CREES NEWSLETTER

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

FALL 2019

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KU INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CREES SUCCESSFULLY HOST THE FULBRIGHT PRE-DEPARTURE **ORIENTATION FOR GRANTEES** TRAVELING TO EUROPE AND EURASIA

The KU Office of International Affairs and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) successfully organized and hosted a Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) from July 21-26 for 234 American Fulbright grantees, in preparation for their research and teaching in Europe and Eurasia during 2019-2020. The Fulbright grantees were comprised of U.S. scholars, student researchers, and English teaching assistants, many of whom will work in Russia, Ukraine and other countries in Eastern Europe.

During the weeklong orientation, Fulbright grantees attended sessions to further develop their research and teaching skills, and gain practical tools for living and working in a new country. From July 21-23, the Fulbright English teaching assistants participated in a workshop focused on effective tools and techniques for teaching English abroad. From July 23-25, KU faculty and staff, along with staff from the U.S. Department of State and Institute of International Education led a variety of panels and sessions for all Fulbright grantees related to living, working and conducting research abroad, as well as country-specific information. Fulbright alumni also shared their experiences and mentored the new Fulbright grantees.



Jon Giulllian, KU Slavic librarian, and Bob Tryanski, professional storyteller, engaged the audience during a presentation on "Practical Tools for Telling your Fulbright Story." Giullian shared tips for utilizing different media platforms to tell one's Fulbright story.

Session topics included Personal Health and Well-Being, The Role of Fulbright in U.S. Foreign Policy, Practical Tools for Telling your Fulbright Story, Intercultural Competency, Planning for Accompanying Spouses or Dependents, Your Identity Abroad, to name a few, as well as breakout sessions on specific countries. The keynote address was given by Dr. David Besson, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and Fulbright Scholar (2006 and 2015). In addition to his Fulbright awards, he was a recipient of a Russian Ministry of Science and Education 'megagrant' for which he led a team of 20 Russian researchers on a project devoted to the development of silicon photomultipliers.

It was a tremendous accomplishment and honor to host such a large pre-departure orientation for a talented group of Fulbright awardees. This was the largest of the Fulbright orientations, and the first time in recent years that it was held outside of Washington, D.C. The International Affairs, CREES and other KU units did an exemplary job in planning, organizing, and carrying out the logistics of this program. A special thanks goes to Dr. Rachel Sherman Johnson, Director of Internationalization and Partnerships in KU International Affairs, and the Principal Investigator of the Fulbright Pre-Departure Ori-

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APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

ANI KOKOBOBO Slavic Languages and Literatures

IVANA RADOVANOVIC ANTHROPOLOGY

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the new fall semester! We have much to celebrate and look forward to as we tackle new challenges and opportunities for growth together.

In terms of accomplishments to celebrate, the KU Office of International Affairs and CREES successfully organized and hosted a Pre-Departure Orientation from July 21-26 for 234 American Fulbright grantees, in preparation for their research and teaching in Europe and Eurasia during 2019-2020. The Fulbright grantees were comprised of U.S. scholars, student researchers, and English teaching assistants, many of whom will work in Russia, Ukraine and other countries in Eastern Europe (22 countries total). This was the largest of the Fulbright orientations, and the first time it was held outside of Washington, D.C. The orientation went very well, and we received much positive feedback from the U.S. State Department, as well as Fulbright grantees and

On July 20, CREES and other Area Studies Centers held a Joint Educator Workshop entitled, "Teaching Toward a Sustainable Future: Preparing the Next Generation for Global Environmen-

tal Challenges," a workshop focused on addressing environmental concerns that will impact the future of today's students. Teachers came away with many ideas and lesson plans for inspiring their students to affect positive change in their environment, both locally and in the world.

The REES family continues to grow. We welcome our new graduate students, Jennifer Byrne and Natasha Buller! Ms. Byrne taught high school social studies for 16 years, as well as Russian for a few years. She hopes to pursue a career in international relations. Ms. Buller is originally from Moscow, Russia. In recent years, she has worked as a Marketing and Communications Director and now plans to pursue her interest in Russian culture, language, and history.

We are also pleased to welcome a new faculty affiliate of our center, Dr. Brittnee Carter, Assistant Professor of Political Science. Before completing her Ph.D. in Political Science here at KU, she earned an M.A. in International Studies with the focus on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia from the University of Washington. Her research interests include terrorism and counterterrorism, interstate conflict, and security studies.

This fall CREES will join for the first time the cohort of departments and programs that offer seminars to incoming freshmen, in cooperation with the Office of First-Year Experience. REES 177 will be taught by our own Justyna Beinek, and the seminar's topic this year will be "Representing the Body in Contemporary Eurasian Film."

CREES has prepared an impressive program of brownbags, lectures, and other events to enjoy this semester. We are excited to announce that our annual Fall Mixer will

be held at a different location - the Watkins History Museum on Fri., September 6 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. We'll welcome faculty, students, and friends to the Fall Mixer, as well as our Georgian colleagues, who will come to Lawrence for a week through the Open World Program to learn about improving civic education. Guests may enjoy a variety of delicious dishes. While the museum is not typically open after hours, it will be open this evening to enjoy. We hope you can join us for a very special evening! Please bring a dish to share.

In addition to hearing many engaging topics from our own CREES-affiliated faculty and graduate students, we have many guest lecturers coming to KU. On September 17, John Steinberg, Professor of History at Austin Peay State University, will give a lecture titled "The Forgotten Treaty of Brest-Litovsk: The Bread Treaty and Peacemaking in 1918." Sergei Tcherkasski, a Russian theater director and a professor at the Russian State Institute of Performing Arts in St. Petersburg, will give a lecture on September 25.

The Palij Lecture Series brings Vasyl Makhno, an award-winning Ukrainian-language poet, writer, and playwright to KU on October 2. He will give a reading of his recent poetry and other writings. On October 21, Steven Seegel, Professor of Russian, East European, and Eurasian History at the University of Northern Colorado, will deliver a guest lecture titled, "Map Men: Geographers' Worlds and the Making of East Central Europe," based on his recently published book. This lecture is jointly sponsored by the Palii Fund for Ukrainian Studies and the Backus/Cienciała Fund for Polish Studies. Prof.

Seegel will also give a brownbag lecture on October 22. On December 3, Nonna Tarkhova will give a lecture on art and the Red Army. Prof. Tarkhova served in the Russian State Military Archive for over 35 years.

CREES will also continue its tradition of offering film screenings from the region we study. This semester we'll offer two award-winning films: First on the Moon (2005), a Russian mockumentary science fiction film about a fictional 1930s Soviet landing on the moon; and School No. 3 (2017), a film documenting the life, thoughts, and hopes of 13 teenagers, from the small town of Mykolaivka in the Donetsk region, which suffered from war in summer 2014. Both films will be screened at the Kansas Memorial Union. For full information on these and other events on our calendar, please visit the CREES website and our center's Facebook page.

CREES will host its' first Open World Program delegation from the Caucasus, from the Republic of Georgia on September 6-14. Delegates will have the opportunity to meet with civics educators and leaders to learn effective approaches of addressing corruption-related issues and ways to improve civic education. The delegates will give a brownbag lecture on their work in Georgia on Tues, September 10. You will also have an opportunity to welcome our new Georgian colleagues at the CREES Fall Mixer on September 6.

We are thrilled to support the first annual World Languages Fair on Sat., October 19, hosted by the Open Language Resource Center, in collaboration with KU Area Studies Centers and KU International Affairs. During this event, 300 high school students will come to KU for a day to explore world languages and cultures and to learn how intercultural competence can enhance different fields of study.

CREES is always looking for opportunities to build stronger partnerships between KU and institutions in our region. In October 2018, I traveled to Slovenia for a conference, and during my visit also negotiated on behalf of KU a new Agreement of Cultural, Education, and Scientific Cooperation with the University of Ljubljana. I am pleased to announce that the agreement has now been ratified by both universities. Our partner for this agreement on the Slovenian side is Filozofska Fakulteta (the School of the Arts), which houses most of the humanities and social sciences programs at the University of Ljubljana.

In May 2019, I had the honor to travel to Bulgaria on the invitation from the

Fulbright Commission, as a member of a delegation of U.S. faculty and university administrators. Our trip included productive visits to five universities, as well as meetings with representatives of several study abroad programs and nonprofit organizations who work with U.S. volunteers. The trip was informative and inspiring, and I hope it will lead to enhancing existing partnerships between

KU and local institutions, as well as to building new ones.

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. May our future scholarly accomplishments and our efforts as engaged scholars make a positive difference in the world!

MEET OUR NEW CREES GRADUATE STUDENTS

My name is **Natasha Buller**. I grew up in Moscow, Russia, but have spent my adulthood in the United States. I currently reside in Overland Park, Kansas. When I received my B.A. in Communication Arts several years ago, I worked in various industries as Marketing and Communications Director. I have decided to come back to school and pursue my interest in Russian culture, language and history.

Jennifer Byrne. After successfully launching my children into adulthood, I'm free to return to the study of Russia and hopefully begin the career in international relations that I always wanted. I have taught high school social studies for 16 years, and Russian for a few years, and I run a few Airbnb's in western Maryland. I'm looking forward to reviving and improving my Russian language skills, and making connections with others interested in the region. University of Kansas has been good to me already. I have never been to Lawrence, but I am looking forward to the change and to new challenges.



Natasha Buller



Jennifer Byrne

WELCOME OUR NEW CREES AFFILIATED FACULTY

Brittnee Carter is Assistant Professor of Political Science, with a focus on Intertional Relations, at the University of Kansas. She receive her Ph.D. from the University



Brittnee Carter

of Kansas, a Masters of International Studies in Russian, East European, and Central Asian studies from the Ellison Center at the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, and a BA in Russian language and literature from the University of Notre Dame. Her research efforts focus on how culture and ideology impact terrorism and violent extremism, and how culture and society impact interstate conflict. Her current projects differentiate the strategic and tactical behaviors of religiously motivated terrorist groups, differentiated by religious sect, which spans global analysis, including analysis in the CREES region. In addition, Brittnee is interested in the impact of terrorism and political violence on levels of public trust in national governments and law enforcement institutions, especially in post-Soviet Europe.

PROFESSOR MOHAMED EL-HODIRI IS HONORED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

CREES would like to express heartfelt congratulations to Professor Mohamed El-Hodiri for 50 years of service at KU! He was honored at an awards ceremony at KU in May 2018. CREES met with Professor El-Hodiri to reminisce about the major highlights of his career, his involvement with CREES, and his hopes and plans.

CREES: Thank you so much for meeting today. That's wonderful that you were honored for 50 years of service to the University of Kansas. Congratulations! What are some of the major highlights of your career?

El-Hodiri: I lead a double life. One part is mathematical economics which is deep mathematics and deeply humanistic theory, and the other part involves my work as a practicing economist, someone who doesn't apply anything. I get a bunch of problems and I solve them. I can use some of my techniques to help with the solution. These are two separate lives. When I'm doing one, I don't think of the other. Occasionally, I will let the practice inspire the theory, but I never let the theory interfere with the practice, because the theory in economics is very much tinted. It's not pristine truth like in celestial mechanics.

I've had several occasions where I've been very happy with my practice. One was in Egypt, between 1966 and 1968. I was responsible for the country's budget. I didn't do the accounting. I did the economic framework, and my task force consisted of four people, who knew computers. We had a lame computer, but we did it!

Another occasion was in 1977 in Algeria, where I did similar work. I won a Fulbright grant to work as a Senior Lecturer in Algeria from 1976-1977. I'm on the Senior Expert roster for the Fulbright program and I went in 2011 to give a lecture on "Unified Economic Theory."

Then, the big one was two Russian episodes. I was sent by the U.S. State Department to do fiscal federalism. I was Chief Economist of the group. And the second one was to teach about the budget and about the budget process. Now if you go to any Economics department, no one teaches about the budget process. This is done in the Department of Public Administration. Public Administration does



Professor Mohammed El-Hodiri advises 8 students at two different universities in Kazakhstan.

budgets without theory and Economics does theory without budgets.

CREES: Could you tell me more about your time in Russia, working out a fiscal program and teaching about the budget process?

El-Hodiri: What I did in Russia was to contact Rudy Penner, a great man who established the Congressional Budget Office for Ronald Reagan, so he came to Moscow. He helped us advocate for a budget office on the legislative side in Russia. It was financed by the Russian government on a loan from the World Bank. There was resistance in Yeltsin's cabinet because they didn't want oversight. We sweetened the pot. We said, "Okay, it's not a Congressional Budget Office, it's a freestanding Government Accountability Office (GAO) here. It's free standing and called the "Audit Chapter."

Anyways, this is how the Russia involvement came about. I was just sitting in my office and I was Director of the Institute of Business and Economic Research. Maria Carlson, CREES Director, had left a message. Something came across her desk, and they wanted someone to go to Russia and help with the budget.

Maria Carlson led me to KMPG (formerly Peat Marwick group before 1995). I called Harvey Galper, a partner in Peat Marwick accounting – it's one of the big five accounting firms. Harvey said, "When can you go?" I said, "You want me to go tomorrow, I'll go tomorrow." I went to Washington the next day. In a week I was in Russia with very good support of Galper, who was the second man in that company. I also had the support of the World Bank because the Vice President was Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner. The World Bank and USAID were financing and revamping

the budget process and promoting the "creation and sustainability of democratic institutions" in Russia. We were assigned to the lower house of the Parliament and we did this for 10 years, on and off.

CREES: What are your views on the importance of language study as part of area studies?

El-Hodiri: Language is important. If you don't know Russian, you have no business teaching Russian economy. If you want to teach about Eastern Europe, you should know one of the languages. Without that, you're cutting yourself off. Knowledge of the language is very, very important. Knowing the culture is very important. I had a workforce that was top-notch; I included and trained them.

I'll give you an example. One economist gave a lecture in Moscow while I was there and said, "I don't care what people tell me. I don't care about theory, numbers, or statistics. All I know is that every Russian home has a colored tv. So that means their living standard has gone up." He didn't know Russia. He'd never been to a Russian home. Because if he went, he would know that the tv is sitting in a box as a hedge against inflation. Because you could always sell the tv for dollars

and the ruble was going crazy. Another example: some American economists came up with this recommendation that there's a huge deficit in the Russian budget and they should raise taxes. In Russia, no one pays taxes. Look at their budget. The government has money in the budget, but it doesn't spend it. They don't pay the teachers and the taxpayers don't pay taxes. Zero is spent. There is no deficit. The budget is balanced! A virtual government running a virtual budget. We laughed our heads off when we saw their report. Knowing the culture is important.

CREES: Could you tell me a little more about your role advising PhD students at Kazakh National University?

El-Hodiri: Yes, I advise 8 students at two different universities in Kazakhstan – 4 PhD students at Kazakh National University and 4 PhD students at the International Business University, both in Almaty. When they come to visit, I give them free room and board at my house. Some stay for six weeks. I do this because the dollar is way overpriced.

CREES: That's great that you can help your students that way. Are you working on any books or special projects?

El-Hodiri: I'm currently writing a book entitled "Public Finance and Administration," which includes different variants for different regions and countries, including a variant for each country in Russia and Eastern Europe. It's about the general best practices for budget processes in these various countries. Western Europe and the Middle East have similar budget processes. Poland and Hungary are more similar to the U.S. in some aspects of their economic model. In the former Soviet Union, the bureaucracy still follows the Russian budget and accounting system.

I'm also writing a book entitled, "Systems of Linear Inequalities" about solutions of inequalities used in budget and national planning. The Mathematics Department is excited about collaborating on this book. I am also collaborating with the Mathematics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine on it, and I hope one of the colleagues there would help with the introduction to the book. I would like to plan a conference on the life and work of the noted mathematician Sergei Chernikov (1912-1987), long affiliated with the Academy of Sciences in Ukraine. Hopefully, this could be a joint project with CREES.



Professor El-Hodiri enjoys a trip with his daughter Sahar Aker.



Prof. El-Hodiri in Kazakhstan, with one of his Kazakhstani graduate advisees.

ALUMNI/STUDENT NEWS

Drew Burks (History PhD 2018) is now serving as full-time faculty as an Instructor of History at the University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College, in North Little Rock, Arkansas. It is a two-year community college in the University of Arkansas system. He also has an article soon to be published (forthcoming in the Polish Review in September) entitled "A City at the Front of Change Technology and Urban Life in Lemberg during the First World War," (as part of an article cluster with Prof. Nathan Wood, KU History and Prof. Robert Blobaum, West Virginia University, Department of History).

Tom Blackwell (REES MA 1992) started a new position as Physical Security Officer at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division.

Gwyn Bourlakov (History PhD 2019) defended her dissertation, "Women on the Siberian Frontier: The Expansion of Orthodoxy and Empire in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century" in June 2019.

Faelan Jacobson (REES BA '19) graduated this Spring 2019 with Bachelor degrees in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and Political Science.

AUSTIN CHARRON WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR HIS DISSERTATION

Austin Charron (Geography PhD 2018) won the prestigious Marnie and Bill Argersinger Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Humanities, Arts, and Sciences, for his dissertation entitled, "In Our Country, But Outside Our Homeland: Identity and Diaspora Among Ukraine's Internally Displaced Crimeans," which he defended in November 2018. Only two Argersinger Dissertation Awards are given annually, each consisting of a \$1,250 prize. Charron was nominated for the award by his advisor, Professor Alex Diener. "I am greatly honored and humbled to receive this award, and grateful to cap my eight plus years at KU as an MA and PhD student with this incredible honor. I must extend my gratitude to my advisor, Alex Diener, and to my PhD committee members for their support and input during the process of researching and writing my PhD: Barney Warf, Jay Johnson, Vitaly Chernetsky, and Erik Scott. I also thank the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science and CREES for their ongoing support during my time at KU," said Charron.

Kaitlyn Johnson (REES/CGIS BA '18) was selected as this year's Pulitzer International Reporting Fellow. This summer, she will travel to the Republic of Georgia to report on the role of religion in communities of people displaced from the frozen conflicts of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Her fellow-

ship is made possible through a partnership between the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting and the Berkley Center.

Laura Searcy received a Fulbright English Teaching Award (ETA) for 2019-2020, to teach English in Uzbekistan.

STUDY, RESEARCH, AND ADVENTURE IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Amy Millet attended a Slovene immersion course this summer at the University of Ljubljana. She attended language classes during the day, then participated in cultural events and local excursions in the evenings. "It was wonderful to have the combination of classroom instruction with practical, day to day exposure to native



Amy Millet enjoys views of the countryside in Slovenia.



Beautiful Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Slovene. I was also impressed with the variety of countries that were represented at the seminar; the program included participants from East Asia, South America, North America, and various parts of Europe. We really enjoyed getting to know each other and learning from each other's perspectives," said Millet.

She also did some preliminary research for her dissertation on culinary culture in 19th century Habsburg Central Europe. She met with one of Slovenia's preeminent food historians, visited the national library, and scoured some antique book shops for old cookbooks (and even found some). "Of course I also found time to visit the outdoor food markets and sample some tasty gelato. It was a productive, enlightening, and enjoyable trip. I am very grateful to donors in the Departments of History and Slavic Languages and Literatures who made it possible."

CREES would like to congratulate all of our graduates and award recipients for the 2018-2019 academic year!



Bachelor of Arts in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies

Faelan Jacobson

Minor in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies

> Míchael Feather Anna Whítaker

Bramlage & Willcoxon Family Foundation Scholarship Daniel Garabrandt

Jerkovích Award Kaitlyn Tossie Palíj Ukrainian Studies Award Diana Chilton

> Jarosewycz Scholarship

Diana Chilton Matthew Pyskir Anna Whitaker

Norman E. Saul Travel Award

Frane Karabatíc PhD, Slavíc Languages & Literatures

Molly Godwin-Jones PhD, Slavic Languages & Literatures



KU Students enjoy friendship, music, dancing and yummy food at the CREES Spring Festival. Diana Chilton (featured far right) was the recipient of the Palij Ukrainian Studies Award and the Jarosewycz Scholarship for the study of Ukrainian language in L'viv this summer.



WINTER BREAK PROGRAM

JANUARY 3RD - JANUARY 16TH, 2020

LEARN MORE AT STUDYABROAD.KU.EDU
PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- Explore two famously musical European capital cities with music historians and KU professor Dr. Martin Nedbal
- Walk in the footsteps of influential 18th and 19th century classical composers (Beethoven, Dvořák, Mozart, Haydn, Mahler, Smetana, and more).
- Attend professional performances at world famous venues and visit numerous sites important to the musical history of these two cities.

COURSES

- MUSC 136/336/650 (3 credit hours) OR MUSC 135/335 Honors
- Fulfills KU Core Goal 3 (or 4.2 for students in 135/335)
- Open to all KU Undergraduate and Graduate Students





SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Brownbag Lecture Series: "Central Asia as Geographic Imaginary," Prof Alexander Diener (Geography and Atmospheric Science) 12-1 p.m., Bailey Hall 318

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Join us for our annual Fall Mixer! 5-8:30 p.m. Watkins History Museum.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Brownbag Lecture Series: Come to a presentation on Civic Education delivered by the Open World delegates from the country of Georgia, who will be visiting KU/CREES September 6-14, 2019. 12-1 p.m., Bailey Hall 318

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Brownbag Lecture Series: "The Forgotten Treaty of Brest-Litovsk: The Bread Treaty and Peacemaking in 1918," Prof. John Steinberg (History, Austin Peay State University) 12-1 p.m., Bailey Hall 318

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Guest Lecture: Sergei Tcherkasski (Russian State Institute of Performing Arts). 4:30-5:30 p.m., Parlors Room, Kansas Memorial Union (5th Floor)

OCTOBER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Brownbag Lecture Series: "Post-German Objects in Contemporary Polish Migrant Prose," Prof. Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) 12-1 p.m., Bailey Hall 318

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Palij Lecture Series: "The House on Seven Winds," Prof. Vasyl Makhno (New York/ Ukraine) 7-8:30 p.m., Malott Room, Kansas Memorial Union (6th Floor)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Brownbag Lecture Series: "Nicholas II: Master and Commander," Prof. Bruce Menning (CREES) 12-1 p.m., Bailey Hall 318

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

2019 Kansas World Languages Fair at KU See: https://olrc.ku.edu/wlf for updated info

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

Backus Cienciala Memorial Lecture/Palij Lecture Series: "Map Men: Geographers' Worlds and the Making of East Central Europe," Prof. Steven Seegel (University of Northern Colorado) 4-5:30 p.m., Forum B, Burge Union

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Brownbag Lecture Series: "TBD," Prof. Steven Seegel (University of Northern Colorado) 12-1 p.m., Bailey Hall 318

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Kino Film Series: "School Number 3," directed by Georg Genoux and Ielizaveta Smith (2017, Ukraine and Germany, 116 minutes) 7-9 p.m., Malott Room, Kansas Memorial Union (6th Floor)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Brownbag Lecture Series: "Perspectives on the Old and New Cold Wars: Lessons Learned and Lessons Lost," Prof. Jacob Kipp (U.S. Army, Emeritus & CREES) 12-1p.m., Bailey Hall 318

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Brownbag Lecture Series: "To the Problem of Narrative Distance in Two Fantastic Stories by Alexander Pushkin: Resisting Horror through Carnival," Ekaterina Chelpanova (Slavic Languages and Literatures) 12-1p.m., Bailey Hall 318

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Brownbag Lecture Series: "Aleksandr Golts, Military Reform and Militarism in Russia: One Book's Journey Into the English Speaking World." Prof. Maia Kipp (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Emerita) 12-1p.m., Bailey Hall 318

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Kino Film Series: "First on the Moon," directed by Aleksey Fedorchenko (2005, Russia, 75 minutes) 7-9 p.m. Forum B, Burge Union

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Brownbag Lecture Series: "A Network or a Leash? Computing through the Iron Curtain in the 1980s," Robert Jameson (History) 12-1p.m., Bailey Hall 318

DECEMBER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Brownbag Lecture Series: "Art and the Red Army," Prof. Nonna Tarkhova ((Russian Military Archive) 12-1p.m., Bailey Hall 318

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Brownbag Lecture Series: "The Rise of Islamist Movements in Central Asia," Prof. Kathleen Collins (University of Minnesota) 12-1p.m., Bailey Hall 318



Check out our events on Facebook!

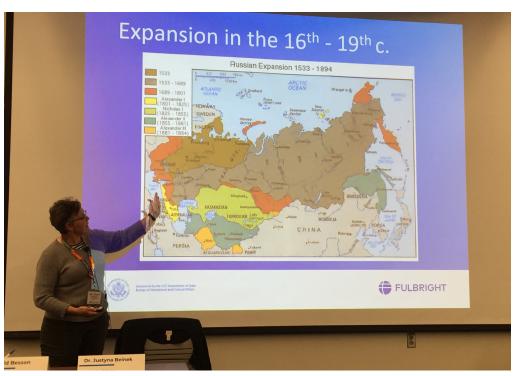
PDO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

entation grant, for her leadership, tireless dedication and skillful organization and hosting of the PDO.

"Hosting the Europe and Eurasia PDO at KU was a wonderful opportunity for International Affairs to collaborate with our colleagues in CREES, and to highlight the expertise of CREES-affiliated faculty to a prestigious group of scholars from across the U.S. The feedback we have received thus far from participants and State Department stakeholders indicates that the PDO was a resounding success, and we are grateful to the CREES faculty and staff for all they did to make this possible," said Rachel Sherman Johnson.

The PDO concluded with a traditional Kansas City barbeque dinner and celebration, featuring the Kansas City-based band Kolograd, who delighted the audience with a mix of East European folk music. Members of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board joined the new Fulbright grantees at the closing dinner on July 25.

The Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program, creates connections between emerging leaders in the U.S. and around the world. Since its establishment in 1946 by Congress, the Fulbright Program has given more than 390,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, scientists, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Fulbright alumni have received remarkable distinctions in their field, while some have been honored with prestigious awards like the Pulitzer and Nobel Peace Prizes. Other Fulbright alumni have served as heads of state or led international organizations. For more



Dr. Gwyn Bourlakov, a KU and Fulbright alumna, gave a presentation on Russian history and culture at the breakout session on Russia.

information about the Fulbright Program, visit: http://eca.state.gov/fulbright

Other KU presenters at the PDO included Dr. Alan Arwine, Political Science; Dr. Justyna Beinek, CREES and Fulbright Alumna; Dr. Gwyn Bourlakov, Fulbright Alumna; Jen Brockman, KU Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center; Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky, CREES and Slavic Languages and Literatures; Emily Clark, Applied English Center; Dr. Andrew Denning, History; Dr. Stephen Dickey, Slavic Languages and Literatures; Tiphani Dixon, Study Abroad and Global Engagement; Jon Giullian, Librarian for Slavic and Eurasian Studies; Molly Godwin-Jones, Slavic Languages and Literatures; Annette Jardon, Fulbright Alumna; Dr. Jay Johnson, Geography and Atmospheric Science; Dr. Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Architecture and Design; Dr. Leah Luckeroth, Watkins

Health Center; Keeli Nelson, International Support Services; Charles Olcese, International Support Services; Summer Peixoto, Applied English Center; Dr. Renee Perelmutter, Slavic Languages and Literatures and Jewish Studies; Angela Perryman, Study Abroad and Global Engagement; Nathaniel Pickett, Geography and Atmospheric Science; Ruth Remmers, Fulbright Alumna; Dr. John Rury, School of Education; Dr. Erik Scott, History; Dr. Rachel Sherman Johnson, International Affairs; Dr. Geraldo Sousa, Department of English; Bob Tryanski, Professional Storyteller; Anthony Ware, Fulbright Accompanying Spouse; Alison Watkins, International Affairs; Dr. Nathan Wood, History; Dr. Mike Wuthrich, Political Science and CGIS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KU LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER

In the spring of 2019 KU was designated one of eight national Language Training Centers by the U.S. Department of Defense and was awarded a grant of \$2.1 million dollars for AY 2019-2022. This designation, which KU has held since 2013, provides funding for language instruction at Fort Carson (Colorado), the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth (Kansas), and on the Lawrence campus. The bulk of that funding will support year-round Russian instruction for the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Carson. **Jonathan Perkins** (EGARC), **Stephen Dickey** (Slavic) and **Trent Williams** (Graduate Military Programs) are co-Principal Investigators on the grant. The LTC grant follows the designation of KU as one of sixteen national Language Resource Centers by the U.S. Department of Education for AY 2018-22; projects funded under this grant include an online grammar for Ukrainian by **Oleksandra Wallo** (Slavic) and an online treatment of Russian verbal aspect by **Stephen Dickey** (Slavic).





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

- Anna Müller delivered the Spring 2019
 Oswald P. Backus/
 Anna Cienciała
 Memorial Lecture in Polish Studies, titled "If the Walls
 Could Speak:
 Inside a Women's
 Prison in Communist Poland."
- As part of the Palij Lecture
 Series, Oksana
 Maksymchuk
 (University of
 Arkansas) and
 Max Rosochinsky
 (Northwestern
 University) gave
 a presentation
 on the acclaimed
 new volume
 of Ukrainian
 literature titled
 "Words for War:
 New Poems from
 Ukraine" which
 brings together
 the powerful
 work of 16 poets,
 responding to the
 conflict in Ukraine
 that has been
 going on since
 2014.
- KU Faculty, students, and other members of the community attended a "Roundtable on Russia and the Right" this spring semester. Roundtable participants included David Farber, Ani Kokobobo, Patrick Miller and Erik Scott, with moderator Alexander Diener.
- Over 200+ guests enjoyed the CREES Spring Festival, which included singing, a jeopardy game and ethnic food.
- At the CREES Spring Festival, KU students and guests enjoyed several Slavic dances, taught by Vivian Hunt, a folk dance instructor from Kansas City.

- This spring, Alaina DeLeo (featured 4th from the left) shared her experiences living and studying in Siberia at the Global Opportunities Expo, which was attended by students from middle schools, high schools, and Donnelly College.
- lian, CREES
 Outreach
 Coordinator,
 taught Russian
 language to 2nd
 and 5th graders at
 Cultural Arts Day
 at Warren Hills
 Elementary School
 in Liberty, MO.
 From left to right:
 Amanda Snider
 (CEAS Outreach
 Coordinator) and
 Charlotte Kukundakwe (KASC
 Outreach Coordinator) also taught
 students about
 East Asia and
 Africa















KAITLYN JOHNSON REPORTS ON THE INTERSECTION OF RELIGION AND DISPLACEMENT IN GEORGIA

I have recently returned from a summer of living and working in the Republic of Georgia. I was fortunate to receive both the Critical Language Scholarship and a student reporting fellowship from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. I have long been fascinated by the *de facto* independent republic Abkhazia, a passion I discovered during my time at the University of Kansas. This summer was my first opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the region.

I spent June and July studying with the Critical Language Scholarship, honing my Russian at Tbilisi State University. I also took this time to build connections with locals and dive deep into Georgian culture. I am extremely glad I was able to be in Georgia during this time, as it meant I got to witness the outbreak of the summer protests on Rustaveli Avenue in front of the Georgian Parliament. The first day was too violent to attend, but I watched the protests on the local news from our living room. Rubber bullets and tear gas flew in front of Parliament as we listened to faint echoes of nearby demonstrations through the windows, open in an attempt to beckon a light summer breeze.

While the protests did not directly fall within the topic of my reporting, I naturally seized the opportunity to talk to everyone possible about their opinions on the demonstrations. I asked my host parents, friends, language partner, and teachers and found that, while most did not support



Natalia Andreyevna, a Russian Language teacher for the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) in Tbilisi, addresses Kaitlyn and her classmates at the CLS graduation ceremony. Image by Daredjan Odilavadze.

Russia and thought the use of Russian from the seat of the speaker of Parliament (the event that sparked the protests) was reprehensible, there was considerable debate as to whether demonstrations were the proper response.

Not only was I present to witness the demonstrations, but I was also in Tbilisi for the aftermath. I saw the effects of the sanctions. Seemingly overnight, Russian tourists began to vanish from the street. I started to receive increasingly negative responses to my use of Russian, though thankfully by this time my Georgian language had improved enough to bookend

conversations in Georgian, which seemed to improve local reactions.

When the Critical Language Scholarship ended, I began to work full time on reporting for the Pulitzer and Berkeley Centers. I received the grant to report on the intersection of religion and displacement in Georgia proper. I spoke with two distinct groups: displaced persons from Abkhazia and South Ossetia and economic migrants in Guria from Adjara. The first group was easiest for me to start on and closest to my original project aims.

I began by formally interviewing my host family as they had fled Abkhazia in 1992. I found this much the easiest way to begin, as we were already very close and I had heard pieces of some of the stories, so I knew exactly what more I wanted to know about their experiences. Daredjan, my host mother, talked liberally about all of her experiences with Abkhazia, crying when she described sitting on a Ukrainian ship to safety and explaining to her small children how to swim if they fell into the water, but laughing when she described a one-eyed chicken she kept as a pet when she was a small girl in Abkhazia, believing it cruel to eat a disabled animal. In true Georgian fashion, we talked for over three hours at a table heaping with plates of food and with glasses full of homemade Georgian wine, poured from a recycled 2-liter soda bottle.

Over the course of the following weeks, I contacted and interviewed more

A Georgian Orthodox woman prays in Jvari Monastery in the mountains about fifteen minutes outside of Tserovani settlement. This photo is the cover photo for Kaitlyn's reporting project on the intersection of displacement and religion in the Republic of Georgia. Image by Kaitlyn Johnson.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Vitaly Chernetsky (Slavic Languages and Literatures) has had a busy 2019 so far. In January, he presented at the MLA and AHA annual conventions; in February, at a conference in New York in memory of acclaimed Ukrainian-American poet and scholar Bohdan Rubchak and at the winter school Decolonizing Imagination at the Higher School of Economics in Russia (the latter via Skype). In March, he presented at the conference Ukrainian Culture in Today's World at Harvard and delivered two talks at the University of Michigan. In April, he delivered the keynote address at the Midwest Slavic Conference in Columbus. In May, he traveled to Bulgaria as part of a delegation of US academics organized by the Fulbright Commission. He then continued on a research visit to Ukraine, where he also participated in Knyzhkovyi Arsenal, the book fair and literary festival in Kyiv, presenting at two panels. During this trip, he gave an extensive interview to Ukraine's Kino – Teatr magazine, which is forthcoming in its September issue. Later in the summer, he presented at the EUCOM Academics conference at Ft. Riley and served as the external examiner at two Ph.D. vivae at Cambridge. He published translations of a chapter from Yuri Andrukhovych's novel Darlings of Justice

and of a poem cycle by Iryna Tsilyk in the journal *Apofenie*.

Ray Finch (CREES) had two articles published in the latest editions of *Military Review*: "How the Russian Media Portrays the U.S. Military" and "Young Army Movement: Winning the Hearts and Minds of Russian Youth."

Martin Nedbal (Musicology) had published a series of articles on the database Mozart: New Documents (https://sites. google.com/site/mozartdocuments/news/ mozartinthecoronationdiaryofcountzierotinin1790) dealing with new facts about the biography of W. A. Mozart, which he discovered in a previously overlooked personal journal of the Moravian Count Franz Joseph von Zierotin. He also presented on Mozart at an interdisciplinary conference on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Italian libretto at the Institut für Romanistik at the University of Vienna, Austria, and at the Mostly Mozart Festival at the Lincoln Center in New York City. In June, he presented a public lecture about German-Jewish-Bohemian-American musicologist Paul Nettl and his complicated relationship to Czech culture at the Institute of Art History of the

Czech Academy of Sciences. The lecture commemorated the 80th anniversary of Nettl's successful escape from Nazi-occupied Prague to America in 1939.

Rebecca Rovit (Theatre) went to Austria on an international award as a Fulbright Specialist in "Theatre and Genocide" (2018-2021) under the category of Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies. In May and June, she was affiliated with the Institute for Theatre, Film & Media Studies at the University of Vienna. She taught a course to MA students which focused on their active engagement in the city, its history, and their embodied remembrance. She co-organized a student visit to the former concentration camp, Mauthausen. And she organized a symposium on "Facing Genocide in its Aftermath: The Performing Arts & Memorialization," including speakers from various cultural institutes in Vienna.

Norman Saul (History) wrote a book essay for the *Journal of Russian American Studies*. He is also co-editor of this same journal which is managed by KU libraries. The essay was on the book *The Kremlinologist: Llewellyn E. Thompson, America's*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



At the interactive wall of the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk, visitors to the museum can hang handwritten messages of solidarity. The European Solidarity Centre is a museum and library in Gdańsk, Poland, devoted to the history of Solidarity, the Polish trade union and civil resistance movement, and other opposition movements of Communist Eastern Europe. Professor Wood visited the museum while at a conference in Gdańsk.



SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 • 5:30-8PM

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FALL 2019



The Center for Russian, Est European & Eurasian Studies

KIND FILM SERIES

OCTOBER 24
MALOTT, KANSAS UNION

School Number 3 (dir. Georg Genoux and Ielizaveta Smith, 2017, Ukraine and Germany, 116 minutes)

NOVEMBER 14

FORUM B, BURGE UNION

First on the Moon (dir. Aleksey Fedorchenko, 2005, Russia, 75 minutes)



KAITLYN JOHNSON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

people from Abkhazia as well as South Ossetia. The friends I made during my time in the Critical Language Scholarship Program helped me to find people to interview both in Tbilisi and across the country. In Zugdidi I met with Maka, a woman displaced from Abkhazia. We talked about her childhood there as well as the transition to living in Georgia proper and the treatment she received at the hands of her countrymen. When not interviewing her, I was able to spend the rest of the day exploring Zugdidi. It is a small town of about 43,000 near the Abkhazian border, so this mostly meant walking through Soviet-looking neighborhoods and parks. However, as I explored, I somehow managed to acquire a pack of dogs. One by one, strays began to follow me until finally I had twelve in tow. It was a surprisingly cheerful way to spend the day in Zugdidi.

I also received the opportunity to interview Nana, a woman displaced from

South Ossetia who lives in the Tserovani settlement, a government-built village for people who fled South Ossetia in 2008. Again, after the interview, I had the opportunity to explore a bit. The settlement was sleepy and almost eerie. When the government built the settlement ten years prior, all the houses looked the same. For a time, residents were not allowed to make changes to the homes, but over the course of the decade, residents more and more liberally remodeled and redecorated. Some remained fairly standard, but many were unrecognizable. The gardens flourish. Some residents in Tserovani grow food, such as corn or vegetables or young fruit trees. Others grow flowers, with roses the most common choice. And, of course, many yards are shaded by immense tangles of grapevines on trellises, the fat fruits hanging overhead.

My final destination outside of Tbilisi was Guria. There, a local named Ana who I met through American Councils showed me around for the day, escorting me to and translating from Georgian seven interviews in nearby villages with

families displaced from Adjara. I learned the fascinating (and unexpected) stories of economic displacement in the homes of eight families. Most had never hosted a foreigner, so they pulled out all the stops in their hospitality. At every home, tables were piled high with food and coffee. Most packaged up some of the food we did not eat to send with me. By the end of the seventeen hours, I sat on the marshrutka back to Tbilisi, both my stomach and my luggage full of food.

Over the course of my months in Georgia, I was not only able to build close bonds with Georgians and become entrenched in Georgian culture, but I also learned more than I ever expected about displacement in the Caucasus. My field notes and articles will be published on my project page on the Pulitzer website. Hopefully, I will have the opportunity to return in January, this time venturing to Abkhazia to conduct research for my master's thesis. Kaityln Johnson (REES/CGIS BA '18) is a graduate student in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Man in Cold war Moscow (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018) by his two daughters, Jenny and Sherry Thompson (no previous publications).

Erik Scott (History) was awarded a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for fall 2019. The Russian translation of his book, Familiar Strangers: The Georgian Diaspora and the Evolution of Soviet Empire, was published by Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie in January 2019. His article, "The "Hijacking of Aeroflot Flight 244: States and Statelessness in the Late Cold War" was published in the May 2019 issue of Past & Present.

Oleksandra Wallo (Slavic Languages and Literatures) completed revisions on her monograph, *Ukrainian Women Writers and the National Imaginary: From the Collapse of the USSR to the Euromaidan,* for which she was awarded an ASEEES First-Book Subvention grant as well as a publication grant from the Shevchenko Scientific Society, USA. The book is forthcoming in 2020 from the University of Toronto Press. In the summer, she served as the on-site faculty director of KU's six-week study abroad program in Lviv, Ukraine, leading

students in their intensive study of the Ukrainian language and their exploration of Ukrainian culture.

Nathan Wood (History) gave two lectures entitled, "The Collapse of Communism and Post-Communist Transition" in two AP European History classes at Free State High School. In June, Wood was elected to the board of the Polish Institute of Arts



This summer Prof. Nathan Wood attended a conference at the University of Gdańsk. Featured from left to right: Nathan Wood, Jochen Boehler, Bill Hagen and his spouse.

and Sciences of America (PIASA). While at the PIASA/7thWorld Congress on Polish Studies in Gdańsk, he chaired a panel on conflict and violence in Central Europe, 1914-1922, and presented "The Highs and Lows of Polish Aviation in the 1930s." In July, he presented "Wild Rides in the Countryside: Bikes, Cars, and the Right to Space" as part of the Humanities in the Wild series at Sunflower Bike Shop in Lawrence. An

article cluster on three Polish-speaking cities during World War I, for which he co-wrote the introduction, "Modernity Derailed? The urban experience in three Polish-speaking cities during WWI", with Professor Robert Blobaum of the University of West Virginia and contributed an article, "Plenty of food in 'a world of electric light': Dreams of Technical Civilization in WWI Cracow" will be published this fall in The Polish Review. The cluster also includes an article by recent KU History PhD Drew Burks.

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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CREES GENERAL FUND

The CREES General Fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community. Among its dedicated sponsors are the Oswald P. Backus/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

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 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.



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

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