Department News

The major upcoming event will be a celebration of Polish culture being organized for February, 1990 by Jadwiga Maurer along with Bill Fletcher, Chair of Soviet and East European Studies. The occasion is a concert by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra in Hobc Auditorium on February 15, 1990. The other scheduled highlight is a poetry reading by Nobel laureate Czeslaw Milosz on the following day. Additional panels and lectures on Polish literature and art are being planned. Arrangements have not yet been finalized; anyone interested in further details should get in touch with the Department later during the Fall semester.

In honor of his mother, Dr. Fan Parker, Professor Emeritus of Russian at CUNY Brooklyn, Stephen Parker has given the University of Kansas Libraries a gift of several thousand books and journals concerning Russian literature and culture. Approximately half of the collection is comprised of new titles for the library's general Slavic collection. The other half, largely duplicates of complete collected works of Russian and Soviet writers, will form the core collection of a projected Department Library, to be housed near the Department offices in Wescoe Hall.

In May, 1989 the department (along with Soviet and East European Studies) hosted the Soviet writer and historian Natan Ejdel'tman, who gave two lively talks in Russian: "История и современность России" and "Модель будущего России в представлении Пушкина".

Leslie O'Connell, from the University of Texas, Austin, will come to the department on November 10 to give a talk entitled "Writing the Story of Puškin's Death".

The Department has been planning a visit by Danil Granin under the aegis of the Soviet Writer in Residence program since last year, but non-literary matters (secondary things like his election to the new Soviet Parliament!) have intervened. We are currently hoping that he will be able to come during the Spring semester. We also expect to welcome Valentin Rasputin for a return engagement of a week or so in October or November, 1990; he first visited us in 1985.

The first meeting of the Slavic Club (the faculty adviser is Bill March) in early October was most original: it featured an exhibition of students' photographs from the USSR and Eastern Europe, followed by a reception.

There is a real vogue for the Russian playwright Aleksandr Vampilov here at KU. Last spring Masha Kipp organized a successful Russian-language production of his one-act play "Incident with a Paginator" with mostly third-year Russian students in the cast. This December, during the last week of classes, she is again

Anniversary Conference and Banquet

In order to celebrate twenty years of granting Ph.D.'s, the Slavic Department is planning an anniversary celebration, to consist of a one-day conference on May 19, topped off by a banquet in the evening. Detailed plans will be mailed out later this fall, but we hope that all of our alumni will make plans to join us for this special occasion. All of our former students are welcome, but we especially urge our Ph.D.'s to give talks on their current research at the conference. One caveat is in order: this event is scheduled to coincide with Commencement, and housing will be scarce on Lawrence. We have reserved a small number of rooms for conference participants, but you will need to commit to coming pretty early in order to ensure your space. If you need further information before we send out the announcements, please contact Gerald Mikkelson at the Slavic Department, (913) 864-3313.

Samantha Smith Exchange Program

Our department has established a two-year program of exchanges between Yugoslavia and the U.S., thanks to a $70,000 grant from the Samantha Smith Memorial Exchange Program of the U.S. Information Agency. The initiative for setting up this program was taken by Joe Conrad and Bill March. The exchange will send up to five American undergraduates to study in Croatian universities for the Spring, 1990 and Spring, 1991 semesters, and simultaneously bring a like number of Yugoslavs to study at KU. The Yugoslavian side is administered by Matica Isejenika Hrvatske, the same organization through which we operate our well-established summer language and culture program in Zagreb. This is a unique opportunity for American students to experience authentic Yugoslavian higher education in many fields. Existing programs are either aimed at pure language instruction, and thus isolate foreigners from the regular curriculum, or are intended for research at the doctoral or post-doctoral level.
organizing a Russian Vampilov performance of "Twenty Minutes with an Angel". The cast will again include advanced undergraduates, together with Kipp. The director will be Mark Jennison, a graduate student in Soviet theatre. He is planning to go on a direct exchange during the Fall, 1990 semester to the State Institute of Theatre Arts (GITIS) in Moscow, the trip arranged by Masha Kipp. Moreover, the Theatre and Slavic Departments are sponsoring an English language production of the full-length Vampilov play "Duck Hunting", which will have six performances during October 25-29. Jennison is again the director, and Kipp is serving as the "dramaturge" to help achieve an authentic staging.

Chairman's Corner

Highlights of the just completed summer period include: (1) successful study-abroad programs in Zagreb and Leningrad; (2) strong enrollments in our on-campus intensive beginning and intermediate Russian courses; (3) a highly successful federally-funded Intensive Russian Language Institute for GTA Proficiency Training on campus; and (4) the award of a substantial Samantha Smith federal grant for a two-year program of exchanges of undergraduate students with Yugoslavia.

As we begin the fall semester we welcome Miljenko Kovacicek to our faculty. A Fulbright Scholar from the Center for the Study of Foreign Languages in Zagreb, he will be teaching Serbo-Croatian language and literature. We also welcome nine new graduate students into our program.

Fall enrollments indicate a continuing increase throughout the curriculum and particularly in Russian language study. Approximately three hundred students are studying Russian this semester, with the largest increases occurring at the second- and third-year levels. This is largely due to the strong enrollments this past summer in the intensive courses and to the growing number of Kansas high schools which offer two or more years of Russian. Indications now point to a near doubling of the number of declared undergraduate majors in Russian.

We are anticipating another lively, productive academic year: visiting lecturers from the USA and USSR, colloquia, films, exhibits, and various social events. One large-scale effort will be a month-long, campus- and community-wide celebration of Polish culture surrounding a guest performance by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra this winter.

The positive response of readers to the first issue of the now revived Department Newsletter is gratifying. We encourage your continuing participation.

Stephen J. Parker

Faculty Notes

During the summer, Maria Carlson was Resident Director of the CIEE Russian Language Program in Leningrad. Shortly after returning, she again went back to the USSR, along with Bill Fletcher, as a resource person for a group of nine American college and university presidents and chancellors who are seeking to establish academic exchanges with Soviet institutions of higher education. Once back in Lawrence, she and Fletcher gave a SEES brown bag lunch symposium on the (apparently excellent) prospects for establishing new exchanges.

Carlson will be on leave from the university during the spring semester in order to write a book on occultism in Russian Silver Age Culture and Society. She received a grant from the NEH to support her work on this project through the first eight months of 1990. Her paper on this subject, "Ivanov-Belyj-Minclova: The Mystical Triangle" recently appeared in a Cultura e Memoria, a volume of papers from the 3rd International Vilcheslav Ivanov conference in Pavia, Italy.

Joseph Conrad spent two weeks in Yugoslavia in June doing research at the Zagreb Institute for Folklore in conjunction with a book South Slavic Folk Belief, to be published by M. E. Sharpe, Inc. His article "Vestiges of Romantic Gardens and Folklore Devils" appeared as the only original solicited essay in a new collection of reprinted studies, Critical Essays on Anton Chekhov, edited by Thomas Eekman of UCLA. Another paper, "Chekhov's House with an Attic: Echoes of Turgenev", will appear in the October, 1989 issue of the European journal Russian Literature. He has also published recent reviews in the Modern Language Journal and Slovene Studies. He has just returned from giving a guest lecture on October 16 at Washington University in St. Louis on "Spirits and Demons of the Slavic Underworld".

George Fowler used his New Faculty Grant during the summer to write a paper entitled "A Formal Proposal for Russian-aj", which he is currently shopping around for publication. He will deliver talks based on this research at the first departmental colloquium of the year on October 19 and later in October at a University of Michigan symposium of Soviet and American linguists, "Recent Advances in Russian Linguistics".

Over the summer Fowler also pursued a couple of computer projects. He compiled a computer-generated concordance to the poetry of Sergei Esenin, which is currently undergoing final post-editing; the resulting manuscript will be a horrifying and maybe unprintable 3,000 pages. He also adapted a computerized data base derived from A. A. Zaliznjak's Grammatičeskij slovar' russkogo jazyka for the Macintosh, designing fonts and search routines to manipulate it, and distributed it to several colleagues around the country.
Maia Kipp has recently completed an article, “Once More on Form as Content: A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess”. Her earlier paper “In Search of a Synthesis: Reflections on Two Interpretations of Edvard Radzinski’s Lumin or the Death of Jacques, Recorded in the Presence of the Master” has just appeared in Studies in Twentieth Century Literature.

Mijenko Kovacicek is scheduled to give a reading of his poetry, both in Serbo-Croatian and his own English translations, at the annual AATSEEL meeting in Washington, DC in December. A book of his translations of his own poetry has recently been issued by Singular Speech Press in Canton, Connecticut.

William March and Joe Conrad put together on very short notice last spring a grant application that won for KU the right to operate a two-year undergraduate exchange with Yugoslavia. This program is described elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Jadwiga Maurer is working on a book in Polish on Adam Mickiewicz, to be published by the Polish Cultural Foundation in London. As another part of her ongoing research on Mickiewicz, she will give a paper entitled “One Hundred Years of Mickiewicz Scholarship” in July, 1990 at the IV World Congress of Soviet and East European Studies at Harrogate, England. Her article “Celina Szymanowska as a Frankist” is about to appear in the Polish Review. Another two articles, one on Mickiewicz, recently came out in the literary supplement to the London newspaper Dziennik Polski.

Gerald Mikkelson has recently published his critical article “Valentin Rasputin and His Siberia” in the volume Siberia on Fire: Stories and Essays by Valentin Rasputin. The Rasputin material in the book was selected and translated by Mikkelson and his wife, Margaret Winchell, a Slavic librarian at Watson Library here at KU, and they jointly wrote an introduction as well. They also translated the contents of a new book, Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil, and two stories for the anthology The New Soviet Fiction: Sixteen Short Stories, edited by Sergej Zalyygin: Valentin Rasputin’s “What Should I Tell the Crow?” and S. Jaroslavov’s “The Details of Nikita Vorontsov’s Life”.

Stephen Parker’s review of Dostoëvsky’s published correspondence, “Notes from the Underpaid”, appeared in the June 4 issue of the New York Times Book Review. This past summer he again visited with the Nabokovs in Switzerland in furtherance of his multiple Nabokov-related activities. He also completed a solicited article for the upcoming special Nabokov issue of Russian Literature Triquarterly.

Student Notes

A number of students went abroad during the summer. Giselle Zimmermann was the group leader for the KU contingent at the CIEE Summer Language Program at Leningrad University. Her report on the experience is included in this issue (see p. 4). Another of our students, Sue Novak, was also a participant in the program.

Harley Wagar was the KU program director at our summer Croatian language program in Zagreb; he has also contributed a brief report on the program to this issue of the newsletter. Teaching assistants in Zagreb were Quincy Coates and Laura Wilhelm, Jill Lally, a 1989 KU B.A. in Russian, was a student in the program, and has remained in Zagreb this semester to continue her studies.

Bill Griffiths attended the Slavonic Studies Seminar at Kliment Okhridski University in Sofia, Bulgaria in August under a fellowship from IREX. Howard and Karla Solomon went to the Soviet Union in July to spend nine months as USIA interpreters accompanying an exhibit on American architecture.

Our department was represented by four graduate students at the Central Slavic conference October 6-7 in Columbia, Missouri. Hyun-Taek Kim read a paper entitled “Religious Aspects in Chingiz Aitmatov’s Plakha”, based on his ongoing dissertation research. Julie Hill’s paper, “Magical Realism in Bulgakov’s Master i Margarita”, was based on her work in last fall’s seminar on that novel. Sue Novak and Giselle Zimmermann put this summer’s CIEE experience to use as panelists at a round-table discussion on “Glasnost: How Students See It—A Discussion”.

Finally, very fresh congratulations are due to first-year graduate student Amy Humphrey, who got married on October 14. The timing is unusual—getting married in the middle of the semester must be a real hassle!—but the wedding was set long before she decided to enter graduate study this fall. She and her husband are opening a music store in downtown Lawrence, specializing in drums, in November. Best of luck to them!

Alumni Notes

One day during the summer two of our former graduate students, Stanley Bark (B.A. 1976, M.A. 1979) and his wife Basia Servinska-Bark (a graduate student and teaching assistant during 1978-80), dropped by the department and had a nice chat with the Editor of the Newsletter. They now reside in Geneva, Switzerland, where Stan oversees RJR Nabisco’s trade interests in the Soviet Union.

Michael Biggins (Ph.D., 1986) is now a cataloger in the Slavic Department of Watson Library. He has recently received a New Faculty Grant for a translation project devoted to the Slovenian poet Edvard Kocbek. From mid-March to mid-May, 1990 Biggins will select and translate a number of his poems, assemble them into a book-length collection, and write a critical introduction to accompany them. He also ex-
pects to start work on a critical monograph on Kocbek. Alex (Ph.D., 1982) and Melissa Boguslawski (M.A., 1980) recently celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary. Alex is on the faculty at Rollins College in Maitland, Florida. Alex has doing research on Sasa Sokolov (two articles), iconography (two AATSEEL papers and an upcoming article), and folklore. He will be on sabbatical during the Fall, 1989 semester, during which time he will work on a book and his painting.

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**Reports from Summer Language Programs**

### Zagreb

The annual Croatian Language and Folk Culture Summer School, co-sponsored by the KU Department of Slavic Languages and Matica Iseljenika Hrvatske in Zagreb, was held in June and July. Harley Wagler was the KU program director and Silvija Letica did her usual good job of overseeing the logistics in Zagreb.

About half of the 29 students were of Croatian origin, and came from as far away as Australia and New Zealand, although the majority were Americans. Three KU students participated, with Quinci Coates and Laura Wilhelm serving as assistants. Students were divided into three groups according to language level. Mornings were devoted to language study while afternoons provided practical exposure to Croatian culture; one can assume that students are now doing the drmeš folk dance in their home communities!

Weekends were excursion times. We suffered through the heat of Osijek and Đakova, but everyone agreed that Slavonian hospitality is exceptional. We also traveled to Istria and Croatian Zagorje; Kumrovec, Tito’s birthplace, is impressive as a recreated museum village.

Zagreb still sparkles from hosting a major athletic event, the 1987 World Student Olympics. Program participants again stayed at the Pionirski Grad recreation complex just outside the city. The program was only slightly daunted by the onset of a bug during the last week, which laid low even the most athletic types and caused the cancellation of the traditional soccer match between the Americans and the Pionirski Grad employees. Most did not even get to taste the wonderful janjetina especially prepared for the post-game picnic.

One of the highlights was a visit to Ivan Lacković’s atelier. The well-known naïve painter demonstrated the same kind of warmth we sensed everywhere, and our hosts did their best to make real the rallying cry for the program: “Nema problema!”

*Harley Wagler*

(1t is nice to learn that the Student Olympics had a positive effect on Zagreb. I have a personal bone to pick with that competition. My Pan Am flight from Frankfurt to Budapest made a thoroughly unscheduled detour to Zagreb in order to deliver the U.S. swimming team. They piled onto the tiny plane toting colossal boom boxes, some of them bigger than my then five-year-old daughter (but I’ll bet they didn’t pay for the seats these behemoths occupied). I never did hear how the team did there (and in fact never even gave it a thought until now).—*Editor* )

### Leningrad

Before my trip to the Soviet Union as the Kansas Group Leader for the CIEE Summer Program in Leningrad, the summer was an unknown variable for me. When I came back, I decided that my time in the Soviet Union had indeed represented everything with an “ex—”: exhilarating, exasperating, exciting, and exhausting. Watching over 25 students, most of them taking their first trip abroad, made me feel like a mixture of fiery angel and petty demon: when guiding them through their first encounter with the Soviet health care system or goading them into actually attending lectures; when trying to convince some that, no, the KGB is not lurking behind every corner, while trying to impress on others the idea that, no, farčivički were not necessarily their most faithful and trustworthy friends.

The official Sputnik program was not as packed as it had been in previous years—we didn’t have to visit the V.I. Lenin Memorial Haystack in Razliv. It left students with plenty of time to explore the city on their own and meet Russians, and most of them made ample use of this opportunity. In the wake of glasnost, people are less guarded in their contacts with foreigners, and, amazingly enough, one of the usually so abhorred ureći s sovetskoj molodežu turned out to be very interesting, and many students made friends there. While this was one of the exciting and exhilarating aspects of our stay, the absence of any noticeable result of perestroika—one could mention hotel service among other things—left me exasperated and exhausted. But instead of delving into this topic, it might be better to conclude with Shakespeare: “The rest is silence”.

*Giselle Zimmermann*
About the Newsletter

This is the second issue of the newly revived Newsletter of the University of Kansas Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. In the last issue I announced a competition to name it. However, the readers let me down, and I received only one entry. My thanks to Louise Redford for her suggestion of ещё слово. I regret, Louise, that we have decided that since not all of our many avid readers are actually fluent in Russian (by the way, I decline to comment on the rumor that stacks of our Newsletter have been spotted in White House restrooms), we had better wait for inspiration to strike someone in English. Thus, I will leave the competition open for a brief time only. Enter now! First prize will be a valuable extra chance to enter the Publisher’s Clearinghouse Sweepstakes.

Any correspondence, suggestions, contributions, or the like should be sent to me at the address below. I’m especially anxious to hear from our former graduate students, so that I can beef up the Alumni Notes.

Thanks again to Paula Malone, Wescoe’s Master Word Processor, for putting the manuscript into proper Newsletter shape.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Please fill out below and return to:

George Fowler
Dept. of Slavic Languages
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045-2174

Name: ____________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________________________________

KU Degree: ________________________ Year of Graduation: ________________________

Degrees at Other Universities: __________________________________________________

Present Position: _____________________________________________________________

News for 1990 Newsletter:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

May we release your address and phone number to other alumni?

Yes ____________________  No ____________________