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Edith W. Clowes, Editor

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Slavic Faculty Welcomes New Colleague in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature



This fall we will welcome Professor Kerry Sabbag (PhD 2005, Brown) to the Slavic Faculty at the University of Kansas. In order to acquaint the KU com-

munity with Professor Sabbag and her work, the Lawrencian Chronicle conducted an interview with her.

LC: How did you become interested in Russian?

KS: I knew in high school that when I got to college I wanted to study Russian, probably because it seemed exotic. During my senior year our final assignment for English class was to choose a book (from a list) and write on it. Most of the class chose Albert Camus' *The Stranger*; as soon as I saw *Anna Karenina* on the list I knew it was time to take the plunge into Russian literature. Once I figured out how to deal with all of the long, strange names, I really enjoyed the book; that is, until I got to the end. I was absolutely devastated by the final scene with Anna, and ran to my teacher to ask if maybe I had read a bad translation or somehow not understood the scene. I think the impression that moment of contrast between elation and despair made on me probably sealed my fate. I began studying Russian language my first year in college, and, as my interest grew, soon discovered that I had become a Russian major.

LC: Why did you decide to enter graduate school in Slavic?

KS: After graduating from college I decided to take time off from academia in order to determine if it was the right path for me. After working in an office environment for several years, I learned a lot about time management, customer service, and how to handle non-academic stress. After a while, though, I found myself wanting new challenges, even hoping for a difficult problem or confrontation, and realized how bored I had become. Then I knew that I was ready to go back to academia in pursuit of those challenges.

LC: What are your main areas of interest in teaching?

KS: I am particularly passionate about language teaching, because it encourages creativity, presents challenges (no matter how many times you've taught the course), and allows students to bond with each other and the teacher. I'm looking forward to teaching literature and culture-oriented classes at KU and hope to have the opportunity to team-teach a course someday.

LC: Tell us a little bit about your dissertation. What are your main areas of interest in research?

KS: My dissertation addresses the importance of individual fame in Russian culture as expressed in literary texts. I work primarily with nineteenth-century literature, a period of rapid change in literary and cultural movements. My discussion incorporates a variety of authors, including Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Turgenev, and

Goncharov. In addition, I consider both ecclesiastical and secular texts of Old Russian literature in order to create a base for a broader consideration of the treatment of fame in literature. With the advent of Romanticism, many nineteenth-century writers looked to Russia's cultural and historical past in their quest to shape a national and personal identity.

In the nineteenth century Russian writers encountered what I call the Western "fame text," a tension-laden discourse comprised of Greek and Roman values as well as Old and New Testament writings on earthly fame. By this time, Russians brought to the table their own strong "counter-tradition" born of and shaped by their experience of Eastern Christianity. Ambiguous biblical passages on earthly fame, writings of Western philosophers and religious thinkers—such as Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and the Protestant Reformers—suggested that praise or fame from one's fellow man could be deemed virtuous if based on good deeds that might serve as an example to others and if God's role in all acts was honored. Russian Orthodoxy never accepted this interpretation of the Gospel; instead virtue was forged through rejection of worldly deeds.

My dissertation explores the tension between imported and native views of fame in literary texts. In my view, a number of religious concepts molded the Russian outlook—humility, an emphasis on the ephemeral nature of earthly life, and the otherworldly, ascetic ideal embodied in the monastic life, the icon, and the figure of the "holy fool" (an ascetic figure who feigns madness in order to reject social norms in favor

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Losses to the KU Slavic Family

Herbert Galton (1917-2004), professor in the Slavic Department from 1962-1988, passed away on December 9, 2004. He received his PhD in 1951, and published extensively on topics of Slavic synchronic and diachronic linguistics. His *Main Functions of the Slavic Verbal Aspect* (Skopje, 1976) was ahead of its time.

Miljenko Kovacicek (1955–2004)

The Slavic Department lost a dear friend and colleague in December 7, 2004 when Miljenko Kovacicek passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at his home in Zagreb, Croatia. Miljenko had worked since 1979 at the Center for Foreign Languages as a teacher of English and Croatian. He earned a BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Zagreb in 1979 and completed an MA in American literature in 1992, also from Zagreb University. His MA thesis concerned *Characters in the Novels of Saul Bellow* for which he conducted interviews with Mr. Bellow in Chicago. Miljenko was also a prominent poet and translator on the literary scene in Croatia whose translations of poetry both into Croatian and English have been widely acclaimed, and his poetry has been

published both in Croatia and the U.S. He served during the 1988–89 and 1989–90 academic years as a Fulbright visiting scholar, teaching Croatian language and literature at the University of Kansas and University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. His courses were extremely popular, which played a role in the exceptional renewal of his Fulbright contract for a second year. In the following years he collaborated with the Slavic Department as a summer-school teacher for the KU Croatian language program in Zagreb under the auspices of the Croatian Heritage Foundation. Since 2002 he served as a partner in developing a new summer Croatian-language program in Zagreb and Dubrovnik with the Center, KU Study Abroad and the KU Slavic Department. The latter program has been particularly successful in the training of advanced graduate students from many leading universities in the United States, and Miljenko's contributions will be greatly missed.

Miljenko leaves his wife, Mirna Jemric, and a teenage daughter, Ana. Mirna is currently preparing a bilingual edition of Miljenko's as yet unpublished poems.

—MLG

AKO ME NE BUDE | IF I'M NOT HERE **Miljenko Kovacicek**

Ako me ne bude
jedne čudesne večeri na moru
kad odlaze ribari s mrežama nade
neka samo odu nepomućene noći.

Ako mene bude
recite im samo
neka tiho pletu vrijeme.
Ja spavam.

A ako me bude
jedne čudesne večeri na moru
kad odlaze ribari s mrežama nade
u njihove oči
stavio bih zvijezde.

If I'm not here
one marvelous evening at the sea
when the fishermen go out of their nets of hope
just let them go out into the impassive night.

If I am here
just tell them to
plait the time quietly.
I'm sleeping.

And if they wake me
one marvelous evening at the sea
when the fishermen go out with their nets of hope
into their eyes
I'd put stars.

English translation MLG*

* The poem was sent to Marc L. Greenberg by Mirna Jemric from Miljenko's e-mail account the day following his death with the subject line "Good-bye from Miljenko." In response to this touching farewell from a sensitive and talented poetic soul Marc offers this translation as his farewell to Miljenko.

SLAVIC HONORS RECEPTION
 April 6, 2005

Recognition for Excellence in Polish

Elementary Polish



Michael Johnson, Anna Slomka

Intermediate Polish



Albert Chmielewski, Professor Andrzej Karcz

Advanced Polish



Maria Kamanska, Professor Karcz



Molly Mackinnon, Professor Karcz

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**Recognition for Excellence in Croatian and Serbian
Elementary Croatian and Serbian**



Erin Moulton, Ms. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg



Omur Yilmaz, Ms. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg

Intermediate Croatian and Serbian



Kelly Knickmeier, Ms. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg

Advanced Croatian and Serbian



Ms. Pirnat-Greenberg, Sidney Dement, Professor Steve Dickey

Recognition for Excellence in Ukrainian



Danon Park, Ms. Yaroslava Tsiovkh

Outstanding Graduate Students



Sidney Dement, Erin Moulton, Professor Stephen Parker

**Outstanding student in elementary
Turkish: Eric De Rutherford.**

Recognition of Excellence in Russian Elementary Russian



Kelly Logan, Ms. Kelly Barringer, John Kuhn, Katie Loper, Heidi Mehl, Paul Szyrka, Ms. Adrienne Harris-Boggess,
Professor William Comer

Intermediate Russian



Danon Park, Alexander Melin, Robert Blaney, Ms. Yanina Grigorchuk, Professor Comer

Advanced Russian



Terri Pohl, Nathan Mack, Ms. Irina Fedyunina-Six



Connor Klamann

Fourth-Year Russian



Bekah Heacock, Professor Edith Clowes
(Joy Stortvedt was absent.)

DOBRO SLOVO Russian Honorary Society



Kurt Harper, Bekah Heacock, Terri Pohl, Professor Clowes



2005 Outstanding Alumnus

Kurt Harper, Professor Clowes

Celebration of Joseph Conrad Collection

Galina Conrad, Belinda J. Schuman,
Professor Marc Greenberg, Karla Conrad



New Colleague Continued from page 1

of the spiritual aspect of Christ's teachings). I believe that each of those concepts is inherently connected to the concept of fame, as they address social and ethical issues of recognition, bearing witness, understanding one's place in the world, presentation of self and perception of others, and the value of one's deeds.

As a result of the interconnectedness of religion and culture in Russia, Russian literature emphasizes faith over reason, intention over result, spiritual redemption over good acts, and, consequently, relatively less emphasis on the external—on appearance and social values, which are the building blocks of fame. We see this contrast in the religious and cultural status of the holy fool, the celebration of outward humiliation and inner glory, the perception of the earthly realm as temporary and even unreal compared to the heavenly realm, the Orthodox monk's conflict over how best

to serve God—through selfless action or quiet contemplation—and the silent icon that is truly seen with the heart rather than the eye.

LC: Nationwide interest in Russian declined after 1991. How do you see the future of Russian study in the US?

KS: I strongly believe that Russian language and culture have an important role to play in U.S. colleges and universities. Every day I see students learning more about themselves and the world as a whole through the medium of language learning. In order to ensure a position of importance in higher education, Russian studies will have to maintain and expand its place in interdisciplinary studies. I support this approach and look forward to playing a more active role in making it happen. At the same time, however, the value of spending even one semester concentrating specifically on a period of Russian literature should not be underestimated.

It may introduce you to interests you never knew you had!

LC: What is your favorite spot (or spots) in Russia?

KS: I feel most connected to Moscow. I lived there for a year and therefore have memories of friends, events, and holidays that are all very much rooted in the city. In 1992 I had the opportunity to see Lake Baikal in the early winter, and to this day it is the most beautiful place I have ever been. I have taken short trips to Petersburg, but would love to get to know that region better.

LC: What do you like to do when you aren't doing Russian? Hobbies, pastimes?

KS: Cycling, yoga, reading non-scholarly Russian detective novels. Right now, with finishing my dissertation, I have only a vague memory of enjoying these things!

STUDENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2005-2006 NELSON SCHOLAR, **Rebekah Heacock!**

CONGRATULATIONS to our Winners in the 2005 Russian Essay Contest sponsored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian!!

Alexander Melin, 3rd place, Level 2, Non-Heritage Speaker

Nathan Mack, 3rd place, Level 3, Non-Heritage Speaker

CONGRATULATIONS to Slavic minor, **Lauren Stewart**, for winning the Blakiston Memorial Fellowship for \$1000 from the KU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Moving on:

James Sneed (BA, Slavic, May, 2005) will be continuing at KU in pursuit of his MA in French. We hope to see him around the Slavic Department, too!

Joy Stortvedt (BA, Slavic, May, 2005) plans to enter the University of Nebraska in pursuit of her Masters in Library Science.

We wish both James and Joy the very best of luck!

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to our new MAs and PhDs!

Callie Barringer (BA 2002, MA 2005) is in the final stages of applying for a job in government service. We wish her all the very best in her further pursuits!

Sidney Dement (MA, 2005) plans to pursue his PhD in Slavic at KU.

Leann Keefe defended her PhD dissertation "The Place and Pedagogy of Reading in the Russian Language Curriculum," in August 2004, and now works for the US Department of Defense.

Kelly Knickmeier (MA, 2005) plans to pursue her PhD in Slavic at KU.

Molly Mackinnon (MA, 2005) is looking forward to taking a break from her studies and devoting time to translating Polish literature.

Matt McGarry (BA, 1999, MA, 2004), who passed his PhD qualifying exams in Fall, 2004, and is now on his way to the Slavic program at the University of Wisconsin to complete the PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures. We wish him good luck!

Erin Moulton (MA, 2005) looks forward to a year off before she continues on her way toward the PhD.

Adrienne Harris Boggess (MA, 2001) won an ACTR Research Scholar Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State, Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) for a year of research in 2005-2006 in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Elabuga on the topic of her dissertation, "The Archetype of the Woman Warrior in Russian Literature and Culture."

Michael Johnson was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for 2005-2006 to pursue archival research in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Penza on his dissertation topic, "Of Suicides and Fairy Tales: Przybyszewski and the Russian Stage (1902-1912)."



KU ALUMNI NEWS

Craig Barto (BA, 1976) writes that: "After retiring from a career as a cryptology and intelligence officer in the United States Navy, a field where my degree obviously served me well, I am now a professor of English at Charleston Southern University in Charleston SC. The course that I found most valuable and applicable in my career in the intelligence community was Prof. Stammler's "Main Currents of Russian Thought."

Jared Carter (MA, 1999) reports that: "we moved back to the States about a year ago. I am working at Gold Bank in Kansas City. My title is Anti-Money-Laundering Rep. It is a pretty good and interesting job. I make sure that all of the new customers of the bank are on the up and up. I also monitor accounts and make sure that there is no fraud going on in the bank. It is interesting because no two days are the same, and I get to do quite a bit of research on accounts. One down side, however, is that I don't get a chance to speak any Russian at work, except when I talk on the phone with my wife. In September, we had another girl!! That makes three!! We named her Amelia Nicole. She is a really sweet girl. Our other ones are doing well also. They are 4 and 2. Sometimes they are a real handful, but every now and then they are fun (just kidding). Ira is staying home with them and enjoys the time that she gets to play with them. Eden's English is really coming along, and we have to get on her about speaking Russian more at home.

I just hope that she won't forget it. Christina is picking up a hodge-podge of English and Russian. It is funny to hear her speak. She seems to understand both pretty well . . . that is, when she actually listens to us!!"

Lindsey Collier (BA, 2004, Slavic and REES) emailed her "two favorite departments at KU" to say that: "I am leav-

ing in a few weeks to attend Middlebury College. There I will develop my language skills while working on my MA, and hopefully I will be able to study at RGGU in Moscow either this fall semester or spring semester of 2006. I'm still waiting to hear back about my financial aid for the study abroad stretch, but I've received a healthy grant for this summer so I'm hoping that's indicative of what I can expect for the school year."

Agnieszka Critchlow (BA 2000, MA REES 2001) is currently a lecturer with the Institute of Linguistic and Preparatory Studies at Charles University, Prague. She is also currently coordinating the Fifth International Student Symposium to take place in late June in Prague.

Adrian Erlinger (BA, 2001, MA, REES, 2003) wrote to us in November, 2004, from Ukraine: "I thought I would drop you a line amidst all of the political turmoil to let you know how I am doing. Many are comparing the current political situation in Ukraine to the Velvet Revolution. Lech Walesa was just in Kyiv speaking with Yushchenko... Meanwhile, my wife and I are in L'viv glued to the television, listening to people in the streets shouting 'Yushchenko!' and honking their horns at 2 a.m. I had the wonderful, but extremely challenging, experience working as a translator with the OSCE Election Monitoring Mission on 31 October, the first round. I felt out of place, but the mission went well. I also wrote a piece about the student movement, and you may read it on www.tol.cz. It's a little outdated, but I was glad to contribute. Take care, and Slava Ukraini!"

Matthew Feeney (PhD, 2003) reports that: "I presented a paper in Slavic linguistics at the AATSEEL conference in Philadelphia in December, 2004, and a paper in Russian linguistics (dialectology) at the CARTA conference in San Antonio, at UTSA, in April, 2005".

Mary (Hermanson) Greff (MA, 1999) writes that: "I just found out last week (after 7 months of waiting) that I got an adjunct faculty position at Austin (TX)

Community College. I'll be teaching 1st-year Russian. I am so excited to be teaching Russian again!

I have been busy creating a syllabus and making lesson plans. I have been referring a lot to my notes from the year I taught Russian at KU and am finding them to be very helpful. All of the information on language pedagogy that is interspersed throughout my lesson plans is very useful. I have a lot of preparation to complete, but I am really looking forward to the challenge." Congratulations, Mary!



Randy Masten (right) in Baghdad

Randy Masten, who studied Polish for two years in the Slavic Department while working on his MA at REES (2003) wrote last December that: "I will be headed to Iraq for one-year and will deploy in January. . . . My time at KU will prove to be very useful. I will serve as the liaison (LNO) between the 82nd Airborne Division and the Polish Brigade. As the LNO, I will live with the Poles and work in their operations section as a representative for the US and the 82nd. It will be a great experience (all politics and political decisions surrounding the war aside)". We include a photo above. Stay well, Randy!

Maureen Morton (BA, 2003) has just finished her first year of graduate school in mathematics at Michigan State Uni-

versity. She reports that when she went for her foreign language reading exam in Russian, the secretary in the Math Dept. did a double take and mumbled something about how students "*never* take the Russian exam"! Maureen finished the exam with flying colors. She now uses her Russian regularly in conversation with Russian speakers in the Math Dept. Maureen also remembers that, as a math tutor at KU's athletic department, she spoke to basketball player Sasha Kaun when he came for a campus visit. At the athletic department she was credited with convincing Sasha to come to KU!

FACULTY NEWS

This year **Professor Maria Carlson** served as co-chair of the Department, with Stephen J. Parker, while SLL Chair Prof. Marc L. Greenberg enjoyed his much-deserved sabbatical. One of her major achievements this year is the completion of a three-year, U.S. Department of Education "Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access" (TICFIA) Grant. Prof. Carlson, Brad Schaffner (former Head of Slavics at KU Libraries, and now Head of the Slavic Collection at Harvard University), and Kirill Fesenko, Eastview, received \$255,000 to support the digitization of the **RosArkhiv** guides to the 270-plus archives in Russia. Prof. Carlson and her colleagues presented the project at the TICFIA Conference in Charlottesville, VA, in April 2005. The entirely searchable site, which will be hosted by KU's Digital Library Initiative and mirrored by Eastview and eventually RosArkhiv, may be used at no cost by archival researchers both in the US and abroad. The site will be available in November 2005.

Professor Edith Clowes spent summer, 2004, with her family in Heidelberg, Germany. She held a grant from the

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst for research with colleagues at the University of Heidelberg. During her stay she completed an article, "Constructing the Memory of the Holocaust: The Ambiguous Treatment of Babii Yar in Soviet Literature" (to appear June, 2005, in *Partial Answers* (Hebrew University)). Co-organizing an international conference on "Vekhi (Landmarks, 1909) and Russian Culture" at the Losev Archive in Moscow, planned for October 10-14, 2005, has been exciting and challenging, given the stricter rules on applying for a Russian visa. Professor Clowes continues to serve as director of the faculty seminar on Philosophy and Literature at the Hall Center for the Humanities. Two highlights of this year's seminar were a visit in October from Prof. Caryl Emerson (Princeton), who spoke to a large audience on the "Post-Soviet Literature Wars," and a symposium on the theory of emotions, which included presentations from Prof. Catherine Schwoerer, a psychologist working in KU's School of Business, and philosophy doctoral student, Evan Kreider.

Professor William Comer and **Meghan Murphy-Lee** (PhD, 2003) coauthored the article, "Letter-Sound Correspondence Acquisition in First Semester Russian," which appeared in *Canadian Slavonic Papers* in 2004. He shared his experience in re-designing the intermediate Russian sequence at KU in "Language Curriculum Design: Rethinking Assumptions," that appeared in the *AAASS NewsNet* in January 2005. In addition to conference presentations, 2004 was his first year as chair of the Program Committee for the AATSEEL National Meeting in Philadelphia. In two more years he will be happy to pass the reins on. Professor Comer was also very busy overseeing two remodeling projects at the Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center. The Center now houses an entirely digital interactive "language lab" and has an expanded patron reception area (check out the pictures at: www.ku.edu/~egarc).

Professor Stephen Dickey began directing the KU Summer Program for

Croatian Language in Zagreb and Dubrovnik. He presented "Where Does Metaphor End? The Development of Delimitative/Perfectivizing PO- in Russian" at the *Perspectives on Slavistics* conference, Leuven, Belgium, 18 September 2004 and chaired the "Participles" panel at the same conference. He also gave a talk "Empty Prefixes and the Grammaticalization of Slavic Aspect" at the KU Linguistics Colloquium, 8 November 2004. His translation of Borislav Pekić's *How to Quiet a Vampire* has just appeared with Northwestern University Press.

Professor Marc Greenberg spent the 2004-05 year on sabbatical working on various projects connected with his research on Slavic historical linguistics. Among them is a paper on the reconstruction of pitch-accent in western South Slavic dialects, which he has been invited to present at the International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology at the University of Zagreb in July, 2005. He was also appointed to the editorial board of the new journal *Croatica et Slavica Iadertina*, the Croatian and Slavic journal of the University of Zadar (Croatia). His paper "Dialect Variation along the Mura" on Croatian and Slovene dialects is to appear in the inaugural issue later in 2005. In October, 2004, at the Slovenian Slavic Congress in Novo mesto, Slovenia, he was awarded a plaque for "Outstanding Achievement in Slovene Studies" by the Slavic Studies Society of Slovenia. He continues his work as editor of the journal *Slovenski jezik/Slovene Linguistic Studies* which he co-founded with Marko Snoj (Slovenian Academy of Sciences) in 1995. He is preparing the tenth-anniversary volume to appear in June of this year. The volume will contain an important paper by departmental colleague Prof. Stephen Dickey (s.n.).

During the fall semester Prof. Greenberg fundamentally rewrote his course *Language and Identity in East-Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. In connection with this project he has been teaching himself Yiddish, which Paul Wexler calls "the 15th Slavic language." In spring 2005 he received

a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society to conduct fieldwork on the dialect of Upper Carniola, Slovenia. On a lighter note—Prof. Greenberg performed on guitar again this year in April with the Mandofest Orchestra at Liberty Hall. His performance as departmental chair will continue in fall, 2005.

Professor Andrzej Karcz submitted for publication two edited volumes. The first is a collection of articles by various American scholars titled *Polonistyka po amerykańsku. Badania nad literaturę polską w Ameryce Północnej 1990-2005* [Polish Literary Studies in North America 1990-2005], representing recent North American scholarship on Polish literature. This co-edited book (with H. Filipowicz and T. Trojanowska) received \$6,500 book subvention and is scheduled for publication in 2005-2006 by the Institute of Literary Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland. The second editing project is a book "Mój wileński opiekun." "Listy Czesława Miłosza do Manfreda Kridla (1946-1955)" ["My Guardian of Wilno": The Letters of Czesław Miłosz to Manfred Kridl (1946-1955)], presenting an invaluable, and yet unknown, source of information about the relationship of two Polish intellectuals living and working in postwar America. This volume has been scheduled for publication in early 2005 by the Nicholas Copernicus University Press in Poland.

Among other endeavors, Prof. Karcz published a book introduction to the recent new English language edition of one of the great classics of Polish literature, *Quo Vadis* by Henryk Sienkiewicz (Barnes & Noble Books, 2004). In December, 2004, Prof. Karcz served as a panel organizer and discussant of the roundtable "Models of Instruction in Teaching Polish" and as a panel organizer and chair of the "Issues in Polish Literature and Culture" panel, both held at the Annual Meeting of AATSEEL in Philadelphia, PA.

Prof. Karcz has continued to direct the KU Summer Polish Study Abroad Program in Krakow, Poland. As in previous years, he also organized lectures,

film presentations, and other events, such as a music recital combined with a lecture on Chopin, for the KU Polish Club. The KU Polish Website (www.ku.edu/~polish) lists, among other things, all the recent and upcoming events of the Club. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings.

Ms. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg received a teacher stipend from the European Studies Consortium (University of Minnesota) to attend CARLA summer institute workshop Developing Materials for Less Commonly Taught Languages. At this week-long workshop (University of Minnesota, August 2-6, 2004) she gained a number of new ideas for the use of authentic materials at all levels of language instruction and developed a packet of shareable B/C/S teaching materials, which are available on CARLA's website: <http://www.carla.umn.edu/lctl/materials/b-s-c/summary.html>. She has been successfully using the skills and ideas from the

workshop in her classroom throughout this academic year, creating many new teaching materials based on authentic texts for the beginning and intermediate B/C/S courses.

For **Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovkh**, Instructor, Ukrainian language and literature, 2004-05 was a productive year. In conjunction with the publication of her book *Modern Ukrainian with a Focus on Civilization*, Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovkh made a promotional tour at the invitation of the Ivan Franko National University of L'viv, Ukraine. The trip was funded by the U.S. Department of State Freedom Support Act grant for the KU-LU institutional exchange. During the visit she had the opportunity to meet with LU colleagues and to coordinate with them specific techniques and methods of teaching practical Ukrainian in conformity with the strategies employed in the book, as well as professional discussions of the curriculum for all levels of the Ukrainian language teaching. This exchange with LU colleagues was nec-

essary to familiarize them with the U.S. system of modern language teaching for the undergraduate and graduate students so as to develop a more uniform approach to be used by the Ukrainian language instructors in both universities.

At her students' request, she also developed a new course, "Similarities and Differences in Ukrainian and Russian Language" specifically for those students who have already taken Intermediate and Intensive Ukrainian but want to continue their studies in Ukrainian linguistics.

As part of her CREES service, Dr. Tsiovkh gave a brown-bag talk on "Nuggets of Ukrainian Folk Art." In the Kansas City community, Dr. Tsiovkh worked as an interpreter for the Program of Education Administration sponsored by the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs when a group of 10 educators from Ukraine came on a two-week training and exchange program arranged by the International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City.

2005 Prague Winter Institute



Standing L-R: L. Rahjes, J. Kocherov, E. Tanke, C. Cha, A. Long, R. Straka, L. Barber, E. Morissey.
Seated L-R: B. Weintraub, L. Kimmel, J. Sheldon-Sherman, A. Harris-Boggess, C. Grimwood, E. Clowes

Chairman's Corner

Maria Carlson and Stephen J. Parker, co-chairs during my sabbatical leave this year, shepherded the Department through a busy and challenging year. The Department and I owe them a great debt for selflessly sharing their considerable administrative experience and expertise during this time. Their success in ensuring the future well-being of the Department is in part reflected in the hire of a new faculty member, Kerry Sabbag, a recent Brown Ph.D., who was chosen from a field of superb candidates. You have read about her interests elsewhere in this issue, so no need to reiterate them here. We are looking forward to welcoming her, and we and our students look forward to the many contributions she will make to our mission. I look forward to taking the reins again in Fall 2005 and hope that I will be able to serve at least as capably as my colleagues – it will be a hard act to follow.

I needn't belabor the point about the continued productivity of our excellent faculty, whose exploits you have also read about in this issue. It is no small thing to keep up a steady research program when the tasks of teaching and service make up a full-time job by themselves. Their efforts are much appreci-

ated by us all, both for continuing to keep our unit prominent in the field and for bringing to the classroom the fruits of their original insights.

While the Department continues to serve its primary function as a comprehensive Slavic Department, with courses in Russian literature, Slavic languages, and Slavic linguistics, it has also adapted to the times by meeting demand for the mentoring in language pedagogy and providing instruction in languages critical to U.S. security needs. Sadly, this spring we say good-bye to Ms. Berna Öge, our Turkish lecturer, who is returning to Turkey with her husband and son. We wish her success in her future endeavors and hope that she will stay in touch; we will miss her presence very much. But our commitment to Turkish will continue next year with another Turkish lecturer who will also become part of the contingent of fine language teachers in Wescoe Hall. We continue to monitor the needs of the country as we plan for the future. We have watched carefully the developments in the EU, which expanded in 2004 with the addition of several of the countries some of whose languages we teach, including Polish and Slovene. Croatia cannot be far behind. KU continues to offer unparalleled opportunities within the Plains states to study the languages and cultures of Slavs and other peoples of the former Soviet Union. All told, we are well positioned

to cover our geographical bailiwick for the foreseeable future.

I would be remiss if I failed to point out that, as has been the trend for some time, the distinction between public and private universities continues to blur. We are continually and increasingly dependent on the generosity of donors who value our educational mission. So many of our friends and alumni have continued to donate to our Department, even in this economically challenging time, that it is nearly impossible to keep up with the thank yous owed to all these individuals. (Not that I am not trying!) This support is meaningful: this year it has helped us hire students to sort and catalogue books for the Conrad Collection and to reward student excellence (Slavic books, recordings). We continue to save most of the funds, however, in the hope that, eventually, we will be able to provide outright scholarship funding to select students to further their studies. To all those who have sent in checks earmarked for Slavic Department programs, I extend a heartfelt thank you on behalf of our faculty and students. Please continue your support and encourage other like-minded friends and colleagues to do the same.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, October 22, 2005, 7:30 p.m., Lied Center,
"Die Fledermaus," Czech Opera, Prague**

January 3-14, 2006, Winter Institute in Prague

**Monday, March 27, 2006, John Burt Foster, Jr.
(George Mason U.) on Tolstoy**

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