

CREES NEWSLETTER

The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies



Photo courtesy of Amy Millet

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CREES Team

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Renee Perelmutter

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Robert Rohrschneider

Library

Jon Giullian

Professional Schools

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Architecture, Design &
Planning

At Large

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Geography & Atmospheric
Science

From the Director...



Dear CREES Community,

Welcome to Fall 2020, a fall like no other! I am pleased to be interim director of CREES for this semester, and work with the CREES staff, following in Vitaly's very capable footsteps. We know what a challenging time this has been for many of you, and we want, first and foremost, to reach out and say that we hope you are all staying well and staying healthy.

Most of us are working remotely right now, but despite the physical distance that we confront, we still have a few updates and exciting events that are meant to help us come together as a CREES community.

First, please join me in welcoming Dr. Peter Bobkowski (School of Journalism) as the new Associate Director of CREES for 2019-20. Peter and I started at KU together and if my math is correct, we are now beginning our tenth year here. He will be working on advising students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as prospective students. Our zoom open house in September gave everyone a chance to meet Peter.

I am pleased to see the progress happening at CREES through the new US Russia Foundation grant that Vitaly Chernetsky served as PI on. We awarded a number of course development grants, and have developed some online resources on the Cold War. Professors Scott and Chernetsky have co-organized an international Cold War conference that will be happening in the spring semester.

This semester will have limited activities, and all our programming will be on zoom due to the pandemic, but I'm happy to report some exciting opportunities. For one, we are launching a series on Russia and race that is a five speaker lecture series addressing some timely and important topics. This series is co-sponsored by Slavic and Eurasian, African and African American Studies, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. We have also re-envisioned our brown-bag series into a research series via zoom. In anticipation of the US presidential elections, CREES will also organize a panel on media and elections in the US and Eastern Europe.

We also have a new graduate student, Alaina DeLeo, who we welcome into the KU CREES community.

We look forward to seeing you all via zoom at all these events and having an opportunity to still connect with you.

Best, Ani Kokobobo

Associate Professor & Chair
Department of Slavic and Eurasian
Languages and Literatures
Interim Director
Center for Russian, East European
and Eurasian Studies

FALL 2020 - ALL EVENTS

All events will take place by Zoom.
Event registration links can also be viewed at <https://crees.ku.edu/crees-events-fall-2020>

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|---|--|
| WED 02
Open house for CREES majors, minors, and MA students - 4 PM
Meet fellow CREES students, CREES new academic advisor Prof. Peter Bobkowski, new interim director Prof. Ani Kokobobo, selected CREES-affiliated faculty, and many others! By invitation only. | THU 17
Russia and Blackness: African American and African Experience in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia - 4 PM
Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon (University of Pennsylvania) - Russia and Race Lecture Series
https://kansas.zoom.us/j/90191541909 |
| WED 09
'Our Friend Angela': The Black Communist Star - 4 PM
Jonathan Flatley (Wayne State University) - Russia and Race Lecture Series
https://kansas.zoom.us/j/90191541909 | TUE 29
Back to a Future USSR: Worth the Cost? 12 PM
Steven Mutz (Metropolitan Community College and Highland Community College) - CREES Research Series. Zoom links to follow. |

OCTOBER

- | | |
|--|---|
| THU 01
On Teaching American Students how 'Race' Works in Russia - 4 PM
Anne Lounsbury (New York University) - Russia and Race Lecture Series
https://kansas.zoom.us/j/90191541909 | TUE 20
Public Intellect and Literary Realist: Reading Sofya Kovalevskaya in Nihilist Girl - 12 PM
Devin McFadden (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, KU) - CREES Research Series. Zoom links to follow. |
| THU 08
Was Soviet Internationalism Anti-Racist? Toward a History of Foreign Others in the USSR - 4 PM
Anika Walke (Washington University in St. Louis) - Russia and Race Lecture Series
https://kansas.zoom.us/j/90191541909 | THU 29
Trump-Biden in the Eyes of Eastern European News Media. What's U.S. Election Coverage Like in Russia, Belarus, Hungary Poland, and Serbia? - 4 PM
Moderator: Dr. Peter Bobkowski (KU, William Allen White School of Journalism).
Panelists:
Russia: Dr. Anna Popkova, Western Michigan University, USA
Belarus: Dr. Volha Kananovich, Appalachian State University, USA
Hungary: Dr. Tamas Toth, Corvinus University, Hungary
Poland: Dr. Ewa Nowack, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland
Serbia: Dr. Ivanka Pjesivac, University of Georgia, USA
https://kansas.zoom.us/j/90191541909 |
| FRI 16
Understanding Race in Imperial Russia: Categories of Difference Across Cultures - 4 PM
Nathaniel Knight (Seton Hall University) - Russia and Race Lecture Series
https://kansas.zoom.us/j/90191541909 | |

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Alana Holland Accepts a Position as a Postdoctoral Fellow

One of the things I enjoyed most about my doctoral program at the University of Kansas was participating in the intellectual life of CREES. When I visited KU in spring of 2015, a CREES brown-bag was the first stop on my itinerary. I am grateful for the CREES programming and resources that helped me shape my ideas into the dissertation I defended last spring entitled “The Art of Retribution: Holocaust Memory and Justice in People’s Poland and Soviet Lithuania, 1944-69.” I enjoyed working with my advisor, Nathan Wood, and the other members of my committee who were affiliated with CREES. I am grateful to have learned many lessons from Nathan Wood on the modern his-



Alana Holland finishes up a year of research at the Lithuanian Special Archives in Vilnius in August 2019.

It was a pleasure to work with Justyna Beinek, and I am grateful for the times I was able to enjoy fried pickles with one of our many visiting scholars before an exciting program. I benefitted greatly from my experience as an editorial intern at *The Russian Review* and am grateful to Kurt Schultz and his cats for all the help. CREES provided travel support and a stimulating environment to present my research, which made a difference in my academic and professional development. I received Fulbright and American Councils Title VIII research grants and have accepted a position as a Postdoctoral

history of Poland, and Erik Scott was a true comrade in navigating Soviet history. Vitaly Chernetsky was a wonderful source of inspiration on literary and cultural topics, particularly Ukraine. I enjoyed working with Eve Levin and benefitted immensely from her vast knowledge of the history and religions of Russia and Eastern Europe. It was a great joy for me to finish my time at KU together along with her, and I warmly congratulate her in retirement!

Additionally, I enjoyed reading the short stories of Olga Tokarczuk in Polish with Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova and analyzing early postwar art in Yiddish with Renee Perelmutter. I had the unique experience of studying Russian with Oleksandra Wallo at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and then studying Ukrainian with her here at KU. I will fondly remember traveling to the annual convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities with her, and am grateful to CREES for funding my ASN conference travel on multiple occasions. The early support of CREES through the Norman Saul Travel Award helped me establish myself early on and connect with colleagues in the field. This paved the way for me to eventually publish my article “Soviet Holocaust Retribution in Lithuania, 1944-64” in *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* in February 2019.



Alana Holland begins her position as Postdoctoral Fellow in Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Fellow in Holocaust Studies in the Department of History and Jewish Studies Program at American University in conjunction with the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for the 2020-2021 academic year. I am grateful to CREES for helping me achieve these successes. I am looking forward to teaching courses on the Holocaust and genocide and memory studies at American University next year, as well as preparing my book manuscript on Holocaust memory and justice in Poland and the USSR. It has been a great joy to be a part of the CREES community, and I will remember the Center fondly!

Krzysztof Borowski Reflects on his Academic Journey at KU



Krzysztof Borowski will teach Polish language and culture at the University of Wisconsin, beginning this fall semester. He is featured in front of Van Hise Hall.

I think that KU, in cooperation with CREES, provides an excellent support platform for anyone wanting to launch their career in Slavic studies. In my case, I have taken advantage of several avenues, which have helped me become a more well-rounded teacher and researcher. Since the beginning of my Ph.D. program in 2014, I have been teaching Polish at all levels for five years, an experience that I have found very rewarding both professionally and personally. Thanks to this opportunity, I have gained crucial teaching experience, learned how to relay complex ideas in plain language, and polished my presentation skills. At CREES, I have given three brownbag presentations and have always appreciated the Center as a venue for meeting other people interested in studying the region and engaging with them in a meaningful way. Through those experiences, I have become a better communicator and learned how to critically approach the study of Slavic-speaking Europe.

I have been very, very fortunate to work under the guidance of excellent professors and mentors. Before coming to KU, I met Marc Greenberg at a Slavics

linguistics conference in Poland and we hit it off immediately. Later on, he would become my advisor and dissertation co-chair, exerting immense influence on my profile as a scholar and teacher. He has always pushed me to consider the great questions in my research, and for that, I will always be grateful. Thanks to Renee Perelmutter, I have polished my critical thinking and linguistic analysis skills, which have later proven very useful in successfully writing and defending my dissertation. And, finally, I have learned a great deal about Poland and teaching Polish as a foreign language from Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova, whose mentorship made me a better teacher and thinker.

In my research, I study issues of language, identity, and ethnicity in contemporary Poland. Specifically, I am interested in what close linguistic analysis can tell us about Polish society and how it can inform our understanding of what it means to be Polish in this day and age. I also have a vivid interest in ethnic and regional minorities. This was also the topic of my dissertation, in which I focused on the case of Silesians, a self-identified minority located in southern Poland. For my dissertation, I examined the idea of Silesian identity in online political discourse in Poland, approaching it from an interdisciplinary perspective that combines linguistics and other social sciences, most notably anthropology and sociology. Through my work, I have found that there exist powerful, ethnocentric hierarchies of power in Poland, which form the basis of how Poles see their place in the society, and which inform the broader public reaction to recognition-seeking movements such as that of Silesians.

I am beyond excited to start my new position as a lecturer in Polish language and culture at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. I am looking forward to offering a range of courses on Polish culture, history, and society as well as introducing students to the Polish language. In fall 2020, I will be teaching a course on the Polish experience in the Americas, in which students will engage with several cultural texts and their authors, including the likes of Helena Modrzejewska, Witold Gombrowicz, Henryk Sienkiewicz, and Leopold Tyrmand.

CREES Alumnus Randy Masten Creates Engaging Documentaries

Randy Masten discusses his work creating documentary films for the Army University Press. As Team Chief for the documentary team, he leads a nine-person team in all aspects of the research and production of each film. He received his PhD in Military History from KU in 2019, and is a REES MA alumnus '2003.

CREES: Thank you for taking the time to visit regarding the documentaries your team has created. Could you tell me about the documentaries and their purpose?

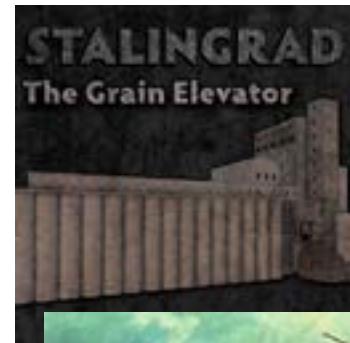
Masten: The purpose of the films is to teach current army doctrine using historical vignettes. The target audience is company and field grade officers and NCOs (non-commissioned officers). The films are beginning to be integrated into their professional development system, both in military schools and in distance learning. They've also been used by ROTC programs across the US. So far we have created 10 films: three on Korea, including the "The Battle of Chipyong-ni," "Korea: Twin Tunnels," "Sustaining Operation Killer;" four films on the battles at Stalingrad and two films on the fight for Nancy in France during World War II, and a film "Operation Iraqi Freedom." These films are free to view on the Army University Press channel on YouTube. We've had over 2 million views of our films over the past 18 months.

Some of the films are very specific. One of our documentaries entitled "France '44: The Wet Gap Crossings at Nancy," focuses on the battle around Nancy during World War II. Patton's 3rd Army had broken out of Normandy in a push towards Germany. Their advance was so speedy, that they soon had fuel shortages close to the town of Nancy. They had to wait a week for supplies to come before they could cross the Moselle River, and in that time the Germans had fortified their defenses. It's a good look at how to adapt to a bad situation. On this film, we worked to a large extent with the School of Engineering. Ten minutes of the film are a doctrinal look at bridging operations, now referred to as wet gap crossings. We work with the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate to ensure that our doctrine is up-to-date and accurate.

CREES: I've always been intrigued by the battles at Stalingrad. Could you tell me more about these films?

Masten: "Stalingrad: The Grain Elevator" is the story of a small unit holding off German advances for almost a week. It's in the midst of a much larger battle. In 1941, the Germans began their campaign, "Operation Barbarossa," invading east into the Soviet Union, and heading south in hopes of capturing the oil fields in the Caucasus. In 1942, they pushed towards Stalingrad, with orders from Hitler to capture the city. In my opinion, the Germans didn't need to occupy Stalingrad. They could have cut off the supply routes instead and bombed the city from a distance. However, Hitler's orders were to occupy the city.

The film highlights the battle between the German Sixth Army and the Soviet 62nd Army in Southern Stalingrad during September 1942, showing the week-long confrontation for a massive grain elevator located near the Volga River. The Soviet general Vasily Ivanovich Chuikov led the Soviet 62nd Army and found creative ways to communicate in person, send messengers, and reestablish radio communication, even when many of the primary ways of communication were disrupted. The larger battles for the city of Stalingrad lasted from August 1942 to February 1943. The documentary illustrates important



The Battle of Chipyong-ni, a decisive battle of the Korean War.



doctrinal concepts such as the importance of key terrain, the impact of leading from the front as General Chuikov did, and the inherent dangers of unit linkups.

CREES: What role do you play on the production team?
Masten: I'm the executive producer and research historian on all the films, and shared director credit on several films. I retired from the army as a Lieutenant Colonel, then went to work at KU's Office of Graduate Military Programs for 7 years. In 2018, I accepted a position as Team Chief Leader for the documentary team, with the Army University Press. I'm in charge of the nine person team.
CREES: How long does it usually take to make a documentary?

Masten: If we haven't done that topic previously, it can take 6 months because more research is involved. We are tasked to create 8-12 films per year. We have four PhD historians, two writers, and a 3-person film production crew. Everyone is either in a research, writing, or production

phase. The production team is together for 4-6 weeks at a time to assemble the film. Most research for the documentaries is done in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Each historian travels 1-2 times per year to do research in the archives. They have hundreds of hours of film and thousands of photos to go through, and if it hasn't been digitized, then we have them digitized. We coordinate with authorized companies (five of them) to digitize the films. Our historians and film production crew do the motion graphics, maps, animated photos, and film and sound editing. We have also utilized the Bundesarchiv, the German National Archives, and the French Army archives. We have coordinated with military museums across the U.S. and authors from around the world, from countries such as Australia, France, and England, for some of the photos we used in "Nancy" and other films. On the team we have Dr. Chris Carey and Mr. Roy Parker, both recent KU graduates. We have enlisted help from two KU graduate students, Haseop Shin for



KU Alumni Dr. Chris Carey, Dr. Randy Masten, and Mr. Roy Parker all work on creating and producing historical documentaries.

Korean and Marjorie Galelli for French. Marjorie, a current PhD candidate, helped with the pronunciation of the French language in "Nancy" and knew particular nuisances of the French language, as she herself grew up in this area of France.

CREES: Do you know some of the languages that play a role in these films?
Masten: I already learned Polish language at the Defense Language Institute. Then I enrolled in the graduate program in REES at KU, graduating in 2003.

Jarek Piekalkiewicz, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, was a very influential professor during my master's degree in REES. He was also a Polish Resistance fighter during World War II. I also pursued a master's degree in Military Arts and Science from the Command General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth with a focus on military history. That focus

led me back to KU to get a PhD in U.S. and Soviet Military History, graduating in 2019, with Professor Adrian Lewis as my advisor. Shortly before graduating, I accepted the position with Army University Press and have enjoyed creating these documentaries.

CREES: Your work sounds very interesting!
Masten: It's fun! As far as we know, we're the only organization currently doing this in the Army. We're taking archival film and cutting and splicing sections into our modern films. We also create the graphics and we strive to be as historically accurate as we can. Gamers, historians, military professionals, and others, contact us regularly to thank us for our historical accuracy. As we continue creating these documentaries, we are getting better at reaching a more general audience, who appreciate learning about these historical events and their significance. Interested viewers can subscribe to our Army University Press Channel on YouTube to view our documentaries.

CREES Outreach: A Dynamic Presence in the Schools and Community

As part of the World Language Fair on the road, Lisa Giullian, CREES Outreach Coordinator, along with her colleagues from other Area Studies Centers, traveled to Southeast Wichita High School in February 2020 to introduce various foreign languages and international opportunities to students. Ms. Giullian taught mini-lessons on Russian language and culture to large groups of students. Over 800 students attended the World Language Fair. By promoting Russian studies among K-12 students, CREES hopes to create a pipeline of students, who may be interested in taking Russian language courses at the University of Kansas.

At this year's Spring Festival on March 1, guests enjoyed traditional Russian music, a trivia/bingo game, arts and crafts, delicious ethnic food, and meeting friends old and new. We were honored to welcome back Megan Luttrell (KU Slavic alumna), who performed popular Russian songs, followed by two traditional Russian songs performed by Ruth Remmers (KU Geography alumna) and Tony Ware. This is a great community event that brings together friends, faculty, and students to socialize, while introducing the community to the region we study.

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Russia Foundation Grant, CREES hired two Outreach Assistants, Alaina DeLeo and Mason Hussong. In early March, Lisa Giullian, Alaina DeLeo, and Mason Hussong visited West Middle School to teach a few days of Russian language and culture to 7th graders in three "Intro to World Languages" classes at West Middle School.

Mason Hussong shared his experience studying Russian and living with a host family in Latvia the previous summer. Alaina DeLeo told many intriguing stories from her year in Siberia, including describing her visit to Lake Baikal where she saw the world's only freshwater seals, and going to class in winter despite the -40 degree weather! Alaina taught students the "Troika," a Russian folk dance, which was the highlight of the visit. Students thoroughly enjoyed learning a



Lisa Giullian teaches Russian to students from Southeast Wichita High School.

Russian dance, set to music. Giullian and Hussong also visited Billy Mills Middle School for two days to teach Russian language and culture to two different classes.

During the pandemic, CREES joined other partners to stream the film "Stalking Chernobyl: exploration after apocalypse," directed by Iara Lee, activist and filmmaker. This film examines the underground culture of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, where illegal hiking adventurers aka "stalkers," extreme sports enthusiasts, artists, and tour companies have begun to explore the mysterious, ghostly, post-apocalyptic landscape. Director Iara Lee also hosted a live online Q&A session with a panel of speakers. Nearly 500 viewers were able to participate in this event. CREES looks forward to hosting more impactful events this Fall 2020!



Alaina DeLeo, CREES Outreach Assistant, teaches a Russian dance "Troika" to the 7th graders at West Middle School.

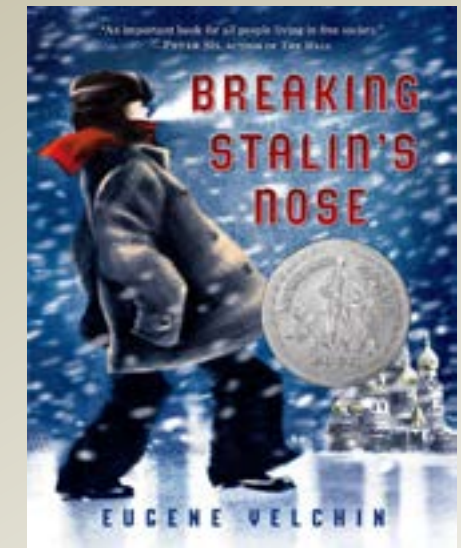


This spring, CREES held an event to celebrate Olga Tokarczuk's Nobel Prize in Literature.



Matěj Číp, a native of Czechia gave a presentation "Showcasing the Cimbalom of Central Europe: A Selection of Cimbalom Compositions with an Introduction to the Instrument."

Check out our New Online Lesson Plans for 5th-7th grade students



CREES is pleased to announce the creation of online lessons plans for 5th-7th grade students, to accompany *Breaking Stalin's Nose* by Eugene Yelchin. This is a great novel for a language arts or social studies unit. This novel is based on the true story of the author's experiences growing up in the Soviet Union. Check out our free online lessons on the CREES website:

creees.ku.edu/k12-resources



Students at West Middle School enjoy learning the "Troika" dance, set to music.

Professor Eve Levin Retires, Leaving a Rich Legacy

It's a pleasure to meet with Dr. Eve Levin, Professor of History, and Chair of the Department of History, who retired in June 2020. She is an outstanding scholar, has contributed greatly to the REES program, and has guided and taught many students across a number of disciplines. The CREES team wishes her all the best in her future research and plans!

CREES: Could you tell me a little about your career?

Levin: I was at Ohio State University for 20 years and then came to KU in 2003. I've been so lucky in terms of applying and receiving fellowships, getting a good job right out of graduate school, and becoming Editor of The

Russian Review. My senior colleague Allan Wildman brought me on board at The Russian Review at Ohio State University in 1988. The Russian Review is a leading scholarly journal that is available in many institutions across the world.

CREES: What brought you to KU? How did you get involved with CREES?

Levin: It was because of CREES that I came to KU. I was looking for a place for The Russian Review. I wrote to Maria Carlson, then CREES Director, who was a longtime colleague and friend. Two days after she got my letter, she called with the offer to host The Russian Review at KU. Maria had gone to the Associate Dean and said that it was worth bringing The Russian Review and me to KU. The History Department agreed to bring me in as a tenured associate professor. The whole process went very smoothly.

As a premodernist, I research in an interdisciplinary manner, using literature, linguistic analysis and art. Being a part of an interdisciplinary center like CREES is really important. It has allowed me to remain up-to-date on a number of disciplines. Students ask me, "What do you think about what's going on in the world now?" To understand present events, it's important to learn about the connections they have to past history. Some students take my courses because of CREES and its program. They need to fulfill the history and the religion and



Professors Eve Levin and Nathan Wood commemorate the graduation of several PhD candidates from the Department of History at a 2017 hoisting ceremony. Featured left to right are Eve Levin, Evgeny Grishin, Jeremy Antley, Drew Burks, and Nathan Wood.

philosophy requirements. I gave REES students background and ways of examining issues that will be necessary in their careers. Especially for the REES M.A. students, I help them to shape the papers they write into studies that will be really useful to them in the future.

CREES: Could you tell me about some of the students you've taught and guided?

Levin: I deal with each student individually and meet them where they are. Some graduate students need little guidance. Some students need a lot more support. Maybe they have uncertainties. Perhaps graduate work is not for them. I still want to help them find a path to a profession that is comfortable for them. That's success. I have students who are professors at Research I universities, students who are at teaching-focused colleges and universities, and students who are pursuing non-academic careers. Students should be able to take what they learned and go in the direction that they want to go.

It's rewarding to see students grow intellectually and personally, grow in confidence in themselves, and to celebrate those successes. Perhaps they win a Fulbright grant, publish an article, or get a job. I ran into one of my students at a conference. She excitedly shared her news, "I just got a call for another interview!" We celebrated that moment right there. Later she sent me a message which read, "It's so nice to have an advisor who will squeal with me in a hotel lobby!"

A few years ago, I introduced Gwyn Bourlakov, who was then my PhD student in History at KU, to Matt Romaniello, one of my doctoral graduates from Ohio State University. Gwyn knew Matt's publications, and they shared the same interests in Siberia, Orthodoxy, and the Russian Empire. Matt invited Gwyn to submit an article to a journal he edits, and he served on her dissertation committee. That was rewarding to see them make that connection. I tell my graduate students, "An advisor is forever." Once they graduate, the relationship changes, but if they ever need me to

look over an application, an article, or need some guidance, I'm happy to do that. It feels really good that one of my former students consulted me more than a decade after he completed his degree to ask my advice about choosing a publisher for his book. Other students have talked with me about career choices, and how to balance work and family.

CREES: Do you have any favorite memories?

Levin: I have great memories of long dinners, coffee sessions, and conversations with my graduate students. We talk about history, the area we study, their careers, teaching, and our lives. I think it gives students an idea of what it's like to be a scholar. It's a way of living and thinking about the world. This spring 2020, we weren't able to celebrate PhD completions in person, and our graduate students were disappointed. After Alana Holland's dissertation defense over Zoom, I invited her to my house for champagne; we sat outside at opposite ends of the patio. Then Nathan Wood hosted a hoisting ceremony in his backyard for Alana and Robert Jameson, who also received his PhD this past spring. Nathan and I wore our robes and presented each graduate with their hood. Nathan loaned Bob a gown that came from a Harry Potter themed costume! I loaned Alana my old undergraduate robe, and gave her to keep the PhD hood that belonged to my Dad, who received his doctorate in 1950. I love seeing Alana wearing my my Dad's hood.

CREES: That's wonderful that you could celebrate Alana and Robert's graduation in such a meaningful way. What are your future plans?

Levin: I've been working on a book on illness and healing in premodern Russia, particularly the 17th century. I got the idea when I was in the archives in Moscow in 1990, and I have been researching this topic among other projects ever since. Spiritual and physical healing are connected, so my book will encompass both. I study



Sharing a meal and great conversation with Gwyn Bourlakov and Alana Holland on the train, returning from the ASEES convention in Chicago, Nov 2017.



Professor Levin places a hood on Alana Holland during an informal hoisting ceremony this Spring 2020.

folk healing, faith healing, and Western style medicine. The topic is quite timely considering the pandemic. How did people in premodern Russia live during an epidemic? When they were ill, what treatments did they seek, and from whom? How did they pay for them? Over the years, I've studied a range of topics: gender, sexuality, popular Christianity, and now medicine, and they are all interconnected. In addition, Erik Scott is taking over as Editor of The Russian Review, but I'll be Editor Emerita for the next six months, looking after articles that are already in the pipeline. After that I'll join the Editorial Board and become a trustee of the journal. Apart from scholarly activities, I also want to spend more time with family, once the pandemic eases and I can travel safely.

Student & Alumni News

Austin L. Armstrong (REES 2020) graduated with a minor in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

Krzysztof Borowski (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures 2020) graduated with a PhD in Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures. He defended his dissertation with honors on April 29, 2020. The title of his dissertation is: "Online Conflict Discourse, Identity, and the Social Imagination of Silesian Minority in Poland." In the fall, he will begin a new position as a Polish Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and will teach courses in Polish language and culture.

Joe Clare (Slavic and Soviet Area Studies 1974) was one of about 30 US Army officers who graduated from the MA Program between 1968 and 1974. He went on to serve in national-level intelligence assignments dealing with Soviet affairs in Washington and London. He worked on arms control issues at the State Department and later became an analyst at the CIA. While there, he spent five years as, successively, editor, senior editor, and deputy managing editor of the President's Daily Brief. He retired in 2014.

Matti Dimmick (Anthropology and Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) won the undergraduate category of the Laird Essay Contest for her essay, "Putin's Gendered Political Discourse."

Steven G. Duke (REES 2020) graduated with a B.A. in Russian, East European, Eurasian Studies.

Gloria Funcheon (REES 2013) completed her MSc in Development Studies at SOAS University of London, as a Rotary Global Grant Scholar with sponsorship from the Lawrence Rotary Club and District 5710. She wrote her thesis on TVET and labor migration from Tajikistan to Russia. She expected to begin a new job with Mercy Corps in March, working on a USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education project in Uzbekistan, but the pandemic delayed the start until this fall. This will be a 5-year post based in Tashkent with a significant amount of activities taking place in Karakalpakstan. She also got married in January 2020! A honeymoon in Italy turned into a long stay as Gloria and Alessio Scarito, her husband, await easing of travel restrictions from the pandemic.

Jonathan Legro (REES 2020) – graduated with a B.A. in Russian, East European, Eurasian Studies.

Alana Holland (History 2020) is excited to have been offered a position of Postdoctoral Fellow in Holocaust Studies in the Department of History and Jewish Studies Program at American University in conjunction with the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for 2020-2021. She graduated with a PhD in History (Modern Russia and Eastern Europe). Her dissertation is titled, "The Art of Retribution: Holocaust Memory and Justice in People's Poland and Soviet Lithuania, 1944-69." After defending, she studied advanced Lithuanian online at the Indiana University Summer Language Workshop with funding from a Title VIII grant.

Mason Hussong (REES/Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) was awarded a 2020 National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Scholarship to study in Kazakhstan for 2021.

Robert Jameson (History 2020) graduated with his PhD in History.

Anna Karpusheva (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures 2020) graduated with a PhD in Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures. Her dissertation is titled, "Fighting a War: Svetlana Alexievich's Prose between History and Literature." This fall, she will begin a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Colby College, Maine.

Amy Millet (History) participated in the University of Ljubljana's Slovene Language Online Summer School. She was registered for a two-week intensive immersion course for early July, but it was reconfigured due to the coronavirus pandemic.

John Stanko took trips to Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan and Almaty), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), and Hungary (Budapest) within the last 6 months. John enjoys the Tian Shan Mountains in Almaty, Kazakhstan (featured below).

Jacob Springer (History and Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) was awarded a Gilman Scholarship award for \$1,500 to fund an internship in Kiev, Ukraine. Due to Covid-19, he will defer the internship and scholarship until Summer 2021. He took an online language course through the Ukrainian language program offered by the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine.

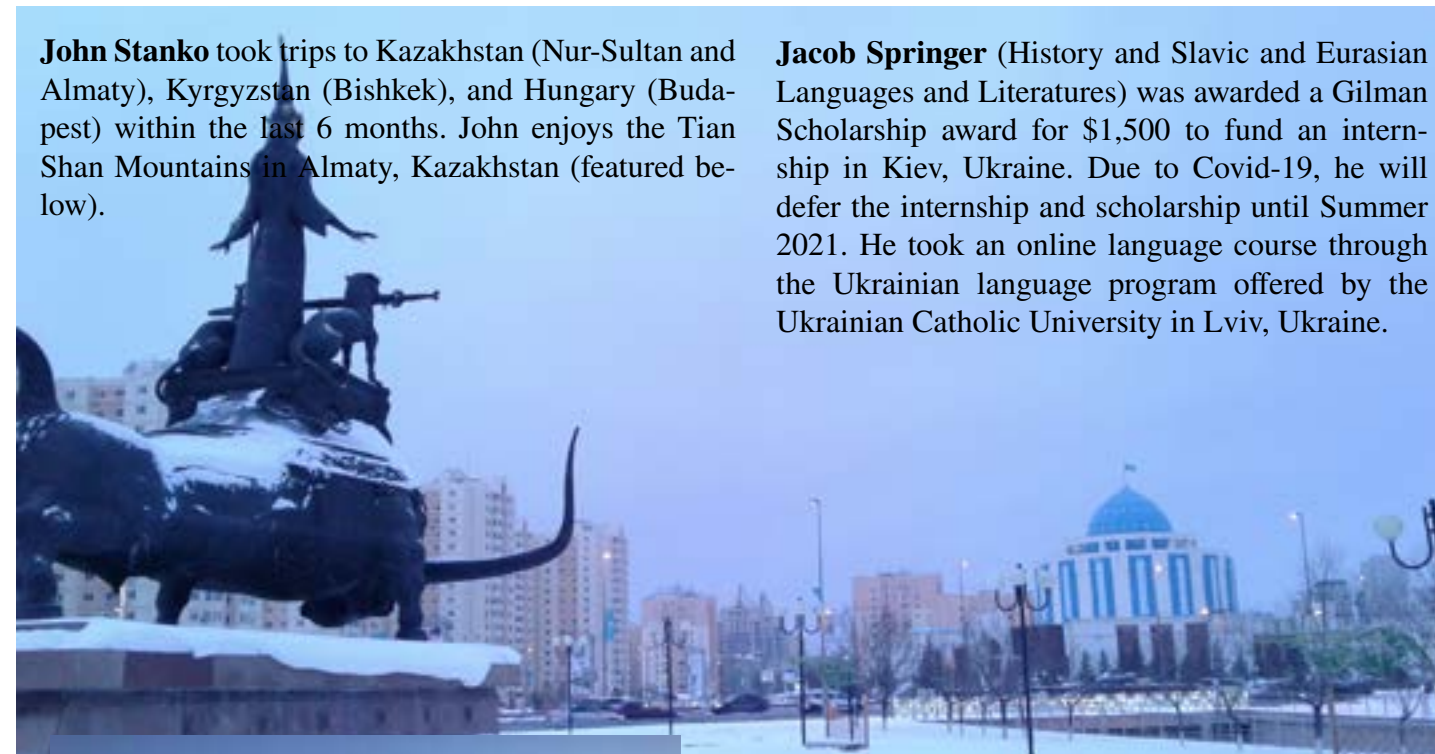
CREES Welcomes Alaina DeLeo, new REES M.A. Student



Alaina DeLeo (REES 2020) graduated this May 2020 with a B.A. in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. She will begin an accelerated one-year graduate program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Kansas this fall. She was also selected as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant for the 2020-2021 academic year in Tajikistan.



Gloria Funcheon wed Alessio Scarito at the Copenhagen City Hall in January 2020. Congratulations to the new couple!



John Stanko (REES 2018) finished two years of teaching English in Moscow, Russia in May. He studied Chinese at Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop on a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship. This fall, he will begin a PhD program in Political Science at Indiana University, focusing on education's role in international relations. He received a Russian Studies Workshop Fellowship for his first year of study. He was also admitted to a M.S.Ed program in International & Comparative Education at Indiana University. He will pursue both degrees simultaneously.

Congratulations to our
Graduates and Award Recipients
for AY 2019-2020, and
Summer 2020

*Bachelors of Arts in Russian, East
European and Eurasian Studies*

Alaina DeLeo
Steven Duke
Jonathan Legro

*Minor in Russian, East
European and Eurasian Studies*

Austin Armstrong

Clowes Russian Language Award

Jennifer Byrne

*CREES-USRF FMSO
Graduate Internship*

Jennifer Byrne (spring)
Adam Rodger (summer)

Jerkovich Award

Tyler Bowen

Laird Essay Contest Winners

Steven Mutz (Graduate)
Mattí Dimmick (Undergraduate)

Norman Travel Award

Jennifer Byrne
Devin McFadden

Palij Ukrainian Studies Award

Reagan Kanter

Faculty News and Updates

Vitaly Chernetsky (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) delivered a keynote address at Indiana University's Ukrainian Studies conference, a guest lecture at the University of Arkansas, organized by the Arkansas Humanities Center, and a paper at the conference on political performativity and contemporary Russian-language poetry at the University of Giessen in Germany. He has published 3 articles: on language politics in Ukrainian cinema in the *Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society*, and on Ukrainian literature in the *Festschrift for Prof. Marko Pavlyshyn*, Australia's leading Slavist, and in the post-conference volume *Go East! LGBTQ+ Literature in Eastern Europe* (Ljubljana University Press).

Alexander Diener (Geography) has remained active in his research, attaining three book contracts and publishing "The Varied Geographies of Historical Citizenships" in *Global Citizenship Review* (3-4th Quarter 2019 pp. 28-35; "Axial Development in Mongolia: Intended and Unintended Effects of New Roads" with Batbuyan Batjav in *Mobilities* (v.14 no.6, 2019 pp. 778-794); and "Kazakhstan's Evolving Regional Economic Policy: Assessing Strategies of Post-Socialist Economic Development" with Yerken Turganbayev in *Eurasian Geography and Economics* (v.59 no. 5-6, 2019 pp. 657-684).

Student/Alumni News Continued...

Steven Mutz (Political Science 2020) graduated this May 2020 with a PhD in Political Science. His dissertation is titled, "Mythscapeing Novorossiia: Nationalism in the Donbass, 2014-15." He also won the graduate category of the Laird Essay Contest for his essay, "Back to a Future USSR: Worth the Cost?"

Adam Rodger (History) received the CREES/FMSO Security Affairs Research Fellowship for Russia for summer 2020.

Olga Savchenko (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) received a Language Teaching and Research Grant for \$1,400 from the University of Pittsburgh for Summer 2020 to conduct research on her dissertation project, "Gestures as a component of second language pragmatics development."

Faculty News Continued...

Prof. **Diener** has also had "Multi-Scalar Territorialization in Kazakhstan's Northern Borderland" accepted for publication in *Geographical Review* (2021) and "Territorial Belonging and Homeland Disjuncture: Uneven Territorializations in Kazakhstan" co-authored with Kristopher Rees & Nora Webb-Williams in *Europe Asia Studies* forthcoming (2020). He submitted three edited volume chapters for publication. He currently serves as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science and will be presenting his work at the upcoming Silk Road Symposium at KU in September 2020.

Jon C. Giullian (International Collections) is the new editor of the journal *Slavic & East European Information Resources* (SEEIR), a peer-reviewed journal about Slavic librarianship and book studies. More information at <https://sites.google.com/site/seeirjournal>. Giullian has been the online content manager for *Folklorica*, the Journal of the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Folklore Association, for the past five years. *Folklorica* is a peer-reviewed journal that has recently decided to make all of its content freely available online (open access).

Marc Greenberg (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) edited *The Brill*, the largest Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics, which is becoming available online with about a sixth of the material out and much more to come.

Dennis Karney (Business) retired in May 2020, after 44 years of college level teaching, the last 35 at KU! The CREES team congratulates him on his retirement!

Ani Kokobobo (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) has spent most of her summer finishing her monograph, *Russian Sage of Sex – Tolstoy Theorizes Gender and Intercourse* due to go out for review this fall. She also co-wrote, "The Queer Nihilist – Queer Time, Social Refusal, and Heteronormativity in Goncharov's *The Precipice*" with Devin McFadden. She organized the lecture series *Russia and Race*, and worked on a renewal application for the USRF grant. This fall, she will be presenting at the Neustadt festival where Ismail Kadare is being awarded the Neustadt prize. She is currently translating his remarks. She is also giving a lecture via zoom at NYU Jordan Center on Tolstoy and masculinity, in association with the 19v research initiative she helped co-organize.

Rebecca Rovit (Theatre) was awarded a Fall 2020 semester Residency Fellowship at KU's Hall Center for her book project, "Theatre from the Rubble of War in Berlin and Vienna, 1945-1955." In July she presented a paper for the virtual meeting of the International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR) Historiography Working Group entitled, "Sustaining Theatre in the Rubble of War: Historiographical Fractures in Berlin and Vienna, 1945-1949." She is also a commissioned writer for the international project, "Shared History: 1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-speaking Lands through 52 Objects." The multi-phased project, sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute (New York/ Berlin), incorporates a digital exhibition and print-based book (2020-2021). Her tenure on the international roster as a Fulbright Specialist in Theatre and Genocide (US Fulbright Programs) has been extended through 2022.

Erik R. Scott (History) received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the spring and fall semesters of 2020 to complete his next book manuscript. The book, tentatively titled *Treason in Transit: Soviet Defectors and the Borders of the Cold War World*, is under contract with Oxford University Press. He was appointed Editor of *The Russian Review*, succeeding Eve Levin, who retired at the end of June. Erik also supervised eight graduate students over the summer in developing the forthcoming "Cold War in the Heartland" web resource, sponsored by a grant from CREES and the U.S. Russia Foundation.

Mike Wuthrich (Political Science) had an article published in the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* explaining the dramatic increase in women in parliament in Turkey under Erdogan. He published an article in the *Journal of Democracy* discussing the opposition's approach to a populist government in Turkey, and has also published an article with Sabri Ciftci (K-State) on the internal party factors shaping patterns of moderate and radical behaviors by Islamist parties in Muslim majority countries in the journal *Mediterranean Politics*.



Giving to KU CREES

The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies 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, renowned lecturers, scholarships and study abroad opportunities are just some of the ways your donations can help us to maintain our Center's vitality. We hope that you will contribute generously to strengthen the Center's programs by sending your gift today. Your gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. Thank you for your support!

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

CREES General Fund

Supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities. Among its dedicated sponsors are the **Oswald P. Backus/Anna Cienciała Memorial Fund** for visiting lecturers in Polish Studies, the **Bramlage/Willcoxon 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

Supports visiting lecturers in Ukrainian studies, and the Ukrainian Studies Prize for an outstanding student specializing in Ukrainian.

George C. Jerkovich Fund

Supports the development of KU's South Slavic library collection; and provides awards to outstanding students with a demonstrated 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 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 students who have shown commitment and scholarly interest in Ukraine and Ukrainian Studies.

Alexander Tsiovkh Memorial Fund

This fund is named after the late Alexander Tsiovkh, a longtime professor of Ukrainian Studies at KU. Monies donated to this fund are used to support students of Ukrainian Area Studies at KU.

SPASIBO Fund

The Gerald E. Mikkelson Fund supports and sustains the Siberia and St. Petersburg components of KU's instructional profile.

