Five years of my service to CREES as Associate Director (2010-12) and Director (2012-15) passed in the blink of an eye. It was ultimately gratifying to lead a Center with an enduring intellectual mission, core values, and unbeatable reputation, with dedicated faculty and staff who helped it to weather the storm of fiscal uncertainty and significant institutional changes.

From the groundbreaking annual security conferences to the year-round Brownbag series and Friday nights at the Kino, to the innovative cross-curricular educator workshops and impactful collaborative events, CREES has done a masterful job of upholding its name as a national leader for Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies by drawing on its past and casting its net forward to move with the times and to meet new demands. In this letter I will attempt do the same: sum up the past five years of immense changes at CREES and contemplate its future.

To be candid, the future of CREES is more uncertain and fragile today than when I took over from Edith Clowes in 2012. A year prior, CREES, then designated as a National Resource Center, was hit by a sweeping 46.5% cut to its Title VI budget that resulted in the loss of funding for K-12 teacher conferences, foreign language and area study curriculum development, support for faculty travel, and diverse programming initiatives. With the help of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) and the Provost, CREES was able to fulfill its teaching contracts, but the lecturers’ funding became closely tied to student enrollment. On the backdrop of the College-wide decline in student credit hours, several REES areas, especially its Ukrainian Studies program, were affected by the dwindling federal support.

Despite these early financial challenges, CREES fulfilled many of its Title VI commitments thanks to the resourcefulness of the previous administration and thriftiness with which we learned to go about the business of CREES. We were able, for example, to expand our language and area studies curriculum through modest faculty grants cobbled together from rollover funds. We organized teachers’ workshops, invited new CREES Fellows to join the Center, contributed to the Library’s Slavic and Eurasian collections, and offered diverse programming and effective outreach. In fact, the annual number of events offered by CREES grew by 67% in the last two years of the Title VI grant.

After weathering the first reductions to its budget, CREES had to adapt to university-wide institutional and curricular changes. Transition to the Shared Service Centers entailed reorganization of the area studies centers’ personnel and restructuring of some of our operational activities. Following the launch of KU CORE, CREES had to review its courses for a certification process to determine whether they met the established learning objectives. The new requirements for the degree-level assessment process mandated the development and implementation of assessment plans for each degree program in the Center. In the effort to increase the competitiveness of its academic degrees, CREES developed an attractive joint REES MA/ JD program, instituted a new 12-month long Foreign Area Studies (FAS) track to serve the needs of prospective FAOs, and launched a new graduate certificate.

We went into the new Title VI competition buoyed by strong external reviews, inspired by ideas developed during the summer 2013 REES faculty retreat, and assisted by many KU units (Hall Center for the Humanities, KU Libraries, Study Abroad Office, Office of International Programs, to name a few). Much has been said about the nature of the last Title VI competition; fewer resources, fewer rewards, different invitational priorities, new program evaluation requirements, and greater uncertainties and ambiguities of the application and review process made it more fierce and unpredictable. In the end, the news of the loss of Title VI funds, including FLAS fellowships, was devastating to me personally and disheartening to all those who’ve invested their energies into making the Center a reliable source of new and exciting things in REES. The “What’s next?” question loomed large for REES faculty, students, and supporters.

Looking back at the first year without the Title VI funds, apart from the heightened levels of stress for all of us, it did not look or feel very different from all those years when CREES had the NRC resources. In fact, it was a record year in terms of the total number of events offered by CREES. Assistant Director Bart Redford and I were busy implementing the Eco-Rep: Peer-to-Peer Sustainability Outreach program funded by the State Department’s U.S.-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue grant. The key activities of this year-long program will be featured in the upcoming annual report from the Provost. Outreach Coordinator Adrienne Landry refocused much of her energy on a major overhaul of our recruitment and advising activities with the goal of ratcheting up enrollment in REES courses and the numbers of REES co-majors, minors, and MAs. Our partnerships with various units within and outside the College have grown and deepened. We’ve turned our strained finances and the shortfall of personnel into an opportunity for not only greater collaboration on projects, but also learning new ways of sharing our staff to serve the needs of all centers, and drawing on other resources within the College and the University that have been previously underutilized. With the creation of a new REES BA (effective summer 2015), for example, CREES will benefit from the programmatic advising of Laura Leonard – one of the senior academic advisors of CLAS Student Academic Services, while Bart Redford will take on responsibilities of in-house undergraduate academic advisor focusing on the content. I think the hardest challenge of the last few years was to cope with significant losses in our faculty ranks. Departures to other universities (Edith Clowes, Erik Herron, and Bill Comer), retirements (Maria Carlson and Jerry Mikkelsen), and deaths (Alex Tsiokh and Anna Cienciala) left irreplaceable gaps in KU REES.

The next and following years in the Center will bring more challenges, uncertainties, and, I hope, opportunities. Last
...CONTINUED FROM FRONT

winter, the directors of the five centers worked together to cut $200,000 from their budgets. To retain key staff lines, we gave up the position of associate directors responsible for academic advising, invited lecturers, and some LCTLS. CREES has lost the Office Manager position that it shared with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. We all face an inescapable reality of budgetary pressures from Topeka, changing tuition policy, and declining student credit hours that were translated into an estimated $41 million/year loss of potential revenue attributable to CLAS instructional activities. Last year, the College covered all salaries split-funded by the NRC grant. It expressed commitment to continue supporting staff lines through June 2016. In this context, the College believes that the best strategy for optimizing the use of scarce resources and also for increasing the visibility of the area studies centers is to create an Institute for International Studies, which will involve the reorganization of the office, program and outreach staff members to serve all of the international area centers and programs. Toward this end, CLAS charged a working group composed of continuing and future center directors and staff members to recommend effective ways to transition to the Institute. The working group will meet throughout the Fall semester to develop a proposal (due February 2016) that should address the CLAS charges. Those include identification of clear and collaborative ways to use current staff, space, and finances so that they align international and area studies with the University and College strategic initiatives, budget realities, and academic priorities, the evolving directions of international and area studies nationally and internationally, and funding opportunities that go beyond the Title VI grants.

I am immensely thankful to Vitaly Chernetsky, who agreed to lead the Center through the transition and oversee the search for a new CREES director. I am convinced that Vitaly and the future CREES director will not travel this journey alone. In addition to the help from CREES’ hardworking and dedicated staff, they can count on the experience and knowledge of the new members of the CREES Executive Committee, faculty, donors, and supporters. Together we will advocate for a strong future for REES at KU.

Mariya Omelicheva
CREES DIRECTOR 2012-2015

LETTER FROM THE INCOMING DIRECTOR

It is an honor and an exciting challenge to be stepping into the role of CREES Acting Director. Long before I arrived at KU, I grew to appreciate the Center’s diverse and productive activities. As I edited the 2004 newsletter of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies in the midst of the Orange Revolution, I was glad to feature KU CREES prominently in its pages. Little did I imagine that I would find myself an active contributor to the Center as Ukraine undergoes another massive transformation that has brought a profound rethinking of our field and of the region we study.

Despite working with a limited budget and staff this year, CREES continues to impress with its wide range of events and outreach. I have the pleasure and privilege of announcing that the distinguished expert on Russia, Karen Dawisha, will give a lecture on the KU campus on Thursday, November 5 at 7pm in the Big 12 Room of the Kansas Union. Prof. Dawisha will speak about her New York Times bestseller, Putin’s Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?, and the origins of corruption in today’s Russia. The day after her public lecture, she will give a Hall Center seminar on Friday, November 6. Stay tuned for more details!

CREES continues to be heavily involved in KU’s WWI Centennial Commemoration activities, 2014-2018. KU History professors Nathan Wood and Erik Scott are spearheading an exciting lecture series titled “Everyday Lives on the Eastern Front.” Over the course of the 2015-16 academic year this series will bring four nationally recognized experts on WWI to Kansas to share their original research with us. In addition to public lectures, speakers will explore these themes in workshops with undergraduate and graduate students and members of the community. Mark your calendars for the first in this series -- UNC-Chapel Hill professor Heather Perry will speak on “Recycling the Disabled: Army, Medicine, and Modernity in the First World War” on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7pm in the KU Commons.

Speaking of WWI, President Obama and members of the US Senate and Congress have appointed twelve commissioners to plan, develop, and execute programs in observance of the WWI Centennial — one of the commission’s primary objectives is to have each of the 50 states form their own WWI Centennial Commemoration Committees by November 2015. Governor Brownback issued a decree to form the Kansas WWI Centennial Commemoration Committee, which held its first meeting on August 14, and I am happy to report that due to her very successful Summer 2014 KU_WW1_Twitter Project, our very own CREES Outreach Coordinator Adrienne Landry has been nominated to serve as a committee member.

As part of her on-campus student engagement activities, CREES Outreach Coordinator Adrienne Landry is this year’s advisor for Jayhawks Without Borders International Studies Club. Now in its 2nd year, the club has over 70 student members and continues to meet every Friday in 318 Bailey at 11am with exciting lectures and cultural activities sponsored by all the area studies centers. For K-12 Outreach, Adrienne continues to work with Douglas County Youth Services. Through community collaboration, Lawrence’s Juvenile Detention facility is dedicated to developing programs that enrich the lives of incarcerated youth by providing educational opportunities for girls and boys, ages 10-18, who do not normally have access to unique learning experiences like Russian language and culture, for example.

In news about Academic Programs, I am happy to report that CREES has received approval to replace the co-major with a new self-standing Bachelor’s Degree program. The change will allow CREES to access key services in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) to better meet the needs of our undergraduate students. Find out more on page 14 of this newsletter.

Along with the new undergraduate degree, CREES has shuffled its advising duties. CREES Assistant Director Bart Redford will take over advising for our undergraduate majors and minors. He will work closely with CLAS Senior Academic Advisor Laura Leonard, who also serves as the advisor for the School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures and Global & International Studies (GIST).

By special arrangement, Mariya Omelicheva will continue helping with the advising for graduate students, now that we no longer have an Associate Director position. The REES MA program has 4 incoming students this fall, with a FAO joining us in the Spring semester.

Many of you may remember REES alumnus Ray Finch. CREES Assistant Director from 2003-2008 — Ray will be rejoining our team this fall as the instructor for the REES methodologies and capstone seminars. He will also continue to be the primary liaison for the CREES-FMSO Security Analyst Internship, which will have 2 interns this fall.

We welcome two new REES-related faculty members to the KU campus. Oleksandra Wallo, a native of Lviv, has come to KU from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; she joins the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures as an Assistant Professor. She will be teaching courses in Ukrainian language and culture and in language pedagogy. From Arizona State University, we welcome Victor Agadjanian, a well-known and distinguished sociologist focused on migration, who has joined KU this fall as a Foundation Distinguished Professor. We look forward to working with you both!

I am grateful to the friendly and diverse CREES family for its commitment to developing and sharing knowledge about the region we study and to forging meaningful intellectual dialogue. In the current complex political climate, our work is more relevant than ever. Here is to future scholarly accomplishments and to helping through our efforts as engaged scholars make the world a better place!

Vitaly Chernetsky
ACTING DIRECTOR, FALL 2015
US, RUSSIAN ECO-REPS INSPIRE EACH OTHER
BY KAYLA GRUMBLES, CREES ECO-REPS COORDINATOR

“TRAVEL IS FATAL TO PREJUDICE, BIGOTRY, AND NARROW-MINDEDNESS … BROAD, WHOLESOME, CHARITABLE VIEWS OF MEN AND THINGS CANNOT BE ACQUIRED BY VEGETATING IN ONE LITTLE CORNER OF THE EARTH ALL ONE’S LIFETIME.” — MARK TWAIN

Echoing Twain’s statement, American Eco-Rep Emily Reno wrote, “People are people. No matter where you go in the world, you will always have something in common with a stranger.” With the end of summer, we mark the successful completion of the Eco-Reps Sustainability Program. However the one-year project, made possible by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of State’s US-Russia Peer-to-Peer Program, will doubtless continue to influence the lives of many young people in both countries.

Working with CREES and the Center for Transboundary Cooperation (CTC) in St. Petersburg, Russia, I helped to organize the recruitment and selection of Eco-Reps, the educational webinars, and the exchange elements of the program. After the initial application process, participants from both the U.S. and Russia were invited to participate in three educational webinars that addressed sustainability in various settings, and then were given the opportunity to design their own sustainability projects. Beginning in January 2015, the Eco-Reps began putting their personal projects into action. After two months of hard work and dedication, they submitted their final reports, which were then judged by an independent committee. Three projects from the U.S. and four from Russia were invited to participate in the direct exchange portion of the program. Russian Eco-Reps visited Lawrence April 20—27, and American Eco-Reps visited St. Petersburg May 25—June 2.

From the beginning, I was impressed by the widespread support given to the program by KU faculty and staff, as well as people working at other universities and organizations near and far. I would like to acknowledge the support of the following people, who were especially generous in devoting time and effort to the project: Jeff Severin (Director, KU Office of Sustainability); Kimberly Criner (Outreach Coordinator, KU Office of Sustainability); Kaye Johnston (UMKC Sustainability Coordinator); Bob Dixon (Mayor, Greensburg); Charlie Sedlock (Hamm, Inc.); Dan Rockhill (School of Architecture); Eileen Horn (Douglas County Sustainability Coordinator); Kristy Howell (UCCC Sustainability Coordinator); Joseph Brewer (Environmental Studies); and Dorothy Daley (Environmental Studies). The Eco-Reps were also inspiring in the originality of their projects, and the time, effort and determination they brought to bear on the problem of sustainability on campus and in the community.

The Russian-American exchange marked a new and exciting phase of the Eco-Reps program, changing the lives of both hosts and visitors. Maria Brewer (School of Architecture); and Dorothy Daley (Environmental Studies). The Eco-Reps were also inspiring in the originality of their projects, and the time, effort and determination they brought to bear on the problem of sustainability on campus and in the community.

The Russian-American exchange marked a new and exciting phase of the Eco-Reps program, changing the lives of both hosts and visitors. Maria Zhievakova, Development Director at the Center for Transboundary Co-

KU Architecture Prof Dan Rockhill talks about Studio 804

While the Russian Eco-Reps were impressed with sustainability efforts here, they noted that all projects need to take into account local culture. Svetalana Vozykova cautioned that “we should not just copy the system of working on sustainability from the US or Europe, but take into consideration all the features of our country and make something special.” Russell Mullin, in providing a tour of the KU Student Farm, was impressed when told of the dacha culture in Russia, and how common it was for Russians from all walks of life to put in time growing their own food in the countryside.

Anastasia Denisova enjoyed getting to know Americans and our culture. “The first thing that I learned is what Americans are like. Definitely, the best way to understand another country; culture and people is to meet in person, to communicate! This experience of face-to-face communication can’t be replaced with reading books, watching movies, or listening to someone else’s stories about the United States.” For Artem Pastukhov, this was actually his second trip to Kansas; he had spent a year previously studying in Kansas State University’s Grain Sciences program. Artem was impressed with American students’ commitment to sustainability and the level of support for their efforts offered by universities. He noted students’ “professional behavior” and the “boiling motivation” in their eyes.

Russian Eco-Reps in Greensburg, KS
PEER-TO-PEER ECO-REP WINNING PROJECTS

THE SCHWINN-MILL
Russell Mullin (KU) and Morgan Gates-Thomas (KU) developed an interactive installation made from salvaged materials which provides local cyclists with an air compressor, powered by a windmill, for their tires. All material for this project was either donated or gathered from the community and the Lawrence Recycling Center.

GREEKS GO GREEN
Developed by Alexandria Sasek (University of Oregon), this movement aims to break down stereotypes and encourage fraternities and sororities to design sustainably-centered events and house habits. This involved the creation of a Sustainability Committee, which identifies and addresses on-campus issues at regularly scheduled meetings, as well as designates events as Green-Approved if they meet certain criteria.

SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY
Designed by Kaitlin Bridges (KU), Megan Gladbach (JCCC), Kendyl McDougald (JCCC), and Emily Reno (JCCC), this survey was distributed on the Johnson County Community College campus in order to provide the team members with a better understanding of the awareness of sustainability present in the student body community. After this survey was completed, the results were used to design an educational brochure, which is still in circulation.

ECO-FRIENDLY PETROZAVODSK
Anna Rybalova, of Petrozavodsk, sought to bring together all of the eco-centric movements and organizations in Petrozavodsk and the surrounding area. Anna worked closely with the Petrozavodsk City Administration, the bicycle group “VELOVE,” and the youth group “Green Wave,” among others. She created a map of environmentally friendly activities in Petrozavodsk, hosted a film screening about bicycle usage, and gathered a number of eco-centric films for the Barents Ecology Film Festival.

CLEAN PROVINCIAL TOWN
Developed by Miramgul Ibraeva, of Omsk, this program focused on creating conditions for the formation of environmental responsibility through participation and involvement in socially-minded activity and environmental initiatives. Miramgul’s project resulted in the development of a youth environmental group called “Clean Town,” increased interest in youth initiative representatives in government, public institutions, and businesses, and published environmental reports in the local media.

BIOLOGICAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SEPARATE WASTE INITIATIVES PROGRAM
Artem Pastukhov, Elena Bykovskaya, Anastasia Denisova, and Marina Kustikova, all from the St. Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics (ITMO University), constructed this program. After determining the amount of waste produced by the dining area at ITMO University, team members developed a plan for the collection, temporary storage, and eventual transportation of solid waste to farms and producers of organic fertilizers. Second, the separate waste initiative portion found innovative uses for plastic bottles. Working with the educational department of Leningrad Zoo and the Volunteer Center of ITMO University, they created an event called “Toy for Fluffy.” At this event, plastic bottles were filled with animal food and then given to the zoo animals in order to encourage them to use various efforts to get their food.

THE SCHOOL OF POSITIVE ACTIONS
Alexandra Kokoreva, Svetlana Vozykova, Alyona Gretchina, and Anastasiya Nikulina developed their project in conjunction with the Local Agenda Team, or “LATEam,” an organization consisting mostly of students and graduates of the Institute of Earth Sciences of St. Petersburg State University. This project aimed to promote practical use of the principles of sustainable development through working with students of village schools in the Ustianskiy Region. The goals were to inspire teenagers to realize their ideas and create their own projects in their hometown, and to show people that life in a small village can be exciting and satisfying. These goals were realized through five two-day visits to a school in Ustiany. During these visits, the LATEam gave interactive lectures and guided activities to teach students about the importance of team-building, and guided discussions about problems present in their towns and ways that these problems could be addressed.
All of the Russian participants in the program are committed to maintaining ties with their new colleagues in the U.S., and promoting efforts to work together on environmental issues, Anastasia Denisova, writing about her experience, said “After participating in this visit, I realized that, regardless of what is happening in the country, regardless of your nationality, finally everything depends on the people themselves and their views on life, their mindset.” Artem Pastukhov, in describing the influence of the program, spoke in terms of future goals both lofty and mundane: “I am definitely going to use in my future work some things I learned during this visit, for example ways of building the connection between different administrations in order to create new mechanisms of cooperation, I will also do some research on the opportunities of implementing of biodiesel study project in students’ course projects. Another thing is I will try to grow asparagus at my parents’ country house.”

CREES Assistant Director Bart Redford, who accompanied the Russian participants on most of their program here in the US, said he was impressed with these Eco-Reps’ commitment to taking concrete steps towards sustainability in a country where the local administration can be unsupportive, even hostile, towards such efforts. “I have no doubt that I am going to read on a website someday, years from now, that one of these young people I met on the Eco-Reps program is now the Minister of the Environment, or something similar.”

As first-time visitors to Russia, our American Eco-Reps had the opportunity to put any preconceived notions about Russia to the test. For some, this did not entail any perceptual shift; as Kendyl McDougald said, “Going into this program, I held no preconceived notions about the people and culture and kept an open and excited mind. Throughout this experience, my belief was reinforced: I will not enable a general, national preconception towards another culture to influence my personal encounters and experiences.” For others, this meant confronting ideas that they had previously held; Russell Mullin writes, “I was previously under the impression that Russia was very uniform, drab, and devoid of culture. St. Petersburg does not fit that description. I have been absolutely enlightened as to how rich Russian culture is, how beautiful many of the buildings are, and how welcoming our hosts were.” In the same vein, Megan Gladbach wrote, “Before I arrived in St. Petersburg, my perception of Russia was created only by what I had learned from history classes, the news, and popular culture. I knew only that tensions exist between our countries, and so I did not expect warm greetings from locals. I was pleasantly surprised with the friendly encounters I had with strangers.” Finally, Emily Reno noted, “There is nothing to be afraid of Russia. I never had fear; only curiosity. Unfortunately, I grew up around a bunch of adults who condemned Russia. I never understood because I was so young, but now that I’ve seen it with my own eyes, there’s nothing to be afraid of.” Maria Zhevlakova echoed this sentiment: “There were many surprises for us as organizers of the project, as we observed the discoveries of our American and Russian Eco-Reps. Honestly, I did not expect that there were still stereotypes left in perception and attitudes towards both countries, as it seemed that open information sources would have long since dispelled them! However, the feedback from our participants proved me wrong, and proved the importance and significance of our exchange, an eye-opening experience for both parties. It is very rewarding and inspirational to follow their communication and information exchange on social media, to see their new initiatives and ideas, and it is exciting to me that some of these are based on what they learned within the project!”

Our Eco-Reps were invited to present their projects at the Sustainability EXPO, which took place on May 27th in the Youth Environmental Center at the Vodokanal Water Treatment Facility. Fifteen total projects were presented; some of them were not participants in the Eco-Reps program, but were sustainability projects that took place in and around St. Petersburg. It was wonderful to see all of our participants interacting not only with each other, but with the all of the attendees (of which there were around fifty to seventy-five total). For an hour and a half, our Eco-Reps explained the details of their projects to those interested and also asked questions of the other presenters, learning about the ways that sustainability works in Russia as opposed to the U.S. After the time given for presentation, the attendees voted on their favorite projects; one of our American teams—Russell Millin and Morgan Gates-Thomas, designers of the Schwinn-Mill— took second place. At the end of the EXPO, a short group discussion was held, and the participants were
asked what they had learned from the experience. While answers varied, the overwhelming impression that most participants left with was one of commonality. Many people spoke about finding common interest in sustainability and promoting sustainable living, even though the Russian and American cultures diverge so greatly on so many other things. Eco-Rep Kaitlin Bridges wrote, “It was eye-opening firstly because I was able to catch a glimpse of some of the outstanding positive efforts which our Russian peers are making in the realm of sustainable and environmentally responsible living; secondly, because I realized that no matter how much effort and conviction you have in your work and life, if you cannot communicate that to someone else, the potential effect is diminished.” Russell Mullin wrote, “I learned the power of community organization. Many of the solutions proposed by the Russian participants focused on the idea of bringing community together in order to solve problems that, in their opinion, were not being properly addressed by national authorities.”

The best part of the visit, according to the majority of American Eco-Reps, was the time we spent outside of the city in the villages of Pasha and Sviritsa. The students in Pasha were exceedingly knowledgeable about their hometown, which they demonstrated during our walk through their Eco-Trail, consisting of six historic stations throughout the town. At each station, a different group of students taught us about what had happened there. We were all very impressed with their knowledge, and our Eco-Reps were excited to learn from fellow students rather than tour guides. They also showed us the garden that they maintain at school, which was quite large and strongly resembled any student-run garden you might find in the U.S.; however, you would be hard pressed to find one so well-developed at any school other than a university here. This was one of the first indications that life in the villages is more strongly focused on living off the land. After a morning full of eco-education, one of the cooks in the school cafeteria taught our group how to make kalitki, which are small open-faced pies, made with rye dough and filled with mashed potatoes. While our kalitki were baking, we made kukli: small dolls that are meant to ward off evil spirits and attract good luck. This highly interactive approach is something that was appreciated by all of the Eco-Reps; Megan Gladbach wrote, “I discovered the most about Russian culture at one of my favorite activities, the Pasha Secondary School. The hands-on learning approach enabled me to get the most out of my experience.”

After our visit in Pasha we headed to Sviritsa, which is a small village situated on the water where the Pasha River feeds into the larger Svir River. There was only one bridge available for crossing the river to get to our hotel, and unfortunately, the van we were in was too big for the bridge. So, we gathered our things and walked the short way across the bridge and down the road to check in. Upon arrival, we were served a delicious dinner of smoked fish, which we later learned had been caught earlier that day in the river just outside our hotel door. It was inspiring to see how people in the village lived off the land; there were grocery stores, of course, but there were also houses right on the water where fishermen could simply wake up and hop in their boats to head to work. In the words of Eco-Rep Morgan Gates-Thomas, “Learning that in the villages nearly every household has their own farm was a very nice surprise. I had no idea of the extent to which the village populations live off the land.”

While our time in Sviritsa did not focus greatly on any specific ecological activity, it seems that it was a favorite among all of the American Eco-Reps. I believe this is due to the fact that we were able to experience everyday life in Russia—not everyday life in a city, but a simple, sunny Saturday morning in a quiet riverside village, where people are simply trying to make a living. The multiple opportunities that we all had to interact with residents of the village deepened the experience for many of the participants. Eco-Rep Alexandr’ia Sasek wrote, “I saw my first zapodovenik (nature reserve) near Sviritsa village. It was at sunset, and Morgan and I were with a few of the kids from the village. It was a beautiful experience.”

In the end, we were all greatly impressed by the initiative shown by the residents of St. Petersburg and its surrounding villages to rectify those problems that they had identified. It may be slow going, but their determination guarantees eventual success. In addition, their reliance on community to achieve their goals is something that I believe we could learn from here in America. Because the local authorities are less receptive to individual attempts to solve communal problems, the individuals we spoke with relied heavily on widespread community support in order to effect change and bring attention to the problems they faced. This attention to and reliance on community is something that many of the American Eco-Reps were inspired by and plan on incorporating into their future projects, as Morgan Gates-Thomas expressed: “Learning from the Russian Eco-Reps, it was very important to involve their community in these sustainability projects. I hope to be able to establish a similar sense of community in my future endeavors.”

On our last night in St. Petersburg, we had one final group dinner during which we all spoke about our most memorable experience from the last week, and also about the strongest impression left on us by the other group. An overwhelming majority of American Eco-Reps said that the strongest impression they received was one of hospitality. If one succumbs to the influence of popular culture, it is easy to believe that Russia, as a whole, would not be overtly welcoming to Americans, but this could not be farther from the truth. Our hosts in St. Petersburg, Pasha, and Sviritsa were the embodiment of kindness and hospitality. Their enthusiasm in sharing their city and hometowns with us was inspiring, enabling us to power through jet lag, exhaustion, and culture shock; their generosity, both with their time and their food, is something that none of us will ever forget. In the words of Eco-Rep Emily Reno, “No matter what kind of political divisions may place barriers between two countries, hospitality will always bridge that gap.” We have learned a great deal from our friends in St. Petersburg, and I can only hope that the relationships cultivated during our short visit will lead to even greater things in the future. Eco-Rep Megan Gladbach wrote, “These experiences have shown me that, though the political figures of our countries may not be fond of one another, the citizens of our countries do not feel animosity towards each other. . . . I have gained a greater understanding of the benefits of collaborating with different cultures and communities. Creating a sustainable world is a joint effort that cannot be done by one country, state, city, or campus alone. Partnerships must be generated to contribute to a better future.”
The experience of World War I, particularly on its Eastern Front, shaped the modern world in ways that many of us may not realize. The Eastern Front was where the empires of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and the Ottomans collided and ultimately collapsed, giving rise to new states in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. While the Western Front was defined by trench warfare, the Eastern Front was longer and often porous. It shifted back and forth across civilian populations with dramatically transformative effects, impacting lives at the everyday level. In the region, the Great War was inseparable from revolution, undermining imperial allegiances, generating social and national movements, and changing attitudes about gender and authority.

Over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year this series will bring four nationally recognized experts on WWI to Kansas to share original research on everyday life on the Eastern Front. In addition to public lectures, speakers will explore these themes in workshops with undergraduate and graduate students and members of the community.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>THURS OCT 22, 2015</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Spooner Hall, KU Commons</td>
<td>HEATHER PERRY</td>
<td>Recycling the Disabled: Army, Medicine, and Modernity in the First World War Lines</td>
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<td>THURS FEB 25, 2016</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union</td>
<td>DAVID STONE</td>
<td>The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914-1917</td>
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<td>MON NOV 02, 2015</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Spooner Hall, KU Commons</td>
<td>LAURIE STOFF</td>
<td>More than Binding Men’s Wounds: Women’s Wartime Nursing in Russia during the Great War</td>
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<td>TUES MAR 29, 2016</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union</td>
<td>ROBERT BLOBAUM</td>
<td>A Minor Apocalypse: Everyday Life in Warsaw during the First World War</td>
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Sponsors: Department of History; European Studies Program; KU Common Book; University Press of Kansas; Max Kade Center; Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies; Center for Global & International Studies; Office of Graduate Military Programs; and the Big 12 Fellowship. This program is part of the University of Kansas Centennial Commemoration of World War I, coordinated by the European Studies Program. Learn more about participating units and upcoming programs at: european.ku.edu/events and KUWWI.com
Leading expert on Polish-Jewish history Antony Polonsky shared his experience curating the new museum in Warsaw dedicated to Polish Jews. Polonsky is the Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies, an appointment held jointly at Brandeis University and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is the author of the acclaimed three-volume work, *The Jews in Poland and Russia*, for which he received a prize awarded by Republic of Poland for the best book on Polish history in a foreign language published in the last 5 years.

Serhii Plokhi, Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University, shared his expertise on the current situation in Ukraine and how it relates to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the topic of his most recent book, *The Last Empire: Who Killed the Soviet Union? Revisiting the Fall of the USSR*.

On April 18, 2015, CREES collaborated with the KU Natural History Museum, KU Rocket Club, and the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center to offer an afternoon dedicated to the history and science behind space exploration. Over 350 children, parents, and members of the local community attended the event – the most successful Science Saturday ever, according to staff at the museum. The event featured multiple activities and displays including a rocket presentation, cosmonaut coloring station, a space race timeline, and a Russian language code breakers challenge for future astronauts.
The Final Days of the Soviet Union. The book draws on recently declassified documents as well as interviews with key figures to recount the dizzying rush of events that preceded the dissolution of the USSR.

1950s

- October 4, 1957: The Soviet launch of the satellite Sputnik 1 shocks the world by launching the first artificial object in space, launched a "space race"
- September 25, 1957: The US launches Explorer 1, the first satellite to orbit the earth. This "beeping ball," less than 2 ft in diameter, translated in English, was a small, beeping satellite which carried no scientific experiments.

1960s

- April 12, 1961: The first Humans in space: Gagarin becomes the first man in space

1970s

- December 6, 1957: The US launches Explorer 6, the first satellite to transmit data from deep space.
- December 24, 1968: The US launches the first solar probe: Mariner 4
- October 16, 1965: The US launches Apollo 7, the first full-scale Apollo mission
- December 21, 1968: The US launches the first crewed spacecraft to orbit the Moon: Apollo 8
- November 21, 1970: The US lands the first rover on Mars: Viking 1
- May 1972: The US lands the first rover on Mars: Viking 2
- November 10, 1975: The US successfully lands the first spacecraft on a asteroid: Mariner 10
- December 31, 1975: The US successfully lands the first spacecraft on a comet: Pioneers 10 and 11
- December 2, 1979: The US successfully lands the first spacecraft on a comet: Pioneers 10 and 11
- December 31, 1980: The US successfully lands the first spacecraft on a comet: Pioneers 10 and 11
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**BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES**

**SPRING 2015 HIGHLIGHTS**

Videos of these lectures and many others are archived on the KUCREES YouTube Channel.

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**CRIMEA: ONE YEAR ON**

On March 31, 2015 Austin Charron (Geography PhD) gave a brownbag lecture on the situation in Ukraine as it pertains to Crimea. He discussed many of the social, political, and economic changes that have taken place in the year since Russia annexed the region. The presentation also discussed the narratives that Russian officials have used to justify the annexation, and included data from his previous fieldwork in Crimea concerning regional identity, which challenges the perception of Crimeans’ overwhelming desire to be reunited with Russia. Austin gave a follow-up presentation of his lecture at the Jayhawks Without Borders International Studies Club on April 10, 2015.

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**UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY: EXAMING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE ATTITUDES IN MODERN UKRAINE**

On February 3, 2015 Alexandra Fisher (SLL MA) gave a brownbag lecture on “Ukrainian Language and Identity: Examining the Development of Language Attitudes in Modern Ukraine.” During the talk, she gave an overview of the status of language attitudes in Post-Soviet Ukraine. Focusing on the interactions between Russian and Ukrainian, Alexandra presented the findings of several important sociological studies dating from the early 1990’s to the present situation, which included data from her own survey, conducted during the Fall 2013 semester. Her results showed that Ukrainians’ attitudes toward the status of Russian in their country are highly varied, which lead her to conclude that purely quantitative analysis is not sufficient to understand the underlying issues regarding Ukrainian-Russian language interaction and its social implications. At the end of her talk, Alexandra explained that language is not a black and white concept as it is often portrayed in sociological studies, such as census, which is why the methods for collecting such data must be carefully examined and followed up with qualitative analysis in order to achieve a more accurate understanding of the language situation in Ukraine. For her contribution to Ukrainian Studies on the KU Campus, Alex was awarded the 2015 Palij Award.

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**THE IMAGE OF THE SWAN AND THE SWAN SONG IN RUSSIAN POETRY**

On April 14, 2015 Professor Gerald Mikkelson (REES) shared his as-yet unfinished translation of “The Sleeping Swan” (Спящий лебедь), a poem written in 1897 by Mirra Lokhvitskaya (1869-1905), one of the symbolists of the Silver Age. He explained how the image of the swan in world poetry has signified a variety of phenomena, most often the human soul or the poet. At times, the swan in nature, hence also as a metaphor in poetry, ends its life in flight by intoning a whoop, usually extended and soulful, then falls to the ground, dead. Its farewell incantation, equated with a human’s parting words, is called a “swan song.” Prof. Mikkelson is working on a monograph that covers the history of swan imagery and of the swan song in Russian (and world) poetry.
For over 30 years, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series has been an informal forum for KU and the surrounding community to discuss general topics related to Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

From the arts and literature to political science and current events, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series continues to educate and inform all those interested in this diverse and dynamic area of the world.

318 BAILEY HALL
TUESDAYS
12:00 PM (NOON)
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
GAP CREDIT AVAILABLE
@KUCREES

SEPTEMBER 1
“William Alan White & the Russian Revolution”
Norman Saul,
Emeritus History

SEPTEMBER 8
“The Clandestine Betrayals of Etacratric Masculinity in Pavel Lungin’s Homeland (Rodina, 2015)”
David McVey,
Slavic Languages & Literatures

SEPTEMBER 15
“Journalism in Russia Today”
Aleksandr Gorbachev,
Missouri School of Journalism,
University of Missouri, Columbia

SEPTEMBER 22
“The Post-Soviet Return of Buddhism to Siberia and Mongolia”
Helen Hundley,
History, Wichita State University

SEPTEMBER 29
“The Petersburg Myth in Mstislav Dobuzhinsky’s Graphic Art”
Megan Luttrell, PhD candidate,
Slavic Languages & Literatures

OCTOBER 6
“The Pomaks in the Balkans: a Historical and Political Perspective”
Lilia Schuercks, Dept. of Slavic Languages,
University of Potsdam

OCTOBER 20
“The City Life of Village Music in Contemporary Poland”
Michael Young, PhD candidate,
Indiana University

CREES Brownbags are taped by KU IT’s Media Production Studio and available at youtube.com/KUCREES
**FACULTY & STAFF NEWS**

**David Besson** (Physics & Astronomy) received the 2015 Del Shankel Teaching Excellence Award. The award is an opportunity for student-athletes to recognize an outstanding member of the faculty at the University of Kansas. Besson accepted the award by video as he spent spring 2015 in Russia at the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute working on his project, “U.S.-Russian Antarctic Geophysics and Astrophysics.”

**Vitaly Chernetsky** (Slavic Languages & Literatures; CREES Assoc. Director) was awarded an NEH Summer 2015 Stipend and an OIP Summer Travel Grant to conduct research in Ukraine. He gave a keynote lecture at the summer school “Commons and Commodities: Immaterial Rights and Cultural Solids in the Age of Europeanization” at Södertörn University in Sweden (June). He was also invited to deliver papers at an international conference on the future of Ukrainian studies (University of Vienna) and an international conference on queer culture in Eastern Europe (University of Latvia), both in June. In August, he participated in the IX Congress of ICCEES in Makuhari, Japan. His translation of Twelve Circles, a novel by one of Ukraine’s leading contemporary authors, Yuri Andrukhovych, came out in July. Prof. Chernetsky accepted the position of CREES Acting Director for Fall 2015.

**Alexander C. Diener** (Geography) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. He was also awarded a Harvard Davis Center Senior Fellowship.

**Dietrich Earnhart** (Economics) received a 2015 Sustainability Leadership Award from the KU Center for Sustainability for his directorship of the Center for Environmental Policy at the Institute for Policy & Social Research.

**Marc L. Greenberg** (Slavic Languages & Literatures, SLLC Director) traveled with Wendy Shoemaker (UCC) and Anne Dotter (Honors) to Almaty, Kazakhstan in early June to finalize an MOU with KIMEP University on behalf of KU. Also in June, his article “The Slavic Area. Trajectories, borders, centres and peripheries in the Second World” was published in Globalising Sociolinguistics (Taylor & Francis) with an accompanying conference in Leiden.

**Esra Predolac** (Turkish Lecturer) and her husband Nikola Predolac (Int’l Student & Scholar Services) welcomed a new baby, Daphne Milica. In May 2015, Esra will be the SLLC’s new LCTL Coordinator with an accompanying conference in Leiden.

**Ani Kokobobo** (Slavic Languages & Literatures) received a course development grant from the Institute for Digital Humanities for her seminar “Decentering Russia through Tolstoy’s War and Peace.”

**Shannon O’Leary** (Geography, Environmental Studies) was promoted to Full Professor. Selected to receive a $953,500 Minerva grant from the U.S. Department of Defense’s Minerva Research Initiative, Mariya Omelicheva (Political Science; CREES Director), along with KU geography professor Stephen Egbert and Rowan University political science associate professor Lawrence Markowitz, will examine the connections between terrorism and organized crime in Central Asia, South Caucasus and Russia. Her new book Democracy in Central Asia: Competing Perspectives and Alternate Strategies was published in June 2015 by the University Press of Kentucky. She was invited to speak on “Ideological Factors of Authoritarian Persistence in Central Asia” at 5th Annual Lang Symposium on Central Asia at the University of Louisville (March 2015), and discuss “Islam as a Power Resource: Instrumentalization of Religion in Central Asia” by the invitation from the Central Asia Program, EUREST, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, May 5, 2015. She presented “A National School of IR in Russia: A Key to Understanding ‘Russia’s IR?’” at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association (February 17-21, 2015, New Orleans) and “What Do Foreign Militaries Learn?: Assessing the Impact of US Military Training Programs on Human Rights in the Situations of Conflict”, at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 16-18 April (together with her students Brittnee Carter and Luke Campbell). In April 2015, she took part in the Council on Foreign Relations Educators Workshop for professors teaching in fields of international affairs and foreign policy, New York.

**Robert Rohrschneider** (Political Science) was awarded a Fulbright to conduct research at Oxford this semester.

**Norman Saul** (History, emeritus) published Historical Dictionary of Russian and Soviet Foreign Policy (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015) in January. He is the co-editor (with Ben Whisenhunt) of New Perspectives on Russian-American Relations to be published by Routledge in October. It includes 18 contributions from scholars on the subject, included one each by the editors (totals: 10 American, 6 Russian, 1 French and 1 Italian). In April he completed “Russia Tries the New Naval Technologies, 1815-1914,” for Oceanides, a major French naval history project based in Paris, this section edited by Nicholas Rodgers of Oxford. He submitted a retrospective article to a memorial volume for Academican Alexander Fursenko, entitled “George Macartney’s Account of Russia in 1767, an Introduction to the Study of Russian History as a Failed Project, and the Beginning of My Study of Russian-American Relations,” edited by Vladimir Noskov (St. Petersburg, 2015). In addition, he reviewed manuscripts for Slavic Review and International History Review and submitted a book review to Russian Review during the spring.

**Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova** (Slavic Languages & Literatures) was awarded an OIP Summer Travel Grant to conduct research in Poland.

**NEW FACULTY**

As of this fall, Victor Agadjanian is a Foundation Distinguished Professor in the KU Department of Sociology. He received his BA from Moscow State University and his PhD from the University of Southern California. Prior to his current appointment, he was E.E. Guillot International Distinguished Professor at Arizona State University. His research focuses mainly on migration, child bearing, marriage, ethnicity and gender. He has directed several projects funded by the NIH, USAID, and NCEER, and has designed and coordinated large surveys in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and the Russian Federation.

Raymond Finch has rejoined the CREES team and will teach the REES Methodologies and Capstone Courses this fall. Ray is both a military and KU veteran (BA 1980 Education; MA-1992 Soviet and East European Studies) and currently works as a Eurasian Military Analyst for the Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 2003-08, he was the Assistant to the Director for CREES, helping to write grants, advise students and develop new REES undergraduate courses. As the REES Capstone instructor, Ray plans to help students integrate their understanding of the region, while also coaching them on essential research and writing skills.

A native of Lviv, Ukraine, Oleksandra Wallo received her Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2013. She comes to KU from the University of Illinois, where she worked for two years as Lecturer and Language Program Coordinator in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Dr. Wallo’s research interests lie in the fields of second language acquisition, contemporary Ukrainian literature and culture, nationalism studies, and post-colonial studies. She is currently conducting an experimental study on the most common case errors made by adult learners of Ukrainian and working on a book project about post-Soviet women writers’ narratives of the nation. She looks forward to working with students interested in Ukrainian language, literature, and culture, and in the teaching of Slavic languages.
On August 1, Matthew Cotton (REES MA 2014) married his longtime sweetheart Jocelyn Colaw. Matt is currently pursuing a PhD in History at the University of Washington.

Emily Csinsi (REES MA 2014) and her husband Eric Chase joined the Peace Corps. They moved to Mongolia in May to begin a 2-year post.

Joshua DeMoss (REES MA/JD) interned in Russia at the law firm of Egorov, Puginsky, Afanasiev, and Partners over the summer. During the summer he also took an intensive elementary Ukrainian course at the University of Pittsburgh, for which he received full funding. From CREES, he received an AY 2015-16 Jarosewycz award to continue his study of Ukrainian.

Gloria Funcheon (REES MA 2013) is now a Communications Officer in the Tajikistan office of the non-profit organization, Save the Children, in Dushanbe. She continues to serve as a FLEX Participant Recruiter for American Councils for International Education.

Alexander Gerges (REES MA) was selected to be the AY 2015-16 Russian Review Graduate Assistant. He spent the summer studying abroad in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Evgeny Grishin (HIST PhD) received a Hall Center Graduate Summer Research Award to support summer work on his dissertation “Becoming a ‘Schismatic’: The Concepts of the ‘Schism’ and ‘Schismatic’ in the Church and State Discourses of 17th and 18th-century Russia.”

CREES Student Assistant Ashlie Koehn (Econ/Environmental Studies/GIST BA) was the 18th KU student to be named a Truman Scholar and the only 2015 recipient from the state of Kansas. She was also named a 2015 Udall Scholar for her commitment to studying and protecting the environment.

Katrina Lynn (HIST PhD) received a Hall Center Humanities Summer Graduate Internship award to conduct research at the Franklin County Historical Society over the summer.

McKinzy Manes (GIST/SLAV BA) received a Fall 2015 Jerkovich award for the study of Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian.

Matthew Menzenski (SLAV PhD) has been awarded a highly competitive $500 travel stipend to go to the Slavic Linguistics Society in Heidelberg, Germany. He will present his paper titled: “The Baltic and Slavic reflexes of the Indo-European syllabic resonants.”

Amy Murphy (REES MA 2013) is currently living in Washington D.C. where she works for Diplomatic Language Services, a producer of international and cultural curriculum for the Department of Defense. She is active with the D.C.-area Ukrainian community and often attends lectures on Russia and Ukraine at the Ellison Center.

Nathaniel Pickett (REES MA 2012, GEOG PhD) received an AY 2015-16 Fulbright to conduct research in Ukraine on “Social Fall-out: Ukrainian Society and Geopolitics in the Shadow of Chornobyl.”

Michael Rose (REES MA 2015) will be a FLEX Recruiter for American Councils for International Education throughout the fall, first in Ukraine and then in Georgia.

Nolan Schmidt (REES/SLAV BA) was awarded an AY 2015-16 Boren Scholarship. He will be studying at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty next year.

Rebecca Stakun (SLAV PhD) was one of two recipients of the Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities for 2015-16.

David Trimbach (GEOG PhD) was also selected for a Hall Center Graduate Summer Research Award to support summer work on his dissertation, “Citizenship Capital in Narva, Estonia.” He and Evgeny Grishin, along with the other two recipients of the award, will organize the Hall Center’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshops during the AY 2015-16, where they and fellow graduate students will present their work.

CREES Student Assistant Ashley Velez (SLAV BA, REES minor) was awarded a full scholarship to study advanced Russian at the University of Pittsburgh’s 2015 Summer Language Institute. She was also awarded a Fall 2015 KU Office of Study Abroad semester scholarship for Siberian Studies in Irkustk, Russia.

Gwyn Bourlakov (SEES MA 1992, HIST PhD) received an AY 2015-16 Fulbright to conduct research in Russia on “The Role of Women in the Settlement of Western Siberia in the 17th-18th Century.”

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NEW REES MA STUDENTS

Alexis Baich is from Phoenix, Arizona. She recently graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Secondary Education-History and a minor in Slavic Studies. During her undergraduate career she studied and worked with the Serbian language. At CREES she would like to have a historical concentration on the people and nationalities of Eastern Europe and former Yugoslavia.

Alina Bashirova graduated from the Moscow State University Department of Journalism in 2015. She studied Russian, including Russian literature and journalism. Now she wants to deepen her knowledge by looking at this field from another point of view. At CREES, Alina plans to continue her study of Russian literature and culture, and also to learn more about International Politics. After the REES MA program, she plans to work as an international journalist or in a government agency.

Bradley Burnside (goes by his middle name, Liam) graduated from Baker University in 2015 with two degrees; in French language and Psychology with an emphasis on cognitive neuroscience. During his undergraduate career he studied at the University of Paris at the Sorbonne as well. His interest in Russian and East European studies stems from the few months he lived in Ukraine when he was in high school. There, he taught English and was engaged in other humanitarian aid. Through the CREES program he hopes to expand and build upon his Russian language skills and specialize in Russian politics.

Susan Swanton is from Chicago, Illinois and there she attended Roosevelt University. She received her BA in English and History with minor degrees in Sustainability Studies and Philosophy. During Summer 2015, she enrolled in an intensive BCS language program at SWSEESL, Indiana University-Bloomington. When she joins CREES in the fall, she plans to study the former Yugoslavia.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

In March, the Office of the Provost approved the revision of the REES co-major to a stand-alone major (Bachelor of Arts in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies). With the degree change, CREES seeks to accomplish two goals: 1) align REES offerings with offerings in other College of Liberal Arts & Sciences departments, where majors, rather than co-majors, are the norm; 2) update our degree to reflect both geographic and interdisciplinary depth.

The REES co-major was one of only two remaining co-majors in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. The rarity of the co-major paradigm was creating logistical difficulties for students as undergraduates, and their CLAS advisors, were not familiar with co-major (as opposed to major) degrees. Students will still be strongly encouraged to double-major, as it will improve their competitiveness in the job market after graduation, but they now have the option to solely concentrate on REES if that is their desire. The change will give KU students additional options and allow CREES and the College to better serve those students interested in REES area studies.

With the change from co-major to major, CREES took the opportunity to update the REES undergraduate degree to better reflect geographic and disciplinary tracks through area studies electives. Now at least one course (3CR) must be taken from each of the following geographic areas: Russia and Eastern Europe; South and Central Europe; and Central Asia. Additionally, at least one course (3CR) must be taken in each of the following disciplines: Arts, Culture & Religion; History; and Social Sciences. Beyond these adjustments, the requirements of the REES undergraduate degree remain the same.

CREES has also restructured advising to better meet the needs of undergraduate students interested in REES. A natural fit as the instructor for our core courses REES 110 and REES 220, CREES Assistant Director Bart Redford will direct undergraduate studies and provide content and professional development advising. He will work with CLAS Senior Academic Advisor Laura Leonard, who will assist with the programmatic and administrative side of student advising. Laura also advises the School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures (SLLC) and the Center for Global & International Studies (CGIS), and is one of the top experts in interdisciplinary degree advising on the KU campus.

The REES BA is effective as of Fall 2015. The new requirements will not affect students already enrolled in the REES co-major – these students will be allowed to complete their degree as planned. The new requirements will only apply to students who enroll in the major after August 2015.

NEW KU ENDOWMENT FUNDS TO SUPPORT REES AT KU

ST. PETERSBURG AND SIBERIAN STUDIES

In academic year 2015-2016 CREES will join the KU Endowment Association to launch a new fund to support Siberian studies at KU. The fund will be called, in English, SPASIBO (meaning thank you), an acronym for St. Petersburg and Siberia on Mt. Oread, and, in Russian, СПАСИБО, an acronym for Санкт-Петербург и Сибирь на Ореаде.

SPASIBO’s purpose is to fund the teaching of CREES courses REES 512 (HIST 510) Siberia Yesterday and Today, REES 513 (HIST 510) Siberia: Russia’s Eastern Frontier, and REES 687 (HIST 660, HWC 600) Biography of a City: St. Petersburg.

Expected contributors to the fund are Prof. Emeritus Gerald E. Mikkelsen, Russian Studies, former and future students in the St. Petersburg and Siberia courses, past and future REES faculty members from the teaching staff of the St. Petersburg and Siberia courses, KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Title VI grants from the US Department of Education and/or grants from other funding agencies to the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

Potential uses of money in the fund are compensation to faculty members with expertise in the history of Siberia and/or St. Petersburg who teach one or more of the St. Petersburg or Siberia courses, honoraria to guest lecturers in these courses from off campus, and reimbursement to the course instructors for St. Petersburg or Siberia related research travel.

TSIOVKH MEMORIAL FUND

Yaroslava and Lena Tsiovkh are working with KU Endowment to establish a fund in memory of the late Professor Alexander Tsiovkh. The fund has already received sizeable donations, and more will be solicited in the upcoming year. The fundraising goal will be to ensure that the fund is endowed and sustainable in the long-term. Alex’s daughter, Lena, is collaborating with CREES to identify the fund’s primary purpose so that it honors the passions and interests of Alex as well as supports the Center he dedicated his life to for over 20 years.
CREES FALL DONATION DRIVE & BOOK GIVEAWAY

FEATURING ACADEMIC BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARIES OF:
EMERITUS HISTORY PROFESSOR NORMAN SAUL
ESTATE OF PROFESSOR ALEXANDER TSIOVKH
PROFESSOR DAVID STONE

WILL YOU ACTUALLY BE PURCHASING BOOKS?
Of course not! That’s not allowed. The books will be available in 318 Bailey every Tuesday 11:30-1:30 before and after the CREES Brownbag. Students, Faculty and CREES community members are free to grab a book or two to take home.

HOW DO YOU DONATE?
If you would like to make a donation to CREES, we will provide a computer where you can make an online donation for however much you like. Or you can use your smart phone or tablet. You can even specifically designate your donation to support the Saul Travel Fund or Backus Fund, if that’s your preference.

AUGUST 28
ЛЕВИАФАН
LEVIATHAN

IN RUSSIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Leviathan (Russian: Левиафан) is a loose retelling of the Book of Job in which an ordinary man must wrestle with his faith not in God but in the Russian state — an epic struggle against a monster with many faces possessed of the capacity to bend the law to suit its own appetites. After being told his house will be demolished, Kolya must fight the corrupt mayor of a small coastal town to save his home and his family.

This bleak Russian epic premiered at the 2014 Cannes film festival to great acclaim and rave reviews.

Film will be introduced by Prof. David McVey, KU Slavic Department, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE KINO
CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES
7:00 PM 318 BAILEY

FALL 2015 SCHEDULE

AUGUST 28
ЛЕВИАФАН
LEVIATHAN
IN RUSSIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

SEPTEMBER 18
ОБЫВАТЕЛЬ THE CITIZEN
IN POLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

OCTOBER 2
ПАРАДА THE PARADE
IN SERBIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

OCTOBER 23
ВЙЈ ВУ И БИРЂЕНДОРФ FARES OF THE JEWEL BOX
IN RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

NOVEMBER 13
РАЗРЕДНИ СОВРАЗНИК CLASS ENEMY
IN SLOVENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

NOVEMBER 20
МАЙДАН THE SQUARE
IN UKRAINIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

DECEMBER 4
ДАЛЕКО ОТ САНСЕТ-БУЛВАРА FAR FROM SUNSET BOULEVARD
IN RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

On select Fridays throughout the semester, the KU Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies offers international films in regional languages like Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian, Slovene, Tajik, and more. All with English subtitles. Often with snacks.

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FALL 2015
The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (CREES) has been a national leader for the study of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since 1959. The Center is a degree-granting program within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas.

Many of our activities are enhanced through private donations to the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

Special events, guest lecturers, scholarships and study abroad opportunities are just some of the ways your donation can help us ensure our Center’s vitality.

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