

Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies

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Center for Russian,
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Former Chechen Minister Visits KU

Former Chechen Foreign Minister Ilyas Akhmadov and Jamestown Foundation president Glen Howard spoke on May 4 at KU on the crisis in Chechnya. They characterized the situation as a bloody stalemate and expect it to expand throughout the North Caucasus. Asserting that a Kremlin-imposed media blackout of the region stifles most criticism of the situation, Akhmadov and Howard believe that further terrorist attacks within Russia are likely.

Akhmadov reviewed the centuries-old conflict and how the Chechens have never given up hope for a free and independent country. Howard described Russian President Putin's recasting of Russian military involvement in Chechnya as part of President Bush's global war on terrorism.

Akhmadov, while categorically renouncing terrorist acts, asserted that such actions should be placed in the context of a wider decimation of the Chechen populace over

the past decade.

Asked about power-sharing between current Chechen president Alu Alkhanov and First Deputy Prime Minister of Chechnya Ramzan Kadyrov, Akhmadov stressed that Kadyrov was the power behind Alkhanov, whom Akhmadov considers a Kremlin figurehead.

Akhmadov and Howard consider that policymakers in the West seem trapped by their desire not to offend the Kremlin and a recognition that the current approach will only make the situation worse.

Their visit to KU was co-sponsored by the Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO) at Fort Leavenworth. CREES has been working closely with FMSO to develop programming related to Eurasian security issues.

Howard is an alumnus of KU's Masters program in Russian & East European Studies.

And Then There Was "Eurasia"

Center Acknowledges Existing Work on Landmass

At the recommendation of the REES executive committee and with the approval of the Kansas Board of Regents, the center will now be known as the "Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies." The MA and undergraduate co-major program will now be known as "Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies." The inclusion of *Eurasian* into the title captures the strengths, capabilities and interests of students and faculty at the center. As a Title VI National Resource Center, CREES continues to offer programming in areas of vital interest to our nation, and

the inclusion of *Eurasian* simply identifies an existing focus.

CREES faculty overwhelmingly approved this recommended change in a formal, mail-in vote.

In recent years, the University of Kansas has offered courses and hosted special lectures dealing with Central Asia and the Caucasus. Two Eurasia-focused courses were offered last spring: an interactive video course with students in Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Mongolia; and *Understanding Central Asia*.



Academic year 2004-2005 graduates of Masters of the Arts programs for Russian & East European Studies with those for Slavic Languages and Literatures. (l to r) Brooke Waldron (REES-South Slavic), Jodi Simek (REES-Ukraine), Matt McGarry (Slavic), Kelly Knickmeier (Slavic), Major Chuck Bartles (REES-Russia), Erin Moulton (Slavic), Andrew Moulton (REES-Russia). Not shown are Major Rich Spencer (REES-Russia), Sherida Orwinski (REES-Poland), Yu-lin Kung (REES-Russia) and Sidney Dement (Slavic).



Prof. Taras Kuzio, Visiting Professor of Int'l Affairs, George Washington University, greets Dr. Michael Palij before his talk on *Velvet Revolutions* at the annual Palij Lecture



Prof. Erik Herron (Director, REES) introduces former Chechen Foreign Minister Ilyas Akhmadov and Jamestown Foundation president Glenn Howard. See page 1 for more details.



Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovk (KU-Slavic) presents Ms. Bette Luther, former CREES Office Manager, with a gift from Ukraine during a farewell reception held in her honor in April.



Prof. James Pettifer, (left) Sandhurst Military Academy, UK, greets REES director Prof. Erik Herron before speaking on *Kosovo: At the Brink Again*

Student News

Congratulations to our six newest Russian & East European MA graduates! Yu-Lin Kung, Andrew Moulton, Sherida Orwinski, Maj. Richard Spencer, Maj. Chuck Bartles and Brooke Waldron graduated in May 2005. Waldron specialized in the South Slavic area and Orwinski in Poland, while the remaining four specialized in Russia.

Congratulations to our REES summer FLAS fellows: **Amanda Toombs** (KU-REES), studying Russian in St. Petersburg; **Katherine Bowers** (Northwestern-Slavic), **Sidney Dement** (KU-Slavic), and **Anthony Glocke** (Univ of Maryland-College Park-History), studying Croatian in Zagreb and Dubrovnik; **Sara Rowden** (KU-REES), studying Croatian at Indiana University; **Benjamin Peters** (Stanford-CREEES), **Kourtney Peters** (Brigham Young-Mathematics Education), **Per Rudling** (Univ of Alberta-History&Classics), and **Scott Shackelford** (KU-Int'l Studies); studying Ukrainian in L'viv; **Edward Vasquez** (Indiana-Library & Information), studying Polish in Krakow. Also, to our REES academic year fellows: **Sidney Dement** (Slavic) and **Kelly Knickmeier** (Slavic), studying Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian; **Brian Frank** (REES), studying Ukrainian; and **Jeremy Antley** (Education), **Laura Chaney** (REES), **Nathan Gerth** (REES), and **Heidi Mehl** (Indigenous Nations), studying Russian.

Adrienne Harris-Bogges (KU-Slavic) received an ACTR-Title VIII grant for dissertation research in Moscow and St. Petersburg during 2005-06. Her topic is *The Archetype of the Woman Warrior in Russian Culture*.

Michael Johnson (KU-Slavic) received a Fulbright-Hays dissertation research grant to work in Moscow and St. Petersburg during 2005-06. His topic is *Stanislaw Przybyszewski and Russian Modernist Theater*.

Faculty Notes

Profs. Erik Herron (PoliSci), Don Haider-Markel (PoliSci), Paul Johnson (PoliSci), Elaine Sharp (PoliSci), Bill Staples (Sociology), Alexander Tsiovkh (REES), and Lizette Peter (Education) flew to L'viv, Ukraine, during the early summer to help the Ivan Franko National University

(IFNU) establish its North American Studies Center and strengthen Sociology and Survey Research at IFNU. This project is supported by a U.S. State Department Freedom Support Act Grant.

Edith Clowes received an NEH Summer Stipend to conduct research on the contemporary writer, Viktor Pelevin. This work will result in a chapter of a new project on "The Center at the Periphery: Eccentric Identities in Contemporary Russian Writing."

John Stanionus, associate professor of theater and film, gave a concert in Vilnius, Lithuania, in celebration of the fifth anniversary of Lithuania's first independent news radio station, *Ziniu Radjas*. The radio station is owned by a Lithuanian-American businessman. Stanionus sang two selections with the St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Prof. Donatas Katkus. After the celebration there was a display of fireworks over the Old Castle and Cathedral Square in the Old Town of Vilnius. Stanionus met with the Prime Minister of Lithuania, the Head of Parliament, and many visiting dignitaries and ambassadors from foreign countries.

Mikhail Medvedev, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, gave an invited talk, "How the Universe Got Magnetized," at the Conference on High Energy Astrophysics and Cosmology "Zeldovich-90," Dec. 20-25 in Moscow, Russia. (from *The Oread*)

In Memoriam

Eugenia Zhenya Marie Felton, 97, Lawrence, died March 26. Felton was a Russian language translator in KU-Slavic Languages & Literatures for more than 35 years. The family suggests memorials to the Lawrence Humane Society or Midland Hospice. (from *The Oread*)

KU is 1 of 5 universities in nation to win Simon Award for international education

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas is one of only five universities in the nation to receive the 2005 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization, from NAFSA, an Association of International Educators.



The award is named for the late Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, who identified international education as an issue of crucial importance for the future strength and security of the United States. NAFSA is the largest professional organization for international educators in the world.

“This award reflects our aspiration to be a great international university,” said David Shulenburger, KU provost and executive vice chancellor. “We are pleased that NAFSA has recognized our efforts.”

KU will be profiled in NAFSA’s publication, *Internationalizing the Campus 2005*. The report, partially underwritten by the U.S. State Department, will be released this fall.

Other award winners are Colby College, Waterville, Maine; Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y.; Howard Community College, Columbia, Md.; and University of California, Los Angeles. Past recipients of the award, first given in 2004, include Duke University, the University of North Carolina, Indiana University and Yale University.

“This award is a recognition of the dedication of faculty, staff, administrators and students to providing an atmosphere that prepares graduate and undergraduate students to live in a global society,” said Diana Carlin, dean of the KU graduate school and international programs. “KU is not only in the center of the country, we are also at the center of international activity in U.S. universities. The entire university community has earned this honor.”

Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Shulenburger have committed the university to provide its students with an international experience as part of their education. KU’s efforts and accomplishments include:

- More than 100 exchange agreements with foreign institutions have been coordinated through the KU Office of International Programs (OIP).
- Twenty percent of KU’s graduating seniors study abroad during their time at KU, choosing from more than 100 programs in over 50 coun-

tries. KU ranks fourth among the nation’s public research institutions in the proportion of its students studying abroad.

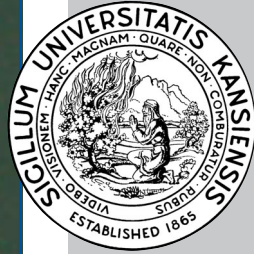
- Through the OIP’s Internationalizing the Curriculum workshop, 50 new international courses have been added to the undergraduate curriculum over the past 10 years.
- Undergraduates are recognized for their international experiences on and off campus through the Global Awareness Program (GAP) certification on their transcripts. More than 180 students participated in GAP in its first year.
- KU attracts more than 1,600 international students from 100 countries and 200 international scholars to study, teach or conduct research at KU.
- Three KU area studies programs have achieved national distinction and continuing Title VI funding. These programs — Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, Latin American Studies and East Asian Studies — offer majors for students seeking to immerse themselves in the language, history and culture of a world region.
- The School of Business houses a federally funded Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER).
- KU ranks 23rd out of more than 200 large colleges and universities for the number of students who participate in the Peace Corps.

Center Staff

The center is glad to welcome **Bill London** as its new office manager. London, an MBA, comes to us from KU’s Student Housing and brings a wealth of experience and energy to the center, just in time for the fall’s Title VI grant application. Those visiting the center’s offices are encouraged to drop in and introduce themselves to him.

The position was made available with the promotion of **Bette Luther**, the center’s long-time office manager. Luther has moved on as an Accountant II in the College’s Office of International Programs. The staff and faculty warmly congratulate her on her promotion and hope that they will continue to see her at center events.





(above) KU-REES director Erik Herron introduces Prof Urs Heftrich, Slavic, Heidelberg Univ, Germany, *The Role of Rumor in Nikolay Gogol's "Dead Souls:" A Five-Act Drama* at the 1 March 2005 Laird Brownbag



(above) Junior Faculty Development Scholar Slavisa Orlovic of Serbia presents his Laird Brownbag Essay on contemporary Serbian politics.

(right) KU-REES delivers its third panel discussion on the 2004 Ukrainian election crisis, including four visiting scholars from Ivan Franko National University in L'viv and Associate Dean Paul D'Anieri (KU-PoliSci)



2005 Laird Essay Contest



2005 Laird Essay Contest winner, Brooke Waldron (right) speaks with contest founder Betty Laird after Waldron delivered a talk on Serbian Orthodoxy



Prof. emerita Anna Cienciala (right, KU-History) speaks with Prof. M. Bolek Biskupski (Polish studies-Cent St. Conn Univ.) before his talk on *Hollywood's War Against Poland: The American Cinema and the Poles During WWII* as part of the annual Backus lecture series on 5 May.

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The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies hosted a visit by Magdalena Nestorovska, state adviser to the Macedonian Ministry of Defense, June 7. Nestorovska discussed issues related to the Balkans and civil-military relations.

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KU's Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies Program (REES) has been an interdisciplinary academic program since 1959. As one of only 16 Title VI Comprehensive National Resource Centers for the Russian and East/Central European area supported by the U.S. Department of Education, it has been serving the Great Plains region since 1965.