FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Fall 2006 semester concluded with sad news for the Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies community at KU: the loss of Heinrich Stammler on November 29, 2006. Dr. Stammler was a giant in the Slavic Studies field. He was the first chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures at KU, an expert in comparative literature, literary history, and intellectual history, and an avid collector of books. He was a great friend of REES; you may read more about Dr. Stammler and his contributions to area studies on page 9.

We have a full slate of activities scheduled for Spring 2007, beginning with the Balkan Semester. The Balkan Semester will focus on contemporary and historical issues in the region through concerts, public lectures, art displays, and training sessions for Kansas secondary school teachers, highlighting some of KU’s outstanding and unique resources in language and cultural studies. Please see page 8 for more information. In addition, the Center will host Eugene Fishel for the 2007 Maria Palij Memorial Lecture, several films from Uzbekistan, and an exciting new annual tradition: a celebration of Maslenitsa with cooking (and eating), dancing, and music.

We look forward to seeing you at all of our activities in the coming semester.

Erik Herron
Director

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FALL 2006 BROWN BAG SYNOPSIS

The Fall 2006 semester included a full and varied slate of interesting presentations during the weekly Laird Brownbag series. Topics ranged from the historical to the contemporary, from travelogue to the scholarly. This forum illustrates the interdisciplinary nature of our Center, and whether it is Laura Chaney and Danielle Price talking about their experiences living in Russia or visiting professor Stephen Woodburn describing Zurab Tsereteli’s 9/11 Monument, these discussions help to broaden awareness of the region among faculty, students and the general public.

Ray Finch, Assistant Director, CREES, examines the legal and political problems of Mikhail Khodorkosky.

A group of visiting Kazakh students shares their impressions of their country and the US with students in the REES 110 course. Their visit was sponsored by the KU Department of Economics.

KU Provost, Richard Lariviere greets the Herron family at the 2006 Holiday party.
The recent “Summit on Strategic Languages” provided an opportunity for Kansas policymakers, legislators, educators, and members of the business community to engage in dialogue on the study of critical languages (namely Arabic, Chinese, and Russian) in Kansas. During the Summit, presenters discussed the urgent need to teach these languages and to build on Kansas initiatives that are already underway. The Summit also demonstrated a pressing need for public awareness and advocacy if these initiatives are to develop into regular programs. Of particular note, the director of the Confucius Institute at the Chicago Public Schools, Robert Davis, related his experience in building the Chinese language program in that school district, a program that is currently flourishing. I found Mr. Davis’ report extremely encouraging. I have always had a special interest in foreign language acquisition for children and look forward to pursuing emerging opportunities in Kansas. As the librarian for Russian collections at KU, I also look forward to meeting with library colleagues across the state to explore how we can collaborate in support of the study of these languages and the regions and cultures associated with them. For me, the Summit was informative and compelling. I will certainly stay tuned for future episodes.

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SPRING 2007 GRADUATES

OUR CENTER HAS LONG PRIDED ITSELF ON THE STRENGTH OF ITS ALUMNI AND THIS YEAR’S GRADUATES ARE CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION!

If all goes according to schedule, the following students will be graduating with an MA in REES in May 2007.

BRIAN FRANK
NATHAN AND LAURA GERTH
VJEKO JADRIC
INGRID PEREZ
DANIELLE PRICE
MAJOR BERNIE STONE

All of these students have been great citizens of the REES program and have worked hard both academically and professionally to make this program a success. We will miss them dearly and hope that they will keep us posted on their future successes.

Bernie Stone:
Favorite moment.....it will be receiving my diploma.
One year from now I hope to be a veteran Muscovite, capable of verbally defeating even the surliest of traffic police!

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Ingrid Perez:
My favorite memories from the REES program are members of the faculty, particularly Dr. Mikkelson and Dr. Tsiovkh. From all the time I have spent in the program they have meant the most to me. I’m sure I’ll never forget them because of the unselfish way they helped me when I most needed it. When I had doubts about my ability to finish the degree, they both assured me that I could do it.

In one year, I hope to be starting somewhere in Canada on a PhD program in History, focusing my research on the Stalin period. Someday, I hope to become a fine scholar like the ones I admire most.

Danielle Price:
I have enjoyed my experience as an M.A. student in the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. I am grateful for my Graduate Research Assistantship as the Editorial Assistant for The Russian Review, which has given me the opportunity to observe and be an integral part of the publishing process in a prestigious academic journal. This position strengthened my writing and researching techniques, preparing me for my research project focusing on child abandonment in the Russian Federation. I concentrated on the failure of the Russian Federation to make every effort to ensure that these children are given the opportunity to grow up in a family structure that would provide them with the socialization skills they need to successfully integrate into society. My research has only strengthened my commitment to human rights and in a year, I hope to be working as a paralegal for an immigration or human rights law firm.
Nathan and Laura Gerth

**FACULTY NEWS**


**Paul D’Anieri,** Political Science and Associate Dean, published *Understanding Ukrainian Politics: Power, Politics, and Institutional Design* with M.E. Sharpe (2006). D’Anieri seeks to explain how it is that, after each new beginning, power politics has trumped democratic institution-building in Ukraine, as in so many other post-Soviet states.

**Dietrich Earnhart** published “Pollution, Production, and Sectoral Differences in a Transition Economy,” in Comparative Economic Studies, December 2006 (with Lubomir Lizal) and “Direct and Indirect Effects of Ownership on Firm-Level Environmental Performance,” in Eastern European Economics, forthcoming (with Lubomir Lizal).

**Ron Francisco** has the Russian civil war coded on his data website: [http://lark.cc.ku.edu/~ronfran/data/](http://lark.cc.ku.edu/~ronfran/data/). Click on “historical civil wars.”


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**GRADUATES -- continued**

**Brian Frank:**
My experience at KU has been very rewarding and I consider my greatest memories at the university regarding the graduate organization and my opportunity to study in L’viv. The graduate organization is a huge step forward in bringing CREES students together and contributed greatly to forming friendships that will last beyond our studies. My summer in L’viv will always be a cherished memory. Hiking in the Carpathians, living in the center of town and numerous castles, what isn’t there to like? All of my professors were great, but my language instruction in Ukrainian was particularly excellent. Where will I be in one year? I know that wherever I will be will be have a direct result of my education at KU. Thanks to all the staff at CREES, fellow graduate students and above all my wife for all the support and patience.

**Major Matt Dimmick,** KU REES MA (2005) is now working as the Assistant Army Attache at the US Embassy in Moscow. In this role, he represents the United States Army and Department of Defense in contacts with the Russian military. He provides analysis and advice on Russian military topics to members of the Embassy Country Team in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives and maintains liaison with counterparts at the Russian Ministry of Defense and its Ground Forces to facilitate military cooperation and interoperability between U.S. forces and Russian military forces.

**Nathan and Laura Gerth**

**Brian Frank**
Marc L. Greenberg, Chair, Dept. of Slavic Languages & Literatures, had several articles appear this fall: “Common Slavic: Progress or Crisis in its Reconstruction? Notes on Recent Archaeological Challenges to Historical Linguistics” appeared in a Gedenkschrift for Professor Henrik Birnbaum in the periodical *International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics* (Bloomington, IN), “The Slovene Sound System Through Time” in *Slovensko jezikoslovje danes/Slovenian Linguistics Today* in a special issue of *Slavistična revija* (Ljubljana), and a joint paper with Stephen M. Dickey, “Slavic *jazditi* ‘to ride’ and its Implications for the Development the Category of (In)determinacy” in *Jezikovna predanost. Akademiku prof. dr. Jo•etu Toporišièu ob 80-letnici* (Maribor).

Jon Giulian, slavic librarian; Lars Leon, head of access services and resource sharing; and Brian Rosenblum, scholarly digital initiatives librarian, presented “Issues of Access” as part of a panel discussion during the Sofia 2006 Fourth Bi-Annual Conference of Globalization, Digitalization, Access and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, held Nov. 8 in Sofia, Bulgaria. KU co-sponsored the conference and Rosenblum also served as a member of the planning committee.

Eve Levin, History, delivered a lecture on “Medicine and Empire: Russia’s Quasi-Colonial Experience” at the Simpson Center, University of Washington, Seattle.


**Bill Comer and Shannon O’Lear are awarded with the 2006-07 CREES Faculty Service Award at the Fall 2006 Mixer for their outstanding contributions to the CREES mission.**

During the semi-annual Stop Day meeting, CREES faculty, students, and staff listen to the director’s report.
In November 2006, CREES and CEAS held a useful and fun workshop “On the Air.” We all live in the era of electronic files and images, and the main idea of the workshop was to create a lesson environment that will combine languages and arts with social studies. Why not make a regular lesson more exciting and get students involved in this creative process? Students can write a movie script and actually film a short movie during several class periods. They will be actors, artists, directors and critics. The social studies teacher may collaborate with the creative writing, art and/or foreign language teachers for this project. As a result there will be a movie, play, TV report or other presentation that will be posted on the web and copied on CDs and DVDs.

The guest speakers at the workshop were: Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovkh, the host of the movie “Ukraine and Ukrainians,” and Dr. William Tsutsui, the host of the “Postcards from Asia.”

Alexandra Belyakina is a Carnegie visiting scholar from Tomsk (Russia) who is working towards a Ph.D at Tomsk State Pedagogical University. Her research interests revolve around the methods of language teaching, specifically examining how graduate students can best improve their foreign language learning efficiency. For the past four months, she has worked closely with the language specialists in the Applied English Center at KU, spending considerable time observing how KU teaches English to international graduate students.

“I am very happy for having had the opportunity to live and work at KU, where have I met so many outstanding, highly-professional and interesting people. This brief four month visit has allowed for significant professional and academic growth. I will always remember the lively atmosphere, the friendly people, and the very beautiful KU campus. I have made so many new friends here that I can’t wait to come back someday.

I would like to give a big Russian thanks to all who supported me here, to the teachers from Applied English Center who hosted me at their classes and shared their valuable teaching experience, to the professors whose brilliant lectures I had an honor to attend, and those who gave me inspiration for my further research work. I believe that the experience gained at KU will motivate both my research and teaching and will certainly make my teaching of foreign languages more successful.

Spassibo!”

Alexandra Belyakina
During the last hour of the workshop, the participants shared their own ideas and made their own international nested dolls (depending on what country the participant was from). 

Dr. Taneri made Turkish nested dolls at the workshop.

5/01/07: Organ Music of Croatia by Christopher Krampe, Bales Organ Recital Hall, 07:30 p.m. - 09:00 p.m.

LECTURES AND BROWN BAGS

1/30/07: Ales Debeljak - “A Conversation with Balkans Expert Ales Debeljak,” 318 Bailey Hall, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

1/30/07: Ales Debeljak - “Representing the Balkans: Varieties of Ex-Yugoslav Pop Cultures,” Hall Center for Humanities, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

2/22/07: Maria Todorova - “Understanding the Balkans,” Kansas Union, Kansas Room, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

3/08/07: Roundtable - “Conflict Resolution in the Balkans-Lesson Learned,” 318 Bailey Hall, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

3/27/07: Stephen Dickey - “...More Than They Could Consume Locally: History in the Balkans,” 318 Bailey Hall, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

4/03/07: Darrell Kendall – “The EU Illusion: A Critical Analysis of Slovene Membership,” 318 Bailey Hall, 12:00-1:00 p.m.


4/10/07: Cornell Fleischer – “Dissing Empire: Ottomanist Thoughts on American Disasters in the Balkans and the Middle East,” 318 Bailey Hall, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

4/17/07: Ray Finch - “Slobodan Milosevic: A Historical Portrait,” 318 Bailey Hall, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

4/19/07: Walter Zev Feldman - “Ashkenazic Identity and Ottoman Rule: the Case of Klezmer Music,” Big XII Room, Kansas Union, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
We regret to announce the loss of Professor Emeritus Heinrich Stammler, who passed away on 29 November 2006. In November 2003, CREES held a library dedication for Professor Stammler, who had generously donated hundreds of rare editions from his personal library to help make the CREES library a focal point for Slavic studies research.

His thoughtful and generous donation has served to further interest and understanding in Eastern Europe and Russia, and has encouraged others to contribute to maintaining the tradition of excellence at CREES. Professor Stammler will be sorely missed.

A memorial service will be held on February 10 and 10:00 a.m. in Danforth Chapel.
REES MA graduates Major Ray Hackler (2005) and Colonel Randy Stagner (1992) compare notes after a recent parachute jump.