

CREES NEWSLETTER

The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies



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From the Director...

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to a new Spring semester! We begin this new year with exciting news to share! CREES has won a prestigious grant (nearly \$100,000) for 2020 from the U.S. Russia Foundation, which will fund many beneficial initiatives, strengthen Russian Studies at KU, and enhance and broaden our K-12 outreach and programming.

As part of the grant, CREES will offer four paid FMSO/ CREES Security Analyst internships to students. We'll work collaboratively with other Area Studies Centers to offer an interdisciplinary series of events connected by the theme of legacies of the Cold War, including a scholarly symposium. REES curriculum will be enhanced through new and redesigned Russia-focused interdisciplinary and team-taught courses. We aim to highlight the relevance of Russian Studies in other disciplines and fields, develop new partnerships with Russian colleagues, and produce open-access research publications and educational materials, sparking renewed interest in Russian Studies among students.

In terms of accomplishments, we have much to celebrate. Our fall lecture series finished strong, with good attendance for many events. We had our first ever combined Backus/ Cienciała and Palij lecture, delivered by Prof. Steven Seegel



(University of Northern Colorado) based on his recent book, *Map Men: Transnational Lives and Deaths of Geographers in the Making of East Central Europe*. As part of the Palij lecture series, the New York-based award-winning Ukrainian writer Vasyl Makhno presented his works of poetry and prose. Prof. Michael Gorham (University of Florida) lectured on a timely topic, "Trolling, Power, and Political Communication in Putin's Russia." Prof. Kathleen Collins (University of Minnesota) gave our final brownbag presentation on the rise of Islamist movements in Central Asia to a large audience. CREES also organized or co-sponsored several key events with other partners, including a reading by the widely acclaimed poet Ilya Kaminsky at the Lawrence Public Library.

We wish to congratulate Prof. Marc Greenberg on being named Ambassador of Science by the Republic of Slovenia on November 20, 2019. The U.S. embassy in Ljubljana also cited

CREES Wins Prestigious Grant from the U.S. Russia Foundation

We begin this new year with exciting news! CREES has won a prestigious grant through the U.S. Russia Foundation (\$100,000) for 2020, which will fund many beneficial initiatives, strengthen Russian Studies at KU, and enhance and broaden our K-12 outreach and programming!

Prof. Greenberg and the program at KU for being one of the very few in the U.S. to teach Slovene. We are grateful to Marc Greenberg and Marta Pirnat-Greenberg for their dedication to build Slovene studies at KU.

We were thrilled to participate in the World Languages Fair on Oct. 19, hosted by the Open Language Resource Center, in collaboration with KU Area Studies Centers and KU International Affairs. During the event, 300 high school students explored world languages and cultures and discovered how intercultural competence can enhance different fields of study.

CREES was honored to host an Open World Delegation of civic educators and leaders from Georgia on Sept. 6-14. During their stay, the Georgian professionals collaborated with civic educators and leaders and exchanged ideas for improving civic education in schools and promoting democracy and transparent government.

We are pleased to welcome a new graduate student, Timothy Skinner, a Foreign Area Officer, and a new faculty affiliate of our center, Prof. Jessica Gerschultz, an Islamic art specialist. While Prof. Gerschultz's main research

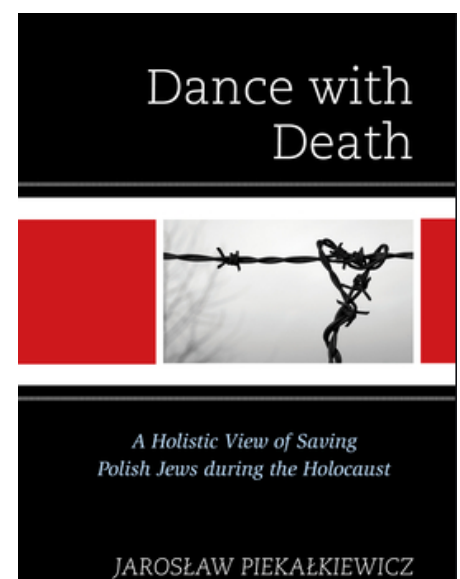
and teaching interests span modern and contemporary art in Africa and the Arab world, she also has a strong interest in the Balkans. We also welcome Dr. Bolesław Raciński (Jagiellonian University), a postdoctoral scholar at KU's Department of Film and Media Studies in spring 2020. He will deliver a CREES brownbag lecture titled "Contemporary Polish Cinema and Its Unexpected Rise to Prominence" on April 21.

We are truly honored to hear from Jarosław "Jarek" Piekalkiewicz, professor emeritus of political science at KU and a member of the KU CREES community since 1963, on the publication of his long-awaited book about his experience fighting the Nazis in World War II Polish resistance fighter. The book presentation will take place on April 7.

On January 28, please join us to celebrate the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature for the Polish prose writer, Olga Tokarczuk, announced in fall 2019. During the celebration, KU faculty and students will read from Tokarczuk's prose in English translation and watch clips from Tokarczuk's Nobel Prize award ceremony and lecture from December 10, 2019 in Stockholm. On Feb. 4, Dr.

Alexander Zhidchenko (Altai State University), a Fulbright scholar in the KU Department of History, will give a brownbag lecture titled, "Everyday Life of the New Cities of the USSR and the USA in the 1950s-60s." On March 24, Dr. Markian Dobczansky (Columbia University) will deliver a lecture titled "Sibling Rivalry: Ukraine and Russia in the Twentieth Century."

CREES will also continue its tradition of offerings highlighting film and other media from the region we study. This semester we'll screen an award-winning recent Ukrainian film, *Volcano* (2018). As part of our Palij Lecture series, on March 4 Stanislav Menzelevsky, head of the research



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Introducing Fulbright Scholar Alexander Zhidchenko



Alexander Zhidchenko visits an exhibition of everyday life in the 1950s at the Johnson County Museum in Overland Park.

In October, the KU Department of History welcomed Alexander Zhidchenko, a visiting Fulbright scholar from Russia. A native of Siberia, Zhidchenko holds degrees from Omsk State University and Altai State University. For the last few years, he has been employed by the Russian Association of Women's History Researchers in Moscow, a professional organization of several thousand scholars in the fields of history, sociology, philology and others. Zhidchenko's research concerns popular culture and daily life in new planned cities in the 1950s and 1960s, comparing Soviet and American communities. He will conduct research at KU through the first half of the spring semester. CREES visits with him to learn more about his research.

CREES: Thank you so much for meeting today. Could you please tell me about your research?

Zhidchenko: My research project consists of three parts. The first focuses on the everyday life in the 1950s in the new planned cities in the Soviet Union.

Nikita Khrushchev came to power in 1953. During the Khrushchev "thaw," after 1956, Khrushchev had more opportunities to implement his housing policies. He said that every family needs an apartment. Therefore, we need mass housing. In the 1930s and 1940s many people lived in communal apartments, which made daily life very difficult. During the 1950s and 1960s, new mass housing was built in new spaces. They also built new hospitals, new shops, and laundering services in these new spaces. People who worked at the factories, schools, or shops nearby, were given an apartment for free. In Omsk, where I was born, there was an oil refinery built in the 1950s. If we look at this era, we see two styles of architecture. During the late Stalin era, neo-classicism influenced the architecture or building styles. The new blocks of housing that were built in the late 1950s and later were in a constructivism style, which was very economical.

CREES: How did the economic conditions and housing needs change in the 1990s?

Zhidchenko: Beginning around 1994-1995, many factories closed – actually, almost all. In smaller cities where there’s only one main factory, the closing of a factory meant no jobs. This was very difficult if you lived near a factory that closed. In bigger cities, when a factory closed, many people could find other sources of income. I studied in Novosibirsk. Near this city, there was an area set aside for scientists, inside a forested region. They built four-floor housing units. They built Novosibirsk State University and in this city lived only scientists. It was called Akademgorodok or “science city.” Now there are new investors, entrepreneurship, and it’s a good place. The university is still one of the best universities in Russia.

CREES: How have housing needs changed for the generation living today?

Zhidchenko: It’s interesting to explore how to change these cities for the new generation. The city space was originally built for those who lived in the 1950s. This generation has the internet and interacts with others globally. How will new changes to the city space reflect the needs and aspirations of the current generation? I am now beginning to research my second question, conducting exploratory research on new cities and new urban areas of the United States. I’ve chosen some cities: Henderson, Nevada;

Arvada, Colorado; Garden City, Ohio, which was built in the 1950s; Artesia, California; and Levittown, New York. For example, in Levittown homes were mass-produced to meet the demand for affordable family housing for veterans, who returned home from World War II.

For my third question, I will compare everyday life in new urban areas in the United States and in the U.S.S.R. I am also interested in researching the urban space for women, including facilities for childcare, laundry, and other services that women utilize. In the Soviet Union, car service space was not a place for men to gather, as only 10% of families in the 1950s owned a car. This is quite different from the U.S., where many men drove cars by the 1960s.

CREES: This sounds like very interesting research! I wish you all the best in your research over the coming months.

Zhidchenko: Thank you! I would like to express my thanks to my mentor, Dr. Eve Levin in the KU Department of History. She has helped me with any questions I have about historiography, my research, and utilizing resources at the library. She is also close colleagues with my supervisor, Dr. Natalya Pushkareva in Russia. She is the President of the Russian Association of Women’s History Researchers in Moscow.



Omsk Oil Town in the 1960s.

Pushing Boundaries in Uzbekistan: Kiddos, Boxing, and Triumphant Horse-Riding TV Moments

I had four major goals for my Fulbright English Teaching Award experience before coming to Uzbekistan: be a great teacher, study a local martial art, learn Uzbek, and participate in a ko'pkari game (an exclusively male sport played on horseback with a goat carcass).

Surprisingly, the first goal turned out to be the most challenging. No amount of graduate school research presentations in Linguistic Anthropology or even years of previous experience teaching abroad prepared me for the moment when a teeming group of bright-eyed fifth graders excitedly requested I sing them a song at my new school in Andijan, Uzbekistan. To be honest, as a non-kindergarten-teacher-type, I initially felt miles outside of my element in my placement at a public school. Because of the

information I received prior to leaving, I had been expecting my students to be older teenagers. After the initial whiplash of failed grammar lessons that fell on the deaf ears of hyperactive children, I had to readjust, tear down the walls of how to “academically” present information, and relearn a very important and long-neglected skill - how to be silly. With the support of an incredible staff of teachers and the director at my school, I have been able to do more interactive activities and am currently working with my older students on putting on a (creatively altered) play of Hansel and Gretel. It is a huge amount of DIY work, especially without any major art stores, but I can't wait to see how it turns out. Now I can't imagine having been placed anywhere else.



Laura Searcy spends time with her students at a Halloween class party that included mask-making and classic Halloween music.



Saddling up at the ko'pkari game.

As for my second goal, upon arrival I had my heart set on learning Kurash, Uzbek wrestling, but the gender/social dynamics with my male coach didn't prove that to be successful. It was truly a blessing in disguise, because the local guy friends I made in Andijan set me up with an elite boxing school and it was a much better fit for me. Awkwardly swinging in front of professionals is a humbling experience, but I am so honored and grateful for it. I have been simultaneously teaching, training, and learning some Uzbek along the way.

Finally, my ko'pkari dream became a reality on November 9th, when I became the first woman permitted by the chairman of ko'pkari in Central Asia to participate in a game. I went to the village Gulmomo, outside of Tashkent, with the TV crew of



The Chairman awarded Laura Searcy a carpet after taking a wild ride across the ko'pkari game.

“Turist bilan bir kun” to shoot a TV episode about it. At first it appeared I wouldn't be permitted to participate. It was clear that no one had taken my request seriously or asked permission. Although it's an incredibly dangerous game, the chairman reluctantly allowed it and they brought me a horse. Immediately after I got on, I felt that this horse was not like the horses I grew up with. My horse wildly took off at full speed, running faster than any horse I'd ever been on, across the mountain valley.

The chairman apparently decided I should win that game because I was a “strong girl” and I was awarded a carpet, one of the prizes for contestants. I may not have grabbed the goat carcass for that win, but I was very proud.

In Memoriam of John C. Reppert: a Legacy of Service

by Randy Masten

CREES Alumnus and founding member of the KU Veterans Alumni Network Advisory Board, Brigadier General John C. Reppert, US Army (Ret.), passed away on October 11, 2019 at the age of 78. John was born on September 16, 1941 in Anna, Illinois. After graduating from high school, he attended

Kansas State University and graduated with a Bachelor's in Journalism in 1963. He remained in Manhattan to earn his Master's and to court Patricia Ann Rash. The couple married and moved to Illinois, where he ran the family newspaper until being drafted into the Army in January 1966. Following Officer Candidate School and training as a Signal Corps officer, Lieutenant Reppert was assigned to Saigon in 1968. In Vietnam, he directed communications for General Westmoreland's headquarters, the American Embassy, and the largest US Air Force base in the country.

Following his tour of duty in Vietnam, Captain Reppert was selected for training and duties as a Foreign Area Officer (FAO). Part of his training included two years at the University of Kansas to earn a Master's in Soviet and East European Studies. General Reppert recounted, "I had a wonderful time in Lawrence with the Soviet & East European Studies program. I had great professors in history, international relations, geography, economics, and language. The strength of the program, however, was its breadth and diversity." John went on to earn his doctorate in International Relations from the George Washington University.

During his military career, General Reppert was assigned to the US Embassy in Moscow on three separate occasions, culminating in the position of U.S. Defense Attaché in June 1991, shortly before the failed coup of August 1991. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union on Christmas Day that year,



John and his wife, Pat, were the first American diplomats from the US Embassy to visit three of the newly-emerged countries from the former Soviet Union.

John recalled, "My challenge as a Soviet/Russian FAO was to operate inside the mind of the senior officials with whom I worked in Moscow and the other parts of the country. When you know their history and laws as well as they do, they take you quite seriously. When you know their geography and literature, they accept you as a

person of culture, and you earn their respect. Ultimately, when you speak their language in a manner that they forget they are speaking to a foreigner, many of the normal defensive mechanisms are abandoned."

After retiring from the Army, General Reppert served as the Executive Director for Research at the Belfer Center at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and twice served as the Dean of the College of International and Security Studies at the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch, Germany. John led a life of service to our Country and was a good friend, confidant, and mentor to those who had the opportunity to know him.

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<http://crees.ku.edu/sites/crees.ku.edu/files/docs/CREES%20Newsletter%20Fall%202010.pdf> KU CREES
Newsletter, Fall 2010

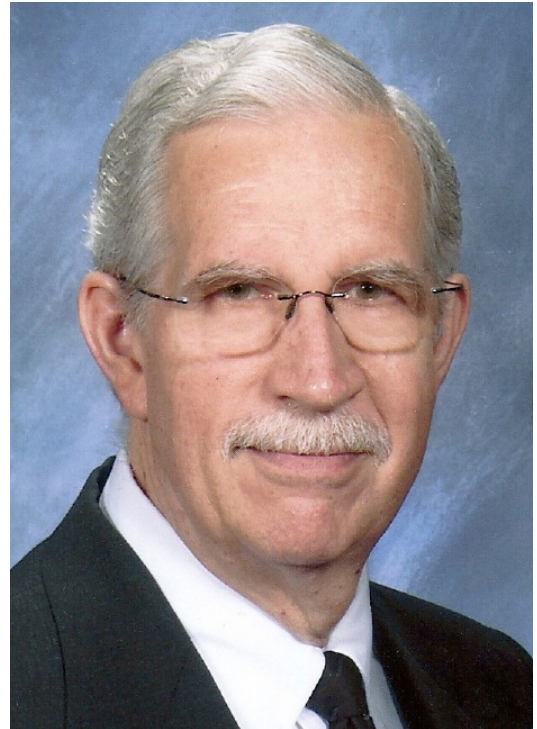
CREES Remembers Kenneth L. Smock

by David Smock

Kenneth Leroy Smock, longtime analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency, passed away in Fairfax, VA, on November 21, 2019, at the age of 77. Ken was born September 23, 1942, in Manhattan, KS. He earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, KS, in 1965 before marrying his beloved wife, Jan (Menhusen) on June 5, 1966. They made their first home at the University of Kansas, where Ken attained a Master of Arts in Slavic and Soviet Studies in 1974 after serving honorably in the Army in Vietnam and Germany for three years. Ken and Jan then moved to Manassas, VA, in 1976 where he lived for the next 40 years.

Ken began his professional career as an analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency in 1974. Over the next 31 years, Ken worked in various leadership positions, bringing his tireless dedication, expertise, and depth of knowledge on Central Europe and the Balkans to countless important events of the day as well as in mentoring many junior analysts. He helped formulate and implement Presidential policy on improving US-Soviet defense relations as well as the subsequent transition of East European countries from communism toward democratic, pluralistic, and free-market systems. Later, Ken provided on-the-ground intelligence support and led an interagency team involved in developing and implementing the peace agreement for the Bosnian War.

Outside of work, Ken's greatest passion was his family. Family road trips to visit relatives and explore new landmarks became an annual and cherished tradition. After retirement, Ken enjoyed traveling across the country with his wife as she conducted genealogical research. He was a voracious reader as well as an avid supporter of the DC area sports teams and his beloved Kansas Jayhawks. His warm laugh, witty puns, and gentle nature will live on in all who knew him.



Mr. Smock is preceded in death by his wife, parents, and brother Edward. Survivors include two sons, Robert (Sarah) and David (Lisa); grandchildren, Cora, Lydia, and Thomas; and brother Keith (Lyn).

Ken was a man of singular intelligence, integrity, and warmth who will be dearly missed by his family and friends. **Memorial contributions may be given to the Lewy Body Dementia Association or to the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies at the University of Kansas.**

CREES Hosts Civic Educators and Leaders from Georgia

The Open World Leadership Center, an agency of the U.S. Congress, sent a delegation of Georgian civic educators and leaders to Lawrence from September 6-14, 2019 to collaborate on best practices for improving civic education in Georgia.

The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) successfully hosted the delegation - its first delegation from the Caucasus. Prior to their arrival in Lawrence, the participants completed an orientation in Washington, D.C. Delegates had policy meetings with Members of Congress including meeting with staff from the office of Representative Sharice Davids (KS-3).

During their week-long stay, the Georgian professionals traveled to Lawrence, Kansas City and Topeka to collaborate with civic educators and leaders, visit schools, and meet with local leaders and representatives of government. The delegates exchanged ideas for improving civic education in schools, and promoting democracy and transparent government.

Delegates met with State Senator Marci Francisco, former State Senator Chris Steineger, and with staff from the office of Governor Laura Kelly and Representative Sharice Davids (KS-3).

Other activities included enriching discussions with Mark Skoglund, Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission; Lisa Larsen, Mayor of Lawrence; Ron Keefover, President of the Sunshine Coalition; Dr. Joseph O'Brien, School of Education (specialist in middle and secondary social studies education); and Dr. Barbara Ballard, Senior Associate Director at the Dole Institute of Politics.

The delegates gained practical professional knowledge to take back to Georgia. They were particularly pleased to visit three schools in Lawrence - Schwegler Elementary School, Billy Mills Middle School, and Free State High School for classroom observations, tours, and meetings with students and school administrators.

Another crucial part of their program included their stay in the homes of local residents who served as hospitality hosts. Those who interacted with the delegates were impressed by their dedication to their work and country.

Each of these delegates is engaged in amazing work to strengthen civic education in schools and build democracy in Georgia. It was such a pleasure to meet each of these professionals and learn about their meaningful work," said Lisa Giullian, Outreach Coordinator at CREES.



The Georgian delegates met with Don Gifford, Coordinator of Civic Engagement for the Kansas Department of Education. Featured left to right: Vladimer Apkhazava, Don Gifford, Sofiko Lobzhanidze, Revaz Apkhazava, Marina Ushveridze, Tamar Pruidze, and Shalva Mekravishvili.



The delegates observed Dr. Joe O'Brien's C & T 541 course and enjoyed discussion with students in the KU School of Education. Dr. Joe O'Brien is an Associate Professor in middle/secondary social studies.

Vladimir Apkhazava, one of the delegates, is an award-winning teacher, who started a “Democratic Revolution” project at his school. Students were awarded points for volunteering, resolving problems at school or in their community, or for their work to inform their local government about critical issues.

As a result of the program, students improved the availability of safe drinking water at school, trash bins were placed throughout the village, a new much-needed pedestrian road was built, bridges were repaired, and the village infrastructure was improved. Irrigation channels were also cleaned which resulted in a better harvest. These results instill faith in the young generation that their efforts matter.

Delegates included Vladimir Apkhazava, an award-winning Civic Education Teacher; Shalva Mekravishvili, Developer of Civics Curriculum for all schools in Georgia; Revaz Apkhazava, Policy Advocacy Officer and Executive Board Member for the nonprofit Education for All – Georgia;

Sofiko Lobzhanidze, Professor of Educational Sciences, Tbilisi Ilia State University; Tamar Pruidze, Manager of Regional NGO Network, Momavlis Taoba/Future Generation Program, Project Harmony International; and the delegation's facilitator Marina Ushveridze, Chief of Party, Momavlis Taoba/Future Generation Program, Project Harmony International.

More than 27,000 current and future leaders from Russia, Ukraine, and others in the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe have participated in the Open World program. Open World supports legislative diplomacy efforts for Members of Congress by conducting exchanges that establish lasting professional relationships between emerging leaders and their U.S. counterparts. Program participants are provided with extensive exposure to American politics, accountable governance, and citizen diplomacy, while being home hosted by American families. To learn more about Open World, please visit www.open-world.gov.

First Annual World Languages Fair at KU Draws Hundreds of Students to Explore Foreign Languages and Cultures

CREES was pleased to participate in KU's first annual World Languages Fair, organized and hosted by the KU Open Language Resource Center, in collaboration with KU's Area Studies Centers, KU International Affairs, and in partnership with the Kansas World Language Association, the Foreign Language Association of Missouri, and the Kansas Department of Education. On October 19, 2019 nearly 300 middle- and high-school students took mini-lessons in a variety of languages, attended presentations on world cultures, and learned how intercultural competence can enhance different fields of study. The world region covered by CREES was well represented, offering mini-lessons and presentations on the languages and cultures of Croatia, Czechia, Poland, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

Presentations were given by faculty from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Johnson County Community College, Benedictine College, Pittsburg State University and Fort Hays State University. Teachers from all over Kansas also attended the day-long event with their students, where they could peruse information on language-related scholarships, study abroad opportunities and internationally-focused student organizations.



Professor Oleksandra Wallo teaches students some basic language and culture skills in the Ukrainian language.



Lisa Giullian, CREES Outreach Coordinator, teaches some everyday phrases and the numbers in the Czech language.

Student participants were selected in May 2019, after submitting an application to attend earlier in the spring. Those interested in attending next year's World Language Fair 2020 can look for upcoming application information this spring at <https://olrc.ku.edu>.

CREES Welcomes New MA Student Timothy Skinner and Faculty Affiliate Professor Jessica Gerschultz

Jessica Gerschultz is an Associate Professor in the Department of African and African-American Studies. She received her PhD in Art History from Emory University in 2012. Professor Gerschultz's research and teaching interests span modern art (with an emphasis on tapestry and fiber art), gender and materiality, and feminist art history and methodologies. She was an American Council of Learned Societies Fellow in 2016 for the writing of her first book *Decorative Arts of the Tunisian École: Fabrications of Modernism, Gender, and Power* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019). She was a 2018 Hans-Robert Roemer Fellow at the Orient-Institut Beirut, a German center of the Max Weber Foundation, for research for her second book *Fiber Art Constellations*. She is particularly interested in tracing artistic exchanges across the Arab world, Africa, and former Soviet-bloc countries to write a feminist history of modern tapestry.



Professor Gerschultz's recent publications take a comparative approach that includes artists from Eastern Europe. Her article in the journal *ARTMargins* (2016) argued for a critical approach to the study of New Tapestry and examined the work of Safia Farhat, Magdalena Abakanowicz, and Jagoda Buic. She authored an essay for the Institute of the Present, a Bucharest-based research platform, analyzing the collaborative tapestries of Jolanta Owidzka and Georgette Saliba in the early 1970s (in press). She looks forward to strengthening her knowledge base through participation in CREES events.

Director's Letter Continued...

department at the Dovzhenko Center, Ukraine's national film archive, and currently a Fulbright fellow at Berkeley, will give a talk about filmmaking in Ukraine in the 1920s and introduce a screening of *In Spring* (1929), a recently restored film by Mikhail Kaufman, brother of Dziga Vertov and a fascinating director in

My name is **Timothy Skinner (Tim)** and I am 31 years old and a native of Indiana. I met my wife of three years, Natasha, in high school and we currently live on Fort Leavenworth. I graduated from West Point in 2011 and am a Captain in the United States Army. I am pursuing a masters in Russian and Eastern European Studies because I have always held a keen interest in the region, its people, and its history and believe that it will continue to be an area of special significance to world events. Before coming to Fort Leavenworth I lived in Manhattan KS, Columbus GA, and El Paso TX. My wife and I enjoy traveling and exploring new places, working on crafts together, and taking our dog, Nyxie, wherever we can.

his own right.

For another Palij Lecture, we welcome back Oleksandr Mykhed, the writer and scholar from Kyiv who was a CEC ArtsLink writer-in-residence at KU in 2015; on March 16 he will lecture on the TV show *Servant of the People* that ultimately gave us President Zelensky. In cooperation with several other partners on campus, we are bringing to KU Prof. Harlow Robinson (Northeastern University) with a talk based on his newly published biography of Lewis Milestone, a prominent Hollywood director who came to the US at the age of seventeen as a Jewish immigrant from the Russian Empire. We are also honored to support Jewish Studies in bringing to KU Prof. David Shneer (University of Colorado) to speak on Jan. 30 on the representation of the Holocaust in wartime Soviet photographs.

These are just some of the highlights of the exciting semester ahead of us. We are very fortunate to have amazing staff and faculty who are dedicated to developing and sharing knowledge about the region we study. May our future scholarly accomplishments and efforts make a positive difference in the world! Thank you so much, as always, for your continuing support of CREES and its mission.

Faculty News and Updates

Peter Bobkowski (School of Journalism) gave a presentation at the conference of the Polish Communication Association (PCA). This year, the 5th Congress of the PCA was Sept. 19-21 at the University of Warsaw. The conference theme was “Media and Power.” Bobkowski’s paper, “Credibility as a Threshold Concept for Assessing and Teaching Journalism and Professional Communication Students,” focused on his research around J302’s development and implementation. Bobkowski also represented the KU School of Journalism’s Ph.D. program to master’s students and graduate advisors attending the conference.

Vitaly Chernetsky’s (Slavic Languages and Literatures) article “Sofiiia Andrukhovych’s *Felix Austria*: The Postcolonial Neo-Gothic and Ukraine’s Search for Itself” came out in *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. Earlier he helped the producers of the film adaptation of this novel by translating the script into English as they sought international collaboration. The film, titled *Viddana* (Devoted), was released widely and successfully in Ukraine in January 2020. In September, he gave guest lectures in Edmonton, Canada at MacEwan University and at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. In November, he



presented on the cinematic representation of the Donbas conflict at the conference *Five Years of War in the Donbas: Cultural Responses and Reverberations* at Columbia University, and participated in the American Literary Translators Association convention, the ASEES convention, and in the Greenwich Economic Forum.

At the latter, he co-curated the visual art exhibition accompanying it. He is looking forward to a busy spring 2020, including a conference he is co-organizing with Prof. Edyta Bojanowska at Yale University, *The Other Europe: Changes and Challenges since 1989*.

Alexander Diener (Geography) had several notable articles published including “The Varied Geographies of Historical Citizenships” (*Global Citizenship Review* 3-4th Quarter in press 2019) pp. 28-35; with Batbuyan Batjav “Axial Development in Mongolia: Intended and Unintended Effects of New Roads” (*Mobilities* v.14 n.6, 2019) pp. 778-794; and with Yerken Turganbayev “Kazakhstan’s Evolving Regional Economic Policy: Assessing Strategies of Post-Socialist Economic Development” (*Eurasian Geography and Economics* v.59 n. 5-6, 2018) pp. 657-684. His edited volume chapter was published, “Border Control as a Technology of Social Control” with Joshua Hagen in Deflem, Mathieu, ed. *The Handbook of Social Control* (Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2019) pp. 403-415.

Alumni & Student News

Gwyn Bourlakov (History PhD 2019) started her new position as Wing Historian at the 301st Fighter Wing (AFRC) at the Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base (NAS/JRB) in Fort Worth.

Jennifer Byrne (REES) received a CREES/FMSO Internship for Spring 2020.

Ekaterina Chelpanova (Slavic Languages and Literatures) was awarded a graduate student travel grant from the Hall Center to carry out archival dissertation research.



Professor Marc Greenberg was named a 2019 Ambassador of Science by the Slovene Ministry of Education, Science and Sport in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Marc Greenberg is featured front row, second from the right, with other award winners. *Photo courtesy of Government of the Republic of Slovenia*

Marc L. Greenberg (Slavic Languages and Literatures) was given the Ambassador of Science Award by the Ministry of Science, Education & Sport of the Republic of Slovenia on November 20, 2019. He is the first non-Slovene to earn the title, which signifies a lifetime of accomplishment in science or scholarship. According to text from the award program, Prof. Greenberg wrote the first monograph on Slovene historical phonology, authored a Slovene grammar handbook, and co-founded one of the first open-access journals in Slavic studies. The U.S. embassy in Ljubljana also noted KU's Slovene program to be one of the very few in the U.S. to teach Slovene, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Prof. Greenberg and Marta Pirnat-Greenberg to build Slovene studies at KU. Prof. Greenberg received his award at a ceremony, where he was joined by his daughter Lea Greenberg and the former U.S. ambassador to Bosnia Herzegovina and Slovenia, Victor Jackovich.

Jaroslav Piekalkiewicz (Political Science) announces his newly published book, *Dance with Death: A Holistic View of Saving Polish Jews during the Holocaust* (Hamilton Books, 2019). Prof. Piekalkiewicz, professor emeritus of political science, has spent nearly two decades working on *Dance with Death*. The book examines attempts by Polish Christians to save Polish Jews during the brutal German WWII occupation of Poland. Prof. Piekalkiewicz is likely the last Polish resistance fighter to write a book about his experience fighting the Nazis in World War II. His book draws on detailed research, his own experiences as a resistance fighter, and describes achievements, failures and traitors.

Norman Saul (History) is pleased to announce a new edited book, *New Perspectives on Russian-American Relations*, edited by William Benton Whisenhunt and Norman E. Saul. London and New York: Routledge, 2019. This book includes eighteen articles on Russian-American relations from leading historians and introduces readers to exciting new scholarship.

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