Tell us a bit about yourself. When did you come to the U.S.? What are some of your academic and teaching interests?

I was born and grew up in L’viv—a city in Western Ukraine that played a major role in the Ukrainian cultural revival in the late Soviet era and eventually in the movement for Ukraine’s independence from the Soviet Union. In those early years of independence, I participated in a student exchange program called FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange Program) sponsored by the US State Department in an effort to build better relationships with the former Soviet republics. This program brought me to the United States for the first time: for ten months I lived with an American host family and studied at a public high school. In many ways, this program determined my future path in life—upon my return to L’viv, I chose to major in English and English-Ukrainian translation at the university, and in the early 2000s I decided to return to the United States for graduate work in languages and literature.

I started out with comparative literature and English as one of my languages, but gradually moved from that to Slavic languages and literatures—in part because I saw for myself how little was known about Ukraine and its culture in the United States and wanted to do something about it. Approaches to literary and cultural analysis in American academia gave me a fresh perspective on the literary classics and various cultural phenomena from home, which is why I decided to write my dissertation on Ukrainian literature here, in the U.S. I was interested in exploring what would happen if I used “Western” theoretical tools like nationalism studies, post-colonial studies, and gender studies to read recent writings by Ukrainian women that had blossomed in the last three decades. The results of this experiment seemed promising, so I am hoping to work them out more fully in a book project based on my dissertation. I also hope to have a chance to teach a course on contemporary Slavic women’s writing sometime in the future.

Besides literature, I also have strong research and teaching interests in second language studies and Slavic languages pedagogy. The learning and teaching of foreign languages has been my passion and my chief occupation for many years. Before Slavic languages, I was trained as a teacher of English as a foreign language in Ukraine. The vast research base and the plethora of instructional resources available to TEFL professionals worldwide can make any Slavist feel both jealous and helpless. At the same time, I find it exciting to have a chance to contribute to a smaller field in which every article and every pedagogical material truly counts. I am particularly interested in the methods of teaching Slavic grammar and am currently conducting a study on the most common case errors made by adult learners of Ukrainian. I look forward to using the results gleaned from this study to develop and test effective and engaging materials for teaching the Ukrainian case system.

continued on page 20
The past academic year has been a time of great transition in the KU Slavic Department, due in part to the retirement of Maria Carlson and the departure of William Comer. Other changes in our faculty and staff involve Dr. Irina Six’s new position as Undergraduate Russian Program Coordinator in the fall of 2014. Since then, she has been working closely with our GTAs, mentoring them in their teaching of first- and second-year Russian. Another exciting piece of news for this year is the arrival of Dr. Oleksandra Wallo as an assistant professor of Ukrainian language and Second Language Studies. Dr. Wallo is a valuable addition to the department, combining native knowledge of Ukrainian with research specializations in the fields of second language studies and contemporary Slavic literature.

The department has been revising its PhD requirements in order to accommodate the needs of contemporary students entering the job market. In summer 2014 the department adopted a portfolio system at the PhD level, which will better provide doctoral students with the professional preparation they need to market themselves in the current job climate. You can find an overview of the organization of the portfolio at http://slavic.ku.edu/phd-slavic-curriculum.

In other news, the Slavic Department has been a part of the national Language Training Center initiative since the spring of 2014. The Department of Defense is contracting instruction in critical languages such as Arabic, Chinese and Russian to universities that have successfully applied to become language training centers—one of which is KU. The Slavic Department provided online instruction in Russian to soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and currently does the provide hybrid instruction in Russian to officers at the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth. The department also continues to work with Project GO, and again offered intensive Russian as a critical language to ROTC students through an intensive introductory-level course in the summer of 2016.

We are happy to share much exciting news about our students. Two of our undergraduate students received scholarships for study abroad in 2015. Nolan Schmidt received a Boren Scholarship to study in St. Petersburg this last summer and this academic year. We wish him success during his study in Russia. Acacia Quinlan was awarded a FLAS Fellowship from Indiana University for their summer language program in Russian.

At the graduate level, the department awarded five MA degrees this year, to Krzysztof Borowski, Alex Fisher, Luke Franklin, Taylor Keister, and Matthew Menzenski, all of whom are continuing on to the PhD program this year. This year we welcome two graduate students, Ekaterina Chelpanova and Sooyeon Lee.

Erin Moulton defended her PhD dissertation, entitled “Rethinking Reflexivity: -Sja/Se Verbs in Russian and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian” in late March. It is an ambitious dissertation on an elusive topic, and we congratulate her here again, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Becky Stakun, a graduate student in our department, has received a Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities for the fall of 2015, which will allow her to work undisturbed on her dissertation. This is a great accomplishment and honor.
Lastly, I would be delighted to have any and all of our former students out there (SLL majors and graduate students) write to tell us about their careers and lives after graduation. We would like to know what you are doing and where your studies at KU have led you. Your stories about how the study of Slavic languages, literatures and cultures has enriched your lives and affected the trajectory of your career plans can help inspire today’s students think about the world in a broader and more global framework. You can tell us your stories through the SLL website at: http://slavic.ku.edu/submit-contact-information-ku-slavic-department. We are also planning to present a retrospective on the summer program at Moscow State University, which ran from 1966-; if you have any memories, photos or other information, please do not hesitate to contact me (smd@ku.edu).

The department was greatly saddened by the untimely death of Dr. Alex Tsiovkh of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies in December of 2014. We all loved him, and he is sorely missed. Mrs. Mirjana Jerkovich, wife of the late George Jerkovich, also passed away this month. She enjoyed interacting with our BCRS students, was cherished by them, and will also be missed.

The loss of the Title VI Grant by our Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies in 2014 has been an unfortunate development, in part due to the loss of the accompanying FLAS fellowships. CREES is planning to reapply for the grant during the next cycle, an endeavor that we hope to assist as we are able. Given the loss of the FLAS support for our students, the department is actively seeking for funds to create a Slavic Department graduate fellowship. The department would be extremely grateful for any donations you might wish to make in order assist in this process.
Intermediate Polish awards
L–R Matt Menzenski, Professor Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova, Holly Mills

Intermediate Russian awards
L–R Sarah Chao, Katie Johns, Josh Dilworth, Nolan Schmidt, Acacia Quinlan, Irina Six (seated), Jason Cash (seated).
Absent: Parker Riley

Intermediate Russian awards
L–R Sarah Chao, Katie Johns, Josh Dilworth, Nolan Schmidt, Acacia Quinlan, Irina Six (seated), Jason Cash (seated).
Absent: Parker Riley

Intermdiate Polish awards
L–R Matt Menzenski, Professor Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova, Holly Mills


Advanced Russian awards. L–R Irina Six, Ruth Remmers, John Isaac Uri

Advanced Russian awards. L–R Irina Six, Ruth Remmers, John Isaac Uri

Elementary Turkish awards
L–R Emily Bell, Giulia Cabras, Professor Stephen M. Dickey

Elementary Turkish awards
L–R Emily Bell, Giulia Cabras, Professor Stephen M. Dickey
Intermediate Turkish award.
Eliza Taitelieva, Professor Stephen M. Dickey

Advanced Turkish award
Amanda Snider, Professor Stephen M. Dickey

Award for Outstanding Graduating SLL Major
Wayne Sloan, Irina Six

Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate Award:
L–R Professor Vitaly Chernetsky, Mike Hemphill, Professor Stephen M. Dickey

Dobro Slovo Honor Society Induction
L–R Professor Ani Kokobobo, Ashley Lee Velez, Jason Robert Cash, Michael W. Hemphill, Joshua Daniel Dilworth, Irina Six (seated)

Russian Jayhawk T-shirts Honors Shirt:
Professor Stephen M. Dickey
Lawrencian Chronicle Fall 2015

Slavic Department participates in the Inaugural Convocation of KU’s new School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

by Christian Beer

On September 1, 2015, the School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures held its Inaugural Convocation in the Ballroom of the Kansas Union with nearly 400 people in attendance. Responses to the guests’ presentations were uniformly positive, described by many as “inspiring,” “invigorating,” and “moving.” These included, aside from Director Marc L. Greenberg’s introductory remarks, invocations by Provost Jeff Vitter, Dean Don Steeples, Anna Lambertson (CEO and Director of the International Relations Council of Kansas City), and Angela Jackson (Founder and Director of the Global Language Project, NYC, a partner of the KU SLLC). Slavic was well represented at the Convocation, with guest speakers including the first ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Honorable Victor Jackovich, who is a member of the School’s Advisory Board. Also representing Slavic were Viktoria Olskaia, President of the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation, and Ashlie Koehn, student of Russian, Environmental Studies, and Political Science and recipient of Udall, Boren, and Truman awards. Friends in the Croatian community, both from Strawberry Hill, Kansas City, KS, and beyond, supported the event. Special thanks go to Dr. Judith Vogelsang, of the School Advisory Board, and Mr. Franjo Bertović, Croatian Fraternal Union, who arranged the pro bono performance of the wonderfully talented Tamburaški sastav Kas, from Osijek, Croatia, who played the introduction to the Convocation and raised the level of joy in the ballroom. The Strawberry Hill Povitica Company donated eight loaves of its world-renowned product for fundraising. We are deeply indebted to the support of our friends in the Croatian community locally and throughout the world for continuing to strengthen language education at KU, which has offered Croatian language for some 40 years. Ms. Barbara Koval Nelson, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia and a member of the SLLC Advisory Board, also attended; she is a long-time supporter of the KU Slavic program and continues to work for its benefit. Slovene, too, is one of the signature niches of the KU Slavic Department, having also been taught for some 40 years.

Video of the Convocation is available at http://sllc.ku.edu/convo

L-R: Ambassador Victor Jackovich, first ambassador to Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Slovenia; Dr. Judith K. Vogelsang, Honorary Consul of the Rep. of Croatia in Kansas City; SLLC Director Marc L. Greenberg, and Mr. Franjo Bertonić, President of the Croatian Fraternal Union

Members of the Tamburica Ensemble Kas from Osijek, Croatia, performing at the SLLC Inaugural Convocation
Barbara Koval Nelson, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia in Kansas City and member of the SLLC Advisory Board.

Viktoria Olskaia, President of the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation and member of the SLLC Advisory Board.

KU student Ashlie Koehn, student of Environmental Studies, Political Science, and Russian, speaking at the Inaugural Convocation; Ashlie is a winner of Boren, Udall, and Truman Fellowships.

Slavic graduate students were recognized at the Convocation.

Ambassador Jackovich delivering the keynote remarks at the Convocation.

Amy Lauters, Ambassador Jackovich, Linda Makau. Amy was inspired to enter public service by Amb. Jackovich’s first visit to KU; Linda was nominated for and earned a scholarship to attend the Alpbach Forum, a youth leadership conference in Austria, recommended by Amb. Jackovich.
Interview
Dr. Mateusz-Milan Stanojević
by Sarah Chao

1. Tell us a bit about yourself and your current research. What attracted you to this topic?

I am currently working on the tense system in Croatian as compared to English. I teach at the Department of English of the University of Zagreb, and for our students, the system of English tenses (and their combinations) presents a big challenge. In contrast, Croatian tenses do not seem to pose big problems for learners of B/C/S at the University of Kansas; it seems that verbal aspect presents most of the difficulties. The question I am trying to answer, in short, is why this is the case and what can be done to remedy the situation. To begin approaching the problem, we need a cognitively-oriented description of both systems of tenses first. I have been working with Professor Stephen Dickey to find an adequate theoretical description of the Croatian tense system (we are currently dealing with the Croatian perfect). Ultimately I would like this to grow into a learner-oriented scholar of grammar, but I am a long way from that.

This topic attracted me because it enables a very clear marriage between theory and practice. It allows me to employ my theoretical background in cognitive grammar to explore my interests in foreign language teaching and learning.

2. What initial goals did you have for your Fulbright fellowship? What obstacles did you face in achieving those goals?

My plans and what I am currently doing are not so different. I wanted to get a feel for the students learning B/C/S here at KU in order to set realistic goals for the applied part of my research. This was easy to do, because there are so many opportunities for students in the SLL department to speak B/C/S and learn about B/C/S culture: in addition to the excellent classes, there is the B/C/S table, movies shown once a month, student-organized parties, visits to museums. I was able to take part in all of these activities, thanks to the excellent support that the entire Department gave me, particularly Marta Pirnat Greenberg (who organized the activities for students) and Professor Stephen Dickey, whose course on the Ottoman Empire I audited. Once I have enough theoretical and usage data to work on a learner-oriented description of tenses, I am hoping I can come back to Lawrence and do some first-hand piloting of the materials with the teachers and students here.

3. I understand this is not your first time in the Midwest. What was your motivation for working abroad? What do you find intriguing (or strange) about the U.S.?

Indeed, I was a foreign exchange over 20 years ago in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which was my first experience with the American way of life. I kept in touch with my host family, and visited them many times, which means that I am fairly familiar with life in the Midwest. My motivation to visit the US at that time was to improve my English, and a sense of adventure. Little did I realize at the time that it would be the impetus for my current career. Coming to Lawrence this time around was a natural choice to me: this is the place where I could work on B/C/S from the cognitive perspective, and “refresh” my American experience, which will help me in my teaching in Croatia. What I find intriguing about life here is the connection that I see between everyday things and the making of American identity. As a scholar of English and an outsider, this is what sticks out to me. A case in point is the importance of automobiles and the open road in everyday life, the expansive open spaces and large living and working quarters, the wealth of choices (e.g. TV stations, restaurants, stores, etc.), the importance of individualism, the opportunities to do a variety of things during one’s
career, the you-can-do-it no-nonsense attitude, etc. All of these seem to me to be intimately connected with the “classical” themes in the making of the American identity such as the notion of the frontier, freedom of self-determination, self-reliance, pragmatism, etc. I find this very different from the way of life in Europe, particularly in the Slavic countries.

4. What has been the most challenging part of your fellowship? The most rewarding?

To be honest with you, I was really very lucky in that I did not find any part of my American experience this time around particularly challenging, because of all the help I got from everyone: from the Fulbright Commission, KU students and faculty at the Department, and my friends in Tulsa. This made any potential challenges – from finding a place to live, to completing documentation, to transportation – a breeze.

The most rewarding experience is clearly meeting everyone at the Slavic Department, and being able to take part in all the activities. Being able to take part in the B/C/S table and Polish table, audit classes, give presentations and talk about linguistics with the excellent (and passionate) graduate students, exchange opinions with the faculty. Just being a part of a community that cares for the success of every single student – was really great. Finally, working with Professor Dickey has been really rewarding, both professionally and personally, and we have lots of plans to continue our collaboration.

5. Finally, what are your plans for the future? Where do you envision yourself being taken by your current research?

What I would really like to do is strengthen the connections between my University in Zagreb and the University of Kansas, particularly in teaching B/C/S here and English in my department. My research is intimately connected with this, if I am able to work on both the applied and theoretical components alongside one another, this would be a dream come true. That’s why I would love to come back to Lawrence!

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First Russophone Experiential Learning Program in Almaty, Kazakhstan

by Christian Beer

The Experiential Learning Program was developed through a partnership between the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation and the KU Slavic Department and School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures. Its structure was inspired by the example of the late Gabriel Al-Salem, a native of Lindsborg, Kansas, who studied Russian at KU (BA ’89) and went on to be a pioneering figure in management consulting in the successor states of the former USSR. Gabriel loved languages, people, Central Asia, and, especially, his adopted home town of Almaty. He was passionate about living life to the fullest, both in his personal pursuits and in work. He believed in applying cultural knowledge, professionalism, personal warmth, and hard work to improving the civic and economic structures of the emerging economies of the post-Soviet space. This program commemorates his achievements by affording KU students the opportunity to follow in this path and live the challenge of mediating cultures and using skill and ingenuity to make positive contributions...

KU participants in the first Russophone Experiential Learning Program in Kazakhstan

L-R: Gerges, Farlow, Hemphill, Carpenter, Dilworth at Charyn Canyon near Almaty.
in an emerging economy and in so doing, grow into a leader of global dimensions.

The five participants in the first program were intermediate to advanced students of Russian, Asa Carpenter, Josh Dilworth, Garrett Farlow, Alexander Gerges, Michael Hemphill, who were assigned placements in offices connected with the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation, including KIMEP University, the Kazakhstan Press Club, and Key Partners Consulting. The goal of the program is to give students an opportunity to have authentic experiences living and working in a foreign environment, managing the day-to-day joys and stresses of mediating languages and cultures. They also participated in intensive Russian courses at KIMEP University.

Following the SLLC Convocation, a ceremony was held on 2 Sept to recognize awardees for special commendation, Garrett Farlow and Michael Hemphill, who were nominated by their hosts. Each received a certificate of commendation and an award of $250 from the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation, funded by the Foundation’s KU Student Opportunity Fund. The award was presented before the advisory board of the School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Chairs of SLLC departments and affiliates, Dean Don Steeples (CLAS), and Dean Michael Roberts (Graduate School).

The next iteration of the program is planned for 2017 pending sufficient scholarship funds. Information on contributing to the Gabriel Al-Salem KU Student Opportunity Fund is available at http://ga-foundation.org.
“Russian for the Professions” Acquired New Format: Training Global Citizenship through Global Debates

by Ashley Velez

In Spring 2015, in addition to the “Classroom without Borders” project in First-year and Intermediate Russian, the KU Slavic Department joined international educational initiative “Global Debate: Skype Language Exchange.” Professors of foreign language worldwide, including Ekaterina Talalakina from the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Cynthia Martin from the University of Maryland, and Jennifer Brown from Brigham Young University, launched the project in 2014. “Global Debate” connects foreign-language classrooms worldwide in peer-to-peer discussions on the most pressing issues facing the international community. The project fosters many aspects of “global citizenship:” language proficiency through contact with native speakers, cross-cultural understanding of global questions, and awareness of cultural communicative contexts.

The project employs parallel textbooks published by Georgetown University: *Mastering Russian through Global Debate* and *Mastering English through Global Debate*. The books include a wealth of materials for advanced students of English and Russian. These range from articles on international issues to discussion questions, to grammar exercises. Students met with a partner weekly, and held half of the conversation in their native language, and half in the language they were learning (“target language”). This dialogue structure supports achievement on Oral Proficiency Interviews, a framework for assessing second-language abilities developed and administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Dr. Irina Six, the Coordinator of the Russian Language Program here at KU, introduced this innovative project in her graduate-level course, “Russian for the Professions II.” She reports, “I knew it really works when the students told me that they talked for an hour even though the requirement was twenty minutes. I was amazed to see that the hard work of learning vocabulary and struggle of formulating your thoughts in a foreign language immediately became less of a problem. Quickly, the students realized that their opinions were valuable and respected by their Russian peers, and that they could learn a lot from each other. Being able to debate with Russian counterparts such complex issues as freedom vs. security, ecology vs. economics, or interference vs. non-alliance develops a ‘global citizen’ perspective better than any other way I know.”

Students responded to a survey following the project’s conclusion and the results show that students believed they improved in the following key areas: keeping the flow of conversation going, meeting cultural norms, listening and comprehension. Moreover, the students reported a decrease in their overall anxiety about speaking Russian. According to Ruth Remmers, a Geography graduate student, “through Skype we communicate not as students and teachers, but as peers,” facilitating conversation and encouraging openness about her areas of interest. Ashely Velez, an undergraduate International Relations major, says “I really appreciated the honesty we had with one another. We just clicked, an our nationality, our language, our distance did not prevent us from making connections.”

Doubtless, the program not only improves students’ language and communication skills, but it forges bonds with their Russian peers and creates a deeper and more nuanced understanding of a range of issues, and their own country’s role in the international community. If you have the opportunity for such an experience in the future, the participants’ resounding recommendation is “Be open and enjoy the discussions, wherever they may lead!”
Interview with Lilia Schuercks visiting DAAD Scholar

by Christian Beer

Q: Tell us about yourself. What are your personal interests? Where do you work now? Where did you study?

My research and teachings has a strong interdisciplinary bend. At the beginning of my career at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, I worked closely with sociolinguists and traditional linguists from Sofia University. While a graduate student at Groningen University in the Netherlands, my dissertation topic was theoretical syntax, but I also had constant research contacts with the Department of Computational Linguistics (GLOSSER, EU project on Computer-Assisted Language Learning) and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures as well as the Department of Applied Linguistics (a project on Pomak culture, gender and identity).

Currently, I teach at Potsdam University and Free University of Berlin now. My research plans are also led by broad interdisciplinary and interdepartmental subjects, strong commitment to multi-perspective views and collaboration with colleagues from the Center for Interdisciplinary Cognitive Studies, the Institute of Slavic Studies and StudiumPlus Consortium. I have always approached both teaching and research with enthusiasm. I see dedicated and professional teaching as something that encourages and inspires the students and expands their interests.

Q: Please tell us about why you selected KU Slavic to host your DAAD Fellowship?

It is the highest quality standard of research and teaching, the pronounced interdisciplinary approach and the wide variety of lectures taught, which brought me to the KU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. I feel honored to have witnessed the opening of the new School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures, which strengthens the global profile of KU and responds to the current social, cultural and political issues. My sponsoring organizations are the Slavic Department and DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service). I am grateful to these organizations and especially to Prof. Greenberg, for extending an invitation for me to come to Lawrence.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish in Lawrence?

Let me answer this question by quoting DAAD’s motto: “Change by Exchange”. I hope to avail myself of the opportunities to exchange fruitful ideas with colleagues from the KU Slavic Department on topics such as, research agendas, syllabi, methods of teaching and research, grading and evaluation, international cooperation, educational resources, promoting excellent students, and others. As a result of enriching dialogue I hope to change and develop productively during my time here.

Q: You have been here for a few weeks now. What are your first impressions of Lawrence? Of Kansas? Of KU?

Since my first day here I have enjoyed the warm and inspiring atmosphere at the Department, where I have felt immediately welcome. I am impressed by the efficiency and support of my colleagues as well as by the non-faculty staff of the Department. Lawrence has the charm and aura of a University town. One feels immersed in its rich intellectual energy that pulsates from all directions.
The tenth annual meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS) Heidelberg University (Germany), 4-6 September 2015

by Krzysztof Borowski

Two weeks into the new semester, I traveled to Heidelberg, Germany, to attend this year’s annual meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society. Overall, I spent three and a half day in southwestern Germany, and I enjoyed it very much. Despite the travel being academic in nature, I tried to budget my time between the conference and sightseeing. On Saturday, I presented my paper “Socio-linguistics and Language Policy of Silesian in Poland,” as well as chaired a panel on language in the media. The next day I participated in two workshops, and decided to explore the town on my own. I was impressed by the ruins of the Heidelberg Castle, the Old Bridge with an astonishing view of the castle and the town, and the Neckar boulevards. Despite Heidelberg being a typical college town just an hour’s drive south from Frankfurt, I was surprised by the number of tourists there, speaking all kinds of languages (including Polish). While the conference proved to be useful in terms of academic research and networking, the town itself attracted me as a place I would consider living in (provided the winter is mild!).
In Memoriam
Miriana Ivanka Jerkovich
(Sept. 23, 1926—Sept. 5, 2015)

The Slavic Department was saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Miriana I. Jerkovich. Mrs. Jerkovich, a native of Croatia, was the widow of the late Professor George C. Jerkovich—the first PhD of the KU Slavic Department—and, together with her family, a generous supporter of our South-Slavic program. Several generations of BCS students have been grateful beneficiaries of their generosity, having received books and scholarships for the study of the former Yugoslavia from the George C. Jerkovich Scholarship Fund.

Mrs. Jerkovich’s support for our BCS program went well beyond the generosity of the Jerkovich fund. After her husband’s passing, she maintained the connection to our BCS students and faculty through her five grandchildren who have studied BCS with us—a fact that made her, understandably, very proud. The students who were with us a decade ago, when she still lived in Lawrence, will cherish the memory of her visit at our BCS conversation table and how thrilled she was that they were able to converse with her in her native language. Many will also remember the baskets of little red packets filled with dried and fresh fruit, nuts, and candy that she several times sent to all of our BCS classes on Saint Nicholas Day. It gave us a perfect opportunity to develop a learning unit about this Croatian holiday tradition, which became part of our regular curriculum every December. The unit has provided not only a development of language and cultural knowledge, but also a lesson in generosity and kindness, as students learn how it came about. We hope to pass these qualities that Mrs. Jerkovich possessed in such abundance, to many future generations of students, honoring her memory.
Faculty News

Vitaly Chernetsky had a busy 2014–2015 academic year. His most exciting challenge was stepping into the role of the department’s Director of Graduate Studies, and he has enjoyed working with the KU SLL graduate students tremendously. In October 2014, he presented a paper at the international conference *Postcolonial Slavic Literatures after Communism* in Greifswald, Germany. In December, he organized and introduced the screening of the acclaimed 1964 Ukrainian film *A Dream* at the Ukrainian Museum in New York. In March 2015, he presented a paper at the conference *Kharkiv: City of Ukrainian Culture*, organized by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University. Also in March, he organized a visit to KU by Prof. Serhii Plokhy, Director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, who delivered the 2014–2015 Palij Lecture, and a guest lecture at the KU SLL Dept. by Prof. Keith Langston of the University of Georgia, titled “We Speak Croatian: The Role of the Croatian Media in National Language Planning.” During the 2014–2015 academic year, Prof. Chernetsky continued fielding numerous media requests for commentary on the current events in Ukraine; during the academic year, he guest-taught five workshops on the crisis in Ukraine at the University of Foreign Military and Cultural Studies; he delivered a public lecture on the crisis at the US Army’s CAC in Ft. Leavenworth in January. Prof. Chernetsky’s review of *The Tribe*, a recent film from Ukraine that has garnered more than 40 international awards and became the first Ukrainian film to receive commercial distribution in the US in nearly twenty years, came out in April in the e-journal *KinoKultura*. He co-translated a series of excerpts from the prison diaries of Nadiya Savchenko, published by the Huffington Post in May. For the summer of 2015, Prof. Chernetsky was awarded a summer grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which supported a 5-week research trip to four cities in Ukraine (Kyiv, L’viv, Kharkiv, and Odessa). Also in the summer of 2015, he presented papers at international conferences in Vienna and Riga, as well as the IX World Congress of ICCEES in Japan, and delivered a keynote lecture at a summer school in European Studies at Södertörn University in Sweden. His translation of *Twelve Circles*, a novel by one of Ukraine’s leading contemporary writers, Yuri Andrukhovych, came out in July 2015.

Stephen M. Dickey was an invited speaker at the 12th Graduate Colloquium on Slavic Linguistics at The Ohio State University, where he presented “Grammaticalizing Aspect Systems in Slavic: Catastrophic and Not-So-Catastrophic Changes.” He also presented at the 9th Conference of the Slavic Linguistics Society, and gave two more lectures at the University of Tromsø. All these presentations are about the historical development of Slavic verbal aspect, which is the subject of a book he is trying to finish. He also published two articles over the 2014–2015 academic year, “On the Origin of Slavic Prefixed Imperfective Motion Verbs” (in *Scando-Slavica*) and “Outline of a Comparative Analysis of the Development of the Imperfective General-Factual in Slavic” (in a special volume of *Welt der Slaven*).

He was honored to serve as the first opponent at the dissertation defenses of two talented students at the University of Tromsø, Anastasia Makarova and Anna Endresen.

He published translations of two contemporary Croatian short stories, “It’s Me” by Damir Karakas, and “Pretty Hunger” by Olja Savičević (in *McSweeney’s*).

He was elected to the executive board of the Slavic Linguistics Society in September of 2014, and continues to serve as an associate editor of the Journal of Slavic Linguistics.

He had a delightful time working with Dr. Mateusz-Milan Stanojević of the University of Zagreb over the course of the spring 2015 semester, developing a new approach to Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Slavic compound preterits. They presented a preliminary version of their analysis to members of the Slavic Department in May.

In March 2014 Prof. Marc L. Greenberg culminated year-long committee work with numerous faculty, students and other stakeholders by presenting to the Dean the proposal to form the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (SLLC), which was subsequently constituted by the Kansas Board of Regents in October.

Almaty, Kazakhstan, June 2015. L–R: Asel’ Karaulova, President, Press Club of Kazakhstan; Becky Stakun; Wendy Shoemaker; Marc L. Greenberg; Gul’sum Akhtamberdieva, Treasurer, Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation and President, CMC Kazakhstan; Dr. Anne Dotter
Dean Anderson appointed him the first Director of the School with a public launch scheduled for Fall 2015. He has been busy assembling an Advisory Board, the academic Executive Committee, and developing numerous partnerships and programs with the support of faculty and the SLLC central office staff. Among the highlights of the year was launching a new Russophone experiential-learning program in Almaty, Kazakhstan in partnership with the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation. This program gives students the opportunity to gain on-the-job experience, engage in real-life problem-solving, all while advancing their skills mediating between cultures and languages. He led a delegation from KU including Anne Dotter (Assoc. Dir., Honors Program) and Wendy Shoemaker (Senior Assoc. Dir., Univ. Career Center), and Becky Stakun (PhD candidate, Slavic) to Almaty in June to meet with partners at KIMEP University and the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation to explore further opportunities for cooperation. In October 2014 he was one of the first two faculty awardees of the Shulenburger Award for Innovation & Advocacy in Scholarly Communication. L–R: Dean Lorraine Haricombe, Marc L. Greenberg, Ada Emmett (Director, Shulenburger Office of Scholarly Communication & Copyright), Univ. Dist. Prof. Town Peterson (EEB), David Shulenburger.

Prof. Ani Kokobobo’s edited volume (with Katherine Bowers, University of British Columbia) Russian Writers and the Fin de Siècle – The Twilight of Realism, came out in June 2015 with Cambridge University Press. She co-wrote the introduction and authored an article. Last spring she organized a conference with Edith Clowes, “Centrifugal Forces: Reading Russia’s Regional Identities and Initiatives” (University of Virginia, March 26–28 2015), where she presented a paper, “Why does Russia Need Hadji Murat’s Head – A Hero Memorialized and Desecrated.” The book proposal for an edited volume based on the conference has been accepted by Routledge and will be forthcoming in 2016-2017. This summer Prof. Kokobobo was awarded a GRF to work on her research. She attended the Fischer Forum at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she presented the paper, “Haunted Narratives – Echoes of “The Hell of Treblinka” in Vassily Grossman’s Everything Flows.” Her translation of Ismail Kadare’s “The Migration of the Stork” came out in the July issue of Asymptote: (http://www.asymptotejournal.com/article.php?cat=Fiction&id=89&curIndex=5&curPage=current). Prof. Kokobobo spoke at KU orientation this August about the importance of the Petersburg Myth in Russian literature. She has also been busy developing new courses for the SLL curriculum, including a course on Russian literature and the Digital Humanities (for which she was awarded the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities course development grant). She also had the opportunity to teach to a different group of students this summer when she taught a Strategic Development Seminar for the US Army about mass media in Putin’s Russia.

With Emma Lieber (Rutgers) Prof. Kokobobo is currently co-editing a special issue of the Tolstoy Studies Journal about Anna Karenina in the twenty first century. Two of our graduate students, Megan Luttrell and Luke Franklin, contributed movie reviews for two twentieth-century film adaptations of the novel. This semester Prof. Kokobobo is devoting a lot of her energies to finishing up her monograph, Russian Grotesque Realism: The Great Reforms and Gentry Decline, which...
she will submit to be published this winter. She is also attending the Citizenship Colloquium at the Hall Center for the Humanities where she presented a paper “Society at the Borders of Nations, Religions, and Cultures – Violent Nationalism and Cosmopolitan Endeavors in Tolstoy’s Hadji Murat.” Prof. Kokobobo’s article “Tolstoy’s Enigmatic Final Hero: Holy War, Sufism, and the Spiritual Path in Hadji Murat” will be forthcoming in Russian Review in the Fall 2016 issue. Prof. Kokobobo runs the SLL colloquium and re-sponsible scholarship workshops, so please approach her if you have any ideas for talks or workshops.

**David McVey** spent the summer in Ohio working on a book about Russian filmmaker Pavel Lungin. He will be presenting a section of it at the Fifteenth Annual Aleksanteri Conference on Culture and Russian Society in Helsinki, Finland in October 2015.

**Renee Perelmutter** had a productive and busy AY2014-2015. In addition to teaching a range of courses in Jewish Studies and an Advanced Yiddish course, she developed and taught a new preparation for graduate students - Interdisciplinary Approaches to Narrative. This was Prof. Perelmutter’s first time teaching graduate students; she enjoyed it immensely, and hopes to offer the class again in the future. Prof. Perelmutter continues to work on her monograph on women’s discourse online, and has published two new articles on women’s online communities: “Resisting Folklore: Folk Belief and Motherhood in Russian-Language Forums for Women” in Western Folklore, and “Shaming, group face, and identity construction in a Russian virtual community for women” in Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Im/politeness. She has also submitted an article on Israeli Russian and has another in progress. Prof. Perelmutter is spending Fall 2015 on sabbatical as the Obermann Center faculty fellow in residence at the University of Iowa.

**Marta Pirnat-Greenberg**’s “Supplementary Materials for Reading Svášta u mojoj glavi, a story by Miro Gavran” have been completed and made available online as an open teaching resource for intermediate/advanced level BCS through KU ScholarWorks. Marta continued with the hybrid model of language teaching in first-year BCS: in fall semester, she newly designed online learning modules for one class period per week for first-year BCS and in spring semester she revised learning modules for the second semester BCS that were piloted in spring 2014. The project, which was supported by the 2014 CREEES/EGARC Online Language Instruction Grant, has shown very promising results, particularly in improved student motivation and experience as well as retention.— In the spring semester, she collaborated with the staff of Spencer Museum of Art in incorporating their art collections from BCS area in language and culture learning. She developed language-learning modules around two museum visits: first-year BCS students got a firsthand experience of Meštrović’s and Rosandić’s sculptures, while second-year students viewed and explored Croatian textiles, mostly folk costumes, housed in Spooner Hall. — Her outreach in the spring included activities on and off campus: a reading of a Slovene fairytale to preschool children in Lawrence Public Library, participating at a round table at the showing of the Serbian film Besa in the KU WWI film series, securing a physical copy and screening rights for the showing of the Slovene-Austrian film The Woods Are Still Green at WWI Museum / KC FilmFest in Kansas City, and hosting several film nights of BCS and Slovene films and food in the CREEES’s Kino series. In April, she sponsored the student-organized BCS Festival (more under “Student News”), which was not only an invaluable out-of-class experience, but provided excellent teaching material and basis for several classroom activities and a larger writing project.

In April, students of BCS organized the BCS Festival, in which they shared cultural experiences from the area they study with broader campus and city community—with cuisine, music, dance, crafts, and a display of photographs and quotidian items. The event, first of its kind, was excellently organized and attended and it is hoped that it will become a spring tradition.

**Esra Predolac** co-edited the Proceedings of the 9th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics (WAFL9), which is now available from the MIT Working Papers in Linguistics. In the spring semester of 2015, she presented a paper, “A Paratactic Analysis of Ki-Clauses in Turkish”, at the colloquium series of KU’s Department of Linguistics. She is currently doing research on nominalized clauses in Turkish. She also led a Turkish story time session as part of the Lawrence Public Library’s Multicultural Story Time event in August, 2014 and served as a consultant for a Turkish cooking class as part of Hy-vee’s Culinary Travel in February, 2015.

In January 2015 **Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova** attended the annual convention of AATSEEL in Vancouver and presented a paper titled “The End of History is the Beginning of Myth: The Post-Industrial Town of Walbrzych in the Works of Contemporary Polish Play-
writings.” She organized and chaired the annual meeting of the MLA Slavic Division Committee which too took place in Vancouver. In April 2015 Prof. Karagyozova hosted Polish writer Marzena Sowa, the author of the autobiographical graphic novel *Marzi: A Memoir*. Sowa gave a talk at CREES about her experiences of growing up in Communist Poland and met with students in the Polish program. In her new role as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Vassileva-Karagyozova advised Slavic majors and minors and students going on study abroad programs, put together with Chance Clutter of the KU Career Center a workshop on career opportunities for students of foreign languages and took part in the Undergraduate Research in the Humanities Working Group. The latter served as an inspiration for her to develop the SLL Senior Capstone Seminar and teach it for the first time in Spring 2015. In the summer of 2015 Vassileva-Karagyozova traveled to Poland to conduct library research and fieldwork for her new book project *The End of History is the Beginning of Myth: Post-Industrial Walbrzych in Contemporary Polish Literature, Theater and Film*. The trip was supported by an OIP Humanities Travel grant. Svetlana Vassieva-Karagyozova’s second book *Coming of Age under Martial Law: The Initiation Novels of Poland’s Last Communist Generation* came out in August 2015 from Rochester University Press.

The cover of Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova’s new book *Coming of Age under Martial Law: The Initiation Novels of Poland’s Last Communist Generation*

### Student News

**Krzysztof Borowski** gave the following presentations:

- "What’s in a Name? Molise Croatian vs Molise Slavic" at the Slavic Linguistics Society 2014 Ninth Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA (presented on 9/20/2014),
- "Hyphenated Identity. Molise Slavic and Burgenland Croatian as Examples of Ethnolinguistic Leveling" at the 12th Graduate Colloquium on Slavic Linguistics in Columbus, OH (11/15/2014),
- "At KU CREES Silesia, Silesian, Silesians. The (Non-) Existing Problem of Poland" (2/17/2015). He also talked about Poland in the REES 110 Introduction to Russia and Eastern Europe class (9/25/2014).
- Borowski had an article published in the proceedings of the Slavic Linguistics Society 2013 conference. Here's its citation:

- Borowski was awarded the Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Award (12/2015).
McKinze Manes, a South Slavic and GIS major, was awarded the Fall 2015 Jerkovich Scholarship for the study of BCS languages and cultures. McKinze was selected for her excellent work in great promise in the study of BCS. McKinze also earned the CREES/FMSO Security Analyst Internship for fall 2015 in which she will put her BCS language skills to work for research and translation.

This summer, Matt Menzenski attended the four-week-long biannual Medieval Slavic Summer Institute at the Ohio State University's Hilandar Research Library. He has also been working as a computational linguistics consultant for the Endangered Language Fund, a nonprofit organization. There, he assisted KU Linguistic Anthropology professor Arienne Dwyer in the creation of digital resources for the Uyghur language (a Turkic language of Western China).

Earlier in the Fall, Matt presented his paper "On the Origins of Lengthened Zero-Grade Vocalism in Baltic and Slavic Derived Verbs" in Germany at the annual meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society. He was awarded one of five graduate travel sponsorships ($500 each) on the basis of his abstract. Later in the semester, Matt also gave a CREES brownbag lecture titled "The Secret History of Russian Verbs: Data Mining in the Russian National Corpus".

During the AY 2015/16, Matt will be working as a graduate research assistant on two projects for Professor Arienne Dwyer (one on language contact in Inner Asia and one on the digitalization of medieval Turkic manuscripts) and also as a graduate assistant to Professor Marc Greenberg (as editorial assistant in linguistics for the journal Slavia Centralis).

Rebecca Stakun
In Academic Year 2014-15, Becky served as a graduate assistant to Dr. Marc Greenberg. She was a technical editor for Slavia Centralis and served as the program director for KU’s first summer internship program in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She was also awarded a Sias Graduate Fellowship and will spend Fall 2015 working on her dissertation in residence at the Hall Center. On October 14, Becky will give a seminar at the Hall Center entitled “The Origins of Emptiness in Russian Culture.” She will also present her paper “Transcendent Nothingness: Incorporeality in Egor Radov’s Zmeesos” at ASEES in November.

Students of Slavic Languages and Literatures are giving a strong showing at the 2016 meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) 01/07-01/10 in San Antonio, Texas. Sarah Chao will present “Today I Wrote [Something]: Narrative Co-construction and the Kharmsian Genre.” Luke Franklin will present “This Is How Literature is Made”: Tyranny and Aesthetics in Nabokov and Bolaño.” Amy Lauters will present her paper “From Text to Image: Petr Boklevskii’s Portraits in Gogol’s Dead Souls.” Megan Luttrell will participate on a roundable on Russian teaching pedagogy and the experience of teaching the new online Russian textbook Mezdu nami that was written by former KU professor William Comer (Oregon State).
You came to KU from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. How long were you there, and what were your professional responsibilities? How does Lawrence compare to Urbana-Champaign so far?

I completed my Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and worked there as a Lecturer and Language Program Coordinator for two years. In addition to teaching a variety of courses in Ukrainian language, culture, and occasionally literature, I was responsible for coordinating the teaching of several Slavic languages by graduate teaching assistants in the Slavic department, training novice TAs, and managing the day-to-day operation of the language program. The latter involved everything from selecting textbooks to be used in the program to planning and MC’ing the Slavic department’s annual talent show. Needless to say, all these duties kept me very busy, but I also loved working so closely with the graduate teaching assistants and students in the program.

To me, there are many wonderful similarities between Urbana-Champaign and Lawrence. Both have that unmistakable feel of a mid-sized American college town: they are small enough to feel warm and welcoming, yet large enough to offer a variety of educational and cultural opportunities and resources. Although KU is a little smaller than UIUC, both universities have a highly diverse student population and teach dozens of foreign languages. One difference which I was thrilled to discover here is “the Hill”! I love the fact that the Lawrence campus of KU sits on top of Mount Oread, and I do not mind walking up the hill every morning—well, at least not yet! In general, my family and I have been exploring and enjoying Lawrence, especially its downtown area and the parks. The latter are especially attractive to my 8-month old daughter, Katria, who is just beginning to take her first steps.

You are originally from Ukraine. Why do you think students should study Slavic languages and specifically Ukrainian? What cultural horizons does the language open up for students?

Slavic languages are spoken by more than 300 million people worldwide. Although they may be more difficult to learn for a native speaker of English than Spanish or German, they are not the hardest ones. (The Cyrillic alphabet, for example, which seems intimidating to many students, is easily mastered within one or two weeks of study.) And the cultural riches, as well as educational and career opportunities which the mastery of one or several Slavic languages unlock, are definitely worth the extra effort.

Take Ukrainian, for example. After four semesters of the language at KU and perhaps a summer study abroad program in Ukraine, students know enough Ukrainian not only to engage in small talk with locals at one of L’viv’s innumerable coffee shops, but also to get the most up-to-date information on Ukrainian politics from the Ukrainian media, work with documents in Ukrainian, and make sense of quite a few literary texts in the language. Students with advanced knowledge of Ukrainian will find it to be essential for research in the history, politics, and culture of Eastern Europe; for many government and international business jobs dealing with the post-Soviet region; and even in more “regular” occupations (in law, education, or social services) if they happen to work a lot with Ukrainian diaspora populations in North America. And according to the latest data, there is well over a million of Ukrainians residing in the United States, many of whom are recent immigrants with limited knowledge of English.

As for cultural horizons, knowledge of Ukrainian gives you access to one of the richest folkloric traditions in the world that remains relevant for contemporary Ukrainian culture: If you ever come to a Ukrainian wedding, for example, or visit L’viv during the Christmas season, you will find that folk songs still play a very prominent role in the lives of many Ukrainians. Of course, literature—both fiction and non-fiction—is another domain of Ukrainian culture that remains almost inaccessible to those who don’t know Ukrainian. The classic example is the poetry by one of Ukraine’s “greats,” Taras Shevchenko. Although Shevchenko has been translated into English numerous times, no translation comes close to capturing the exquisite beauty of the original. As a result, when I teach Shevchenko in English translation in my Ukrainian culture course, American students often ask why exactly he is considered to be Ukraine’s most important writer! When one tries to go beyond the classics, it gets even worse: much of Ukraine’s truly outstanding contemporary literature remains untranslated. In the last two years, for instance, there have appeared numerous literary responses to the
events of Euromaidan and the war in Ukraine’s eastern regions. These are fascinating texts that give valuable insights into what it means to be Ukrainian—and European; what it takes to build a democratic society; and what it costs to preserve one’s freedom. And yet, only a few of them, I’m sure, will ever be translated into English… Finally, we have Ukrainian films many of which are not easily available with English subtitles. And those that do have them are still often too difficult for foreign viewers to comprehend—they require at least some knowledge of the Ukrainian folkloric, poetic, and film traditions, which is best acquired through the study of the original language.

What drew you to KU, and what are you most looking forward to about teaching here?

Just like at UIUC (if not more), the Slavic department at KU lives up to its name—it is committed to teaching and conducting research in several Slavic languages and literatures, including Polish, Russian, South Slavic (BCS and Slovene), and Ukrainian. Not surprisingly, this is a commitment that I share and value myself. It is also a department that has a strong graduate program with tracks both in linguistics and in literature, and wonderful, dedicated faculty whom I am honored to have as my colleagues. I look forward to working with them and with KU’s enthusiastic, inquisitive students to keep the existing programs in Slavic languages and literatures going strong and to develop new ones. In particular, I look forward to participating in the development of the Certificate Program in Second Language Studies—an initiative of the newly launched School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures—and to contributing the Slavic perspective to it. Most importantly, I want to promote greater interest in and knowledge of the Ukrainian language, literature, and culture at KU. I invite anyone who is interested in Ukraine-related topics to contact me (owallo@ku.edu), and I especially encourage students with an interest in Ukraine to take Ukrainian at KU—now is truly the time to do so!

Support Your Department

We are grateful for the continuing support of our donors, listed below. 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: Stephen Dickey, 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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We are always delighted to hear from you and learn what you are doing and to feature your stories in The Lawrencian Chronicle. Please keep us informed, stay in touch, and send your news to the Department: slavic@ku.edu or smd@ku.edu Be sure to include your degree and date of degree award.

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