success. Despite near-blizzard like conditions, more than 250 faculty, students and friends of CREES turned out at the ECM building to help observe this pre-Lenten holiday.

Maslenitsa, or Pancake Week, is a Slavic folk holiday that dates back to pagan times. It is usually celebrated during the last week before the Great Lent, which is the seventh week before Easter. Maslenitsa corresponds to the Roman Catholic Mardi Gras/Carnival.

The essential element of Maslenitsa celebration are bliny, or Russian pancakes, popularly taken to symbolize the sun. Round and golden, they are made from butter, eggs, and milk and filled with rich foods (caviar, sour cream, fruit, meat, potatoes, etc...). But given the international nature of this holiday (and the fact that we wanted to enlist the help of others), the menu also included Swedish and French crepes and Chinese pancakes.

While an exact count wasn’t made, it was estimated that the team of chefs in the ECM kitchen created more than 500 of these delicacies. And at the end of the evening, there was not a single bliny, crepe or pancake to be found.

Thanks to the Lawrence and Topeka International Folk Dance troupe, participants were able to learn and practice some of the traditional dances from Russia and Eastern Europe.

The logistics, planning and organization (and the cooking!) for this event was a formidable challenge, and while many helped with the preparation of food, decorating and clean up, special thanks go to the CREES Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Tatyana Wilds, the CREES Office Manager, Mr. Bill London and the CREES Senior Student Assistant, Jon Lindberg.

After last year’s resounding success, we are already planning for another holiday event in 2008 and it will tentatively be scheduled for 8 March 2008. Additional details are forthcoming.
ALUM UPDATE

Each newsletter we will try to include information about some of our recent REES graduates. This semester we will look at some of those graduates who are serving, or have recently served in our nation’s armed forces.

Donald R. Baker (REES MA, 2003), Lieutenant Colonel, US Army is now serving as the Assistant Army Attache at the embassy in Budapest, Hungary. Besides his attaché duties, LTC Baker serves as pilot for a C-12, in support of 18 other embassies throughout Central Europe. He reports that learning Hungarian is a real challenge.

1LT Charles Bartles (REES MA, 2004) recently started working as a military analyst at Foreign Military Studies Office, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He specializes in Eurasian military and security issues.

LTC Terry Anderson (REES MA, 2004) spent the past three years at EUCOM in Stuttgart, Germany. He said it was an “awesome assignment, great quality of life, lots of travel, and periodically satisfying work. I used the degree often as the intelligence cooperation director for Germany, Central Europe, and Former Soviet Union.” Terry recently relocated to Washington DC, where he is attending the Joint Military Attache School as well as Albanian language training. Next summer he is off to Kosovo as the Army Attaché.

Since leaving KU, Ken Zurcher (REES MA 2001) has been working as a Foreign Service Officer with the State Dept, including a tour in Moscow and Vladivostok. He was recalled to the Army in 2005 and spent a year in Iraq. He is about to depart from DC and will be an Economic Officer at the Embassy in Athens, Greece.

OUTREACH

Dr. Marc L. Greenberg teaches at the Spring 2007 Balkan Workshop.

The K-14 educators training workshop “Conflict and Creativity in the Balkans” was held in Spring 2007 as a part of CREES’ Balkan Semester.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
The 14th Annual Roy and Betty Laird REES Essay Competition

All University of Kansas students actively pursuing interests in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies in any KU academic program are eligible to submit an essay of 2,000 words on any topic dealing with the region. The essay should be a “think piece,” not a formal research paper. It should explore a key issue relevant to the region based on any discipline. For example, students could explore the causes and consequences of recent political changes in the region, discuss the implications of Europeanization on national languages and literatures, or compose an essay on another topic. Students may use papers from KU classes, but submissions must be reformatted to meet the following criteria: typed, double-spaced, and in 12-point font size.

Submit an anonymous version of the essay to Mr. Bill London in 320 Bailey Hall by 5:00 pm by March 14, 2008. A committee will evaluate the essays and select the winning entry. The winner will receive $500, a book of his or her choice, a certificate, his or her name on a plaque, and a useful line on the resumé. The winner will also be invited to present the paper at the final REES Brown Bag of the academic year.

If you have further questions regarding the topic or submission, please contact Bill London in 320 Bailey, at 864-4236, or by e-mail at crees@ku.edu.
FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE KINO

Fall 2007
7PM  318 Bailey

MEN AND WOMEN

21 September  Путеп  Piter FM  A lyrical story about a young couple in St. Petersburg. In the film, Maksim is an architect who finds the cell phone of Masha, an unconventional radio DJ. This causes several ill-conceived attempts for the two to meet so Maksim can return the phone. The film portrays Russia's youth in the optimistic and playful culture of St. Petersburg. In Russian with English subtitles.

19 October  Сексмися  Sex Mission
Two men, voluntarily hibernated, are awakened 50 years later to learn that their world doesn't exist anymore. Nuclear war destroyed all Earth vegetation, men were exterminated and women are ruling from the underground. Facing harsh treatment from their female guards, they will do anything to save themselves and to reestablish the male population. In Polish with English Subtitles.

9 November  Прогулка  Progulka
A walk around Petersburg, Russia with three young people (a young woman and two new male acquaintances) who have just turned 20. The camera continues to run as they walk down Nevsky Prospect, around Palace Square, pass by St. Isaac's Cathedral, and cross over to Vasil'evskii Island and finally to Petrogradskaja storona. In Russian with English subtitles.

FALL 2007 CREES BROWN BAG SCHEDULE

All presentations will take place on Tuesday from 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.

25 September

2 October
“Spatial Patterns of Public Concerns and Political Opinion in Azerbaijan.” Shannon O’Lear, Geography, KU.

23 October
“Boris Pasternak and Doctor Zhivago: Fifty Years Since the Nobel Award.” Jerry Mikkelson, CREES, KU.

30 October
“Foreign Military Studies Office, Ft Leavenworth - Background, Mission, and Way Ahead.” Major Kevin Thompson, Mr. Rob Kurz and 1LT Chuck Bartles, FMSO, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

6 November
“The Revitalization of Jewish culture in Post-Communist Poland.” Dr. Shana Penn, Visiting Scholar, Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate Theological Union.

13 November
“Nuggets from the Archive: A Different Perspective on the July Crisis of 1914.” Bruce Menning, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth.

27 November

4 December
“What’s Wrong with this Picture? Analyzing Russia via Blogs.” Ray Finch, Assistant Director, CREES, KU.

All presentations will take place on Tuesday from 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.

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Yuki Onogi, winner of the Jerkovich Scholarship for Summer Study in Croatia, at the 2007 Summer Institute in Zadar, Croatia.