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CZECH COMMUNIST COMPUTING: A RESEARCH YEAR

BY ROBERT JAMESON

I am blessed to return to Kansas this fall having been the recipient of a Fulbright award, which fully funded a year of overseas research into the history of the personal computer behind the Iron Curtain. My successful Fulbright application was supported by my access to the advice, recommendations, and sometimes cheerleading of Dr. Nathan Wood, my advisor since 2013; Dr. Erik Scott, who also assisted with tips on research documentation and oral interviews; Dr. Andrew Denning, whose thoughtful criticism helped shape my application; and Dr. Jaroslav Švelch of Charles University in Prague, whose media studies work on Czechoslovak computer gamers in the 1980s was the inspiration for my work. Since I began curiously probing around the margins of this project in the fall of 2014, they have consistently supported me while channeling my instinct to bounce ideas around into something more coherent. Those ideas, and my happy situation at KU, are due also to the mentorship, teaching and practical problem solving of faculty, particularly Dr. Eve Levin, Dr. Edmund Russell, Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky, and Dr. Adrian Lewis. I am confident they have shaped me into a better researcher, better teacher, and a better professional.

I arrived in the Czech Republic for orientation in Prague in mid-September of last year. Happily, support for the Fulbright program from



Robert Jameson meets Dr. Ivan Havel, a leading cyberneticist and expert in artificial intelligence, in his childhood home for a capstone interview. Dr. Ivan Havel is the co-founder of the Civic Forum party alongside his late brother Václav, the first president of post-Communist Czechoslovakia. The Civic Forum party played a critical role in the Velvet Revolution that toppled communism in Czechoslovakia.

the Czech government has recently expanded substantially, nearly doubling the number of English teaching assistants from the United States; all told, there were approximately 40 ETAs, graduate students and faculty members from the U.S. We formed a tight-knit group, and our mutual support was invaluable in a practical and emotional sense. With one friend, a Habsburg historian from the University of Illinois, I explored Plzeň in southern Bohemia; with a fellow Minnesotan and faculty colleague, I ventured on an icy December trip into the Beskydy Mountains of Moravia-Silesia on a pilgrimage to the famous Tatra automotive works in Kopřivnice.

More concretely, the Fulbright Commission in the Czech Republic and its formidable director, Hanka Ripková, made sure I had a place to work and an in-country mentor to work with when my initial plans fell through. Some spirit of adaptation was necessary during the year! My new home-away-from-home, a laboratory office in the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics (CIIRC), was only a block away from my main repository of sources, the National Library of Technology in Prague. I benefited tremendously from the kind attentions and advice of Dr. Marcela Efmertová, a historian of electrical engineer-

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CREES STAFF

DIRECTOR

VITALY CHERNETSKY
VCHERNETSKY@KU.EDU

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

JUSTYNA BEINEK
JBEINEK@KU.EDU

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

LISA GIULLIAN
LGIULLIAN@KU.EDU

OFFICE MANAGER

AMANDA PORTER
AMANDAHPORTER@KU.EDU

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

SVETLANA VASSILEVA-

KARAGYOZOVA
SLAVIC LANGUAGES,
LITERATURES & CULTURES

ERIK SCOTT
HISTORY

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DANIEL GARABRANDT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the new fall semester! It's an exciting time filled with new challenges, opportunities, and hopefully, cooler autumn weather!

Since our last newsletter, our Center's team has been hard at work on a variety of projects. This summer, we debuted the new online version of our gateway course, REES 110/111, "Understanding Russia and Eastern Europe." In developing the online version, our Assistant Director Justyna Beinek, working with specialists at the university's Center for Online and Distance Learning, introduced many innovative features while maintaining the core traditions of the class, a mainstay of our curriculum. The online class has been a great success, and we plan to continue offering it every summer, while the in-classroom version of the course will continue to be offered every fall.

Students' interest in our area is on the rise. By the first week of the semester, the fall 2018 REES 110/111 enrollment reached the capacity that had been projected by the Registrar, and more students are waitlisted for it. We are pleased to welcome this new cohort of students and hope that for many of them this is the start of a lifelong engagement with Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

There are many wonderful programs and initiatives taking place at KU that

strengthen international ties in the region we study. For example, the KU School of Business has been sending students to Slovenia each May on a faculty-led short-term study abroad program, the Slovenia Program of the Business Leadership Program and the SELF Engineering Leadership Fellows Program. This program provides students the opportunity to meet executives from various businesses and engineering firms in Slovenia, and learn about the daily experiences of Slovenian citizens. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg has been providing pre-departure language and cultural training for students in this program. Participation in this program has increased substantially since its inception, with 67 students participating since 2016.

The REES family continues to grow. We welcome our new graduate student, Daniel Garabrandt, a recent graduate of the University of Missouri, and two new CREES fellows, Prof. Kathleen Collins, a political scientist at the University of Minnesota specializing in Central Asia and Dr. Elizabeth Wenger, a historian specializing on Eastern Europe, based at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. We are also pleased to welcome our new office manager, Amanda Hill Porter. She brings many strengths and skills to this position, including those gained from her previous work at the Confucius Institute at KU.

Our year-long collaborative project with the Humanities University in Ekaterinburg, funded by a Peer-to-Peer Grant from the Department of State, has been a great success. The jointly developed interactive online module for journalism students and professionals to test and grow

fact checking and independent verification skills has attracted significant attention and acclaim, and has been integrated into several courses both at KU and at our partner university. It will go into worldwide open access shortly. We salute Lisa McLendon, the main driving force behind this ambitious project, and the rest of the project team for their hard work on this initiative that couldn't be timelier.

This fall, we look forward to an impressive program of events, lectures, and brownbags. We are pleased to announce that following the successful hosting of a Croatian writer-in-residence in 2017 through a grant from CEC ArtsLink, KU is bringing Zoya Falkova, a Russian-language poet and visual artist from Kazakhstan, for a 5-week residence through this program. Falkova, who will be based at the Slavic Department, is an accomplished artist who has participated in over 30 exhibitions and modern art festivals in the post-Soviet region and around the world. She was nominated for the Singapore Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Art Prize, which recognizes outstanding examples of contemporary art from all across Asia and the Pacific Rim. She will be based at the university from Oct. 11 to Nov. 14, and will deliver several talks and readings, including a brownbag lecture at CREES on November 6. We are also thrilled to continue our robust programming on Ukraine-related topics, thanks to the generous support from the Palij Fund. This fall, one of our Palij Lecturers will be Olena Nikolayenko, a political scientist at Fordham University. Using the case of women's activism during the 2013-2014 Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine, her lecture

will examine how and why women engage in a contemporary urban revolution. Her recent book, *Youth Movements and Elections in Eastern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) examined tactical interactions between nonviolent youth movements and incumbent governments in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Prof. Nikolayenko's appearance at KU will be on October 9. On December 2, we will be honored to host Yuri Andrukhovych, one of Ukraine's and Eastern Europe's leading contemporary authors, for a return appearance at KU with a reading, part of his North American tour on the occasion of publication of two new books by him in English translation. Other distinguished guest speakers include Prof. Olha Tytarenko of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Dr. Alessandro Achilli of Monash University in Australia. Looking further ahead, for our next Backus/Cienciała Lecture we'll welcome Anna Muller, the Frank and Mary Padzieski Endowed Professor in Polish/Polish American/Eastern European Studies at the University of Michigan, early in the spring 2019 semester. CREES will also continue its tradition of offering film screenings from the region we study on Thursday nights. For full information on these and other events on our calendar, please visit the CREES website and our center's Facebook page.

As this newsletter was going to press, we learned the outcome of our center's application to the U.S. Department of Education for Title VI funding, which we submitted in late June. This was a major collaborative undertaking, and I am deeply grateful to CREES staff and faculty and to the superb professionals at the Humanities Grant Development Office for their tireless work and dedication in preparing a competitive grant proposal, as well as to our peers at CEAS, CLACS, and KASC with whom we worked hard to conceptualize and develop many impactful initiatives and partnerships. Unfortunately, the outcome for CREES was not what we had hoped for, but overall KU was much more successful this year than in the previous application cycle in 2014. We congratulate CEAS, CLACS, and KASC, as well as the Eral Garinger Academic Resource Center, successful in its application for the Language Resource Center competition, on their accomplishment. Once CREES receives the detailed comments on our application from the Department of Education, we will undertake thorough critical analysis and determine strategies to address the

areas in which we fell short. As many of the grant initiatives in our proposals were collaborative in nature, CREES will still be able to go forward with a number of them thanks to the collegial support of our peers, for which we are deeply grateful.

Some of these projects and events include a World Languages Fair, a day-long event that will bring middle and high school students, teachers, and parents to campus for a day focused on exploring world languages and cultures, and learning how intercultural competence can enhance different fields of study. KU Area Studies Centers will collaborate with the KS World Language Association and the Foreign Language Association of MO in planning and promoting the event, with plans to take the World Languages Fair on the road to community colleges in Kansas.

KU is also building new partnerships with many community colleges across the Midwest. Johnson County

Community College (JCCC) is working to internationalize their Career, Technical, and STEM curricula. CREES, along with other KU area studies centers, will help JCCC with area studies content and plans to generate a web-based road map for other community colleges who would like to undertake a similar project.

We look forward to meeting with friends old and new at our annual Fall Mixer & Potluck on Friday, September 7 at the Union Pacific Depot, 5:30-8:30pm.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the CREES family for its commitment to developing and sharing knowledge about the region we study and to forging meaningful intellectual dialogue. Given the current complex political climate, our work is more relevant than ever. May our future scholarly accomplishments and our efforts as engaged scholars make a positive difference in the world!

DANIEL GARABRANDT



My name is Daniel Garabrandt and I'm originally from Indiana, although I have lived in a variety of places. My university experience began at Missouri Southern State University shortly after I finished my service in the army. At the time, I really enjoyed history and learning about different parts of the world. During my undergraduate studies, I continued narrowing down my area of interest. Once I realized that I was interested in Russian history, I began searching for universities that offered Russian language courses. My journey led me to the University of Missouri, where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Russian language and history. I also studied abroad in Russia in the summer of 2017. It was a great experience to see in person the places that I had only read about. My ultimate goal

is to use my time at KU to delve deeper into the history of early Russian and Ukrainian nation building. I look forward to working with professors in both the language and history departments to more fully explore and understand the peoples and cultures of these countries. It is my hope to pursue a career in academia, and to share knowledge of the REE region with peers and students.

CZECH COMPUTING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ring in interwar Czechoslovakia, and Dr. Jan Mikeš at the Center for Research into Radiation Events in the Atmosphere, who generously loaned me boxes from his personal collection of late socialist science and technology publications to fill in some of the library's gaps.

The bulk of my research year was spent in that office at CIIRC, poring through professional and popular publications on information technology from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s. These journals and magazines were mostly accessible through the National Library of Technology, though unfortunate gaps necessitated work with materials from the Institute of Computer Science of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Scientific Research Library in Olomouc, as well as private collections in Prague and Brno. Despite how recent these sources were, dating from the 1970s and 1980s, I was often appalled at how poorly they had been preserved. Cheap ink and paper meant photos and text were faded, blurry or smudged. Students had scrawled illegibly on the pages, and frequently ripped or cut out whole sections of a journal. There were no digital back-ups. Volumes were occasionally just missing.

These kinds of problems persisted alongside periodic bursts of research excitement. In March, a few weeks of work in the Czech Statistical Office in Strašnice led to the discovery that hundreds of valuable documents from Svazarm, an organization that funded and ran computer clubs throughout socialist Czechoslovakia in the 1980s, had been destroyed when the original building's basement flooded in 2002. Yet, at the end of March, I went to Brno to interview some of the mathematicians, computer scientists and programmers who had founded and run SOFSEM, the annual two-week-long mountaintop retreat of Czechoslovakia's IT elite. During an interview with Dr. Miroslav Bartošek, SOFSEM's secretary in the late 1980s, he gave me a cache of materials from the conference on CD-ROM that included academic papers, but also original poetry, songs, cartoons, jokes, membership rosters and galleries of participant photos. It was a treasure trove, and I felt a similar sense of discovery as I worked in the archive of Czechoslovak Television in May and June. Here was all the material I might want:



The IQ-151 is the first mass-produced Czechoslovak personal computer from 1984. It was intended for use in schools but was not widely distributed in sufficient numbers to meet demand. This computer was on exhibit at the "Game On Exhibition" where Jameson was invited to speak in Holešovice, Prague in November, 2017.

Czechoslovak computers shown off at trade fairs; man-on-the-street interviews with Czechs and Slovaks dubious about the value of a 'personal computer' and instructional programs on computer science aimed at youths.

Oral interviews, however, were the most thoroughly exciting component of my research. Though it proved occasionally challenging, logistically, the stories that emerged from that work added a necessary human dimension to a history of computing that tended to snarl me excessively in minute questions about advances in particular pieces of hardware or clever programming tricks. Dr. Božena Mannová told me how her computer science career, which began in Sudan and continued in Canada, was dashed to pieces for political reasons when she returned to Czechoslovakia in 1972. Even her daughters were punished, blacklisted from universities and their chosen careers until after the 1989 revolution. The capstone interview of the year was with Dr. Ivan Havel, a leading cyberneticist and expert in artificial intelligence, and co-founder of Civic Forum alongside his late brother Václav, the first president of post-Communist Czechoslovakia. We met in his childhood home, a historic apartment along the banks of the Vltava and neighboring the famous Dancing House, or *Tančící Dům*.

Toward the close of my Fulbright year in the Czech Republic, I was privileged to work alongside Dr. Helena Durnová of Masaryk University to co-organize a regional

workshop on the history of computing that attracted scholars from Russia, Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic. Although I had previously participated in conferences held in Brno and Hradec Králové, this more closely tailored workshop allowed me to see some of the most recent research on consumer electronics smuggling in 1980s' Yugoslavia and the surviving subculture of Elwro computer users in Poland, among others. Ultimately, I was able to accomplish my dissertation research goals in the Czech Republic, and gathered sources for future projects as well, due to the support of my colleagues and friends here at the University of Kansas and in the Czech Republic.

COMING SOON

Masterworks of Music in Vienna and Prague

Come study abroad over winter break in Vienna and Prague! The School of Music recently launched a new short-term study abroad program in Vienna and Prague for January 2019. The deadline for applications is September 20, 2018. For more information, please visit the website: <http://studyabroad.ku.edu/masterworks-music-vienna-prague>

KU BUSINESS AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS GAIN GLOBAL COMPETENCE IN SLOVENIA

In May, immediately after exams end, the KU Schools of Business and Engineering send students to Slovenia on a faculty-led short-term study abroad program to gain global competence and learn about the business and engineering practices of Slovenia as a key location in Eastern Europe. The Slovenia Program of the Business Leadership Program and the SELF Engineering Leadership Fellows Program is a joint venture between the two schools, providing students the opportunity to meet executives from various businesses and engineering firms in Slovenia, and learn about the daily experiences of Slovenian citizens. Students gain first-hand experience of a country transitioning from a command economy to a free market economy, and insights into Slovenia's integration into the European Union.

A total of 67 KU engineering and business students have participated in the Slovenia program since 2016, with increasing numbers of students wishing

to participate each year. The inspiration for the program came from the visit to the University of Kansas in spring 2015 by Dr. Božo Cerar, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the United States. "I was fortunate enough to meet the ambassador with a group of KU School of Business students. As the ambassador was telling us the story of his country, I decided that Slovenia would be a fascinating country to visit with a group of business and engineering students," said Dr. John Hedeman, Director of the Business Leadership Program and Business Honors Program. "Slovenia shares some qualities with the state of Kansas. It has a small population. It's in the middle of a large continent. It is better known to its own citizens than to those who live elsewhere," explained Dr. Hedeman.

Dr. Cerar and the staff at the Slovenian embassy in Washington agreed to assist Dr. Hedeman in organizing a visit to Slovenia. In May 2016, 11 KU School of Business

students and 3 KU School of Engineering students visited 12 businesses, 3 universities, a research institute, the American Chamber of Commerce Slovenia, and the U.S. Embassy in Slovenia. "The program was so good that we decided to continue," said Dr. Hedeman, who directed the program to Slovenia in 2016, 2017, and 2018. In 2017, 23 students participated and in May 2018, 30 students participated. "The program continues to get rave reviews," said Melissa Birch, Associate Professor and Co-Director at the Center for Global Business Studies.

Dr. Hedeman designed the program for freshmen in the Business Leadership Program and the SELF Engineering Leadership Fellows programs. His goal is to introduce students to business and engineering in a different culture with the hope that the experience would encourage them to continue their path to global competence at KU. Adam Babb, a freshman in the Business Leadership Program



KU students meet with Slovenian students in a mathematics class in the municipality of Podčetrtek, one of the newly established municipalities in Slovenia, officially launched in 1995. This municipality has used EU funding to create economic development and educational opportunities for its citizens.



Dr. Hedeman and the Business Leadership Program students on the terrace of Bled Castle.

remarked, “Looking back, I had no idea the type of cultural immersion that these visits would provide. Prior to visiting the foreign companies, I couldn’t even comprehend the amount of businesses there are in the world. I never knew that some of the skis that I see while I’m in the mountains were designed thousands of miles away in Slovenia. Or that a children’s app, “Talking Tom and Friends,” which has been downloaded over 8 billion times, was developed right here in Ljubljana. Or that there is a high school that focuses on teaching how to provide the best hospitality. I think the most significant thing I learned on this trip, was truly how many businesses there are in the world.”

“Coming out of my first year of college, I struggled to grasp what exactly engineering was. I knew it required problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork. I surmised that it must also somehow utilize an array of high-level math and science, as that is what my four-year coursework plan outlines. Seeing the monumental irrigation turbines at Litostroj and the expansive network of biochemical reactors and vessels at Krka Pharmaceuticals, however, I was able to conjure some idea of what engineers do,” said Hannah Duncan, SELF Fellows Program.

The students also gain knowledge of key elements and differences between Slovenia’s business and engineering culture and the business and engineering culture of the U.S. “Throughout the course of my trip to Slovenia, I learned a lot about the impact that culture has on business and engineering practices in both the United States and Slovenia. Not only did I have a fantastic time in Slovenia, but I also learned life lessons about the global business and

engineering atmosphere, along with how to observe and learn a new country’s culture in a respectful way as a U.S. citizen,” explained Nathan Bennett, SELF Fellows Program.

Mikaela Steutermann, a student in the Business Leadership Program, noted the differences between businesses in Slovenia and the U.S. “The experience was truly eye opening because we visited companies that operate very differently than those in the United States. Most of the companies we visited were focused on manufacturing, but we also met with innovation leaders. Specifically, Quadrofoil is a company that developed a revolutionary all-electric hydrofoil watercraft. The businesses in Slovenia overall felt smaller and more close-knit, and this led to a really unique experience. We were able to meet with executives at many of the companies because most employees were based in one company location.” After graduating in May, she will work at Tradebot as a financial analyst. “The program in Slovenia showed me that I would like to work for a company that allows me the financial ability and vacation time to travel. I hope to go back to Slovenia in the near future because it had such a positive impact on me!”

Students also enjoy cultural excursions in Ljubljana, Piran, and surrounding areas. The KU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures facilitates a Slovene language module for student participants of the program prior to their travels to Slovenia, in order that they can engage more profoundly with Slovenian culture during their stay in Ljubljana. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, Slovene lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, has provided language and cultural training

for past participants prior to their travel to Slovenia to prepare students to engage more profoundly with Slovenian culture. KU is the only U.S. university to offer a full course of study of the Slovene language, from beginning to advanced, with



Prior to their departure, students meet in a series of classes to learn about the history, economics, education, government, business, engineering, and culture of Slovenia. One of the assignments requires each student to find a current article about Slovenia and write a summary of the article. Sabrea Platz, an engineering SELF Fellow, wrote about bee keeping (her mother is a bee keeper). Slovenia has the highest number of bee keepers per capita of any country in the world. Slovenia also led an effort in the United Nations to establish a World Bee Day on May 20. LuxurySlovenia, the group’s tour organizer, arranged for a visit on May 16 to a beekeeper, pictured here with Sabrea.

a pedagogically trained native speaker. The Schools of Business and Engineering are already preparing a new group of students, who will participate in the May 2019 program. In 2019, Dr. Clint Stephens, Director of the SELF Program, will be leading it.

Valerie Long, a student in the Business Leadership Program, summed up global competence, “I no longer view global competence as merely an end that can be reached by learning several languages and traveling to places situated all over the world. Rather global competence is a journey, taken by familiarizing oneself with other cultures and in some cases, adapting new methods to accommodate for another’s culture. In addition, visiting Slovenia has made me view the idea of global competence as encompassing more than just the acquirement of knowledge; instead, it addresses the process of continual learning.”



The 2018 group at Pipistrel, a world leader in light, aircraft and glider manufacturing.

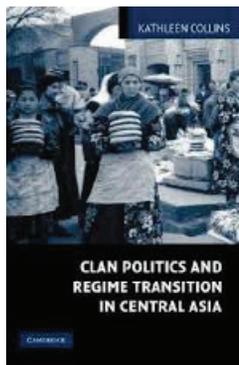
NEW CREES FELLOWS



Kathleen Collins is an Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. from

Stanford University in Political Science with a focus on Russia and Central Asia. Professor Collins is the author of *Clan Politics and Regime Transition in Central Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2006, 2009), which won the Central Eurasian Studies Society Award for the Best Book in the Social Sciences on Central Eurasia. She is currently completing her second book: *The Rise of Muslim Politics: Islam and State in Central Asia and the Caucasus* (under contract, Cambridge University Press). She has published articles in *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, the *Journal of Democracy*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*, as well as in numerous edited volumes.

Collins’ research and teaching interests include: political transition and democratization, Islam and politics, civil and ethnic conflict, clan politics, informal institutions, civil society development, and Soviet and post-Soviet political development, especially in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Russia. Collins has done extensive field research in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. She has also worked on projects for the National Bureau of Asian Research, the United Nations Development Program, the United States Agency for International



Development, the International Crisis Group, and other policy-making organizations. Collins received her B.A., summa cum laude, in Russian Language and Literature and Government and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame.



Elizabeth Wenger works with the Eisenhower Presidential Library and teaches at Friends University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, and worked there

at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and at the University of Illinois at Chicago before returning to her home state. She is currently working on her first book, which compares the cultures of literary censorship in post-war Poland and East Germany. It asks how the memory of war shaped the censors lives within these authoritarian structures, and how their work changes our vision of those states. As she continues to explore the intersection of political memory and cultural identities in East Central Europe, she is also studying the use of Orthodox visual vocabulary in Bulgarian Communist monuments.

CREES Snapshots

Our Spring semester was full of exciting events and gatherings. Take a tour of some of the highlights:

01 Lisa McLendon, Peter Bobkowski, Dmitri Shlykov (editor of 66.ru) and Vitaly Chernetsky visit the 66.ru office in Ekaterinburg.

04 Kansas and Missouri teachers participated in a K-12 workshop, based on two Brown University Choices Program units: Russia's Transformation: Challenges for U.S. Policy, and Colonization and Independence in Africa, co-hosted by CREES and the Kansas African Studies Center.

07 Serhiy Zhadan, one of the best Ukrainian writers living today, read from his novels Voloshilovgrad, Mesopotamia, and other works on April 25, 2018, as part of the Palij Lecture Series. Serhiy Zhadan warmly visits with Alana Holland, Ph.D. student in History.

02 In February 2018, Prof. Peter Bobkowski, Dr. Lisa McLendon, and CREES Director Vitaly Chernetsky visit and work with a group of journalism students and faculty at the University of Humanities in Ekaterinburg.

05 A delegation of five Ukrainian mental health professionals gave a presentation on their work with wounded veterans and their families on April 17, 2018. CREES hosted this Open World Program delegation.

03 Professor Beth Holmgren from Duke University delivered the Backus/Cienciala Memorial Lecture, "The Jews in the Show: Performing Poland for the Allies, 1942-1945." She also gave the first spring brownbag lecture, "The Country of Warsaw: Rethinking Urban Polish History."

06 The Annual Security Conference, "Crime-Terror Intersections and Intelligence-Led Responses," held in April 2018, brought together 81 scholars and practitioners to discuss path-breaking research and address ways to effectively fight organized crime and terrorism. Prof. Mariya Omelicheva presented on the findings of a three-year Dept. of Defense Minerva grant, exploring the intersections of organized crime and terrorism, and government responses to the crime-terror nexus. Featured from left to right are conference panelists: Etienne Rosas, Irina Chindea, Mariya Omelicheva, Nazli Avdan, and James Piazza.





CREES would like to congratulate all of our graduates and award recipients for the 2017-2018 academic year!



We wish our REES graduates all the best in their future endeavors! Ylham Jorayev, Kaitlyn Johnson, Joseph McConnell, Sam Buyers and John Stanko (from left to right).



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

Kaitlyn Johnson
Ylham Jorayev
Joseph McConnell

MASTER OF ARTS IN RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

Samuel Buyers
Liam Burnside
Alexander Gerges
John Stanko

NORMAN E. SAUL TRAVEL AWARD

Drew Burks
PhD, History

Austin Charron
PhD, Geography

Ekaterina Chelpanova
PhD, Slavic Languages & Literatures

Alana Holland
PhD, History

Megan Luttrell
PhD, Slavic Languages & Literatures

John Stanko
MA, REES

PALIJ UKRAINIAN STUDIES AWARD

Franklin Conard



Professor Diener and Dr. Justyna Beinek congratulate the CREES graduates. Sam Buyers, one of the CREES M.A. graduates is featured to the right.

ROY D. AND BETTY LAIRD ESSAY COMPETITION

John Stanko

BRAMLAGE & WILLCOXON FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew Bilbo

JERKOVICH AWARD

Ryan McKinney



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EASTERN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES



September 4

"A Sexual Theory of the State: Tolstoyan Abstinence in the Era of #metoo," Ani Kokobobo (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

September 11

"Berlin Intersections - Issues of Jewish Art in the Early 20th Century," Celka Straughn (Spencer Museum of Art)

September 18

"A Polish traveler and Reporter Kazimierz Nowak," Nathan Wood (History)

September 25

"Where East Meets West: Ethnic Ideologies and Othering in Contemporary Poland," Krzysztof Borowski (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

October 2

"Nadezhda Teffi's Play 'The Woman Question' as a Response to the Women's Movement in Russia," Oksana Husieva (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

October 23

"Constructing National Identity through Myth," Olha Tytarenko (Languages and Literature University of Nebraska, Modern)

October 30

"From 'A' Paper to Published Article: Advice for Students," Eve Levin (History)

November 6

"Postcoloniality by the Silk Way," Zoya Falkova (CEC ArtsLink Artist in Residence, Kazakhstan)

November 13

SKYPE: "Why Control Immigration? Strategic Uses of Migration Management in Russia," Caress Schenk (Political Science Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan) 11-12pm

November 20

"Soviet-Jewish First Names, Online Nicknames, and Migrant Identity in Israeli Russian Conflict Discourse," Renee Perelmutter (Slavic Languages and Literatures/Jewish Studies)

November 27

SKYPE: "China Studies and Attitudes toward Chinese in Irkutsk," John Stanko (CREES)

December 4

"Redefining the Urban Text of Ukrainian Literature: Kyiv in Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry Between War and Peace," Alessandro Achilli (Ukrainian Studies, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia)



318 BAILEY HALL

12:00 PM TUESDAYS

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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MEDIA PRODUCTION STUDIO

CREES Brownbags are recorded by KU's Media Production Studio and available at www.youtube.com/KUCREES

Videos of these lectures and others are archived at the [KUCREES YouTube Channel](#).

[“The Sad Secrets of the Big City’: Prostitution in Post-Imperial Vienna”](#)



On April 3, 2018, Prof. Nancy Wingfield, historian at Northern Illinois University, gave a brownbag lecture on prostitution in post-imperial Vienna. Throughout her career she has studied issues of nationalism, as well as gender and sexuality in Habsburg Central Europe. In matters of commercial sex, Austria-Hungary’s defeat in the First World War did not constitute a decisive break with the past, but rather

a juncture in long-term historical processes. Viennese officials in the newly founded Austrian state continued to treat tolerated prostitutes as a “necessary evil,” to arrest women they found engaging in clandestine prostitution, to subject them to examinations for venereal disease, and to treat these women as operating outside the bounds of society. Three important pre-1914 “moral panics” continued to the postwar era. They are prostitution, venereal disease, and “white-slave” trafficking, today called sex trafficking, which

contemporaries considered endemic in the decades before 1914. Concern about the first two, prostitution and venereal disease, only increased during wartime. Because bureaucratic transformation did not necessarily parallel political transition, there was no dramatic change in regulations that had governed prostitution in imperial Austria – nor the treatment of prostitutes and women assumed to be prostitutes – in Vienna beginning in late autumn 1918. Viennese officials continued to employ the same methods to surveil registered prostitutes and to combat clandestine prostitution that the Habsburg police and military had been using since the beginning of the war, when the number of women who participated in the trade skyrocketed. In short, the “Sad Secrets of the Big City,” after war and revolution, in a time that the Social-Democratic dominated city government was refashioning Vienna, were remarkably similar to its sad secrets in the sexually saturated Fin de Siècle. Clandestine prostitution flourished in a time of economic and political upheaval; venereal disease was on the rise, and there would be no real cure until penicillin became commonly used after the Second World War. The good Viennese continued to fear the trafficking of young, “innocent” white women, despite evidence that it was nowhere as widespread as they thought.

[“New Drama in Post-Euromaidan Ukraine”](#)



On April 10, 2018, Oleksandra Wallo, KU Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, gave a brownbag lecture on the emerging new drama movement in post-Euromaidan Ukraine. She argued that the Euromaidan protests and Russia’s ensuing interventions in Ukraine provided a significant impetus for the current, ongoing revolution in Ukrainian theater.

In recent years, the latter has increasingly engaged pressing social issues through a variety of experimental documentary forms. These forms have included the so-called “verbatim technique,” in which a play is created out of real-life interviews, and “the theater of witnesses,” which replaces actors with real people who tell their stories on stage. Prof. Wallo discussed four recent projects by Ukrainian playwright Natalia Vorozhbyt who has used documentary theater approaches to help Ukrainians reflect on their changing identities during and after the Euromaidan, as well as grapple with the shocking realities of war and displacement.

In *The Maidan Diaries* (2014), a play composed of protesters’ accounts of events as well as conversations that took place on the Maidan, the verbatim technique seems particularly fitting for both capturing the unfolding collective experience of the Euromaidan and combatting the Russian propaganda machine’s efforts to discredit the Ukrainian revolution. It is so because verbatim theater, which places high value on eye-witnesses’ exact words and eschews conventional theatrical means of manipulating effect on the audience, is the very antithesis of fake news. Prof. Wallo also described Vorozhbyt’s joint work with German director Georg Genoux on *The Theater of Displaced People* – a unique theater of witnesses founded in 2015 where survivors of the war in Ukraine’s East tell their own stories. She explained how informal and interactive performances by this theater’s amateur actors promote empathy and mutual understanding between Ukrainians who have different views on the situation in their country. Finally, the lecture detailed two plays by Vorozhbyt that look at the war in the Donbas as a gendered phenomenon. *Take the Rubbish Out, Sasha* (2015) and *Bad Roads* (2017), both commissioned and first staged by British theaters in English translation, were written as Vorozhbyt herself traveled extensively in the Donbas and saw the war up close. The plays explore contrasting desires, attitudes, and perspectives of men and women in the context of war and examine the complex construction of heroic military masculinity in post-Soviet Ukrainian society.

ZOYA FALKOVA - VISITING ARTIST

CREES would like to welcome Zoya Falkova, a Russian-language poet and visual artist from Kazakhstan, for a 5-week residence through CEC ArtsLink. She will be hosted by the KU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures from October 11 to November 14, 2018. For more information on her art, projects, and poetry please go to: <http://romovayababa.com/en/>

Seeing art as the manifestation of already existing harmony, installation artist and poet Zoya Falkova creates her projects around ready-mades and self-organizing systems. She entwines visual practices with poetry employing storytelling, science and

bio-art. Currently she collaborates with a Goliath bird-eating spider which spins webs of mesmerizing beauty in settings created by the artist. However, being placed in a political context, the spider's web also provokes myriads of references to geo-political processes. Falkova also examines the postcolonial experience, women's rights and freedoms, and cultures of violence in society. She is the author of *The Illustrated Guide to the Meanings of Almaty* – a literary map featuring poems, essays and stories and mapping the city through the eyes of its inhabitants. During her residency in the US, Zoya plans to further her research-based art

and poetry projects, feminist activities, bio-art and science-art projects. This abstract is taken from the CEC ArtsLink website. http://cecartslink.org/grants/participants/residencies_awardees_2018.html



CREES CONGRATULATES PROFESSOR TOM VOLEK ON HIS RETIREMENT

Professor Tom Volek (School of Journalism and Mass Communications) retired this June 2018. Prior to joining KU's faculty on January 1, 1990, he spent 15 years in commercial television. He had over one million dollars in grants from the State Department and various organizations, most of that for work in the former Soviet Union, including 15+ times to Russia, and 4 times to Kyrgyzstan. Prof. Volek consulted and taught in Russia and Eastern Europe for the U.S. State Department from 1995-2008 for about 4 weeks each



Prof. Tom Volek (featured middle) had a wonderful time teaching this Journalism class at Chelyabinsk State University in 2005. He taught many Journalism classes on behalf of the U.S. State Department.

year. He enjoyed his colleagues affiliated with CREES. Professor Volek and his wife Melody plan to travel to Europe, where his daughter and son-in-law (Sabra and Jeff Wormington) live with the grandkids, and travel throughout the U.S. They also will spend time with their son and daughter-in-law in Midland, Texas. And watch KU sports, of course! We express our congratulations to Professor Volek on his retirement! We are also pleased to announce that Professor Volek is the recipient of this year's CREES Faculty Service Award!

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BROWNBAG HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"Ambiguities of Orthodoxy: Maximus the Confessor and Questions of Literary Genre and Style"



On March 6, 2018, Dr. Joshua Lollar, a scholar of Eastern Christianity and KU lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies, gave a brownbag lecture. Maximus the Confessor (c. 580-662) is considered to be one of the most sig-

nificant late antique/early Byzantine religious thinkers, and his influence in later Orthodox Christian spiritual culture has been immense. He has also become the subject of renewed scholarly interest in the 20th and 21st centuries. While his theological and philosophical ideas and his role in doctrinal controversy have been and continue to be well-covered terrain, the literary dynamics of his work present other challenges and opportunities for interpretation. The lecture examined some of the literary and pedagogical aspects of his *Ambigua* to John, a complex collection

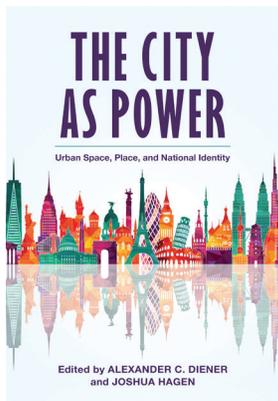
of speculative scholia and short essays often considered to fall within the ancient "questions and answers" genre of intellectual inquiry. The lecture presented the various styles used by Maximus throughout his career and placed the *Ambigua* within their historical/ literary context, concluding that the *Ambigua's* complex, often baffling style is a striking form of literary representation in which the diversity and constant change of the cosmos are shown in the very textual dynamics of Maximus's prose.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Vitaly Chernetsky (Slavic Languages and Literatures) published his translation of a story by Yuri Andrukhovych in the latest issue of *Ukrainian Literature: A Journal of Translations*. A volume of Andrukhovych's selected poetry, which he co-translated with Ostop Kin, is forthcoming shortly from Lost Horse Press (distributed by the University of Washington Press). His article on Russophone writing in Ukraine is forthcoming in the volume titled *Global Russian Cultures* from the University of Wisconsin Press. In May, he presented at the conference at Harvard University commemorating the 50th anniversary of Ukrainian studies at Harvard; in July, he participated in *Ukraine in the World*, an international conference at Monash University (Australia) and delivered guest lectures at the University of Canterbury and the University of Otago (both in New Zealand). At Canterbury, he also held fruitful discussions with the colleagues leading the National Centre for Research on Europe, New Zealand's only center for European studies, which has been active in researching Eastern Europe in particular, on possibilities for future collaboration. In May he stepped down from the presidency of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies after serving in this position for nine years. He was reelected for another three-year term as Vice President and Scholarly Secretary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the US, the American branch of the oldest Ukrainian scholarly association. He has also been appointed member of the Expert Council on Audiovisual Art for the Ukrainian Cultural Fund, newly established in Ukraine and modeled on the National Endowment for the Arts in the US.

Alexander Diener (Geography) conducted fieldwork in Mongolia and Kazakhstan over the summer with the support of funds from the

American Center for Mongolian studies Summer Research Fellowship, the KU Center for Migration Research, the KU Center for East Asian Studies, and the the KU General Research Fund. He presented papers

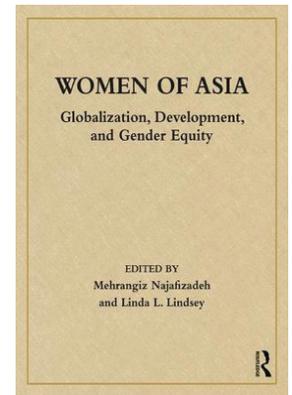


at the Association of American Geographers Conference in New Orleans, the American Center for Mongolian Studies Conference in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia, and visited Cambridge University's MIASU. He expects to have "Border Control as a Technology of Social Control" with Joshua Hagen in Deflem, Mathieu, editor. *The Handbook of Social Control* (Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, forthcoming 2018) published in the fall semester. He also has a co-edited book (with Joshua Hagen) coming out this fall entitled *Cities as Power: Urban Space, Place, and National Identity* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers 2019).

Mohamed El-Hodiri (Economics) was honored at this year's Recognition Ceremony on May 9 for 50 years of service at KU! He is the only faculty member to receive this distinction this year.

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh (Sociology) has just published a co-edited anthology, *Women of Asia: Globalization, Development, and Gender Equity*, with a substantial content on the former Soviet Eurasia/Central Asia. With thirty-two original chapters by scholars from over twenty countries, this comprehensive anthology reflects cutting edge content throughout developed and developing Asia as it contributes significantly to understanding globalization's transformative process and the resulting detrimental and beneficial consequences for women in the four major geographic regions of Asia—East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia,

and Eurasia/Central Asia—by giving voice to women and by providing innovative ways of bringing salient understudied issues to the forefront. Mehrangiz also has had her previously published article, "Ethnic Conflict and Forced Displacement: Narratives of Azeri IDP and Refugee Women From the Nagorno-Karabakh War," reprinted in *Trapped Between War And Peace: The Case of Nagorno-Karabakh*, edited by Gulshan Pashayeva and Fuad Chiragov and published by the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Baku, Azerbaijan 2018).



Erik Scott (History) presented a paper at the conference "Cold War Home Fronts: Comparative Approaches" at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom in January 2018. In May and June 2018, he conducted archival research in Moscow, supported by a grant from the American Philosophical Society. He has also written a book chapter, "Georgian Footballers and Multiethnic Soviet Soccer in the Cold War," for the Stanford University Press volume *The Global History of Sport in the Cold War*. His research on the historical context of the 2018 World Cup in Russia was featured in KU Today in July.

AMANDA HILL PORTER



CREES would like to welcome Amanda Hill Porter, our new Office Manager for the Center for Russian, East European and European Studies. In addition to managing the CREES office, she is also the Office Manager for the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She received her M.A. from KU in Contemporary East Asian Studies focusing on China. She taught English in China and has traveled extensively, including visits to Croatia, Turkey, Greece, Albania, Japan, Hong Kong, China, and North Africa. Amanda's academic focus is centered around migratory women's reproductive healthcare in China. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. regarding her subject matter starting Fall 2019. When she is not in her office

or working on personal research, she can be found cooking, dancing, playing guitar, or petting dogs on Massachusetts Street.

ALUMNI/STUDENT NEWS

Josh DeMoss (REES MA '17) became a 2018 Presidential Management Fellow at the International Trade Administration in Washington, D.C.

Adrian Erlinger (REES MA '04) has served for the past five years as Program Manager for innovation and capacity building programs at American Councils for International Education, a non-profit organization based in Washington. In this role, he designs and implements exchange programs to support international technology transfer, entrepreneurship, internships, and innovation-based economic development. In this role, he has organized training sessions around the U.S. and in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Poland, Panama, Colombia, and Chile to strengthen partnerships among higher education institutions and technology startups.

Gloria Funcheon (REES MA '14) began a new job in May 2018 at Mercy Corps in Portland, Oregon. She will work with the Central Asia program.

Alana Holland (History) was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to Lithuania, and an American Councils Title VIII research grant for Lithuania, as well. The Fulbright fellowship covers nine months of research, and the ACLS grant will be shortened to cover summer 2019. She was also awarded a Debicki Travel Award for Research in the Humanities by the Hall Center for research in Poland this summer 2018. In fall 2017, she presented at ASEEEES, and twice in Moscow at conferences sponsored by the Higher School of Economics and the Russian Academy of Sciences. In May 2018, she went to New York with help from the Norman E. Saul Travel Award to present at the Association for the Study of Nationalities world convention at Columbia University.

Ylham Jorayev (REES BA '18) graduated this Spring 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. This summer, he participated in the International Summer School at the University of Oslo, Norway. He took a course on Human Rights. After the summer program, he traveled to Europe and Russia. This fall, he begins graduate studies in the Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies program at Georgetown University.

Megan Luttrell (Slavic Languages and Literatures) led the Ukrainian pysanky workshop in April at KU. This summer she worked as the lead instructor for Russian level one at the Indiana University Summer Language Workshop. During the workshop, she led a weekly Russian music and singing club. She hopes to defend her dissertation in December and will be working at KU as a lecturer with the Language Training Center Fort Carson program and as assistant to the editor of the *Tolstoy Studies Journal* (Ani Kokobobo).

Ben Peters, an alumnus of the KU CREES summer program in Ukraine, was awarded two book prizes for his book, *How Not to Network a Nation: The Uneasy History of the Soviet Internet*. The first was awarded by the Association of Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies with its top book prize – the 2017 Wayne S. Vucinich prize for “the most significant contribution to the field in any discipline.” The second was awarded by the Association of American Publishers' PROSE Awards, which honor “the very best in professional and scholarly publishing.” Ben Peters is associate professor of media studies, director of Russian studies, and co-founder of digital studies at the University of Tulsa.

<https://artsandsciences.utulsa.edu/news/soviet-internet-peters/>

Ruth Remmers (Geography MA '18) won a Fulbright fellowship to go to Altai, Russia for the Fall 2018 semester.

John Stanko (REES MA '18) defended with honors and graduated with a Master's degree in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies in May 2018. He won the Laird Essay Contest for his essay, “The Relevancy Gambit: A Vision for the Future Evolution of the Russia-China Relationship.” In March, he received a Saul Travel Award from CREES and a Graduate Travel Grant from COGA to present a paper on Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan relations at the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies. He was chosen to participate in the Siberia by Southwest program (through the University of Texas), a Fulbright-funded summer study abroad program in Irkutsk, Russia. His research project will be on China Studies in Russia and future Sinologists' attitudes towards Chinese migrants in Russia. He was one of three students recognized for Excellence in Advanced Russian by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Alyssa Wood (REES MA '17) enjoys her job as a Desk Officer for Ukraine at the Military Partnerships Directorate at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium. She has already been to Ukraine (Kyiv and Lviv) twice this year with at least another couple of visits to Kyiv planned for the fall. “It's been fabulous getting to know more about Ukraine and its military cooperation with NATO,” says Wood. She looks forward to returning sometime to the lovely city of Lviv. Her family has settled quite nicely in Belgium.



Adrian Erlinger meets with Akylbek Kurishbaev, the rector of the Kazakh Agro Tech University in Astana, April 2018.



Alyssa Wood enjoys Belgium with her family.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (CREES) has been a national leader for the study of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since 1959.

The Center is a degree-granting program within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas.

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

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

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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/Anna Cienciata 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

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.

ALEXANDER TSIOVKH MEMORIAL FUND

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

SPASIBO FUND

The Gerald E. Mikkelson Fund is intended to sustain the Siberia and St. Petersburg components of KU's instructional profile.



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