
By Marc L. Greenberg

Stephen J. Parker joined the KU Slavic Faculty in 1967 after a brief stint at the University of Oklahoma. A student of the great writer Vladimir Nabokov, as well as the son of a prominent professor of Russian literature, Fan Parker, he wrote his dissertation at Cornell University on Vladimir Nabokov-Sirin as Teacher: The Russian Novels. His Understanding Vladimir Nabokov (University of South Carolina Press), first published in 1987, continues to be reprinted. He is founder (1984) and editor of The Nabokovian, a major international research companion to Nabokov studies. Serving as Chair of the Slavic Department from 1987 to 2000, he oversaw significant growth in the department and the placement of several Ph.D. students in notable academic positions in the United States. In addition to his legacy in scholarship and administration, he was also instrumental in establishing the Parker Slavic Library through the generosity of his financial support and the bequest of part of the Fan Parker collection. With Prof. Parker’s retirement in May 2011 not only a significant era in the history of the KU Slavic Department comes to a close, but he is also the last of Nabokov’s students to teach in America. We are fortunate that Prof. Parker is not leaving us entirely, but he will remain in Lawrence.

Chair’s Corner

Bridging the East and the West

The previous KU provost, Richard Lariviere, asked the KU community to consider “why we do what we do and why we are here.” The Slavic Department responded by demonstrating the many ways in which “the Slavs link the East with the West”—and we have taken this linking mission to heart in all that we do. We teach languages and their contexts, which means understanding not only the complex and dynamic world area of the Slavs, but also its relationship to our own American reality. As globalization challenges us all, faculty and students alike, we continue to think about ways to help KU students gain skills and knowledge that they can deploy in the world.

Here are some examples. Laura K. Wilhelm, a 1994 PhD, runs a freelance consulting company, LauraWil Intercultural, that helps companies with global footprints translate the subtle presuppositions embedded in language and belief systems into new markets and therefore improves the businesses’ chances for success. Jeb and Kristina Adams, REES MA students form 2005, studied BCS and the Balkans with us and have now begun an innovative private school in Kičevo, Macedonia. They train youngsters in English and basic skills, but also pass on their own values as caring, socially aware members of a democratic society. To that end they have also begun a local paper, The Kičevo Mirror, published in Albanian and Macedonian, that models civic discourse and free speech. Cassandra Payton (BA 01), regional director for American Councils for International Education in Southeast Europe bridges cultures by organizing programs for young

continued on page 3
to continue his work on his next book, *In Nabokov’s Library*, as well as to preside over the Advisory Board for fundraising, which will ensure the continued vigor and quality of the KU Slavic Department. We look forward to continue working with him and hope that he will return to us to update us on his scholarly work. In the meantime, we offer this interview with him and a few candid pictures as we look back over his lengthy and fascinating career.

MLG: Steve, you have had a unique academic path, starting with work in the natural sciences and moving to the study of literature, which brought you into the orbit of Vladimir Nabokov. Describe for us your intellectual journey.

SJP: As an undergraduate at Cornell University (B.A., 1960) I had two majors—Biology and World Literature. I spent four summers as an assistant to Nobel Prize winner Dr. George Snell at Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, doing immunological research, and as an undergraduate at Cornell had two courses with Vladimir Nabokov on European literature and Russian literature. Due to the fabulous experiences in Nabokov’s classrooms, I chose to go on in world literatures (Russian, French, American). I did my PhD dissertation on Nabokov’s Russian prose fiction, with his kind assistance in checking my English translations of Russian passages from his texts. Subsequently a fellowship allowed me to meet him in Switzerland, at the Montreux Palace Hotel where he resided, and then I subsequently assisted him for many years in discovering and providing copies of his earliest works published in Europe and the USA. During one of our Montreux meetings we sat around going over the best possible ways to translate the titles of his Russian short stories into English, and then we worked on this through correspondence, and in the subsequent publication of three volumes of his stories he thanked me publicly for a particular translation that I offered and he applied. He subsequently allowed me to present him with an array of interview questions concerning his short stories, and I then published his written responses, which are often referred to by VN scholars.

My wife and I met with Nabokov and his wife several times in Switzerland, where we always sat around the table speaking three languages. They spoke with my wife in French, since my wife is French, and they spoke with me in English, and they spoke with each other in Russian. We had remarkable days with them, and then following VN’s death my wife and I met closely with his wife Vera, in Switzerland, and I became a good friend of hers. I spent months over several years working at their residence in Montreux, and it was there that I met Dmitri Nabokov, their only child. Dmitri and I went on to walk, ski, climb hillsides, play tennis, play ping-pong, meet

continued on page 4
people throughout the region who learn about America and participate in exchange programs in the U.S. Our 1997 BA, Angela (Warren) Hood, has just returned stateside after more than a decade abroad as a successful diplomat at embassies in Moscow and Paris. Katie Beall (BA 10) spent four months as an intern to the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, where she worked for Office of the Prosecutor on the case against Radovan Karadzić. We encourage our alumni to contact us and let us know the ways in which you are linking East and West.

Current students, too, are turning their attention to questions of understanding the globalized world. Rebecca Stakun recently returned from a summer in Ufa, Russia, with the support of a highly competitive Critical Languages Scholarship, where in addition to advancing her Russian language skills she also investigated sociolinguistic issues of the status of Bashkir in Bashkortostan. Zhulieta Kaludova plans to begin work soon on her dissertation about an alphabet controversy in Bulgaria—Cyrillic vs. Latin—that is a proxy for the negotiation of civilizational boundaries between the East and the West. Her work has already been followed with interest in the Bulgarian press. Sidney Dement returned from his Fulbright grant in Moscow with a new understanding of how city spaces are linguistically and culturally determined and how they link times and cultures; this will shape his dissertation on Bulgakov’s Master and Margarita.

Our faculty have been no less active in crossing civilizational boundaries and making sense of the myriad connections between cultures. Prof. Edith Clowes’ new book Russia on the Edge: Imagined Geographies and Post-Soviet Identity (Cornell U. P.) will help Americans understand their relationship to their traditional Cold War rival. Prof. Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova is completing her first book on the Central European Bildungsroman, focusing on the current generation of writers, whose formative years were spent under communism in Poland, as part of her larger theme of “coping with communism.” Her unique perspective derives in part from her own experience growing up in communist Bulgaria with an additional vantage point gained from her transplantation to Lawrence. Prof. Stephen M. Dickey has developed two new courses on the Balkans, one on Balkan film, the other on the impact of the Ottomans on the Balkans. Prof. Maria Carlson is working on a book that aims to untangle the confusion surrounding the origins of the “vampire,” which has traveled across many cultures and media from East to West and back again. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg’s forthcoming Colloquial Slovene in the famous Routledge series will help students, travelers, Eurocrats, and journalists communicate in Slovenia, the quintessential “linking” country between Central Europe and the Balkans and between the Slavic, Romance, Germanic, and Finno-Ugric worlds. Prof. Renee Perelmutter has been working on the pragmatic rules of engagement on the Internet for Russian, helping us to understand not only how technology has changed how we communicate, but understanding how it affects other cultures. On sabbatical this year, Prof. William Comer, picked up his second national award from AATSEEL (and the fourth for the department), this time for his outstanding textbook using Tokareva’s A Day without Lying, which will help students acquire higher-level Russian reading skills. We welcome our newest faculty member Ani Kokobobo, a native of Albania whose work focuses on the great Russian writer, Lev Tolstoy. Tolstoy was one of the first media megastars, an attribute that Americans can well understand, and the impact of his novels and philosophy straddle East and West. When she joins the Department in August, Ani Kokobobo will bring a whole new set of “linkages” to the Slavic Department.

The undersigned has also been transcending boundaries through his advocacy for open access, which aims to make all printed, publicly funded scholarship freely available on the Internet. His article, co-authored with Scholarly Communications Librarian, Ada Emmett, “Why Open Access is Necessary,” has appeared in English, as well as Croatian, Romanian, Serbian, Slovene, and Ukrainian. Open access when widely adopted should not only foster unhindered scholarly communication, but contribute substantially to lower the costs of research and, consequently, the tuition price tag.

Finally, this spring we will wish our longtime colleague, Stephen J. Parker, well as he retires after 44 years of service to the Department. Prof. Parker devoted his career to the study of Vladimir Nabo-
kow, the rare writer who was as much a Russian writer as an American one, a living link between two cultures.

Our commitment to bridging cultures has found an emblem in the Department’s new, yet old, mascot, a Jayhawk carved in 1917 by a Russian prisoner of war captured by the Germans in World War I and presented as a token of gratitude to Dr. Conrad Hoffman, a former KU student, later professor and representative of KU and the YMCA charged with looking after the welfare of Russian soldiers held in German prison camps. You can read the fascinating story of the Russian Jayhawk at [http://hdl.handle.net/1808/6896](http://hdl.handle.net/1808/6896) and appreciate how deep KU’s engagement with our world area has been. At KU we have been bridging cultures for a long time.

Thus I remain closely involved with Nabokov-related publications, evaluations, and scholarship. My personal Nabokov-related activities became and remain numerous. I created the International Vladimir Nabokov Society, for which I have always remained Secretary/Treasurer, and I created the bi-annual journal, The Nabokovian, of which I have always been editor and publisher, and which is now in its 33rd year of publication. I have written and edited two books on Nabokov (Understanding Vladimir Nabokov, The Achievements of Vladimir Nabokov), and I am presently engaged in writing a much demanded book involving Nabokov’s personal library and research sources, since I am the only person that has this information.

MLG: In your more than forty years at the University of Kansas you have been witness to change. Looking back over your time here, what has changed and what are you most proud of in your legacy? What advice do you have for those who come after you?

SJP: I entered the university’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures in fall 1967, one year after the Department had been formally created to
offer MA and PhD degrees. Thus I had the pleasure to watch it grow as one of the youngest PhD granting departments in the USA. Over the years the greatest pleasure was the education and personal connections with our array of doctoral students. The vast majority went on to academics, from the early 1970s to 2000, with first positions obtained in the Universities of Georgetown, Wisconsin (2), Yale, Louisiana State, Florida, Bowling Green (2), Miami (Ohio), Nebraska, Memphis State, Wake Forest, Nevada, Oregon, Iowa State, Brigham Young and also the Colleges of Middlebury, Wooster, Rollins, Knox, and Grinnell. These doctoral students were primarily engaged in literature and literary research, and some were also painting artists and poets.

When I served as Department chair for 13 years, I had most of that time the edifying experience of working with James Muyskens, Dean of the College, 1987-1995. We became close friends, sharing our enthusiasm for playing tennis, which we did on average twice or three times per week during all those years. His personal research interests were Bioethics and Philosophy of Religion, and thus he was most firmly committed to the humanities and the social sciences.

Since then the University appears to have changed a good deal, and it now appears that the University is focusing on promoting science, professional, and business sectors rather than on shaping critical thinkers who can speak to the human condition we all share. The humanities and liberal arts core had always distinguished American higher education from European models. French students, for example, had to declare their professional interests while still in high school and then had to pursue those interests—and no others—in college. The best students were skinned for math and science and that was all they studied at the university. What attracted these students and their parents to an American higher education was the liberal arts base that allowed students to major not only in the sciences, but also in literature, languages, philosophy, the arts, history, and other fields during their college years. Only then, after they had been given tools to think about and live the “examined life,” did students go on to the focused work of becoming a doctor or a lawyer or a scientist.

What the future holds for humanities and social sciences is at present unclear. I am glad that our Slavic department continues to be held in high regard. But enormous forces are shifting our country and the world, and social and political pressures outside of the university are now threatening the long-term well-being of the humanities. And that is terribly problematic.

Books by Fan and Stephen J. Parker, along with Nabokoviana, on display during the 2006 dedication of the Parker Library.
Alumni News

Laura K. Wilhelm (PhD 94) is Founder & Principal of LauraWil Intercultural, West Hollywood, California, which offers innovative cross-cultural business development services that help break barriers to success in our increasingly competitive global economy. She is a regular contributor to Hollywood Weekly on issues of globalization and is involved with the fashion industry. She is particularly active consulting for Russian-American businesses in the Los Angeles area.

Mark Richard Lauersdorf (PhD 95, with honors), now Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, published his second book in the prestigious Slavistische Beiträge series, Munich: The Morphology of 16th-Century Slovak Administrative-Legal Texts and the Question of Diglossia in Pre-Codification Slovakia. The book treats 16th-century language in Slovakia and attempts to determine whether there was a distinct Slovak language before the 19th century.

Jeb and Kristina Adams (REES 04) have continued developing their private elementary school, Adams Edukacija, in Kičevo, Macedonia, and also own and operate a successful local newspaper, Кичевско огледало (The Kičevo Mirror). The Adams were recently featured on Alfa TV, Macedonia, where they were interviewed about their work, focusing on their advocacy for minority and underprivileged children. They also encourage KU Slavic students who are interested in an internship at their school to contact them.

Katie Beall (BA 10) recently completed a four month internship with the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, The Netherlands. During her time there, she worked for Office of the Prosecutor on the case against Radovan Karadžić. Her work included doing research and language translations for the Leadership Research (or political analyst) team and working with the legal team to prepare witness materials for trial.

Greg Christiansen (MA, REES, 2003) taught Russian at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, 2006-2010. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in May 2010. While in Colorado, Greg finished an Air Force sponsored MA in Leadership and Counseling. In 2009 he secured a grant to take four cadets to Ukraine for a two-week cultural familiarization, and in 2010 he proposed and led a similar trip to the Former Yugoslavia. Since June 2010 he has been serving as Dean of Students at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, which trains approximately 3000 military linguists annually in over 20 languages. In February 2010, Greg was a Standard Setting panel member for the Russian Defense Language Proficiency Test version 5. Greg and his wife Deandra had two boys, Dallin and Anthony, while living in Germany 2003-2006. The boys are a constant source of amazement of one type or another.

As the Regional Director for American Councils for International Education in Southeast Europe, Cassandra Payton (BA 01) manages academic and professional exchange programs in eight countries. She has been spending much of her time selecting candidates for stays in the U.S. and working with alumni of the State Department-funded programs throughout in the region. She works with alumni of youth programs (American- Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange, Youth Exchange and Study, and Serbia Youth Leadership Program), higher education programs (Kosovo-American Education Fund) and university faculty (Junior Faculty
Howard Solomon (PhD 97) has been posted to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow as the Deputy Minister Counselor for Political Affairs. He is also serving as Senior Advisor to the Open World exchange program. Karla Solomon (MA 91) and he, along with their two children, arrived in Moscow in August 2010 for the three-year posting.

Elaine F. Davies (MA 73) is completing her PhD at the University of Wales: “I Came to Guard You: The Use of Marian Icons for Protection.”

Halina Filipowicz (PhD 79), Professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, would like to acknowledge her many debts to her mentors at KU: Professor Jadwiga Maurer and Professor Stephen Parker. Their inspiration, encouragement, and wise counsel have been crucial to every stage of her professional career as teacher, graduate advisor, and scholar. At Wisconsin, she has recently received the University Housing’s Honored Instructor Award which recognizes her “invaluable contribution to student learning,” her “positive and profound effect on the students,” and her “exceptional ability to inspire young people to achieve academic and personal excellence.” As part of her recent sabbatical project, she has developed a new course, “Ethical Issues in Representing the Holocaust in Poland,” which she is teaching in Spring 2011. She is thrilled to have had two new articles published this past year: “School for Patriots? The Foundational Dramas of the American and Polish Revolutions Revisited,” in Canadian Slavonic Papers/Revue canadienne des slavistes 52.1–2 (March–June 2010), and “Re-Envisioning Solidarity: History, Agency, and the Politics of Performance,” in Theatre and Performance in Russia and Eastern Europe: Today and Yesterday, a special issue of Theatre Journal 62.3 (October 2010).
Angela Warren Hood (BA 97) has worked at embassies in Moscow and Paris for the last five years, but has now returned to the U.S., where she is settling in San Antonio, Texas, to work for the Department of Defense. She, her husband Matt Hood (KU School of Journalism, BS, 96, and Russian language student), and daughter Zoë (age 2) are pleased to be living closer to family in Kansas again. She notes that she is most shocked by the sharp change in tone in public discourse in the U.S., but has been charmed by southern hospitality.

This year Prof. Maria Carlson made a serious foray into digital humanities with her new translation of Aleksandr Blok’s classic poem, Twelve. The new translation is embedded into a copy of the first edition of Blok’s poem, with Iurii Annenkov’s original illustrations. This, along with a printable version with annotations and a 1450-word essay about Blok’s poem is available on the site “Russia’s Great War and Revolution.” She worked with Dr. Scott Palmer (KU BA 89) of Western Illinois University, EGARC director Dr. Jonathan Perkins (KU PhD 06), and Ms. Keah Cunningham (EGARC) to realize the project. Other KU faculty and graduate students will also be providing material for this educational site, so have a look.

Prof. Carlson has always been engaged in academic library issues and often addresses library constituencies. In June 2010 she was invited by the Association of College and Research Libraries, Slavic Section, to speak on “Area Centers, Area Scholars, and Area Collections in Today’s and Tomorrow’s Research Libraries” at the national conference of the American Library Association in Washington, D.C. Over 140 librarians were in the audience, including delegations from Central Asia and from Russia.

On 23 September 2010 Prof. Carlson returned to her PhD home at Indiana University for the retirement of her long-time colleague and mentor, Dr. Andrew Durkin, where she was invited to give the lecture in his honor, “Lessons from the Book of Veles: Contemporary Russian Paganism.” She observes that Bloomington has changed a great deal since she lived there, but she is glad that “Janko’s Little Zagreb” is still there.

Prof. Carlson has been actively involved in service at all levels, from her work in the department as Director of Graduate Studies to her University-wide service as a member of the Executive Council of the Graduate Faculty. She also serves on the all-University “Doctoral Education” Work Group. She continues as The University Marshal, protecting the Chancellor with the University Mace, as well as serving as master of ceremonies at University Convocation, hooding ceremonies, and Commencement. She was renamed to the Board of the University Press of Kansas and participated in various institu-
tional development activities, including a panel on Mid-Career Faculty Mentoring for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Nationally, Prof. Carlson currently serves as Chair of the Executive Committee of NCEER (National Council for Eurasian and East European Research) and as President of SEEFA (Slavic and East European Folklore Association). She is on the editorial boards of Russian Review and of SEEFA’s journal, Folklorica.

Finally, Prof. Carlson continues to work on her study of Slavic and North European corporeal revenants (aka “vampires”). In November 2010 she received a Hall Humanities Center Research Fellowship (for Spring 2012) to work on her monograph, tentatively titled “A Vampire by Any Other Name: Corporeal Revenants in East Slavic Beliefs.”

Prof. Edith Clowes is currently in her third year as director of KU’s Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. 2009 and 2010 were banner years. She guided the grant process through to the renewal of the four-year Title VI grants, to support CREEES as a National Resource Center and to support REES-related students through the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship program. For the first time the US Department of Education is supporting undergraduate language learners, an exciting opportunity for KU students. Currently the program supports two SLL students. Prof. Clowes has also sought sources of financial support for REES-area graduate students and recently won $350,000 in US Army Research Labs support for the next 2–3 years.

Various CREEES events of the last 18 months have featured SLL faculty and students. At the Fall 2009 conference, “Central Europe 1989: Lessons and Legacies,” Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova was on the conference organizing committee and is editing a forum of conference papers on prefabricated architecture after utopia. Graduate student John Korba gave a talk on language changes since the fall of the wall. In June 2010 Professor Comer organized a three-day workshop on teaching Russian content at the intermediate and advanced levels. At the August 2010 festivities celebrating the 50th anniversary of CREEES, Prof. Carlson gave a keynote address on area studies and surviving the end of the Soviet Union.

In addition to grant writing, conference and event planning, and other administrative work, Prof. Clowes has managed to fit in some research. She is delighted to announce the appearance of her new book, Russia on the Edge: Imagined Geographies and Post-Soviet Identity, with Cornell University Press. Clowes gave three invited talks over the last year or so. Spring 2009 she delivered a keynote speech, “Eurasia on Their Minds: Russianness in the 21st Century,” at an international conference on “Constructing Nation: From Modernity to the New Millennium,” hosted by the University of Colorado. March 2010 she talked on the Russian poet, Dmitrii Prigov, entitled «Пародия московского текста в цикле Дмитрия Пригова “Москва и москвичи”» at the conference, Имаж-Диалог-Эксперимент: Поля современной русской поэзии, at Bernkastel-Kues in Germany’s Mosel wine country. Fall 2010 she gave the 16th Cunningham Lecture at the University of Minnesota entitled “Looking for Miracles: Anna Akhmatova, Boris Pasternak, and the Orthodox Legacy.” Other publications recently appeared include a long encyclopedia article on the 20th c. Russian novel for the new Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Novel. Another is an edited forum on “Gorky and Godbuilding” in Modern Greek Studies (U. Minnesota).

Two of Prof. William Comer’s articles appeared in summer 2010. The first on “Processing Instruction and Russian” (coauthored with Lynne deBenedette) was published in the Slavic and East European Journal, while his second article exploring the problems of свої (one’s own) for learners of Russian appeared in The Russian Language Journal under the title “Mind the Gap: English L2 Learners of Russian and the Null Possessive Pronoun.” Professor Comer has been active in other professional and outreach activities presenting two workshops on reading pedagogy in Russian, one at the CARTA conference in Kansas City in March 2010, and the other at the AATSEEL Conference in Pasadena in January 2011. Under the sponsorship of KU’s REES Center he and Lynne deBenedette presented a three-day workshop in June 2010 for a dozen college teachers of Russian on “Designing Tasks for Content and Language Learning Goals and Standards in Teaching Russian.” The participants examined various designs for content-
based curriculum development at the intermediate and advanced levels and then brainstormed about plans for implementation on their home campuses. Prof. Comer has been on sabbatical since Fall 2010, spending most of his time in Lawrence, where he has been collecting data for three articles about language learning. One is a more rigorous experimental follow-up of the preliminary findings presented in SEEJ in 2010, while the other two focus on reading at the upper-intermediate level tracking how students make sense out of Russian informational texts. The American Associate of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages awarded his pedagogical edition of Tokareva’s *A Day without Lying* the 2010 Prize for the Best Book in Language Pedagogy.

In the spring of 2010 Prof. **Stephen M. Dickey** was on sabbatical leave researching and writing parts of a book to be titled *The Evolution of Slavic Aspect*. He gave an invited lecture, “The Russian Perfective, Temporal Definiteness and Prefixation (in a Cross-Slavic Perspective)” at *The Russian Verb: Formal and Contrastive Approaches to Aspect, Tense and Mood in Russian* in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 28 May 2010, as well as two invited lectures, “Slavic Aspect: How Many Types for Typology?” and “Rescuing Slavic Aspect from Grammaticalization Theory,” at *New Perspectives on Slavic Aspect: Integrating Insights from Diachrony and Linguistic Theory* in Leiden, The Netherlands, on 10 Sept 2010. He also presented “Iconic or Not? A Cognitive Approach to the Loss of Auxiliaries in Czech/West Slavic” at the Tenth Annual Conference of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association in Providence, RI, on 9 Oct 2010. His article arguing that the class of indeterminate verbs of motion did not exist in Common Slavic, “Common Slavic ‘Indeterminate’ Verbs of Motion Were Really Manner-of-Motion Verbs,” appeared in *Motion Verbs in Slavic*, edited by Viktoria Driagina-Hasko and Renee Perelmutter (Amsterdam: John Benjamins), and his “The Varying Role of *po-* in the Grammaticalization of Slavic Asp ectual Systems: Sequences of Events, Delimitatives, and German Language Contact” was accepted for publication in *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*. He also completed a translation of Miljenko Jergović’s 2006 novel *Ruta Tannenbaum*, which is to appear this summer from Northwestern University Press. He has also become an associate editor for *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*. Last but not least, he prepared a new course, SLAV 316: The Peoples and Cultures of Southeastern Europe Through Film, which is currently being offered.

In addition to his service as department chair, Prof. **Marc L. Greenberg** has served on the task force for the KU Open Access Policy as well as a working group on its implementation, on which he continues to serve. KU is the first public university to adopt an open-access policy (along with Yale, MIT, Harvard, and Stanford), which has given KU worldwide recognition for its commitment to making publicly-funded research available freely to the public. Prof. Greenberg gave a presentation on open access at the AAUP meeting Washington, DC, in June 2010. As a follow-up to the presentation he also wrote, together with Ada Emmett, KU Scholarly Communications Librarian, an editorial piece, “The Scholarly Communication Problem. Why Open Access is Necessary—A Transatlantic Perspective,” first in Slovene for the Saturday supplement of *Delo*, the national daily paper of the Republic of Slovenia, in September 2010. The piece subsequently appeared in English in the spring 2011 *Hall Center Communiqué* as well as in translation in newspapers and magazines in Croatia, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine. He also participated in three presentations and roundtables for Open Access Week at the KU Libraries in October 2010.

In June 2010 Prof. Greenberg gave a talk “A Balkanism in Central Europe? Subordinate Clauses in Mura-River-Valley Slovene” at the conference
Dialectology and Geolinguistics in Modern Central Europe at the Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic, and in September a plenary talk “The American Model: English Only or Engagement with a Multi-Polar World?” as a guest of the University of Koper (Slovenia) at its conference Modern Trends in Multilingual and Minority Education. His publications included “PIE inheritance and word-formational innovation in Slavic motion verbs in -i-“ in New Approaches to Slavic Verbs of Motion, ed. by Viktoria Driagina-Hasko and Renee Perelmutter (Amsterdam: John Benjamins); “The Illyrian Movement: A Croatian Vision of South Slavic Unity.” Handbook of Language and Ethnic Identity: The Success-Failure Continuum in Language Identity Efforts, vol. 2, ed. by Joshua A. Fishman and Ofelia Garcia (Oxford University Press); and “Nova opisna slovnica ziljščine” in Slavistična revija.

Finally, Prof. Greenberg, together with his co-editor Marko Snoj (ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana), is completing editorial work on his last issue of the journal that the two founded in the early 1990s, Slovenski jezik / Slovene Linguistic Studies. The editorship will now pass on to Greenberg’s former student, Grant H. Lundberg (KU PhD 99, now Assoc. Prof., BYU) and Kozma Ahačič (ZRC SAZU). Prof. Greenberg will continue as Linguistics Editor of Slavia Centralis, which he co-founded (and named) in 2008 with colleagues in Budapest, Maribor, Prague, and Bielsko-Biała, and is assisted by his former student, Mark Richard Lauersdorf (KU PhD 95, now Assoc. Prof. at the University of Kentucky).

In 2010 Prof. Renee Perelmutter continued to develop her research on Russian online discourse. She gave an invited talk at Columbia University in May, where she presented on impoliteness and power in the Russian blogosphere. She has since expanded her presentation into an article, which she hopes to submit for publication soon. In September 2010, Prof. Perelmutter presented a brownbag talk at CREES on impoliteness in women’s forums; this talk showcases some of her ongoing research on women’s discourse online. An article on women’s online complaint strategies, titled “Impoliteness recycled: Subject ellipsis in Modern Russian complaint discourse,” came out in Journal of Pragmatics in December. This year was also fruitful for Prof. Perelmutter’s Jewish Studies research: an article dealing with the medieval Slavic translations from Hebrew associated with the heresy of the Judaizers was accepted for publication in Translation and Tradition in Slavia Orthodoxa, edited by Valentina Izmirlieva and Boris Gasparov. Last but not least, her volume co-edited with Viktoria Hasko (University of Georgia), New Approaches to Slavic Verbs of Motion, came out from John Benjamins Press. This volume showcases innovative work by 15 scholars in the US and overseas, including three articles by SLL faculty.

Marta Pirnat-Greenberg completed the new Slovene volume for the Routledge Colloquial language series. Colloquial Slovene—The Complete Course for Beginners is scheduled to appear at the end of August. With the support of CREES, she traveled to Slovenia in July to acquire authentic materials, such as native speakers’ input, texts, and photographs of public signs, landscape, and quotidian realia, for the textbook. As in previous years, she organized evenings of film from the countries of the former Yugoslavia, which are always well attended and received not only by our South-Slavic and CREES students, but also by members of broader campus community. In the last year she showed three fairly recent Slovene films. She is looking forward to share with the students some of the recent releases from the area that she saw at this year’s Palm Springs Film Festival, particularly Jasmila Žbanić’s Na putu and Danis Tanović’s Cirkus Columbia. Most recently she was featured in an interview in the Slovenian newspaper Nedeljski dnevnik.

Dr. Irina Six received a grant from CIBER (Center for International Business Education and Research), entitled “Mastering Business Case Discussion: Data Driven Teaching Materials for Intermediate Students of Russian.” The project will help to bridge the gap between the limited thematic lexicon presented in Russian textbooks and Russian as it is written and spoken in business settings. Dr. Six continues her work developing data-based teaching materials to boost learner word knowledge and increase oral communication skills. In 2010 she also presented two papers at conferences: “Business Cases in Russian: More Business or More Russian?” (2010 CIBER Conference, University of Pennsylvania) and “Russian for the Professions: Business Aspect
The Slavic Department is pleased to welcome its newest faculty member, Ani Kokobobo, who is now completing her dissertation on the grotesque and the body in late Russian realism at Columbia University, working with Prof. Liza Knapp. As a graduate student, Ani held a number of prestigious fellowships, including the Harriman Dissertation Completion Fellowship and summer grants from Mellon and Fulbright-Hays.

Having completed her elementary education in her native Albania, Ani attended the Bronx High School of Science in New York and majored in Russian and Classical Studies at Dartmouth. During college she participated in a foreign study abroad program to St. Petersburg, which solidified her passion for imperial Russia and became a catalyst for her graduate studies. She turned to literary studies and Russian and east European literature in her graduate work, specializing in nineteenth-century Russian literature as well as Balkan modernism.

In addition to working on individual authors like Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Pushkin, Andrić, and Kadare, she has also explored larger theoretical problems such as representations of violence and the body in literature as well as the political significance of aesthetic styles and genres.

Her articles have appeared in *Tolstoy Studies Journal, Serbian Studies*, and *Ulbandus*, and she has an article forthcoming in *Slavic Review*. Ani says that she is “very happy to be joining the Slavic department and the larger intellectual community at KU” and will be moving to Lawrence over the summer. The faculty, students, and intellectual community at KU look forward to working with this promising young scholar.
Graduate Student News

In May of 2009 ABD Sidney Dement accepted a Fulbright-Hays fellowship to research his dissertation topic, “The Textual Dimensions of Urban Space in M.A. Bulgakov’s *Master and Margarita*,” in Moscow’s archives and museums. Sidney spent AY 2009–10 in Moscow, where, in addition to his research activities, he read papers at the IV Bulgakov Readings Conference (MPGU) and the *Master and Margarita* Discussion Club (State Museum of M.A. Bulgakov). Since returning Sidney has presented papers on Borislav Pekić’s *How to Quiet a Vampire* (ASEEES) and *Master and Margarita* (AATSEEL), with travel support provided by the Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Award, and published the 2009 Nabokov Bibliography with Stephen J. Parker. Sidney currently teaches two sections of Slavic Folklore and plans to defend his dissertation in April 2011.

Zhulieta Kaludova was among the finalists selected to participate in the Annual Graduate Research Competition at the University of Kansas, with her paper entitled “The ABCs of the Bulgarian Cyrillic: The European Union Challenge to Bulgarian Identity.” In August 2010, Zhulieta was featured in the Bulgarian national daily newspaper *24 Часа* for her current research on the Cyrillic alphabet controversy and Bulgaria’s integration into the European Union. In February 2011, Zhulieta Kaludova presented her paper entitled “Negotiating Civilizationlational Boundaries. The Cyrillic Alphabet Controversy in the Context of Bulgaria’s Integration in the European Union” at the annual conference of the Graduate Association of German Students at the University of Kansas. In April 2001, Zhulieta will give a paper on the subject of cultural and linguistic estrangement in the European Union, at Brown University.

In January 2011 PhD student John Korba presented his paper entitled “A Diachronic Approach to the Connection Between Case and Aspect in Slavic” at the annual AATSEEL conference in Pasadena, California, with travel support provided by the Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Award.

MA student Rebecca Stakun was awarded a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) for the summer of 2010. The Department of State launched the Critical Language Scholarships for Intensive Summer Institutes in 2006 to increase opportunities for American students to study critical-need languages overseas. She spent eight weeks studying advanced Russian in an intensive program at Bashkir State Pedagogical University. In addition to her language studies, Rebecca conducted research on the status of Russian in the multiethnic society of Bashkortostan.
Sarah S. Willenbrink presented a paper entitled “Language and Cultural Ostracism among Turkish-Germans in Fatih Akin’s Gegen die Wand” at the annual conference of the KU Graduate Association of German Students in February 2011. In April 2011, she will give her paper “Życie na pozomie (The classy life): Galerianki and Youth Consumerism in Poland,” at Brown University.

Shay Wood’s translation of a lengthy story Vilnius by a young Slovene author Klemen Pisk, appeared in the Fall 2009 issue of the on-line literary journal Fiction Fix (http://www.fictionfix.net/FictionFix6.pdf). The story received the Editor’s Choice Award and was the magazine’s entry for the prestigious Pushcart Award.
Professor Kerry Sabbag presents the 2010 inductee to the Dobro Slovo Slavic Honors Society, Katherine Beall

Dr. Irina Six played Russian compositions on the piano

The Russian second-year students presented a skit in Russian, replete with moments of suspense and horror.

Russian thespians Amy Billinger, Anastasia Metzger, Conor Turnbull, Godfrey Riddle, Marshall Beauchamp, Laura Dean

Awardees for excellence in elementary Polish, Chelsea Steel and Vanessa Dalberg. Sarah Willenbrink, GTA taught the class and was supervised by Malgorzata Stamm (KU SLL MA 95).

Malgorzata Stamm presented the award for excellence in intermediate Polish to Gilles Vienneot.
Marta Pirnat-Greenberg presented the award for excellence in elementary BCS to Andrew Bledsoe. 

David Kozar presented the award for excellence in intermediate BCS. 

John Biersack received the award for excellence in elementary Ukrainian from Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovkh.

Raissa Levsky receives the award for excellence in elementary Ukrainian, presented by Dr. Yaroslava Tsiovkh.

Dr. Tsiovkh presents the award for excellence in intermediate Ukrainian to Vanessa Aldrich.

The award for excellence in elementary Turkish went to Mark Lanfranca (SLL MA 09), presented by Dr. Abbas Karakaya. The other recipient, Derek Van, Jr., was unable to attend.
Awards for excellence in elementary Russian: Harrison Smith, Brad Rector, Alyssa Lokits, Jennifer Kornfeld, Christopher Hall, Julieta Kaludova (GTA), Trey Giesen, Kristy Anderson, Alisa Moldovanova (GTA); back row: Becky Stakun (GTA), Prof. William J. Comer.

Awards for excellence in intermediate Russian went to Anastasia Metzger and Rhianna Patrinely, presented by GTA Erin Moulton (ABD) and Prof. Comer.

An award for excellence in advanced Russian was presented to Eliška Valehrachová by Prof. Kerry Sabbag.

An award for excellence in advanced Russian was presented to David Samms and Dezeree-Marie Hodish by Dr. Irina Six.

Katherine Beal receives a special award from the Department recognizing her prestigious appointment as intern to the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia. The award was presented by Marta Pirnat-Greenberg in the absence of Prof. Dickey.

Rhianna Patrinely received the Harley Nelson Scholarship from Profs. Greenberg and Sabbag.
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We are grateful for the continuing support of our donors, listed below, who contributed to our Endowment funds over the period from Fall 2009 to the present. Without their support, we could not have supported our students as much as we have by providing conference grants, awards, guest speakers, and purchase of library materials. Still, we lack the big-ticket items that would most directly help our students succeed—undergraduate scholarship and graduate fellowship monies. Many of our students work part time and take out loans to pay for their education and the share of their contribution continues to grow steeply as state and federal support drops. Please consider a donation or a bequest to the Slavic Department to fund a scholarship to support excellent students and to help strengthen the unique educational benefits that the Department offers.

As always, checks may be made out to “KUEA – Slavic Dept.” Write on the memo “For Slavic Dept. programs” for the general fund, send to: Marc L. Greenberg, Chair; Dept. of Slavic Languages & Literatures; University of Kansas; 1445 Jayhawk Blvd., Rm. 2133; Lawrence, KS 66045-7594. Alternatively, secure credit-card donations may be made by following the link: http://www.kuendowment.org/depts/slav/dept

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