In memoriam Joseph L. Conrad (1933-2003)

The world of Slavic Studies lost a beloved colleague December 21, 2003, when Professor Joseph Conrad died of pancreatic cancer. On January 29, 2004 his family, friends and colleagues gathered at the Danforth Chapel on the campus of the University of Kansas to remember him. We bring you some of those reminiscences.

Marc L. Greenberg:

I knew Joe for a relatively short time as I came here in 1990. We socialized somewhat and he was cordial to me as a new faculty member in the Slavic Department. We shared some common experiences and mutual acquaintances in the Slavic world. Among our commonalities was a predilection for the westernmost South Slavs, especially those of Croatia and Slovenia, the latter of which, he professed, were his favorite countries in the world.

In the microcosm of Slavic studies, he had managed to meet my wife, Marta, before I had met her. She was then a teacher at the Ljubljana summer school where Joe had been a seminar participant. And I knew many of the Fulbright lecturers from Slovenia who had served at KU well before I applied for the job I now hold. Our paths were bound to cross sooner or later and it almost seems to have been preordained that I ended up working in the same department with Joe.

In a world of communities bound together by common afflictions, Joe and I became fast friends when we discovered that we both suffered from a rare genetic disorder. Yes, we suffered from acute polysemiosis, a malady that manifests itself in the metanalysis of words for intended humorous effect, more commonly known as punning. The illness itself is not communicable, but

Belinda J. Schuman:

My name is Belinda, and I am the eldest of Joseph Lawrence Conrad’s children. He also has another daughter, Karla, who is here today; a son, Lawrence Allan, who lives in Maryland and had hoped to be here but was not able to do so because of the weather back east, and a step-son, Seva, Galina’s son, who is also here today.

I would like to share a few memories of our childhood, and then speak of more current matters.

Everyone who knows our father knows he was a brilliant man. I have never known anyone who loved to learn for learning’s sake as much as he did. But the year he received his Fulbright scholarship, he also became a father, so we know academics wasn’t the only thing on his mind.

Some of my fondest memories of him are sitting on his lap and listening to stories he would create, using our names for some of the characters.

Now, the catch to these stories was that although we were purely English-speaking children, the stories were entirely in German. I can remember the first two lines, and please forgive my pronunciation, but they went something like this:

“Es war einmal ein Mädchen. Sie heisst Belinda und sie hat einen Hund.”

Joseph L. Conrad, Professor of Slavic Languages at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, was born on June 26, 1933 in Kansas City, Missouri, and passed away in Lawrence on December 21, 2003, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Galina, one son, and two daughters. He worked almost to the very end. In August 2003 he gave a paper at the Congress of Slavists in Ljubljana, but health problems arose during the trip, and a diagnosis of fourth-stage pancreatic cancer was made after his return home.

Joseph did his undergraduate work at the University of Kansas, and upon graduation received a Fulbright award for study at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet in Frankfurt during the 1955-56 academic year. After the year in Germany he entered graduate school at the University of Texas, where he studied Slavic and Indo-European linguistics with Winfred Lehmann, among others. His dissertation was on Nikolai Marr, whose linguistic theories and the battle to make them dogma had a strong negative impact on the work, careers, and even lives of many Soviet scholars. He received the Ph.D. in 1961.
it sets off a number of related disorders through contact, namely, chronic inco-
sonance and the dreaded irritable vowel syndrome. Joe made me feel welcome
in the Department through his fine sense of humor.

Although Joe’s training was in the field of Indo-European linguistics, he al-
ready had a strong interest in Russian even as a student. He wrote his disserta-
tion on the eccentric archaeologist and linguist, Nikolaj Marr. He completed his

When he joined the profession Joe was a pioneer in the field of Slavic stud-
ies, among those who rode the wave of interest in the Soviet Union and the So-
viet Bloc set off by Sputnik in the 1960s, a time when there were few specialists
in Russian and other Slavic languages.

His interests evolved, moving from linguistics to literature and folklore,
though always synthesizing his expertise in these fields. He became a lead-
ingscholar in the fields of Chekhov studies and Slavic folklore.

As I knew him only late in his ca-
cer, allow me to read a few lines from
a senior colleague who knew Joe from
earlier days.

Leonard A. Polakiewicz (Horace
Morse Distinguished Associate Profes-
sor of Slavic Languages and Literatures,
University of Minnesota), a fellow
Chekhov scholar, called me immedia-
tely upon learning of Joe’s passing:

“I learned of Professor Conrad’s
passing away with great sadness. I feel
privileged to have known him for more
than thirty years as a Chekhov scholar,
a conference participant (I especially
recall the 1985 Badenweiler confer-
ence), and as a friend. Joe was a very
highly respected scholar and I, for one,
was personally influenced by his ap-
proach to the study of Chekhov. In as-
sessing another scholar’s work, Joe al-
ways offered constructive criticism and
was always fair. He was indeed one of
the most decent individuals I have ever
met. Foreign specialists on Chekhov, in-
cluding Professors Vladimir Borisovich
Kataev and Aleksandr Pavlovich
Chudakov of Moscow University, join
me in expressing our sincere condo-
lences to Professor Conrad’s family and
to his colleagues and students in the
Department of Slavic Languages and
Literatures at the University of Kansas.”

During his last few years, Joe had
a burst of creative energy, returning to
his Chekhov interests with renewed en-
thusiasm. He presented papers in Ger-
many in Badenweiler and Tübingen and,
as was mentioned, at the Congress of
Slavists in Slovenia. These papers all
resulted in new article publications.

Joe was recognized by the Depart-
ment in April of 2003 with a slightly
early 70th birthday party at the annual
Honors Reception. Although he did not
speak on that day, he seemed exception-
ally happy as the photographic record
of the event reflects.

In his last trip to Slovenia Joe made
contact again with many of our mutual
friends and he had a chance once again
to see a part of the world he enjoyed so
much and share it for the first time with
his wife, Galina. It was fitting that he
made this trip after so many years of
absence.

When Joe came back to the States
he had to come to terms with tragic news
about his health. We spent a good deal
of time together in his last couple of
months. We talked about many things,
much of it having to do with his profes-
sional life and contributions to the
Slavic field. He was proud of his con-
tributions and wanted to continue to give
more. In his last days he expressed guilt
that he could not be in the classroom. I
tried to assure him that others would
continue his legacy and that his work
would continue to be read by students
and colleagues.

When we ran out of personal and
professional topics, I read to Joe from
the Diaries of Marcus Aurelius, a book
that distills the wisdom of the Stoics.
He was particularly interested in the
passages on death and dying. He told
me that these words helped make sense
of what he found incomprehensible.
Aurelius writes that: “The act of dying
is one of the acts of life.” Aurelius’
words about death help us to live well
by reminding us of the fate we all share.
Let me close by reading two quotations
that Joe found particularly poignant:

“Death is a release from the impres-
sions of the senses, and from desires that
make us their puppets, and from the
vagaries of the mind, and from the hard
service of the flesh.”

“Accept the things to which fate
binds you, and love the people with
whom fate brings you together, but do
so with all your heart.”
Recognition for excellence in the study of Croatian and Serbian

Ms. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, Sidney Dement, Brooke Waldron, Professor Stephen Dickey

Recognition for excellence in the study of Polish

Jessica Winchell, Molly Mackinnon, Terry Anderson, Jeff Muller, Mr. Michael Johnson, Shannon Doyle, Professor Andrzej Karcz

Recognition for excellence in the study of first-year Russian

Alexander Melin, Conor Klamann, Jennifer Hensley, Robert Blaney, Eric Peterson, with Ms. Erin Moulton, Mr. Matthew McGarry, Professor William Comer
Recognition for excellence in the study of second-year Russian: Russian

Ms. Eugenia Amditis, Bekah Heacock, Annie Ingham, Jessica Plummer, Nathan Mack,
Ms. Yana Grigortchouk, Professor William Comer

Recognition for excellence in third-year Russian

Gabe Murphy, James Sneed, Mark Willcoxon

Recognition for excellence in fourth-year Russian stylistics

Joy Stortvedt

Recognition for excellence in the study of Ukrainian

Sarah Jewell, Lyle McMillan, Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovkh
For those of you who don’t understand German spoken by a one-language Kansan, the beginning of that story was: “There was once a maiden. Her name was Belinda, and she had a dog.” So, see, those of you who know Daddy’s kids and our love of dogs now have a better hint of where that started!

Most of you know our father as a folklore expert and linguist, which of course he was. But to his children, he also had another side. That side involved teaching us how to ride bicycles, going over vocabulary lists, planting gardens, and learning to tell time, to name a few. Karla reminded me of the time, no pun intended, that she was home sick from school one day and he taught her how to tell real time, not time with a digital clock like today’s kids learn. She was rewarded for her quick study with her very first watch. And knowing her, she probably still has that watch somewhere!

Daddy also taught all three of us kids how to drive a car, I believe it was an automatic station wagon. And then he went out and bought a MG sports car convertible – funny, but that car was NOT an automatic!

We learned a lot about parenting from our father. Our brother, Allan, has two children, and he says that when he has a question about how to raise his children, he thinks of Daddy and what Daddy would do. By the way, one of Allan and Pam’s children was adopted from Russia – of all the countries in the world, what can you imagine was the influence that led Allan there?

Most of you here knew Daddy pretty well. Or at least you thought you did. Did you know that he almost didn’t become a professor—that initially he had been torn between academia and being a Forest Ranger? He always loved to walk around lakes and through the woods, and sit and ponder the world. A favorite memory is taking walks with him and how he would point out things that we, as children, had not taken the time to notice.

I would like to talk about the great love in Daddy’s life. Yes, folklore was pretty high on that list, but aside from
his children, his other best love was—

is—Galina. For those of you who have been to our father’s house Before Galina and Since Galina, you know what a beautiful difference she made in his life, both in his physical environment, and in his mental well-being.

First, Galina took that house that he had lived in for over twenty years and made it into the Museum it is today. Daddy was so proud of what she had done. The inside is immaculate, and filled with classic items such as ancient books, religious icons, rugs, folklore symbols, and plants, plants, plants! I think that at one point, she had 40 hand-raised African violets. And, mind you, that’s just one species of plant in her house.

The outside of the house has changed from a Chemlawn cesspool to a Better Homes and Garden-type yard. Galina herself, all 100 pounds of her, moved dump truck loads (and I do mean plural—loads!) of dirt from the driveway to where-ever it was needed in the yard. The yard is now filled with many different kinds of flowers, evergreen trees, and fruit trees—and even vines with flowers and fruits. Did you know she even has Kiwis growing in her yard? She is a genius.

Second, she is also a genius in the love and care she gave Daddy. I have been around Daddy for 48 years, and Galina is the best thing that has ever happened to him. She knew him better than anyone else in his life. Under her guidance he blossomed and in return, he took her on trips to show her the places and lands he loved to visit. They even talked of retiring and buying a cabin in the Alps. (Of course, since he was 70 and still not retired by choice, I’m not sure when that Alps-retirement was supposed to be!)

She also provided Daddy with Seva. Seva has been an enormous help to both Daddy and Galina, especially in that he gave up his “freedom” to move back into their house when Daddy received the cancer diagnosis. This act had a tremendous impact on the three of them because now Galina and Daddy had a strong individual who often put aside his own work to help as Daddy needed more and more assistance. I never really appreciated just how much Seva was needed until I started staying at the house more often in November and December. Thank you, Seva, for making the sacrifice to help Daddy as much as you did.

In closing, I want to thank Galina for her love and care of our father. I know that for the past eight years since she’s been in his life, he was the happiest and the most loved he’s ever been. Karla and Allan and I are very lucky and proud to be included in her family. Seva had the good luck to be born into it!

As you may know, in Slavic folklore it is believed that the soul stays on the earth for 40 days. Today is that fortieth day, and we want to thank you for helping celebrate Daddy’s freedom on this very important day.

Charles Gribble

Joseph was an Assistant Instructor at the University of Texas from 1956-59, and then an Instructor and Assistant Professor at Florida State University from 1959-62. The University of Texas recognized his abilities and invited him back as an Assistant Professor in 1962. He remained at Austin until 1966, when Kansas, his alma mater, called him as Associate Professor and Chair to build a strong Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. His success at this task was recognized in many ways, including promotion to the rank of Professor in 1971.

During the 1960s his research interests turned from linguistics to literature. His first article, an outgrowth of his dissertation, is on Marr’s theories, but the remainder of his more than forty articles are on literature or folklore (except for three on language teaching and programs). Chekhov was the subject of nineteen of his articles, starting with his third article and continuing through his paper at the August 2003 Ljubljana Congress. Like most scholars of his generation, Joseph was originally primarily a Russianist, but a trip to Yugoslavia in the summer of 1970, followed by three summers (1971, 1972, 1975) as Resident Director of a cooperative summer Serbo-Croatian language program in Zagreb kindled a lasting passion for Yugoslavia and folklore. His first article on a folklore topic appeared in 1980, and it was followed by fourteen more in the ensuing twenty years, with incantations and charms the most frequent topic. Folklore was the subject of his most popular course at Kansas, and the classes filled up to the last seat. His house became an extension of the classroom, with many folkloric objects and displays.

Several of Joseph’s students now occupy senior positions at American universities, and the Slavic program at Kansas remains one of the most important. He received numerous grants and awards, including six IREX awards and Fulbright awards to Croatia and Slovenia. He served ten years as Chair of the Department at Kansas and ran eight summer programs in the USA, Russia, and Yugoslavia. He was frequently invited as an outside evaluator of programs or applications for grants and candidates for promotion and/or tenure.

He was also a good friend and good company to spend time with. We shall miss him greatly.
The Accession of East Central European Countries to the EU and the Changing KU Curriculum

The year 2004 started with a number of events at KU aimed at rethinking the way that we approach and teach the history, politics, economics, and culture of East Central Europe. The cultural, social, and political role of the region’s major countries—Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Hungary—will change with their accession to the European Union. In American foreign policy they will no longer be viewed as part of the “evil empire” or an adversary camp.

In modern history these countries have required special attention and study because their experience often differs from Western European models and because their languages present particular difficulties for predominantly English and Romance-language speakers to the west. Moreover, with the serious diminution of translation and publication activity in the United States their major cultural contributions to world literature and theater could fade from the “radar screens” of educated American readers.

On February 2, Professor Edith Clowes convened a “Forum on East-Central Europe in the European Community: Shaping the New Curriculum.” The goal of this forum was to bring everyone interested in East Central Europe—from European Studies, Jewish Studies, Russian and East European Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures—to define the range of concerns with the region that the academic community at KU have and particularly to focus on the ways in which our community needs to shape and coordinate the curriculum. A rich and productive discussion ensued among the standing-room-only group, during which the various interdisciplinary groups delineated areas for future cooperation in curriculum development and hiring needs.

One of the outcomes of the forum was the organization of a university-wide symposium April 26-27 on “Europe at the Crossroads: What EU Enlargement Means to You.” Spearheaded by Dr. Michael Mosser of the Office of International Programs, this event brought audiences to the Edwards Campus in Overland Park on April 26 to hear about the impact of the EU enlargement on Kansas businesses and then on April 27 to the Lawrence campus for a full day of roundtables, discussion groups, speeches, and readings. Presenters from the Slavic Department were Professors Clowes, Karcz, and visiting Fulbright scholar, Professor Nada Šabec. The keynote speaker was Peter Horvath of the Economic Section of the Hungarian Embassy, who examined the development of the Hungarian economy over the last 15 years. One roundtable considered the accession of the 10 new member countries from the perspective of various disciplines, including economics, political science, history, and cultural studies. Another focused on the changing character of “citizenship” in the European Union. Finally, presenters from Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia spoke about the enlargement from their particular national point of view.

To continue to develop awareness on campus of the contributions of East Central European countries, the student union SUA is planning a Slavic and East European film series for Fall, 2004. Other activities include the development of new courses in the Slavic Department, such as Professor Karcz’s “Film Adaptations of Polish and Czech Literature” and the annual Winter Institute on Theater and the Arts in Prague.

ALUMNI NEWS

Adrian Erlinger (B.A. 2002) is currently finishing his M.A. at KU REES. He won the 2004 Roy and Betty Laird Essay Contest with an essay on “Shock Art and Orthodox Thugs: Politics and Contemporary Art in Russia.” He reports that he is an alternate for a Fulbright Scholarship. Whether or not he receives the award, he plans to go to L’viv, Ukraine, to study local politics and the media.

Jon Giulian (M.A. 1997) reports that he is nearly finished with his Masters Degree in Library Science at Indiana University. He has an internship to finish up and is working at the reference desk, which he is enjoying.


Captain Breven Parsons sends us these pictures from Georgia, where he is currently posted with the UN Mission. Breven writes:

“This first picture has an interesting story behind it - the guy on the right was also a KU Grad, was on the KU judo team with me and studied Russian at KU! Small world! I replaced him in the mission last June - his name is Rob Tidball. We did not put two and two together until after almost a whole day of talking.
The second picture is a destroyed tea factory near Gali in de facto Abkhazia. It used to be one of the jewels of Soviet production, but has been useless since the war in 1992-1994.

The third is a photo of the locals in the ceasefire zone crossing the Inguri river on a tractor. It’s pretty dangerous business as there are numerous criminals, “partisans,” and other folks who will try to rob them as they cross back and forth to work the lands they formerly lived on. They can’t stay on their former lands in de facto Abkhazia because there’s no security. Nevertheless, they brave the river, which also was mined during the way in order to get to their lands and work them. They generally cross in the morning and cross back before dark.”

Gary Roy (MA 1986, Ph.D. 1996) writes that from 1996 to 2003 he taught foreign languages at Thornton Academy in Saco, Maine (Russian, French, Spanish, German, Latin, and Chinese—his schedule changed radically from year to year depending on the needs of the department). While at Thornton, among other things, he established an exchange program with a Gymnasium in Luebeck, Germany. He is now on a two-year leave-of-absence from Thornton and is completing an MA in French and German at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. In connection with this degree he spent three summers studying in Klagenfurt, Austria, and two summers studying in Angers, France. Within the next few months he plans to leave on a year-long trip to South America. He conveys his greetings to his Slavic professors.

Allison Smith (B.A., 2002) writes that she is currently finishing an internship with Easter Seals Timber Pointe Outdoor Center where she has been developing a nature center. She will graduate with an M.S. in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration in May, 2004. She has expecting a baby boy at the end of April and getting very excited. She plans to settle down in Kansas at least for a little while.

Sabra Volek (B.A., 2003) has just won the Phi Beta Delta Domestic Student Award for 2004! This award is given by the international honor society to one domestic student member who has demonstrated great interest and involvement in international activities and superior scholastic achievement. Sabra is currently in Hungary where she is finishing her master’s thesis, “NATO and the ‘War on Terror’: Adaptation or Withering?”

Jeffrey A. Wormington (BA, 2003) received an NSEP fellowship under the National Foreign Language Initiative. The program is by invitation from the Federal Government and takes a small number of advanced students to Russia for a year of intensive language training, internships and translation work.

Lyle McMillan has received a FLAS and is planning to spend the 2004-2005 academic year in Kiev, Ukraine. The following year he plans to finish his MA at KU REES.

Congratulations to Abby Mills who received a Boren Scholarship to study in St. Petersburg and Gorno-Altaisk during the 2004-2005 academic year!

Congratulations to the recipients of 2004-2005 Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarships: Sidney Dement, Kelly Knickmeier, Molly Mackinnon, Matthew McGarry, Erin Moulton!

In 2003 Eugenia Amditis went to Central Slavic, AATSEEL, and AAASS. She was first alternate for a KU Dissertation Fellowship. She is the instructor, teaching 2nd year Russian and Slavic Folklore. She received a FLAS to attend the Summer Russian program in Petersburg. Last summer she attended the University of Illinois Summer Research Institute last summer, and is planning to attend this summer. She has just learned that she is first alternate for the KU Dissertation Fellowship for 2004-2005. She was accepted for this summer’s Summer Research Lab at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and will be presenting a paper at the first conference of the Assoc of Women in Slavic Studies. For 2004-2005 she received the Eddie Jacobsen Memorial Scholarship from the Harry Truman Good Neighbor Foundation for International Studies.

Shannon Doyle reports that she is still happily dancing with The Prairie Wind Dancers at the Lawrence Arts Center. In June she will moving back to Mary-
land where she will begin working full-time for the Dept. of Defense. She says that it will be difficult to leave Lawrence, but is looking forward to starting a new job and living much closer to her family.

**Molly Mackinnon** studied Polish on a FLAS fellowship during the 2003-2004 academic year. She received a summer FLAS to study in Krakow during summer 2004. Molly and her family will use a second-year FLAS to return in winter 2005 to spend spring semester in Krakow. On a lighter note, Molly received honorable mention in the Snyder Book Collecting Contest at Watson Library. Her project was “Polish Literature in Translation.”

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**FACULTY NEWS**

**Professor Maria Carlson** completed her service as director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies on 15 August 2003, after almost 11 years in that position, after securing three years of funding for the Center’s US/ED Title VI grant and FLAS Fellowships. She is delighted to be back in the Slavic Department full time, where she has assumed oversight of the undergraduate folklore course, ably taught in 2003-2004 by Instructor **Eugenia Amditis** and Teaching Assistant **Adrienne Harris Boggess**. Prof. Carlson is currently developing a new graduate level “Survey of Slavic Folklore,” to be taught for the first time in Fall, 2004. Professor Carlson’s article, “Old Battles, New Challenges,” was published in Newsnet: *News of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies*, in a professional discussion of “Regional Studies in the Twenty-First Century” (October, 2003). She was also invited to participate in a special conference on *The Integration of Russia into the International Academic Community: Perspectives from Russian Education and Scholarship* at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, in Washington, D.C. September 30-October 1, 2003, where she chaired a panel on “Cultural Communication and Tolerance.” Prof. Carlson participated in the AAASS conference in Toronto in November as a panel chair and as a Member of the Board of AAASS, representing the Council of Institutional Members. In Fall 2003, Prof. Carlson gave regional lectures on Orthodoxy and Russian iconography at Central Missouri State University and the Wichita Museum of Art. This spring she is leading a grant development workshop for junior faculty at the Hall Center for the Humanities, while working with colleagues in the KU Art History Department to develop expertise in pedagogical strategies for art history (for which she received a Keeler Intra-University Professorship).

For **Professor Edith Clowes** 2003-2004 was a year full of publishing and traveling. April, 2004, saw the appearance of her “alternative history” of Russian philosophy, *Fiction’s Overcoat: Russian Literary Culture and the Question of Philosophy* (Cornell University Press). Other highlights were the publication of “Vasilij Rozanov als philosophischer Nachkommeling von Solov’ev und Nietzsche” in *Vladimir Solov’ev und Friedrich Nietzsche: Eine deutsch-russische kulturelle Jahrhundertblanze*, ed. U. Heftrich and G. Ressel, and “James and Vocabularies of Post-Soviet Russian Spirituality,” *William James in Russian Culture*, ed. J. D. Grossman and R. Rischin. Her travels took her near and far. In June, 2003, she attended a conference devoted to Vasilii Rozanov at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she spoke on “Rozanov’s Antidote: Siniavskii-Terts, Erofeev, and Ruptured Soviet Identities.” At the World Congress of Slavists in Ljubljana in August she gave a talk on Berdiaev and philosophical autobiographies. In October she presented a paper on the debate about Babii Iar in the literature of the Thaw at a conference on “Memory of the Nazi Final Solution in East European Literature and Art” at the University of Heidelberg. In November at the AAASS meetings in Toronto she presented on Pasternak’s aesthetic. During winter, 2004, she has stayed closer to home, focusing on organizing events on campus, the Hall Center faculty seminar on “Philosophy and Literature,” as well as the forum and symposium on East Central Europe (see p. 7). This spring Professor Clowes was recognized by Phi Beta Delta, the honorary organization for international education, for excellence in promoting international education.

The year 2003 had three highlights for **Professor William Comer**. He saw through to degree his first doctoral student in language pedagogy in the Slavic Department. **Meghan Murphy-Lee** defended her dissertation in April 2003 on a linguistic description of learners’ interlanguage using evidence from email dialog journals. *The Russian Context*, a collection to which he contributed the opening chapter, was recognized by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages as the best book in pedagogy in 2003. Third, in December, 2003 he assumed the position of Chair of the Program Committee for the annual convention of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (approximately 400-500 participants). This position has a three-year term, and represents a great deal of organizational work at the national level. Among his teaching responsibilities, Professor Comer initiated a significant reworking of the second-year Russian curriculum, moving it to a more themebased, cultural literacy focused course.

Coming to us from the University of Virginia, **Professor Stephen Dickey** has just completed his first year as an assistant professor in linguistics and
Bosnian/ Croatian/ Serbian in the Slavic Department. In 2003 three of his linguistics articles appeared: “’Semelfactive’ -n- and the Western Aspect Gestalt,” in *Journal of Slavic Linguistics* 10(1); “Verbal Aspect in Slovene,” in *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* 56(3); and “Delimitative Verbs in Russian, Czech and Slavic” coauthored with Julie Hutcheson, which appeared in *American Contributions to the 13th International Congress of Slavists. Volume 1: Linguistics*. He also published a teaching essay, “Teaching Bosnian/Croatian/ Serbian Language(s) and Culture(s) After the Breakup of Yugoslavia,” in *AAASS Newsnet* 44/1. At the KU CRES Laird Brown Bag Lecture Series he presented a talk on “Tuzla: A Microcosm of Postwar Bosnia.” He received a New Faculty General Research Fund Grant to facilitate research on his current book project, *The Evolution of Slavic Aspect*.

**Dr. Irina Fedyunina-Six**, lecturer in Russian, presented a paper on “The Successes and Failures of Western Advertising in Russia” at a CIBER-funded conference, “Business, Language, Technology,” at the University of Connecticut April 1-3. On April 13 she was invited to William Jewell College in Independence, Missouri, to speak to communications and marketing students about “Why Russians Are Not Motivated by American Advertising.”

In 2003-2004 **Professor Marc L. Greenberg** published the articles “Word Prosody in Slovene from a Typological Perspective” in *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* (Berlin: Akademie Verlag); “Is Slavic *eta* an Indo-European Archaism?” in *International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics*. Minor works: “Henrik Birnbaum – Remembering a Great Teacher” in *Slovenski jezik / Slovene Linguistic Studies*. He also translated an article by Roberto Dapit (Udine) from Italian to English for *Slovenski jezik / Slovene Linguistic Studies*, wrote review articles of two historical linguistics handbooks for *The Linguist List* (June 13 and August 15 issues), and a note on historical phonology for *Kronika Slavistinega društva Slovenije* (Maribor, Slovenia). In April, 2004, he was invited to present the paper, “Common Slavic: Progress or Crisis in its Reconstruction? Notes on Recent Archaeological Challenges to Historical Linguistics,” at the UCLA Memorial Conference for Henrik Birnbaum. The paper will appear in the *International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics* 2004. He was also invited to give a talk on “Balto-Slavic Tonogenesis” at the “Tone and Intonation in Europe Workshop” in Lisbon, Portugal, April 2004. In the fall semester Prof. Greenberg played renaissance lute with the KU Collegium Musicum performing on KANU and in Bales Recital Hall; in the spring he was featured soloist in a set of pieces by lutenist John Dowland.

During 2003-2004 **Prof. Andrzej Karcz** contributed a journal article “’Znosc wygnanie w tym pieknym, …ale jakze obcym kraju.’ Lata americanskie Manfreda Kridla” to *Archivium Emigracji. Studio-Szkice-Dokumenty*, a journal published by the Nicolaus Copernicus University Press in Torun, Poland. Along with two other colleagues he has been continuing editorial work on the book *Polonistyka po amerykansku. Badania nad literatura polska w Ameryce Polnocnej (1990-2005)*. This anthology of North American scholarship on Polish literature is to be published in 2005 or 2006 by the Institute of Literary Studies of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Warsaw, Poland. In November, 2003, Prof. Karcz’s talk, “Émigré Writers Return Home: Dziennik powrotu by Slawomir Mrozek,” was presented at the 2003 AAASS National Convention in Toronto, Canada. At the 2003 Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in San Diego he organized and chaired a roundtable, “Models of Instruction in Teaching Polish” and chaired a panel on “Polish Literature and Culture.” As in previous years, he kept busy by organizing lectures, film presentations, and social gatherings for the KU Polish Club. This officially reg-istered student organization has many members and sympathizers both on and off campus. The KU Polish Website (www.ku.edu/~polish), run by Prof. Karcz, lists, among other things, all the recent and upcoming events of the Club.

**Ms. Marta Pirtnat-Greenberg**, lecturer in Croatian-Serbian and Slovenian, received a Teacher Stipend by the European Studies Consortium to participate in a workshop “Developing Classroom Materials for Less Commonly Taught Languages” at CARLA Summer Institute at the University of Minnesota, August 2-6, 2004. She has recently reviewed Peter Herrity’s *Slovene: A Comprehensive Grammar* for Canadian Slavonic Papers (XLIV (2002), 3-4, and Andrea Albretti’s *Colloquial Slovene* for SEEJ (to appear in summer 2004).

2003 was a productive year for **Dr. Yaroslava Tsiokh**, lecturer in Ukrainian. The second edition of her textbook, *Modern Ukrainian with a Focus on Civilization*, came out, published by the Ivan Franko National University Press in Lviv, Ukraine. This textbook’s principal objectives are to develop students’ communication skills on the advanced level through consistent engagement with cultural themes, as well as skills in translation both from Ukrainian into English and from English into Ukrainian. A number of language programs, including the one at Ivan Franko University, have adopted Dr. Tsiokh’s textbook. She was particularly pleased to learn that her textbook has been used at FSI (Foreign Service Institute).
Dear Friends of Slavic,

Donations to the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures have continued to grow steadily, with the 2003–2004 being a record-breaking year not only in terms of the dollars received, but also the number of donors who have contributed. We are grateful for all donations to support our activities. These extra dollars help us to give meaningful awards (books, CDs, DVDs) to outstanding students at the annual honors reception in the spring, to put on events where students can meet with and discuss academic issues with visiting scholars, and to purchase additional pedagogical and scholarly materials for the library. In the future we hope that we will have enough money to award scholarships to students of Slavic languages and literatures.

This year we have been touched by the loss of our dear colleague, Joseph L. Conrad, whom you have read about elsewhere in this issue. Prof. Conrad’s family is working with the Endowment to establish a scholarship fund in his memory. Although some donations have already been received, this project needs matching contributions from friends and colleagues.

Although we are not permitted to solicit funds directly, we are able to receive funds that are sent to us with explicit instructions for their use. Generally, any funds that are sent with a letter designating “to support Slavic Department programs” are used to enrich student opportunities, e.g., rewarding the outstanding achievements of undergraduate and graduate students at the annual Honors Awards Reception in April. Students are given books, individually selected by Slavic Department faculty members, relating to their Slavic studies interests. In the future, we hope to establish a scholarship for undergraduate students to study in a Slavic country and a graduate scholarship offered to an outstanding graduate student each year.

It is possible to name scholarship funds to honor individuals. If you wish to establish a fund, please call Professor Marc L. Greenberg (Department Chair) or Professor Edith Clowes (Chair, Friends of Slavic), and we will help you work with the KU Endowment Association. Please make your check out to “Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures—KUEA” and state your wishes. At minimum, please include the words “to support Slavic Department programs.”

Donations to the Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Fund may be made in the same way, but please specify in your letter that you wish the proceeds to go to this fund. Funds will be used to support Slavic Department students and their educational activities.

For updates on our funding initiatives and a listing of past donors, see http://www.ku.edu/~slavic/donor.shtml

Marc L. Greenberg

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UWCOMING EVENTS

January 8-19, 2005, Winter Institute in Prague

October 27, 2004, 3:00 p.m., Caryl Emerson

October 19, 2004, 7:30 p.m., Prague Philharmonia

October 1, 2004, 7:30 p.m., Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company

September 20, 2004, 3:00 p.m., Bettina Kaibach (Bonn) on Hitler, WWII, and the Holocaust

August 20, 2004, Lied Family Summer Arts Festival