LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to campus! Welcome to the Fall!

With important staff changes, a Title VI grant writing marathon, and preparation for the new academic year, CREES staff and I saw only a glimpse of summer. Major road construction projects altered travel to and around KU and, along with noise and vibration, made the main Lawrence campus appear super busy this summer.

The good news is that KU’s most-used roads and intersections will be more efficient causing fewer delays for CREES staff, faculty, and students in getting to the many events we have prepared for you this Fall. Before I introduce the programming highlights for the upcoming semester, I’d like to report on the question that is on everyone’s mind: the renewal of the U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant and the National Resource Center designation.

The due date for the Title VI application changed several times last year; and when the Department of Education finally settled on the June 30th deadline, it also announced several changes to the grant requirements. All and all, it made for a more stressful than usual grant-writing period! We expect to learn whether or not our application was successful sometime in September (or later) – and once that happens, I will debrief everyone on the priorities and projects that were included in the grant application as well as the budget. Many of the initiatives in the grant were discussed during the CREES faculty retreat in June 2013. Others were developed jointly with KU international area studies centers to feature a week of events devoted to the Berlin Wall, CREES has teamed up with other departments, communities and small businesses. At the end of the year-long project, the American designers of the project will be offered an opportunity to travel to Russia, and their Russian peers will visit Lawrence. Please help us spread the word!

Our Fall semester will begin with the annual Fall Mixer & Potluck on Friday, September 5th at the Lawrence Visitors Center Train Depot, 5:00-8:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there. Tuesday Brownbag talks this Fall will feature several visiting scholars, as well as KU faculty and students speaking on a wide range of interesting topics. CREES will continue its tradition of offering Friday Night at the Kino, with foreign language films in Polish, Slovene, Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian, and Russian. On select Thursdays we’ll also show Turkish films.

The annual Backus lecture will feature Krystyna Piórkowska, an independent scholar and author who will speak about the English-speaking witnesses to Katyn. In recognition of 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, CREES has teamed up with other departments and centers to feature a week of events devoted to this fateful event, kicking off with a showing of Goodbye Lenin! on November 9.

And, now, I hope you enjoy this edition of the CREES newsletter and please let us hear your news! Write to us at: crees@ku.edu.

Mariya Y. Omelicheva
CREES Director
Postcards from Abroad - CREES Podcasts

Travel the world without leaving your radio!

Postcards from Abroad is a 60-second radio spot broadcast twice weekly (on Saturdays at 1:04pm and on Wednesdays at 8:58pm) on KANU, the flagship station of Kansas Public Radio, based in Lawrence at the University of Kansas.

The series features content provided by the five international area studies centers at KU: Center for East Asian Studies, Center for Global & International Studies, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Kansas African Studies Center and yours truly -- the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

Every "postcard" gives listeners a brief and enticing glimpse of each center's respective cultures from the contemporary to the ancient, from the exotic to the familiar. Quirky news within a historical context -- scripts are written by regional experts and university staff.

Relive the postcards from Russia, Eastern Europe & Eurasia on the CREES website:

crees.ku.edu/postcards
In May 2014 Dr. Maria Carlson, professor of Slavic languages & literatures, SLL director of graduate studies, and director emerita of the KU Center for Russian & East European Studies retired from the University of Kansas. Prof. Carlson came to KU in 1987. She served as the director of the REES Center from January 1993 to August 2003. This was just at the time when the Soviet Union collapsed and the former Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc began to reinvent themselves. Prof. Carlson’s role in the history of CREES was to bring the Center through the “Time of Transition” in our world region, into the age of technology and reporting, around significant reorganization in the Department of Education, and past the national reallocation of federal and other funding as the Cold War wound down and other parts of the globe warmed up and set new priorities for our nation.

During her time as director of CREES, Prof. Carlson worked extensively on grant projects that supported educational development, language proficiency testing, public administration training, student exchanges, small business development, resource center support, archival access, and educational outreach -- bringing in more than $6 million in external funding into CREES. She increased the visibility and effectiveness of CREES within the University, in the state of Kansas, and nationally. She was active in Department of Education activities, presenting at meetings and conferences, and was the only national area center director invited to work on the task force that developed the on-line reporting system currently used by all Title VI area centers. She also served as Vice President of the Council of National Resource Center Directors.

After stepping down from the directorship, Prof. Carlson returned to her teaching and research in the fields of Russian literature, intellectual history, and folklore. She served as associate chair of the Slavic Department and as director of graduate studies. In addition to service work for the University, she has served on various advisory committees, including the AAASS Board and the Board of Directors of NCEEER, serving as chair of the Board.

Prof. Carlson has received research grants from Fulbright, IREX, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Hall Center for the Humanities and other agencies, several teaching awards, among them the AATSEEL National Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Post-Secondary Level, and awards for service, including the Distinguished Service Award for Academic Leadership from the International Relations Council in Kansas City, Missouri. In 2009 Prof. Carlson was inducted into the KU Women’s Hall of Fame for her many contributions to the university. In May 2014 she was awarded the Byron Alexander Graduate Mentor Award from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Can you tell us a why you chose to retire this year and what plans you have coming up?

There are several reasons why I chose to retire this year. First, I have to admit that I quit my day job in order to meet my research quota. I have had a very full professional life, but there are several writing and research projects that I have kept on the back burner too long. I want to complete and share them, and I need time to do that. To me, retiring does not mean giving up the profession. Second, I have always said that I would not overstay my welcome - I wanted to leave while my colleagues still liked me. And third, I have never wanted to be a dog in the manger. I have advised 12 talented PhD students through their dissertations. Since Slavics is mostly a zero-sum game, someone had to leave so that they could enter the profession. Retiring now is my contribution to the renewal of our profession and a statement of my faith in the next generation, however and wherever they choose to apply their degrees.

Can you tell us about your current projects? I understand that you are writing a textbook on Slavic Folklore, and plan to team up with Charles Eldredge, Distinguished Professor of American Art, to teach a course in spring 2015, called The Decadence: American and Russian Art and Culture: 1890-1913.

I’m working on three projects right now, and I have another half-dozen waiting for me when these are done. My main project is a book about
As a graduate student, your first article was on vampires in literature. As a Professor Emerita, your research will focus on the undead in Slavic folklore. Did you plan on this symmetry?

Fascinating, isn’t it, how we often end where we began? I’ve covered a lot of territory between my first article and the book I’m working on now. My early interest was in the vampire as a literary character, but everything has a back story. My manuscript investigated the literary vampire’s progenitor in the vernacular beliefs of northern Europe (Germanic and Slavic). This research project has completely obsessed me (the historian Barbara Tuchman once told me that obsession was necessary to good research, and she was right). I have reinvented myself as an ethnographer, ethnologist, thanatologist, anthropologist, folklorist, medievalist, and linguist, at a minimum. In addition to my Russian, Ukrainian, and German, I have learned to read several different Carpathian dialects and my Belarusian is much better now. I have collected almost a hundred memorates and fabulates about the undead. My working title is “The Unclean and the Undead: Ancient Bloodlines of the Modern Vampire,” which pretty much tells the story. Meanwhile, the project has given me an opportunity to work on an article with my linguist colleague, Dr. Marc Greenberg, on the origin of the word “vampire.”

I was initially afraid that I would miss being in the classroom, but actually the classroom has come looking for me. Dr. Eldredge and I have been talking about team teaching a course for several years, and this spring it will finally be a reality. Planning the course and discussing our strategies has been a blast. Russian art has always been a hobby, nay, a passion, and finally I will get to share this passion with a good colleague and with students in several departments. I feel certain that other opportunities to teach will arise, should I want them.

As a graduate student, your first article was on vampires in literature. As a Professor Emerita, your research will focus on the undead in Slavic folklore. Did you plan on this symmetry?

In May 2014 you received the College of Liberal Art’s Byron Alexander Graduate Mentor Award, and you have been recognized by students and colleagues alike for your teaching and mentorship. What advice would you give young professors today, working to become effective mentors?

I was thrilled to receive the Byron Alexander Award, not least because nominations come from students. How to be an effective mentor? I don’t know. I would identify five characteristics that are key to the enterprise: empathy, common sense, creativity, ability to learn from experience, and (very important) a desire to see others succeed. I have had (and still have) wonderful mentors myself, so having some good models is an asset. I never started out to be a mentor; but I have enjoyed working with students and junior colleagues; I take great pleasure in their achievements.

ROY D. AND BETTY LAIRD ESSAY COMPETITION 2014 WINNERS

This year’s Roy D. and Betty Laird Essay Contest winners are Department of History doctoral student Robert Jameson, for his essay, “Crimea as Kosovo and Sudetenland: The Peril of Historical Narratives in the 2014 Russo-Ukrainian Crisis” and REES/SLL co-major Natalie Cristin Perry for her essay, “Progress through Dispute: The Caspian Oil Power Struggle and Its Effects on Central Asian Cooperation.”

Now in its 20th year, the annual essay contest is named after the late Dr. Roy D. Laird, a longtime member of the Russian and East European Studies (REES) and Political Science faculty, and Ms. Betty Laird, whose support makes this prize possible. In honor of the award’s 20th anniversary, the Laird Essay Competition was split into two categories: undergraduate and graduate.

As the graduate recipient of the award, Jameson received a $500 award and a book budget of $75. Perry, the undergraduate recipient, received a $250 award. Both essays are published on the CREES website:

www.crees.ku.edu/laird-essay-competition
ECO-REPS

LEARN about sustainability. LEAD by example. INSPIRE others.

The KU Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (CREES) U.S.-Russia Eco-Reps Project is an educational, peer-to-peer outreach, and exchange program dedicated to promoting sustainability and environmentally responsible behaviors.

LEARN & INNOVATE. CREES, working with the Center for Transboundary Cooperation (St. Petersburg, Russia), will identify, train, and connect Eco-Reps from the Midwest with their counterparts in Russia.

Eco-Reps will design and implement projects raising awareness and educating about sustainability, and creating positive environmental, social, and economic impacts. Examples of possible projects might include publication of sustainable practices using social media, greening some aspect of a campus, organizing a tear-down lab, or building with reclaimed materials.

TRAVEL THE WORLD. The designers of the top project will be offered an opportunity to travel to Russia where they will meet with their Russian counterparts, take part in a series of workshops, and present their project at the Sustainability EXPO.

For more info, go to: crees.ku.edu/eco-reps-project

ELIGIBILITY. We are looking for creative, outgoing individuals or small teams who are interested in educating their peers about environmental issues, advocating for sustainable living, and leading sustainability projects.

We invite anyone between the ages of 18-30 to apply (students and non-students). A wide range of individuals and groups are eligible, from potential community leaders to international entrepreneurs.

For American applicants, knowledge of Russia or Russian language is beneficial, but not required.

HOW TO APPLY.
• Fill out an application, available for download at: crees.ku.edu/eco-reps-project
• Email your application to KU CREES (crees@ku.edu), with subject “eco-reps”

DEADLINE. Applications will be accepted from Sept. 30 - Nov. 15, 2014.
Speaking Russian earned Alex Fisher a trip to the Paralympics in Sochi, Russia. The graduate student in Slavic Language & Literature volunteered for the Canadian team as a translator.

Fisher got the opportunity through a connection in her hometown, Pittsburgh, Penn., who told the head of Team Canada Chief de Mission Ozzie Sawicki about her fluency. After several interviews, she became the only American on Team Canada.

The first few days after she arrived in Sochi were “crazy,” then things became more organized. “I was surprised the most by all the behind-the-scenes arrangements. There’s so much preparation,” she said.

Fisher spent the three weeks behind the scenes making sure the athletes got what they needed—getting their rooms ready, finding a tailor to alter uniforms and ordering pizza. She tested her language skills when one of the athletes got sick and she had to translate his symptoms for a facility doctor and then translate the treatment for the team doctor.

Most of the Canadian athletes, around 40 people, had not experienced Russian culture before. At the team orientation last fall in Calgary, Alberta, Fisher talked to the group about stereotypes, Russian culture and interpreting body language. In Sochi, some athletes were frustrated by the Russian brusque manner of speaking, Fisher said. She had to explain that people were not automatically being rude.

Fisher attended a few events including the United States beating Canada in sledge hockey and the opening ceremony. She and the other volunteers stayed outside the mountain village and rode a gondola to the site every day.

Comparing the Paralympics to the Olympics, Fisher thought the second games were more relaxed and fun. She was impressed by the athletes’ dedication and skills. “I have a newfound appreciation of parasports,” she said.

This article originally appeared in the Office of International Programs Horizons Newsletter, Spring 2014.
On June 28th, 2014, CREES and 8 members from the Lawrence community met at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City to reenact or rather, “tweetenact,” the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand exactly 100 years after his death.

University of Kansas faculty, students, and members of the local community learned about the historical event and wrote many of the tweets for the reenactment during Spring 2014.

Using a #KU_WWI Tweeter Guide developed by Project Leader Sam Moore in consultation with KU History Professor Nathaniel Wood, project participants developed characters, hashtags, and 140-character tweets that formed a tweetenactment Master Script. The Master Script was then uploaded into an automated system that began tweeting out using the hashtag #KU_WWI at 9:30 am on June 28th, exactly 100 years to the minute (not counting the time difference) that Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Duchess Sophie, left Hotel Bosnia to begin their fateful visit to Sarajevo.

The 8 LIVE tweeters had advanced copies of this script, and were tasked with researching, adding, embellishing, explaining, retweeting and responding to the automated script in the voice of the character or characters they represented.

Twitter users were able to follow the action through the hashtag #KU_WWI, which provided dozens of historical perspectives -- ranging from world leaders to members of The Black Hand terrorist group. For those not on Twitter, a Twitter feed was available on the KU CREES and European Studies websites. Tweets were collected into a series of storifies, which are available on the project website: https://european.ku.edu/wwi-twitter-project

The end result was, as CREES Outreach Coordinator Adrienne Landry likes to describe it, a “historically-inspired, humanities-driven improvisational social media jazz piece” that gave voice, agency and narrative to the people involved in this event, often perceived as the starting point for a war that would result in the death of 17 million people.

From an outreach perspective, the project was more successful than anyone could have predicted. Preliminary analytics indicate that the #KU_WWI Twitter Project had 456 contributors, generated 4,600 tweets, reached 623,900 unique twitter accounts, and created 3.4 million impressions throughout the entire twitterverse. The project also reached a global audience who tweeted about #KU_WWI in multiple languages — Spanish, French, Bosnian, Serbian, Chinese, Russian and Czech.

The project received a fair amount of local and national media coverage. Nathan Wood, Adrienne Landry, and Sam Moore were featured on Kansas Public Radio’s KPR Presents. Adrienne was interviewed by Channel6 News. And the project was the subject of 18 online and print articles including in the Associated Press and the Washington Post.

CREES will continue to use the elements of this project in their outreach. Adrienne Landry will present, “Social Media and Educational Outreach: #KU_WWI Twitter Project,” at the upcoming ASEEES Conference in November. CREES will host a K-12 Teacher Workshop, “How to Use Social Media to Teach about Historical Events,” using the #KU_WWI Twitter Project as a case study. And plans are in development to apply for a Digital Humanities Grant that will turn the #KU_WWI Twitter Project website into an interactive, educational tool for teachers.

A big thank you to our co-sponsors: Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center; European Studies Program, the departments of Germanic Languages & Literatures, History and Slavic Languages & Literatures, University Honors Program, Global Awareness Program, Hall Center for the Humanities, KU Libraries, KU Memorial Unions and Spencer Museum of Art. Last but not least, thank you to the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City.

This project 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 www.kuwwi.com.
Experts and scholars from around the world came to the University of Kansas last spring to discuss Turkey and its potential to be a game changer in global politics. CREES and CGIS hosted the 5th annual Security Conference: From Köprü (Bridge) to Merkez (Center): Turkey’s Regional and Global Impact on March 3rd, 2014. For the past five years, this forum has been dedicated to discussing and understanding security issues of international significance.

Previous topics have included: "Culture and Security in Central Asia" (April 2010); "Migration, Shadow Economics, and Security Issues on the World’s Borders" (April 2011); "Afghanistan 2014: Panel on Ukraine with Fulbright Scholar Valeriy Khan and Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky. 9 April 2014.

Backus Lecture with U of Wisconsin-Madison History Professor Neal Pease. 14 April 2014.

Panel discussion on Pussy Riot a Punk Prayer documentary. 8 May 2014.

"All For You, Franz?" WWI Public Lecture with History Professor Nathaniel Wood. 3 April 2014.

"What’s Going On In Ukraine?" discussion with Wall Street Journalist James Marson, 6 February 2014.

Sochi Olympics Watch Party. 7 February 2014.

Spring Semester Snapshots

Panel on Ukraine with Fulbright Scholar Valeriy Khan and Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky. 9 April 2014.

KU international area studies centers presented an interdisciplinary educator workshop entitled “Children of Conflict, Children of Peace,” at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park on April 26th, 2014.

The workshop explored the experience of children throughout the world mediated through the universal theme of peace and conflict.

Morning lecture sessions covered such topics as child soldiers in Africa, ethnic identity in China, peace through education in South America, and child trafficking in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Afternoon interactive workshop sessions included analyzing international events through media sources; a how-to for starting after-school Peace and Social Justice clubs, an exploration of a trafficking victim’s experience as well as a skills lab for conflict mediation and resolution.

Laura Dean (Pol Sci) at K-12 Workshop: Children of Conflict, Children of Peace

SECURITY CONFERENCE: FROM KÖPRÜ (BRIDGE) TO MERKEZ (CENTER), TURKEY’S REGIONAL AND GLOBAL IMPACT

Impacts on Global Security Identities” (April 2012); and “Russia and China: The Architects of a New Global Order?” (April 2013).

SPRING FESTIVAL
9 March 2014

GRADUATION & AWARDS
17 May 2014
BROWNBAG LECTURE SERIES

SPRING 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

CROSSING GERMANY: EAST EUROPEAN TRANSMIGRANTS AND THE LEIPZIG REGISTER STATION, 1904-1914

On February 25, 2014, doctoral candidate Allison Schmidt (History) gave a presentation on her dissertation topic, the Leipzig emigrant registration station (1904-1914). In the decades before World War I, millions of eastern Europeans, destined for the Americas, traveled across Germany by rail in order to reach northern European port cities. Pressured by US immigration laws, Germany set up a number of control stations along its eastern railway hubs, where authorities would determine if emigrants could financially and physically make the journey. The Leipzig registration station proved a unique case, as it was located inland, had no bathing or disinfecting facilities, and registered mainly Austro-Hungarians as opposed to Russians. Allison argues this relative “laxness” in migrant control was due to the belief that conditions in Austro-Hungary were more hygienic and prosperous than in Russia. Allison’s research is part of a growing field on transmigration, or the railway and steamship journey eastern Europeans took in order to cross the Atlantic. Watch the video at: http://alturl.com/6uffs

STONE TOOLS, NEANDERTALS, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION: THE PALEOLITHIC ARCHEOLOGY OF VINDIJA CAVE, CROATIA

On March 4, 2014, doctoral candidate Kale Bruner (Anthropology) discussed her masters thesis research at the Institute for Quaternary Paleontology and Geology in Zagreb, Croatia. Neandertal fossils and associated stone tools recovered from Paleolithic deposits at Vindija Cave, Croatia are important sources of evidence for understanding the genetic and cultural relationships of Neandertals and Anatomically Modern Humans during a critical time in European prehistory c. 30,000-40,000 years ago. Archaeological analysis of the stone tools and their manufacturing debris, coupled with reading of the original excavation field notes and other primary documentation published locally in Croatia led her to a new interpretation of these important artifacts and their significance to our species’ evolutionary history. This research highlights the utility of using written documentation to address archaeological questions and the importance of language training even for research related to prehistory. Watch the video at: http://alturl.com/oj26g

BEYOND THE NATASHA EFFECT: DETERMINANTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY VARIATION IN THE POST-SOVIET REGION

On April 1, 2014, doctoral candidate Laura Dean (Political Science) gave a talk focused on human trafficking in the Post-Soviet region, an issue that is particularly important in this region because of the dramatic increase in the number of persons trafficked into and through the region since the collapse of communism. Utilizing case studies of Ukraine, Latvia, and Russia, she examined what governments in this region are doing to combat human trafficking. Drawing on 15 months of fieldwork in all three countries, she discussed different policy approaches in these three countries and found that early policy adoptions were framed to fit the needs of female sex trafficking victims while recent manifestations of the crime suggest that the victims are more likely male victims of labor trafficking. These men are the new face of human trafficking in the post-Soviet region. They are a far cry from the female victims of sex trafficking, who have been dubbed “Natashas” because of their seemingly similar Slavic features that most people associate with this region. This is the Natasha Effect and moving beyond it requires governments in this region to take a holistic approach to combating human trafficking by adopting laws and offering rehabilitation services for all victims.
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

SEPTEMBER 2
“Revolution and Civil War in Ukraine: The End of the Post-Cold War Order in Europe and Eurasia”
Jacob Kipp
History

SEPTEMBER 9
“Russia and the Outbreak of the Great War”
Bruce Menning
History

SEPTEMBER 16
“Korean Diaspora in Central Asia”
Valeriy Khan
Institute of History at the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences

SEPTEMBER 23
“Language in Kazakhstan”
Allard Jongman
Linguistics

SEPTEMBER 30
“Czech & Slovak Films Through the Eyes of American Videophiles”
Andrew Gilbert
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

OCTOBER 7
Michael Rose
REES

OCTOBER 21
“16th c. South Slav Manuscript in the Ottoman Empire”
Gwyn Bourlakov
History

WWW.CREES.KU.EDU
In May Maria Carlson (SLL) was awarded the Byron Alexander Graduate Mentor Award by the KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. She was nominated for the award by a number of current and former graduate students in the Slavic Department who appreciate her excellent mentoring and academic and career advice.

Vitaly Chernetsky (SLL) presented a paper at an international conference on Russian translation at Uppsala University (Sweden) in June 2014 and guest-taught two workshops on the current crisis in Ukraine at the University of Foreign Military and Cultural Studies (in Ft. Leavenworth in May and in Quantico, VA in July); his essay “Ukrainian Literary and Cultural Studies: The State of the Field” was published in the May 2014 AATSEEL Newsletter; and his article “The Pleasures and Problems of Leonid Osyna’s Zakhar Berkut: Ukrainian Poetic Cinema and Its Limits,” in Canadian Slavonic Papers. He received a summer grant from the General Research Fund at KU.

As of September, William Comer (SLL) has moved to the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Portland State University, where he is Director of the Russian Flagship Program. We wish him many successes and hope to stay in touch! He can be contacted by email: wcomer@pdx.edu

Arienne Dwyer (Anthropology) was named a 2014 Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Jon Giulian (KUL), Librarian for Slavic and Eurasian Studies and Head of the Libraries’ International and Area Studies department received a KU General Research Fund award ($6,044) for FY 2014-2015 for the project entitled: “Usability of Library E-collections on Tablet Devices: Practitioners’ Perspectives.” Working with two library colleagues, the team will lead a Cooperative Learning Community (CLC) of library staff to discover and evaluate the application of tablet devices in various library departments. Giulian attend the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) 2014 Leadership Institute in Estes Park, Colorado. The Institute was facilitated by Maureen Sullivan, organizational development consultant, Past President of ALA and ACRL, and faculty member of ACRU/Harvard Leadership Institute. In the fall of 2014 Giulian will also attend the 2014 Workshop of the International and Area Studies Collections in the 21st Century (IASC21), which brings together librarians and mid-level administrators responsible for the oversight and coordination of area studies collections and staff at their respective universities.

Geoff Husic (KUL), Librarian for Slavic, Linguistics, and Near East Studies, has been working on a number of projects related to open access. In one project, Geoff expanded the metadata of CREES faculty publications in KU ScholarWorks (KUs open-access institutional repository). In his article soon to be published, Husic shows that his metadata enhancements substantially increased the number of downloads of CREES faculty publications in KU ScholarWorks. Thus, by improving discoverability through metadata enhancement, Husic broadened the impact of CREES faculty research.

Ani Kokobobo (SLL) and her husband welcomed a baby boy this summer -- Lucas Ilir Wright became the most recent, littlest member of the CREES community on August 2, 2014.

David McVey (SLL) will be a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures this year. Dr. McVey is a graduate of Ohio State University’s Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. This fall, he will be teaching SLAV 140/141 Introduction to Russian Culture, SLAV 144 Survey of Russian Literatures in Translation, and SLAV 660 19th C Russian Prose Fiction. His areas of research interest include Russian cinema, gender studies, and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Russia’s borderlands regions.

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh (Sociology) was the 2014 recipient of the University of Kansas Fraser Teaching Award. This is a student nominated award which commemorates the legacy of John Fraser, the second Chancellor of the University of Kansas, and is given to a professor for outstanding dedication, compassion and enthusiasm in the classroom and as a mentor. This summer she continued her research in Azerbaijan, focusing on gender and social change.

Mariya Y. Omelicheva’s (Political Science) article, “Competing perspectives on democracy and democratization: assessing alternative models of democracy promoted in Central Asian states” was published in the Cambridge Review of International Affairs. She taught Dilemmas of International Politics for the ISP program with Ft. Leavenworth in July and led two Thompson Scholarship projects with political science PhD students. She received a $100,000 grant from the Department of State U.S.-Russia Peer-To-Peer Dialogue Program.

Renee Perelmutter (SLL) and Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyoza (SLL) were promoted to Associate Professor in the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department. Professor Perelmutter also received a CREES Online Course Development Grant.

Marta Pirnat-Greenberg (SLL) has made final revisions to her online BCS teaching materials for intermediate to advanced levels, based on a short contemporary Croatian novel, to get them ready for online publication. In the spring semester she introduced hybrid language learning into second semester BCS by designing online learning modules for one day a week with very good outcomes and greatly increased student motivation. In April, she was awarded a CREES/EGARC Online Language Instruction Grant for developing more online learning modules for Elementary BCS. Her fourth-semester BCS class participated in the #KU_WWI Twitter Project by translating two mini-reenactments into BCS, which were launched on Twitter in May. For the second year she has been teaching Slovene via Skype to a student at UConn, a very promising young translator of Slovene literature; four short stories that the student translated with her help from Slovene during last summer appeared in the journal of translation Alchemy (UCSD) this spring.

Erik Scott (History) has won the 2014 Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award for his upcoming publication, Familiar Strangers: The Georgian Diaspora in the Soviet Union, to be published by Oxford University Press. The annual award is administered by the Hall Center for the Humanities. This summer, he traveled to Moscow to obtain photographs for the manuscript and to begin a second project on Soviet emigration in the Cold War. He was awarded a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society to help support this research trip.

Irina Six (SLL) is one among 12 educators in the US selected to participate in summer 2014 Fulbright-Hays project “Russian Teachers for the 21st Century: Maximizing Teaching Effectiveness by Immersing into Language, Culture and Standard-Based Teaching” (June 5 - July 3, 2014). She traveled to Moscow for four weeks to participate in intensive workshops at the Plekhanov Russian University focused on culture and intensive TORFL tester training. She also engaged in the creation of innovative multimedia teaching materials for Russian language and culture studies based on her individual culture project proposal.
Devon Dear has joined KU’s Department of History this fall. A California native, Professor Dear received her PhD from Harvard University in 2014. Her current book project examines trade, the movement of commodities, and everyday economic life in the predominantly-Mongolian borderlands of the Qing and Russian empires from the 17th to the early 20th century. For the project, she conducted research in Chinese, Manchu, Mongolian, and Russian-language archives in the Republic of Buriatia and the Transbaikal Oblast in Eastern Siberia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and Hohhot, Inner Mongolia in China. Broadly, Professor Dear is interested in exploring how communities in Inner Asia have shaped the histories of both late imperial China and the Russian empire. She is also interested in mathematics in East Asia (currently the 18th-century Beijing-based Mongolian mathematician Minggatu), Chinese economic history, and the history of unfree labor across the Chinese – Russian border in the Qing period. She has an article forthcoming on 19th-century Buddhist monasteries’ roles in facilitating Chinese – Russian trade in the journal International Review of Social History. This year Professor Dear will teach courses on late imperial Chinese history, the “nomad factor” in Asian history, and the Silk Road. She welcomes all students with any curiosity about China or Inner Asia to contact her.

Malgorzata Stamm (KUL) was recently awarded the KU Libraries Staff Excellence Award for 2013. Colleagues praised Stamm for her dedication, personable service to students and faculty, her expertise in processing Slavic and Eurasian materials, and for her support of Polish Studies both within and outside the library. During the 2013-2014 academic year, Stamm taught First-year Polish in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Alex Tsiovkh (REES) was reappointed as a professor of the practice by the KU Office of the Provost.

CRESs Office Manager Anna Hurst was accepted to an MPA program at the University of Washington. We send her many wishes for a bright future. The new Office Manager is Rebecca Dunavin. Becky worked for the Student Involvement and Leadership Center for 17 years, and joined the CRESs team in June. CRESs hired two new student assistants. Kayla Grumbles is a first year graduate student in the Slavic Department, and Kristian Lazarov is a senior majoring in Global and International Studies.

A WORD OF THANKS TO TWO KEY CRESs FACULTY MEMBERS NO LONGER AT KU

William J. Comer has moved to the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Portland State University, where he is Director of the Russian Flagship Program. Dr. Comer has been at the University of Kansas since 1992, as both a teacher and language coordinator for Slavic Languages and Literatures. From 2012 to 2014, he served as Chair of SLL, and before that as interim director of CRESs in 2007-2008. Dr. Comer transformed the way that Slavic languages were taught at KU, and was also responsible for securing large grants like ProjectGO, which funds scholarships for ROTC students to study critical languages at KU. Dr. Comer also, for many years, supplied the batter to make blini at our annual Spring Festival, for which he was presented with a special blini pan at the CRESs Stop Day meeting in May 2014. Thank you, Dr. Comer, and you will be missed!

Yaroslava Tsiovkh retired in Spring 2013. Yaroslava, or Yasia, as most of us know her, has taught Ukrainian to several generations of KU REES students. Originally from Lviv, Ukraine, Dr. Tsiovkh has authored several books devoted to teaching Ukrainian through history and culture. In 2010 she published a series of web-based materials for intermediate Ukrainian instruction, called Вітає Українська. She also took the opportunity on several occasions to introduce people to Ukrainian folk art and traditions, including Ukrainian decorated Easter eggs, or Pysanky. While Professor Tsiovkh has retired from teaching Ukrainian at KU, we are fortunate that she still joins us for CRESs mixers and other events.

INCOMING REES FACULTY & STAFF

Rebecca Dunavin has joined CRESs as the new Office Manager, replacing Anna Hurst who has moved to Seattle to attend graduate school at the University of Washington. Becky is originally from Missouri but has lived most of her life in Kansas and has worked for KU for over 30 years. She comes to CRESs from the Student Involvement and Leadership Center where she spent the last 17 years as the Office Manager, Executive Secretary for the University Events Committee and booking agent for the Danforth Chapel. She enjoys doing volunteer work through her church. Rebecca is looking forward to joining the CRESs community and getting to know REES faculty, staff and students over the coming months.
STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Office of International Programs Picture the World Contest results: in Spring, CREES submitted the top 3 photos from the Fall 2013 CREES Photo Contest. Political Science doctoral student Laura Dean was noted for her photo “Two Girls Going to the Latvain Song Festival.” Geography doctoral student Austin Charron was also noted for his photo, “Old Man and the Aral Sea.” Geography doctoral student John Biersack (REES MA 2009), was awarded 3rd place for his photo, “Chernobyl Children’s Gasmasks.”

Vincent Artman (Geography PhD) was awarded an Institute for Advanced Research Opportunities fellowship sponsored by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State, for research in Kyrgyzstan. He was also awarded a 2014-15 Fulbright to research geographical dimensions related to Islam and national identity in Kyrgyzstan.

Adam Croft (BA REES/Public Admin) participated in Johnson County Community College’s study abroad program in Izhevsk, Russia this summer.

Adrian Erlinger (REES MA 2004) joined American Councils for International Education in August 2013 as Program Manager for innovation and capacity building programs. In this role, he develops and delivers initiatives to support translational research, technology transfer, commercialization, and innovation-based economic development initiatives of U.S. and Russian higher education institutions.

Gloria Funcheon (REES MA 2013) was hired by American Councils for International Education to be a participant recruiter this fall for the FLEX program in Tajikistan.

Incoming graduate student Alexander Gerges (REES MA) was awarded the 2014 Bramlage Family Foundation Scholarship ($3,000). This award is given to KU REES students with strong connections to the state of Kansas.

Deepak Jayaraj (REES MA) received a 2014 Jarosewycz Award ($2,000) for continued study of Ukraine and Ukrainian studies. He was also the recipient of the 2014 Palij Family Award for academic excellence in Ukrainian studies.

CREES student assistant Ashlie Koehn (REES co-BA) was awarded a Boren Scholarship to study Russian in Kyrgyzstan AY 2014-15. She also participated in the Environmental Studies in Germany summer program. In Spring 2013 she was named a KU Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact for demonstrating student leadership in her community. She was the KU Nontraditional Woman of the Year and a KU Udall nominee.

Katrina Lynn (HIST PhD, CREES FLAS AY 2014-15) received a CLS scholarship to study Russian this summer.

Long time student assistant, Natalie Cristin Perry (BA REES/SLL 2014) graduated from KU in May. Shortly after graduation, she began a job as a Russian translator with American Business Consulting based out of Irvine, California.

Alexander Melin (REES MA 2008) graduated from the KU Law School in May and has accepted a position at the law firm of Yoxall Antrim Mc Caffrey & Foreman LLP.

In May, Michael Rose (REES MA) presented his paper, “Adolat and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan: How Protest and Revolution Transformed to Terror,” at the 52nd Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) in Atlanta. Emily Csinsi (REES MA 2014) also attended the conference and presented, “‘Mongolia’s Third Neighbor’ Policy and its Ramifications.” Both were awarded travel grants from the Norman Saul fund.

Allison Schmidt (HIST PhD) received a Norman Saul Travel Award to present at an international conference on Urban History (September 3-6, 2014) in Lisbon, Portugal. Her paper is entitled “‘The Long March Through Leipzig’: Urban Environment and the Transmigrant Register Station, 1904-1914” and is part of the panel “Cities and Overseas Migration in the Long Nineteenth Century.”

Bernie Stone (REES MA 2007) is finishing his final year as a Country Desk Officer for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. He will retire June 2015.

This fall, Jared Warren (REES MA 2013) will begin a doctoral program in Modern European History at New York University.

In February, Eric Williams (REES MA) presented on “Human Trafficking and You” at Kansas State University. His presentation was held in conjunction with a film screening of “Trade of Innocents.” Over the summer he attended the University Pittsburgh BCS Summer Language Institute, which included a month of immersive study in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Michael Zeets, a junior majoring in chemical engineering, was awarded the 2014 George C. Jerkovich Scholarship ($1,500) for academic excellence in the study of Former Yugoslavia.

KU Political Science PhD student Lidiya Zubyskta won the Lynne Rienner Best Student Paper Award for her paper “Spatial Diffusion of Collective Action: The Case of Color Revolutions” that she presented at the 2013 ISA Midwest conference. The award will be presented to her at an upcoming conference in November 2014. Lidija was also awarded a 2014 Graduate Summer Fellowship to carry out research on the impact of protests in Ukraine on the government’s foreign policy. She was also awarded a Thompson Scholarship to work on a project on Russian Foreign policy with Dr. Omelicheva. She also received a 2014 Jarosewycz Award ($2,000) for continued study of Ukraine and Ukrainian studies.
Alexander Gerges (REES MA) is from Leavenworth, Kansas, and attended Pittsburg State University, where he received his BA in History and International Studies in May 2011. While at PSU, he had several opportunities to study abroad, including a short three-week trip to Pittsburg’s sister school in Vladimir, Russia. But the bulk of his study abroad was in Kazakhstan at theSerney State Pedagogical Institute, where in 2009 and 2011 he spent his summers running an English speaking camp. After his graduation in 2011, he was offered a teaching position there, but due to extended bureaucratic issues he was not able to start work there until a year later and the position was moved to the Eastern Kazakhstan State University in Oskamen. There he spent a year teaching IELTS test preparation courses and intermediate and advanced English courses. After he completes the REES MA program he hopes to pursue a career in the Foreign Service.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

JAROSEWYCZ FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Lidiya Zubytska, PhD Political Science
Deepak Jayaraj, MA REES

PALIJ FAMILY AWARD
Deepak Jayaraj, MA REES

BRAMLAGE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Alexander Gerges, MA REES

GEORGE C. JERKOVICH SCHOLARSHIP
Michael Zeets, BA Chemical Engineering

JAROSEWYCZ FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Lidiya Zubytska, PhD Political Science
Deepak Jayaraj, MA REES

FLAS FELLOWSHIP Awardees

The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship program provides academic year and summer fellowships to undergraduate and graduate students undergoing training in modern foreign languages. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by CRes, FLAS Fellowships provide up to $7500 awards for summer language study at any program throughout the world. Undergraduate AY FLAS Fellowships provide up to $10,000 for tuition and a $5,000 stipend. Graduate AY FLAS Fellowships offer up to $18,000 for tuition and a $15,000 stipend.

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SUMMER 2014
Alexander Kuhn, co-BA REES/History, Russian
Michael Zeets, BA Chemical Engineering, BCS
Gwyn Bourlakov, PhD History, Russian
Alexandra Fisher, MA Slavic Languages & Lit., Ukrainian
Robert Jameson, BA Linguistics, Yiddish
Catherine Lees, PhD History, Czech
Matthew Menzenski, MA Slavic Languages & Lit., Russian

ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-15
Elizabeth Burkum, MA Slavic Languages & Lit., BCS
Robert Jameson, PhD History, Czech
Alexander Kuhn, co-BA REES/History, Russian
Megan Luttrell, PhD Slavic Languages and Lit., BCS
Katrina Lynn, PhD History, Ukrainian
McKinsey Manes, BA Global & Intl Studies, BCS
Matthew Menzenski, MA Slavic Languages & Lit., Polish
Michael Rose, MA REES, Turkish
Amanda Snider, MA Anthropology, Turkish

Interested in receiving a FLAS Fellowship for Summer 2015 or Academic Year 2015-15? Check out the KU FLAS website at flas.ku.edu! FLAS Information Sessions will be held from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Kansas Union Malott Room on Thursday, October 23, 2014 and Wednesday, November 26, 2014.
BECOME A CREES DONOR TODAY!

CREES General Fund
The CREES General Fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community. Among its dedicated sponsors are the Oswald P. Backus Memorial Fund for visiting lecturers in Polish Studies, the Bramlage Family Foundation Fund, which provides scholarships to KU REES MA students who have strong connections to the state of Kansas, and the Norman E. Saul Fund. Named after KU History Emeritus Professor Norman E. Saul, the Saul fund supports REES students with travel grants to collections or to REES-related conferences for professional development.

Palij Family Fund
The Palij Family Fund supports visiting lecturers specializing in Ukrainian studies. The fund also supports the Ukrainian Studies Prize for an outstanding student specializing in Ukrainian.

George C. Jerkovich Fund
The mission of the Jerkovich Fund is twofold: 1) to support the development of KU’s South Slavic library collection; 2) to provide awards to outstanding students who have demonstrated an interest in the study of Croatian or Serbian history, literature, folklore, or culture.

Roy & Betty Laird Fund
This fund is named after the late Professor Roy D. Laird, a longtime member of the Russian and East European Studies (REES) and Political Science faculties, and Ms. Betty Laird, whose continued support of CREES activities includes sponsoring the annual Roy & Betty Laird Essay Contest. Monies donated to support this fund will primarily contribute to the advancement of Russian Studies.

Jarosewycz Family Fund
The Jarosewycz Family Fund provides scholarships for graduate students who have shown commitment and scholarly interest in Ukraine and Ukrainian Studies.

If you would like to make a donation by check or money order, please make your check payable to: KU CREES. Mail your donations to:

Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies  
Bailey Hall, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 320  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574

Donations can also be made via the CREES website at: crees.ku.edu/give-crees

Your gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. Thank you for your support!