

Russian & East European Studies

at the University of Kansas

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Center for Russian & East European Studies

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Contents

Poland	2
Visiting Faculty	2
Russia.....	3
South Slavic	4
Ukraine	5

www.ku.edu/~crees

11th Annual Roy and Betty Laird REES Essay Competition

Call for Essays

All University of Kansas students actively pursuing interests in Russian and East European 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 the recent Beslan tragedy, 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 Ms. Bette Luther in 320 Bailey Hall by 5:00 pm on January 31, 2005. 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 Bette Luther in 320 Bailey, at 864-4236, or by e-mail at crees@ku.edu.

The Company at KU

Directorate of Intelligence visits to assess KU resources

(below) REES co-major undergrad Andrew Shernuk (r) chats with a veteran of the Directorate of Intelligence and KU PoliSci alumnus. CIA representatives took time to chat with students and discuss the Agency as a workplace.



(above) A Directorate of Intelligence analyst (l) chats at an informal mixer with Prof. Catherine Weaver (c, KU-PoliSci) and Bette Luther (KU-REES, office manager). Representatives of the Directorate of Intelligence met with REES faculty to discuss their research and its national security and intelligence potential.

Library's Slavic Dept Website Moves

The Library Slavic Department website has now moved to the library server and can be found at www2.lib.ku.edu/~public/slavic. This change was made to take advantage of a new Library template and integrate the Slavic page with other Library sites. Please update any links to the old site.

Poland



Faculty Happenings

Prof. emerita **Anna M. Cienciala** (1) on June 4, 2004 chaired and commented on a panel about the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 at the annual meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in Boston; (2) published review of Alexander B. Rossino's, "Hitler Strikes Poland. Blitzkrieg, Ideology, and Atrocity," (Univ. of Kansas Press, 2003), in *Polish Review*, vol. XLIX, no. 2, 2004, pp. 825-837; (3) on August 22, 2004, read a paper on "The Katyn Coverup and the Admission of the Truth," at the seminar "Poland in the Rockies," in Canmore, Canada; and (4) on Oct. 15, 2004, read a paper (in French) on "Polish Foreign Policy in the Period of Appeasement and Treaty Revision. The Views and Policy of Marshal Pilsudski and Col. Beck, 1933-1939" at a conference on "Poland in the European System from the Partitions to the Present" at the Sorbonne.

Visiting Scholars

'04- '05 Junior Faculty Development Program Fellows

This year KU is helping to sponsor seven scholars involved in the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP). The JFDP is a non-degree program which places professors from post-Communist Europe and Eurasia at U.S. universities to create curricula for new courses, modify curricula for courses they already teach, and to be exposed to alternate teaching methodologies. JFDP Fellows audit classes to examine the content and structure of courses, and to observe U.S. teaching methodologies. They are expected to actively work on curriculum development for at least one course which they plan to teach upon their return home.

Fellow	Country	Department
Kemal Babajanov	Turkmenistan	History
Guncha Byashiyeva	Turkmenistan	Law
Doulatbek Khidirbekughli	Kazakhstan	Amer. Studies
Kristina Boban	Serbia	Teach./Ldrshp
Slobodan Jovanovic	Serbia	Journalism
Slavisa Orlovic	Serbia	Poli Sci
Svetlana Zecevic	Montenegro	Philosophy

Spring 2005

Course Announcement:

REES 510/HIST 510

Understanding Central Asia

Instructor, Cristin Burke, *et al.*

10:30-11:20 MWF - 107 Fraser

Class N^o 69730(REES)/69734(HIST)

The US maintains troops in Central Asia.

It's one of the newest hot spots for oil and gas, or is it? Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise there, or is it? The crossroads of Asia are, once again, an area being hotly contested by various world powers, including the US, and this interdisciplinary course will start you on the path towards Understanding Central Asia.

Friday Night at the Kino

A Holiday Classic: *Irony of Fate, or "Enjoy Your Bath"*

3 Dec 2004, 7 pm, 318 Bailey

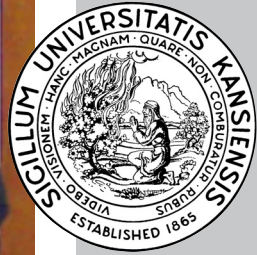
Zhenia and his friends celebrate December 31 in their usual style: by going to a bathhouse in Moscow and drinking in the New Year. This year is extraordinarily special because Zhenia is getting married and his friend is going to Leningrad. The men show a bit too much enthusiasm for the year's happy events, and Zhenia ends up in Leningrad instead of his friend, leaving behind a very concerned Galya and three very drunk friends.

In Russian with English subtitles

Russia



On 24 Sept at the year's first *Friday Nite at the Kino*, Dr. Maia Kipp introduced *Ballad of a Soldier*. This film began a series of films for this year's film series that introduce students to core films, familiar to all citizens of the post-Soviet region.



On 19 Oct Dr. Jacob Kipp shared his research on Russia's entrance into the Pacific Theater of World War II as part of the Laird Brownbag series. Kipp reviewed some of the traditional explanations for Russia's late entry in the Pacific Theater. He also challenged conventional explanations by demonstrating that Russia's entry was only made possible by massive military logistical and supply support on the part of the US to the Russian Far East.

Faculty Happenings

Prof. **John Alexander** (KU-History) gave three talks at Missouri Southern in Joplin in connection with their "Russia Semester;" the subjects were (1) Catherine the Great: Life and Legend; (2) Body and Soul: Peter the Great and Catherine the Great (slide lecture); and (3) Russia's first great celebrity, Alexander Pushkin. Alexander also published an essay, *Catherine the Great and the Theatre*, in Roger Bartlett and Lindsey Hughes, eds. *Russian Society and Culture in the Long Eighteenth Century: Essays in Honour of Anthony G. Cross* (Munster: Lit Verlag, 2004), pp. 116-130.

Prof. **Leslie Dienes** published "Observations on the Problematic Potential of Russian Oil and the Complexities of Siberia," in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, Vol. 45, 2004, No. 5, pp. 319-345; and a review of *The Dynamics of 'Real Federalism.'* *Law, Economic Development, and Indigenous Communities in Russia and Canada*, ed. Peter H. Solomon, Univ of Toronto-CREES, 2004: forthcoming; *Russian Review*, April 2005.



The devilishly handsome Andrew Moulton (KU-REES MA cand. and an editor of this newsletter) speaks on the state of the Russian Orthodox Church on 12 Oct 2004 as part of the Laird Brownbag series.

South Slavic



Prof. Greenberg honored by Slavic Studies Society of Slovenia

The Slavic Studies Society of Slovenia honored **Prof. Marc Greenberg** (KU-Slavic Langs & Lits) with the “Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Slovene Studies.” The award was presented on October 7, 2004, during the opening ceremony of the 2004 Slovenian Slavistic Congress in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, by Dr. Marko Jesensek, President of the Society and Dean of International Studies, University of Maribor. The award recognizes Professor Greenberg’s major research achievements, particularly his culminative work *A Historical Phonology of the Slovene Language*, his co-founding and co-editing of the journal *Slovenski jezik/Slovene Linguistic Studies*, and his editorial work on *The Sociolinguistics of Slovene*, a special volume of *The International Journal of the Sociology of Language*. His research was praised for “promoting the appreciation of Slovene in the United States and the world.”



On 26 October Cornell Fleischer, Professor of History and Turkish Studies at the University of Chicago, spoke for the Laird Brownbag series on his experience monitoring the first elections in the former Yugoslavia.

OSCE: BiH Elections Mark Progress Towards Democracy

SARAJEVO, 3 October 2004 - The municipal elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 2 October were administered in line with international standards, taking into account the country’s unique, post-war political system. This was the conclusion of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), which published its preliminary findings today, based on the work of some 200 international observers.

The mission was deployed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, (OSCE/ODIHR) and joined by representatives from the Council of Europe’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

“The successful conduct of these elections was a noteworthy achievement, which marks further progress towards democracy and the rule of law under domestic control,” said Peter Eicher, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR mission. “However, these remain essentially transitional elections,

since the ultimate authority over elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina still lies with the international community.”

“Election day was peaceful and well ordered,” said Stanislav Bernat, Head of the Congress delegation, adding: “Two particularly positive steps were the direct election of mayors for the first time in most places and the first democratic local election in the Brcko district, bringing democracy closer to voters.” The overall campaign was calm. Voter turnout, however, was disappointingly low.

The IEOM regretted ethnicity remained the main underlying issue in the election campaign, although it noted the increased efforts of some political parties to appeal to voters of more than one ethnicity. While some parties made genuine attempts to address local issues, overall there was little meaningful debate on such issues and the campaign was dominated by national concerns such as unemployment and pensions.

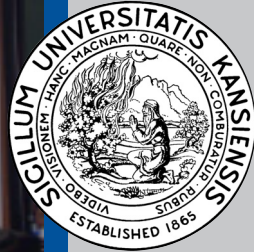
Ukraine

Virsky Dance Troupe at Univ of Kansas



The Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Troupe performed at KU's Lied Center on 1 October, sharing their Ukrainian folk dancing from classically trained dancers. Before the performance, the dancers (shown above) offered an hour of lessons in Ukrainian folk dancing in Robinson Gymnasium and discussed the traditions surrounding the dance.

Prof. Victor Susak shows off his going-away present from KU-REES. Susak was a visiting scholar at KU for the first two months of the fall semester. He is the chair of the Department for History and Theory of Sociology at Ivan Franko Lviv National University in Ukraine. Susak's visit was part of KU's Freedom Support Act grant.



On 28 Sept Dr. Yasia Tsiiovkh presented a Laird Brownbag lecture on *Nuggets of Ukrainian Folk Art*, sharing a wide range of audio-visual media examples to illustrate Ukrainian folk art.

Spring 2005

Course Announcement:

REES 480/895

*Ethnicity & Nationalism
in East Europe*

Prof. Alex Tsiiovkh, REES

12:30-3:20 W - 318 Bailey

Class N° 61257

How do we make sense of the ethnic conflicts of Eastern Europe? Is it ethnic nationalism or civic nationalism? How was nationalism able to tear apart the USSR but also threatens the viability of its successor states? Ethnicity and nationalism are must-understand issues for anyone working in the region and will continue to define both the past and future for the region.

UKRA 516

Intensive Ukrainian

Dr. Yaroslava Tsiiovkh, Slavic

by appt/Class N° 63339

Be the first on your block to study Ukraine's rising literary heritage! Ukraine lies on the border between East and West, and has traditionally been an entry point for Western ideas into European Russia. With the only Ukrainian study abroad program in the US at KU, you can't pick a better place to learn this language.

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During the Fall 2004 semester, KU is hosting two visiting scholars from Russia: Professor Olga Sidorova (right) from Yekaterinburg (Urals State University) and Professor Natasha Golubkova from Novgorod (Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University). Both scholars are recipients of a Carnegie Research Fellowship, which allows them to conduct in-depth research (Sidorova-English and American Studies; Golubkova-Linguistics and English) at the University of Kansas.

The Center for
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at the University of Kansas

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KU's Russian & East European 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.