Slavic Faculty Welcomes New Assistant Professor in
West Slavic Languages, Literatures and Cultures

We are delighted to announce that Professor Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova will be joining the Slavic Department during Summer, 2006. Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova was born in 1972 in Pleven, Bulgaria. Both her parents spoke Russian, but, she insists, they did not influence her decision to go to the local Russian High School. She graduated with highest honors in 1990 and was admitted to the Department of Slavic Studies at Bulgaria’s oldest and most prestigious university, the Saint Kliment Ochridski University in Sofia. She completed her Master’s Degree in 1995, and in 1996 she was admitted to the PhD program in the same Department. She married another Slavist, Panayot Karagyozov, in Prague in 1998. Her son, Dimitar, was born in 1999 in Sofia. In 2003 she came to the U.S. and started studying something very different – TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at the Department of Linguistics at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. May, 2006 was a special month for her because she received her Master’s Degree in Linguistics and, at the same time, defended her doctoral thesis on the subject of the Baroque across the various Slavic literatures. We asked Professor Vassileva-Karagyozova to tell us more about herself:

LC: You are a very unusual person because you are fully fluent in both Czech and Polish. How did you become interested in both of them?

SVK: When I was admitted to the Slavic program I didn’t know that I wouldn’t be allowed to choose the language I was going to study. I wanted to study Czech, because Czech cinema was very popular in Bulgaria at that time and I was a big fan. I liked the language so much that I would memorize dialogues from the movies and then repeat them over and over again to enjoy the melody of the language. Strangely, I wasn’t disappointed when I learned that I was assigned to study Polish. I just accepted it as my fate. Very soon after the beginning of the academic year I realized that I was lucky to be a Polish major, because it was the most prestigious specialization in the Department.

At the third year, the students in good academic standing were allowed to choose a second major. I decided to follow my dream and chose Czech. It was fun to study Polish and Czech at the same time. Knowing Polish helped me a lot and made my acquisition of Czech faster. However, sometimes it was confusing because of the similarity of the two languages.

LC: Why did you decide to become a Slavist?

SVK: Actually, I didn’t decide to become a Slavist. It happened naturally. I am native speaker of Bulgarian, I learned Russian in High School, and Polish and Czech at University. I decided to specialize in Comparative Slavic Literatures because I have reading knowledge in all Slavic languages and a natural inclination towards comparing and contrasting. I also believe that through comparison we can reveal a great deal about texts. Literatures are a reflection of the spiritual life of nations. Literary texts interact with each other across national boundaries in fascinating ways. They are a part of universal processes, and we get a better understanding of one literature when we see it in a broad international context. I believe that Slavic literatures benefit from investigation as a particular entity within world literature. It is my belief that they do form a

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Dedication of the Parker Library and the Conrad Collection

This spring marks the realization of more than eighteen years of planning for a departmental library, a project begun by Prof. Stephen J. Parker with the generous donation of a major collection of Russian literature works from his mother, the late Prof. Fan Parker. A dedication ceremony was held in the Library on April 7, 2006 with capacity attendance, including members of the Parker family – spouse Marie-Luce Parker, son Richard Parker, and grandson Benjamin – and the Conrad family – widow Galina Conrad, daughters Karla Conrad and Belinda Schuman. The space for the Library was acquired through Prof. Parker’s skillful negotiation in the late 1990s, when he was still Department Chair. The space was closed in during 2001 and shelves were custom built in December 2005 after a substantial donation from Prof. Parker as well as alumni and friends of the Department. The library, now officially named the Stephen J. and Fan Parker Slavic Library, also houses a very important collection of Russian literature and Slavic folklore bequeathed by our late colleague, Prof. Joseph L. Conrad, who passed away in 2003. The Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Slavic Collection, is marked by special bookplates and a plaque with Prof. Conrad’s picture and biography. The handsome meeting space and these important collections have quickly become a focal point of departmental activity as well as a tool for student and faculty research.
CONGRATULATIONS to Stephen M. Dickey for his promotion to Associate Professor and to Eve Levin (History), courtesy professor of Slavic, for her promotion to Full Professor.

WELCOME to Jon Giulian, the new Slavic Librarian at Watson Library, back to Lawrence. Jon was a graduate student in the Slavic Department between 1995 and 2002. He returned this summer to the University of Kansas with a new MLS degree in Library and Information Science from Indiana University in Bloomington, where he specialized in Slavic bibliography, library technology, and international informational issues. Jon replaces the irreplaceable Brad Schaffner, who moved on to Harvard.

Jon trained with IU’s Slavic Bibliographer, Murlin Croucher, and is experienced in reference, collection development, and instruction in database and resource exploitation (specialized workshops, instructional sessions). Jon has excellent Russian language skills, but also knows Polish, Croatian, Romanian, German, and Portuguese. He has lived and worked in Russia. His excellent teaching skills, first developed in SLL, have not gone to waste, and Jon has quickly become an important member of the “teaching team” in both the Department’s general education courses and research seminars. And he’s a whiz with the technology—a skill greatly appreciated by both students and faculty.

Professor Emerita of Polish, Jadwiga Maurer, and former President of Poland, Lech Walęsa. during Mr. Walęsa’s visit to KU, September 22, 2005. Photo courtesy of Dobroslawa M. Grzymala-Busse.

Czech students meet the Czech cast of “Die Fledermaus” after a sparkling performance of the Strauss opera at the Lied Center, October 22, 2005. Left to right: Professor Sabbag, Jaromir Novotný (Alfred), Martin Mazik (conductor), unknown, Anna Klamová-Janotová (Adele), Oldřich Kříž (Dr. Falke), Tetyana Boryak, Joshua Mitchell, Susan Žvacek, Andrew Soukup, Jitka Svobodová (Rosalinde), Jan Ježek (Eisenstein), Diane Princ, Jerry Koukol, Jeffrey Shouse, Professor Clowes.

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In this issue:
Archaeologist Mark R. Stefanovich visited the KU campus in March 2006, where he gave two presentations, “The Earliest Gold in Europe and its Social Implications: Recent Discoveries in Bulgaria” and “Recent Thracian Archaeological Discoveries in Bulgaria from the 1st Millennium BC and What they Mean for the Ancient Greek World,” on March 2 and March 3, respectively. Dr. Mark R. Stefanovich teaches at the American University, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, where he is Professor of Anthropology and European Archaeology and Director of the University’s Southeastern European Studies Center.

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October 27, 2005, students meet with Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev after a talk at Kansas State, Manhattan, KS. Left to right are: Jenny Geide, Yana Grigorchouk, Marcy Rutan, Mikhail Sergeevich, Ingrid Perez, Robert Blaney; 2nd row: unknown, Guzman Garcia, Rebekah Heacock, Tyler Cammick, Katie Loper, Jeff Dutton, Kate Zickuhr, Alexander Melin, and Laura Price.

Prof. John Burt Foster, Jr., from George Mason University, visited campus March 27-28, 2006. He gave a noon brownbag lecture at REES on “Hadji-Murad: From Russian to Western to World Literature.” Prof. Foster teaches English and comparative literature and is the author of a large number of books and articles, most recently on Vladimir Nabokov, Nabokov’s Art of Memory and European Modernism.
On April 14, the Slavic Graduate Student Organization hosted a Ukrainian Easter Egg (*pysanky*) party. Using the traditional wax-resist method, students created their own versions of this folk art form. First, a design is drawn on the egg, then different portions of the design are covered with wax in order to protect the design from the next bath of dye. In this way, layer by layer, the pattern takes shapes and acquires additional colors. Finally, the egg is heated over a candle, and the melted wax is wiped away to reveal the intricate pattern. Ukrainian easter eggs draw from pre-Christian pagan traditions, including traditions of folk-magic, and folk material culture. Although they are beautiful, pysanki do not serve purely decorative purposes, but are important magical items thought to protect the house from evil spirits or ensure a good harvest. Students learned about this fascinating art form while taking a break from studying.

On May 4, we enjoyed an absorbing talk by Professor Irene Masing-Delic, Ohio State University on her new research, “Larissa—Lolita, or Catharsis and Dolor, in *Doktor Zhivago* and *Lolita.*”
SLAVIC HONORS RECEPTION
April 19, 2006

Excellence in Elementary Polish

Anna Schrader, Prof. Marc Greenberg

Excellence in Bosnian, Croatian, Servian

Prof. Stephen Dickey, Kelly Knickmeyer (advanced BCS), Alphilde Rees, Alexander Melin, Ms. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg

Excellence in Elementary Slovene

Mark Lanfranca, Ms. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg

Excellence in Elementary Turkish

Lynne Yengulalp, Safiye Manguoglu, Dennis Chanay, Dr. Mubecce Tani

Excellence in Ukrainian

Mike Nelson, Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovkh, Brian Frank
Excellence in Elementary Russian

Stephanie Smiros, Sarah Garner, William Frager, Ms. Olena Chervonik-Bearden, Ms. Natalia Jensen, Prof. William Comer

Excellence in Intermediate Russian

Paul Szpyrka, Katie Loper, Kelly Logan, Guzman Garcia Rodriguez, Ms. Yana Grigortchouk, Prof. William Comer

Excellence in Advanced Russian

Dr. Irina Fedyunina-Six, Marina Havach, Nathan Mack, Prof. Kerry Sabbag, Nathan Gerth, Alexander Melin

DOBRO SLOVO
Russian Honorary Society

Prof. Edith Clowes, Jeffrey Shouse (Polish and Czech), Prof. Marc Greenberg, Marcy Rutan (Russian), Alexander Melin (Russian), Robert Blaney (Russian), Mark Lanfranca (Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and Slovenian)
Silver Medalist in the 7th Annual
National Russian Essay Contest organized by the
American Council of Teachers of Russian

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Outstanding Service Award

New Colleague Continued from page 1
unique subculture because of the similar-
larities in the historical developments of Slavic peoples.

LC: What are your main areas of inter-
est in teaching?

SVK: I always enjoy teaching Slavic lan-
guages, especially Polish. The two years
I spent in the TESOL program at South-
ern Illinois University strengthened and
deepened my interest in language teach-
ing methodology and radically changed
my perspective towards it. There are sig-
nificant differences between European
and American language teaching meth-
odology and pedagogy. Although it may
seem that the European School is more
effective (Europeans tend to be multi-
lingual, unlike Americans), that is actu-
ally a false impression. What makes Eu-
ropean foreign language teaching more
successful is the higher motivation of
the learners, the early start and the high
value European societies attach to
multilinguism. In fact, in my opinion,
American language teaching methodol-
gy is better than the European because
it is based on experimental studies not
on abstract ideas and because it focuses
more on the learner than on the teacher.

Because my specialization is in
Comparative Slavic Literatures, I also
like to teach courses based on the com-
parison of literary works, movies and
other artifacts from different cultures.
Comparison is a good way to demon-
strate how history shapes national men-
tality and how the mentality itself is re-
flected in the national cultural products.

Although, my dissertation deals
with the Baroque, I rather prefer to teach
more recent periods of Slavic literary
history because students respond to
them with more enthusiasm. However,
in my opinion, knowledge of the past is
essential because without it we can’t
really explain present events. Moreover,
Slavic people are past-oriented; their
dialogue with the past never ends and
it is best represented in the different
forms of their art.
LC: Tell us about your dissertation. What are your plans for publishing the material in your dissertation? What do you think your main areas of research will be, as you go forward?

SVK: My dissertation is entitled “The Baroque in Slavic Literatures with a Special Focus on the Changes in the Genre System of Orthodox Slavic Literatures.” It is a comprehensive study comparing the reception of Baroque in twelve Slavic Literatures and its consequences for their genre system. I argue that within Slavic Literatures three typological Baroque models can be identified: post-humanistic (Polish and Dubrovnik-Dalmatian Literature), post-Reformation (Czech, Slovak and Slovenian Literature) and post-medieval (Ukrainian, Belorussian, Russian, Serbian and Bulgarian). This classification is based on the nature of the “previous tradition,” because the particular tradition played a major role in shaping the profile of Slavic literatures during the Baroque period. I chose to focus on the Orthodox Slavic Literatures because the reception of the Baroque caused a very interesting paradigm shift in them. Because of its dual (theological-rationalistic) nature, Baroque served as a catalyst in the process of their transition from a syncretic to a modern type of literary system.

I have already published a great deal of my dissertation in the form of articles in European Slavic journals, proceedings from conferences, and books. Unfortunately, most of the articles are written in Bulgarian. Therefore, in the near future, I plan to concentrate on making available the findings of my research to English-speaking audiences. After the defense I want to give myself a period of broad reading to delineate a research problem that will occupy my attention for the next few years.

LC: Where are your favorite spots to visit in Central Europe? Why?

I feel emotionally connected to Prague because I got married and lived there for five years. It is a metropolitan city with unique atmosphere, combining memory of the past with the dynamics of modernity. It is a multilingual and multicultural city. Walking on Prague streets, one can see tourists from all over the world and hear an interesting mix of languages. It is a surprisingly safe city. I never feel threatened when coming home late or walking on the narrow streets of downtown Prague, where most of the robberies in other European cities take place. It is amazing how Prague police manage to maintain order given the flow of tourists. Prague is also famous for its beer and restaurants. Each of them has something unique to offer—the interior, a rare kind of beer, a sophisticated dish.

My favorite Polish cities are the present and the old capitals of Poland–Warsaw and Krakow. Everybody knows that there is a long-lived competition between them. I prefer not to compare them, because I like Warsaw and Krakow each for different reasons. Everybody who has been in Krakow falls in love with it. This city is the museum of Polish history. It is a home of one of the oldest universities in Europe, the Jagiellonian University. Krakow’s artistic atmosphere attracts Polish intellectuals—many contemporary writers, poets, scholars, etc. live there. What I enjoy most in Krakow is sitting in a café in the Old Town, eating good Polish pastries and looking at nicely dressed people. Polish women are famous for their beauty and good taste. They always inspire my creativity and my desire to look good. In contrast, Warsaw has all the advantages and disadvantages of a big modern city. It is more dynamic and rough, but it offers more opportunities—social, educational, professional, and cultural.

When I am in Warsaw I usually make a trip to all the bookstores I know. I value Polish literary critics highly. I wish Polish bookstores were as comfortable as American Barnes & Noble, so I could sit in an armchair and read newly published book for hours. I also make a lot of visits when I am in Warsaw, because my best friends live there. All Slavs are very hospitable, but in my hierarchy Polish people occupy first place. I am probably biased, but I don’t know more generous and warmer people than my Polish friends in Warsaw.

LC: How do you like to spend your time when you are not pursuing Polish and Czech and other Slavic languages and cultures? What are your favorite hobbies and pastimes?

I am a very lucky person, because my job is my hobby. I enjoy reading fiction, poetry, literary criticism, and linguistic studies. My favorite place to spend time is the library. I have been to many libraries in Europe, Asia and America and it always surprises me how differently they are organized. I still remember my shocking experience when I first came to the USA and went to the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It took me an hour to understand that the librarian wouldn’t bring my books to the Slavic room and that I had to go and look for them on the shelves. This is unthinkable in Europe. Is it a matter of trust or better means for protection?

I also enjoy watching good movies and going to the theater. I miss my student years when I would go every evening to see either an old European movie in the Retro Movie Theater or a new play in one of Sofia’s many theaters.

STUDENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SLAVIC BAs!

Brian Alfers (Polish) plans to take a business internship with AIESEC in Poland.
Robert Blaney (Russian) is entering an MA program in Russian area-studies.
Alan Boyd (Russian) is spending the 2005-2006 academic year in Krakow, Poland, teaching English as a second language at the Berlitz School.
Rebekah Heacock (Russian) completed her Slavic degree with honors. The title of her thesis is: “Shades of Pushkin: The Poet and His African Heritage.” She will be working with orphans in Kampala, Uganda before pursuing an MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution.
Conor Klamann (Russian) plans to pursue an MA in the Slavic Department at KU.

Mark Lanfranca (BCS) is entering the MA program in Slavic linguistics at KU.

Scott McClellan (Russian) is planning to pursue a career in banking or finance.

Alexander Melin (Russian) is entering the MA program in REES at KU.

Marcy Rutan (Russian) plans to study for an MA in international relations and then enter a law school with strengths in international law.

Jeff Shouse (Polish, with two years of Czech) plans to enter an MA program in linguistics.

Jack Stejskal (Russian) plans to enter the Peace Corps.

Craig Barto (BA, 1976) reports that he is teaching general linguistics and phonetics at Charleston Southern University in Charleston, South Carolina.

Having completed two lengthy tours of duty in Iraq as a Marine lieutenant, John Bidwell (BA, 2003), has received a highly competitive Olmsted fellowship for a 3-year study program at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he will be pursuing a degree in area studies. He will be accompanied by his wife and two daughters, ages 6 and 8.

Eugenia Kapsomera Amditis successfully defended her dissertation, “Women, Society, Conformity, and Power in Dostoevsky’s *Idiot* and Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary,*” in February. She attended the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies conference in Salt Lake City and presented a paper on the relationship between the work of Dostoevsky and Chernyshevsky at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Conference in Washington, DC. In spring, 2006, the department awarded her the Award for Outstanding Service to the Department by a Graduate Student award. Dr. Amditis will expand several research projects this summer, including further study of Dostoevsky and French literature and the symbol of the spider in turn-of-the-century Russian art and literature. We are happy to report that Dr. Amditis has been offered and has accepted a teaching position at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Michael D. Johnson was awarded one of three $1,000 Louis and Nellie Skalny Scholarships for 2005. This award recognizes Michael’s continuing interest in Polish culture while a student at KU and, in particular, his doctoral research on the writer Stanislaw Przybyszewski. The Skalny scholarships are administered by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), a national confederation of 38 affiliate and supporting organizations that seek to foster an interest in Polish culture, and are funded by grants from the Louis Skalny Foundation.

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Robin Bongers (BA, 2000) is currently attending the University of Arizona, hoping to finish the MA program in Russian Language and Literature this spring. She was recently awarded the FLAS fellowship through Duke University to spend May and June, 2006, in St. Petersburg, Russia. In the meantime, she is job hunting.

Heather Coates (MA, 1998) received her theology degree at Weston Jesuit Seminary of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has moved back to the fair city of Lawrence, KS, to serve as pastoral associate at St. John’s.

After taking a year off, Caroline Curry (MA, 1998), then entered law school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She graduated in May, 2002, passed the bar, and began working for U.S. District Judge William (Bill) Wilson in December 2002. In October 2004, she accepted a position at the Roberts Law Firm, where she initially drafted all of their appellate briefs. She reports that she even argued one case before the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis. Currently, she is doing antitrust/commercial litigation, and she enjoys it immensely.

Daniel Doughty (BA, 2002) writes that he is working at Sprint in Kansas City, where he received a promotion last year. He reports that “Sprint seems very reluctant to try and go into the international wireless business so I have little use for my language skills. I have become a regular attendee of the Contemporary Fiction Discussion Group, which meets on The Plaza monthly. I did get a bit athletic last year and completed two Half-Ironman competitions, one in Oceanside, CA, and another in St. Louis, MO, but it’s not like I set any land speed records or anything.” He is interested in any recommendations of exciting recent Russian novelists whom he could talk about in his book club. Send your recommendations!

Adrian Erlinger (BA, 2002, REES MA, 2004) has had an exciting two years. He
writes that after five months of grueling job search and rejection, he finally found gainful employment as an International Affairs Writer, European and Middle East region for a private research firm (TWSA, a division of AFA Press). This firm creates advertising supplements of countries for major international newspapers. They look for political developments and economic trends that might interest foreign investors. Adrian wrote a focus report about the new Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, which will be handed to on-the-ground people in the countries who will try to sell the focus report to companies or government ministries. If they buy it, it gets printed in the New York Times, LA Times, Telegraph, Observer, or International Herald Tribune. Adrian says the job is basically a free education and entails reading economic, business, and finance developments in newspapers and writing reports with strict deadlines.

In addition, Adrian had a photography exhibit, entitled “An Orange Moment between Past and Present,” November 18-December 16, 2005, at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC. He just finished up an internship at the Kennan Institute working with scholar Jessica Allina-Pisano who is writing a book on land tenure in Russia and Ukraine during the 1990s. He held another internship was with Lyudmilla Pavluik from Ivan Franko University in Lviv, who is completing a book on extreme rhetoric and public discourse in the mass media.

Mary Hermanson Greff (MA, 1999) writes: “All is well here in Austin. I taught at Austin Community College (1st and 2nd semester Russian) during the 2004-2005 school year, and I absolutely loved it! I had to take this semester off because my second child (a second girl) arrived August 22. I’m looking forward to teaching again in the fall.

Angela D. Warren Hood (BA 1997) received a MA in Russian Area Studies from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in May 1999. Next she spent a few years working to improve healthcare in Eurasia with the non-governmental organization The American International Health Alliance in Washington, DC. In 2005 Angie moved to Moscow to serve at the American Embassy as a Foreign Service Officer, where she will remain until 2007. She married Matt Hood on Sept. 23, 2000, after meeting him in beginning Russian class at KU in 1993 and again in 1997 in Washington, DC.

In fall 2005 Mark R. Lautersdorf (PhD, 1995) was appointed Associate Professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of Kentucky, where he also serves as director of the language technology laboratory.

In spring 2005 Grant H. Lundberg (PhD, 1999) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Brigham Young University.

Lyle McMillian (BA 2004) writes from his post in Minsk, Belarus: “Let’s just say [Minsk] is an interesting place to live. Work is going great, though there is a lot of it. I finally got all of us KU alumni together for a photo at the U.S. Ambassador’s residence during our 4th of July celebration. Major Pilloni, now lives in Leavenworth, insisted that this photo be included in the alumni flyer that he receives on a constant basis.”

Mark Scott (BA, 1970) writes that his translation of stories by Konstantin Paustovsky, White Rainbow and Other Romantic Tales, has just been published by the Edwin Mellen Press. The volume is dedicated to the late Sam Anderson, “mentor and friend.” Mark is currently Professor of History and Humanities at Pepperdine University. His other publications include translations of stories by Ivan Bunin, Wolves and Other Love Stories, and a memoir from World War II by Ann Stringer, Bravo, Amerikanski! and Other Stories from World War II. Congratulations, Mark!

Lauren Stewart (Slavic cultures in translation minor, 2005) was accepted in the MS program in English Language at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, for the 2005-2006 academic year. She received the national Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship and the KU Kate Stevens Award to help cover tuition.

Laura Wilhelm (PhD, with honors, 1994) is now teaching advanced-level ESL part-time to Russian-speaking and other immigrants at LA ORT. She expects to do likewise for senior researchers at The Milken Institute in Santa Monica beginning in May, 2006. She also does private language tutoring and intercultural consulting.

Sabra Volek Wormington (BA, 2003) reports that she has been living and working in Washington, DC, for the last two years. She spent the first five months of 2005 in St. Petersburg with her husband, Jeff Wormington (BA, 2003), completing intensive Russian language study and living with a wonderful host family. Since then, she has been at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, a part of the National Defense University. As of May 30 of this year she will be taking a position in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Policy Division—Eurasia as a contract employee. She will be planning the bilateral defense cooperation meetings between CIS countries and the United States.
Losses to the KU Slavic Family

We are saddened to report that Paulette K. Falk (BA, 1986) died in a car accident in icy weather November 29, 2005, in Argyle, Wisconsin. Her husband, Tony Eastham, wrote this note to remember her, and we want to share it with you: “Paulette was a wonderful woman. She knew so much about so many things, that she was always surprising me with a fact or an explanation. She was blessed with a great many fine and decent friends and relatives, and I didn’t know how blessed I was to have married her.” Our thoughts go out to you, Tony.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Maria Carlson continues her research on the Symbolist writer and thinker Andrei Belyi: a new article, “Theosophy and History in Andrei Belyi’s Peterburg: Life in the Astral City,” will appear in Russian Literature this year. She will present her current research on Russian neo-paganism at the ICCEES Conference in Berlin in July, and will participate in two conferences in Moscow in October 2005, one at the invitation of the Andrei Belyi Museum, commemorating the 125th anniversary of the author’s birth, and another on the impact of Vekhi (Landmarks; 1909). She has also been invited to be a keynote speaker at a special conference on “Magic” at Princeton University early in 2006. Other of Prof. Carlson’s many activities over the past year or so include the direction of a Hall Humanities Center grant-writing workshop for junior faculty, the development of a new, graduate-level course in Slavic Folklore, and a guest lecture for the Hall Center’s “Philosophy and Literature Seminar” (on “Why Some Russians Don’t Like Kant”). In December, 2005, she received the award for Excellence in Post-Secondary Teaching from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. The ceremony was held at the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC. May 8, 2006, she presented a paper, entitled “X-10: The Sphinx (10) (99 Wands): The Alphabet of the Magi and ‘The Word’ Made Text in Andrei Belyi’s Silver Dove,” at Princeton University as part of Princeton’s year-long celebration of The World of Art.

Professor Edith Clowes’ article, “Constructing the Memory of the Holocaust: The Ambiguous Treatment of Babii Yar in Soviet Literature” appeared in 2005 in Partial Answers (Israel). She was a co-organizer of an international conference on “Vekhi (Landmarks, 1909) and Russian Culture” at the Losev Archive in Moscow, October 10-14, 2005. During Fall, 2005, she participated in the Hall Center for the Humanities Faculty Seminar on “Capitalism and Culture” where she delivered a paper on “Panikin’s Microworlds: Building a Positive Image of the Grassroots Entrepreneur.” In March, 2006, she received the 2006 Phi Beta Delta Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education. The award ceremony was held at the International Studies Conference in San Diego. This spring Prof. Clowes finished a five-year term as director of the faculty seminar on Philosophy and Literature at the Hall Center. In late May she spoke at the plenary session of an international congress organized through the Russian Academy of Sciences on the Russian critic and philosopher, Vasilii Rozanov. Her topic was “Ekstsentrichnoe samosoznanie: Rozanov glazami Abrama Tertsia i Venedikta Erofeeva.”

Prof. Clowes has started a new book project, currently entitled, “The Center at the Periphery: Eccentric Identities in Contemporary Russian Writing Culture.” This work is devoted to contemporary reconsiderations of the spaces of empire and the Russian cultural heritage. With support of a 2005 NEH Summer Stipend, she has drafted a chapter on the popular novelist, Viktor Pelevin. During her sabbatical in the coming year she is looking forward to making significant progress on this project, for which she received a Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.

In the past year Professor William J. Comer has been working on a special edition of Viktoria Tokareva’s story “День без вранья.” The story is being prepared with vocabulary, an audio supplement, commentaries, and exercises for intermediate-level Russian language students. One big change in the language program in the past year is our switch to the Nachalo textbook for first year Russian. To implement the change and assess its impact on the future shape of the curriculum, Professor Comer stepped in to teach a section of first year Russian. It’s been fun (and challenging and sometimes inspiring) to see the students’ progress over the year in learning everything from the first letters of the Cyrillic alphabet through expressing indirect commands with чтобы. At the same time Professor Comer continues to chair the Program Committee for the Annual National meeting of AATSEEL, which includes review of paper proposals, scheduling of panels and events and overseeing the quality of the annual meeting.

Professor Marc L. Greenberg published two articles: “Dialect Variation along the Mura,” Croatica et Slavica Jadertina 1 (Zadar), to whose editorial board he was appointed, and “On the Possible Uralic Source for the Slavic Gen. Sg. á-Stem” Desinenze in Slavic,” Актуальные проблемы финно-угорской филологии (Yoshkar-Ola). He also published his keynote address to the 2005 Slavistic Congress, which he had delivered (in Hungarian and Slovene) in Lendava, Slovenia, in October 2005: “Jezik, identiteta in »vzhodni Evropi« na ameriški univerzi” [Language, identity and borders of the mind: Teaching about language and “Eastern Europe” at an American university], Zbornik slavističnega društva Slovenije 16: Vloga meje. His encyclopedia article, “Slovena,” published with multimedia additions,
appeared in *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, 2nd Edition* (print and electronic), vol. 11 (Oxford: Elsevier). He also reviewed *O. V. Белова (ed.), Свой или чужой? Евреи и славяне глазами друг друга* in *Ab Imperio* 3 (Kazan, 2005), and Josip Lisac, *Hrvatska dijalektologija 1. Hrvatski dijalekti i govorji štokavskog narječja i hrvatski govorji torlackog narječja*, for *Slavic and East European Journal*. In the summer the latest volume of his journal appeared, *Slovenski jezik/Slovene Linguistic Studies* 5. In June he lectured at the first Summer School of American Studies, Maribor, Slovenia, where he gave the inaugural lecture on “Language and Identity” to students from Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the United States. In July he attended the International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology, where he presented “Phonetic evidence for the development of the ‘acute’ tone in Slavic,” at the Filozofski fakultet, University of Zagreb. Also during the summer he conducted fieldwork on the Upper Carniolan dialect of Slovene with a grant from the American Philosophical Society. Most of his time, however, has been devoted to chairing the Slavic Department and he counts among his more significant accomplishments this year the finalization of the Parker Library and Conrad Memorial Collection. In addition to Slavic duties, Prof. Greenberg also performed on renaissance lute, which, along with performances by the KU Collegium Musicum, provided musical illustrations for Prof. Roberta Schwartz’ Hall Center lecture on the Music of the Spanish Ducal Courts on September 27, 2005.

*Marta Pirnat-Greenberg* has been working on developing first- and second-year Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian teaching materials based on authentic sources. After focusing on reading materials in the academic year 2004/05, this academic year most of her efforts went into development of listening materials as well as of speaking and writing activities based on photographs and paintings from the BCS area. In the summer of ’05 she went on a couple of “photo missions” to Croatia to acquire her own picture materials for use in her courses. They have been used effectively in the first-year BCS class, particularly in conveying cultural information. She has been excited to be able to teach Slovene besides BCS this academic year—the current semester she has two students.

This has been a busy but productive year for new Assistant Professor Kerry Sabbag — getting acquainted with the undergraduate majors and graduate students, learning more about KU, and finding her way around Lawrence! She was awarded a New Faculty Research Grant for Summer 2006 and will participate in the University of Illinois Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. In addition, she collaborated with Prof. William Comer on a Center for Teaching Excellence grant for the revision of the Advanced Russian course and was recently honored by her students at the Celebration of Teaching reception sponsored by CTE.

In her first year of teaching Turkish it seemed to Dr. Mubeccel Taneri, at the very beginning, that the task might prove to be too challenging. She is fascinated by the fact that questions asked by her students lead her to further awareness of her mother tongue. She received a grant to attend, along with Ms. Pirnat-Greenberg, a workshop ‘For Teachers of Less Commonly Taught Languages’ offered by the University of Indiana, March 31-April 1. What was discussed there is that different applications of assessments of language students could ultimately contribute to the learning processes of the student. Together with KU Slavic Librarian Geoff Husic, she received a small grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies to purchase library and multimedia materials in Turkish.
Chairman’s Corner

After a sabbatical respite that went by, as sabbaticals are wont to do, all too quickly, I am pleased to be back chairing the KU Slavic Department. I am grateful to my colleagues Stephen J. Parker and Maria M. Carlson for stepping in to handle the chairing duties of the Department during the 2004-05 academic year. Their extensive experience and collegial mindset meant that the transition went smoothly and that I needn’t have worried about a thing. Indeed, the Department is now in about the finest shape it has ever been.

This has been another productive year for the Department with many new developments that bode well for its future. Our faculty has been enriched by the addition of Assistant Professor Kerry Sabbag, a specialist in Russian 19th-century literature and Russian language pedagogy, to our faculty (her research was the focus of last year’s feature interview). Already she has made her mark by receiving an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Center for Teaching Excellence at KU, for which she was chosen by undergraduate students in the Slavic program. Stephen M. Dickey has successfully passed the tenure and promotion gauntlet and will officially be Associate Professor in August 2006. Cross-disciplinary connections have been made with the hire of Assistant Professor Nathan Wood, a specialist in the Habsburg area, in the History Department and the Robert M. Beren Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Studies, Jonathan Boyarin, whose work includes an anthropological study of Polish Jews in Paris. As a service to the University, the Department continues to provide a home and professional development to the Turkish-language lectureship, which this year has been filled by Dr. Mübeccel Taneri, a 1993 KU Linguistics Ph.D. who had been teaching English at the Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University in Turkey before beginning work at KU in fall 2005. Jon Giulian, SLL MA ’97 and ABD, returned to KU this year, after having earned his MLS at Indiana University, to join the KU Slavic librarianship team. In fall 2006 the Department will welcome a new colleague, Assistant Professor Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova, a recent Ph.D. from Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia, a specialist in West Slavic languages and literatures. Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova carries with her not only total fluency in Czech and Polish, but also Russian and her native Bulgarian. She has simultaneously completed an MA in TESOL at Southern Illinois University, where she successfully pioneered a new program in less-commonly-taught-languages, using Polish as the pilot language. The Department looks forward to working with these multi-talented colleagues in the years to come.

Not all of our hopes lie in the future, however. Our senior colleague Maria M. Carlson was awarded the prestigious American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Graduate Mentor Award for 2005 at the national meeting of AATSEEL, an award presented at a lavish reception hosted by the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., in December. Edith W. Clowes won the national Phi Delta Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education.

The Department has also enjoyed a large number of events on campus. Of special note is Prof. Stephen M. Dickey’s organization of the annual meeting of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association October 2005. In spring 2006 the Department was visited by Prof. Mark R. Stefanovich of the American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, who gave two lectures on his archaeological work on the Thracians.

During the 2005-2006 academic year 9 Slavic majors are graduating. Two ABDs Adrienne M. Harris-Boggess and Michael D. Johnson are currently in Russia completing dissertation research. Johnson is in St. Petersburg, Russia under the auspices of a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, and Harris-Boggess is in Moscow on an ACTR Title VIII Advanced Research Fellowship. Jonathan Perkins defended his dissertation with honors (Carlson, Parker, co-chairs) in December 2005 and will continue as Associate Director of the Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center at KU. Eugenia K. Amditis defended in February 2006 (Carlson, Parker, co-chairs). Congratulations to all!
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