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THE TRAFFICKING AND TERRORISM NEXUS IN EURASIA

INTERVIEW WITH MARIYA OMELICHEVA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Selected to receive a \$953,500 Minerva grant from the U.S. Department of Defense's Minerva Research Initiative, KU Associate Professor Mariya Omelicheva, the study's principal investigator, along with Rowan University Associate Professor Lawrence Markowitz, have been examining the relationship and intersections of drug trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Russia. The three-year research project uses geo-referenced data to analyze complex issues, such as the nature of terrorism-criminal connections, the conditions under which terrorist-trafficking alliances are forged and changed, and the capacity of governments and international organizations to prevent, monitor and dismantle the trafficking/terrorism nexus. We visit with Mariya Omelicheva concerning her research on the trafficking and terrorism nexus in Eurasia.

CREES: Thank you for taking the time to discuss your research on terrorism and drug trafficking in Eurasia. What has been the focus of your research thus far?

Omelicheva: Most of the work that we have done has focused on the intersections of drug trafficking and terrorism in Central Asia, although we have mapped and geocoded drug trafficking areas in Russia and the Caucasus.

CREES: Is there a strong alliance between the drug traf-



Cynthia Buckley, Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and Mariya Omelicheva, Associate Professor of Political Science at KU, give presentations at the annual KU Security Conference on Migration and Security in Eurasia, held April 2017.

fickers and terrorist groups? Do terrorist groups use drug trafficking to raise money for their operations?

Omelicheva: First, the only data on drug trafficking that has been collected systematically across different states of the world is in the form of drug seizures and it's collected by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). We were able to receive access to a unique Drugs Monitoring Platform for Eurasia that was established by the UNODC and it's designed for representatives of governments and international organizations. This kind of reporting only captures about 3% of drug trafficking, but it's been evaluated and found to be useful as a tool for analyzing drug trafficking patterns. Even

with that, you have hundreds of thousands of data points of different kinds of drug seizures. We scraped the data from the website's platform and cleaned it, because many locations were spelled in different languages with multiple spellings of the same village or town. Some places have been renamed but old and new names of the locations were, at times, used interchangeably. We spend a lot of time cleaning the data to be able to geocode it, because if you don't have a specific location, then you cannot assign it a latitude and longitude that will allow you to place the location of the drug seizure on the map. In the end, the staff assisting with research created a SAS

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome back to campus! Welcome to the Fall! It's a beautiful time when leaves change color, adding beauty to our campus. It is an honor and an exciting challenge to be stepping back into the role of CREES Director, after a productive year as a Fellow at the Hall Center for the Humanities. I wish to express special thanks to both Alexander Diener for serving as CREES Interim Director and to Bart Redford, who devoted eight years as assistant director for CREES. He did an amazing job at strengthening and effectively running the Center's many programs and events. We wish him all the very best in his future endeavors with the Walnut Valley Music Festival in Winfield, Kansas. Bart, who is also an alumnus of our M.A. program, remains a much-valued member of the KU CREES family.

We are excited to have Dr. Justyna Beinek join us as the new CREES assistant director. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position. Before coming to KU, she taught at Harvard University, New York University, the University of Toronto, and Indiana University, where she directed the Polish Language, Literature and Culture Program (2005-2013). She most recently comes from Sewanee, the University of the South, where she was the Mellon Globalization Forum Director and Visiting Associate Professor of International and Global Studies and Russian.

Together with other Area Studies Centers at KU, CREES is gearing up for the new round of Title VI applications. Additional details from the Department of Education about current expectations and priorities will become clearer in late September. In the meantime, we have been working on the many technical aspects of the application. In particular, our outreach coordinator, Lisa Giullian, has been working hard on updating both our faculty listings and our alumni database. We are fortunate to have amazing faculty, many wonderful initiatives, and great collaborations taking place across many departments and units. We look forward with optimism to this new grant application.

Continuing our commemoration of the centenary of World War I and the Russian Revolution, we will be featuring several events. KU's own Erik Scott will give a book talk on October 10 at 4:00pm on his recently published monograph, *Familiar Strangers: The Georgian Diaspora and the Evolution of Soviet Empire*. We are working with the Hall Center to bring a distinguished guest speaker, Prof. Joshua Sanborn of Lafayette College, author of the acclaimed recent book, *Imperial Apocalypse: The Great War and the Destruction of the Russian Empire*. We are delighted to announce a new project by Professor Emeritus Norman Saul, co-editor of *Americans in Revolutionary Russia*, an exciting series of publications of American eyewitness accounts of Russia during the turbulent Revolutionary Era (1914-1921). More information on this series can be found in an article later in this newsletter. CREES will continue its partnership with the World War I Museum in Kansas City to bring nationally recognized experts on WWI to the Kan-

sas City metropolitan area to share their original research with us.

This fall, CREES has an impressive program of events, lectures, and brownbags to look forward to. We are pleased to announce that following the successful hosting of a Ukrainian writer-in-residence in 2015 in partnership with CEC ArtsLink, KU is bringing a Croatian writer-in-residence this fall, Goran Ferčec. Mr. Ferčec is one of the leading young Croatian authors, an accomplished playwright and novelist. He will be based at the university Oct. 12-Nov. 15, and will deliver several talks and readings, including a brownbag lecture on October 24. We are also thrilled to continue our partnership with Columbia University and the Kennan Institute in bringing leading contemporary Ukrainian writers as guest speakers, thanks to the generous support from the Palij Fund. This fall, our Palij Lecturer will be Andriy Lyubka, an acclaimed poet and prose writer from the Transcarpathia region, near Ukraine's border with Hungary and Slovakia. His 2015 novel *Carbide* is currently shortlisted for the Angelus Prize, one of Central and Eastern Europe's most prestigious literary awards. Mr. Lyubka's appearance at KU will be on October 19.

Our roster of distinguished guest speakers also includes Kārlis Vērdiņš, Valeria Sobol, Dirk Uffelmann, and Vlad Strukov. Kārlis Vērdiņš is a prominent Latvian poet and literary scholar, who won the annual Latvian Literary Award for Best Poetry Collection. His poem "Come to Me" was included in the fifty greatest love poems list, chosen by poetry specialists

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OMELICHEVA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program that helped us automate the process of geocoding. For that, we had to clean all the raw data. For Russia alone, it took us about a year to complete the process. Then, we spend time mapping it, just placing all those locations in the context of the topographic, administrative and other types of boundaries in the Central Asian states, the Caucasus and in Russia.

The data on terrorist incidents had already been gathered as part of the dataset called Global Terrorism Dataset (GTD). It's maintained by the University of Maryland. I, however, checked all the terrorist incidents included in the GTD for our region. The idea is to produce the maps visualizing locations where drug trafficking and terrorist incidents coincide temporally and spatially and where these phenomena do not overlap. If geocoding is done at the village- or town-level, the maps and the data used in producing them can be converted into various formats for further geo-spatial and statistical analyses at a provincial or even city/village level. The maps visually represent and allow for identifying and coding those areas where trafficking and terrorism coexist. These locations can then be examined qualitatively with the purpose of identifying a particular type of intersections within the trafficking/terrorism nexus, or quantitatively as part of the broader dataset used for testing various explanations of the nexus.

For example, drawing on the previous research on the crime-terror nexus, we developed a refined typology of the various trafficking-terrorist intersections. By our definition, the crime-terror nexus refers to the spatial and temporal coincidence of crime and terrorism. At the very basic level, criminal (drug trafficking) activity and terrorism can exist in the same space without intersection, but we treat it as part of the nexus and look for the geographical, demographic, socio-economic and political conditions that give rise to both drug trafficking and terrorism. The mere coincidence of drug trafficking and terrorism in the same space is a necessary condition for the emergence of any kind of relationship between them, be it operational, when a terrorist or insurgent organization uses drug trafficking for funding its activities, or a drug trafficking organization resorts to violence for some political objectives; or an alliance relationship when terrorist and criminal groups form strategic and, less commonly, long-term alliances in pursuit of their agendas. Most of

this type of research was done in the second year of the grant. Then, concurrently we collected demographic, topographic, and socio-economic data at the provincial level, the subnational level that allowed us to test statistically the relationship between various background conditions and the coincidence of those phenomena to identify the drivers of the nexus. This is what we have been doing up to this point, writing articles and a book.

CREES: You mentioned the different points of drug seizures and that there is some overlap between terrorist and drug trafficking groups. Do you think it may lead us to know where terrorist activity is?

Omelicheva: One of the motivations for this project was to highlight how complex the nature of violence has become. When we see violence or when analysts see violence, that resembles terrorism, there's an inclination to classify it as such. By mapping the nexus and looking closely at what exactly is happening there, what we find is that a lot of violence that has been classified as terrorism, is actually not terrorism, in a traditional sense. It has been committed by criminal transnational organizations engaging in drug trafficking that are competing among themselves. The state collusion in drug trafficking drives the nexus as well. Because governments are colluded in drug trafficking, there is also violence against the government, sometimes for political objectives, but it is also driven by criminal motives to reassert control over drug trafficking routes.

What we were able to find with our work is the evidence that undermines two competing narratives that exist out there. One narrative is that Central Asia is experiencing Islamic radicalization or that there is a threat coming from the Taliban, Al-Qaeda or ISIS in Afghanistan, trying to infiltrate Central Asia and destabilize it. Certainly, we cannot dismiss these threats completely, but the evidence that we analyze suggests that it's grossly exaggerated by the media, the governments, and by some western analysts. The second narrative says that terrorist and insurgent groups are controlling the drug trafficking market and use drugs for financing their activities. Terrorist groups do play some role, but it's a very minimal role in the broader drug trafficking market. The drug trafficking market is controlled by transnational organized criminal groups and, in some instances, criminalized governments.

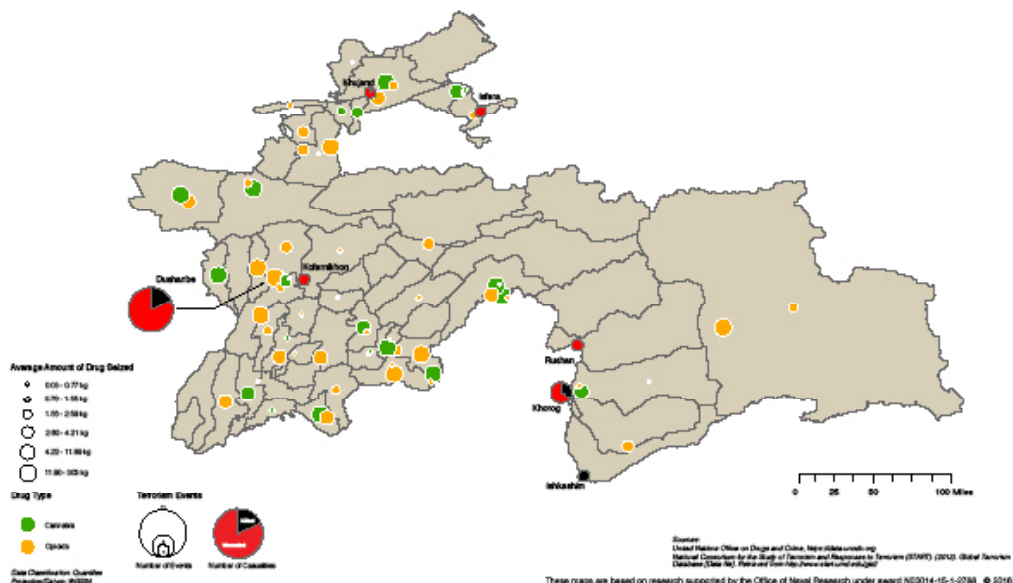
This is not to say that drug trafficking and terrorism are completely unrelated. They are and we have found patterns of

both types of the nexus that exist in the region and its explanations. For example, one of the most common types of the crime-terror nexus that exists in the region involves the independently functioning criminal and politically-motivated groups, whose activities are facilitated by the same set of background factors and conditions. We also find a pattern, by which criminal organizations resort to violence either for political or criminal motives. This violence then gets captured by media and analysts and is categorized as terrorism. In some instances, those criminal organizations, or members of those criminal organizations, may act under the umbrella of Islamist ideology because there are no other ideologies that can help rationalize and justify their activities, to rationalize the injustices or marginalization that their members have endured. In others, individuals with a criminal past and who have been socialized into a violent sub-culture become drawn to ideologically-motivated organizations. Lastly, in some cases the "appropriation" of criminal and terrorist activities have led to the emergence of hybrid forms of religious and criminal nature, particularly in Tajikistan. Again, the evidence suggests a very complex nature of violence. There is no one specific pattern that characterizes the nexus of terrorist and criminal activities uniformly across Central Asian states. Thus far, we have only done thorough research on Central Asia. Although, we mapped and worked with the data across Eurasia.

CREES: You mentioned that there are common background conditions that give rise to both terrorism and drug trafficking. What did you find with the Caucasus?

Omelicheva: We haven't looked into the Caucasus yet. We have mapped it, but haven't analyzed it closely yet. Our focus is more contemporary, so this fine data started being collected in 2008 and 2009. We draw on secondary sources to get a picture of the 1990s and early 2000s, but our analysis is looking at the period from 2008 to the present. And things have changed. Some of the things that characterized these states in the 1990s and 2000s are not necessarily present. For example, in Tajikistan the drug market used to be much more fragmented. Today, there is centralization and consolidation of control over drug trafficking routes by some established criminal groups with ties to the government. These criminal-political alliances are rooted in the tribal or clannish

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structure of the society in Tajikistan. These kinds of changes led to changes in patterns of drug trafficking routes and drug seizure volumes. We break down drug trafficking flows by drug categories, such as opiates (opium and heroin), cannabis (cannabis resin and cannabis herb), and multiple other categories and units, and we can analyze the relationship of drug trafficking and terrorism separately for each drug category. For example, Central Asia currently does not have the heroin producing laboratories of its own. For some states of the region, everything, as far as opium is concerned, comes from Afghanistan. This slice of the drug market is controlled by criminal groups of different nature, with transnational ties, and is likely to be of greater interest to the terrorist and extremist groups operating in the region.

Once you visualize those opium-related and cannabis-related drug seizures with terrorist attacks, you can see some interesting inconsistencies with the official narrative that says that the Islamist insurgents, particularly the Taliban, want to infiltrate Tajikistan. Some of the violence that we found is overlapping with the cannabis trafficking route rather than the opium routes. And where violence occurs in the areas of opium seizures, there are differences with regard to ethnic and religious background of the groups residing on different sides of the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In the corner of Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan province, for example, it's predominantly Pamiris Ismaili minority, which is Shia, and in the Taliban-controlled territory, you have Sunni. Why would Sunnis try to infiltrate Shia controlled territory? If the Taliban or other foreign fighter groups operating in

Afghanistan wanted to infiltrate the bordering areas in Tajikistan, that would be for criminal, not political purposes. Any time the Afghan military, supported by the U.S. and NATO forces, conducts a successful operation in Afghanistan's northern provinces, there will be reports from the Tajik government about fighting the Afghan insurgents. But those infractions are likely to be attempts by the traffickers to store and secure opium and heroin for its further distribution.

CREES: Could you speak to your personal interest in the grant? How did you get involved in the grant?

Omelicheva: The idea for the grant grew out of my first sabbatical proposal. I wanted to pursue a research topic on a transnational phenomenon that is interdisciplinary in nature and intersects security and liberty or human rights. There are many different aspects of the study. We are looking at the intersection of human trafficking with organized crime and terrorism. We are also analyzing the state's capacity, both capabilities - security capabilities and the willingness to address the problem of drug trafficking and terrorism. One cannot understand drug trafficking and terrorism, without studying the government's response. The government's collusion in organized crime is an important part of the security problems in the region. The higher the collusion, like in Tajikistan, but also in Kyrgyzstan and to a lesser extent, in other Central Asian republics, the greater the likelihood that those criminal insurgent groups will hybridize or infiltrate the government. It then perpetuates this problem.

We are looking at the international assistance to those Republics from Russia, China, and the U.S., and how it has increased

the governments' coercive capabilities to penetrate deeper into their own societies. Although Tajikistan is impoverished, it actually has good technical capabilities to combat drug trafficking, and improved security capabilities, because of external assistance from the U.S., Russia and other international donors. Thus, Tajikistan has capabilities, but it doesn't have political will to put them to the intended use. The Russians don't interfere because they benefit from the drug trade and the prevailing securitization narrative alleging the imminent threat of radical Islamists' intrusion. This allows Russia to maintain political and security clout in the region. The U.S. government, until recently, was in a weak negotiating position vis-à-vis these regimes as it needed access to the region's infrastructure in support of its efforts in Afghanistan.

CREES: It sounds like the importance of this grant is to clearly understand the complexity and nuances of the terrorism and drug trafficking nexus. How many years is the grant?

Omelicheva: The grant is three years. We are heading into the last year of the grant. Next year we will have a conference dedicated to the topic. I will be offering two new courses on the U.S. Government's response to organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, and the Crime-Terror Nexus. Lawrence Markowitz from Rowan University is my co-author of a book we are working on right now. The good thing is that the grant fully funded two REES M.A. students. The grant also funded three graduate students in political science, two of which graduated with PhDs in spring 2017. One has a tenure track job. I'm funding three more students next year. That's 7 or 8 fully funded research assistantships, with tuition remission for graduate students.

CREES: That's wonderful!

Omelicheva: Lawrence Markowitz completed two rounds of field research in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and he's ready to go to Georgia in the summer. It's a lot of field research as well.

CREES: It will be interesting to see what comes out from the third year. Have any of the findings surprised you?

Omelicheva: I thought that I would actually find more examples of the insurgent groups resorting to drug trafficking to support their activities. However, it's actually more criminal organizations resorting to violence, for political and criminal motives, to facilitate their criminal activities - drug trafficking activities.

THREE KU STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC, TURKEY AND TAJIKISTAN

KU continues its tremendous success in the Fulbright competition, with six KU students winning Fulbright awards and two additional students selected as alternates for the 2017-2018 academic year. Three of these KU students will conduct research, study and teach English in the Czech Republic, Turkey, and Tajikistan.

The Fulbright program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The U.S. Student Fulbright program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide. Fulbright grants provide funding for round-trip travel, maintenance for one academic year, health and accident insurance and, where relevant, tuition. Since the program's inception in 1946, 465 KU students, including this year's awardees, have been selected for Fulbright awards.

"To see KU's continued success in the Fulbright arena is truly gratifying. Our six Fulbrighters and two active alternates underscore the incredible academic preparation of our students, the global engagement of our university and faculty leadership, and the deep commitment of the faculty members who comprise KU's Campus Fulbright Committee. We

are so proud of our students, and they will be transforming lives abroad during their time as Fulbrighters, just as their lives will be transformed through their experiences. It is a privilege welcoming them to the Fulbright family," said Associate Vice Provost Charles Bankart.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Barry Ballinger, Lawrence, is a doctoral student in art and architecture history. He completed a bachelor's degree in architecture at Oklahoma State University. He will collaborate with faculty at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, to study the forces involved with production of space and political mobilization in Ankara's informal settlements and social housing developments. "Specifically, I'm studying squatter settlements, which are called gecekondu. I'm interested in how creating one's own housing affects political mobilization. By contrast, how does political mobilization work in social housing?" explains Ballinger. With the complexity of Turkey's architectural politics, Ballinger's research will need to draw on theories from multiple disciplines, including social movement theory, environmental behavior theory, and critical theory. Social movement theorists discuss mechanism, motivations, and structures of political mobilization from a quasi-spatial perspective. However, a study utilizing environmental behavior theory would show how physical shape influence political mobilization. Using critical theory will explore rhetoric about the spaces Ballinger will be studying. "Turkey is now experiencing the kind of urban transformations that in past decades created social marginalization in other parts of the world; it is also witnessing resistance to that transformation as social movements seek to maintain their "right to the city." Answering the questions in this research will refine current thinking on the relationship between space and society and help architects conceptualize the political implications of their work," concludes Ballinger.

Robert Jameson, St. Paul, Minnesota, is a doctoral student in history. He completed a bachelor's degree at Mount Mercy College and a master's degree at Iowa State University. During his Fulbright year in the Czech Republic, he will contribute to ongoing work done by the Oral History department of Charles University by conducting a series of interviews

with Czech and Slovak technologists. His research focuses on questions of dissidence and technological development in the late socialist Czechoslovakia of the 1970s and 1980s and in East Central Europe by examining computer technologists' publications, including official magazines and ephemera. "I'm interested in how the personal computer revolution unfolded in state socialist Czechoslovakia during the 1970s and 1980s, and so I'll be looking at how Czechoslovakia worked to create its own computer industry and keep in step with Japan and the West. I want to determine how the state chose to deploy its limited stock of PCs, levels of funding across time, cooperation and competition in the computer industry within the CMEA socialist bloc, and so forth. However, what I think will be most interesting is talking to some of the engineers, bureaucrats and geeks who wanted to keep their country on the cutting edge of what was, at the time, a technology that seemed certain to change the world," Jameson explains. He first grew interested in the topic in 2014 when he was studying Czech during a summer at Masaryk University in Brno, and he happened to hear a lecture on how young Czech and Slovak computer enthusiasts were coding anti-regime political messages into the computer games they wrote and distributed themselves.

John (Ike) Uri, Concordia, recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology. He will be an English teaching assistant in Gharm, Tajikistan. Gharm is a small town in the Rasht Valley in central Tajikistan. "I am interested in the country because of its unique cultural, political, and social setting. Tajikistan is the poorest post-Soviet republic and underwent a civil war through the 1990s. Thus, the country remains in an interesting situation, particularly given the proximity of rather volatile neighbors. I find Tajik culture fascinating, along with its many influences from its Soviet legacy as well as the region's connections with Iran, Afghanistan, and other neighboring countries. I chose the country because of my background in Russian and my interest in working in a region with such a rich cultural heritage." Ike studies Russian and has a working proficiency in the language. He will take Tajik language classes while he is there. Upon his return from Tajikistan, he will pursue a PhD in sociology at Brown University.



Barry Ballinger attends the European Association for Agricultural Education/Architectural Research Centers Consortium Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

DIRECTOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

at the London's Southbank Centre in 2014. He will give a brownbag lecture on Nov 21. Valeria Sobol, a professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, will present on Ukraine as a space of the imperial uncanny in Russian Romanticism. CREES is building a partnership with the University of Passau in Germany, where one of our graduates has received a DAAD scholarship to pursue an M.A. degree starting this fall. Dirk Uffelmann, Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Passau, will deliver a lecture on Boris Khersonsky, an award-winning poet, a prominent Soviet-era dissident, and now one of Ukraine's leading public intellectuals, as well as a brownbag presentation contrasting the uses of Eurasianist ideologies by one of Russia's leading contemporary writers, Vladimir Sorokin, and the notorious propagandist Aleksandr Dugin. Last but not least, you won't want to miss the presentations by Dr. Vlad Strukov, a specialist in Russian Cultural Studies and World Cinemas at the University of Leeds, England, and the founding editor of Digital Icons, the journal focusing on Russian, Eurasian, and Central European new media. He will deliver a lecture linked to his recent acclaimed book on contemporary Russian cinema and a brownbag presentation on his new media research. Please mark your calendars and encourage your students to attend these fantastic guest lectures.

In the area of outreach, CREES Outreach Coordinator Lisa Giullian will continue her visits to middle schools to teach Russian language and culture. This coming fall, three faculty members and

graduate students plan to present at multicultural story time on Russia, Slovenia, and Ukraine at the Lawrence Public Library. After an engaging and fun afternoon with the kindergarten class at the Lawrence Arts Center, Lisa will return to share Russian language, culture and cooking with this year's new kindergarten students. CREES will continue its volunteer program with the Lawrence Juvenile Detention facility (JDC). The JDC is dedicated to developing programs that enrich the lives of incarcerated youth by providing educational opportunities for girls and boys, ages 10-18, who do not normally have access to unique learning experiences like Russian language and culture, for example. Lisa Giullian will be the new Volunteer Language Coordinator at the Juvenile Detention Center, bringing in language instructors to teach various languages throughout the year. This is the JDC's most popular volunteer program.

In other outreach success, the Postcards from Abroad podcasts were featured in an article on Kansas Public Radio's website in May. This 60-second radio program is a collaborative effort by all 5 area studies centers and shares quirky news from our world areas within historical context. Check out the article at: <http://kansaspublicradio.org/blog/fwinston/postcards-abroad#overlay-context=blog/fwinston/postcards-abroad>. The area studies center will also continue their wonderful collaboration on important initiatives such as the International Job Talks and the student club Jayhawks Without Borders.

Ray Finch continues as the instructor for the undergraduate REES methodologies and capstone seminars. He is also the primary liaison for the CREES-FMSO Security Analyst Internship; this fall the deadline to apply is September 15.

We are pleased that the REES family continues growing. We welcome our new graduate certificate student, Andrew Bilbo, and new faculty affiliates, Martin Nedbal in Music and Tsvetan Tsvetanov in Economics. We are also pleased to welcome two new KU CREES fellows, both of them from the University of Arkansas--Ted Holland, Assistant Professor of Geography, and Nadja Berkovich, Clinical Assistant Professor of Russian. Dr. Berkovich will present on her research at a brownbag on October 31, and Dr. Holland will present in the spring.

We look forward to meeting with friends old and new at our annual Fall Mixer & Potluck on Friday, September 8 at the Lawrence Visitors Center Train Depot, 5:30-8:30pm. CREES will continue its tradition of offering film screenings from the region we study, but please note that our Night at the Kino is moving to Thursdays. This semester's film nights will also feature light refreshments from the region! We are also continuing our program of bringing acclaimed Russian theater performances in Digital HD broadcasts in partnership with Stage Russia. This fall, we will present a stage adaptation of Chekhov's arguably spookiest story, "The Black Monk," by the noted Lithuanian director Kama Ginkas. Fittingly, it will take place on the Friday evening before Halloween.

I am grateful to the friendly and diverse CREES family for its commitment to developing and sharing knowledge about the region we study and to forging meaningful intellectual dialogue. In the current complex political climate, our work is more relevant than ever. Here is to future scholarly accomplishments and to helping through our efforts as engaged scholars make the world a better place!



Volodymyr Dubovyk, Vitaly Chernetsky, Ray Finch, and Tom Wilhelm enjoy the KU Security Conference in April.

COMING SOON

New Study Abroad Program in Prague and Vienna!

The School of Music is launching a new short-term study abroad program in Vienna and Prague for January 2018. The deadline for applications is October 1. For more information, please visit the website: <http://studyabroad.ku.edu/masterworks-music-vienna-prague>

THE FASCINATING LIVES OF AMERICANS IN REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA

INTERVIEWS WITH PROFESSOR EMERITUS NORMAN E. SAUL AND DAVID MOULD, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MEDIA ARTS AND STUDIES AT OHIO UNIVERSITY

Americans in Revolutionary Russia is an exciting new series of republications of books by American eyewitnesses in Russia during the turbulent Russian Revolutionary Era (1914-1921). The men and women who wrote these accounts left a rich treasure of insights on a kaleidoscopic range of issues such as politics, ethnic identity, military, war, travel, and much more, offering readers a first-hand view of a tumultuous, complex, and controversial era. Providing a broad range of American perspectives, the series accompanies each account with an expert introduction and annotation by a leading scholar in order to make the work accessible to the modern reader. We visit with Professor Norman Saul, a co-editor of the project, and Professor David Mould, who is editing a book on photographer Donald Thompson, as part of the series. Thompson was one of a small group of American news photographers to cover World War I by motion picture.

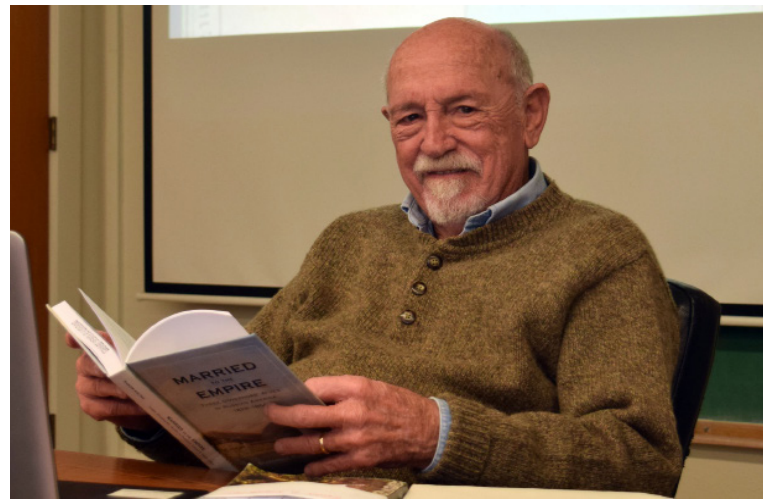
CREES: Could you tell me more about your project, Americans in Revolutionary Russia?

Saul: Americans in Revolutionary Russia is a fascinating series of republications on Americans, who were eyewitnesses to the war and revolution in Russia. Many of these Americans published books based on their historical accounts and adventures nearly 100 years ago. Now they will be republished as new editions with an expert introduction, textual notation and an index. These are very interesting stories.

Three years ago, Ben Whisenhunt and I discussed a plan to republish books by

Americans who witnessed the Russian Revolution of 1917, with the approaching centennial in mind. This series owes much to Ben, who has borne most of the communications with the people involved. We were also fortunate to find that the editors at Slavica Publishers, namely George Fowler and Vicki Polansky of Indiana University, supported our idea enthusiastically. A variety of scholars, both American and Russian, have joined this project and are devoting their time and expertise to edit the individual volumes of the series. There are 25 volumes that we identified that were published at the time by Americans, who were in Revolutionary Russia. At this moment, the first two republications have been issued: the book on Julia Cantacuzene-Speransky and the book on Albert Rhys Williams.

This is a really interesting project as I didn't know much about Julia Cantacuzene-Speransky. Her adventures are told in Russian People: Revolutionary Recollections. In this photo from the Library of Congress, she is dressed as a Russian nurse during World War I. She was American, but she had been living in Russia since 1900. She was married to a Russian prince of Greek background around 1900. Her life is interesting because of her background. She was the granddaughter of Ulysses Grant, the president and born in the White House in 1876. Her mother was a relative of the Palmer family in Chicago. Her mother's sister was married to Potter Palmer, founder of the Palmer house and hotel in Chicago and a big socialite. Julia Cantacuzene would travel frequently in Europe with her Aunt Bertha, Mrs.



Professor Emeritus Norman E. Saul, co-editor of the project, Americans in Revolutionary Russia.

Palmer. On the Riviera, she met a Russian prince, who at that time was appointed as a military attaché at the Russian embassy in Rome, and they got married. After they were married in 1900, they immediately went back to the large estate that he inherited in Ukraine. That's where she was up through the Revolutionary period. I recently spoke with Potter Palmer IV. He said he remembered Julia and the family. The family background goes back to the 18th century, when the great grandfather switched sides from the Turkish Ottoman Empire and joined the Russian army under Catherine the Great. That's the background of how Julia became connected with Russia.

CREES: She found herself right in the middle of extraordinary events. Did Princess Julia write her account in a book and then it was published?

Saul: She actually wrote three books. She wrote a memoir book that deals with a long period, and another book that has already been republished, so we didn't do that. This is the one that I found interesting because it deals with

the people, the background, the associations that she had, what it was like living on the estate. This is not about Russian people in the broader sense, because most of the people are Ukrainian, Greek, and French. Her mother-in-law was French and so the household language was French. The servants were a mixture of German and Ukrainian. Nursemaids were often German. Thus, the Russian people are a mixture.

CREES: Could you tell me more about Albert Rhys Williams and the other books that will come out this year?

Saul: The book about Albert Rhys Williams has a lot more illustrations. Williams, a pastor, labor organizer and journalist, was a lifelong defender of the Soviet system. His work gives readers a view of the inner workings of the Bolshevik party and life in Petrograd. Williams was associated with John Reed. They were often together during the Revolutionary period. Soon, Louise Bryant's book Six Red Months in Russia on the Revolution will come out.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Louise Bryant was the wife of John Reed. Then, there's Bessie Beatty, another American woman, who wrote *The Red Heart of Russia*. It's surprising how many American women were involved in this.

The new book which will be coming out is by Ernest Poole, and it's called, *The Village: Russian Impressions*. This will be volume three of the collection. Ernest Poole is probably the best known in America, among the authors we are dealing with because he published a lot. Poole was a Chicago native, political activist, social worker and journalist, who covered the *Saturday Evening Post*. He had two novels out before he went to Russia to cover the Revolution. One of his novels won a Pulitzer Prize in literature, the first Pulitzer prize for fiction. During 1905, he met a well-educated Russian, who knew some English, who acted as his guide. He reconnected with him in 1917. He goes back and follows this Russian to his village, so it's not just an ordinary village. It's a Russian's village. He meets many people in his village and offers a unique perspective of events.

I'm thinking of editing a book on Raymond Robins. Robins headed the American Red Cross mission in Russia during 1917. Raymond Robins was a well-known social worker, who made a lot of money in the Klondike gold fields and was a philanthropist of social welfare operations. He

was from Chicago and was involved with Hull House and Jane Addams. These are the kinds of people you meet when going through these things. They're interested in what's going on in the world and what's happening in Russia, with many enthused about the new ideas coming forth. There's an interesting book that David Mould is doing on Donald Thompson, a news photographer from Topeka, Kansas. He was one of a small group of American news photographers to cover World War I by motion picture.

CREES: Professor Mould, thank you for joining us today. As I understand, you are editing a book on Donald Thompson. How did Thompson end up in Russia, covering the Revolutionary War?

Mould: In 1915, Robert R. McCormick, editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, came to Europe with two photographers, Donald Thompson and Edwin Weigle. McCormick was an aristocratic character. His father was ambassador to Imperial Russia. Thompson was an adventurer and a rogue, a street-smart guy, who lived by his wits, which you needed to in these situations. At that time, the U.S. was neutral in the war, so the *Tribune* had to be neutral.

In late 1915, Thompson joined the Russians on the front, and Edwin Weigle covered the German side of the war. The *Tribune* played off both the Allies and

Germany sympathies, with a large German population in Chicago. McCormick and Thompson took a southern route through the Balkans, then through Romania and initially to St. Petersburg, and then into Poland. They filmed on the front in the southern part of Poland. By the time they got there, the Russian army was in retreat. From Thompson's film, you would think the Russian army is this mighty military machine, that's about to push the Germans and the Austro-Hungarian army back. The impression that we get from the film is that the Russian army is powerful, well organized, with plenty of munitions. In fact, there was massive corruption in the military ranks. And Russia's inadequate railroad system meant that supplies were not getting there. We are getting a partial, pro-Russian view of events. Thompson then goes to France with the French army. He calls himself "Le Capitaine Thompson" and dresses in French military uniform! He's more than embedded with the troops! He releases a film entitled, "War as It Really Is." The title is somewhat ironic. He shows war as this big logistical exercise, with troops moving here and there. The Hollywood war is all death and hand-to-hand fighting. Thompson shows the war as more dull and drab, and more accurate for it.

After returning to the U.S., he leaves in December of 1916 to go to Russia. He's with



Professors David Mould and Norman Saul enjoy a lighthearted moment together while Rick Hellman and Bart Redford look on.



David Mould, professor of media arts and studies at Ohio University, speaks on the dangers of journalism in Central Asia.

Leslie's Illustrated Weekly, a widely popular news magazine with many photographs in it, traveling with a correspondent, Florence Harper. They cross to Japan, then on the trans-Siberian railroad across to Petrograd. They arrive in February and food is running short. Thompson is there for the February Revolution. He goes out and meets the Tsar, who is now under house arrest at Tsarskoe Selo. He films the demonstrations. They leave in August, so they miss the main event, but it's interesting because there just weren't many photographers or correspondents in Russia at that time. He later releases, what he claims to be letters to his wife Dorothy, about his daily experiences. He's getting shot at, caught in crossfire. He gets a bad stomach infection and ends up in the hospital. He doesn't speak any Russian. He relies on an interpreter. He probably tells him things that were not true...he's just gushing it all out.

Initially, he's pretty favorable towards Kerensky and the Provisional government. However, as the food situation does not improve and the demonstrations continue, he starts to get concerned about the situation. Then there's a failed Bolshevik coup in July. He takes a picture at the Bolshevik headquarters of a group of people, claiming that a couple of them are Trotsky and Lenin. You look at the picture and it's not Trotsky and Lenin, but the picture was widely circulated. If you don't have other images, what are people going to believe? It's Trotsky and Lenin! Perhaps someone told him they were Trotsky and Lenin and he believed them. He comes back with his

footage. He releases a film called, "The German Curse in Russia." The whole theme shows that this is not a popular uprising. It's being orchestrated by German saboteurs, spies and Trotsky and Lenin. This is in line with the way American opinion was in late 1917.

The problem with film, is that film has no footnotes. And especially with documentary footage, people didn't think it was worth anything, so it was cut up and sold. Films are not preserved in their original forms. Thompson's book, Donald Thompson in Russia, consists of his letters to his wife, published in 1918. He may have tidied up his letters later, as the original letters did not survive. It covers his almost daily adventures in Russia from February to August of 1917. I've annotated his writings. The real challenge is that he mentions a lot of names. I've written an introduction that encompasses what I just talked about.

CREES: These photos and films provided Americans with an intriguing view on events in Europe and Russia!

Mould: Yes, when the pictures came out, people were fascinated. "Wow, this is the Tsar of all of Russia!" "These are the Cossacks charging!" Again, there is a lot of interest and huge demand. Thompson's films, financially, do quite well. It's not like we can compare the works of different cinematographers at this time. Thompson's film may be the only visual record we have of some events of this period. He was on a great adventure, moving with the French army, the Russian army and in Serbia for awhile. He was wounded three times

himself! I think Thompson felt honored to be covering the war, the first major war covered in photos and motion film.

CREES: When volumes come out, where should people look to buy them?

Saul: Through Slavica publishers or Amazon. We wanted to get the books out in inexpensive editions, so they are in paperback around \$30, well produced. John Reed, Ten Days That Shook the World (1919) is probably the best known and may exceed 600 copies sold. Ray Finch is going to do Ralph Albertson's Fighting Without a War: An Account of the Military Intervention in North Russia, which will come out later. We have at least three Russian colleagues contributions. Viktoria Zhuravleva at the State Humanities University in Moscow is doing a book on Rheta Childe Dorr. Vladimir Noskov, a historian at the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, is doing a book on David R. Francis, who was the U.S. Ambassador to Russia between 1916-1917. He has done work on Americans in Russia before. Laurie Stoff, who recently published an award winning book on Russian nurses in World War I, received her Phd at KU and is doing a book on Malcom Grow, who was a surgeon in the Russian army during the Revolution.

A spinoff from this project is developing an E-Journal on Russian-American Studies. The first issue may be out today, published by the University of Kansas Press. The introduction by David Mould is one of the articles in this first issue of that journal. We'll have a second issue coming out in October, which will probably feature some more Slavica proofs of this, that is putting out the introductions as an article, before actual publication of these volumes.

CREES: I imagine that Russians will be marking the 100-year anniversary of the Revolution?

Saul: There is an upcoming conference in St. Petersburg in October 2017, which is dedicated to Americans in the Russian Revolution. Ivan Kurilla, Professor of History and International Relations at the European University in St. Petersburg, is the sponsor of this conference. He is also doing one of the volumes in the series. One of the main things behind all of this is to keep the field of Russian-American Studies active. We are building and promoting Russian-American studies, by soliciting younger scholars to do articles for the electronic journal and by having them do volumes for this series. Most are involved in universities and are building a foundation for continuing work like this, in Russian-American Studies.

CREES Snapshots

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

01 REES Graduates and students thank Bart Redford and wish him well!

04 What a tremendous performance from the Russian Club at the Spring Festival.

05 Tom Wilhelm, Director, FMSO, Randy Masten, Assistant Director, Office of Graduate Military Programs, and Mariya Omelicheva, Associate Professor of Political Science, visit at the KU Security Conference

09 Marta Pirnat-Greenberg and students enjoy the BCS Fest

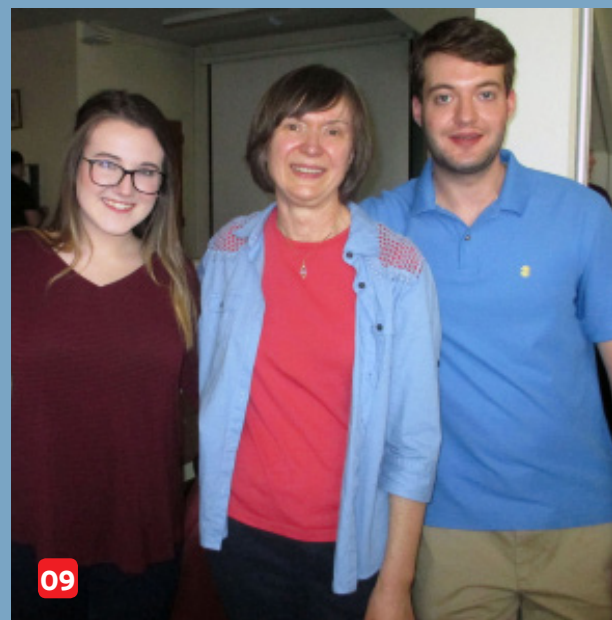
02 Oksana Huseiva (Slav Langs and Lit) plays Ukrainian songs on the guitar, while students try a folk dance at the SUA Ukraine Night, where 100 students attended this fun event!

06 Students enjoy activities and ethnic food at the BCS Fest, a fun event organized by Marta Pirnat-Greenberg.

08 Austin Charron shares information about the Crimean Tatars at the SUA International Ukraine Night

03 Thank you to Richard Paegelow, president of Inline Translation Services, for speaking about interpreting and translating careers at International Job Talks.

07 Director Vitaly Chernetzky visits with REES graduate Nolan Schmidt, who went on to represent the U.S. as a Student Ambassador at the USA Pavilion Expo 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan this summer. Behind them, Bart Redford chats with Laird Essay winner Alana Holland.





KU'S 2017 LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN L'VIV, UKRAINE, GIVES STUDENTS A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

BY OLEKSANDRA WALLO

After a three-year hiatus, the KU six-week summer Language Institute once again immersed American students in Ukrainian language and culture. The Institute combined daily classes in the Ukrainian language with area studies lectures by faculty of Ivan Franko National University in L'viv, Ukraine. This intensive study abroad program is one of the oldest U.S. university programs in Ukraine, first started in 1994. It was my pleasure to serve as its on-site faculty director for the first time this summer, especially because L'viv is my hometown and Ivan Franko University is my alma mater.

This year's Language Institute welcomed three participants: KU students Franklin Conard (Anthropology and REES) and Faelan Jacobson (Political Science and REES), and MA student Patrick Savage from Georgetown University (Security Studies). Frank's and Faelan's participation was enabled by generous support through CREES-administered Jarosewycz Scholarship, available to all KU students.



Program Director Prof. Oleksandra Wallo with KU Language Institute students Franklin Conard (Anthropology and REES, KU), Patrick Savage (MA Program in Security Studies, Georgetown University), and Faelan Jacobson (Political Science and REES, KU) at the Pidhirtsi Castle in Lviv Oblast, Ukraine.

All three students chose to study the Ukrainian language and culture because of their academic interests in Eastern Europe. They had never visited the region, however, so living and studying in Ukraine was a unique experience for each. From the sampling of L'viv's top-quality coffee and cheesecake, to the bargaining in Ukrainian with souvenir and memorabilia vendors, to the rides in a jam-packed L'viv marshrutka (fixed-route taxi), there was something new to try every day.

Besides rigorous academic study, the program included numerous excursions around the city and three trips outside L'viv. We explored L'viv's rich history and architecture in two especially memorable tours of the city's roofs and underground structures. A friendly local tour guide shared with us some of the recent archeological discoveries in L'viv, as well as her own interpretations of the city's history. A day-long excursion to castles and fortresses in L'viv Oblast introduced students to Western Ukraine's eventful political and

military past.

Perhaps the greatest memories were made on weekend trips to the Carpathian Mountains and to Kyiv. As we hiked up the Makovytsia Mountain in the Carpathian town of Yaremche and sat in a smoke-filled wooden hut learning about sheep milk cheese-making from a local craftsman, civilization seemed light-years away. Kyiv impressed and overwhelmed us with its vast, stunning panoramas, millennial history, and numerous makeshift Euromaidan memorials. Frank and Patrick also went on a day-long guided tour of the Chornobyl exclusion zone and gained a much better understanding of what transpired on that fateful day of April 26, 1986.

The students' experience on the program was so positive that all of them are planning to return to Ukraine at some point. And I know that the next time when they are buying opera tickets in L'viv or asking for directions in the Carpathian Mountains, they will be able to do it confidently in Ukrainian.



KU L'viv Language Institute students hiking in the Carpathian Mountains (Yaremche, Ukraine).

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Vitaly Chernetsky (Slavic Languages & Literatures) had a fruitful second semester of his Mid-Career Research Fellowship at the Hall Center for the Humanities. He has published a journal article, “The Unusual Case of Fr. Sergei Kruglov: Poet, Priest, and Postmodernist in Post-Soviet Siberia,” *Russian Literature*, vol. 87-89, and two essay-length entries for *The Literary Encyclopedia*, on the Ukrainian writers Vasyl’ Stefanyk and Ahatanhel Kryms’kyi. He was also awarded the prestigious PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant from PEN America to translate the novel *Felix Austria* by the Ukrainian author Sophia Andrukhovych, who visited KU in December 2015. This is the first time in the fund’s history that PEN America chose to support a translation from the Ukrainian. He presented two conference papers, “Glocalizing the Euromaidan in Literature and Film,” at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association of America (MLA) in Philadelphia and “From Annychka to Liudmyla: Enduring Stereotypes in the Cinematic Portrayal of Heroic Women in World War II,” at the annual conference of AATSEEL in San Francisco. Professor Chernetsky also delivered two lectures at Fort Riley as part of a training effort for the **2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division**, also known as the **Dagger Brigade**, in preparation for their deployment to Eastern Europe later this year. Prof. Nathan Wood also delivered a lecture at Ft. Riley. CREES was recognized with a certificate of appreciation by the Dagger Brigade.

Stephen Dickey (Slavic Languages & Literatures) was promoted to full professor.

Alex Diener (Geography) presented “Theorizing Multi-Scalar Territorialization in Central Asia: Russians in Kazakhstan’s Northern Borderland” at the Fischer Workshop at the University of Illinois in June 2017. He also presented “Mongolian Road Projects and China’s OBOR” at the Association of American Geographers Conference in Boston, MA. At the Political Geography Pre-Conference in Boston, he presented “Kazakhstan Evolving Economic Geographies.” Diener also gave an invited talk, “Ulaanbaatar and Bishkek: Case Studies in Narrating the Nation in Urban Space,” at the Radcliffe Workshop on Urban Studies Fieldwork in Cambridge, MA. In addition, he published the following: “Re-Scaling Citizenship: From Polis to Empire to State Formation and Beyond” in *Oxford Handbook of Citizenship*, and “Changing Modalities of Power in the 21st Century” co-authored with Joshua Hagen in *Border Politics: Defining Spaces of*

Governance and Forms of Transgression, and “Parsing Mobilities in Central Eurasia: Border Management and New Silk Roads” in *The Central Asia-Afghanistan Relation from Soviet Intervention to the US Silk Road Initiative*.

Jon C. Giullian (Library) was promoted to full librarian. He was appointed to a 3-year term as Chair of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies’ (ASEEES) Committee on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). As Chair of ASEEES CLIR, Jon will also serve as a member of the ASEEES Board of Directors.

Ani Kokobobo (Slavic Languages & Literatures) is the new editor of the *Tolstoy Studies Journal*, a leading journal in the study of 19th c. Russian literature. Her monograph, *Russian Grotesque Realism: The Great Reforms and the Gentry Decline* is forthcoming with Ohio State University Press, in February 2018. Her translation of a book of essays by renown Albanian writer, Ismail Kadare, *Essays on World Literature: Aeschylus, Dante, Shakespeare*, is forthcoming in February 2018 with Restless Books, distributed by Simon and Schuster. In addition, she also has an edited volume (co-edited with Edith Clowes and Gisela Erbslöh) forthcoming in 2018, titled: “Russia’s Regional Identities: The Power of the Provinces.” She has published or has in the pipeline articles in *Russian Review*, *Russian Literature*, as well as popular pieces with the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Salon.com*, and *Business Insider*. With Marike Janzen and Luciano Tosta, she is leading the charge to create a graduate certificate in Comparative Literature at KU.

Gerald Mikkelson (CREES) was invited as a Visiting Senior Scholar to a two-day conference, “The Autobiographical Myth in World Literature and Culture,” on April 26-27 at The Gorky Institute of World Literature (IMLI) in Moscow, Russia. He conducted a seminar on April 25, called «Перевод как средство постижения стихов» “Translation as a Means of Comprehending Poetry”. He also read a paper called «Чей взгляд жжёт сердца людей? в стихотворении Пушкина Пророк», the story of his reading of Pushkin’s poem “The Prophet” (1826).

Esra Predolac (Slavic Languages & Literatures) received a conference travel grant from the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and attended the 19th Annual Meeting of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages Conference (NCOLCTL) in Atlanta,

GA, April 22-24.

Rebecca Rovit (Theatre) enjoyed a productive sabbatical leave. She received a Fulbright Research Fellowship award in 2016-17 which took her to Vienna for the Winter semester. While there, she was the Fulbright-IFK Senior Fellow in Cultural Studies at the IFK. Her comparative research project on Berlin and Vienna examines the resurgence of theatre in the immediate aftermath of WWII in the occupied cities. One of her articles on Berlin was published in fall 2016 in Theatre History Studies.

Erik Scott (History) was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. He is now the graduate advisor for KU Global and International Studies. In October, he will give a talk on his book, *Familiar Strangers: The Georgian Diaspora and the Evolution of Soviet Empire*. The talk will tie in with the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Oleksandra Wallo (Slavic Languages & Literatures) presented papers this spring on different aspects of teaching Ukrainian grammar to English speakers at the AATSEEL Conference in San Francisco and at an international workshop on the university-level teaching of Ukrainian at the University of Victoria, Canada. She also presented at the roundtable on the film *Women of Maidan* by Olha Onyshko at the WSSA Conference in San Francisco. In April, Professor Wallo gave a CREES Brown-bag talk, “Between Militarism and Maternalism: Representing Women’s Roles in the Euromaidan Protests,” which is based on the final chapter of her current book project, *Ukrainian Women Writers and the National Imaginary – From Soviet Collapse to the Euromaidan*. This summer she conducted additional research for her book in L’viv, Ukraine, as well as serving as Faculty Director of the KU Language Institute—an intensive summer study abroad program at Ivan Franko University in L’viv.

Nathan Wood (History) traveled this spring to West Virginia University on a Big XII Faculty Fellowship. While there, he gave a talk, “Backwardness and Rushing Forward: The Age of Speed in a ‘Suburb of Europe,’” for the annual Callahan Lecture Series. In June, he participated in a roundtable discussion at the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences annual convention in Cracow, Poland, and conducted research for an article on everyday life and attitudes toward modern civilization in Cracow during the First World War.

NEW CREES FELLOWS

We are pleased to welcome two new CREES Fellows, Nadja Berkovich and Edward (Ted) Holland! The CREES Fellows Program promotes opportunities for CREES Fellows to present their research findings in CREES venues, offering students a more diverse range of topics, and providing opportunities for CREES Fellows and KU faculty to develop joint research, grant and teaching projects. Nadja Berkovich will give a brownbag lecture on October 31, exploring Vladimir Korolenko's autobiography *The History of My Contemporary*. Ted Holland plans to give a brownbag lecture in the Spring. We look forward to hearing more from these scholars!

Nadja Berkovich directs the Russian Program in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is working on her first book, whose subject matter lies at the intersection of literature and ethnography. In it, she examines two



Russian and two Russian Jewish writers who were opposed to the tsarist regime and as a consequence were exiled to Siberia and the Far East. These four writers - Dostoevsky, Korolenko, Bogoraz, and An-sky - were self-taught ethnographers who interrogated and captured the voices of the peoples of the empire by imposing upon them their own agendas and ideologies. At the University of Arkansas, she works with the Jewish Studies Program that aims to bring scholars of Jewish and Yiddish studies to campus.

Edward (Ted) Holland is an Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department



of Geosciences at the University of Arkansas. He received his PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder in December 2012. After completing his degree, he was a Title VIII Research Scholar at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, part of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. From 2013 to 2016, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Havihurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor of International Studies at Miami University. This past spring, he was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at Kalmyk State University in Elista, Kalmykia, Russia. His research interests range across a variety of topics, including religion, political violence, and critical geopolitics and are generally focused on the Russian Federation. He has previously published on these topics in peer-reviewed journals in Geography and Russian area studies, including *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, and the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JUSTYNA BEINEK



Justyna Beinek, Ph.D. comes to KU directly from Sewanee: The University of the South, where she served as Director of the Mellon Globalization Forum and Visiting Associate Professor of International and Global Studies and Russian (2013-17).

Her doctoral degree is in Slavic Languages and Literature, with a specialization in Russian and Polish, from Harvard University, and she held a Mellon Post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto. Following that she worked as Assistant Professor of Polish in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Indiana University, where she also directed the Polish Language, Literature, and Culture Program (2005-2013). A native of Poland, Beinek received her BA in English at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, and her MA in Comparative Literature at the University of California San Diego.

Justyna Beinek's areas of interest include Russian, Polish, and comparative literature, cultural studies, Romanticism, film, gender studies, as well as post-communist cultures

and memory politics. More specifically, her research has focused on topics such as representations of the body, the phenomenon of imagined geographies, as well as issues of national and gender identity. Her monograph on early nineteenth-century scrapbooks, *Portable Graveyards: Russian and Polish Albums in the Age of Romanticism*, is forthcoming from the Academic Studies Press. Professor Beinek's current project is a book on the idea of "The West" as functioning in Polish and Russian cultures, a project for which she was awarded a Fulbright research grant. Her co-edited volume of essays titled *Re-mapping Polish-German Memory: Geographical, Cultural, and Political Space since World War II*, was published in 2012 by Slavica Publishers. Her articles and reviews have appeared in *Toronto Slavic Quarterly*,

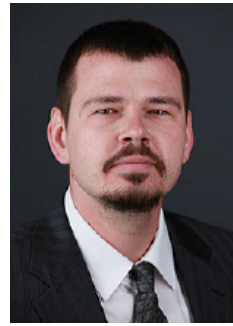
Pushkin Review, *Slavic Review*, *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, *Sarmatian Review*, *Postscriptum*, *Roczniki Humanistyczne*, and other journals.

Apart from the recent Fulbright grant, Justyna Beinek's research and teaching have been supported by fellowships and grants from the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), International Research and Exchange Board (IREX), the Kościuszko Foundation, and other institutions. For excellence in teaching, Beinek was awarded the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award in 2010.

FACULTY ADDITIONS

Martin Nedbal A native of Valašské Meziříčí in the Eastern Czech Republic, Martin Nedbal came to the United States in 1998 to pursue an undergraduate degree at Hamilton College in upstate New York. While at Hamilton, Nedbal majored in German and Russian studies and spent his junior year in Vienna, Austria and Moscow, Russia. Throughout his undergraduate studies, Nedbal was also interested in music and decided to become a professional clarinet player by earning a Master's in Music Performance at Syracuse University. While at Syracuse, he found his true calling, the field of historical musicology, and went on to get a Ph.D. in musicology at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. After completing his studies, Nedbal worked as Assistant and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Arkansas, and in 2016 he joined the musicology faculty at KU's School of Music.

Nedbal's research focuses on opera and nationalism in Central Europe, particularly in the Western parts of the former Habsburg Empire. His book, *Morality and Viennese Opera in the Age of Mozart* and



Beethoven, was published by Ashgate in 2017 and focuses on the interconnections between didacticism and nationalism in German-language operas and operatic criticism in late eighteenth-century Vienna. Nedbal has also published numerous articles on musical theater, puppet theater, and censorship in Central Europe around 1800. Nedbal's second field of interest is Czech and German musical culture in nineteenth-century Prague. He has published several articles on the operas of the Czech composers Smetana and Dvořák and on the history of Czech-German relations as reflected in musical theater. He is currently working on a monograph about nationalism and canon building in the re-

ception of Mozart's operas in Prague between 1783 and 1945. He is also preparing an English translation of the theoretical works of the Moravian composer Leoš Janáček for Editio Janáček. His research has been supported by numerous grants from organizations such as the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies or the American Musicological Society.

Tsvetan Tsvetanov was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. He received his B.A. degree from Vassar College in 2006, with a double major in Economics and German Studies, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Connecticut in 2013. He then worked as a postdoctoral associate at Yale University for two years, before joining the KU Economics Department in August 2015. His research interests lie in energy and environmental economics, with a special focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and climate change adaptation. He teaches undergraduate courses in microeconomics and energy economics.

ANDREW BILBO, GRAD CERTIFICATE STUDENT

My name is Andrew Bilbo. I am originally from Mississippi, and I graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Mississippi in 2007. After a few years away from academia, I attended the University of Texas at Arlington where I received an M.A. in Political Science in 2015. I have been a student and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of Political Science at KU since the fall of 2015. My major areas of study are both Comparative and American politics through which I focus on elections and the administration of elections. I am currently in my second year of learning Ukrainian at KU, and I hope to continue to improve my knowledge of the Ukrainian language. I became interested in Ukrainian politics through observing the many changes that have occurred in the country's political system over the years. The ongoing conflict in the country has made the Ukrainian electoral system more salient to the world. In the fu-



ture, I hope to use my Ukrainian language skills in order to research the political troubles that continue to plague the country.

Since arriving in Lawrence I have served in various roles with the Douglas County Clerk's office where I have assisted in the administration of elections. Addi-

tionally, I have taught Political Science as an adjunct at Highland Community College. I am married and have four children: three sons and one daughter. Upon completion of my PhD I plan to pursue a career in higher education.

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Paul Aldaya (REES MA '17) graduated this May 2017 with a M.A. degree in REES. In July, he moved with his family to Central Asia. For the next two years, he will be assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan where he will serve as the Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation.

Alexis Baich (REES MA '17) graduated this May 2017 with a M.A. degree in REES. This past year she was a recipient of a scholarship from the Arizona Serbian American Professional and Business Network, as well as the Vlasta and Draga Jočić Scholarship for Serbian grad students. This fall, she will teach World History and American History at Mesa High School in Mesa, AZ.

Barry Ballinger (Art and Architecture History) won a Fulbright award to do research in Turkey. He will collaborate with faculty at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, to study the forces involved with production of space and political mobilization in Ankara's informal settlements and social housing developments. Through his fieldwork with other urban politics professionals, he will engage with a cross-section of people in Turkey, using ethnographic methods and participant observation.

Alina Bashirova (REES MA '17) graduated this May 2017 with a M.A. degree in REES. She is working for a Russian visa agency in the U.S., where she is responsible for visa application preparations for the Russian Consulate General in New York. The processing of documents requires acute attention to details and accuracy, an understanding of official requirements, and regular communication with official representatives of domestic and foreign governmental bodies. This past spring, she read Ukrainian poetry at the CREES Spring Festival.

Samuel Buyers (REES) presented two papers, "The Moscow Show Trials: The Final Stage" on the Moscow Show trials in 1938, and "The Thaw in Culture and Politics," on the historiography of the Thaw research, at the Midwest Slavic Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Austin Charron (Geography) won first place in the graduate division of the 61st annual Snyder Book Collecting Contest.



Paul Aldaya, Alina Bashirova and Sam Buyers at the Midwest Slavic Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

The title of his collection was, "A Medal on the Chest of Planet Earth: Crimea and the Crimean Tatars." The award was \$600, plus a \$100 gift card to the KU bookstore. He is also this year's recipient of the Howard J. Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award. He will use the award to conduct one month of additional fieldwork in Ukraine this summer for his dissertation on identity among Internally Displaced Peoples from Crimea.

Joshua DeMoss (REES MA '17) graduated this May 2017 with dual degrees in REES and Law. He was a recipient of the Palij Ukrainian Studies Award.

Evgeny Grishin (History Phd '17) graduated this July 2017 with a Phd in History. He begins his new job as a professor at the School of Advanced Studies of the University of Tyumen (<https://sas.utmn.ru/en/>). In addition to teaching a wide array of classes in his special field and beyond in both, English and Russian languages, he will take part in an multidisciplinary research project titled "Material Relations: A Multidisciplinary Perspective on Materiality and Subjectivity." This project unites an international team of researchers with background in history, anthropology, performance studies, political science, lit-

erature, and philosophy.

Alana Holland (History) won the Laird Essay Contest in spring 2017 with her essay titled "Not Our Nation: Public Holocaust Commemoration in Poland." She also won a Title VIII Fellowship to study Lithuanian at Indiana University's Summer Language Institute. Additionally, she was admitted to the graduate student conference and forum "Russia in the World: Russian Studies Abroad. The Current Trends" at the Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow this September.

Robert Jameson (History) won a Fulbright award to conduct research in the Czech Republic. During his Fulbright year in the Czech Republic, he will contribute to ongoing work done by the Oral History department of Charles University by conducting a series of interviews with Czech and Slovak technologists. His research focuses on questions of dissidence and technological development in the late socialist Czechoslovakia of the 1970s and 1980s and in East Central Europe by examining computer technologists' publications, including official magazines and ephemera.

Kaitlyn Johnson (REES/SLAV/Political

Science/Global and International Studies) completed an internship at the American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC). This summer she also did an internship under Dr. Leon Aron at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). At AFPC, she co-edited the Russia Reform Monitor issues. This weekly publication includes summaries of notable news on Russia, utilizing both Russian-language and English-language sources. These articles help policymakers, scholars, and anyone interested in Russia to keep up on current events and developments in the country, especially those which have long-term implications for Russia and/or U.S.-Russia relations. She assisted in choosing articles and wrote the weekly first draft of the publication. Additionally, she supported staff and fellows on various ongoing research projects. She was on a research team for the Nuclear Modernization Defense Technology Primer for which she focused mainly on researching the nuclear doctrine of foreign countries. She also assisted in the logistics of various events such as panels, lectures on the Hill, receptions, and forums. She was invited to assist in the logistics of and attend an exclusive dinner in the Capitol where she met Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, then-Deputy National Security Advisor K. T. McFarland, and various other current and former government officials and scholars.

Megan Luttrell (Slavic Languages and Literatures) taught the Level 1 Integrat-

ed Russian I and II classes at Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop (SWSEEL). She also gave a lecture at the workshop titled "Город теней: Петербургский миф в творчестве Мстислава Добужинского" (lecture given in Russian). In addition, she published a website on Russian verbs of motion as a free resource for other language instructors (www.russianverbsofmotion.weebly.com).

In the spring, she served as co-advisor with Dr. Renee Perelmutter for Taylor Cameron's undergraduate honors thesis in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. In February, she organized the Slavic department table and played Russian music at the International Jayhawk Festival. In March, she organized a cooking class for the Russian club. She served on the CREES Spring Festival planning committee and played Russian music at the event. In April, she tabled for the Slavic department at the SUA International Art Show, performed Russian music at the Slavic department honors ceremony, participated in the Lawrence Public Library's "Dia de los Niños/Dia de los Libros" international children's event, and gave her annual pysanky workshop, which had about 60 attendees! In September, she'll present at a multicultural story time on Russia at the Lawrence Public Library, give a brownbag for CREES titled, "Color Line and Narrative: Visual Art Techniques in L. N. Tolstoy's Fiction," and work as assistant to the editor (Ani



This fall, Evgeny Grishin begins a new job as a professor in the School of Advanced Studies at the University of Tyumen. This past spring, he gave a brownbag lecture on "Patriarch Nikon's 'Reforms' and the Russian Schism: On the Quincentennial of the Protestant Reformation.

Kokobobo) of the Tolstoy Studies Journal.

Nolan Schmidt (REES/Slavic Languages and Literatures) graduated this May 2017 with a BA in REES and Slavic Languages and Literatures. He represented the United States as a Student Ambassador at the USA Pavilion Expo 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan this summer.

Susan Swanton (REES MA '17) graduated this May 2017 with a M.A. degree in REES. She received a FLAS fellowship to study Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian at the University of Pittsburgh this summer.

John (Ike) Uri (Sociology) won a Fulbright award to teach English in Tajikistan. He will work in Gharm, a small town in the Rasht Valley in central Tajikistan. Following his time in Tajikistan, he will pursue a PhD in sociology at Brown University. He will use his working proficiency of Russian to explore Tajikistan's unique culture, geography and politics.

Alyssa Wood (REES MA '17) graduated this August 2017 with a M.A. degree in REES. She completed the 2-week intensive Russian Course called "Russian for Professionals" sponsored by KU's Language Training Center in June. As a Foreign Area Officer, she will serve her next tour of duty in Belgium at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), working as a liaison with non-NATO partners. She will have a baby in September!



Interim Director Alex Diener congratulates Alana Holland, this spring's winner of the Laird Essay Contest Award.



Director Vitaly Chernetsky wishes our REES M.A. graduates all the best in their future endeavors! Susan Swanton, Alexis Baich, Alina Bashirova, Alyssa Wood and Paul Aldaya



Congratulations to Joshua DeMoss, REES/Law dual degree graduate!

CREES would like to congratulate all of our graduating students acknowledge and award winners for the 2016-2017 academic year.

BRAMLAGE & WILLCOXON FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Liam Burnside
MA, REES

ROY D. AND BETTY LAIRD ESSAY COMPETITION

Alana Holland
PhD, History

CO-BACHELOR OF ARTS IN RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

Nolan Schmidt
BA, Global & International Studies

JAROSEWYCZ FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP IN UKRAINIAN STUDIES

Andrew Bilbo
MA, Political Science

NORMAN E. SAUL TRAVEL AWARD

Paul Aldaya
MA, REES

MASTERS OF RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

Paul Aldaya

Alexis Baich

Alina Bashirova

Joshua DeMoss

Susan Swanton

Alyssa Wood
(Summer 2017)

Franklin Conard
BA, Anthropology

Joshua DeMoss
MA, REES
JD, Law

Faelan Jacobson
BA, REES
BA, Global & International Studies

Alina Bashirova
MA, REES

John Biersack
PhD, Geography

Drew Burks
PhD, History

Samuel Buyers
MA, REES

Austin Charron
PhD, Geography

Megan Luttrell
PhD, Slavic Languages and Literatures

PALIJ UKRAINIAN STUDIES AWARD

Joshua DeMoss
MA, REES
JD, Law

JERKOVICH AWARD

Ryan McKinney
BA, Slavic Languages and Literatures

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

FALL 2017 **BROWNBAG** **LECTURE** **SERIES**

318 BAILEY HALL
12:00 PM TUESDAYS

For over 30 years, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series has been an informal Forum for KU and the surrounding community to discuss general topics related to Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

From the arts and literature to political science and current events, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series continues to educate and inform all those interested in this diverse and dynamic area of the world.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GAP CREDIT AVAILABLE



MEDIA PRODUCTION STUDIO

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

SEPTEMBER 12

Color Line and Narrative: Visual Art Techniques in L. N. Tolstoy's Fiction
Megan Luttrell (Slav Langs & Lit, PhD Candidate)

SEPTEMBER 19

Title TBA
Speaker TBA

SEPTEMBER 26

Mozart and the Czech National Revival: The Politics of Libretto Translation in Early Nineteenth-Century Prague
Martin Nedbal (Music)

OCTOBER 3

Outskirts of Empire: Kantemir Balagov's "Closeness" and the Question of Regionalism in Contemporary Russian Cinema"
Andrei Kartashov (Film & Media Studies)

OCTOBER 24

Title TBA
Goran Fercec (Croatian Author, Lawrence CEC ArtsLink Fellow in Residence)

OCTOBER 31

Spanning an Empire in Korolenko's Autobiography "The History of My Contemporary"
Nadja Berkovich (KU CREES Fellow, University of Arkansas)

NOVEMBER 7

Vladimir Sorokin, Aleksandr Dugin, and the Eurasian Retrofuture
Dirk Uffelmann (University of Passau, Germany)

NOVEMBER 14

Title TBA
Vlad Strukov (University of Leeds, England)

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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!

BECOME A CREES DONOR TODAY

CREES GENERAL FUND

The CREES General Fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community. Among its dedicated sponsors are the **Oswald P. Backus/Anna Cienciata Memorial Fund** for visiting lecturers in Polish Studies, the Bramlage Family Foundation Fund, which provides scholarships to KU REES MA students who have strong connections to the state of Kansas, and the **Norman E. Saul Fund**. Named after KU History Emeritus Professor Norman E. Saul, the Saul fund supports REES students with travel grants to collections or to REES-related conferences for professional development.

PALIJ FAMILY FUND

The Palij Family Fund supports visiting lecturers specializing in Ukrainian studies. The fund also supports the Ukrainian Studies Prize for an outstanding student specializing in Ukrainian.

GEORGE C. JERKOVICH FUND

The mission of the Jerkovich Fund is twofold: 1) to support the development of KU's South Slavic library collection; 2) to provide awards to outstanding students who have demonstrated an interest in the study of Croatian or Serbian history, literature, folklore, or culture.

ROY & BETTY LAIRD FUND

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

JAROSEWYCZ FAMILY FUND

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

ALEXANDER TSIOVKH MEMORIAL FUND

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

SPASIBO FUND

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

KU

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN,
EAST EUROPEAN &
EURASIAN STUDIES

College of Liberal Arts
& Sciences

THANK YOU

FOR ONLINE DONATIONS

A secure online donation can be made to CREES via the KU Endowment website at: crees.ku.edu/give-crees

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

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Lawrence, KS 66045-7574