JADWIGA MAURER, Professor Emerita of Polish language and literature at KU from 1970 until her retirement in 2001, traveled to Poland on November 13, 2002, and spent three weeks celebrating the publication of her new collection of short stories entitled Sobowtóry (Doubles). She attended events in Kielce, her former hometown, and in Warsaw. Molly Mackinnon, graduate student in Polish literature and language, interviewed Professor Maurer at her home on February 24, 2003.

(JM: Professor Jadwiga Maurer; MM: Molly Mackinnon)

MM: Your trip to Poland was originally a personal one and then it happened to coincide with the publication of Sobowtóry. How did the trip develop into the celebratory event that it became?

JM: I had befriended the Dean of the Świętokrzyska Academy in Kielce through correspondence. She had invited me to visit several times but it never worked out. The opportunity arose last fall with the publication of Sobowtóry. How did the trip develop into the celebratory event that it became?

JM: The Dean asked me to speak before a group of students and faculty at the Academy. Four to five hundred people attended that event. I spoke mostly about KU and American universities and their various programs. I focused on the differences between academic life at universities in the US and those in Poland. There were also two “evenings with the author”- one in Kielce and another, later, in Warsaw. The evening in Kielce was held in an elegant palais and about 100 people came.

MM: Did you read from your book?

JM: No. I don’t think authors should read their writing aloud. A young woman who is an actress read from Sobowtóry and was quite good. Another woman, who wrote her thesis on my writings, also spoke at this evening in Kielce. A private reception followed this event.

MM: Could you tell me about Sobowtóry?

JM: It is a collection of short stories. They are drawn principally from my general experiences in Munich and Berkeley, but I would not call them a memoir because they are fictionalized. Many people have difficulty separating me from my fiction as I use a first person narrative. Every writer draws on what he or she knows but, in this case, the autobiographical elements of the stories must be understood within the context of fiction. The collection also includes photographs from my life as well as an essay at the end by my publisher.

MM: You have published other...
writings abroad with Polish émigré presses like Instytut Literacki in Paris and Oficyna Poetów i Malarzy in London. Why did you choose a press in Poland for this book?

**JM:** Well, I did publish in Poland before. My last book, *Of An Alien Mother...*, about Adam Mickiewicz, had its second edition published in Poland. However, it is difficult to publish in Poland because, now that the publishing houses are private and not state run, they have many financial difficulties. I met my current publisher through correspondence after having seen his work. I was intending to publish just one story and he suggested a collection.

**MM:** You have not lived in Poland since the Second World War, yet you have chosen to write mostly in Polish. What made you decide to stay with Polish rather than write in English or German?

**JM:** I have published scholarly works in German and English as well as in Polish. However, I always write my works of fiction in Polish. Émigré writers are a long tradition in Poland. They have always lived all over the world and written in Polish. It seemed only natural for me to do so as well.

**MM:** Czesław Milosz taught with you at Berkeley and is another émigré writer who writes only in Polish. Did you ever discuss the issue of language and émigré writing?

**JM:** Milosz was already well established as a poet and writer in Poland before he emigrated. It would be only natural that he continues to write in the language he was already internationally known for.

**MM:** In your previous book on the poet Mickiewicz, *Of An Alien Mother...*, you addressed his Jewish roots. You were working on another piece about Mickiewicz tentatively called *The Year of Riddles*. What is that about?

**JM:** It concerns the last year of Mickiewicz’s life when he was in Constantinople from September to November 26 1855, trying to establish a Jewish Legion. It is a work that is still in progress.

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Continued from page 1

European Studies, and the Hall Center for the Humanities.

During the tour, Professor Greenberg was honored at gatherings of dignitaries, scholars, and ordinary citizens in Ljubljana and Maribor. A number of interviews in the newspapers and on television were devoted to Greenberg and the new translation of his book. Professor Greenberg was enthusiastically received everywhere he went. One event held before a capacity audience at the University of Maribor extended two hours beyond its originally scheduled 30 minutes in order to accommodate all who wished to have a few moments with Professor Greenberg.

In an interview for Maribor’s main newspaper *Večer* Professor Greenberg was asked how he “as a foreigner [was] able to come to grips with the complex body of material on this small language.” Professor Greenberg responded: “I met the woman who was later to be my wife, a Slovene, while studying in Czechoslovakia… Marta and I helped each other learn the other’s language, both by speaking and writing to each other … each in our own language. I was able to turn my passive knowledge of Slovene, which I had gained from Marta’s letters, into an active one when I came to Slovenia.” When Professor Greenberg negotiated with Aristej Publishing Co.’s editor-in-chief, Emica Antončič, about the translation of his book, Greenberg’s only requirement was that he be given the right to choose and work with the translator. He explains that he chose his wife, Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, as the translator because he could “breathe down her neck.” Professor Greenberg’s choice of words here reminds us of his deftness with double entendre and his general love for languages’ rich expressive capacity.

In addition to answering questions about his research, which was partially supported by fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from the Hall Center for the Humanities, Professor Greenberg promoted the University of Kansas and its Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, emphasizing that Kansas is “an important center for Slavic studies in the U.S.” Recognized as a major milestone in Slovene linguistics, Professor Greenberg’s *A Historical Phonology of the Slovene Language* joins the volumes of other major twentieth-century Slavic linguists in the Historical Phonology of the Slavic Languages project, published by the Carl Winter Universitätsverlag in Heidelberg. Greenberg modestly credits Fran Ramovič and Jakob Rigler, the 20th century’s foremost authorities on the history of Slovene, with being the giants on whose shoulders his work stands. The English-language original was awarded the 2002 citation “Best Book in Slavic Linguistics” from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.
On Tuesdays and Fridays, I teach English at Echo Moscow Radio to advertising managers. The office is located on the 4th floor of the Estrada Theater, opposite the Kremlin on the other bank of the river. I work 6 hours a week there for $5 an hour, not bad for a student living in Moscow. I am, also, currently substituting at an elementary school on the outskirts of Moscow. The trip there and back takes two hours by metro and the children are, to put it nicely, little hell-hounds. The teaching company I work for is called Oxford Crown, and I am the only American who has worked there. Usually they are British or Australian. Anyway, for my troubles and for the amount of time I had to substitute (30 hours), they paid me $10 an hour, which is amazing money in Moscow for a student.

With ACTR, I also travel quite a bit. So far, we have been to Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Petersburg, and are still deciding whether to go to Sochi or to Uzbekistan. I spent my winter break on an independent trip to Kiev and spent Christmas with my friend there. All in all, I am having a wonderful time here, even though it is the coldest winter Moscow has seen in 10 years. I've already gotten accustomed to it. Sincerely, Lyle McMillan
The annual Slavic Honors Reception was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2003 in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union. The evening included recognition of students and a 70th birthday party for Prof. Conrad.

**Intermediate Level**
- Bette Luther
- Ankur Rughani
- Adam Schoffner
- James Sneed
- Anne Wallen

**Advanced Level**
- Elizabeth Pawlikowski
- Piotr Zygmunt
- Shannon Doyle

**Russian**

**Elementary Level**
- Rebekah Heacock
- Ann Ingham
- Jessica Plummer

**4th Yr. Advanced Level**
- Maureen Morton
- Sabra Volek

**Polish**

**Elementary Level**
- Sherida Orwinski
- Molly Mackinnon

**Intermediate Level**
- Elizabeth Pawlikowski

**Advanced Level**
- Joy Stortvedt
- Bruce Fowler
- Cynthia Blair

**Prof. Comer, Meghan Murphy-Lee, Yana Grigorchakh, Bette Luther, Ankur Rughani, Adam Schoffner, James Sneed, and Anne Wallen**

**Prof. Comer, Luba Ginzburg, Eugenia Walton, Rebekah Heacock, Ann Ingham**

**Prof. Clowes with Sabra Volek**
Adrienne Harris-Boggess receives this year’s award for Outstanding Service by a Graduate Student from Prof. Parker (Pictured below).

**SERBIAN & CROATIAN**

**Elementary Level**
Jesse Saich

**Intermediate Level**
Jeb Adams
Yana Grigortchouk

**UKRAINIAN**
Adrian Erlinger
Sarah Jewell
Christopher E. Nolan
Scott J. Shackelford
Jodi Simek

Prof. Greenberg presents Judit Rožič, Yana Grigortchouk, Marcie Harder, Paul Barbul, and Adrienne Harris-Boggess special awards.

**SPECIAL SERVICE RECOGNITION**
Jeff Drotar, Andrew Shernuk
Marcie Harder, Nathan Rhoads
Greg Christiansen, Paul Barbul
Yana Grigortchouk, Judit Rožič
Adrienne Harris-Boggess

**STUDENT NEWS**

Adrienne Harris-Boggess has been named the recipient of the 2003 Graduate Student Prize for Outstanding Service by a Graduate Student.

**GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS**

Shannon Doyle is a Ph.D. student focusing primarily on Polish language and literature. She has found the ultimate form of procrastination, however, as a member of the Lawrence Art Center’s Prairie Wind Dancers. She is very busy but also very excited that she can immerse herself in two passions at the same time—Polish and dance. Intrigued by the historically dynamic relationship between Poland and Russia, Shannon is exploring the evolution of this relationship in literature and plans to do a comparative dissertation.

Again we have come through a challenging year as strong, or stronger, than before, largely because of the hard work and dedication of our faculty and students and the support of our alumni and friends. Though the financial squeeze as a result of the downturn in the economy has affected us as much as other parts of the university, we have been able with the aid of external funding to replace losses we have had in our South Slavic and linguistics offerings. As you can read in other parts of this newsletter, our spirits have not damped in the least and we continue to be a productive and engaging unit.

Tempus fugit, panta rei. Dr. Maia Kipp will move from the Slavic Department to the Theatre and Film Department during the next academic year, her last before retirement. Masha has taught for many years in the Department and has quite a following among her students. We wish her well in her future endeavors!

After two years with us, our departmental maven and trainer, Donna A. Waters is leaving us in June, though not for greener pastures: She has married a New Mexican and is moving to his home near Albuquerque. We are turquoise with envy. Donna’s job will go to Rae Ann Brown, whom we have known for many years through her work in the College’s now-defunct Graduate Division. We look forward to seeing her here in the Department.

We are pleased to be able to welcome Professor Stephen M. Dickey to the faculty beginning in fall 2003. Professor Dickey, who holds a Ph.D. in Slavic linguistics from Indiana University, was most recently Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia. His interests are in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language, Russian, and synchronic Slavic linguistics. His book, Parameters of Slavic Aspect: A Cognitive Approach (Stanford: Center for the Study of Language and Information, 2000) is a major contribution to the cognitive approach to the study of Slavic languages. Additionally, Prof. Dickey has translated major works of contemporary Bosnian writers and worked at the Hague War Crimes Tribunal as a translator. His experience and expertise will enrich the Slavic Department in new and exciting ways.

As I have written in years before, state funding for public universities steadily shrinks and affects humanities programs most acutely. For this reason, we have become increasingly dependent on contributions from alumni and friends. This year’s contributions exceeded all previous years by a good margin; donors included Alexander Boguslawski, Patricia Cain Rodewald, Edith W. Clowes and Craig Hunek, Marc L. and Marta P. Greenberg, Alexander C. Kipp, Brenda K. Lewis, Stephen J. & Marie-Luce Parker, Cynthia L. Schifflbein, Kurt Shaw, Andrew J. Smith, Angela D. Warren Hood, the Willcoxon Family Foundation, and Richard L. Windholz. Large donors, in excess of $1000, include Kurt Harper and my parents, Howard A. & Suzanne Greenberg. (I gather they appreciate KU for keeping their son gainfully employed and out of their hair!) For now the Department uses the money sparingly in order to purchase awards for outstanding students and to acquire reference works for the new Departmental Library. We hope that when sufficient capital accrues, we will be able to use the interest to provide and enrich student scholarships and fellowships. A warm thank you to all of those whose generosity helps to foster our efforts to provide excellent education opportunities for students of Slavic languages and literatures.

Last June the Slavic Department on the second floor of Wescoe Hall underwent beautification. With spring semester over, the painters arrived to paint the offices and the hallways. Everything had to be moved out or to the center of the room for this to happen. Suddenly, fake wood paneling miraculously disappeared, replaced with fresh white walls. During this process we acquired a large space from Women’s Studies and American Studies which is rapidly becoming our library. All the faculty was brought from their “diaspora” into our hall. Some faculty and staff changed offices. And the chairperson finally got the coveted corner office!

Most welcome of all, the worn brown carpet that had long since curled up at the edges was sent to carpet heaven. We now have a blue and beige carpet—suddenly walking has become easier!

Incoming Slavic Professor Stephen Dickey

Newly acquired library area

Continued page 9
FACULTY NEWS

After ten and a half years as director of KU’s Center for Russian and East European Studies, Professor Maria Carlson will return in Fall 2003 to full time teaching and research in the Slavic Department, having met her service com-
mitment to the University (and more). She looks forward to continuing her new research project on Russian neopaganism, returning to her work on Russian intellectual history and literature of the Silver Age, and developing new courses for the Department. In Fall 2003 she will teach “The Devil in Russian Literature” and a seminar on Bulgakov’s novel, Master and Margarita. The 2002-2003 academic year was a very busy one for Professor Carlson, who oversaw both the organization of the 42nd annual Central Slavic Conference KU (April 3-5) and the celebration of the St. Petersburg Semester at KU. On May 8th, she was honored by the Center for Teaching Excellence for her achievements in graduate teaching.

 Aside from passing his PhD comprehensives in Spring, 2002, Michael Johnson has been directing Slavic Choir. In December, the Slavic Choir performed at the Heartland Orthodox Center in Topeka to an enthusiastic audience. Michael has also been busy as a senator in the KU Student Senate. During summer 2003 he will serve as the resident director of KU’s summer program in Krakow, Poland.

In November Zhenya Walton’s dissertation proposal on women characters in Dostoevskii’s The Idiot was accepted. At AATSEEL she presented a paper on “The Spider in Russian Symbolist Art and Literature.” In the winter she delivered a REES Brown Bag lecture entitled, “The Enigmatic Spider in Turn-of-the-Century Russian Literature and Art.” For for the Central Slavic Conference, held at KU April 3-5, she organized a panel on love and 19th-century Russian literature. Currently she is serving as the Slavic Department’s webmaster.

This spring Professor Carlson finally achieved a girlhood ambition and debuted at Lincoln Center. She was an invited participant in a special Symposium on “Nijinsky’s Petersburg,” presented by the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center and The Harriman Institute of Columbia University, in conjunction with the opening of the special exhibition, “Vaslav Nijinsky: Creating a New Artistic Era.”

In Spring 2004 Professor Carlson will join the KU Department of the History of Art for one semester as a Keeler Intra-University Professor (a competitive award that allows faculty to develop or refine expertise in another discipline). There she will work with art history colleagues, sit in on courses, and develop expertise in art history pedagogy, in order to transform her extensive knowledge of Russian art into a new course on the “History of Russian Art,” which will be added to the Russian and East European curricular offerings available at KU

During Summer, 2002, a forum on “Slavic Identities: Inside, Outside, and in Between...” edited by Professor Edith Clowes and Professor John Burt Foster, Jr., of George Mason University, appeared in Slavic and East European Journal. Professor Clowes spent a pleasant and productive fall 2002 semester at UC Berkeley, starting two new research projects, designing a new course for the KU Slavic program (“Biblical Themes in Modern Russian Literature”), and developing her Czech language skills. She took part in a conference on the philosopher, A. F. Losev, held at Ohio State University in October and delivered a paper on tragic philosophy at the 2002 AAASS in Pittsburgh. Her new book, Fiction’s Overcoat: Russian Literary Culture and the Question of Philosophy, was accepted at Cornell University Press.

In early March, 2003, Professor Clowes traveled to Moscow for a meeting at the Russian State Humanities University on “Post-Symbolism as a Cultural Phenomenon, where she delivered a paper on “Postsimvolists’ka estetika y ‘Ohhrannoi granote’ B. L. Pastermaka.” Her trip coincided with the 50th anniversary of Stalin’s death on March 5. Professor Clowes reported unofficial pro-Stalin advertisements pasted up in the Moscow metro for a new book reviewing Stalin’s death. She also attended a symposium and poster exhibit on the Stalin myth and beyond, held at RGGU.

During winter, 2003, a number of articles by Professor Clowes appeared: “Pasternak’s Safe Passage and the Question of Philosophy,” in New Zealand Slavonic Journal (2002); “ Rozanov’s Private Philosophical Language and the Attack on Civil Discourse,” Slavic Almanac; and “Berdiaev’s Samopoznanie: Philosophical Autobiography as Creative Act,” American Contributions to the XIII World Congress of Slavists, Ljubljana, August 15-21, 2003, 1-10.

In August 2002 Professor William Comer returned from sabbatical to take up his duties in the Slavic Department and at the Academic Resource Center. He continues to work on his book about Bishop Mikhail (1874-1916), a proponent of church reform in the
State Orthodox Church, who in 1906 began to write on issues of social and economic justice, preaching a version of Christian Socialism. Drawing on this research, Professor Comer presented a paper at the AATSEEL conference in New York City on Mikhail’s radical vision of Christianity.

In Fall 2002 Professor Comer introduced a new fourth year Russian course, Phonetics and Advanced Grammar. Recognizing the difficulties inherent in exciting students about the paradigms of irregular nouns and the complexities of passive constructions in Russian, Professor Comer centered the grammar part of the course around Smerti, a pot-boiler detective novel by Aleksandr Marinina. This under-appreciated genre is a gold mine of both literary and contemporary usages, and while the students read it to find out whodunit, their teacher could point out how Marinina phrased it. Professor Comer always appreciates notes from former students, and if you are feeling nostalgic for Russian class, check out the links to language courses at: www.people.ku.edu/~wjcomer.

Professor Joseph Conrad was invited to lecture at Tübingen University in Germany last summer; he spoke on Chekhov’s story “Enemies” (Vragi) before the faculty and graduate students of the university’s Slavisches Seminar on June 26, 2002. Later, the chairman of the Department took him and his wife Galina on a tour of Badenweiler, to see the new Chekhov there. Next the Conrads headed for Baden-Baden, to see the places where Dostoevsky and Turgeniev and many other Russian notables stayed. Like Las Vegas and Reno in the U.S., Baden-Baden is a gambler’s mecca, and was very popular among Russians in the 19th century.


In addition to the awards and celebrations around his new book (see p. 1), Professor Marc L. Greenberg found time to publish an article or two: “Is Slavic çeta an Indo-European Archaism?” International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics 43 (Los Angeles and New Haven); “Slovene.” Facts about the World’s Languages, ed. by Jane Garry and Carl Rubinio: 668—671, New York and Dublin: H.W. Wilson; and “Rascvet i padenie” lenicii vzryvnwx v slovenskom jazyke,” [The Rise and Fall of Lenition in Slovene]. Voprosy jazykoznanija (Moscow: RAN), 31—42. His eulogy for Professor Pavle Ivić, his late mentor, delivered at KU in 2000 as part of the Balkan and South Slavic Conference he hosted, was recently published in Južnoslovenski filolog LVI/1-2, 3-4, Posvećeno Pavlu Iviću. Belgrade: Srpska akademija nauka i umetnosti i Institut za srpski jezik SANU, 2000: 51—62.

Also in 2002 Professor Greenberg traveled to Kraków, Poland (with Andrzej Karcz) and Zagreb, Croatia, to design and negotiate two new KU summer language programs for Polish and Croatian languages, respectively. The new Croatian program had its maiden initiation in summer 2003, with two weeks in Zagreb and four in Dubrovnik under the auspices of the Centar za strane jezike and the University of Zagreb. One of the teachers in the program is senior instructor, Miljenko Kovačić, who served as a Fulbright lecturer in the KU Slavic Department in 1989—90. Professor Greenberg is currently working on several projects connected with the linguistic prehistory of Slavic. Recently he gave a paper “Common Slavic: Progress or Crisis in its Reconstruction?” at the Memorial Conference for Henrik Birnbaum (his Doktorvater) at UCLA, February 21, 2003.

Andrzej Karcz, Assistant Professor of Polish Language and Literature, recently published his book, The Polish Formalist School and Russian Formalism (The University of Rochester Press, 2002), and contributed two essays, “Rudnicki, Adolf” and “Ascent to Heaven” to The Reference Guide to Holocaust Literature (St. James Press, 2002). His other articles, one on the Polish scholar, Manfred Kridl and the other on John Paul II, have been accepted for publication and will appear in the journal Archivium Emigracji (Univ. of Torun, Poland) and in Biographical Dictionary of Literary Influences (Greenwood Press) respectively. In January 2002, Professor Karcz delivered a lecture, “Soaring Prosperity, Fading Hopes: Poland 2001,” for KU CREEES Laird Brown Bag Lecture Series in Russian and East European Studies. In April 2002, he gave a talk, “Between Formalism and Phenomenology of Literature: Manfred Kridl’s Polemic with Roman Ingarden.” The lecture was part of the Philosophy and Literature Seminar of the Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas. In December, Professor Karcz participated in the Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) in New York where he presented a paper, “When Formalism Meets Phenomenology: The Case of Kridl and Ingarden.” Professor Karcz also finished his new project and submitted for publication a collection of his Polish essays in literary criticism. The book titled Teksty z daleka i bliska: Szkice nie tylko o literaturze will appear in Poland in 2003. He continues to organize lectures, film presentations, and social gatherings for the KU Polish Club, the organization that has many members and sympathizers both on and off campus. The KU Polish Website (www.ku.edu/~polish) lists all the recent and upcoming events of the Club.
Professor Gerald Mikkelsen was forced by illness to interrupt the academic year-long renewal of his Fulbright grant and return from Russia after two and a half months, in mid-November 2002. He has now recovered and will resume his research, teaching, and service duties in AY 2003-4. Professor Mikkelsen’s most recent publications are (1) an article titled «Angularskie pervody pushkinskogo ‘Proroka’» in Studio (Zhurnal dlia izuchaishchikh inostranney iazyk), a journal of the School of Philology at St. Petersburg State University, 2002 (No. 1), pp. 69-79; (2) an article titled “Garmonicheskoe sochetanie poezii peredvoda i literaturovedeniia v integrativnom spetskurse” in Rol’ mezhpredmetnykh sviazei v sisteme razvivaiushchegosia obucheniia (prirozhdenie k zhurnal Nauka, kultura, obrazovanie). Gorno-Altaisk, 2001, pp. 83-5; and (3) two translation excerpts from Siberia, Siberia (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1996), in Respublika Altai: fotoal’bom na russkom, altaiskom I anglisskom iazykakh (Ak Chechek: Gorno-Altaisk, 2001), pp.15, 148.

The fall 2002 issue of Russian Review (vol. 61, no.3) carried Professor Stephen Parker’s review of Julian Connolly’s Nabokov and His Fiction, and in January 2003 Cornell University Press finally brought into print Nabokov at Cornell (ed. Gavriel Shapiro), which contains Prof. Parker’s Nabokov centenary piece. 2003 is a landmark year in Nabokov studies. In 1978 Prof. Parker and Prof. Charles Nicol (Indiana State University) created the Vladimir Nabokov Society, which today has 300 members, including 92 institutions, from around the world (USA, Canada, Iceland, England, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, Russia, Croatia, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, New Zealand, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, India). In spring 2003 The Nabokovian—founded, edited, and published by Prof. Parker—will complete its twenty-fifth year of publication with the appearance of issue number fifty. The Nabokovian has been and remains the indispensable tool for Nabokov scholarship, with its annual international critical bibliography, annotations, notes, essays, news, and special features germane to the study of Nabokov’s life and works. There is hardly a book or article on Nabokov that fails to carry one or more citations to The Nabokovian, and there is hardly a single notable Nabokov scholar worldwide who has not contributed to its pages. Thus, for the past twenty-five years, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Kansas has been viewed as a primary site for all matters concerning Vladimir Nabokov, now considered universally one of the greatest authors of the twentieth century.

In May 2003, the world celebrated the 300th anniversary of the founding of the city of St. Petersburg, Russia. The city’s builder was the extraordinary and still controversial Tsar Peter the Great, whose rule marked the end of Old Russia and the emergence of the Russian Empire as a world power. The University of Kansas celebrated the St. Petersburg Tercentenary with a broad array of special activities. The Center for Russian and East European Studies and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offered a special lecture series on the City, presenting William C. Brumfield on “St. Petersburg: City of Imperial Design,” featuring Dr. Brumfield’s own exquisite slides (February 17); Timothy Scholl on “The Dancing Tsar: Music, Dance, and Peter’s “Window to Europe” (March 10); David Stone on “The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad” (April 2); and Alan Holiman on “Life and Politics: Petersburg in 2003” (April 21). St. Petersburg was also featured in a special plenary session of the Central Slavic Conference that included a presentation by Dr. Kristi Groberg on “Savior on the Blood: Monument to Empire,” and a panel of speakers from KU and University of Texas-Austin. A special offering was a concert of an authentic 19th and 20th century Russian repertoire for the Russian seven-string guitar by guitarist, lutenist, and musicologist Dr. Oleg Timofeyev (co-sponsored by the School of Fine Arts and the Kansas City Guitar Society) on April 10.

The Lied Center also scheduled an extended and various program of Russian performers and Russian music to complement the other activities of KU’s St. Petersburg Semester. These included performances by the Trio Voronezh, a folk instrument ensemble that offers a program that ranges from Bach to Russian folk songs (February 28); David Finckel and Wu Han, performing Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Rachmaninoff (March 9); and Olga Kern, winner of the Gold Medal at the 11th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition (March 25-27). The Spencer Research Library featured a spectacular exhibit, “Frosted Windows: 300 Years of St. Petersburg Through Western Eyes.” Seven cases of rare treasures from the Library’s collections trace the city as it moves from being Sankt Pieter Burkh, to Peterborough, St. Petersburg, Petrograd/Leningrad, and finally St. Petersburg again. The exhibit gives a tantalizing view of what Westerners have seen as they have looked in, from the other side of Peter’s “window to Europe.” The exhibition boasts an exquisite catalog and is also digitally accessible through the Spencer Research Library’s home page. The Spencer Research Library exhibition was echoed by Watson Library’s exhibit on “Peter’s Window to Europe,” organized and prepared by Brad Schaffner, Head Slavic Librarian.
Supporting events in the region included “Çars: 400 Years of Imperial Grandeur,” at the Kansas International Museum in Topeka, which featured 267 artifacts from the Armory Chamber of the Kremlin Museums, exhibited in 11 stunning galleries and depicting the lives of the Russian tsars, including the ill-fated Nicholas and Alexandra; and a performance by the Topeka Symphony Orchestra of Dmitry Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7, Opus 60: The Leningrad Symphony, a massive work dedicated to Leningrad’s 900-day resistance to the Nazi siege of the city during the Second World War.

Over 7,000 participants attended the various KU events held this semester in honor of the Tercentenary. Sponsors of the KU St. Petersburg Tercentenary included: The Center for Russian and East European Studies, The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Lied Center, The Spencer Research Library, Watson Library, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the Kansas City Guitar Society.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ben Admus sen (MA, 2001) has been working as an Office Manager for ACTR in Moscow. His fascination with Vladimir Nabokov continues and he is presently working on an article on Lolita.

Steven Calhoun (MA, 2000) who studied Croatian in our department presently serves as an American attaché in Croatia.

Kurt Har p er (BA, 1976) continues to be involved in Open World visits in Wichita and elsewhere in Kansas. This program, sponsored originally by the Library of Congress, provides young leaders in Russia to visit American communities to learn about government, not-for-profit organizations, and other areas of interest. Rotary International frequently assists in providing housing or programming. During the last year, Kurt has helped facilitate a visit by several educators to Wichita, and participated in a visit with a delegation of Russian judges. This year, he is on a committee for the U.S. District Court for Kansas to facilitate the visit of another delegation of judges. In the meantime, he is discreetly encouraging his son Austin to become a second generation Jayhawk in another year. His younger child has already mentally made the commitment.

Kurt practices law in Wichita, where he also recently completed serving two years as president of the Wichita Symphony Society. In addition to his potential future Jayhawks, he resides there with his wife of over 20 years, Kelly. He welcomes non-spam email at kurtharp@swbell.net.

William Emery Justice who studied Russian Literature in our Department and presently is a free-lance writer living in California, had a fragment from his novel “Orpheus” accepted for publication in a Russian translation in a journal published in St.Petersburg.

Elizabeth King (BA, 2000) writes: “I decided to enroll in Yale...in global health. I think it is more where I want to be in the field... and they have work in Russian (St.Pete!). They also offered me a dean’s scholarship (1/2 tuition for both years) which was the safest funding option. U Wash said they don’t offer scholarships, but there are many possibilities for TA or RA positions once you arrive, but again since it depends on grants and availability they cannot guarantee anything this early.”

Alexander Kipp (BA, 1997) has been doing a lot using both of his degrees: an internship with a Russian-speaking theatre in Tel-Aviv as assistant to the Chief Artistic Director for the famous production of the dramatic version of Babel’s Odessa Stories and a position as assistant director, director of movement and choreographer, as well as an interpreter for Smekhov when he staged “The Suicide” for us in 1999. He continues as a playwright, director and actor of a small company downtown Manhattan, NY, called “John Brown Theatre Company,” which he founded while still in Kansas. The company was invited to perform in Ireland last summer and enjoyed considerable success. He also works for the City of New York, teaching Ethics and Conflict Resolution.

Captain Breven Parsons (BA, 1992) (USMC, Senior Defense Counsel) writes, “Just found out I’m going to be using my Russian after a ten year hiatus. Good grief! I need to really brush up. I’m going to the Republic of Georgia to be a UN Observer in June for six months. Hope all is well at KU and that everyone has recovered from the agony of defeat. It was a fantastic basketball year anyway. Hope Roy sticks around.”

Now a graduate student in environmental studies at Western Illinois University, Allison Smith (BA, 2002) tells us that: currently working on a M.S. in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration with an emphasis in Environmental Education/Interpretation. I am a Graduate Assistant at the outdoor education center, Horn Field Campus. I have 3 more classes to finish in the fall. I decided to go the Internship Route, so I will officially finish next May. There is no Russian program here, but in the little free time I have, I keep up with some reading and reviewing. I plan to concentrate my environmental education career in Russia.”

Laura Wilhelm (lwilhelm@weho.org) (Ph.D., 1994) writes that she delivered a paper, “The Fable as Folklore: Is It or Isn’t It?” at the Illuminated Folklorist Conference at UCLA in May, 2002. She spoke on goddess archetypes of healing and transformation at the American Biographical Institute of International Biographical Center Arts and Communications Congress in Vancouver in July. Her husband Chris started teaching Latin at Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena in Fall 2002. Note Laura’s new address: 1236 N. Sweetzer Ave., Apt. 19, West Hollywood, CA 90064

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Marc L. Greenberg, Chair

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