CREES Leadership Change

D’Anieri moves to Strong; Herron to Bailey

This past summer saw another change within the CREES leadership, as former Director, Assoc. Prof. Paul D’Anieri was chosen to become the Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. While D’Anieri only spent one year leading the Center, it was a year filled with numerous challenges and achievements. Whether hosting high level delegations from Russia, traveling to Ukraine to implement grant provisions or helping students understand the intricacies of international relations, D’Anieri continued the tradition of excellence in CREES leadership.

Knowing that his replacement would have to be well-qualified, highly enthusiastic and thoroughly organized, it’s no surprise that Asst. Prof. Erik Herron was selected as the new Director for the Center. Herron comes with a long list of academic achievements and abilities, chief of which are his in-depth knowledge of the area (he’s fluent in Russian) and his desire to maintain, and even possibly improve, the CREES mandate.

REES connects KU to Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan

During the latter part of July and the first two weeks in August, Asst. Prof. Erik Herron and Ray Finch visited the Mongolian National University (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia), Osh State University (Osh, Kyrgyzstan) and Western University (Baku, Azerbaijan). The purpose of this U.S. State Department-sponsored travel was to solicit the support, work out a syllabus for a Comparative Politics course and install digital video equipment that would allow for a cooperative learning exchange between KU students and students from these three countries. Using this digital camera that works over the Internet, this fall, 15 KU students will be able to discuss, analyze and collaborate on a number of issues dealing with comparative politics with students from these three countries. CREES is hopeful that it will be able to build upon the success of this course and possibly expand course/subject offerings in these important parts of the world.
Our First Brownbags

Above, Prof. Norm Saul (KU-History) spoke on “Stalin’s American Engineers” to kick off REES’ Tuesday brownbag lecture series on 31 August, discussing the role of American engineers in helping to build much of Soviet industry.

Left, Prof. Leslie Dienes (KU-Geography) spoke on the current oil situation in Russia’s Western Siberia on 7 September, commenting on the politics, business practices and geographic context of the situation.

Fall ‘04 Russian Offerings

17 Sept - Spear or Sledgehammer? Red Armor in Theory and Practice, Jeremy Byers, History, 4-5:30PM, Hall Center Conference Room
22 Sept - Tragedy in Beslan: A Russian Colonel’s Perspective, Col. (ret) Andrei Demurenko, 5-6PM, 318 Bailey
24 Sept - Friday Night at the Kino: Ballad of a Soldier, 7PM, 318 Bailey, info: Ray Finch, 864-4248
12 Oct - Andrew Moulton, KU REES MA candidate, Observations on Russian Orthodoxy Today, noon - 1PM, 318 Bailey
26 Oct - Stephen Kotkin, Dir., Russian Studies, Princeton, Rise and Demise of the Russian Empire, Empire Lecture Series, 7:30PM, Regnier Hall, KU Edwards Campus, Overland Park

Fall ‘04 Polish Offerings

17 Sept - Lecture and Recital: Chopin’s Polish Piano Music, Alice Downs, Prof Emerita, KU Musicology; Daniel Politoske, Prof Emeritus, KU Musicology; Allyson Walters, Doct Student, KU-Piano Performance, 5:30 PM, Swarthout Recital Hall
Guilty while Innocent: Elements of the Tragic in Jiri Weil’s Novel, Mendelssohn on the Roof, Bettina Kaibach, Slav Langs & Lit, Univ of Bonn, 3:30-5PM, Hall Center Conference Room

2004 Russia Summer Abroad

The Kunstkamer, on the River Neva in St. Petersburg, housed Peter the Great’s collection of oddities and was Russia’s first museum. This photo is courtesy of Andrew Moulton, participant in KU’s Russia 2004 Summer abroad program.
Ukrainian Dancers 
Coming to Lied Center
The Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company will be performing at KU’s Lied Center on Friday, 1 October. The color, beauty and folk tradition of Ukraine are trademarks of this 85-member ensemble, combining brilliant ballet technique with traditional Ukrainian folk dance. Displays on Ukrainian culture (shown here) are at the Lied Center through 11 October.

Fall ’04 Ukrainian Offerings
28 Sept - Yaroslava Tsiovkh, PhD, KU-Slav Lang & Lits, Nuggets of Ukrainian Folk Art, noon - 1PM, 318 Bailey
1 Oct - Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, 7:30PM, Lied Center, 864-2787
5 Oct - Asst Prof. Viktor Susak, Chair-History and Theory of Sociology, Ivan Franko National Univ of L'viv, Ukraine, On the Upcoming Presidential Elections in Ukraine, noon - 1PM, 318 Bailey

Laird Essay Contest
Congratulations to our 2004 REES-MA alumnus Adrian J. Erlinger on winning the 10th Roy and Betty Laird REES Essay Competition for his essay Shock Art and Orthodox Thugs: Politics and Contemporary Art in Russia. As winner, Adrian received a check for $500, a book of his choice and his name inscribed on the Laird Competition plaque that hangs outside the REES office. We understand that he and his new wife will be spending a year traveling and working in Ukraine.
No, that’s not Falconet’s Peter the Great: In late July and Early August Asst. Prof. Erik Herron (Director, KU-REES; KU-Political Science) travelled to Mongolia (see p.1). He is shown here in Ulaanbaatur, the capital, in Sukhbaatar Square with the statue of Damdin Sukhbaatar, who lead the successful Communist movement for independence from China in 1921.

The site, in the center of the capital, was also the location of various protests for movement away from Communism. Oh, and we can’t tell if there’s a snake under Sukhbaatar’s horse.