Hashamova to Lead Center for Slavic and East European Studies

Yana Hashamova, an associate professor at Ohio State, has been appointed Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES).

CSEES promotes the study, knowledge, and teaching of the East European and Eurasian regions of the world. The center supports interdisciplinary research, develops new courses, sponsors lectures, administers a Slavic and East European studies master’s program, fosters the growth of language studies, and awards Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships to Ohio State graduate students, among numerous other activities.

Hashamova has served as the center’s acting director for the past year, and has provided expertise and guidance to its growing list of accomplishments. The CSEES has significantly increased its interaction with scholars nationwide as well as academic communities in Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia. It also hosted a number of successful conferences and has built an active exchange of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty through international agreements.

This year Hashamova will oversee the CSEES’ Title VI funding application process through the U.S. Department of Education. The proposals are due in the fall of 2009.

"I am looking forward to helping position Ohio State as a leader in
the production of interdisciplinary knowledge about Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia not only in the Midwest, but in our national economy of knowledge," Hashamova said.

Hashamova (Ph.D. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures and an Associate Faculty member of the Departments of Comparative Studies, Women’s Studies, the Interdisciplinary Program of Film Studies, and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. She has published Pride and Panic: Russian Imagination of the West in Post-Soviet Film (Bristol, UK: Intellect Press, distributed in the U.S. by University of Chicago Press, Spring 07) as well as numerous articles in the areas of Russian film, Russian and West European drama, comparative literature and the arts, critical theory and gender studies in many respected journals.

Kalu to Lead Center for African Studies

Read Kalu's vision for the Center for African Studies.

Kelechi Kalu

Kelechi Kalu, a professor in Ohio State’s Department of African American and African Studies, has been appointed Director of the Center for African Studies. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Kalu’s work over the next year will focus on overseeing the Center for African Studies’ Title VI funding application process through the U.S. Department of Education. The proposals are due in the fall of 2009.
The Center for African Studies is dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of intellectual debate about Africa. Founded in 1988, the Center for African Studies works to expand African studies curriculum across disciplines, increase interaction between Africanist faculty on campus, organize lectures and conferences, and conduct outreach activities with K-12, business, government and civic groups. The Center is one of five area studies centers under the umbrella of the Office of International Affairs.

"Within the context of The Ohio State University’s internationalization effort, and with the help of my colleagues across the university, it is my hope that we can collectively re-imagine the best approach to advancing the study of Africa to benefit our students and colleagues in various disciplines," Kalu said. "Since African Studies is an interdisciplinary project, we need more imaginative ways of merging the analytical tools of mainstream disciplines with extensive local knowledge in African communities."

Kalu plans to work with Africanists and other scholars in the disciplines who teach Africa-related themes to develop a better mode of dialogue. The main objective will be to extend the frontiers and deepening the existing knowledge of African societies.

Prior to joining the faculty at Ohio State in 2008, Kalu was a professor of political science at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, and Adjunct Professor of African Politics at the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. Kalu is the author of "Economic Development and Nigerian Foreign Policy" (New York: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2000), and many articles that have been published in the International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society, Africa Today, and the Journal of Nigerian Affairs, among others. He recently co-edited "Socio-Political Scaffolding and the Construction of Change: Constitutionalism and Democratic Governance in Africa (Africa World Press, 2009) with Peyi Airewele-Soyinka of Ithaca College. His current book project is on Political Restructuring in Post-Conflict States in Africa, which is part of a larger project funded by The Ford Foundation.

Among the courses that Kalu currently teaches is U.S.-Africa Relations and Methodical Perspectives in African and African American Studies.