Last year I wrote that the Slavic Department had been going through a time of great change. The department has continued new developments, to keep abreast of the changing nature of higher education and the Slavic field. Last year, Dr. Perelmutter has increased our online offerings by making SLAV 148: Introduction to Slavic Folklore available online, and Dr. Six developed a completely new online course, SLAV 330: Russian Business Culture. The latter is a core course in a new minor, Russian Business and Professional Culture, which combines Russian language study and coursework on the business and professional culture of Russia.

Dr. Wallo is taking the lead in organizing a plan for foreign-language outcomes assessment for all of our language programs, including OPI testing for majors. This will give our students easily recognizable credentials, which will increase their competitiveness on the job market. We are implementing this new system over the course of this year.

In other news, the Slavic Department continues to be a part of the national Language Training Center, with a new Russian program in Fort Carson, Colorado, developed by Dr. Wallo (see separate piece).

We are happy to say that one of our undergraduate students, Ashley Velez received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in the Russian Federation for 2016–2017. Megan Luttrell, who is our first PhD student to pass through the new portfolio system, received a Hall Center for the Humanities Summer Research Fellowship last summer. Ms. Luttrell was also the first winner of a new annual contest for graduate student course development, and taught her own course entitled Paint to Pen Russian Art & Literature as a Slavic Department elective in the fall of 2015. Last year’s winner is Krzysztof Borowski, who will teach his course entitled A Europe of Regions and Ethnic Minorities in the spring.

At the graduate level, the department awarded three MA degrees this year, to Sarah Chao, Kayla Grumbles and Amy Lauters. This year we welcome five new graduate students: Molly Godwin-Jones, Oksana Husieva, Frane Karabatić, Devin McFadden, and Nicholas Shea.

The Slavic Department was greatly saddened by the passing of Professor Stephen J. Parker last spring. Prof. Parker was the third chair of the department, serving for 13 years and stepping down in 1990. He was also the donor of the Parker Slavic Library, located in Wescoe Hall, which houses a comprehensive collection of Russian literature that is a valuable resource for all in the department. Prof. Parker was always cheerful and gracious, and was respected and loved by colleagues and students alike. For me, he was almost synonymous with the department, and one of my earliest memories from my days as a student is of the charismatic professor with a pipe at social functions. We are honored by his contributions to our department and will miss him deeply.

Again, we are delighted to hear from any and all of you—our former students, majors and graduate students. Please write and let us know what you are doing and where your studies at KU have led you. Your stories about how studying Slavic languages, literatures and cultures has enriched your lives and modified the trajectory of your career plans help inspire today’s students to think out the world in a broader more global framework.
As a part of the offerings of the Language Training Center, the Slavic Department has begun a continuing program of intensive Russian courses for military personnel at Fort Carson, Colorado. These courses run for 11 weeks, meet six hours a day, and cover 1st- and 2nd-year Russian (very intensive!). The department has hired two new instructors, Dr. Irina Lysenko and Dr. Svetlana Owens, to provide instruction on-site in Fort Carson, and we welcome them to the department. The 11-week course is scheduled to run four times a year for the next 3 years. Prof. Wallo has developed the curriculum and will supervise the instruction. This is a new kind of program for us, and a major one, we are excited to see it develop.

McKinsey Manes, an undergraduate South Slavic major who spent the spring of 2016 studying Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian in Sarajevo, has been hired to provide cataloging information for broadcasts of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian from years past. This is a wonderful opportunity for Ms. Manes to put her language expertise to work on a concrete project, and the Slavic Department is proud of the fact that our students can provide language services for such institutions.
Recently the Slavic department enriched its course offerings by adding three online courses. Professors Renee Perelmutter and Stephen Dickey flipped their existing face-to-face courses, SLAV 148: Slavic Folklore and SLAV 508: South Slavic Literature and Civilization, and Dr. Irina Six created a brand new online course, SLAV 330: Russian Business Culture. The SLL instructors were most impressed with the flexibility of the online format, the fact that it can be taught and taken at any place in the world with an Internet connection. They also noticed that the online offerings drew in students that their face-to-face versions would not ordinarily attract. Prof. Perelmuter appreciated the discussion board feature which offered an easy solution to a major problem of larger traditional classrooms, namely the insufficient interaction between instructor and students and among students themselves. Prof. Dickey noted that, once developed, online courses can be relatively easily taught by graduate students, thus giving them a chance to teach courses that they ordinarily would not teach. The online courses place a great deal of responsibility on the students, encouraging them to become more organized and conscientious learners. The flip side of this is an increased chance of failure. Prof. Dickey noted that he never had a student fail the face-to-face version of his South Slavic literature course or even receive a D, but in the online course, he has had several.

All of the instructors pointed out as the main disadvantage of the online format the lack of spontaneity in teacher-student interactions and the feeling of emptiness in “teaching” students you never see. Dr. Six missed the immediate feedback she would normally receive from her students in a face-to-face course. Prof. Dickey thought that teaching students how to engage with literary texts is not effectively and easily transferable to an online format. For all of the instructors the most challenging part in the development of their online courses was the conceptualizing of the course and the lecture recording. The potential for online miscommunication requires that everything be planned out to the smallest detail. The time consuming and arduous nature of the work involved in creating online courses makes them very difficult to revise. The instructors had nothing but praise and gratitude for the staff of the Center for Online and Distance Learning (CODL), who helped them patiently throughout the difficult process. In fact, the work with CODL convinced them that hybrid and online teaching are the future of higher education. They all said that they would be interested in developing new online courses, but perhaps, next time they would be more selective about what course content would translate more easily to an online format.
NEW SLL MINORS: SLAVIC-JEWISH MINOR AND RUSSIAN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL CULTURE MINOR

PROF. RENEE PERELMUTTER AND DR. IRINA SIX ON THE NEW PROGRAMS

by Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova

1. Please tell us briefly about the new Slavic minor you have developed.
RP: The Slavic-Jewish minor helps students interested in both Slavic languages and literatures and Jewish topics to acquire the expertise and knowledge needed to work in areas related to the Jewish experience in Slavic lands—whether in academia, in non-profit organizations, archival and library work, and more.
IS: The new Russian Business and Professional Culture minor is designed for students who seek a more practical application of their language skills. In addition to the language coursework, the two content courses SLAV 503: Post-Soviet Communication and SLAV 330: Russian Business Culture (online) acquaint students with the historical background of Russian communicative practices and help them explore the big shift in public discourse in Post-Soviet Russia, particularly in business, mass media, marketing and advertising. Students familiarize themselves with the contemporary business practices in Russia, the important aspects of business communication, and some of the stumbling blocks in Russian-American intercultural communication.

2. What prompted you to develop the minor? Are there similar programs at other US universities?
RP: As both a Slavic and Jewish studies faculty member, I have been noticing that many Slavic courses cover some Jewish content, yet there is not enough material to qualify these courses for cross-listing with Jewish Studies. Students of Slavic topics often want to know more about the Jewish experience in Slavdom, especially as it pertains to religion and language. I also noticed that some of our students found work in museums, Holocaust centers, and non-profit organizations in which the employers emphasize the knowledge of both Slavic and Jewish topics. I felt that the minor would be a great way to provide this expertise to students. I am not aware of any comparable minors at other US universities.
IS: The inspiration came from my students and their increasing interest in the new developments in the socio-political situation in Russia and the Russian-American relations. The students desired more specialized language and cultural training that would help them use Russian in professional spheres such as business and journalism. To my knowledge, no similar minor programs exist currently in the US. KU is a pioneer in that regard.

3. How do you plan to advertise the new Slavic minors? What groups of students will they attract?
RP: I am planning to advertise the minor to students in International Studies, Jewish Studies, and SLL; in particular, I am hoping this minor will attract Jewish Studies students to Slavic offerings.
IS: Currently, we are advertising the new minor only to the students in our Russian language courses, but in the future we plan a wider advertising campaign. A long-term goal is to create an online version of the minor so that students studying Russian at other universities could declare it.
In the fall of 2015, Vitaly Chernetsky became Acting Director of the KU Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, and in January 2016 was named the Center’s Director. Prof. Chernetsky co-edited an anthology of post-Euromaidan Ukrainian poetry, *Letters from Ukraine* (printed with Ukrainian and Russian language originals facing English translations). Published by the Krok press in Ukraine, it was launched in Wroclaw, Poland during a month-long festival of Ukrainian culture in April 2016. He has published two new articles, “Mykola Khvyl’ovyi’s ‘A Sentimental Story’: In Search of a Ukrainian Modernity,” in the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, and “Between the Poetic and the Documentary: Ukrainian Cinema’s Responses to World War II,” in the volume *Contested Interpretations of the Past in Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian Film: Screen as Battlefield*, ed. Sander Brouwer (Brill), as well as a book review in *Slavic Review*.

Prof. Chernetsky also continued his efforts to bring Ukrainian writers and other intellectuals to KU. In the fall, the Slavic Department hosted a young Ukrainian writer and art curator, Oleksandr Mykhed, for a 6-week residence supported by a grant from CEC ArtsLink. In December, another young Ukrainian writer, Sophia Andrukhovych, spoke at KU as part of
a North American tour organized in partnership with Columbia University and the Kennan Institute. Prof. Chernetsky’s translation of an excerpt from her recent award-winning novel *Felix Austria* came out in the journal *Trafika Europe* in March 2016. Also in March, Sophia Andrukhovych’s father Yuri Andrukhovych, Ukraine’s leading writer of the 1980s generation, visited KU for the first time. Prof. Chernetsky has translated two of Yuri Andrukhovych’s novels, *The Moscoviad* (2008) and *Twelve Circles* (2015). In May 2016, his translation of *Twelve Circles* was awarded the Translation Prize of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies.

In April, Prof. Chernetsky presented a paper at the BASEES conference in Cambridge, England, and participated in the panel “Russian New Generation Warfare in Ukraine: Implications for Regional and Global Security” at Ft. Leavenworth. Also in April, in partnership with the Environmental Studies Program, he organized a visit to KU by Prof. Adrian Ivakhiv of the University of Vermont, a leading figure in the interdisciplinary field of environmental humanities, to deliver a lecture commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. After a busy summer in 2015, Prof. Chernetsky opted for a calmer schedule this year, working on several writing projects.

Prof. Chernetsky became the first recipient of the new Mid-Career Research Fellowship from the Hall Center for the Humanities, and will spend the 2016-2017 academic year in residence there, working on a book project provisionally titled *Displacement, Desire, Identity: Migration and Diasporization in Slavic Literatures*. He began his time at the Hall Center with a brief research trip to Ukraine, where he took part in the Lviv Book Forum, the country’s largest book fair and literary festival, which takes place every year in mid-September.

Clockwise from upper left: Prof. Greenberg with Slavists Janneke Kalsbeek (Amsterdam), Willem Vermeer (Leiden); with Josip Broz-Tito at Vila Bled, Slovenia; MC’ing the SLLC Convocation 2016; at Clausal Complementation in South Slavic conference in Zurich with Jasmina Grković-Major (Skopje), Liljana Mitkovska (Skopje), Eleni Bužarovska (Skopje); at ADFL West Workshop, Monterey, California, with fellow Exec. Board members Karen Stolley (Emory) and William Nichols (Georgia State); Amsterdam U. Slavic program poster; with co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics*, René Genis, at Brill Publishers, Leiden.
Prof. Marc L. Greenberg (Slavic Languages & Literatures; Director, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures) served the first year of his three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL), for which he attended the annual meeting in New York in Nov. 2015 and in June 2016 ran a workshop on “Managing Small Programs.” In December at the MLA Meeting in Austin, TX he participated in a panel on “Navigating New Waters: Contemporary Challenges of the Chair” and ran a demonstration on the academic interview process. In March he gave a paper “Antemuralle innovationis: the Mura River Area as Both a Center and a Periphery” at the University of Zurich as part of a working group on “Variation in space and time: clausal complementation in South Slavic,” a long-term project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. In May he participated in the Language Leadership Conference at Georgia State University and chaired a workshop and panels at the ADFL West Workshop in Monterey, California. Recent publications include “Introduction” to the Brill Bibliography of Slavic Linguistics (3 vols.) and an article “The Slavic Area: Trajectories, Borders, Centres, and Peripheries in the Second World” in Dick Smakman and Patrick Heinrich, eds., Globalising Sociolinguistics: Challenging and Expanding Theory, published by Taylor & Francis. He is now working as co-editor-in-chief (with René Genis) on Brill’s Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages & Linguistics, scheduled for publication in 2019. In September 2016 he gave a paper (in absentia) at the 130th jubilee conference on August Pavel, Cankova, Slovenia, “Pavel’s Vend nyelvian and the Prekmurje Dialect as a Slavic Language.” Also in September he was invited to give a plenary lecture, “Slavs as migrants. Mapping Prehistoric Language Variation,” at the opening of the 11th annual meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society University of Toronto. He participated in the planning and preparation of a proposal “Global Voices in Developing a Sustainable, Equitable Open Access Future,” which has been selected for inclusion in the prestigious 2016 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded Scholarly Communication Institute. He is currently working with KU colleagues Kathryn Rhine (Anthropology), Vincent Francisco, and Christian Marta Pirnat-Greenberg with students McKinsey Manes and Michael Zeets in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in June.
Holt (Working Group in Public Health) to develop a new curriculum on Global Medical Humanities with the KU-based, WHO-affiliated Community Tool Box project (ctb.ku.edu). In Fall 2016 he is teaching an Honors Freshman Seminar on Language Hacking.

Marta Pirnat-Greenberg’s language-learning project that she designed for her second-year BCS students in 2014 was included in the KU Libraries exhibition, “Eastern Front 1914-1918,” featuring resources and publications on the subject generated by KU faculty and students. The project—for which students subtitled a short Serbian documentary, Gavrilo Princip, Sara-jevski atentat, in Serbian and English—was on display in Haricombe Gallery from March to September. In April, Marta and her students organized the second edition of the BCS Cultural Spring Festival, in which the students shared their cultural experiences from the B/C/S area with the Lawrence community. The festival was excellently attended and enjoyed by all. It featured the outcome of the Spring 2016 student project in which fourth-semester BCS students explored and described immigration stories of their relatives, friends, or campus members from the former Yugoslavia.

In May, Marta was invited to contribute to a special issue of the Slovene journal Dialogi that will examine the current state of the Slovene language in Slovenia and abroad. In her essay, she reflects—from a parent’s and language teacher’s perspective—on the experience of raising bilingual children in an environment lacking a nearby Slovene diaspora or other organizational support; the essay was accepted for publication and will appear later this year. This fall, she received the 2016 CREES Faculty Service award for her outreach work and contributions to students’ language learning through her development of new materials and projects that connect students’ learning with broader campus and state communities.

In her first year at KU, Professor Oleksandra Wallo has been working to revitalize the Ukrainian language program, including its summer study abroad component in L’viv, Ukraine. She has also been at work on her monograph about national narratives by contemporary Ukrainian women prose writers. In April 2016, she presented a paper related to this book project at the Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention at Columbia University. She also had the opportunity to share this research with her KU colleagues and graduate students in the SLL Spring 2016 Colloquium Series.

Prof. Wallo received the KU New Faculty General Research Fund Grant for her Second Language Studies research projects on the teaching and learning of the Ukrainian case system. In the summer of 2016, she collected data for the first study in this cluster of projects at the Ukrainian Language and Culture Summer School of the Ukrainian Catholic University in L’viv, Ukraine. Over the summer, she also developed a new course for graduate students, Biography of a City: Kyiv/Kiev/Kijów, for the fall semester of 2016.

In the course of the 2015-2016 academic year, she has developed a new language assessment plan for the SLL majors and graduate students. Finally, with preparations underway to launch the Slavic department’s new off-campus intensive Russian program for military personnel in Ft. Carson, Colorado, Prof. Wallo has been busy working on the program’s curriculum and instructor training.

Stephen M. Dickey presented several papers over the last academic year. At the 10th Annual Conference of the Slavic Linguistics Society he gave a guest lecture on “Explanation in Cognitive Linguistics” and also presented “Univerbation and the Rise of Slavic Aspect;” he was an invited speaker at The Role of Prefixes in the Formation of Aspect and Related Categories: Problems of Grammaticalization in Padua, Italy with a paper entitled “Prefixes in the Development of Slavic Aspect: Networks and Attractors;” he was an invited speaker at a roundtable on The Development of the Tense-Aspect System of Slavic at the 2015 Annual Convention of ASEEES, with a paper entitled “On the Evolution of Slavic Aspect and the East-West Aspect Division;” he coauthored a paper with Dr. Mateusz Stanojević of the University of Zagreb entitled “Losing It: Unauxiliated Compound Preterits in Croatian” for the 14th Annual Conference of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association; lastly, he was a guest lecturer at the University of Zagreb with a paper entitled “Networks, Attractors, and Catastrophic Change in the History of Slavic Aspect.” All of these articles represent work towards his book, The Evolution of Slavic Aspect, which is nearing completion.

He also continued his publications on aspect and Slavic verbal categories, including an article on “Lexical and Grammatical Aspect,” in the Routledge Handbook of Semantics; a lengthy article, “On the Aspcausal Development of Performatives in Slavic;” and last but not least an article coauthored with Dr. Laura A. Janda, “Slavic Aspcausal Prefixes and Numeral Classifiers: Two Kinds of Lexico-Grammatical Unitizers” in Lingua.

He also published a translation of Miljenko Jergović’s novel The Walnut Mansion (Yale University Press).

He stepped down from the executive board of the Slavic Linguistics Society, but has continued his edito-
In Spring 2016 Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova received a KU GRF grant to launch her new book tentatively titled *The End of History is the Beginning of Myth: The Rebirth of Post-Industrial Wałbrzych*. In the summer she drafted the first chapter of the book “The Triumph of Antiheroes or an Ethical Turn in Post-Communist Polish Drama,” a version of which she will present at the workshop “Beyond the State: Performances of Trans-Bodies in Central-Eastern Europe, Russian and Eurasia” at the 60th Annual Conference of the American Society for Theater Research, St. Paul, MN, 3-6 November.

In AY 2015-2016 Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova continued to serve in her roles of Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of Study Abroad liaison, helping SLL students complete their majors and minors on time and get the best from their study abroad experiences. In her program-building efforts she designed and submitted for approval a new undergraduate course, SLAV 494: Research Internship, which gives SLL majors an opportunity to gain valuable insights into the field of Slavic Studies by assisting faculty on their research, editorial, pedagogical, or digital projects. In the summer, Vassileva-Karagyozova developed a new course proposal for a writing-intensive course based on Central-European historical graphic novels, SLAV 320: Graphic Novels as Memory: Representations of the Holocaust and Communism. She will be working on the online format of the course in Fall 2016.

Finally, Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova is looking forward to her sabbatical leave in Spring 2017, during which she will fully devote herself to research and writing. She plans to complete the two articles she has been working on in the last year and to make substantial progress on her new book manuscript.

Prof. Kokobobo has had a busy year. She won an NEH course development grant to develop a course that uses Tolstoy and Dostoevsky to teach ethics and consider ethical questions of our present. Her monograph, *Russian Grotesque Realism: The Great Reforms and Gentry Decline*, was accepted for publication and is forthcoming in 2017 with Ohio State University Press. With Emma Lieber and Michael Denner she finished co-editing a special issue of the Tolstoy Studies Journal (Anna Karenina for the 21st Century). With Emma Lieber, she co-authored the introduction: “Anna for All the Ages; Or, Why Should We Read *Anna Karenina* in the Age of Facebook and Twitter,” as well as an article: “Sexual Citizenship and the Legacy of the Novel of Adultery in a Twenty-first Century Adaptation of *Anna Karenina*.” She presented initial findings from this article in the Slavic Department Colloquium last spring. In conjunction with the project, she is currently running an outreach initiative to get members of the profession to discuss adaptations of Tolstoy on social media.

With former KU professor Edith Clowes (currently at UVA) and Gisela Erbsloh (Radio journalist, Germany), Prof. Kokobobo is co-editing the volume, *Beyond Moscow: Reading Russia’s Regional Identities and Initiatives*, which is forthcoming with Routledge in 2017. She authored an article: ‘Why Does Russia Need Hadji Murat’s Head?’—Russian and Dagestani Narratives Revolving Around Hadji Murat’s Severed Skull.” In November 2015, she attended the ASEEES conference in Philadelphia, PA, where she presented a paper on Tolstoy’s translation of the New Testament gospels. Last spring she attended a conference at Columbia University dedicated to the work and research contributions of the late Catharine Nepomnyashchy. Prof. Kokobobo submitted an article to a special issue of *Ullbandus: The Slavic Review of Columbia University* in Nepomnyashchy’s memory: “A Neoliberal Anna – Talking About *Anna Karenina* and Cultural Politics with an Absent Interlocutor” (forthcoming, 2017). Finally, her article: “Tolstoy’s “Master of Death”: Sufism, Tolstoism, and Closeness to God in *Hadji Murat*” is forthcoming in *Russian Review* in January 2017.

Prof. Kokobobo was awarded a KU GRF grant to work on her new book project about moral gray zones in Russian and Soviet prison narratives. She has written an article, which will be a chapter of that book: “Writing from the Rubble of Normative Ethics: Ethical Surplus and the Maternal Ethics of the Soviet Moral ‘Gray Zone’ in Vassily Grossman’s *Everything Flows*.” She is currently making final revisions and will submit it for review. This fall she will be giving a talk at CREEES on this article. Additionally, she will be attending ASEEES again and present at the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities 2016 forum. Her big project in the fall is also a translation of Ismail Kadare’s essays for Restless Books *Essays on World Literature* (Forthcoming 2017).

Prof. Kokobobo has also published several shorter, more popular writings and reviews. She wrote a brief article for the ASEEES June newsletter: “Using Tolstoy and Dostoevsky to Teach Ethics in the Twenty-First Century.” Two blog posts for the NYU Jordan blog: “Marital Happy Endings and Cultural Politics in a Contemporary Australian Adaptation of *Anna Karenina*” and “Dostoevsky, *Demons*, and The Donald.” As this last blog posts might suggest, Prof. Kokobobo, like many of us, has found herself deeply captivated by the dramatic 2016 presidential election. She published
a short article, “How Dostoevsky Predicted Trump’s America” with theconversation.com, which circulated broadly and was republished by several media outlets in multiple languages (including in The Huffington Post, Salon.com, New Republic, Quartz, and others.) Shortly after the publication of the article, she also gave a brief interview to the BBC on how Russian literature can help us understand the 2016 election.

Above all, Prof. Kokobobo has enjoyed working with the department’s graduate students. She took over as Director of Graduate Studies in Spring 2016 and has since enjoyed advising, recruiting, and teaching Slavic department graduate students. Last spring she got to hood Sarah Chao (SLL MA 2016) and Amy Lauters (SLL MA 2016). This year she is particularly enjoying teaching a seminar on the Digital Humanities, SLA V 512. Although Prof. Kokobobo considers herself at best an ambivalent digital humanist, she has really liked the work she is doing with students in this seminar, which feels truly collaborative and anti-hierarchical. If you are curious about the work the students are doing, you can look at some of it at the website below (still in preliminary format): http://warandpeaceplacemaking.weebly.com/

Turkish Lecturer and Coordinator of the Critical Languages Consortium (CLC) Esra Predolac received a conference travel grant from the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and attended the 19th Annual Meeting of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages Conference (NCOlCTL) in Atlanta, GA, April 22-24. She is currently working on a paper entitled “An Evaluation and Comparison of Turkish Language Textbooks” to be presented at the 1st American Association of Teachers of Turkic Conference (AATT) at Harvard University this November. She is also busy organizing the ACTFL OPI Workshop, which will take place November 11 here at KU.

In January 2016, Irina Six gave a paper titled “Skyping with Russians: Cooperative Language Exchange from Beginners to Advanced, ” at the ATSEEL Conference in

From left to right: Professor Kokobobo with Amy Lauters (MA 2016) and Sarah Chao (MA 2016).
Austin, Texas. In her paper she discussed the KU Russian program’s project for peer-to-peer cooperative language exchange with two partner universities in Russia: Saratov State University and Higher School of Economics in Moscow. The purpose of this project is to provide extracurricular language training for students of Russian.

In April 2016, Irina Six attended CARTA’s (Central Association of Russian Teachers of America) annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri. In her presentation “Russian at KU: Designing an Innovative Program” she spoke about a brainstorming event organized by the Slavic Department in February 2015 titled “How to Improve, Invigorate and Enlarge Russian Programs in Kansas.” Dr. Six discussed the ideas that the event generated and their current implementation. Her talk evoked genuine interest and a lot of questions.

In Fall 2015, Professor Renee Perelmutter spent her sabbatical semester as a Faculty fellow at the University of Iowa’s Obermann Center, developing a new project on Jewish multiglossia among Russian-speaking Israelis. In Spring 2016, she submitted two successful external grant applications for the new project, receiving funding from the Brandeis-Genesis Institute for Russian Jewry and from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture to continue research in AY 2016-2017. In the Spring semester, Dr. Perelmutter enjoyed teaching a graduate seminar on Slavic Folklore, and, with Ms. Anna Karpusheva, redesigned the undergraduate level of Slavic Folklore as an online course. The online course was offered for the first time in Summer 2016.

STUDENT NEWS

Rebecca Stakun spent last fall (2015) in residence at the Hall Center thanks to the Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities. The fellowship allowed her to complete a significant portion of her dissertation, which she expects to defend by the end of the academic year. On October 14, 2015 she presented her research in a seminar at the Hall Center entitled “The Origins of Emptiness in Russian Culture.” She also presented her paper “Transcendent Nothingness: Incorporeality in Egor Radov’s Zmeesos” at ASEES in November 2015. Rebecca organized a panel for this year’s ASEES entitled “(Re-)Locating Russian Identity in the Post-Soviet Novel.” In Spring 2016, Rebecca became the Webmaster for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Folklore Association (SEEFA). Finally, Rebecca’s review of Meghan Vicks’s volume Narratives of Nothing in 20th-Century Literature will appear in the forthcoming volume (60.3) of the Slavic & East European Journal.

In January 2016, Krzysztof Borowski gave a brownbag talk titled “Forging a Nation: National Discourse of Ethnic Minorities in Poland” at the KU Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies. His course syllabus on ethnic minorities in Europe won the Slavic department competition for a new content course developed by a graduate student. Krzysztof will teach SLAV 379: Europe of Regions and Ethnic Minorities in Spring 2017.

In Spring 2016 he gave two guest lectures on lesser-known Slavic-speaking minorities in Europe as well as language policy in the European Union in Prof. Greenberg’s SLAV 340/540 course “Introduction to Languages and Peoples of Russia and East-Central Europe”. He was invited to give a guest lecture on historical linguistics in ANTH 730: Linguistics in Anthropology: Evolution of Language in the Department of Anthropology.

In July, Krzysztof did preliminary fieldwork on language and identity in Silesia where he experienced firsthand the 2016 Autonomy March in Katowice, Poland. The trip to Katowice helped him better understand the Silesian minority’s aspirations for autonomy and calibrate the research hypothesis of his dissertation proposal.

In Spring 2016 Krzysztof was elected member of the Executive Board of the Slavic Linguistics Society.

In November 2015, Kayla Grumbles traveled to Philadelphia for the annual ASEES Conference, at which she participated in a roundtable discussion: “Bucking the Trend? The US-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program in an Era of Renewed Hostility and Mistrust.” At the roundtable she presented her work on the Eco-Reps Peer-to-Peer Sustainability Outreach Program, sponsored by CREES in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. In April, Kayla traveled to Columbus, OH for the Midwest Slavic Conference, hosted at Ohio State University, where she presented a paper titled “This is My Narrative Space, That’s Yours: Examining Player Expectations for Narrative Space Construction in Video Games.” Finally, she received the George C. Jerkovich Award for Summer 2016 to support a six-week study abroad program in Zadar, Croatia.
In Spring 2016, Megan Luttrell won the award for Outstanding Service by a Graduate Student in the Slavic Department; she also played Russian music at the Slavic Department Honors Reception and at KU International Night: Russia, which she helped organize as well.

This summer, Megan was awarded the Hall Center for the Humanities Summer Fellowship to work on the first chapter of her dissertation.

In November 2016, Megan will present a paper at ASEES titled “The Defense: Nabokov’s Cubist Novel”; she is also organizing the Slavic Folk Dance Workshop once again and will soon be publishing a review of the BBC mini-series of Anna Karenina in the journal Tolstoy Studies.

Outside of academia, Megan’s first album of original music was released in June 2016.

Anna Karpusheva’s book review of Evgenii Margolit, Zhivye i mërtvoe. Zametki k istorii sovetskogo kino 1920-1960 was published in September 2015, in Apparatus. Film, Media and Digital Cultures of Central and Eastern Europe, 1, http://www.apparatusjournal.net/index.php/apparatus/article/view/6/6. In Spring 2016 Anna completed her minor and received a Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Currently, she is working on an article titled “Svetlana Alexievich’s Voices from Chernobyl: between Oral History and Slavic Death Lament” which she will submit for publication to Canadian Slavonic Papers. Anna will present a shorter version of the article at the annual convention of AATSEEL.

Meet our new students

Molly Godwin-Jones is originally from Virginia and received her B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 2007, double majoring in Russian Studies and linguistics. She went on to earn an M.A. in Russian Language and Literature from Boston College in 2010 and studied translation at American University. In 2012, Molly decided to go back to Russia for an extended stay and enrolled in the translation department of Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University. While there, she taught English at the university and studied German and Russian translation (with some English thrown in there too), eventually earning a second B.A. in translation. Over the summer, Molly taught beginning Russian to high school students at the Concordia Language Villages in Minnesota. Her research interests include second language acquisition, historical morphology, and Russian folk music.

Frane Karabatić received his M.A. in Croatian language & literature and Italian language & literature from the University of Split, Croatia.

Since 2009, Frane has worked at different universities in Europe and the U.S. (University of Iowa, Trinity College Dublin, and University of Pittsburgh), teaching all levels of BCS and undergraduate and graduate courses on Cultures of South-Eastern Europe, Cinema in Communist and Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe, and Postmodernity in Literatures of Central and Eastern Europe.

He is currently teaching Advanced Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian as well as an online course on South Slavic Literature and Civilization.

In his research, Frane focuses on the problem of identity in post-1990 Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian literature and cinema.

Oksana Husieva earned her B.A. and M.A. in English and World Literature from Ivan Franko National University in Lviv, Ukraine, and her M.A. in Russian and Comparative Literature from Penn State in 2016. Her academic interests include nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Russian literature, Russian and Ukrainian folklore, and the Russian twentieth-century picaresque novel.

Devin McFadden is the recipient of the Hall Center Fellowship for graduate study in the Humanities. She earned her M.A. in Russian and Slavic Studies from New York University in 2016 and her B.A. in Russian Studies and Anthropology from Smith College in 2014. Her research interests include 20th Century Russian literature and literary theory.

Nicholas Shea is originally from Indiana. He received his B.A. in Russian, German and Linguistics from Purdue University. His research interests are focused on the southern CIS countries and contiguous areas of Russia.
Upon graduating, Brad Reynolds (MA 2012) and Julieta Kaludova-Reynolds (MA 2008) have made Dallas their home. Brad is partner and general manager of Prior Automotive Products, a business committed to remanufacturing, a process that offers a simple and achievable method for environmental sustainability. Julieta is an adjunct faculty at Brookhaven College where she teaches online Russian language courses. She is also a developer of a series of professional and personal growth seminars, with ten of her workshops selected to be taught at North Texas Workforce Solutions centers. Brad and Julieta recently launched Falchion Publications, a publishing enterprise featuring award-winning writers and artists dedicated to blending categories and genres into content rich stories. Falchion’s online manifestation, www.falchionpub.com, is a cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural magazine offering original works in the categories of fiction and poetry, essay, art, fashion, culture, film and theater, music, travel, politics, satire, and more.

Adrienne Harris (PhD 2008) is now an Associate professor of Russian at Baylor University in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. On June 11, 2015, she and her husband Steven Jug welcomed a daughter Anastasia Maria Jug. Adrienne and Stephen traveled to Lviv for the ASEEES-MAG conference this past summer. Her next article “Gendered Images and Soviet Subjects: How the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History

Prof. Harris, her husband Dr. Steven Jug and little Anastasia

Komsomol Reading Room Enriched my Understanding of Gender in Soviet War Culture” is coming out in Aspasia in 2017. Adrienne continues to draft her monograph on Zoia Kosmodemianskaia.

Jack Jordan (BA 1993) and his wife Maria travelled to Poland last summer. They visited Warsaw and Krakow and some areas around Krakow: Auschwitz, the monastery and Black Madonna at Jasna Gora, and the salt mine in Wieliczka. They were astonished to find out that in the last 220 years, Poland has been independent for only about 46 years and that Poland’s pursuit of independence was filled with an incredible amount of blood, sweat and tears. They were also surprised to learn that the Poles

Brad, Julieta and their four-year old daughter Katrin last summer at the Madara caves, Bulgaria.

Adrienne Harris and her family in Bulgaria.

Jack Jordan and Prof. Greenberg on the rooftop of the Oread Hotel.
have had such a long and strong Catholic tradition. If Jack and Maria had known how fast and comfortable the Gdansk-Warsaw-Krakow train line was, they would have planned to visit Gdansk, as well. Perhaps they will do that next time—maybe in conjunction with a visit to the Baltic states.

**Jason Cash** (BA 2014) married his Polish fiancée Diana Kurasz in July 2016. Jason, Diana, and their daughter Noemi live now in Overland Park, KS.

**Sidney Dement** (PhD 2011) is Assistant Professor of Russian Studies at Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY, where he teaches Russian language, Slavic Folklore, and a variety of literature and culture courses. His article, “Architectural Details from Moscow’s Sandunov Banyas in M. A. Bulgakov’s *Master and Margarita*” was recently published in *Slavic and East European Journal* (60.1, Spring 2016). Another article, “Architecture in M. A. Bulgakov’s Master and Margarita: Margarita’s Problematic Mansion,” will appear next year in a Russian-language anthology of articles dedicated to the works of Bulgakov: *Tvorchestvo M. Bulgakova: Pro et Contra*. Currently Dement is working on a book-length project that investigates the role of Moscow’s Pushkin Monument in the development of five dimensions of allusion as an aesthetic device: verbal, visual, performative, theoretical, and science-fictional.

**Lyle McMillan** (BA 2004) moved back to Kansas City at the end of July. Prior to this move, he had spent 2.5 years at a tractor manufacturing facility in Waterloo, IA as a product manager for the large horsepower marketing group. He is still working with John Deere, and is now a Product Marketing Manager for mid-tractors and loaders for the U.S. and Canada, located in the Olathe office. He has just passed his 9-year work anniversary.

In August 2015 Lyle received his MS in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University, and in May 2016, an MBA from Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. He and his wife Lauren have two sons, Liam (5) and Theodore (6 months). They are all excited to be back in Kansas.

**Aric Toler** (BA 2011) is currently heading up research for Eastern Europe at Bellingcat, where they do digital-based investigations into conflict, corruption, and other concerns. He also runs workshops for Russian & Ukrainian journalists and NGO employees to help them with skills related to digital literacy, research, and verification of information. He is also Lead Researcher for the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensics Research Lab with Eurasia. He lives in Charlotte, NC with his wife and their pug, Gertrude.
MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY, 1966: THE FIRST KU STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN THE SOVIET UNION

by Stephen Dickey

This year marks the 50th anniversary of KU’s first summer study abroad program in the Soviet Union, which was run through Moscow State University (MGU) in the summer of 1966. I am unaware of any other study abroad programs in Russia run through KU before the 1960’s. In 1963 and 1964 there were summer study abroad programs in Finland, presumably run in cooperation with the Russian community there. But the first program for Russian conducted in Russia itself was run in Moscow in the summer of 1966, at Moscow State University. A few years later, in 1969, the KU summer program in Leningrad (St. Petersburg) began, which continued until 2011.

Jon Getz, Kenneth Gray, and Anne Sigmund were participants of this Moscow program so many summers ago and were kind enough to send me their memories. At the time KU was a pioneer in the development of study abroad opportunities in Russia; the 1966 MGU program had participants from universities such as Princeton and Stanford. As one can imagine, back then it was something really special to be able to go on a summer trip to the Soviet Union. The 30 student participants were accompanied by Professor Joseph Conrad and Lloyd Guidry, a graduate student who received his PhD in 1968, as on-site directors. The students were divided into three groups by level of proficiency and were taught by local Russian instructors, who spoke no English and are remembered as excellent (if somewhat humorless) teachers. After classes, the students were free to travel around the city (“we had free reign of the city,” Kenneth...
Gray remembers).

The program included excursions to Leningrad and Kiev, Ukraine. The latter culminated with a week’s stay in the camp cabins of the nearby Light Industries Institute, and the participants stayed with students of the institute. Jon Getz remembers calls of Внимание! and Пора…! on the camp loudspeakers. (The photograph below shows one of the cabins, with three program participants figured.) Over those same loudspeakers at the Light Industries Institute Camp, the students were exposed to a fair amount of Soviet propaganda regarding the Vietnam War, which was dominating the national and international stage in 1966. But the political tensions of the day did not keep them from making friends in Moscow and Ukraine.

The program also included a visit to Tolstoy’s estate and unmarked grave at Yasnaya Polyana, the latter of which is ingrained in Jon Getz’ mind as “so utterly simple, peaceful, and singular.”

What stands out in the participants’ comments is how unforgettable the entire program was. It seems that this time in Moscow changed their lives, whether directly in terms of career paths, or on a more personal level. It is humbling to realize the power of such experiences. It is too easy to forget in the day-to-day running of the department that the transformative nature of such cultural exchanges is the reason why we continue to develop our study abroad programs in Russia and other parts of the Slavic world. Recently we have begun a semester program at the School of Higher Economics in Moscow and an innovative summer internship program in Almaty, Kazakhstan. We continue our summer programs in Croatia and Ukraine, and assist students wishing to study in Poland, the Czech Republic, and elsewhere.

Let us end with a story Anne Sigmund connected with the summer of 1966: “Thirty years later in 1996, I was on an official trip to Vietnam. One night in Hue a dinner was arranged with the local party leader. I was accompanied by a member of the embassy staff who spoke Vietnamese. My counterpart had a delegation of four people who spoke no English. The dinner began with my colleague doing the translating. While exchanging pleasantries, the party official and I discovered that we were at MGU at exactly the same time. He and I switched to Russian and dispensed with translation services.”

* I am grateful to Dr. Kenneth Gray for pointing this anniversary out to me last year.
Study abroad in Poland

by Tori Remer

In June of 2016, I had the opportunity to participate in the Exploring Poland/ Polin Heritage Summer Tour on behalf of the Taube Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life Foundation in Warsaw, Poland. I spent about eleven days touring the south eastern part of Poland. The tour started in Warsaw with a tour of the old town. Throughout the few days there, we toured the Polin and Warsaw uprising museums, met with a Warsaw Uprising veteran and Romauld Lanczkowski of the Polish Senate and saw the powerful play “Kryjowka.”

From there we traveled to Lublin where we went through Old Town, the “Grodzka Gate - NN Theatre” Center, and visited Majdanek. I believe this was the hardest part of the trip for me. It seemed almost surreal walking through Majdanek on a peaceful summer day and knowing what took place there. It was hard to comprehend.

After Lublin we made our way to the Lancut castle and toured its grounds. Then we went to the Markowa Museum and then down to Polanczyk. During this day, we heard many stories about Polish and Ukrainian relations including the Volhynia massacre, as well as current relations today with what they said was an “immigration problem.” We spent the next few days in Polanczyk hiking in the Bieszczady mountains and attending a performance by Lemko musicians. One thing that stuck out to me on this trip was how Poland constitutes minorities. Lemko is considered a minority in Poland and is one out of 4 ethnic minorities. There are also 9 national minorities. However, the region where my family is from - Silesia - they are not considered a minority, which I thought was interesting.

After spending a few relaxing days in Polanczyk, we traveled to the Sanok castle and toured Beksinski’s artwork. Then we went to Krosno and visited the glass heritage center. We were able to blow glass and take some pieces home with us. That evening we made our way to Tarnow where we toured the Old City. This part of the trip led to multiple discussions about anti-semitism going on in America and around the world because we saw a teenage boy spit on the remains of a Bema in the middle of the old Jewish district in Tarnow. It was extremely hard for some people to witness this and led way to a discussion about how Jewish life is still struggling to find a place in current day Poland.

We then made our way to Krakow, where we toured the Old Town and Wawel Castle. We also walked through the Kazimierz district, toured Schindler’s Factory, and walked through the Nowa Huta district. I enjoyed going through Nowa Huta and hearing the stories of the rebuilding after World War II and living throughout communism. I was amazed to see how similar the buildings were and interested to hear how they might have problems in the future with the concrete structures because they were made efficiently and not made to last.

Reflecting back on this trip and all that I encountered, it still amazes me that I went to Poland in the first place. After arriving in Warsaw and meeting the other people on the trip, I remember thinking that I wouldn’t fit in and that I did not know enough about the culture because it became very apparent that I was both the least Polish and least Jewish person on the trip - being only 25% Polish, and 0% Jewish. Hearing about the others’ heritage and stories, I realized that there were many things that many of the other people had grown up with that I hadn’t, such as Polish schooling, first immigrant parents or grandparents, or growing up in Chicago. However, after spending two weeks with these students, I soon realized that none of that mattered. What mattered was that we were all Polish and were all bonded through that. I had never met anyone else that shared the same passion and love for Poland and the Polish culture. It felt like I had finally found a place in which I fit in and could share and grow in my love for Polska.
Study Abroad in Croatia
by Kayla Grumbles

Although I had only studied Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian for a year, I decided to take the plunge and study abroad in Zadar, Croatia this summer at the Language Institute. I wasn’t sure what to expect, having only been previously to Russia and Ukraine. This study abroad experience was entirely different from my previous experiences traveling in Russia, mainly because I traveled alone and had a few days to myself in Zadar before my roommate arrived and classes began. Honestly, I was somewhat scared to be traveling by myself, especially when going to a country that I knew very little about. The difference that made the strongest impression on me was the environment of the city that we were in. While studying in Russia, I was in a large city that was not even remotely a tourist attraction. Zadar, on the other hand, was voted the EU’s Best Destination of 2016. Even though our program ended before tourist season got in full swing, it was interesting—and a little frustrating at times—to be in a city where so many people spoke English. My classmates and I had servers respond in English more than once when we tried to order something in Croatian.

The biggest surprise in Croatia, for me, was the actual country, as in the way the countryside looked. I knew we were going to be in a city on the Adriatic Sea, but what I didn’t know was that the water in that area (and in all the national parks we went to) is practically crystal clear. You could see straight to the bottom, and having grown up in Corpus Christi, Texas, that was an entirely new experience for me—Texas beaches can’t hold a candle to the ones we saw in and around Zadar. I did notice that, for me personally, the water was always a little too cold, in the Adriatic and especially in the river Krka.

During our program, we visited three national parks: Kornati/Telašćica, Krka, and Plitvica. We first visited the islands of Kornati by boat; this trip ended with a stop on an island that is part of Telašćica National Park. Here we were able to walk up to the top of a cliff and see the ocean for miles. I had never seen a view like that! We also swam in a saltwater lake, which was (of course) cold. The next weekend, we went to the waterfalls at Krka. These waterfalls are part of the river Krka, and near them is a preserved historic site where we were able to see how people utilized the river to grind their grain,

Veliki Slap (The Big Waterfall) in Plitvica National Park
do laundry, and accomplish other day-to-day tasks. We were also able to swim in the river, which was absolutely freezing! The current in the river was much stronger than we expected, so we all got our work-out of the day in during our swim. Finally, we visited Plitvica, which is a huge national park that contains several lakes. These lakes are split into two groups, the higher and lower lakes; they are also on various levels, kind of like steps, which leads to waterfalls going from one lake into the next. According to our tour guide, it would take around nine hours to walk through the entire park, so we did a shortened tour. She told us that the waterfalls are slowly getting taller because of the plants that grow at the top. These plants act as filters and catch all of the leaves and sediment that are in the upper lake; all of these things that are filtered out are eventually packed down when it snows or freezes over, and the waterfalls grow by increments of inches every year.

Overall, my experience in Croatia was eye-opening in several ways. Besides the obvious benefit of improving my language skills, this experience taught me that although there are overarching similarities in Slavic cultures, when it comes to day-to-day life there are things that will surprise you. I kept modeling my expectations for interactions and such on my former experiences in Russia and, almost every time, I was surprised by the reality of the situation. Everyone that we met in Zadar was kind and willing to help, whether we needed directions or just wanted some ice cream and a quick chat. I would love to visit again someday, and encourage anyone looking for an excellent study abroad experience to consider the Language Institute in Zadar.

The KU Slavic Department and the university community mourn the passing of our long-time colleague and friend, Stephen J. Parker, who taught at KU from 1967 until his retirement in 2011. He passed away in March 2016. One of the last students of the writer Vladimir Nabokov, Professor Parker earned his PhD at Cornell University with a dissertation on “Vladimir Nabokov-Sirin as Teacher: The Russian Novels.” His book “Understanding Vladimir Nabokov” was reprinted and often used as a course text. He co-authored “Russia on Canvas: Ilya Repin” with his mother, Fan Parker. He published numerous scholarly articles and essays on Nabokov and other writers and topics in Russian literature. Following his thirteen years as the third chair of the KU Slavic Department, he donated a comprehensive Russian literature collection and funds to establish the Parker Slavic Library, which now serves as the gathering place for faculty and students of Slavic languages and literatures.

The following piece was written in Steve’s memory for the SLL Honors Reception, Malott Room, 26 April 2016.

***

The airplane rocks above the landscape, and common sense tells us that the void is filled with heavy atmosphere; were we to breach the distance between wing and field, it would take time and no small effort to bring the beefy Boeing to rest among the Holsteins. My seatmate from the California flight calls to mind the middling actor—a vaguely familiar face that has appeared in a bright and frenetic television commercial for whitening toothpaste and a solemn science fiction morality play who walks on, when the aliens emerge from the saucer, and declares, breathlessly, “Sir, they look like us; like humans.” No name comes to mind, just a canonically handsome face. I’ve seen him before. We have all seen him.

“Where are you headed?” he asks me. “Lawrence, Lawrence, Kansas,” I respond. The tongue drops heavily from the tip of the tongue and teeth to the chin. Law, low. And then ascends brightly again—ence—back to the teeth, as though gravity cannot pull

STEPHEN J. PARKER (1939–2016)
MEMORIAL
by Marc L. Greenberg

The KU Slavic Department and the university community mourn the passing of our long-time colleague and friend, Stephen J. Parker, who taught at KU from 1967 until his retirement in 2011. He passed away in March 2016. One of the last students of the writer Vladimir Nabokov, Professor Parker earned his PhD at Cornell University with a dissertation on “Vladimir Nabokov-Sirin as Teacher: The Russian Novels.” His book “Understanding Vladimir Nabokov” was reprinted and often used as a course text. He co-authored “Russia on Canvas: Ilya Repin” with his mother, Fan Parker. He published numerous scholarly articles and essays on Nabokov and other writers and topics in Russian literature. Following his thirteen years as the third chair of the KU Slavic Department, he donated a comprehensive Russian literature collection and funds to establish the Parker Slavic Library, which now serves as the gathering place for faculty and students of Slavic languages and literatures.

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“Where are you headed?” he asks me. “Lawrence, Lawrence, Kansas,” I respond. The tongue drops heavily from the tip of the tongue and teeth to the chin. Law, low. And then ascends brightly again—ence—back to the teeth, as though gravity cannot pull
it to earth. “My first time to Kansas,” I say. I ponder the music of the name, the thoughts connected to the sound, looking backward through time and perversely not forward. The Lawrences I have known appear like flashes on a screen and yet no memory can connect to the Lawrence I will come to know. Will the town show black and white, like Laurence Olivier in Hamlet? Will it be covered in sand dunes, the kind that were traversed purposefully by Lawrence of Arabia? There is a university there. Will it have a Lawrence Livermore Laboratory? More liver, yes, surely, they will eat more liver in the Midwest and fewer salads than the vain and vacuous Californians.

We file off the plane in a state of feigned exhaustion, as though we had each made the journey on foot from the coast to the heart of the land. In the lobby a man with a studious air, graying brown curly hair, thick glasses, and a dark leather jacket greets me. “Parker, Steve Parker. Chair of the Slavic Department. Welcome to Kansas.” He pronounces all his R’s, but his vowels betray a north-easterner, a New Yorker. Maybe from Brooklyn, perhaps Long Island, but the local patina was covered in the polish of academic refinement.

We drive through rangeland, fringed by leafy deciduous trees and budding shrubbery. “You’re going to love Kansas. It’s a marvelous place,” he assures me. “I’m a New Yorker who has discovered Kansas. It will change you.” “What do you like about it?” I ask. “For example, I go hunting for game fowl. Growing up I never thought I would do that, but now I can’t wait to get out in the fresh air, meet the farmers, ask them permission to hunt in their fields.”

***

This is, in a slightly Nabokovianized style, how I met Steve Parker. If we had more time, I would read you the next 100 pages or so. So let me briefly tell you about him. Stephen Parker earned his Ph.D. from Cornell U. in Russian Literature under advisor George Gibian, writing his dissertation on Vladimir Nabokov-Sirin as Teacher: The Russian Novels. After a teaching briefly at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, he was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at KU in 1967. He served as chair of the Slavic Department from 1987 to 2000, retiring in 2011. His book Understanding Vladimir Nabokov (U of South Carolina Press, 1987) has been reprinted and often used as a course text. He co-authored Russia on Canvas: Ilya Repin (Pennsylvania State University Press) with his mother, Fan Parker. He published numerous scholarly articles and essays and was the founder and long-time editor of The Nabokovian.
The Steve Parker I knew was the one from 1990 as the chair of the department. I was the second one hired after a long period of stasis in the department (Maria Carlson had been hired in the late 1980s). I learned later that one of the contenders for my position was an East European scholar in his 70s and that it was hard for the faculty to decide whether they should hire a young upstart like me or hire the experienced guy. After all, where would the experienced guy get a job at his age? I’m glad they chose me, but it was very much like Steve to worry about others and to think about the consequences decisions would have for others’ lives.

Although I observed Steve’s involvement in Nabokov studies from a distance, I was also aware of his editorship of The Nabokovian, the journal of news and bibliography around Nabokov studies. It was fascinating to see that Steve was the only member of the department who would receive envelopes from around the world with handwritten names and addresses, addressed to him as editor of The Nabokovian. Oh, and always real stamps. Like Nabokov himself, his readers and scholars cared about details and the aesthetic pleasures of a licked envelope flap and a perforated postage stamp.

Steve had been chair just a few years before I arrived in 1990, which was a turning point for all of us. The Soviet Union collapsed and our enrollments followed suit. We had a single computer monitor, with a black screen and green letters, in the department hooked up to a system called “Bitnet” and I figured out how to work it. I taught my colleagues how to send in-line bitnets, which we would later call “emails.” In fact, I taught them several times as new incarnations were introduced.

Steve was the first to foresee that there was a need for a tenure-track language-pedagogy specialist and innovated in our language departments by hiring a Russian-language-teaching specialist. Other language departments followed suit.

In 2015 the SLLC formed the first Second Language Studies graduate certificate program, which would not have been possible without Steve’s foresight.

Steve provided the materials and funds for the Fan and Stephen J. Parker Slavic Library, which also houses the Conrad collection.

After he stepped down as chair and I assumed the position in 2000, he served as chair-receiver for the French & Italian Department.

He was also the primary organizer in the Wescoe space wars and was the first to secure a full corridor for the Slavic Department. This was at a time when the administration was angling to optimize space. I will also remember Steve for sharing the day to day victories and accomplishments of his children and, later, grandchildren. And he showed a great interest in my family.

Steve was the last of a generation of scholars whose life was not frenetic and anxiety-filled.

Steve was an old-school gentleman-scholar, the kind of profile that no longer exists. He was instrumental in nurturing the department through turbulent times and difficult personalities. He took care of the department with paternal calm and firmness.

To me was a mentor and a friend whom I will remember and cherish with warm memories and gratitude. I am grateful that he left the Parker Library as a perpetual reminder of his many decades of service to the department and the long-lasting imprint he made on the institution and its people. May his memory continue to be bright for generations to come.
PROF. ANNE LOUNSBERY’S VISIT TO KU

by Ani Kokobobo

Prof. Anne Lounsbery visited KU last spring and gave a talk based on a forthcoming book project: “Circles and Grids: How Literature Understands Russian Space.” In a captivating lecture, Prof. Lounsbery discussed how nineteenth-century Russian writers like from Gogol to Sologub imagined Russian space. As she argued, with few notable exceptions (Tolstoy being one of them), Russian writers created a literary cartography that ascribed geography with its own particular meaning. They were really invested in creating cultural centers in Russia’s two historical capitals, St. Petersburg and Moscow, while depicting everything outside the capitals as boring and anonymous. Prof. Lounsbery compared this Russian perception of space to the very different American understanding of space during Thomas Jefferson’s presidency. Students and faculty found the talk very interesting and questions emerged connecting the spatial concept that Prof. Lounsbery described to other imagined geographies across the world (such as in Ireland, the Balkans, and other areas).

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

If you would like to discuss setting up a fund in honor of a special person or for a particular purpose, please call Prof. Dickey at (785) 864-2348 or (785) 864-3313 or write to him at smd@ku.edu or the mailing address above.

Send us your news

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.

You can also write to us at:
Dept. of Slavic Languages & Literatures
University of Kansas
1445 Jayhawk Blvd., Rm. 2133
Lawrence, KS 66045-7594
SLL IN PICTURES

2ND BOSNIAN/CROATIAN/SERBIAN SPRING FESTIVAL

Group picture of the participants in the 2nd Spring BCS Festival

Traditional crafts: BCS student Natasha Sudac and her sister decorating Easter Eggs

Enjoying foods from the BCS area: Kayla Grumbles and Susan Swanton
SPRING 2016 HONORS RECEPTION

Marie-Luce Parker and Prof. Marc L. Greenberg

Prof. Stephen Dickey, Chair, presenting the 2016 honors rewards

Marta Pirnat-Greenberg with the BCS awardees
UKRAINIAN PYSANKY WORKSHOP

The table is ready for the participants in the Ukrainian Pysanky workshop

Making beautiful Ukrainian pysanky
END-OF-THE SEMESTER POLISH PARTY

Intermediate and Advanced Polish students discussing historical topics at the end of the semester party

Tori Remer (Intermediate Polish) and Holly Mills (Advanced Polish) were selected to partake in the highly competitive 2016 program, “Exploring Poland Heritage Study Tour,” sponsored by the Polish Senate and the Taube Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Poland
SLAVISTS WITH A HUMAN FACE
SNAPSHOTS OF SLL FACULTY
IN THEIR LEISURE TIME

Oleksandra Wallo and her daughter Katria hiking in the Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine.

Stephen Dickey and his son Adrian trout fishing at Roaring River State Park, MO.

Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova and her son Mitko by the Fountain of Shame (Fontana Pretoria) in Palermo, Italy.
Ani Kokobobo and her son, Luke, in St. Pete’s Beach, Florida

Marta Pirnat-Greenberg enjoying a bike ride by the buckwheat fields in Mengeš, Slovenia.

Vitaly Chernetsky on the stage of Zelenyi teatr in Odessa, Ukraine.
Marc Greenberg preparing to contend with some serious sweets at Slaščičarna Lenček, Domžale.
Editor’s Corner
The Slavic department began producing this newsletter, simply called Newsletter, in 1975; for the next 14 years, it was edited by professor Stephen Parker, who put out his last issue in Fall 1989. In 1991, then assistant professor Marc L. Greenberg took over the editorship, restarting the newsletter under a new name, Lawrencian Chronicle (the name references the Laurentian Chronicle, one of the two sources for the Russian Primary Chronicle). Professor Greenberg edited the newsletter for ten years, improving and expanding its scope, and eventually producing an e-version to supplement the dead-tree version. When Prof. Greenberg stepped down as an editor in 2011, Prof. Perelmutter, Prof. Kokobobo, and Rebecca Stakun edited LC issues. In 2016 Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova took over the editorship. This first issue she edited with Kayla Grumbles’ help.
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