FEATURE INTERVIEW

PETR BUKHARKIN, Fulbright Visiting Professor from St. Petersburg University

By Yana Grigortchuk, M.A. candidate, Slavic

Petr Evgenievich, we would like to know a little bit more about your background.

My whole life is connected with Petersburg. I grew up in Petersburg, lived there, studied in school and at the university. I have worked there my whole life, except for the times when I traveled. My family heritage is quite unusual. On my mother's side all of my ancestors lived in Petersburg from the end of the eighteenth century on, so I can say that I am a true citizen of Petersburg. Especially in the beginning of the twentieth century many of them were involved with some kind of science. One of my great-grandfathers was a well-known historian, another was a famous doctor, a professor at Warsaw University. In the 1930s many of my relatives suffered in Stalin's camps, which, of course, left its trace in our family life.

Although on my father's side my family comes from the Volga region, I know very little about them. My grandfather, who was also a philosopher and a professor at St. Petersburg University was arrested and in 1935 died at an early age in a Stalinist concentration camp.

I grew up in my mother's family, which took its strength from the traditional gentry culture of the nineteenth century, something that remains very close to me.

Although during my high school years I wanted to specialize in history, at the last moment I chose philology. Here two circumstances were decisive. First of all, I graduated from high school in 1973, the depths of the Brezhnev regime. At this time history was totally politicized. It would have been impossible to study history without accepting the official Marxist view. Being a very apolitical person, I have never been actively interested in politics. I never shared a Marxist view of history, and, as I like to say, I am anti-Communist. At this same time, I started to read American literature of the twentieth century. I particularly loved Faulkner, who left a lasting impression on me, really one of the strongest aesthetic impressions of my life. Reading Faulkner changed my perception of the world and my attitude to literature. As a result, I began studying Russian literature, and since then all my life has been devoted to that.

What is the topic of your current research and what plans do you have for the future?

The area of my research interests is fairly broad. I work with all of Russian literature from the end of the seventeenth century, the years leading to Peter's reforms, and ending with the twentieth century. My primary area of specialization is eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century literature. Eighteenth-century literature I study as a history of literature, trying to find its recurrent patterns. Nineteenth-century literature I research differently. Most of all, I am interested in classical works of literature: Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Turgeniev, and the principles that define the artistic world created in their texts. I analyze these texts from the point of view of rhetoric and hermeneutics. I also try to connect literary

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CHAIR'S CORNER

Marc L. Greenberg,
Chair, Slavic Languages and Literatures

WE COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

This has been a challenging year for the Department, but one in which we have come out quite well nevertheless. We continue to swim upstream as the Kansas State Legislature continues to cut back on education. The Humanities, as always, receive whatever might trickle down to the bottom. On the bright side, however, our alumni and friends have begun to rally to our cause and have given our department some funds that will help us offer the best programs that we can. Further, we were challenged by the absence of our invaluable colleague, Professor William Comer, who took a well-deserved sabbatical respite during this academic year. His

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Another reason for the crisis is that our culture has suddenly changed. The communist regime preserved cultural life. In Soviet Russia, nineteenth-century writers kept their authority, as did older Western classics. Russian culture has lagged behind European culture, something that has its virtues. It cannot be said that literature of the end of the twentieth century is great. It is obviously inferior to literature of the early twentieth century. Preservation lent more depth of seriousness. Russian culture was constantly preoccupied with major problems, for example, with death, with individual responsibility, with religion. After the fall of the Soviet Union, literature made a quick jump forward and chaos ensued.

Russian identity is going through a very difficult period. Like Americans, Russians are used to feelings of national pride and power, and now everything has crumbled. Now geopolitical influence has been lost, and no one knows what to do next. Literature has lost its national idea that inspired so many people, including Solzhenitsyn and Brodskii. At the moment it is unclear what Russia’s mission should be. Surely it is not just to spread the Mafia around the world!

What are your impressions about your stay in the States?

I keep on telling everybody that I really like the United States. It is not just gratitude to this country, which has been so kind in hosting me. What has really surprised me is that America is really a New World. It is really different from Europe. My stay in America made me reconsider connections and relationships between Russia and Europe. America is really a new culture and civilization, and is developing dynamically and in a promising way.

Something else that impressed me is American patriotism. We came to the United States right after the tragedy of September 11, and I really liked how national pride was shown—with flags and open support of citizens for their government. I have encountered no hostility towards foreigners. It also strikes me that life in American universities is oriented toward people, toward making resources accessible and convenient. It still impresses me that libraries are open until midnight. In some other universities, my friends told me that libraries work all night long—this is absolutely wonderful. Life is structured in such a way that people can do what they want.
DEPARTURES
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She plans to move to Baltimore in July. Melia wants everyone to know how much she has appreciated working with the faculty and staff over the last four years. She will miss the department and try to keep in touch.

Ania Bodziacka, CREES student, who has been very active in the Slavic Department was married on March 18th to Daniel Dworzanski. She and her husband will be living in Rochester, NY. She has applied for a Professional Assistant position at Skalny Foundation for Polish & Central European Studies in New York. Good luck, Ania.

HONORS RECEPTION

The annual Slavic Department Honors Reception was held this year on April 18th in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union. Over 75 people attended with honors given to 45 students. The Slavic Folk Song Ensemble entertained the guests along with a guest performance from Aleksandr Snytkin, violinist, from Lithuania. Students received certificates and book awards for excellence in various levels of Croatian, Serbian, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian. Adrienne Landry received the Nelson Scholarship ($1,500) and John Erlinger was awarded a FLAS to study in Ukraine this summer. Inducted into Dobro Slovo, the national honor society for students majoring in Russian Language & Literature, were John Bidwell, Daniel Doughty, Adrienne Landry, and Kara Smith. Three students received additional awards. Patrick Carrier, a doctoral student in Theatre and Film, from Bemidji, Minn., received the Kuhlke Russian Theatre Award for $2,000. Lyle McMillan, Sophomore in Political Science and Slavic Languages and Literatures, from Jamestown, will study for one year in Russia through the National Security Education Program Award, and John Bidwell, a Senior, received a grant from the American Council of Teachers of Russian to study at the KU summer program in Zagreb and Dubrovnik, Croatia.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

Former Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Steven Mann, visited KU November 10-12, 2001 and spoke to students about careers in foreign service and to the broader KU community about oil politics in the Caspian Sea.

On December 7, 2001, Professor Gerald Mikkelson gave a Slavic Graduate Studies Colloquium talk entitled "The Grass is Greener Where We’re Loved: Fedor Tiutchev’s Petersburg Poems."

Professor Donna Orwin, Professor of Slavic, University of Toronto, delivered two talks during her visit March 23-26, 2002. A presentation in Professor Clowes’s ongoing faculty seminar on Philosophy and Literature at the Hall Center was entitled: “Inverse Idealisms:.."
Russian

Elementary Level
Kale Bruner
Patrick Carriere
Dustin Chase
Bruce Fowler
Erik Pavlovich
Mark Rydzynski
Molly Rydzynski
Andrew Shernuk
Adam Shoffner
Anne Wallen

Intermediate Level
Cynthia V. Blair
Brian J. Gordon
Lyle N. McMillan
Irakli Mirzashvili
Grant Nichols
Joy R. Stortvedt

Advanced Level
Paul Becker
Marcie Harder
Stephanie Hockman
Sarah Jewell
Adrienne Landry
Maureen Morton
Callie Stanley
Jeremy Wade

Polish

Elementary Level
Kathleen King-Masten

Intermediate Level
Jon Giullian
Jozi Lutackas
Piotr Zygmunt

Advanced Level
Annmarie Komorowski
Randy Masten
Anna Rymarz

Kathleen King-Masten with Ania Bodziacka

Jon Giullian, Jozi Lutackas & Piotr Zygmunt

Intermediate Russian Award Winners

Advanced Russian Award Winners
Students take culture course to Prague

By Adrienne Harris-Boggess (PhD candidate, Slavic) & Mark Willcoxon (MA, CRees, 2002)

In January, 2002, Professors Edith Clowes and Dennis Christilles (Theater Dept.) introduced a group of KU students to Czech culture and theater. During the Fall, students prepared for their winter journey to Prague by exploring the country’s rich history, literature, art, language, and theatrical traditions. Upon arrival in Prague, the group enjoyed an introductory guided tour of the city’s main landmarks. During the first evening, both professors hosted a dinner in a local Czech restaurant. Typical days consisted of morning lectures by Czech professors from Charles University and afternoon excursions. Evenings provided opportunities to savor theatrical and musical performances. Students were also given time for personal exploration, shopping, sightseeing, and research.

The itinerary included visits to Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, Old Town and Wenceslas Square, Jewish Quarter, and Mala Strana. Local and KU professors accentuated the learning experience by incorporating the cultural and historical relevance of the attractions. The theatrical component of the program provided students with tickets to performances of La Traviata at the State Opera House, Hamlet in the National Theater, Don Giovanni in the Estates Theater, Small October in the tiny by very popular Theater Na Zabradli, Laterna Magika’s Odysseus, and Mozart’s Requiem at the Municipal Building. After each program, students and faculty discussed the performances in cafes and pubs.

The program concluded with a delightful evening of dining and reflection at the historic U sedmi svabu in Mala Strana. Heightening the restaurant’s medieval atmosphere was a spontaneous exhibition of fire-swallowing outside in the falling snow. After returning to KU, students integrated their Prague experiences into research papers and journals. Further information and photos about the program are available at http://www.ku.edu/~slavic/prague/prague%20intro.htm.

Student News

Adrienne Landry plans next year to finish both her degrees in History and Slavic. She received a number of awards this year, including Academic Excellence for Advanced Russian, induction into Dobro Slovo Honors Society, and the Nelson Scholarship.

Maureen Morton received 1st prize for Non-Heritage Learners, Category 1, Level 4, in the Third Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest!!! Great going, Maureen!

Eric Nolan plans to continue his studies at KU for another semester, maybe two. This spring he received recognition for his excellent work in Ukrainian and was inducted into the International Keys Honors Society.

Kara Smith spent fall semester studying in Moscow, with the Moscow Institute for Advanced Studies and came home with a beautiful scrapbook full of photos and mementos. She spent fall break in Prague, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. She also visited St. Petersburg, Vladimir, Suzdal, and Sergeiev Posad. She writes that she is “addicted to travelling” and plans to spend this summer travelling through Europe (and perhaps, if money permits, back to Russia again) with someone she met on the Moscow program.

Congratulations to Allison Smith who will be entering graduate school in environmental studies at Western Illinois University next fall!
duties were partially fulfilled by extra efforts on the part of Prof. Maia Kipp and Meghan Murphy-Lee (ABD in Slavic linguistics and language pedagogy); nevertheless, his absence was strongly felt, and we eagerly await his return in August of this year.

Last year at the April Honors Reception for our students, I kvetched about the lamentable state of language-learning in the academy. As university budgets tightened, language programs began to go on the chopping block. I also cited a New York Times article, published the day before our Reception, which pointed up the critical need for language expertise as a matter of national security. This pointed to the symbiosis that drives the academy: national priorities set the agenda, writ large, of the goals for higher education. Less than six months later the national priorities changed radically and so we are beginning to see the effects of that change in our discourse and will soon see it in our curriculum. Although I would be the last person to celebrate the events of last September, the silver lining in this dark cloud is that the United States has suddenly awakened to the necessity of looking outward and training young people to understand the rest of the world and to learn its languages. What we can celebrate is a new era in which what we love to do - teach and learn languages and understand other cultures - has become valued once again. We hope and expect that this renewal of interest will mark a renaissance in our field and a commensurate burgeoning of our programs.

One of the blessings we can count is that we have added a new member to our Department, Ms. Donna Waters, who has very quickly become not just the Slavic Department’s Administrative Specialist, but the heart of our department. And she is not only the heart of our Department, but also the lungs, and I am pleased to say that those lungs are healthier since she has successfully kicked her smoking habit as of January 1, 2002. In a very real sense, Donna serves as the lungs of the Department: she controls the only two windows in our Departmental wing. Our faculty and students are urged to be courteous to her, lest she cut off our air supply!

We have been fortunate to have delightful visitors, Professor Petr Bukharkin, and his wife, Lidia Strechen, who have, under the auspices of Fulbright, provided us with wonderful courses that have helped our students to expand their horizons. Prof. Bukharkin presented our own Prof. Gerald Mikkelson with an honorary doctoral degree from the St. Petersburg University, which he was recently awarded in Russia. All of us will benefit from the close ties between the Bukharkin and Mikkelson families, as Peter and Jerry have prepared a document that will open a number of areas of cooperation between the KU Slavic Department and the Philological Faculty of St. Petersburg University. The closer ties between these two entities will be manifested in expanded possibilities for exchange of students and faculty, as well as joint research and publication projects where common interests exist. It is a great honor for KU to be associated with one of the finest institutions of higher education, not only in Russia but in the world. It goes without saying that we will miss Petr and Lidia when they return home at the end of this semester, but we are glad that we will also have new opportunities to see them as we carry out our joint projects.

We are pleased this year to have Professor Joseph Conrad back among us after his recovery from bypass surgery. He is back with vigor and pumping on all cylinders.

We would like to thank Leann Keefe for carrying the folklore program during Joe’s absence.

Last year we said good-bye to two of our long-time faculty, Professors Jadwiga Maurer and Bill March. With those two retirements, we began a new era in the non-Russian offerings of our Department. We are pleased to have been able to hire Prof. Andrzej Karcz (Ph.D., University of Chicago), whose youth and
enthusiasm promise to help us build up our program in West Slavic languages and literatures. Further, we have been fortunate enough to have harnessed the skill and energy of three instructors, Uroš and Zina Petrović as well as my wife, Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, to keep our South-Slavic offerings alive. Coupled with new summer programs in Poland and Croatia, our non-Russian offerings are not only alive, but doing very well.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Meghan Murphy-Lee went to St. Petersburg in 2001 with the KU program. In December she presented a paper at AATSEEL on the use of email dialogue journals in the Russian classroom. She is planning to defend her dissertation this summer.

Adrienne Harris-Boggess went to Prague twice this year, once to complete third-year Czech at the Charles University and once with the Prague group in January. This summer she will be the group leader for the 2002 St. Petersburg Summer Program.

Shannon Doyle received a FLAS to study Polish during 2001–2002. Currently she is studying in Krakow and will be back in June. In February she wrote: "Krakow is beautiful. I spent a few days in Warsaw, but the weather was terrible so I didn't see very much. It reminds me a lot of Moscow."

Galina Griffiths, Ph.D. candidate, writes: “I have done interpreting at the Behavioral Health Network, Social Service Agencies, Mental Health Agencies and the Douglas County Court this year. I have been working on my dissertation on Andrei Bitov’s major novel Pushkin House as the Museum of the Soviet School Curriculum. Jennifer Day from the College of Wooster and I organized the panel “St. Petersburg in Twentieth-Century Russian Literature” at the AAASS where I presented a paper “The Sojourn of Mednyi Vsadnik in the 20th Century.” May 2001, I directed the Russian play "Anniversary: A Joke in One Act" by Anton Chekhov.”

Congratulations to Evgenia Walton, Michael Johnson, and John Giullian who completed their Ph.D. comprehensive exams this last year!

Matt Feeney attended Summer 2001 Croatian Language & Culture Institute in Zagreb, Croatia taking intensive courses in Croatian.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Maria Carlson was invited by Duke University to spend Spring 2001 as a Visiting Professor of Russian Literature and Culture. There she taught two courses, “Introduction to Russian Culture” and a new course, “The Devil in Russian Literature.” Having practiced on appreciative Duke students, she is now teaching it to KU students in Spring 2002. She also helped to organize and participated in “Devil Day at Duke,” a one-day academic conference on “The Fiend in the Russian Visual and Literary Arts.”

The high point of Prof. Carlson’s summer was a visit to the Slav Lands with KU Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway in June 2001. She escorted the Chancellor to L’viv, Ukraine, and St. Petersburg, Russia. In Russia she and the Chancellor were joined by KU SLL Professor William Comer. Chancellor Hemenway had an opportunity to see KU Slavic programs in place and to meet with KU students, partner faculty, and administrators.

Now back at KU, Prof. Carlson continues as Director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies. Much of her time has gone to outreach activities this year, including participating in a round table on the tenth anniversary of the collapse of the Soviet Union and organizing a major international conference on “Building a Vital U.S.-Ukraine Partnership,” co-sponsored by the Supreme Allied European Command and the U.S. and Kansas National Guards. Prof. Carlson continues to serve on the Board of AAASS as Chair of the Council of Institutional Members and to engage in a variety of other service activities in and for the profession. Most recently she was elected Vice-Chair of the Council of National Resource Center Directors. Her current research has briefly stepped out of the Russian fin-de-siecle to focus on "The Dark Side of Aleksandr Dugin."

During Spring, 2001, Professor Edith Clowes enjoyed a second semester on leave, supported by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She completed a first draft of her current book project, “Fiction’s Overcoat: Russian Literary Culture and the Question of Philosophy.” In April she attended a conference in Trier, Germany, devoted to the philosophers, Solov’ev and Nietzsche, where she gave a talk on “Vasili Rozanov als philosophischer Nachkommende von Solov’ev und Nietzsche.” In May
she made a research trip to Moscow where she interviewed documentary filmmakers and worked in literature and history archives on the topic, "The Look of Russian Philosophy." Her work on the literary roots of Russian philosophy has resulted in a number of talks, one at the fall AAASS on Berdiaiev’s autobiography and one at this spring’s American Comparative Literature Association meetings on Shestov and tragic philosophy.

Fall, 2001, saw a return to teaching and administrative duties. Working together with Professor Dennis Christilles of the Theater Department, Professor Clowes designed, administered, and taught an innovative introduction to Czech culture. The first 18 hours of the course were conducted on campus and involved a brief introduction to Czech language and lectures on Czech history, art, architecture, literature, and theater. The final 27 hours were comprised of lectures, lecture tours, theater and museum visits in Prague, January 2-13, 2002.

As always, Professor Clowes has been involved with outreach activities, talks at local schools and organizations and the ever-popular Russian Day on Campus. Together with Professors Carlson, Greenberg, and Mikkelson, she has been involved with organizing events for the campus celebration of the St. Petersburg tercentenary during the calendar year 2003 (see calendar of upcoming events).

The past year was a trying one for Professor Joseph Conrad. On July 27 he underwent triple by-pass surgery. On leave during Fall semester he has been back teaching this Spring semester and enjoying it as always. Professor Conrad saw several articles published in 2001. His article, “Chekhov’s ‘Ionych’ as Commentary on Turgenev’s Themes and Techniques,” appeared in Russian Language Journal. “Chekhov and Turgenev” appeared in Publications of the Slavic Seminar of the University of Tubingen. “Male Mythological Beings in South Slavic Folklore” came out in Slavic and East European Folklore Bulletin.

Professor Marc L. Greenberg was promoted in August 2001 to the rank of Full Professor, and he continues to serve out his sentence as Department Chair. Recently his reminiscences on the late Prof. Pavle Ivic were published in a memorial volume to the great dialectologist in issue 42 (2001) of Juznoslovenski filolog (Belgrade). The rights to the translation of his book A Historical Phonology of the Slovene Language (Heidelberg 2000), were purchased by Aristej Publishing Co. in Maribor, Slovenia, which won a grant from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia to have the work translated into Slovene. The Ministry issued a statement that the book was “of national importance.” Professor Greenberg’s article on the etymology of Common Slavic *ceta will appear in the next issue of International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics (New Haven/Los Angeles). He is currently working on a paper on the typology of Slovene word prosody for a special Slovene issue of Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung (Berlin: Akademie Verlag).

Somehow Professor Greenberg manages to keep up with his hobbies. As a member of the Mandofest Orchestra he gave a performance on the classical guitar April 6, at Lawrence’s very own Liberty Hall. He has also recently taken up the baroque lute.

Professor Andrzej Karcz, assistant professor of Polish Language and Literature, published two articles recently in Polish journals: “Polonistyka na uniwersytecie amerykańskim: casus University of Kansas” (Posiscriptum, Katowice) and “Kryzys badan literackich i po-

poststrukturalistyczne propozycje” (Teksty Drugie, Warsaw). The first of these articles discusses the history of Polish studies at KU, beginning with the eminent emerita Prof. Jadwiga Maurer, and continues with a discussion of student interest in Polish in the present day both at KU and at American universities in general. He also published an essay “Poland” in Encyclopedia of Life Writing (London, England). Prof. Karcz organized and presided over two panels: “Issues in Twentieth-Century Polish Literature” at the 2001 AAASS in Crystal City, VA. During the summer he traveled to Poland where he participated and took part in discussion at The 2nd Congress of Polish Studies Abroad University of Gdansk. During his second trip to Poland in January 2002 Prof. Marc L. Greenberg and he established contacts and met with the directors of the Jagiellonian University School of Polish Language and Culture in Krakow. The purpose of the trip was to organize KU Summer Polish Study Abroad Program in Poland. The trip was a great success, and the Polish program, like its Croatian counterpart, was launched early in the spring 2002.

Professor Maia Kipp has had a busy year working with producers of several Russian performances. In November and December 2001, she helped the KU Theatre and Film Department produce The Cherry Orchard. She did research, gave technical advice, lectured, and coached the actors. November 2001, she was hired to serve as a language coach for the Kansas City Symphony Chorus. She worked on two projects: Prokofiev’s cantata from Aleksander Nevsky and in April 2002, Shostakovich’s 13th Choral Symphony. The author of the lyrics to this symphony told Professor Kipp that he “was surprised to learn they [the chorus] were not Russian singers.” This spring she wrote and produced the Russian play, Little Red Riding Hood: Postmodern Variations (pictured on page 10).
PhD candidate Michael Johnson presented a paper by Professor Kipp on her experience with Russian plays at the last AATSEEL conference. She will also have a book review published in a theatre journal and an entry on a particular Russian theatre in the upcoming Encyclopedia of Russian History.

In addition to his position as Language Coordinator in the Department, Professor William Comer will begin his second term as Director of the Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center in August 2002. During the 2001-02 academic year he was on sabbatical leave, spending the fall semester in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the spring semester in New York in the Hudson River Valley. He is currently working on a book-length study of Bishop Mikhail (1874--1916), a Russian cleric whose commitment to social justice led him from the state Orthodox Church to the Old Belief, as he developed his own Christian theology and morality of "Goelgotha." The book will treat Mikhail's and his voluminous writings on social issues in the context of the diversity of social and political outlooks in Russian religious life after 1905. The text will be rounded out with an annotated translation of Mikhail's tract "Twelve Letters on the True Christ." Comer's recent publications include the chapter "Russia's History" in Boyle and Gerhart's The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language and his co-authored article "How do Dzhon and Dzehein Read Russian? On-Line Vocabulary and its Place in the Reading Process" in Rifkin and Kagan's The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages and Cultures: Towards the 21st Century. At the AATSEEL 2001 Conference Comer presented "Doing Without Fathers: The Paradoxes of Father-Child Relationships in Doctor Zhivago." He is looking forward to returning to KU for Fall 2002 semester and welcomes letters and emails from past students and Russian majors about their current activities and how studying Russian has made a difference in their lives.

Yaroslava Tsiokh, visiting Assistant Professor of Ukrainian, has published "Modern Ukrainian with a Focus on Civilization (Language Manual)" in Lviv, Ukraine this year. This is the first Ukrainian language textbook for English-speaking students to include a large cultural-orientation component.

Professor Gerald Mikkelson's Fulbright grant has been renewed for a second year and he and his family will leave for another ten months in Russia beginning in September 2002. His most recent publications are (1) an article titled "Is Humor Translatable? The Three Capital K's of Nineteenth-Century Russian Verse: Krylov, Kol'tsov, and Kozma Prutkov" in Fedorov Readings II: University Translation Studies (St.P.: Fililologicheski fakul'tet Sankt-Peterburgskogo gosudarstvenogo universiteta, 2001), pp. 216-22, (2) a review of David M. Bethea's book, Realizing Metaphors: Alexander Pushkin and the Life of the Poet (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998), in Modern Language Review, 91.6, 2001, pp. 284-7, and (3) a translation of the introductory article in Gleb Markelov's book called Russian Icon Designs: A Compendium (St.P. Ivan Limbach, 2001), pp. 5-30. During the academic year Mikkelson taught Russian Poetry of the 19th century, Pushkin and Evgenij Onegin, Biography of a City: St. Petersburg, and Siberia Yesterday and Today. He also directed the KU Summer 2002 Russian Study Abroad Program in St. Petersburg, convened the Slavic Graduate Studies Colloquium, and served as departmental ambassador to the Center for Teaching Excellence. In February, he traveled to Mikhailovskoe in Pskov Province to deliver a paper on "English Translations of Pushkin's poem 'Prorok'" at a conference on Pushkin's language. And in April 2002 he transported five of the department's students to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to the fourth annual meeting of CARTA (Central Association of Russian Teachers of America), where they (and he) presented papers in a panel on Russian language and literature.
Narrative Strategies in Dostoevsky and Tolstoy.” A talk to the broader Slavic and East European community dealt with: “The Reason Behind Tolstoy's Anti-Philosophical Rhetoric.”

Russian Days on Campus: This year we welcomed two groups to campus. On April Fool’s Day our old friends from Shawnee Mission International Center came to visit with 15 guests from Moscow. During the scheduled Russian Day on Campus on April 10 students came from Johnson County Community College with their professor, Nina Shkolnik. One private student, John Byerley, also visited. The students toured the Slavic collection at Watson Library, participated in a Russian class, and over lunch they played “Ostorozhno!, a Russian Jeopardy game.

On March 26 Visiting Fulbright Professor Petr Bukharkin addressed the Slavic Graduate Studies Colloquium with a presentation on "The Petersburg Text in Russian Cultural History."

Dr. Andrei Babienko from Tomsk State University visited April 30 and May 1 and gave two talks, one on university reform in Tomsk and one on the Siberian ecosystem.

Albanian taught for the first time at KU

During the spring semester 2002, Linda Mëniku, who is an MA candidate in the Department of Linguistics, offered a course in introduction to Albanian, the first time that the language has been offered at KU. Ms. Mëniku, who is attending graduate school here under the auspices of a Fulbright Fellowship, taught the course free-of-charge and has offered to do so again in the coming academic year. She is a graduate from the University of Tirana, Albania, where she majored in Albanian language and literature and minored in social work. She also holds a certificate from the European University of Viadrina, Germany. Ms. Mëniku has taught Albanian to foreigners at the University of Tirana, published several articles on Albanian language, and has worked in the field of human rights in her native country. Her students find her an outstanding teacher.

Greg Christiansen, a REES MA candidate, said “Linda’s Albanian class was wonderful. She not only knows her native language extremely well, but she also knows how to teach it. Our small class truly benefited from Linda’s training in Albanian linguistics and from her six years of experience teaching Albanian to foreigners. On top of teaching as a volunteer, Linda was flexible in scheduling the class time, generously offering two hours of instruction twice a week despite her heavy class load. Linda is a demanding, able teacher and a very likeable, energetic person. I loved going to her class, and would recommend it to anyone if it is offered again.”

Who’s Afraid of a Little Postmodernism? Variations on “Red Riding Hood”

By Michael D Johnson, PhD. Candidate, Slavic

Members and friends of the KU Slavic Department were treated to a special event Saturday, May 11th, at the annual Slavic play, as an energetic cast of six presented Professor Maia Kipp’s original play "Little Red Riding Hood: Postmodern Variations” to an SRO audience at the Hashinger Student Theatre. This is the first time an original production has been mounted (at least in the last four years), and the cast (Marica Harder as "Little Red," Jon Giuliani as "The Wolf," Erica Greenfield as "The Mother," Adrian John Erlinger as "The Narrator," Maia Kipp as "The Grandmother," and Andrew Shernuk as "The Audience Member") all rose to the occasion.

Embracing a definition of "postmodernism" as a literary current that encompasses many different schools of criticism, Kipp’s "Postmodern Variations" subtly asks if any single reading of a literary work can satisfy...
provides the thematic impetus for the work, as cast members (most notably "The Wolf" qua intelligent and "Little Red Riding Hood" qua feminist) force the Narrator to retell the familiar tale by the Brothers Grimm in a manner which is acceptable to the particular character. In a style reminiscent of that used in the staging of Aleksandr Blok's modernist play "Balaganchik," Patrick Carriere's direction breaks the so-called "fourth wall" between audience and cast early in the production, as cast members physically confronted various audience members during the prologue, asking for "documents" and requesting acknowledgement of Russian and/or English listening and speaking comprehension. In addition, when a set table unexpectedly broke, Carriere, who had been running sound, quickly ran onto the stage and replaced it, thereby becoming a part of the action, much as the character of the director does in Blok's play. The musical underscore featured segments of Prokofiev's well-known opus "Peter and the Wolf," while "Little Red" sang "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf" during several scenes to create yet another wonderful sense of postmodern anachronism. Kipp's play and Carriere's direction both prove that I finally discovered it—I can't think of a more challenging or satisfying career. I actually had a couple of Russian patients today, and I've found that it works best for me to let the interpreter do all the work so that I can listen in without anyone's knowledge. Unfortunately I've lost a lot of vocabulary (as you can imagine). Anyway, it's still useful sometimes, even now!

Eric Roedel (BA, 1991) writes: Hello from Seattle, Washington. A friend of mine put my name in Yahoo's search engine and came up with a hit on the Slavic Lang. and Lit. alumni page. I'm just finishing my 3rd year of medical school and will be applying to residencies within the next six months or so, probably in Family Practice. Who knows...I may end up back in Kansas, or Kansas City. We'd rather stay out here because Lisa's family is here and I've really grown to love it over the last 10 years. I love medicine and I'm glad that I finally discovered it--I can't think of a more challenging or satisfying career. We'll be here three years!

Breven Parsons (BA, 1992) writes: We moved to Japan in July 2001. I'm going to try to get over to Russia while we are in Japan for a visit. Congratulations to Jason Merrill (PhD., 1997) on his new job teaching Russian at Michigan State University!

Ben Admusseen (MA, 2001) reports: I am soon to be gainfully employed as a data specialist with ACTR in Russia.

Kim Sprence (MA, 2001) writes: Since I graduated from KU in December, I've been teaching two sections of English Composition and Research Writing at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania. It's amazing how much information I get to use from Dr. Parker's Bibliography and Methods course!!!! I might even have my students do a bibliographic essay! I'm sure they'll love me for it. I was proud to see that my linguistic knowledge was put to good use today during our discussion on Robert D. King's essay from the Atlantic Monthly, "Should English be the Law?" I was thrilled that it had an amazingly high Slavic content. As much as I love this job, I must move on to something more permanent in May when the contract ends. I'm applying to teach both Polish and English in various types of institutions. Pennsylvania even offers certification in Polish (to teach in high school) so I am planning on taking the PRAXIS exams this summer.

Gabriel Al-Salem (BA, 1989) writes: There's no way that I can repay the KU Slavic department for the positive contribution it made in my life. Masha Kipp can give you a personal account of how "Russified" my life is, beginning with my home life; I am greatly indebted to the department and my dear friends there, particularly Tamerlan Salaty, who taught me my first words of Russian.

Laura Wilhelm (PhD, 1994) is still working with Russian-speaking immigrants in the City of West Hollywood. She writes that she receives awards and other types of recognition for her work and takes comfort in knowing that she can make a positive contribution in these troubled times. Her independent research interests have branched out to include pornography in the
Russian literary tradition, labor issues, and women's history. She has also been serving as the recording secretary for the Russian Advisory Board for the past several months, which helps her keep in touch with the WH immigrant population.

Friends of Slavic

Trudy Ringer, Russian teacher at The Center for International Studies: is moving to Shawnee Mission South. We will only have a p.m. session. We will still have bussing, but with the budget, many programs are cut. We are glad to still be able to teach Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, and of course Russian. It will be a challenging year.

How a Slavic Degree Has Helped KU Slavic Alumni

We received 16 responses to the alumni questionnaire that we sent out in December, 2001. The responses ranged over the approximately 30 years that KU Slavic has been in operation. All of the respondents specialized in Russian. They now have a variety of careers in teaching, medicine, law, foreign service, library science, engineering, US Army, and various kinds of program administration. The goals in pursuing the major ranged from meeting language requirements (1), to gaining fluency in Russian (7), to understanding another culture (6), to preparation for college or university teaching (5), to preparation for work in Russia (2). 15 respondents felt that they achieved their goals during their study at KU.

The skills that our alumni take with them and find useful are varied. Language skills (translating, understanding, reading, writing, etc.) headed the list with twelve people remarking on their importance in their lives. Five respondents emphasized that learning to function in a cross-cultural environment has been a very valuable tool in their lives. Two noted the ability to read critically and write analytically. Two respondents made special note that learning a difficult language like Russian made learning a second and third language very easy. Russian skills and cross-cultural communicative skills were useful to our alumni both in their work and as a personal hobby. They use them, some everyday and some from time to time, in a variety of scenarios from practicing medicine in remote places to environmental law to interpreting to working in Russia and Eastern Central Europe to personal leisure time. Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill out and send in the questionnaire!

2002 Summer Study Abroad Programs

- University of St. Petersburg
- Ukrainian Language & Area Studies in L'viv, Ukraine
- Krakow, Poland
- Zagreb & Dubrovnik, Croatia

2003 Winter Institute

- Theater & The Arts in Prague, Czech Republic

The Fall Slavic party at the Greenbergs'. Pictured from left to right in the front row: Leann Keefe, Yasia Tsiovkh, Ksenia Egorova, Kim Sprence, Ania Bodziacka. Standing left to right: Matt Feeney, Marta Pimat-Greenberg, Alex Tsiovkh, Michael Johnson, Meghan Murphy-Lee and husband, John, and Shannon Doyle.
SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Name:

Degree Earned ____________ Year __

New Address?

New Job?

If so, tell us about it.

What's your other news?

Mail your news to: University of Kansas, Slavic Languages & Literatures, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd, 2133 Wescoe, Lawrence, KS 66045-7590. Or e-mail us at: slavic@ku.edu. Visit our website at http://www.ku.edu/~slavic.
The Slavic Department seeks funding. During the past year the Department has ramped up its efforts to gain private funding for a number of ambitious projects. With these funds we hope to greatly enhance the educational experience we have to offer by bringing in and supporting top students, rewarding the outstanding performance of our students, and creating a departmental library/meeting room that is a handsome and pleasant place to work. Sincere thanks go to Kurt Harper, BA ’76, for his advice and support on fundraising matters.

Priority 1: Graduate fellowship(s)
Historically, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Kansas has been one of the top Ph.D. programs in Slavic in the United States. Its record of Ph.D. placements is outstanding. Recruiting top-quality graduate students has become an increasingly competitive and financially demanding endeavor. Currently, the cost of a stipend to cover out-of-state tuition and some living expenses for a student can exceed $20,000. Ideally, donations will be accumulated in an endowed fund capable of underwriting all or part of this expense with its earnings. Such a fund is being created with a number of leadership gifts and other donations. (A donation or bequest in this category can be named according to the donor’s wishes.) We have already heard from leadership donors who wish to contribute if our alumni will contribute substantially. Please contact us for details (see below).

Priority 2: Awards for outstanding students (graduate or undergraduate)
We would like to give awards as an incentive to academic excellence. Possible designations would be: excellence in Russian language, Polish language, Serbian Croatian Bosnian language; excellence in Slavic literature; excellence at the MA level; excellence in service to the Department; excellence in service to the field; excellence in graduate research; best publication of the year. Awards need not be lavish, though they should be meaningful, perhaps enough to buy books, computer equipment or software, or other tools needed to pursue one’s studies. We would be happy to discuss with you any proposed award endowment that would be meaningful to you.

Priority 3: Furnishing the Department Library
Along with a shift and expansion of its space in Wescoe Hall, the Department plans to undergo a facelift to make its physical space pleasant for study and interaction among faculty, students and guests. About $1800 has already been donated to this endeavor, and a significant number of books have already been donated by Dr. Fan Parker and others. We are seeking a few smaller donations to cover furnishing and decorating needs.

Priority 4: Ongoing student activities
The Department engages in a number of activities that are intended to foster interest in and enthusiasm for the study of Slavic languages. Towards this end, we bring in interesting guest lecturers, acquire and show Slavic films, hold Slavic-related events, and hold a festive Honors Reception for students in April of each year. Each of these events requires a modest amount of money, approx. $100 - $800, for which we must use privately donated funds. Recently, increased donations have allowed us to give student awards for excellence of $15 gift certificates to Russian and Polish bookstores in the US, as well as CD ROM disks with collected works of South Slavic authors. We hope that these token gifts will help students build their libraries and enjoy a lifetime of exploring Slavic languages and literatures.
How to donate to the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures:

Please send contributions directly to the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, "Slavic Department, KU Endowment") and, in an accompanying note, please specify what you wish us to do with the money. If you do not have specific plans, please write “for Slavic Department programs.” If you wish to donate items such as furniture, shelving, computers, software, or books to the Library, please contact me. Thank you for remembering your department.

Marc L. Greenberg, Chair

Join the KU Friends of Slavic!

Many thanks to all of you for your generous donations during the 2001--2002 Academic Year.

Ben Admussen
Gabriel Al-Salem
Edith W. Clowes
Elaine Fitzback Davies
Stephen M. Dickey
Howard A. & Suzanne Greenberg
Marc L. and Marta P. Greenberg
Maia & Jacob Kipp
Stephen J. & Marie-Luce Parker
Timothy Pogacar
Tatiana R. Spektor
Richard L. Windholz

I am contributing in the amount of:

$25  $50  $100  $250  $500  $1000

Other _______

TO:

_____ Graduate scholarship fund
_____ Library fund
_____ Undergraduate award fund
_____ Discretionary fund

If paying by check, please make payment to: Dept of Slavic Languages & Literatures c/o KUEA
UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20, 2002. Professor Gerald Mikkelsen and Professor Bozena Pasik-Duncan (Mathematics) will be giving a presentation on “Teaching in an International Culture” at the KU Teaching Summit 2002, “Making the Most of the Times.”

October 4, 2002. 7:30 p.m., Lied Center, Cullberg Ballet, Tchaikovsky’s “Swan Lake” in a nontraditional interpretation.

November 23, 2002. 7:30 p.m., Lied Center, Moscow Boys Choir, a concert of Christmas songs from around the world.


February 28, 2003. 7:30 p.m., Lied Center, Trio Voronezh; these gifted musicians play Russian classical music on folk instruments.

March 9, 2003. 2 p.m., Lied Center, David Finckel, cellist, and Wu Han, pianist; an afternoon of St. Petersburg music.


On the evening of April 4, 2003, Maia Kipp will present “An Evening in Old St. Petersburg”.

The Lawrencian Chronicle
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