



CREES COURIER

FALL 2022

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Erik Scott

Associate Director
Marie-Alice L'Heureux

Assistant Director
Esra Predolac

Office Manager
Mariya Borisova

Outreach Coordinator
Megan Luttrell

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Erik Scott

Slavic
Ani Kokobobo
Marika Janzen

History
Nathan Wood

Political Science
Britnee A. Carter

Library
Geoff Husic

Professional Schools
Martin Nedbal

At Large
Shannon O'Lear

From the Director

This is an exceptionally eventful time for our community and our field. The Russian government's full-scale invasion of Ukraine shocked the world. It also generated profound and inspiring acts of resistance and has led to a much-needed rethinking of the past, present, and future of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. The war's impact has rippled through our own community, and we have seen our colleagues rise to the occasion to share their knowledge of Ukraine's history, culture, and politics with the public and to bring Ukrainian scholars and students at risk to Lawrence. As a historian, I believe we're living in times of accelerated change in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia as well as across the world.

Fortunately, as we start a new semester, CREES and KU are uniquely poised to respond. For the first time since 2010, the Department of Education has awarded CREES the Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) and National Resource Center (NRC) grants for 2022-2026. Our success is a tribute to the enduring strength of our language programs and our vibrant Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies community at KU. I am truly grateful for all the hard work that the CREES team—and our partners across the university—put into the application.

In total, the awards will bring over \$2 million in funding to strengthen Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at KU and in the Great Plains region. The FLAS award will fund graduate and undergraduate study of REES-relevant languages through generous academic year and summer scholarships. The NRC award will fund a seeded tenure-track hire in Political Science, support language instruction, offer grants for new courses, expand our KU Libraries collections, fund faculty research, bring leading scholars to KU for events and conferences, and lead to new outreach partnerships with the local community, community colleges, and minority-ser



ving institutions.

CREES will also be partnering on the Research Rising project "Securing Our Worlds: Physical, Digital, Social," which was selected for \$3 million in funding over the next five years. I will be serving as Co-PI on the project, a significant portion of which will study the social, cultural, and historical aspects of cybersecurity threats and disinformation campaigns arising from and operating within Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. CREES' participation in the project will bring new student opportunities in this strategically important field of study. Our work on Research Rising will complement our NRC programming over the next four years, which will consider the issue of security from less traditional but equally vital perspectives, including food security, health and human security, and migration and border policies.

I am thrilled that KU's other area centers—CEAS, CLACS, and KASC—also received full Title VI FLAS and NRC funding. I am working with my fellow center directors to develop joint programming that will explore shared connections and themes across regional boundaries. The newly-created KU Institute for International &

Global Engagement, led by Director Melissa Birch, will support the centers in this effort and help us identify new areas for further growth.

I am proud of the team CREES has assembled as we embark on a new semester. Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Professor in the School of Architecture & Design, starts this fall as our new Associate Director. Although she is new to the role, she has been an active contributor to CREES for years. I am grateful to her for joining our leadership team and also thankful for the work of her predecessor, Peter Bobkowski, Professor in the School of Journalism, who did a fine job serving as Associate Director from 2020 to 2022. We are very fortunate to have the capable Esra Predolac continuing as Assistant Director. Megan Luttrell, our Outreach Coordinator, has rolled out new initiatives and revitalized our digital presence since joining CREES last spring. In addition, we are happy to welcome Mariya Borisova as our new Office Manager. She started in June and will be working jointly with CLACS. Kevin Thomas, a CREES MA student, will be continuing as our Graduate Assistant (GA), and he will be joined by two more Title VI-funded GAs, one assisting The Russian Review and the other working on REES-related digital humanities projects, including our collaboration with Michigan State University to build a "Living Archive" of the Soviet Union's collapse and its aftermath.

This newsletter will give you a taste of the events CREES has planned for the semester ahead and the inspiring work our community is doing to advance knowledge of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia internationally, nationally, and locally. Stay tuned for further announcements via email and social media as we begin rolling out new Title VI-supported initiatives. I hope to see you in person at our upcoming Fall Mixer on September 9, which will provide a chance for our community to come together and mark the start of a new year of stimulating talks and events.

Best wishes,
Erik

Erik R. Scott
Director, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Welcome to Dinara Rakhmatullayeva visiting research fellow from Kazakhstan



Dinara Rakhmatullayeva received her PhD in Economics from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in 2016. Mohamed Ali El-Hodiri, professor of economics from the University of Kansas, served as co-advisor of her dissertation research. Her dissertation research was connected with the study of social effects arising from the attraction of FDI in the regions of Kazakhstan.

Rakhmatullayeva researches various forms of foreign private capital and their development prospects in Kazakhstan with an important focus on investment efficiency, in particular social efficiency. She is interested in researching the impact of foreign private capital on the welfare of the population in Kazakhstan. As part of the current study, she will build a model for direct measurement of welfare in Kazakhstan, taking into account the impact of foreign capital, as well as the pandemic and economic sanctions against Russia, which is Kazakhstan's main trading partner in the post-Soviet space.

She has twenty-two years of teaching experience at Al-Farabi KazNU at the Department of Economics of the High School of Economics and Business. She teaches courses such as the Fundamentals of Macroeconomics for undergraduates, Macroeconomic Modeling for graduate students, and Macroeconomic Analysis for PhD students. In addition, she has taught courses in investment design and valuation, financial mathematics for undergraduates.

CREES and CLACS Welcome New Office Manager

CREES would like to welcome Mariya Borisova to the role of Office Manager! Mariya will serve as Office Manager for both CREES and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS).

Mariya holds her bachelor's degree in History from Novosibirsk University and has just graduated with a Master of Science in Education (M.S.E) in Administration in Higher Education from the University of Kansas.

Prior to coming to the United States, she lived in France and worked as a translator and interpreter at Airbus Company. Being passionate about French language and culture, she taught French language to undergraduate students at KU as a GTA while working on her master's degree. Originally from Russia (city of Novosibirsk), she hopes her linguistic and cultural background, as well as her organizational skills strengthened through her time as the co-president of International Spouses and Partners of Princeton University, will help CREES in carrying out its mission.

Mariya will be leading Russian-language story time every first Saturday at 10:30am at the Johnson County Public Library in Lenexa.



CREES Welcomes New Outreach Coordinator



CREES would like to welcome Megan Luttrell, a PhD. alumna of the KU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, to the role of Outreach Coordinator.

During her time as a graduate student at KU she organized several events including a Ukrainian pysanky workshop and a Slavic folk dance workshop. She plans to bring these events back to KU as the new CREES Outreach Coordinator.

Over the years she has taught Russian language and literature at the University of Kansas, Indiana University, and Colby College. She is passionate about music, art, and literature, and plans to organize a number of art and music events for CREES in the near future. Most recently, she conducted a Ukrainian story and music hour at the Baldwin City Library. She serves on the executive board of the Baldwin City Public Library and hopes to engage more with local libraries and expand CREES K-12 school outreach programs to include the Baldwin school district. She is also deeply involved in the Lawrence music community.

She is a member of the Americana Music Academy executive board, serves as the program director for a new music series in Baldwin called Lumberyard Live on High, and performs as a singer-songwriter throughout the Lawrence, Topeka, and Kansas City areas. She hopes to use her connections in the local arts communities to help CREES reach new audiences and forge new relationships in addition to the outreach CREES does with educational institutions. She is thrilled to be back at KU and to be working for CREES.

CREES Welcomes New Associate Director



Marie-Alice L'Heureux is delighted to have become Associate Director of CREES during such an auspicious time when the center will be able to support undergraduate and graduate students even more effectively and broaden course offerings and opportunities across the Russian, East European, and Eurasian region. She looks forward to meeting all our students individually to help guide each of them to achieve their desired goals. She has been active in CREES since 2004 serving numerous times on the Executive Committee as the Professional School Representative and on various MA and PhD committees in CREES, geography, history, and architecture. She received the CREES Outstanding Service Award in 2013. She has served on the Campus Fulbright selection committee since 2003 and twice on the National Selection Committee. She has mentored faculty and graduate and undergraduate students and loves talking with students about their plans. For fun, she loves to jam with friends playing the fiddle, to cook up a storm and host dinner parties, to work in the community garden, and take care of the innumerable animals and birds that call Burtons Hollow home.

Marie-Alice has taught at the University of Kansas since the fall of 2003 in the School of Architecture and Design (Arc/D) covering a wide range of courses from urban design and architecture studios to seminar courses on the Socialist City and Research Methods. She is a registered architect (California, Kansas, and Missouri) with over twenty-five years of practice experience in New England, Quebec, and California. She obtained a Ph.D. in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation focuses on ideology and identity in the built environment of Estonia from the 1880s to 2002. She received a Master of Architecture in Affordable Housing and a Bachelor of Architecture (Professional Degree) from McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

Prior to teaching in a professional school her research was focused on the Republic of Estonia within the larger context of the Soviet and post-Soviet realm, including Eastern Europe. Since coming to the University of Kansas, she has broadened her research to include equity in infrastructural investment especially around issues of race and sustainability. She is asking the same questions but using different lenses (including discrimination, race, and poverty) to understand the American cultural landscape within a broader historical context. She is also continuing her research on the Baltic States, former Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe. She has travelled to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union many times to do research and spent the year 1997 on a Fulbright, IREX, and NSEP Fellowships in St. Petersburg and Estonia. She has taught an American Studies course at the Ivan Franko National University, Lviv, Ukraine and Hungarian architecture at the Nemzetközi Kerámia Stúdió: International Ceramics Studio, in Kecskemét, Hungary, for KCAI students. Recent publications include:

"The Twentieth-Century City: Socialist, Capitalist, Modern," *Journal of Urban Cultural Studies*.

"The Creative Class, Urban Boosters, and Race: Shaping Urban Revitalization in Kansas City, Missouri." *Journal of Urban History*.

"Making Sense of Sustainability: Balancing Technology, User Satisfaction, and Aesthetics." In *Revisiting Social Factors: Advancing Research into People and Place*, edited by Georgia Lindsay and Lusi Morhayim,

"Infrastructure, Social Injustice, and the City—Parsing the Wisdom of Jane Jacobs. In *The Wisdom of Jane Jacobs*, Sonia Hirt (Editor).

Welcome New Graduate Students in the SGES Department



Mariia Shishmareva



Raúl Rangel Fernández



Jordan Zaugg

Mariia Shishmareva, originally from Russia, will study Russian literature in the SGES Department. She received her MA in Second Language Teaching at Brigham Young University.

Raúl Rangel Fernández, originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, will study Russian and BCMS in the SGES Department. He received his BA in Applied Linguistics and a BA in French and German from Wichita State University. He also holds an AA from Butler community college in Russian.

Jordan Zaugg, from Kent, Washington, will study Slavic linguistics in the SGES Department, focusing on Ukrainian. He received his BA from the University of Washington, where he majored in Russian Language, Literature, and Culture and minored in Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies. Jordan received a FLAS fellowship from CREES to support his study of Ukrainian language and culture at KU.

Welcome Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants



Welcome Gizem Zeybek from Turkey! She studied English Language Teaching at Istanbul University and graduated in 2018. Gizem taught English to university students during her studies. After graduation she went to Poland as a volunteer teacher, and later started teaching English at a private school in Izmir. Gizem also participated in a certified Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language program. She will be teaching Turkish at KU. She is looking forward to experiencing new cultures and trying all kinds of food, as well as sharing her favorite parts of Turkish culture.

Welcome MA Students from Ukraine

The KU Slavic Department invited graduate students from Ukraine to apply for a one-year accelerated MA in Slavic Languages and Literatures, with a special concentration in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

CREES would like to offer a very warm welcome to Andriyana Baran, Antin Zaiarniuk, Marta Puhach, and Oksana Vykhopen!



Malika Rajabova graduated from the Department of English Language at Tajik State Pedagogical University (TSPU) with a Diploma in English and German languages with distinction in 2008. She has been actively teaching English to different age groups at Bactria Cultural Center and other educational institutions in Dushanbe since 2008. Recently, she served as Alumni Facilitator through TESOL Methodology MOOCs, arranged by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)/ Online Professional English Network.



Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: Why it Matters to All of Us (Teach In and Panel)



Panelists: Erik Scott (History), Ani Kokobobo (SGES), Valery Dzutsati (Political Science), Oleksandra Wallo (SGES), Vitaly Chernetsky (SGES), and Robert Rorschneider (Political Science)

On March 2nd, a week after Russia began its invasion of Ukraine, CREES partnered with the department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies (SGES) and the Political Science department to hold a teach-in and panel discussion titled "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: Why it Matters to All of Us." The event was held in person and was available on zoom as well. Videos of the presentation are available to view on the CREES YouTube channel.

The event began with presentations by Oleksandra Wallo and Vitaly Chernetsky, both of SGES. Dr. Wallo gave an overview of how the invasion unfolded, what was currently happening, and spoke about the incredible Ukrainian resistance that no one expected.

She said, "the factor that no one took into account, not Putin, not the West, not even some Ukrainians, is that it's not only weapons and numbers that matter, it's also the reasons why people are fighting." She spoke not only of the Ukrainian spirit, and the demonstrations of support around the West (including Lawrence and Kansas City),



Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky speaks about Ukraine's history but also, of the devastation that had already occurred in just a week's time.

She showed powerful images and videos of famous Ukrainians who joined the war effort, and "everyday heroes" such as a man carrying a landmine away from other people or a group of Ukrainians stopping Russian tanks with their bare hands while singing the national anthem. She directed people to war.ukraine.ua, which is

a reliable English-language news source about the war.

Dr. Chernetsky spoke about Ukrainian identity and gave some historical background to the current conflict. He focused his remarks on history in order to help present a more nuanced understanding of both objective facts of history and also the “dangerous and malicious manipulations and misinterpretations of Ukraine’s history being strategically used to wage war on Ukraine” by Russian president Vladimir Putin. He explained that the roots of the current conflict reach deep into history.

In the last part of the teach in, Dr. Ani Kokobobo (SGES) spoke about the Russian reaction to the invasion of Ukraine. She explained that there is virtually no coverage of the war in Russia, in fact, the words attack, assault, and war are not used in news reports. It is being called a “special operation” to restore peace.

Dr. Kokobobo discussed how independent media have been shut down or blocked, so most Russians are getting information about the conflict from channels such as Facebook Messenger and Telegram.

She spoke about how 10,000 Russians signed letters against the war, but that there are new crackdowns on protesters that prevent people from further demonstrating against the invasion. She noted that 6,440 people had already been arrested for anti-war protests. She said that “the Kremlin police state is flexing its muscles pretty intensely.”

She also noted, however, that there are people in Russia who support the war, who only receive their information from state television, believe that Putin is there to bring peace to Ukraine.



Dr. Kokobobo introduces Dr. Wallo

Following the teach in, there was a panel discussion with regional specialists. Panelists included Erik Scott (History), Ani Kokobobo (SGES), Valery Dzutsati (Political Science), Oleksandra Wallo (SGES), Vitaly Chernetsky (SGES), and Robert Rorschneider (Political Science). The panelists each gave brief remarks, and the session was followed by a Q&A with the audience (both in person and zoom).

In her remarks Dr. Wallo said that the war is motivated by Putin’s false view of history, his desire to reconstitute the Soviet Union, and his hatred of the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

In his statement, Dr. Chernetsky made it clear that there is no guilt on the side of Ukrainians and urged people to educate themselves, educate others, understand Ukraine and its culture from the Ukrainian perspective, and help stop the victim blaming.

Dr. Rorschneider spoke about how the war in Ukraine also poses a threat to the rest of Europe and discussed why Europe is only now just “waking up to the fact that Russia is not the peaceful power that it believed it was,” and the idea of Ukrainian membership in the EU.

Dr. Scott gave his perspective on the war as a historian since Putin has manipulated history in his justifications for the invasion. He called Putin’s presidency “a history of opportunistic wars and cynical efforts to insert Russian power” using extremely brutal methods.

Dr. Dzutsati spoke about diversionary war theory, when a leader launches a war in a time of low public opinion, to build a reputation for competency and incite patriotic unity. He noted how there are several examples of this in Putin’s reign.

Finally, Dr. Kokobobo spoke about the importance of disinformation, both leading up to the war, and after it began and drew attention to the language that Russian media is able to use and not use in regard to the conflict. She talked about the censorship of Russian media and rise of independent citizens sharing footage on YouTube. She stated that this is Putin’s war, one that he is leading and engineering, not Russia’s war.

Palij Lecture: "Entangled Sovereignities: A Historical Perspective on Russia's War Against Ukraine"

Dr. Markian Dobczansky (Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute) gave this year's annual Palij Lecture on March 8. He spoke about Russia and Ukraine using the metaphor of entangled sovereignties.

He explained that the meaning of entangled sovereignties is twofold: first, Russia's and Ukraine's conflicting claims to sovereignty and second, how the Soviet Union entangled the sovereignties of its constituent republics with its overall justifications of its own rule.

In the first part of his talk, Dobczansky considered the problem of sovereignty and Soviet history, focusing on the Soviet claim that the USSR had "solved the nationalities problem" with policies designed to "neuter the political appeal of nationalism across a vast multiethnic space." He cited historian Yuri Slezkine's comparison of the Soviet Union to a communal apartment where each republic had its own



room, but Russians were confined to the common areas. He explains that in 1991 when these republics hoisted their own flags and closed their metaphorical apartment doors, Russia was confused, not knowing what belonged to it and what belonged to the republics. Russians were convinced that their claims to the common areas were indistinguishable from claims to the entire apartment.

He looked at Russian sovereignty claims today and the problems they pose in relation with its neighbors. He explained that Russia defines itself as a great power and demands the sovereign right to dominate its immediate neighbors. Dobczansky explained that Putin does not feel constrained by Ukraine's claims to sovereignty and views the collapse of the USSR and the end of its superpower status as something to be regretted or as a source of humiliation. Putin believes only great powers exercise true sovereignty in the international system and bases Russia's sovereignty on its aspirations to be a great power. Putin also claims to protect Russian speakers from oppression abroad, irrespective of whether they are oppressed or not and only applies to Russian speakers in the former Soviet republics.

Another aspect of Putin's conception of Russian sovereignty is based on a tri-partite Russian nationhood that dates back to the 19th century which includes the Great Russians, Little Russians (Ukrainians), and White Russians (Belarusians).

Dobczansky discussed Ukrainian sovereignty since 1991. He stated that Ukraine's freedom to make its own foreign policy choices, even in defiance of its powerful neighbor, lies at the heart of its claims to sovereignty. "Ukrainians wanted to engage the world on their own terms," Dobczansky said, citing the Revolution of Dignity and the Euromaidan Protests. He also noted that Ukraine's indivisibility, its unwillingness to partition into Eastern and Western Ukraine, is a major part of its sovereignty.

Ukrainian and Russian claims to sovereignty are, in his view, irreconcilable. Ukraine is too important to Russia's definition of itself as a great power for it to refrain from interfering in Ukrainian foreign policy and internal affairs. Ukraine, on the other hand, can only pursue independent foreign policy for itself in opposition to Russia.

Finally, he gave some recommendations to the field about lessons we should draw from this discussion of sovereignty in the Soviet Union. One such recommendation was to continue listening to non-Russian voices in historical scholarship and public commentaries on the war which challenges Russo-centric assumptions that persist in the field and public commentary today. He also discussed the value of area studies programs and specialists. A video of the lecture is available on the CREES YouTube channel.

Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: A Historian's View

On May 4, KU CREES director Dr. Erik Scott gave a talk at Johnson County Community College (JCCC) to give his perspective as a historian on Russia's war against Ukraine. He first explained that the conflict is about more than just Russian President Vladimir Putin, noting continuities in Russian foreign policy since the late 1990s and the persistence of imperial dynamics in Moscow's relationship with post-Soviet states.

He compared Putin's and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's generations and how they inform their perspectives. Scott called Putin, born in 1952 in the war's aftermath, a quintessential Soviet baby boomer. Growing up in the stable 1960s and 1970s, Putin can easily imagine the last 30 years as merely a blip, and the restoration of something like the Soviet Union, or a union with Belarus and Ukraine under Russia's thumb. Zelensky, on the other hand, is a Gen Xer, born in 1978 and only 13 when the Soviet Union collapsed. The 1990s were a different time for him, and there is an entire generation of Ukrainians born after him. Dr. Scott explained that generational change is afoot, and it will inform perceptions of the past, and the possibilities imagined for the future.

He noted that while history matters, memory does as well, citing the different views of the 1990s as an example. The Russian government has cultivated the idea of a "wild" and unstable Russia in the 1990s. While there is some truth to this idea, the press was freer, people could protest, and one could at least talk about democratization.



Finally, he closed his presentation by asking how long the West's unification precipitated by the invasion will last. He explained that sanctions, while an important tool, might tighten Putin's grip on power and military options are limited given Russia's nuclear arsenal. Dr. Scott concluded with the thought that the war could be a very long conflict. Months later, we can see how true this statement was. The event was held at the JCCC CoLab as part of the "Great Decisions" series and was followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Opportunity for Ukrainian Graduate Students through KU Slavic



The Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies (SGES) invited graduate students from Ukraine to apply for a one-year accelerated MA in Slavic Languages and Literatures, with a special concentration in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Within this broad area studies degree, students may choose to focus on a particular country (including Ukraine) and/or a particular area of interest, such as history, political science, literature & arts, philosophy & religion, or economics, business, & geography. The university will offer visa support for students as well as health insurance. Tuition is waived and depending on the funding package, living stipends will range from \$18,000-\$25,000. Some funding packages will be in the form of fellowships and others in the form of teaching assistantships. KU will grant a limited number of awards (between 4-7).

KU for Ukraine Fundraiser

On April 18 the KU Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies, in conjunction with KU International Affairs, and the KU Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, held a fundraising event at Maceli's Banquet Hall in Lawrence. The event was organized by SGES chair, Dr. Ani Kokobobo. The goal of KU for Ukraine is to sustain Ukrainian education in the face of the Russian war with Ukraine. It raised funds to help displaced scholars and students as well as host Ukrainian students and scholars at KU.

The evening began with remarks by KU Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer. After the Provost, Dr. Ani Kokobobo took the stage. She explained, "It's been 54 days of this war, and in the course of that time many of us have gone from talking about the war, writing about the war, providing expert opinions about the war, to wanting to do something concrete for the people of Ukraine and that's why we're all here."

She discussed her admiration for scholars in Ukraine who continue their work, as well as for her Ukrainian colleagues at KU, particularly Vitaly Chernetsky and Oleksandra Wallo, who have given multiple interviews, and helped educate others despite the devastating emotional toll this war is taking on them, their friends, and their families back in Ukraine.

Vitaly Chernetsky, who is originally from Odesa, Ukraine, shared a few personal stories from people he has worked with and who have deep connections to KU.



KU for Ukraine *Support for Students & Scholars at Risk*



He spoke first about KU's first CEC Arts Link fellow, Oleksandr Mykhed, a noted Ukrainian writer, literary scholar, and art curator, who along with his wife Olena lived in a suburb of Kyiv. Though they were able to escape, their house sustained a direct artillery hit in the first days of the Russian invasion and was completely destroyed, including their library and art collection. Olena and Oleksandr are now in Western Ukraine working as volunteers. He also spoke about his friends Yulia Stakhivska, a book illustrator, poet, and children's author, and her husband Oleh Kotsarev, a prose writer and poet, who lived in a different suburb of Kyiv, called Bucha. They too were able to escape. However, their apartment was ransacked by the Russian army. Dr. Chernetsky noted how Oleh recalled fond memories of strolling around Bucha with his young daughter, and that the town is now synonymous with the massacre perpetrated by the Russian army there in March 2022. Oleh struggles to find the words to explain to his daughter what happened in their town, and wonders if they could ever live there again after what Russia had done there.

Finally, he spoke about the most recent CEC Arts Link fellow at KU, Alevtina Kakhidze, one of Ukraine's best-known contemporary artists. She has stayed in Muzychi as the caretaker for gardens and animals of her neighbors who fled to safety. She has kept a visual diary commenting on the war and its impact, sharing her personal experiences and calling the world to task. Dr. Oleksandra Wallo noted that "today is day 54 of this

awful, full-scale war against Ukraine, and on this day my home-town of Lviv suffered its first casualties." She went on to explain that Ukrainian poets have been among the first to give expression to a new reality in which Ukrainians "oscillate between frantic activity" (fighting to volunteering, attending rallies, collecting humanitarian aid) and "moments of utter paralyzing shock." She explained that the three poets, whose work was recited at the event, represent different parts of Ukraine. Halyna Kruk lives in Lviv in Western Ukraine. Lyuba Yakimchuk lives in Kyiv, and Serhiy Zhadan lives in Kharkiv in Eastern Ukraine, though the latter two are originally from the Luhansk region. All three poets remained in their cities when the invasion occurred and are helping with the war effort. For example, Zhadan has put his literary work on hold and is organizing and delivering humanitarian aid

in Kharkiv from morning until night under practically nonstop shelling with no regard for his own safety, even giving up his own bullet-proof vest to soldiers who didn't have their own.

Dr. Wallo ended her remarks by reading one of Zhadan's recent Facebook posts and beseeching the crowd to have faith and do what they can to support Ukrainians in



these devastating circumstances.

Professors Chernetsky's and Wallo's presentations were followed by a poetry reading of work by the three poets mentioned above, Halyna Kruk, Lyuba Yakimchuk, and Nobel Prize winner Serhiy Zhadan.

The poems were performed by students from the KU Department of Theater and Dance with dramaturgy by Marzi Ashrafian.

Following the poetry reading, there was a performance of Ukrainian music by Elena Bosworth, Alla Aranovskaya, and Boris Vayner (KU School of Music).

You can listen to a recording of the event on Kansas Public Radio's KPR Presents.

At its completion, KU for Ukraine raised \$48,060. CREES and SGES extend their heartfelt thanks to those who attended and performed at the event and to everyone who has donated.

BLP/SELF in Slovenia Program by Corey Behrens



The Business Leadership/SELF Engineering Leadership Program in Slovenia takes a cross-disciplinary group of undergraduates from the Business Leadership Program and engineering SELF Fellows to Slovenia for a ten-day study abroad experience in the summer. The students learn about Slovene businesses, history, and culture.

We love Slovenia for its people, fascinating history, and natural beauty. Our typical day includes visits to Slovene businesses in the morning and visits to cultural sites in the afternoon—and truly gourmet Slovene food along the way. Several of the businesses we visit are older than the country of Slovenia and have endured through multiple governments and economic systems. Because we have outstanding colleagues on the ground there through Luxury Slovenia, and because Slovenia is a bit off the beaten path for university groups, we find that we get a warm welcome from leaders within the businesses who are willing to share openly and answer our students' questions.

Slovenia is an astoundingly beautiful country. The trip is based out of Ljubljana, the beautiful capital city, and we frequently venture to other areas of the country to visit businesses and see cultural sights. Because we have an extremely knowledgeable guide, Petra Lubej, who is dedicated to our group the entire trip, we learn history, geography, and cul-

We also take a day trip to Venice and spend the weekend on the Adriatic coast in Piran and Portoroz. Some of our visits (e.g., Elan skis) take us closer to the Julian Alps. We visit Lake Bled along with touring the IEDC School of Management, which was founded just a few years before Slovenia became independent from Yugoslavia. Slovenia is geographically small enough that it is possible to see many different aspects of the country within a short time frame.

The trip originated from a discussion between John Hedeman, my predecessor Director of BLP, and the Slovene ambassador to the US, who was visiting KU. The ambassador made some excellent introductions on our behalf — with Luxury Slovenia and with some businesses. Now that we have been conducting the trip for several years, we are grateful to have strong relationships with colleagues there who are as committed as we are to making the trip a success.

Typically, the trip is open only to first-year students in our BLP and SELF programs. This year, we took two groups of students on back-to-back trips to accommodate some who would have attended in recent years.

Some of our students and I took a short course on Slovene with Marta Pirnat-Greenberg in preparation for the trip. She also presented at one of our pre-departure class sessions and provided materials to give the rest of us some basic language skills. It was amazing to see how much it meant to the people we met to hear some of their own language spoken by a foreign visitor.



CREES Holds Cyber Security Conference by Kevin Thomas

KU CREES, in partnership with KU's Office of Graduate Military Programs (GMP) and the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICCAE) co-organized and held a conference titled "Cybersecurity Threats from Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia and the Global Spread of Disinformation." The event was funded by Title VI and the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The conference brought together experts from academia, the military, the intelligence community, and the private sector for a far-ranging discussion of the past, present, and future of cybersecurity and the ways that states, societies, and individuals can respond to the challenges posed by disinformation.

The conference took place a mere month and a half after the day Russia invaded Ukraine, bringing added urgency to the topics of cybersecurity and disinformation. The timely discussion of these topics was largely framed within the context of Russia's invasion, while simultaneously drawing upon a wealth of historical references, data analyses, and personal experience from the last thirty years.

Conference presenter and Director of Analysis for the Defense Intelligence Agency, Trent Maul, framed the



Lukas Andriukaitis, George T. Amariuca, Aric Toler, Mike Denning

cyber threats posed to the West as the culmination of two great phenomena stemming from the 1990s: the spread of liberal democracy and the advent of the cyberage.

The contradictions of these two forces and their relation to national security dominated the presentations and discussions over the two-day event. The vulnerability of Western liberal democracies to cyber and disinformation attacks from centralized adversarial states which rely on such asymmetric threats to pursue their perceived interests in contrast to more conventional means, was particularly highlighted. Potential examples of such vulnerabilities included cyber-attacks on a Western military or its domestic infrastructure. Recent

examples provided were Russia's attempts to fabricate a rationale for invading Ukraine through the spread of disinformation. Other experts drew upon extensive research into or experience in the Global War on Terror, and the lessons learned regarding indoctrination, recruitment, and radicalization.

From a student's perspective, the conference and panel discussions were a useful insight into the mechanics of the intelligence community and the career trajectories of the attending intelligence experts, particularly of the KU alumni Chad Ludwig, Trent Maul, and Colonel Mack Curry. Colonel Curry spoke of the difficulty of finding untraditional ways of communicating operational intelligence to the Ukrainian government and military, without past-established connections. Director Trent Maul spoke at length about the similarities between academic research and intelligence analysis, as well as the necessity to mechanize data analysis in tandem with human analysis, in light of the sheer volume of data the modern world provides. Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst for Africa Chad Ludwig, touched on the world power competition taking place in Africa.

KU and CREES once again benefited immensely from their dedicated alumni, and from their close relations with the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. Interactions between military and civilian academia are mutually valuable, and their availability to the general public is equally as important. The Cyber Security Conference provided both opportunities at a crucial time.

The CREES Spring Festival Made its Return in 2022

Following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual CREES Spring Festival made its return in May 2022! The festival took place on Friday May 6 in South Park in Lawrence. Over 100 people joined us for food, music, crafts, and celebration.

The event kicked off with a welcome statement by CREES director Erik Scott. To show support for the people of Ukraine Oleksandra Wallo (SGES) and new CREES Outreach Coordinator Megan Luttrell led a sing-along of the popular Ukrainian song "Ой у лузі червона калина" (In the Meadow the Red Viburnum). Dr. Wallo explained the significance of the song and the symbolism of the red viburnum to Ukraine, and everyone in the crowd sang together in Ukrainian. Following the song, Erik Scott introduced the KU for Ukraine Fundraiser and many people generously donated.



Over 100 people attended the Spring Festival held in South Park in Lawrence. Photo by Cassie Baric



The festival featured Eastern European music by Kansas City duo the Baric Brothers.

CREES was delighted to welcome the Kansas City duo the Baric Brothers to this year's festival. Jim and Joe Baric performed an hour of Eastern European music.

During the festival, people enjoyed food and crafts from the REE region. Since the festival took place on May 6 (St. George's Day), the craft table featured a Turkish wishing tree, which is a traditional activity on this day. People drew representations of their wishes on scraps of fabric and tied them to a tree. Hopefully they have all come true!

Other crafts included a Ukrainian pysanky coloring page, a Polish wycinanky (paper cutting) activity, and Bulgarian Martenitsa dolls and bracelets. The evening concluded with a recognition of the four REES graduating seniors, Cameron Devany, Tyler Gartner, Mason Hussong, and Claire Rips-Goodwin. Congratulations graduates!

CREES would like to extend a special thank you to its new Outreach Coordinator Megan Luttrell for organizing the festival and also thanks its student worker Alyssa Gonzales and graduate student assistant Kevin Thomas, for their help with the event.



The craft table included a Turkish wishing tree, Polish wycinanky paper cutting, Bulgarian Martenitsa bracelets and dolls, and a Ukrainian pysanky coloring activity.

CREES joins the Today in International Politics: Speaker Series (TIPSS) as part of its Educator Outreach Initiative

During the 2021-2022 Academic Year, CREES, together with other area studies centers—both at KU and across the country, partnered with Sean P. Jacobsen, a high school educator in the New York City Public Schools, who coordinates virtual workshops for his network of 1000+ high school educators of AP Comparative Government and Politics.

This AP class teaches high school students the modern-day governments of the United Kingdom, China, Russia, Iran, Nigeria, and Mexico. CREES would like to thank its affiliated faculty members Prof. Valery Dzutsati (KU Department of Political Science) and Prof. Lisa McLendon (KU School Journalism and Mass



Communications) for participating in these workshops and giving presentations to 100+ high school educators and their students.

Dr. Valery Dzutsati, who participated twice, gave presentations on Current Events in Russia and Protest Movements in Russia and Dr. Lisa McLendon talked about Media in Russia.

CREES is very excited to continue to be a part of this speaker series during the next academic year and would like to thank Sean for all his hard work to make this speaker series possible. To learn more about this workshop series, feel free to explore the TIPSS website at www.compgovtipss.com.

Coffee with Tony Housh

At the end of April, KU CREES alumnus and the current chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland, Tony Housh, held an informal coffee hour in Bailey Hall with students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. He received his BA from KU in Political Science and Soviet Studies.

Tony is a strategic policy, business and communications advisor with twenty-five years of experience in Poland and CEE. He has advised and assisted companies in a wide range of sectors including defense, energy, innovative technologies and biosciences. He has served as the Chairman of AmCham since January 2015.

In his talk, Tony discussed the Polish response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He emphasized the incredible way in which the Polish people and government have accepted Ukrainian refugees, including enrolling Ukrainian children in schools, and getting refugees access to housing, healthcare, and jobs.



International Jayhawk Festival



The sixth annual International Jayhawk Festival took place at the Burge Union on April 19th. The event celebrates our global community and international engagement. CREES was a co-sponsor of the event, which was attended by 450 people.

Students and staff browsed among the different tables which included CREES and the other area centers, study abroad, student groups, and more. The event included food, free t-shirts, activities, a study abroad fair, and musical and dance performances. Megan Luttrell (CREES Outreach Coordinator) performed Russian and Ukrainian music.

The CREES table featured cultural objects from the REE region, a trivia game about the region, and a map puzzle of Eastern Europe, which several students and staff enjoyed assembling.

CREES looks forward to participating in the event again next year and being more involved in planning and programming.



Language Classes at Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center

As part of its outreach initiatives and programming to K-12 schools, KU CREES has successfully coordinated a volunteer language program at the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) over the last five years. The CREES Outreach Coordinator finds volunteers to teach a different foreign language during a given month. Before the pandemic, volunteers went in person to teach students once a week. Students at the JDC have had the opportunity to take introductory lessons in many languages including, Arabic, Chinese, Georgian, Hindi, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Turkish, and Uyghur.

Last fall 2021, volunteer instructors taught languages such as Russian, Uyghur, and Hindi online. Students welcome the guest instructors, who teach about the language and culture of a given country or region. Volunteers bring their passion for the language and culture, as well as share stories of their time overseas or what life is like in their native country. Lisa Giullian, former CREES outreach coordinator, taught Russian language and culture via Zoom last September 2021.

The JDC staff have reported that this is their most successful volunteer program. "Students are not only receiving an introduction to a new language and culture, but they are broadening their horizons and seeing possibilities for their future. Many of these students have already experienced a lot of turmoil in their lives. It's a good experience for these students to hear the life experiences of volunteers, who are from another country or have lived in another country, and have studied a different language and culture," said Lisa Giullian. CREES also appreciates all the efforts of staff and faculty from other Title VI Centers, who have provided volunteers or have volunteered themselves.

Global Opportunities Expo

CREES, together with the other KU area studies centers and Donnelly College, organized the Global Opportunities Expo, an annual event that introduces students to academic and study abroad programs, careers, initiatives, and intriguing ideas that inspire to think and act globally.

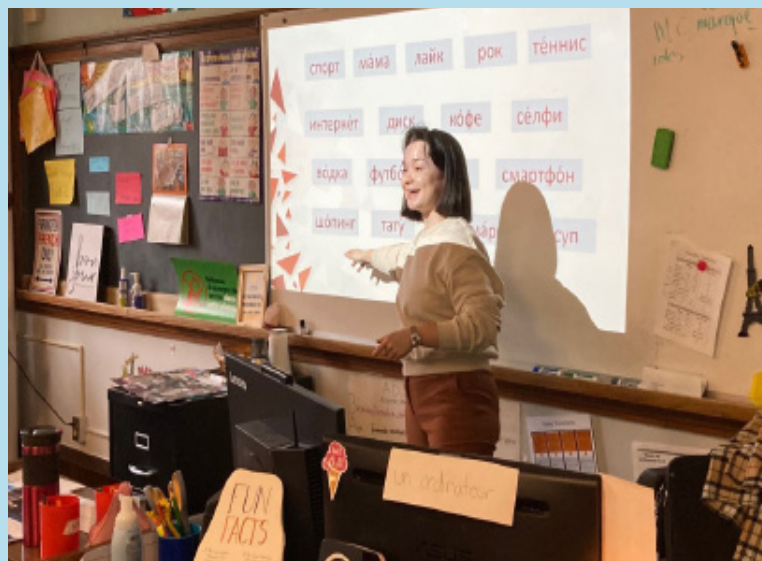
This virtual event took place April 4-7 and featured panels on varying topics regarding global citizenry, careers, identity, languages, and study abroad; crash courses on varying global topics, and performance arts from around the world.

CREES Alumna Gloria Funcheon, Strategic Communications and Knowledge Management Advisor at Mercy Corps in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, participated in a panel of professionals engaged in work around the world and talked about her experiences, shared



tips for beginning a global career, and gave suggestions for what to study in preparation. 2021-2023 Fulbright Ukrainian FLTA Khrystyna Petriv (Slavic and Eurasian Languages & Literatures) gave a crash course on Ukraine and Ukrainian Language. Elena Bosworth, a master cellist and a Lawrence community member, gave a beautiful cello performance. CREES would like to thank Gloria, Khrystyna, and Elena for their participation in this expo and educating & inspiring KU students.

Traveling World Languages Fair



On March 24, 2022, CREES, along with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS), and Kansas African Studies Center (KASC), organized a Traveling World Languages Fair to Topeka High School.

Area Studies Center staff talked to high school students about the various programs and events that their centers have to offer, and KU language lecturers gave rotating presentations on Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, and Mandarin Chinese.

CREES would like to thank Kamila Saifeeva, a graduate student in the Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies, for giving

engaging mini lectures on Russian language to several groups of high school students. She spoke about the Cyrillic alphabet and its history. Thanks to newly awarded Title VI funds, CREES plans to organize several World Traveling Languages Fairs in the coming years to towns such as Garden City, Wichita, Dodge City, as well as to some more rural areas.

Congratulations to our REES Graduates and Award Recipients



REES Bachelor of Arts 2022 Graduates

Cameron Devany

Tyler Gartner

Mason Husson

Claire Rips-Goodwin



***Bramlage & Willcoxon Scholarship
Adam Rodger***

***Clowes Russian Language Award
Kevin Thomas***

***Jarosewycz Family Scholarship
Paris Gordon***

***George C. Jerkovich Scholarship
Raúl Rangel Fernández***

***Laird Essay Contest
Aylar Atadurdyeva
John Lubianetsky***

***Norman E. Saul Travel Award
Adam Rodger
Kevin Thomas***

***Palij Award for Ukrainian Studies
Betül Czerkawski***

***FMSO/CREES Security
Affairs Research Fellowship
Adam Rodger (summer)
Aylar Atadurdyeva (fall)
Antin Zaiarniuk (fall)***



Aylar Atadurdyeva and John Lubianetsky Win the Laird Essay Contest

by Esra Predolac

The Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies (CREES) at the University of Kansas has announced that this year's Roy D. and Betty Laird Essay Contest winners are undergraduate students John Lubianetsky, for his essay "The United States' Role in Resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: Transformation and Change in Caucasian Security," and Aylar Atadurdyeva, for her essay "'The Woman Question,' Dostoevsky, and the Women of Crime and Punishment."

Now in its 28th year, the annual essay contest is named after the late Dr. Roy D. Laird, a longtime member of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and political science faculties, and Betty Laird, whose support makes this prize possible. Both Lubianetsky and Atadurdyeva will each receive a \$250 cash prize award.

A committee of four REES faculty read and independently rated the anonymous essays submitted for the contest. According to CREES Director Erik Scott, Lubianetsky's essay offered "productive ideas for seeking a stable peace in Nagorno-Karabakh." He stated that Atadurdyeva's essay provided "a thought-provoking analysis of gender in nineteenth-century Russian literature and its relevance for understanding Russia's past and present."

John Lubianetsky is from Kansas City, Missouri. At KU, he is pursuing a triple major in Chinese Language and Literature, Global and International Studies, and Political Science, with minors in Intelligence and National Security Studies and Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies. His academic interests are in East and Central Asian security and in international arms control. In the future, he plans to attend graduate school to study International Relations.



Aylar Atadurdyeva



John Lubianetsky

Aylar Atadurdyeva is a third-year student majoring in Global and International Studies, Microbiology, and Political Science, with minors in German Studies, Psychology, and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. She is an active member of the University Honors program, where she serves as a Student Ambassador. She is currently interning with Education USA, a U.S. Department of State program. After graduation, Aylar intends to pursue a Ph.D. in either Microbiology or Political Science with hopes of becoming a scholar-practitioner. Aylar is originally from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Bramlage & Willcoxon Family Scholarship Winner Adam Rodger

This year's Bramlage and Willcoxon Family Scholarship was awarded to Adam Rodger, who received his master's degree from Miami University in history in 2017 and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in history at KU.

Adam worked with CREES director Dr. Erik Scott on the "Cold War in the Heartland" project, which teaches students about the important role played by the Heartland in the Cold War narrative. He wrote about Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Iowa and how it impacted his policies, as well as about nuclear engineering facilities in southern Ohio.

Adam's academic interests in the Heartland are intertwined with his personal ties to the area. He is originally from Marysville, Ohio and lived in southern Ohio while attending Miami University. He wrote about the Downwinders (people who lived near nuclear testing sites in the southwest Heartland). His mother's family is part of this demographic and living in this area has had lasting impacts on them.

Adam plans to use the scholarship to finish his dissertation, "One War, Two Fronts: The Spanish Civil War as a Continuation of the Russian Civil War," which examines Russian participation in the Spanish Civil War.



Adam Rodger
Bramlage & Willcoxon Award Winner

He also plans to continue teaching students about the important role the American Heartland played in the Cold War.

Adam has worked as a graduate teaching assistant in the KU history department for many years, has published several pieces in OE Watch, won the CREES/FMSO Security Affairs Research Fellowship for spring and summer 2022, and will be presenting on his dissertation research at the ASEES national convention in Chicago this November.

CREES

Fall Mixer

Centennial Park East Shelter
2124 West Ninth Street
Lawrence, KS 66049

9.9.22 5-8pm

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Laura Dean



I finished my Ph.D. in political science with a graduate certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Kansas in 2014. Though my degree is not from CREES, half of my doctoral education (three of six years) was supported by a Foreign Language Area Scholarship (FLAS) to study Russian. This language knowledge and the classes I took on the CREES region inform my work today as an Associate Professor of Political Science at Millikin University. Earning the FLAS and acquiring Russian and Ukrainian language skills also opened up other scholarship opportunities during my doctoral education and beyond. I was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Fellowship to conduct dissertation research in Ukraine and Social Science Research Council Eurasia Program Dissertation Development Award to write my dissertation. Then I also won a Title VIII Summer Research Fellowship, at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and an American Association of University Women American Research Public Grant to transform my dissertation into a book *Diffusing Human Trafficking Policy in Eurasia*,

which was published by Policy Press at the University of Bristol in 2020.

During my time at KU, I spent a year in Kharkiv, Ukraine working with the Gender Studies Center at V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University taking Ukrainian language and gender studies classes. I also performed dissertation fieldwork research, mainly interviews and participant observation with anti-trafficking experts in 12 different oblasts around Ukraine including, Donetsk and Crimea in 2012-2013 before the annexation and war in Donbas began in 2014. This in-country knowledge of Ukrainian culture and on the ground experience has also informed my perspective on the escalation of war in 2022 which I share with my students, in public talks, and in the local media. I am able to demonstrate that a war which seems far away to many Americans is very personal to me, especially when both the apartment I lived in and my university building in Kharkiv were destroyed by a Russian bomb on March 1, 2022.

I spent this summer in Rīga, Latvia working on a book on women's representation in the Latvian Saeima (the parliament) and while I was there, I volunteered at the Rīga City Council Support Center for Ukrainian Citizens. According to the International Organization for Migration in Latvia, over 115,000 Ukrainian refugees have crossed Latvia's borders since February 24, 2022 and over 35,000 have applied for temporary protection. Ukrainians came to the support center to file paperwork, look for jobs, receive counseling, get childcare, or a free meal. I went through a volunteer training and because of my Russian and Ukraine language skills was placed in the children's room. Other volunteers told me that there was another American volunteer that didn't speak Russian or Ukrainian and they put her in the kitchen. So I was very thankful that my language skills allowed me to draw and play hide and seek with Ukrainian children all summer instead of peeling onions in a hot kitchen!

I use the language skills and cultural knowledge I gained at CREES in my research and classroom on a daily basis teaching my students about Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. As one of the few internationally based faculty at my small institution in Central Illinois, I also lead matryoshka painting workshops, teach people Latvian folk dancing, and take my own students on travel immersion courses in the Baltic States. Many of these ideas I gained from a KU study abroad to Russia and the center's outreach with the community educating people about our region. My education at CREES serves as a model for me as an educator and researcher and I am so thankful for the FLAS scholarship that prompted me learn Russian and Ukrainian!

Alumni & Student News

Alyar Atadurdyeva: Alyar won the Laird Essay contest for the second year in a row. This year her essay was titled “‘The Woman Question,’ Dostoevsky, and the Women of Crime and Punishment.” Alyar was also selected to participate in the REEES 2022-2023 Think Tank, was selected as a Phi Beta Kappa Key into Public Service Scholar, and named KU and the State of Kansas Student Employee of the Year.

Katya Chelpanova: Katya accepted a position of Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Buffalo. She successfully defended her dissertation with honors on August 4, 2022. Congratulations, Katya!



Dr. Ekaterina Chelpanova

Devin Culley-McFadden: Devin accepted a position of Lecturer in the Department of German and Russian at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT. She successfully defended her dissertation with honors on August 18, 2022. Congratulations, Devin!

Kurt Harper: Drawing on his prior experience of Eastern European studies, and continued contact with both Russia and Ukraine as a result of Rotary-sponsored exchange programs, Kurt presented a program on the Russia/Ukraine conflict to the Rotary Club of Wichita, one of the oldest (Club #30) and largest (membership of approximately 400) in the country. The presentation was on April 4, 2022.

Oksana Husieva: Oksana accepted a position of Assistant Professor at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. Congratulations, Oksana!



Melinda Farris and Bart Redford

Melinda Farris (MA '95) and Bart Redford (MA '91) will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary in October 2022. Farris is chief executive officer of the International Association of Operative Millers (Lenexa, KS) and Redford is executive director of the Walnut Valley Festival (Winfield, KS). The two met while living and working in Tver', Russia in 1997. Congratulations, Bart and Melinda!

Nathaniel Pickett: Nathaniel passed his dissertation defense on March 24, 2022. His dissertation is titled “Social Fallout: Ukrainian Society and Geopolitics in the Shadow of Chornobyl.” Nathaniel received his PhD from the geography department and Dr. Shannon O’Lear served as his advisor. Congratulations, Dr. Pickett! Nathaniel also participated as a panelist for a webinar on the Russian invasion of Ukraine along with Dr. Shannon O’Lear and CREES alumnus John Biersack.



David Roghair: (MA 2000) David was appointed Superior Court Judge for Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska and sworn in on December 29, 2021. Roghair was selected for the position after working as a magistrate judge in the city since 2015.

Faculty News

Prof. Vitaly Chernetsky (SGES), like many other Ukrainian Studies specialists, during these tragic days for Ukraine focused his efforts on contributing to deeper understanding of Ukraine's role and relevance in the contemporary world, as well as its culture and history. This included participation in multiple teach-ins, webinars, and expert panels, delivering numerous guest lectures (at institutions ranging from Cal State San Marcos to Yale and Ca' Foscari University in Venice) and speaking to local, national, and international media. He presented at conferences at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Maryland and delivered the opening keynote at the Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies. On behalf of KU, he co-organized, with European University Viadrina in Germany, an online conference marking the centenary of formalist literary criticism in Ukraine. At the beginning of summer, Chernetsky took a research trip to Argentina and Brazil focused on Slavic diasporic writers in those countries, during which he also delivered a lecture on Ukrainian literature at the University of São Paulo, the leading institution for Slavic studies in South America. He is honored to have been nominated for presidency of ASEES.



Professor Vitaly Chernetsky in front of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Buenos Aires.



Professor Greenberg being interviewed on the talk show Knjiški ljudi "Bookish people" in Podgorica.

Prof. Marc Greenberg (SGES) visited colleagues at KU Slavic's partner institution in Cetinje, Montenegro, the Faculty of Montenegrin Language and Literature, in July 2022, to gather material for a research project. He also met with the writer and journal editor, Milorad Popović. During his stay he was interviewed for the talk show Knjiški ljudi 'Bookish people' in Podgorica (Titograd) by writer Đorđe Šćepović. The episode is viewable [here](#).

In July the Ghana Library Journal published the essay "Open Access is Broken: What Can Be Done?" written by co-authors Brian Rosenblum, A. Town Peterson, Ada Emmett, Marc L. Greenberg, and Josh Bolick.

In December 2021, Mmes. Mersina Mujagić and Medina Bajtarević translated, and eminent Bosnian linguist, Prof. Halid Bulić, published "Bottlenecks in the Open Access Scholarly Communications System: Voices Around the World" in the Sarajevo University based publication Lingvaz in a Bosnian version of an important publication on open access. The corresponding author was Marc L. Greenberg with some 40 co-authors from other counties. The issue is available [here](#).

Geoff Husic (Library) will be partnering in with a colleague from the University of Carolina, Chapel Hill to begin archiving and cataloging websites and other electronic objects (ebooks, ejournals, etc.) in Ukraine related to LGBTIQ+ gray literature, which is now endangered.



Professor Najafizadeh and Azerbaijan University Rector, Saadat Namig Aliyeva

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Associate Professor of Sociology, was a 2021-2022 Fulbright Scholar Award recipient. During Spring Semester 2022, she taught at Azerbaijan University in Baku, Azerbaijan, and she also continued her social historical archival research on Azerbaijani women of the early twentieth century and her contemporary research on Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Nagorno-Karabakh War. This fall, she will be presenting a paper at the Fulbright Association's 45th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The photo features Professor Najafizadeh and Azerbaijan University Rector, Saadat Namig Aliyeva.

Martin Nedbal (Music) published four articles. His article "Heinrich Wilhelm Haugwitz and the Reception of Mozart's Operas in Early Nineteenth-Century Moravia" was published in the journal *Musicologica Brunensia*, published by the Masaryk University in Brno. The article "Beethoven and Bohemia: Dramaturgical and Political Aspect of Fidelio Reception in Prague" was published in the British journal *Music & Letters*, and the article "Wenzel Mihule and the Reception of Mozart's Don Giovanni in Central Europe" in *The Journal of Musicology*. Finally, his article

"Franz Xaver Niemetschek and the Mozart Circle in 1794: Previously Overlooked Documents" was published in the Newsletter of the Mozart Society of America.

Jonathan Perkins (EGARC) is pleased to share that the KU Language Training Center grant, which offers language instruction to active duty and reserve military personnel, was renewed for the 2022-25 cycle with a total award of almost \$1.8 million. The grant will fund coursework in 11 languages, including Russian and Persian courses during an intensive summer program, and Russian and Ukrainian courses during the academic year at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

Nathan Wood (History) presented "The Bison are Dying Out! The near-extinction and restoration of bison in Poland after WWI" at the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America's Convention in Białystok, Poland. As a member of PIASA's board of directors, he also attended a board meeting and awards banquet. After presenting about the bison, he traveled to the Białowieża Primeval Forest, where he rode a bike through the forest and saw some captive bison, descendants of the 12 animals in the 1920s from whom all European bison today descend. In Warsaw, he read archival records about the forest and found more sources about the bison in the university library, including two books by Jan Zabiński, the Warsaw zookeeper made more famous of late by the Diane Ackerman historical novel *The Zookeeper's Wife* and the movie adaptation of it.



Professor Nathan Wood in the Białowieża Primeval Forest Nature Preserve

FALL 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

FRI
09

CREES Fall Mixer — 5pm-8pm

Centennial Park, East Shelter
2124 W. Ninth St., Lawrence, KS

TUES
13

“Audience Costs, Domino Effects, and Regional Cohesion in State Expansion: Russia’s Absorption of Abkhazia and South Ossetia” —12pm

Valery Dzutsati (KU Political Science)
Bailey Hall Rm. 318

TUES
27

“The Way Russians Think About War” — 12pm

Ray Finch (Foreign Military Studies)
Bailey Hall Rm. 318

OCTOBER

SAT
01

Kolo Dance Workshop— 12pm

Kansas City dance and music duo the Baric Brothers
KS Memorial Union Ballroom

TUES
04

International Career Series — 4pm

Matthew Hughes (Kansas City International Relations Council)
Bailey Hall Rm. 318

THURS
06

“Dialogue with the Dictator: Information Management and Popular Support in Putin’s Russia” — 4pm

Hannah Chapman (University of Oklahoma)

THURS
13

Backus/ Ciencala Lecture: “Poland and the Global Sixties: Reframing Narratives of Polish History” — 4pm

Malgorzata Fidelis (University of Chicago)

TUES
18

“Utopia’s Discontents: Russian Émigrés and the Quest for Freedom, 1830s-1930s” — 4pm

Faith Hillis (University of Chicago)
Virtual Event

NOVEMBER

SUN
06

Palij Lecture: “Ball and Chain: Russian Culture Invasion of Ukraine” — 2pm

Lyuba Yakimchuk
Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania St. Lawrence, KS

TUES
08

Culinary Explorations: Ukrainian Pirozhki Cooking Class — 1 pm

Anna’s Bakery
KU Ecumenical Center Kitchen
*Space is limited and sign up is required.

TUES
15

International Career Series — 4pm

Paul Aldaya (US Army Foreign Area Officer)
Bailey Hall Rm. 318

DECEMBER

FRI
02

“Reflections on WWI, the Battle of Lviv, and the Current War in Ukraine” — 12pm

Andrzej Chwalba (Jagiellonian University) and Damian Markowski (Institute of National Remembrance)
Virtual Event

THURS
08

“Dostoevsky and the Perils of Russian Exceptionalism” — 4pm

Ani Kokobobo (KU SGES)
Pine Rm., Kansas Union

Giving to KU CREES

The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies has been a national leader for the study of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since 1959. The Center is a degree-granting program within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas.

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

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A secure online donation can be made to CREES via the KU Endowment website at:
kuendowment.org

FOR DONATIONS BY MAIL

If you would like to make a donation by check or money order, please make your check payable to **KU CREES** and mail your donation to:

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

SPASIBO Fund

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

CREES General Fund

Supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities. Among its dedicated sponsors are the Oswald P. Backus/Anna Cienciala 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.

Clowes Russian Language Award

Thanks to the generosity of Edith W. Clowes, a former CREES Director and now the Brown-Forman Professor of the Humanities at the University of Virginia, and with the support of the Clowes Fund, the Clowes Russian Language Award supports graduate students in REES studying Russian.

Jarosewycz Family Fund

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

George C. Jerkovich Fund

Supports the development of KU's South Slavic library collection; and provides awards to outstanding students with a demonstrated interest in the study of Croatian or Serbian history, literature, folklore, or culture.

Roy & Betty Laird Fund

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

Palij Family Fund

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

Alexander Tsiovkh Memorial Fund

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

