On 31 January, CREES co-hosted a lecture by Gen. (ret) Erwin Rokke, PhD, president of Moravian College/Theological Seminar.

Rokke served with distinction as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as Lieutenant General and President of the National Defense University in 1997. Drawing on his intelligence experience with the Soviet Union, he discussed new intelligence challenges facing our country, comparing the predictability of the Cold War to amorphous, deadly threats facing the intelligence community. This transition out of the Soviet era has been both helped and hindered by new technology, as new enemies effectively exploit these same systems.

Rokke discussed some changes prompted by the 9/11 Commission to streamline intelligence collection, analysis and distribution. Changes to current intelligence frameworks updated from Cold War models no longer feasible and, to be effective, the intelligence system will have to be streamlined and integrated. He pointed out that the 9/11 Commission cited a lack of imagination as the most important failure, with which those involved with intelligence needed to deal.

Discussion after his talk was lively, and the audience would have readily discussed the issues for another two hours.
Friday Nite at the Kino: Brother
1 April, 7 PM
96 minutes; Dir. by Goran Markovic

(Russian; English subtitles) In a poignant tale of innocence lost, a young man returns from home to St. Petersburg, having completed his military service. He discovers that his brother is now a contract killer for the Russian mob. Both brothers become involved in a plan to kill a Chechen mafia boss. This riveting crime film addresses many of the social problems that plague city life in the former Soviet Union. “A wonderfully mordant excursion through the new Russian thugocracy…the best Russian movie I’ve seen in years” (J. Hoberman, The Village Voice).

Ukraine’s Orange Revolution

(clockwise from top left) 1, 2: photos received from Viktor Susak of recent protests in Lviv, Ukraine;
3: Prof. Natalia Chernysh (Lviv National Univ, Sociology) at a KU-REES brownbag on recent events in Ukraine;
4: Prof. Alex Tsiovkh (KU-REES) speaks at a KU-REES brownbag on recent events in Ukraine;
5: KU-REES director Erik Herron speaks on the first/second round of elections and his experience there as an OSCE election monitor;
6: A panel of KU and National Franko professors speak at a roundtable in the REES library on the events in Ukraine.
Upcoming REES Events

1 April
Friday Nite at the Kino, Brother, 7PM, 318 Bailey, Refreshments to be served, more info: Ray Finch (rayfin3@ku.edu).

21 February

Bruce Rich is Sr Attorney and Director of the International Program at Environmental Defense in Washington, D.C. He is author of a major critique and history of the World Bank, Mortaging the Earth (1994) and was awarded the UN Global 500 Award for environmental achievement. Over the last 5 years he has been involved in an international advocacy campaign to promote environmental and social reforms in the Export Credit Agencies of the major industrialized countries.

15 March
Prof. James Pettifer, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, United Kingdom, Kosovo: At the Brink Again?

Pettifer, an internationally renowned expert on the Balkans and that regions recent ethnic crises will speak on the recent escalation of the crisis in Kosovo. Pettifer is the author of numerous books on the region, including his upcoming The Albanian Question: Igniting the Balkans, Kosovo Express: A Journey in Wartime, and The New Macedonian Question.

2 May
Elaine Zuckerman, President and Founder, Gender Equality, Gendered Impact of Structural Adjustment: The Case of Serbia and Montenegro

Elaine Zuckerman worked inside the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank for two decades. During this time, she worked to build a bridge between IFI rhetoric and studies showing the need for greater gender equality to reduce poverty and enhance economic growth and their neglect to promote gender equality in large investments. She created the first World Bank program to prevent harmful impacts of development loans on the poor, especially women. She has worked in China, Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe on reducing poverty, education and health financing, and rural development and environmental projects.

Spring 2005 Brownbags
All Brown Bags meet from noon to 1 pm in 318 Bailey.

1 March - Prof. Urs Heftrich, Slavic, Heidelberg Univ, Germany, The Role of Rumor in Nikolay Gogol’s “Dead Souls:” A Five-Act Drama

8 March - Prof. Slavisa Orlovic, Belgrade Univ., Serbia, Challenges for Serbia Today

15 March - Maj. Matt Dimmick, KU-REES MA candidate, Instability in the Fergana Valley

22 March - Spring Break: No Lecture

29 March - Prof. Gerald Mikkelson, KU-REES, Whodunit? The Mystery of Pushkin’s Death

5 April - Prof. Norman Saul, KU-History; Liuba Ginzberg, KU-Comm Studies, Jazz, East and West: Influences and Borrowings

12 April - Prof. Marie Alice L’Heureux, KU-Architecture, The Politics of the Built Environment

19 April - Geoff Husic, Holly Mercer, Richard Fyfte, KU, Digital Initiatives: KU’s E-archives

26 April - Prof. Kemal Babajanov, Turkmen State University, Central Asia in International Relations

3 May - Prof. emerita Anna Cienciala, KU-History, Defeat in Victory: Poland at the end of WWII

10 May - Laird Essay Winner and Presentation, more information TBA

REES Alumni Notes

Jeb Adams (MA, 2004, South Slavic) was recently promoted at Management Systems International in Washington, DC, and manages an account for USAID.

Judit Rozic (MA, 2003, South Slavic), in September 2004, began studies at the Central European University in Budapest.
Jesse Saich (MA, 2004, South Slavic) is working as an English teacher at a college prep high school in Ljubljana, Slovenia. His wife, Andreja, is enrolled in Business School graduate studies in the area.

Graduation

Congratulations to our four newest REES MA graduates! Jodi Simek, CJ Shaw, Irina Cauley, and Chuck Bartles graduated in December 2004. Simek specialized in Ukraine, while the remaining three specialized in Russia.

New Listserv at CREES

The Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Kansas is hosting a listserv for Outreach Coordinators in Eastern European/Eurasian/Central Asian/Russian Centers. This listserv is used by the coordinators to communicate with colleagues, share best practices, and develop collaboration and cooperation on future projects. For more information, please e-mail Jodi Simek (jsimek@ku.edu) at the University of Kansas with your name and e-mail address.

In Memory

Miljenko Kovaciccek, 49, Zagreb, Croatia, died Dec. 7. He spent 1988-1990 as a Fulbright lecturer at KU, where he taught Croatian. Later he worked as a teacher with the KU Slavic department in its study abroad program in Croatia. In 2002 the Slavic department and the Office of Study Abroad developed a new KU summer program in Zagreb and Dubrovnik, which partnered with Kovaciccek’s home institution, the Center for Foreign Languages and the University of Zagreb. Survivors include his wife, Mirna, and a teenage daughter, Ana.

- from The Oread

Announcement: Student Paper

In May 2005 the world will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Allied Forces victory in the Second World War. The Soviet Union and the United States fought side by side in this struggle.

The newly opened Consulate of the Russian Federation in Houston has asked the board of the Central Association of Russian Teachers of American (CARTA) to help promote an Essay Contest on this topic. The Consulate will hold a special ceremony for the winners of the Contest at the Consulate in Houston.

Mara Sukhlotuskaya, CARTA President

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES AS ALLIES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the allied forces victory over fascism, please encourage your students to participate in the Writing Contest described below.

The papers may discuss any aspect of the cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States during the Second World War. The papers should include attention to bases for that cooperation, e.g. the common enemy of fascism, and the implications of the shared interest.

Either an essay or a research paper may be submitted. The papers should be written in English.

The high school division: up to five pages, double spaced, typed in 12 pts, font Times New Roman, 1" margins.

The university division: up to ten pages, double spaced, typed in 12 pts, font Times New Roman, 1" margins; should include not less than three bibliographic references.

Either MLA or Chicago style is acceptable.

Deadline for the essay submission: March 15, 2005.

The papers will be judged by a panel of judges appointed by the CARTA Board.

The winners will be announced during the Saturday Luncheon, April 2, at the CARTA Conference in San Antonio, and they will also be presented with certificates and books at a special ceremony at the Russian Consulate in Houston on May 6, 2005.

Please mail the Papers to:
Dr. Alvin Turner, Contest Chair
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
East Central University
Ada, OK 74820

For more information contact Mara Sukhlotuskaya at msukholu@mailclerk.ecok.edu or 580-310-5293
Maya Tylieva (above), a native Turkmen, KU Undergrad and visiting music scholar spoke on Turkmenistan Through the Eyes of a Turkmen on 7 December 2004.

Michael Palij (right), PhD, KU Libraries (ret), The Allies and the Russian Civil War, 1917-1921 on 2 November 2004


Prof. Dale Herspring (left) (Adj. Prof, PoliSci, from K-State) lectures his class Comparative Civil-Military Relations; Herspring regularly supports the KU-REES program with area-related coursework at KU.

KU-REES Graduates (l to r) Jodi Simek (Ukraine track), Carrie Jane Shaw (Russia track) and Irina Cauley (Russia track) with KU-REES director Erik Herron (KU-PoliSci), celebrating an informal winter graduation at the REES holiday party. Not pictured: our fourth December graduate Chuck Bartles (Russian track).
The Russian Federation has established a new consulate in Houston, Texas, which is responsible for Russia’s activities in the state of Kansas. The Consul General met with the administration of the Center for Russian and East European Studies and other internationally-oriented faculty. (l to r) Attendees were Nikolay Sofinsky, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Houston; Thomas Heilke, Assoc. Dean of International Programs; Erik Herron, Director of REES; Michael Mosser, Asst. Dean of International Programs, Melissa Birch, director, KU Center for International Business Education and Research; Kirill Mihailov, Consul, Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Houston.