



CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

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CREES STAFF

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

During the Fall 2005 semester, we welcomed two new professional staff members to the CREES team. Tatyana Wilds brings vast experience in teaching and public relations to the position of Outreach Coordinator. Kyle King is our "jack-of-all-trades," providing support in logistical, financial, and programmatic activities as the Senior Program Assistant. Tatyana and Kyle have already made strong contributions to the Center, complementing the outstanding work of Ray Finch and Bill London.

The Center's staff dedicated most of its waking hours in the Fall to preparing the Title VI application for the upcoming four-year cycle. We are particularly grateful to the many faculty members, university staff, and alumni who helped us craft the proposal. The proposal is ambitious, with major events planned about the Balkans (Spring 2007), Eurasian Security (Spring 2008), Revolutions (Spring 2009), and a 20th anniversary retrospective on the fall of the Berlin Wall (Fall 2009). In addition, CREES will enhance language training; outreach programming for constituencies in K-12 and post-secondary education, business, media, government, military, and the general public; and continue to incorporate new technologies in the classroom.

CREES will sponsor a number of exciting activities in 2006, including guest speakers (Lawrence Korb, Paul Saunders, and Piotr Wrobel), a teacher training workshop about Mongol influences on the literatures, societies, and cultures of the region, as well as our Laird Brown Bag series. The Brown Bags will begin at 12:30 pm this semester, and many will include live video feeds from our partner institution in Lviv, Ukraine. Faculty and students from Lviv participated in our final Brown Bag of the Fall 2005 semester, and plan to "attend" many CREES programs in the upcoming semester via the Internet. We look forward to seeing you at the Center during Spring 2006!

Erik Herron



REES MA students and visitors before Gorbachev's lecture at KSU.

Gorbachev Visit

Thanks to the support and influence of visiting KSU professor Dale Herspring, CREES was able to procure 15 reserved seats to listen to former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's lecture in October in Manhattan. On the trip down, the group discussed the role that Gorbachev played in ending the Cold War and the dissolution of the USSR. Though perhaps still too close to render a final historical verdict, the overall consensus was that history will render a positive assessment to the role that Gorbachev played in the 20th Century.

As the key speaker for this year's Landon Lecture Series, Gorbachev recounted his experience as the last leader of the USSR and the events which prompted him to initiate the reforms that ultimately led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. While Gorbachev was quite supportive of the current Putin government, he had few kind words for his successor, Boris Yeltsin. He was also quite critical of US unilateral attempts to resolve difficult international issues. He believes that the complexity of the global situation today requires a multilateral approach to achieve global security.

After his speech a number of people lined up to ask Gorbachev questions regarding his com-

ments, especially the direction of democracy in Russia today. He remarked that it took the US quite a long time to work out a viable system of checks and balances, and that given Russia's history, it would be foolish to believe that Russia will achieve a functioning democracy overnight. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, Gorbachev was unable to answer all of the queries, but the general consensus was that Gorbachev had given a thought-provoking and genuinely interesting lecture.



Mr. Cirincione spoke to a group of 40 students and faculty in the Kansas Union.

CREES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION SERIES
Spring 2006

23 February: RUSSIA

16 March: UKRAINE

20 April: CENTRAL
ASIA/CAUCASUS

3:30 – 5:00 P.M.

Experts from the region will discuss key contemporary issues with students, faculty and the general public.

Room 318, Bailey Hall, University of Kansas

The Discussions are Free and Open to the Public

Proliferation Update

Perhaps the most thought-provoking lecture of the semester was delivered by Mr. Joseph Cirincione, who is a Senior Associate and the Director of Non-Proliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. He is also the author of a number of works dealing with arms control, including *Deadly Arsenal: Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Threats*, (Second Ed., 2005). Mr. Cirincione explained the history of non-proliferation efforts, pointing out that, despite some setbacks, non-proliferation has been a great success. Currently, there are some 15 nations worldwide that possess WMD, and, while there is still much work to be done to further reduce stockpiles, thanks to non-proliferation efforts, these dangerous weapons have not spread worldwide. Part of his lecture dealt with how certain unilateral actions by the United States have served to undermine non-proliferation efforts. As a global leader, the US sets a poor example when it excuses itself from long-standing treaty obligations, even under the pretext of security considerations. While Mr. Cirincione praised the efforts of all nations in reducing the overall number of WMD, he said that efforts must be prolonged and even increased to prevent these weapons from ever falling into the hands of terrorists. Mr. Cirincione's visit to KU was part of the Eurasian Security and Military Affairs Forum where CREES partners with Fort Leavenworth and KSU on hosting visitors who deal with national security issues.



CREES Director Erik Herron congratulates Joseph Cirincione after his lecture.

December 2005 Graduates

Three REES MA students completed their academic requirements and graduated with an MA in Russian and East European Studies. Major Matthew Dimmick and Major Joe Gross have moved on to their subsequent assignments with the Department of the Army. Major Gross is now preparing for an assignment with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Washington, DC, while Major Dimmick is beginning his training to become the Assistant Army Attaché at the US embassy in Moscow. Matthew Smith is currently seeking employment with an intelligence agency.



December 2005 graduates Matt Dimmick and Joe Gross at Dr. Herron's Holiday party.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

CREES will host a number of visiting scholars from Ivan Franko National University in L'viv. Ms. Hanna Khomechko will spend two months conducting research in linguistics and American Studies. Her specific research area deals with professional writing and negotiation. Dr. Viktor Krevs and Dr. Volodymyr Kyrylych will make primarily administrative visits in the month of March to ensure the continued partnership of KU and IFNU.

CREES has been hosting a number of visitors during the Fall 05 and Spring 06 semesters. Two Fulbright scholars arrived in August and will spend the entire academic year at KU. Ms. Elmira Muratova, from Crimea, Ukraine, is doing cutting edge research on political Islam, while Mr. Max Tuula from Vladivostok, Russia, is exploring Russian perceptions of American foreign policy. They have been joined by Ms. Irina Kopaneva from Voronezh,

Russia, who arrived in late January on an NCEEER-sponsored research program. Ms. Kopaneva is specializing in Communication Studies and will work with Dean Diana Carlin on her research project.

Irina Kopaneva, visiting scholar from Russia.



Dr. Paul D'Anieri discusses Ukrainian politics with KU students and faculty from L'viv.

CONNECTIVITY

CREES is continuing to expand its Internet video connections with international partners. Building upon the U.S. State Department program that established links with universities in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and Azerbaijan, CREES has now established connections with Ivan Franko National University in L'viv, Ukraine and with Saint Petersburg State University. There are plans to continue expanding in 2006 with the University of Belgrade in Serbia and Yekaterinburg State University in Russia. In the photo above, Dr. Paul D'Anieri speaks at a CREES brownbag concerning the situation in Ukraine, while part of the audience in L'viv listens in via the Internet video link.



Elmira and her husband Timur in the CREES library.

My Impressions about America

After being here about five months, I have had contradictory impressions of the USA. When I first arrived to the Chicago airport in late August I feared that I could not live in this country for 10 months. There were so many different people with different and strange styles that I was really scared. My impressions were colored by the long, endless flight from Ukraine and everything seemed dark to me at that moment.

At the beginning everything was strange and difficult to get used to. I had problems with my English, and I thought that all my language training in my country had been useless. I had learned how to translate English texts but did not have any speaking or listening experience. Not surprisingly, I was barely able to understand or speak. It was my good fortune that some people around me (my advisor and his deputy) knew Russian and helped me in the adaptation process. But I have to say that this process wasn't easy.

One of the first problems was the necessity to obtain different IDs. Everything in the US is computerized and you can't get along without your ID number. Only later, when that process was behind, did I sense how convenient it is to use these IDs.

Second, it is almost impossible to live in the US without a car. Because almost all Americans have their own cars, public transport doesn't work well. And since I didn't feel a bicycle was for me, I had to ask people to drive me to the grocery stores and other places. This was a hassle.

As for Americans, it seems me that they were very different from people in my country. First, was their habit always to smile? They smiled at me everywhere: at the university, on the street, in the store. It was so strange and unusual for me. Even stranger was their habit to always apologize. I can't understand why they do this. They would do nothing wrong, but still they apologized.

Among the difficulties and misunderstandings of this adaptation process there were some pleasant and even funny moments. For example, I won't forget how my advisor, a professor and the director of the center at the university, along with his deputy helped me move into my apartment. It was so unusual and unbelievable. I can't imagine my advisor in Ukraine doing something like that!

I can say that my impression about Americans has changed. I understand that they are quite similar to people in my country. They have the same problems, the same attitudes toward many things and events; finally they have the same values (peace, family, welfare etc.).

Finally, as my English becomes better, I'm beginning to gain a deeper understanding of American culture. I like many aspects of the American educational system and believe that educators in Ukraine could learn something from our American colleagues. As for me, I am going to incorporate many of the positive lessons I have learned here at KU and include them in my courses at home.

Elmira Muratova



Michael Palij welcomes V. Dubovyk after his Brownbag presentation which dealt with Ukrainian security issues.



Dr. Anna Cienciela explains differing perspectives on the end of WW II.

Fall 2005 Brownbag Synopsis

While the brownbag schedule began and ended with in-depth talks dealing with the political and social situation in Ukraine, there were a number of other interesting presentations during the semester. Having spent the better part of the summer in Ukraine, Dr. Alex Tsiovkh was able to share his firsthand knowledge of the post revolutionary mood in the country. His remarks and observations were prescient and were echoed four months later by Associate Dean and former CREES Director, Dr. Paul D'Anieri. Thanks to a generous donation by the Friends of Ukraine Sister College Program, Dr. D'Anieri's talk was broadcast via an Internet digital camera to our partner institution (Ivan Franko National University) in L'viv, Ukraine. Complementing the

Ukrainian offerings this semester were both a geopolitical perspective of the current situation in Ukraine by noted expert, Volodymyr Dubovyk, and a more down to earth analysis of Ukrainian folk music by Michi Regier.

Two of our resident Army officers dusted off their briefing skills, presenting talks on the military situation in post-Soviet countries. Major Ray Hackler, Psyops, spoke about his experience as a UN observer in Georgia, while Major Joe Gross, FAO, reviewed the development of the Uzbek armed forces.

Other highlights from the semester included Phil Gallagher's description of his bio-science research on astronauts at Zvezdny Gorodok (Star City), Dr. Bruce Menning's analysis on the role of intelligence in the Russo-Japanese conflict in 1905 and Professor Anna Cienciela's historical review of how victory was interpreted by various sides at the end of World War II. All in all, it was a thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating series of talks and hope that you will join us during the **Spring semester on Tuesdays, from 12:30-1:20 in Room 318, Bailey.**



REES MA student Joe Gross discusses Uzbek military capabilities.





REES MA GRAD AND THE COLOR ORANGE

Seconds of the Ukrainian Revolution in Washington

Washington, 22 November 2005 (RadioSvoboda.ua) – A photographic exhibition of the Orange Revolution opened this week in Washington. Its organizer, the Kennan Institute, specializes in the research of Central and Eastern European countries and Russia. The organizers of the exhibit say that the show's goal is not only to mark the one year anniversary of the Orange Revolution. Rather, they would like to remind Americans about the unique events of last year that gripped the attention of the world.

The walls of two floors of the Kennan Institute in Washington were of an orange hue. Around fifty photographs depict the events of last year's Ukraine. Tents, field kitchens, flags, broadsheets, politics – it was not just the environment in which the American photographers witnessed in those days – most importantly, they captured the faces of people. **Adrian Erlinger**, one of the photographers featured in the exhibition, says: "For me the most important thing was to depict ordinary people caught up in a critical moment in their country's history. It didn't matter if you were orange or blue-and-white – the entire country was wrapped up in enthusiasm, in the moment. Basically, it was interesting for me to photograph how people carried on with their everyday lives during such a historical upheaval."

A smiling student with orange ribbons in her hair. A seamstress on her machine surrounded by images of Yushchenko. A grandmother frowning as a parade of youth activists passes by. These are but a few images Adrian brought from Ukraine. He believes that most Ukrainians were pleased to discover a foreigner in their midst. Once, there was an exception: "Two days after the election, Lviv was full of protesters. I walked around with my camera, dressed completely in gray without a trace of

orange. I decided that because this was not my country and I was a foreigner, I should remain an objective observer. Then a woman walked up to me and asked: "Who are you? Where are you from?" I said that I was an American and just taking pictures. And she said, 'Well say something in English.' I began to speak to her in English and she started to laugh. 'Thank God! I thought you were a spy from Donetsk!' Then I realized that I had to wear something orange so I wouldn't stick out."

During the exhibit that hosted around one hundred visitors, a woman walked up to Adrian – tears in her eyes – and thanked him for his work. She was Natalia Petrova, a Kennan Institute visiting scholar from Kyiv. She emotionally explained that the young American photographer reminded her of her own son, who also experienced the whirl of revolutionary events. Natalia Petrova says that she has only fond flashbacks of the Orange Revolution: "The processes which happened last autumn and winter are processes that no one can discredit. The people and the nation said 'no' to falsification. I think that people on Maidan stood not necessarily for anyone in particular, but to give their voice and support what was right."

Adrian Erlinger agrees with her, adding that politics was just a context for the events. The essence lies in the spiritual and cultural realms. He hopes that visitors to the exhibit see this in his photographs. "I hope that people enjoy my perspective as an American. It's only a small fraction that added together with other stories and faces of the Orange Revolution creates a full picture. I can only show fourteen fractions of one second," says Erlinger, who brings seconds of the Ukrainian revolution to the American capital.

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Ms. Bette Laird (right) and Dr. Paul D'Anieri (left) congratulate Adrian Erlinger as the winner of the 2004 REES Essay Contest.

FACULTY NEWS

Eugenia Amditis, Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures attended AAASS in Salt Lake City and AATSEEL in Washington, DC. She presented "Dostoevsky's The Idiot and Chernyshevsky's What is to be Done?: Art Imitating Life Imitating Art." Her dissertation defense is being held on 2/6/06.

Prof. Anna M. Cienciala, History emerita, read a paper on "The Foreign Policy of the Polish Government-in-Exile in World War II," at a conference on: "Polish Foreign Policy: Past, Present and Future." The conference, sponsored by the Institute for East European History, Columbia University, New York, and the Joseph Pilsudski Institute for the Study of Modern Polish History, New York, took place at the School of International Affairs, Columbia University on Nov. 17, 2005.

Dr. Dale Herspring, Visiting Professor, KSU has recently published: "Vladimir Putin and Military Reform in Russia," European Security, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2005. "Dedovshchina in the Russian Army: The Problem that Won't Go Away," Journal of Slavic Military Studies, Vol. 17, No. 4. He has also published the following books: The Pentagon and the Presidency: Civil-Military Relations from FDR to George W. Bush. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2005; and The Kremlin and the High Command, Civil-Military Relations Under Presidents Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and Putin. Forthcoming 2006 from University Press of Kansas. He was one of four former officials invited to the Solidarity Anniversary Celebrations in Warsaw/Gdansk. The others were Richard Pipes, Madeline Albright, and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Dr. Andzej Karcz will attend an international conference on Polish Studies: "In Search of (Creative) Diversity: New Perspectives in Polish Literary and Cultural Studies Abroad," held at the University of Toronto, Canada, in February, 2006, where he will present a paper titled "Polish Literary Theory Abroad."

Shannon O'Lear has been working with some colleagues in Political Science at the University of Illinois on a project looking at how geographers and political scientists analyze territorial conflict. They have just completed a special issue of GeoJournal on this topic, and they are also putting

together a special issue of Conflict Management and Peace Science with a second collection of papers. With the help of Ang Gray and Cristin Burke as research assistants, she is continuing to write up analyses of survey and interview data that she collected in Azerbaijan. This project looks at theories of resource conflict and asks why we do not see resource-related conflict in Azerbaijan, despite the fact that all the necessary ingredients seem to be there.

In the fall semester, Dr. O'Lear taught a new course titled "Professional Development in Teaching for Geography" for graduate students. The course covers the "nuts and bolts" aspects of teaching and philosophies about teaching. A diverse group of graduate students was involved in the seminar, and the conversations were often provocative. In fact, those conversations have motivated Dr. O'Lear to make some changes to the courses she will teach in the spring, which include "Environmental Policy" and "Geopolitics of Russia & Eurasia."



Professor Shannon O'Lear discusses Siberian energy deposits with REES MA students in the CREES library.

FOR SUBMISSION SUGGESTIONS, CONTACT

Ray Finch, Assistant Director, REES at: rayfin3@ku.edu

Tatyana Wilds, Outreach Coordinator, REES at: tvw@ku.edu

Michelle Brock, a student assistant, has worked in the department since August 2005.

She is majoring in Humanities and History and is going to graduate school this fall. Michelle is originally from Southlake, Texas.



OUTREACH

Tatyana Wilds, Outreach Coordinator, presents "The Magic Goldfish," an interactive folktale with Russian words and phrases.

"Stories, Songs and Skits from Not so Far Away"



The event took place on November 15, 2005, at the Oread Book Store, KU, as part of the program *Stories, Songs and Skits from Not so Far Away*, co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs.

CREES EVENTS, SPRING 2006

Bailey Hall, Room # 318

7 February, 12:30-1:20 PM: "Survival Strategies in Contemporary Russia: A Comparison of Urban and Rural Households." Dr. Eric Hanley, Sociology, KU.

10 February, 7 PM: Friday Night at the Kino, *Burnt by the Sun*, Russia.

14 February, 12:30-1:20 PM: "Grassroots Russian Media: It's Working." Dr. Tom Volek, Journalism, KU.

21 February, 12:30-1:20 PM: "Rediscovering the Missing Neighbors." Dr. Piotr Wrobel, Associate Professor and Konstanty Reynert Chair of Polish History, History Department, University of Toronto.

28 February, 12:30-1:20 PM: "Anglo-American Assessments of the Red Army in World War II." Dr. Ted Wilson, History, KU.

7 March, 12:30-1:20 PM: "Life in Provincial Russia and Its 'Near Abroad' in Autumn 2005: Tomsk, Perm', Ekaterinburg, Riga." Dr. G. Mikkelsen, REES, KU.

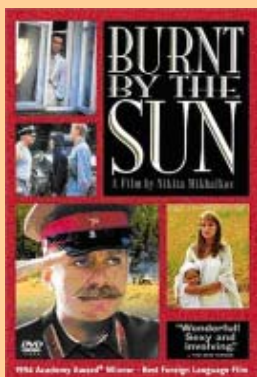
10 March, 7 PM: Friday Night at the Kino, *The White Sun of the Desert*, Russia

14 March, 12:30-1:20 PM: "Chernobyl-20th Anniversary." Taras Senyuta, Muskie PhD Fellow, Political Science, KU.

28 March, 12:30-1:20 PM: "Hadji-Murad: From Russian to Western to World Literature." Dr. John Burt Foster Jr., George Washington Univ.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE KINO FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE KINO FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE KINO
10 February 7PM 318 Bailey 10 March 7PM 318 Bailey

Burnt by the Sun
Russia



From video website

Russia, 1936: revolutionary hero Colonel Kotov is spending an idyllic summer in his dacha with his young wife and six-year-old daughter Nadia and other assorted family and friends. Things change dramatically with the unheralded arrival of Cousin Dmitri from Moscow, who charms the women and little Nadia with his games and bravura. But Kotov isn't fooled: this is the time of Stalin's repression, with telephone calls in the middle of the night spelling doom - and he knows that Dmitri isn't paying a social call...

The White Sun of the Desert
Russia



This "Middle-Eastern", or rather Central-Asian action film, about the Red Army fighting the counter-revolutionary robber bands has become not only a cult movie, but also one of the favorites for several generations of viewers. Russian cosmonauts traditionally view this film before going to outer space. The film's success paved the way for a genre of "Eastern" films. A soldier, Fyodor Sukhov, is making his way through the desert to his home village. The band of the brutal Abdulla is raging in that area...

CREES WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE BRAMLAGE FAMILY AND MARK WILLCOXON FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT!

THE BRAMLAGE FAMILY FOUNDATION FUNDS AN ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP IN REES. IN ADDITION, MARK AND THE FOUNDATION HAVE BEEN GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THE CREES LIBRARY.



Mark Willcoxon, Erik Herron and Jack Hope try out the new table.

New Library Table

Over the past few years the library has grown through donations like the Stammler collection and materials from CREES faculty and friends. Recently, CREES was fortunate to have a generous gift from the Bramlage family to enhance our library and help it become unrivaled among Center libraries. Specifically, the Bramlage family commissioned the manufacture of a lovely library table, in the style that one would find in an established research library. With guidance provided by the former CREES Director, Dr. Maria Carlson, Mark Willcoxon and Marc Greenberg, Jack Hope's studio in Lawrence designed and constructed the table. The table not only reflects a classic library form, but also is made from materials that honor its Midwestern heritage.



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*Nested Government Dolls from
CREES Russian Trunk Collection.*