

NEWSLETTER

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

The University of Kansas

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The Slavic Club hosted a group of thirty Soviet students who visited the campus for three days in February. The visitors were housed in various student dormitories; attended classes and athletic events; held a reception for their American hosts; and were, in turn, received at a reception organized by the Slavic Club.

Activities of the Slavic Club this semester included: the above-mentioned reception for the Soviet visitors; an evening of Russian opera; a lecture/slide presentation by Visiting Professor Maslov entitled "Leningrad: The Heroic City"; an evening of Slavic poetry and prose; Easter egg dyeing; and the traditional spring picnic.

Slavic films sponsored by the department this semester included: "Kaya, I'll Kill You" (Yugoslavia, 1968); "My Universities," from Gorky (USSR, 1940); "The Sisters," from A. Tolstoy (USSR, 1957); and "Border Street" (Poland).

Dr. Elizabeth Markstein gave two talks on April 26: an afternoon seminar, in Russian, on Solzhenitsyn's "Gulag Archipelago as a Work of Art," and an evening public lecture on "Censorship and Self-Censorship in Soviet Literature."

The department will once again offer a course in intensive Russian (10 hours credit) this summer, due to its considerable success last summer under the direction of Prof. Salaty.

This summer, for the first time, the department is initiating a program of courses at the University of Kansas Linwood Center in Kansas City. The summer session will offer a beginning Russian course for three hours credit. In the fall semester, the Linwood Center program will expand to include two language courses and an introductory course in Russian culture and society. With the hoped-for success of these courses, the department plans to then offer beginning Serbo-Croatian in the spring semester, along with a larger range of Russian language and culture courses.

In other curriculum news, the department is also inaugurating a new, comprehensive series of Russian language courses designed to meet the specific needs of students and faculty in the sciences, engineering, business, law, journalism, architecture, and other professional fields.

The department expects to enter soon into direct negotiations with Leningrad University for a bilateral exchange of graduate students for full academic year study. A joint K.U.-K. State proposal has been endorsed by the U.S. State Department and has been sent to Soviet officials. The exchange is intended for students who have received their baccalaureate degrees and are at a beginning or intermediate stage in their graduate studies. If negotiations proceed as expected, the program will begin this coming fall semester. Interested students should contact Prof. Mikkelson of this department by May 15. It is understood that American participants will be enrolled at Kansas University during their year of study at Leningrad University.

Student and Alumni News

Congratulations to Ms. Kate Ottinger who passed her M.A. examinations with Honors, emphasis in Russian Culture.

Joel Wilkinson (M. Phil. 1973) will deliver a paper at the session on Pre-College Level Russian Programs at the Bryn Mawr Workshop-Seminar (Topic: Russian for Non-Academic Uses and The Academic Curriculum) to be held June 14-17.

Peter Aikman and Ms. Rhonda Blair, graduate student in Theatre, have been selected as the Group Leader and Assistant Group Leader for the Kansas contingent of the 1976 Summer Russian Language Program in Leningrad. K.U. students participating in the program are Nina Malyshev, Jeffrey Millikan, and Gretchen Rothrock. The group will depart from the U.S. on June 14 and return around August 24. Following six weeks of language study at Leningrad University, the students will spend two weeks touring various cities of the Soviet Union including Moscow, Tbilisi, and Kiev.

Pakala Curtis-Bennett (M.A. 1976) is now employed at International Translators Association, Kansas City, Missouri.

Prof. Thomas Beyer (Ph. D. 1974) will deliver a paper, "Magical Words in Belyi's Silver Dove," at the Northeast Slavic Conference to be held at the University of Connecticut. Tom will also serve as guide/interpreter for a group of thirty tourists travelling throughout the USSR from Moscow to Siberia May 23-June 14; and then he will return to direct the first-year Russian language program at Middlebury College this summer.

Staff News

Prof. Viktor Sergeevich Maslov, Visiting Associate Professor, spoke at the joint meeting of the Kansas chapters of AATSEEL and MLA held at Kansas State College of Emporia on April 3. His talk was entitled "Pushkinskii zapovednik" (The Pushkin Reservation).

Prof. Conrad chaired the spring meeting of the Co-operative Russian Language Program Policy Committee of the CIEE on March 9 in New York. Prof. Mikkelson served as K.U.'s representative to the meeting. Prof. Conrad also attended a meeting of the American Council of Teachers of Russian to discuss the new Moscow Program which is being held this year at the A.S. Pushkin Institute for the Study of Russian.

Prof. Mikkelson and Prof. Parker have given a number of talks at area colleges in association with the outreach program of the Slavic and Soviet Area Studies program. Prof. Mikkelson gave a talk, "Soviet Perceptions of Solzhenitsyn" at Benedictine College in Atchison and at Saint Mary College in Leavenworth. Prof. Parker gave two talks, "On Nineteenth Century Russian Literature" and "Twentieth Century Russian Literature: An Overview" at Benedictine College.

Prof. Parker and Prof. Mikkelson also participated in a symposium entitled Meanings and Messages, sponsored by the English Department Writers Series and No. 1 magazine at the University of Missouri, Kansas City on April 29. Prof. Parker read a paper, "The Art of Vladimir Nabokov: Problems and Controversies," and Prof. Mikkelson read a paper, "The Poetry of Boris Pasternak."

Prof. Galton's Most recent publications are an article comparing the verbal aspect in the Greek and Slavic languages, which appeared in Folia linguistica, tomus VIII (1975) pp. 147-156, and a review of Louis Herman's Dictionary of Slavic Word Families, which appeared in SEEJ, Vol. 19 (1975) pp. 355-57.