Visit by US Ambassador to Russia
Collins speaks of hope for Russia’s future

On 13 October 2003, the Center for Russian and East European Studies hosted Ambassador James F. Collins (U.S. Ambassador to Russia from 1997 to 2001). He spoke to both the REES MA grad students and gave a public lecture Monday evening on some of the key contemporary issues in U.S.-Russian relations. During the discussion with REES MA graduate students, Ambassador Collins talked about his 40 years of experience with working and living in Russia and the former Soviet Union. He commented that during the late 1980’s, few could have predicted the direction the Soviet Union was going to take, and in light of the fears from that time period, the transition has not been all that terrible. He was basically optimistic regarding Russia’s future prospects, and that compared to the situation just five years ago, Russia has made substantial progress.

Some 60 brave souls ventured out on a blustery Monday evening to listen to Ambassador Collins’ thought-provoking lecture. He remarked that the events of 9-11 had major geopolitical implications, and that Russia made a historic decision to ally itself with the US and the West against terrorism. Ambassador Collins listed some of the achievements of the Putin administration (economic reforms, a new tax system, judicial reforms), but said that much worked remain. He said that Russia was again at a critical juncture, and that it was in the West’s and U.S. best interests to help promote Russia’s global integration. While there are thorny issues still to be resolved, Ambassador Collins was largely optimistic that Russia will sooner or later join the “civilized” world and that America has a vested interest in seeing this happen.

Amb. James Collins spoke to a general KU audience, concerning the current state of affairs in Russia

Amb. James Collins took time for a private discussion with graduate students participating in the Center’s MA program

‘04-’05 FLAS Applications Now Being Accepted
KU-CREES is now accepting FLAS applications from qualified applicants for the 2004-2005 Academic Year.

All necessary details, including all forms and checklists are available at the KU-CREES website at www.ku.edu/~crees/funding.shtml. The necessary forms and information can also be obtained from Ms. Bette Luther, KU-CREES office manager, in person at the Center or by calling 785-864-4236.

A flyer is also available at the above site, and the Center encourages all academic departments and faculty at any institution to post the flyer.
Students

Focus: Gabe Murphy

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I have been married five years to Cora. I received a B.A. in Political Science and minor in International Studies from Idaho State University in May 2002. I enjoy reading, exercising, and architectural drawing.

What's your favorite book and why?
Wow! I have so many...I would have to say it is probably *At a Century's End* by George Kennan. I love this book because it is masterfully written and after residing in three former Soviet States, I think Kennan hits many of the fine points right on the head.

What's the last book you read and did you enjoy it?
The last book I read was *The Past*. I enjoyed it because it was motivational and based on a true story.

Why did you decide to pursue an MA in Russian and East European Studies?
I decided to pursue a M.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies because after its completion I plan on attending law school and thereafter practice private international law and/or international trade law. I feel the REES program will make me even more marketable.

Where do you see yourself ten years from now?
Ten years from now I see myself as an international attorney working in a large private law firm.

What's your favorite book and why?
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Where do you see yourself ten years from now?
Ten years from now I see myself as an international attorney working in a large private law firm.

What is one thing that a stranger would find surprising about you?
Most strangers find it hard to believe that I was a very good high school wrestler.

Upcoming 2003 Brown Bags

Brown Bags meet from noon to 1 on Tuesdays in 318 Bailey.

11 Nov - A. Varnavskaia, JFDP Fellow, Russia, *Trends in Russian Higher Education*

18 Nov - Edith Clowes, KU Slavic, *Constructing the Memory of the Holocaust: Babii Yar*

25 Nov - No Brown Bag; Thanksgiving Week

2 Dec - Anna Cienciala, Professor Emerita, *Katyn and the Soviet Coverup, 1943-1990/92*

9 Dec - Paul D’Anieri, Director, CREES, Assoc. Prof., Political Science, *The United States and Eurasia, 2003*

KU Welcomes The Russian Review

The Center for Russian & East European Studies at the University of Kansas is proud to welcome the academic journal, *The Russian Review*, to our campus.

The University of Kansas is doubly blessed, in that The Russian Review has brought with it its editor, Prof. Eve Levin, now KU History, and its Managing Editor, Dr. Kurt Schultz. The presence of The Russian Review also opened up a REES graduate research assistantship at the University of Kansas. The first KU student to take the position is Kevin Bobbett REES MA and History PhD candidate at the University of Kansas.

We welcome the prestige and great reputation of the Russian Review to the KU campus and look forward to working with their staff in the future.

A few of the recent opportunities in Russian & East European Studies at the University of Kansas, clockwise, from top left:


2. Col-Gen Viktor Yesin talks with some KU students after participating in a roundtable discussion at KU on 26 Sept.


4. (l to r) Dr. Jacob Kipp, Dr. Eve Levin and Dr. John Alexander meet with former ambassador to Russia James Collins (see cover story)

5. (left) Nonna Tarkhova, of the Russian State Military Archive, speaking on *Current Research and Publications at the Russian Military Archive*, she is assisted in translation by Dr. Maia Kipp

Thanks to all our friends, old and new, whose presence made this event a success!

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**Book Recommendation**

by Ray Finch, MA-SEES, editor

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Dale R. Herspring, Ed.

*Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain*


One can find diametrically opposed views as to the current and future direction of Russia. Some see only degradation, destruction and despair, while others see the beginnings of growth and eventual prosperity. *Putin’s Russia*, ed. by Dr. Dale Herspring at Kansas State University (CREES adjunct professor), provides a balanced and objective view of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and the country he now rules. As Amb. Collins wrote in the Forward, “what emerges is a complex and uneven tapestry whose design and weaving are far from complete.” While the definitive tapestry is still many years from completion, this book provides some excellent clues as to what the finished carpet will look like.
**CSC: Call for Papers**

The Central Slavic Association, AAASS Regional Affiliate, solicits papers on Russian/East European topics in all disciplines for the annual meeting of the Central Slavic Conference to be held at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO (Kansas City metro area), on 11-13 March 2004. Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are particularly encouraged to participate.

Send a one-page abstract of proposed paper, marked “CSC 2004,” contact information, and a brief c.v. or resume to:

Alan Holiman, Chair  
Department of Political Science  
William Jewell College  
500 College Hill  
Liberty, MO 64068-1896

Deadline for submissions: 11 February 2004

**Polish History in Textbooks**

Professor Anna M. Cienciala, KU History, will discuss “Polish History in University Textbooks: Omissions, Errors and Distortions” on Wed., Nov. 12 at 4:00 p.m. in 4051 Wescoe. This and more Polish-related information can be found at www.ku.edu/~polish.

**US National Strategy Discussions**

Over the past two months, REES faculty and students have gathered on three occasions to discuss issues dealing with U.S. National Strategy. The discussions have been quite lively (especially when international students participate), and, although no final consensus has been reached, participants have gained a greater appreciation for the complexity of dealing with the many elements that contribute to strategic questions. Hopefully, the discussions will continue into the Spring 2004 semester.

**REES Announces Essay Competition**

10th Annual Roy and Betty Laird REES Essay Competition

All KU students actively concentrating on Russian and East European studies in any KU academic program are eligible to submit an essay of approximately 2000 words on one of the five topics below. The essay should be a “think piece,” not a formal research paper.

1. How has the conflict in Iraq affected the balance of power between Russia, Eastern Europe and the United States?  
2. Does the “clash of civilizations” thesis help or hinder our understanding of Russia and/or Eastern Europe?  
3. Discuss a prominent theme in modern Russian or East European Art.  
4. How would Dostoevsky or Gogol portray the current situation in Russia or Ukraine and the rest of the world?  
5. What impact will the expansion of the EU in 2004 (the Baltics, Poland, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, and Hungary) have on non-EU and EU member states?

Type your essay, double-spaced, in 12-point font size. Do not put your name on the essay; when you submit it, your essay will receive an identification number.

Submit the essay to Ms. Bette Luther in 320 Bailey Hall on or before 31 January 2004. A committee of three REES faculty will read the submissions blind (not aware of the author) and select the winning entry. The writer will receive a cash prize of $500, a book, a certificate, his or her name on a plaque, and a useful entry for his or her curriculum vitae or resume. 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, please contact Bette Luther in 320 Bailey, at 864-4236, or by e-mail at cree@ku.edu.
Slavist Wins First Kluge Prize

Until this year, those in the humanities and social sciences had no prize comparable to the Nobel. Now there is the $1 million Library of Congress Kluge Prize. Its first recipient for lifetime contribution to the humanities is Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski. Educated as a Marxist, after 1956 he was the first of the humanistic Marxists to openly criticize official Marxism-Leninism and the Communist system. He was eventually expelled from the Communist Party and fired from his professorial position at Warsaw University. In 1968 he left Poland for Canada. While in Canada, he was invited to the University of Kansas to give a lecture—his first in the U.S. KU sought to attract him as a faculty member, but lost out to Berkeley. Kolakowski continued to write and publish, and is probably best known for his three-volume “Main Currents of Marxism: Its Rise, Growth and Dissolution.” He later left Berkeley for Oxford University. He is presently retired and lives in England. He has been called “the intellectual father of the revolution in Poland,” and he was a leader in the opposition to Soviet rule and to Communism throughout Eastern Europe. We are proud of his KU connection.

-Richard DeGeorge