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CHAIR'S CORNER

by Ani Kokobobo



Dear all -

I hope that everyone is taking some time to wind down and relax at the end of another long year.

As many of you know, this was a year of some significant transition for the department as we welcomed our colleagues from German Studies and pivoted our academic identities

into a new department structure: Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies. I am deeply grateful to all the colleagues in the department who have met this transition with extraordinary grace and openness – whether they were coming into a new structure or were embracing of those who were coming into a new structure. I have been consistently impressed by the ongoing collegiality and spirit of collaboration that I've witnessed this semester.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the work that has been ongoing in the department during this period. The German study abroad program was in Berlin again this year, and we are grateful to Andrea Meyertholen for the effort of mentoring students and helping them learn about German language and culture.

I am also grateful that we had the opportunity to welcome four new Ukrainian graduate students in the department this semester (Andriyana Baran, Marta Puhach, Oksana Vykhopen, and Antin Zaiarniuk) that we were able to fundraise for last spring with the help of the community and the university. We also welcomed a new Ukrainian faculty member, Olga Kyrylova, who is teaching both in SGES and in Film and Media Studies. It has been a special privilege to get to know these colleagues and to feel that we are doing a small part to help support Ukraine. I am also grateful to my Ukrainian Studies colleagues in the department, Vitaly Chernetsky and Oleksandra Wallo, for their ongoing scholarly efforts to educate us all about Ukraine.

We also have positive news to report on the grants front. The Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies received the Title VI grant through the Department of Education, which brings many important opportunities for our faculty and students. Additionally, we launched the third year of the Russian for high schools program, generously funded by the U.S. Russia Foundation through 2024 which allows us to provide important language skills to high school students throughout the state.

As we come out of the pandemic, we are pleased to have more opportunities for togetherness, both with each other and with our students. I am grateful for the community's broader support of all efforts and hope you will take some time to leaf through the newsletter which captures many of our ongoing efforts.

There are many accomplishments by individual faculty in the department, and rather than listing them all today, I would invite you to look at the faculty achievement page in this newsletter. We are deeply saddened as a community to lose one of our own this year, Dr. Lorie Vanchena, who passed away this month after a long battle with cancer. We will remember Lorie's contributions in the department and at the Max Kade Center.

We wish you a wonderful holiday and look forward to what the new year will bring for all of us.

Best wishes,

Ani Kokobobo Associate Professor and Chair akokobobo@ku.edu



The department is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Lorie Vanchena, associate professor of German Studies and director of the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies. Lorie passed on December 2nd at the age of 61. She served at the university for 14 years in a number of positions. Read more about Lorie's work and memory in KU News.

KU'S SUMMER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE RETURNS TO

HOLZKIRCHEN BERLIN!

by Andrea Meyertholen



Summer 2022 witnessed the successful return of the Summer Language Institute (SLI) in Holzkirchen, Germany...sort of.

Until the pandemic prompted a two-year hiatus, KU's faculty-led program in Holzkirchen has offered students the opportunity to study German language and culture while living with host families in the small Bavarian town south of Munich since 1961. This past summer marked the first post-Covid occasion for students of German to participate in the SLI. Although the pandemic no longer prohibited the ability to take students to Germany, it still precipitated a provisional re-designing of the program to accommodate certain Covid-conditioned restrictions. With host families not yet an option again, SLI Holzkirchen relocated to Berlin where students lived for five weeks and earned nine credit hours of KU coursework.



As the program director, I had the pleasure of spending my summer with seventeen highly engaged, intelligent, and hard-working students who were not only a joy to teach, but also extremely fun to share Germany with. When the oftentimes sweltering summer heat made sitting indoors unbearable, we used the city as our classroom and took advantage of what the city of Berlin had to offer. Nearly every day brought a new cultural outing; we enjoyed special tours of the city's myriad museums and visited an array of political, economic, and cultural institutes to discuss a variety of topical issues, from climate change and renewable energy to international politics and responsible journalism and dissemination of information.



When our time in Berlin ended, we packed up and headed south to Bavaria to spend an additional and final week in Munich. There we partook in the typical tourist fare: eating giant pretzels and pig knuckles at the Hofbräuhaus, watching the surfers in the English Garden, and touring the Bavarian countryside to visit the "fairy-tale" castles of Neuschwanstein and Linderhof. The ultimate highlight was a daytrip to the program's namesake and traditional location, Holzkirchen. We were warmly and ceremoniously welcomed to the city by the presidents of the Freunde der Universität Kansas in Holzkirchen, Lisa and Albert Schlegl, the mayor of Holzkirchen, Christoph Schmid, and a marching band. After spending the morning on a picturesque hike around the Tegernsee, we ate lunch in a traditional Bavarian Bräustüberl before heading back to Holzkirchen for an evening at the local Trachtenverein, a society dedicated to the preservation of traditional dress and dance. Even if students were bewildered by the unintelligible guttural vet melodic tones of Bavarian dialect explaining the intricacies of Dirndl and Lederhosen, they eagerly and energetically took to the stage to learn the choreography of knee-slaps and pirouettes typical of traditional Bayarian dance.

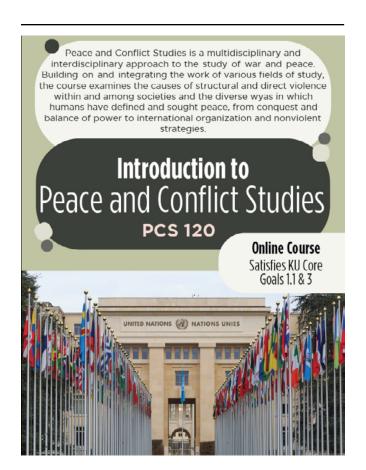


Our visit to Holzkirchen was undoubtedly the pinnacle of a summer filled with highlights (Döner! Cat café! 9-Euro-Ticket! Class in a luxury hotel!). I couldn't have asked for a better group of students. Fun, good-humored, and flexible, they were able to find the humor even in the, shall we say, less enjoyable moments (Mini-Covid outbreak! Torrential downpours! Fire alarms! Wolfsburg!). Next summer will witness our highly anticipated return to Holzkirchen proper where we will continue the decades-old traditions of the SLI and the enduring friendship between the city and KU.

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES IN SGES

As of Fall 2022, KU's distinctive Peace and Conflict Studies program is now housed within the Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies Department. Peace and Conflict Studies is a multidisciplinary course of study that enables students to examine conflict within and between societies as well as ways that humans address conflict through war, mediation, law, and diplomacy, political and social institutions, and peaceful resistance. In particular, this unique curriculum allows students to gain a more acute historical and philosophical understanding of the forces that have shaped and continue to shape our natural and social world and, moreover, on how we, as individuals, are implicated in and might potentially contribute to the amelioration of current domestic, global, and environmental crises. Dr. Razi Ahmad is currently serving as the program coordinator for this minor and is happy to address any questions about PCS. The department is thankful to Dr. Lara Giordano for her work overseeing the transfer and establishment of the minor in the department.

For more information on this course of study, please visit our website at https://sges.ku.edu/minors.



Spring Courses in PCS

PCS 120: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies (online)

PCS 329: History of War and Peace PCS 555: Israel-Palestine Conflict

SLAV 370/570: War and Violence in Russian Film and Literature

(Capstone Course for PCS)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

by Vitaly Chernetsky



I am writing in my capacity as Interim DGS for our department while Prof. Oleksandra Wallo is away on sabbatical. She will return to DGS duties in 2023.

The Slavic graduate program continues strong after the merger with German Studies, which grew and enriched the ranks of faculty our graduate students can work with. Thus, Jakob

Johnson is benefitting from the expertise of Prof. Nina Vyatkina, who is now his primary advisor; they recently presented collaboratively on their research at the departmental colloquium. Additionally, the REES M.A. degree has been brought into our department, and it is now one of the tracks within the Slavic M.A.

Our program maintained its resilience during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and responded in a deeply meaningful way to the tragedy of Russia's war against Ukraine. The Fall 2022 incoming class of graduate students includes four students from Ukraine for whom KU became a new home during this challenging time: Andriyana Baran, Marta Puhach, Oksana Vykhopen, and Antin Zaiarniuk. Three other students, Mason Hussong, Mariia Shishmareva, and Jordan Zaugg, started our graduate program in 2022 as well, making this one of the largest incoming cohorts of graduate students in recent memory. As the pandemic delayed the release of the newsletter, now is also the time to welcome, if belatedly, the three graduate students who joined us in Fall 2021: Kate Crnkovich, Marta Kapszewich, and Aidana Rysbek. And we welcome the REES M.A. student Kevin Thomas, who also began his studies in 2021, to our departmental family.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our students on the job market. This year, Ekaterina Chelpanova and Devin McFadden defended their Ph.D. dissertations, both of them with honors, and both also began working as Lecturers in Russian, at the University at Buffalo (SUNY) and at the University of Vermont respectively. Oksana Husieva began teaching at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey while continuing to work on her dissertation. Earlier, Frane Karabatić became a Lecturer in Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Serbian (BCMS) at the University of Texas at Austin; he continues to develop his web-based textbook of elementary Croatian funded by the Department of Education International Research and Studies Program Grant. Molly Godwin-Jones took a position as a Learning

Design Specialist at the Language Flagship Technology Innovation Center at the University of Hawaii, where she is assisting faculty in Flagship programs across the United States with implementing digital projects in their language programs. Both Frane and Molly also continue working on their doctoral dissertations in our program.

We have also had several M.A. graduates. In 2021, Pavlo Popov graduated with an M.A. and Cecilia King and Jakob Johnson successfully passed their M.A./Ph.D. qualifying exams and advanced into our Ph.D. program, while Olga Garabrandt defended her professional Ph.D. portfolio with honors. Kamila Saifeeva and Gina Sane passed their M.A./Ph.D. qualifying exams in 2022 and are likewise continuing towards the doctorate. Our heartfelt congratulations to all of them!



Kamila Saifeeva presenting on the Tatar language at the Around the World Language Workshop organized by KU's International Support Services.

2021 proved to be an especially fruitful year for articles co-authored by Slavic graduate students with faculty. An article about proficiency-oriented language instruction and assessment, co-authored by Molly Godwin-Jones and Prof. Wallo, came out in the *Russian Language Journal*. The same journal also published "Make Me Talk: A Bichronous Russian Language Course for Beginners," an article in which Olga Garabrandt and Dr. Six reported on the department's innovative online course in Russian, which has helped boost our program's enrollments in Russian during these difficult pandemic times. Devin McFadden and Prof. Kokobobo co-authored "The Queer Nihilist—Queer Time, Social Refusal, and Heteronormativity in Goncharov's *The Precipice*" for an edited volume on Ivan Goncharov, published by the Academic Studies Press. Finally, Devin McFadden and yours truly co-authored an article on queer culture for

the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Soviet Underground Culture.

We were also proud to see individual scholarly publications by our graduate students. Oksana Husieva published an article in *The Russian Review*, "Remembering the Victims of the Gulag: Images of *Dokhodiagi* in Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* and Shalamov's *Kolyma Stories*" and a book review of *Survival as Victory: Ukrainian Women in the Gulag* by Oksana Kis in *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. Jakob Johnson has written two book reviews, one of which recently came out in *Slavia Centralis* and another one is about to appear in the *Tolstoy Studies Journal*.

Our MA students have likewise taken on a variety of academic and professional projects. Trena Tackitt worked as an editorial assistant for The Russian Review and interned in 2021 with CEC ArtsLink, an organization that fosters dialogue between artists and communities in the United States and the post-Soviet region. Jordan Zaugg is working for The Russian Review now. In the summer of 2021, Gina Sane worked as a program instructional assistant for STARTALK, participating in lesson planning and helping teachers of Russian integrate various digital tools in their language classrooms. Kamila Saifeeva has been working with Prof. Dickey on the open-access textbook Russian Aspect in Conversation and co-presented on this project at the departmental colloquium in Fall 2021. She also gave a presentation on the Russian alphabet at the virtual World Languages Fair, organized by KU's Open Language Resource Center. In an in-person event, so rare in these pandemic times, Kamila taught the basics of the Tatar language as part of KU's 2021 Around the World Language Workshop.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

by Ari Linden



In Fall 2022 I assumed the role of Director of Undergraduate Studies for our newly combined unit. Having previously served in this capacity for the Department of German Studies (Professor Meyertholen was interim DUS while I was on sabbatical last spring), I currently oversee the undergraduate curriculum for SLAV and REES as well.

With the outstanding expertise of our department's undergraduate advisor, Maggie Williams-who has accepted a new position and will be replaced in the spring by advisor Nicholas Pellett (npellett@ ku.edu) and department liaison Joey Anguiano (joey.anguiano@ ku.edu)—we have been able to meet with students over Zoom and in person, ensuring that they find the courses and mentorship they need to meet their academic goals. I have particularly enjoyed signing up new majors and minors and getting to know our students in all three tracks, learning about both their educational and professional aspirations. I also enjoyed visiting our German courses in the German Language Proficiency Sequence and at the 300-level, meeting students who are interested in German but have not yet declared a major or minor in our department. I look forward to welcoming high school students from the Kansas City area next semester who are taking Russian and are interested in learning more about our department.

Students who are already concentrating or minoring in REES, German, or Slavic languages, or even just considering a concentration, should feel free to email me at ari.linden@ku.edu to set up an advising appointment (I will also hold regular office hours in the spring). Sessions can be focused on specific questions related to our department, curriculum, scholarship opportunities, path to degree, or study abroad possibilities, or we can have an informal session just to check in and catch up on life at KU.

Students should be aware of how much flexibility we can accommodate in pursuit of their degree foci within our department—we are always willing to work with students' particular needs, especially in light of minor changes to our degree requirements as a result of the departmental merger. We not only offer a wide range of languages and cultures to choose from; we can also boast of world-class expertise among our faculty in German, the many languages, literatures, cultures, and linguistics of the Slavic family (Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, and Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian), and Turkish, Persian, and Yiddish. Our Capstone experience in German and Slavic gives students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member in designing an individualized research project. I encourage students to read our faculty pages and the descriptions of our course offerings to get a better idea of what areas and topics they might pursue.



Illustration by Kakhidze conceptualizing her collaborative project with KU-based poet Megan Kaminski (Department of English)

VISITING ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE, ALEVTINA KAKHIDZE

In the fall of 2021, the Slavic and Eurasian Department was proud to host one of Ukraine's leading contemporary cultural figures, Alevtina Kakhidze, as a CEC ArtsLink artist-in-residence. We have collaborated with CEC ArtsLink since 2015, and have earlier hosted three other visitors through them, from Ukraine, Croatia, and Kazakhstan. Alevtina Kakhidze is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice encompasses performance, drawing, time-based media, curation, and collaborative works and investigates complex issues from consumerism to plant culture, and from feminism to life in conflict zones. Her residency was originally planned for 2020, but because of the pandemic changed into a year-long virtual affiliation followed by a 6-week in-person stay at KU.

Kakhidze is recognized as one of Ukraine's leading visual and performance artists. As a native of Ukraine's Donbas region which has been under Russian occupation since 2014, she received broad acclaim for her series of works that bring home to the broadest audiences what folks in the occupied territories are living through by focusing on the experiences of her mother who refused to leave her house despite the occupation. The story gained even more poignancy when her mother tragically passed away waiting in a line at a checkpoint between the occupied and government-controlled

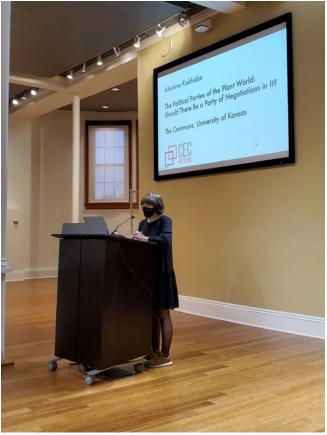
territory. The monument Kakhidze erected on her mother's grave became a powerful tribute to all the Ukrainians suffering under occupation. In 2022, her visual diary of responses to Russia's escalated invasion resonated powerfully with audiences worldwide. Selected works from it have been displayed prominently in public spaces in major European cities, from Vienna to Venice.



Kakhidze visiting prarie land in Kansas to do research on local plant life.

For many years, Kakhidze's art practice has been extensively linked to plants and their habitats, both natural and human-transformed. She developed the concept of an adult garden (a garden that does not require micromanaging), contrasting it with what she calls "a totalitarian flowerbed." She has also studied plants outside their native habitats—both those deliberately brought for human benefit and those considered invasive. Learning from plants in leading a more ethically responsible life has been one of her goals. Kakhidze's KU residency included intensive dialogue with local artists and creative writers engaged with the plant world. She traveled extensively across the state, visiting nature preserves and innovative research projects like the Land Institute in Salina. One of the outcomes of her residency is a collaborative play/performance project she developed with KU-

based poet Megan Kaminski. Alevtina Kakhidze also runs a <u>residency</u> for international artists in <u>Ukraine</u>. Before the escalation of Russia's invasion, plans were made for one of KU-based visual artists to have a residency with her. We hope that with Ukraine's victory, this residency will become a reality in the near future.



Kakhidze presented a talk titled "The Political Parties of the Plant World: Should There Be a Party of Negotiations in It? at The Commons.

In the meantime, our department is welcoming another CEC ArtsLink fellow from Ukraine. Svitlana Biedarieva is a British-trained art historian and a prominent scholar of decolonial art practices. She currently is in the virtual part of her residency, and will be with us in person in the fall of 2023.

AIDING UKRAINIANS

With the violent invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the department mobilized to bring awareness to the issue as well as support our academic peers in the region. This began with an immediate statement from the department on our stance on the war and support of Ukraine. In the coming weeks, faculty from the department, Drs. Vitaly Chernetsky, Ani Kokobobo, and Oleksandra Wallo participated in the Teach-in and Panel co-organized by the Center for Russia, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the KU Commons. Dr. Chernetsky spoke to the history of the region and conflict, Dr. Wallo addressed present events and shared personal stories, and Dr. Kokobobo spoke of reactions to the invasion by the Russian public, media, and government. Drs. Valery Dzutsati, Robert Rorschneider, and Erik Scott, also participated in the panel. This event was livestreamed and replayed on KPR. We are thankful to our colleagues at CREES, the Commons, KU Media, and KPR for their support and efforts with this event.

In March and April, Dr. Kokobobo led an effort with numerous departments and offices across campus to raise funds to support Ukrainian students at KU and those displaced by the war. These funds cumulated in the support of four graduate students as well as one faculty member. These four students are working towards the fast-track M.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies while also teaching Ukrainian courses and teaching and revamping REES 110: Understanding Russia and Eastern Europe. The faculty member, Dr. Kyrylova, is housed in Film and Media Studies and is teaching courses on Ukrainian and Eastern European film, including the signature class SLAV 322: Soviet & Post-Soviet Cinema.

Read bios of our visiting students and faculty in KU News!





OFFERING RUSSIAN TO KANSAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The U.S. Russian Foundation Grant

We are happy to have received a second grant from the U.S. Russia Foundation of \$220,000 to continue providing opportunities and access to Russian Studies to Kansas High School students, primarily through the offering of free, online elementary Russian language courses (RUSS 150 and 152).

This grant builds on a previous grant of \$120,000 from the U.S. Russian Foundation from the 2021-2022 academic year, which accommodated approximately 100 high school students. The new grant will allow us to offer a robust ongoing curriculum in cultural studies, illuminating Russia's racial and ethnic diversities, as well as current political and challenges. We hope to use the study of Russian culture and language to inspire a new generation of Russian Studies experts when such voices are sorely needed.

Participants from the first year of the grant included students from throughout Kansas, including Sedgwick, Johnson, Shawnee, Butler, Lane, Jackson, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties among others. In this context, online study allowed students from all over the state, many of them in rural districts, to take a class together, in addition to their high school curricula.

The department is hoping to also offer students admission to our signature course REES 110: Understanding Russia & East Europe to supplement their language learning with cultural background.

Interested students can learn more and register for the program on our website: https://sges.ku.edu/us-russia-grant-project.

FACULTY UPDATES



This is **Dr. Ljudmila Bilkić's** third academic year at KU, and her second academic year as an Assistant Teaching Professor and the Coordinator of the German Language Proficiency Sequence (GLPS). In addition to teaching across the sequence and other 300-level courses, she has enjoyed getting to know students in *Germany's New Media:*

Migration, a course she developed to investigate how New Media in 21st-century Germany informs both the global debate on migration and our current understanding of migrant experiences. Supported by the KU Libraries OER Initiative Grant, the Revolutionizing Academia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant from KU's Center for Teaching Excellence, and KU's Center for Online Development and Learning, she is finalizing the curricular overhaul of the German Language Proficency Sequence (GLPS) as Project Director. This process has resulted in a switch to fully accessible, no-cost Open Educational Resources (OER) in the first four semesters of studying German. While our OER engages students in diverse representations of "German/y" as related to ethnicity, gender, immigration, race, sexual orientation, and mental/physical abilities, our new curriculum includes changes in how we assess progress in beginning and intermediate L2 learners.



For Vitaly Chernetsky, the year 2022 was marked by public outreach efforts to the broadest possible audiences about Ukraine in the context of Russia's brutal and criminal invasion. He delivered 22 talks and 15 conference presentations at venues across the US, as well as in Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Italy, and Sweden (in person), as well as

Czechia and the UK (online), which included keynote addresses at conferences at the University of Tartu and Södertörn University. He also gave numerous interviews to local, national, and international media. His publications this year include the article "Ivan Kozlenko's Tanzher and the Odesa Myth: Multidirectional Memory as a Strategy of Subversion," *East–West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, vol. 9, no. 2. His translations from the Ukrainian were included in the anthologies *Writing from Ukraine: Fiction, Poetry and Essays since 1965* (Penguin Books) and *Love in Defiance of Pain: Ukrainian Stories* (Deep Vellum). Russian-language translations of two of his articles on Kazakh New Wave cinema were published in Kazakhstan in the volume *Kazakhskaia novaia volna*, edited by Gulnara

Abikeeva. Prof. Chernetsky has been elected the next president of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (Vice President/President-Elect in 2023, President in 2024).



Prof. Marc L. Greenberg has been working on various projects in 2022, notably editing the *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics*, which has slowed down as an indirect result of the Russian war on Ukraine. In March he hosted two visiting scholars: Prof. Mate Kapović (U. of Zagreb) and Prof. Motoki Nomachi (University of Hokkaido).

In the summer he traveled to Montenegro and Albania collecting material for research. During his stay he was interviewed on the cultural talk show Kniški ljudi (Book People) by host Đorđe Šćepović in the capital, Podgorica. He met with several cultural leaders in Montenegro, including the writer Milorad Popović and members of the Fakultet za crnogorski jezik i književnost. Two publications appeared in 2022, "De se završava južnoslovenski areal? Napomene o panonskom narječju poznoga praslovenskog" in Cetinjski filološki dani III and a co-authored essay with Brian Rosenblum, A. Town Peterson, Ada Emmett, and Josh Bolick. "Open Access is Broken: What Can be Done?" in the Ghana Library Journal. In September he gave a talk "Nastanek in razvoj slovanskih sistemov s stalnim naglasom," at the plenary Ramovš Symposium as part of the celebration of the late Fran Ramovš (1890-1952), Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana. In the fall he was a visiting fellow at the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, University of Hokkaido, and during his stay he gave several in-person and hybrid talks, including "Orthographies for small Slavic languages with significant internal differentiation. Case studies of Prekmurje Slovene and Montenegrin" at the University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa (November); "Montenegrin language: What is it and what is at stake?" at Kyoto University; and "The Reduction of Word-Prosody Systems in Slavic Languages and Dialects (with Some Furtive Comparison to Japanese)" as the lecturer for the 126th NINJAL Colloquium, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Tokyo. In December he gave two invited lectures, "Kako su se razvili sistemi fiksnog naglaska u slavenskim jezicima?" in the series Jezik-čovjek-svijet at the University of Sarajevo, and a reprise of the talk "What is at stake with a Montenegrin standard language?" in the Institute for Advanced Studies Invited Lecture Series at the University of Poznań in the series "(Non-)standard in language – politics - culture."



Prof. Greenberg met alumnus Yuki Onogi in Tokyo with his wife, Jenny, in October. Yuki now works for JP Morgan Securities Japan Co., Ltd. as a foreign-exchange specialist.



In Spring 2022, **Marike Janzen** was a resident fellow at the Hall Center for the Humanities during which time she worked on her current book project, which examines how state-funded literary institutions in Germany incorporate the voices of refugees. In March 2022, she gave a talk at the Hall Center titled "Readers and Refugees as World Citizens in

Germany's Contemporary Literary Sphere." Also in Spring 2022, she received funding from KU's General Research Fund, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct fieldwork in Berlin on her book project. She spent July 2022 in Germany's capital, attending literary events that focused on refugee writers, as well as interviewing writers in exile from crisis regions and organizers of literary institutions that feature the refugee experience. Her research on refugees informed a freshman honors seminar she taught in Fall 2022, HNRS 190, "Who is a Refugee?" as well as a new project on the relationship between leftist internationalism and statelessness. She presented work on this project at the 2022 meeting of the German Studies Association in Houston, Texas in a paper titled "Refugees and International Solidarity in the Work of Anna Seghers."



Dr. Ani Kokobobo was awarded a twoyear grant from the US Russia Foundation (\$220,000) to teach Russian online to high schools in Kansas. She received a contract from Northwestern University Press for her book, *Sex, Gender, and Tolstoy*. Her book for the public, *The Tolstoy Marriage – A Literary*

History is forthcoming with Bloomsbury Press in 2023. Articles she has written over the years, as well as three new articles she wrote for the book, will also be forthcoming in 2023 as a book with Academic Studies Press, titled *Leo Tolstoy: The Power of Dissent*.



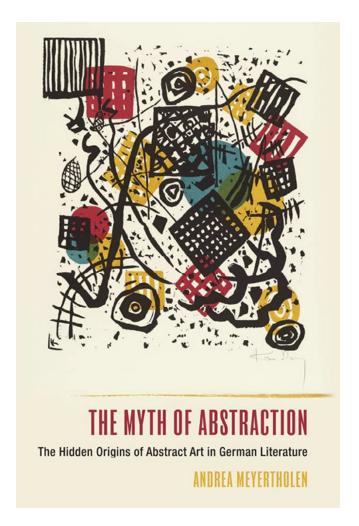
Ari Linden spent his Spring 2022 sabbatical revising his forthcoming essay on Freud's *Moses and Monotheism* and completing an article manuscript titled "*Vogelfrei*: Marx and the Worker in Exile." The latter is currently under review with *The Germanic Review*. In his capacity as co-editor of a forthcoming volume on Karl Kraus (De Gruyter), he

edited some of the contributions to the volume. Finally, he gave two (invited) presentations on his work on Marx: the first was in front of the faculty and students of the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the second was the 34th Annual Seaver Lecture at KU, co-sponsored by the Program in the Humanities and the Hall Center for the Humanities. This past fall, he taught the second iteration of his First Year Seminar, "Marx and Marxism in German Culture and Beyond" while also beginning his tenure as Director of Undergraduate Studies. In late September he participated (remotely) in the 46th Annual German Studies Association Conference, serving as commentator for a panel on Georg Lukács' History and Class Consciousness. In November, he co-organized and moderated an event with the Hall Center and Jewish Studies on a recent art documentary film entitled 10 Questions for Henry Ford, which entailed a conversation with the director (Andy Kirshner, Univ. of Michigan) and two other members of the KU faculty: Betsy Esch (AMS) and Sam Brody (Religious Studies).



Andrea Meyertholen spent the summer with a group of highly motivated majors and minors in Germany, where she taught three courses for the Summer Language Institute (SLI) in "Holzkirchen" (temporarily relocated to Berlin and Munich). Beginning Fall 2023 as a newly promoted Associate Professor of German Studies, Andrea embarked on new

research projects and taught a newly designed course, "Magic, Murder, Monsters: German Literature and the Modern Era." In Spring 2023 she will be teaching another brand-new course entitled, "Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm to Disney and Beyond." Besides looking forward to disillusioning young minds with the non-Disneyfied world of torture, mutilation, and abandonment endemic to the Brothers Grimm, Andrea is currently preparing for the SLI 2023 which will see the program return to its traditional location and format in Holzkirchen, Germany, outside of Munich. Most recently, Andrea's book *The Myth of Abstraction: The Hidden Origins of Abstract Art in German Literature* (Camden House) was shortlisted for the Waterloo Centre for German Studies Book Prize.





Marta Pirnat-Greenberg completed the development of BCMS and Slovene online courses. The entire BCMS language sequence and a survival Slovene language course are now available online to both KU and outside students. Since these languages have been offered online, they enrolled, in addition to KU students, students from Virginia, Georgia,

California, Oregon, Oklahoma, and Canada. Marta contributed an essay for the volume *Slovene Immigrants and their Descendants in North America: Faces of Identity* (Maribor: Univerzitetna založba Univerze). Narratives of some twenty-five American and Canadian Slovenes complement and illustrate the sociolinguistic analysis of Slovene language usage, attitudes, and identity of the Slovene diaspora in North America by the volume's author, Nada Šabec (University of Maribor).



In January 2022 **Prof. Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova** gave a talk titled "The Sequel as a Marker of Developmental Arrest in Michal Viewegh's and Irena Douskova's Coming of Age Novels and Their Continuations" at the international online conference "Radiant Maternity." In June she presented the paper "What are Yana

Borissova's Characters Escaping From?" at the 15th International Slavic Studies Conference at Sofia University (Bulgaria). She gave a presentation titled "Language Activities based on Olga Tokarczuk's Short Story 'Preserves for Life'" at the Literary Fair organized by the North American Association of Teachers of Polish. Her article "Material Agency in Stefan Chwin's Novel *Death in Danzig*" was accepted for publication at the peer-reviewed journal *Transit*. She is putting the final touches on two other articles: on the post-1989 sequel in Czech literature and on vulnerability in the works of Bulgarian playwright Yana Borissova.



Prof. Nina Vyatkina continued her research in Instructed Second Language Acquisition. In July, she completed her four-year community-engaged research and teaching project *Incorporating Corpora* funded by the US Department of Education. SGES multiterm lecturer Schirin Kourehpaz participated in this project as materials creator. In January, Prof.

Vyatkina's chapter "Technology and Vocabulary" was published as part of The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Technology. In collaboration with Alex Boulton (University of Lorraine, France), Prof. Vyatkina conducted a comprehensive research synthesis of studies that investigated the effectiveness of corpus-based language teaching and presented the results at the American Association of Applied Linguistics conference (March; Pittsburgh, PA) and the Teaching and Language Corpora conference (July; Limerick, Ireland). She also co-presented with SGES graduate student Jakob Johnson on his game-based language teaching project at the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium conference (June; Seattle, WA) and made a solo presentation at the European Second Language Association conference (August; Fribourg, Switzerland). Over the year, she drafted several chapters for her forthcoming monograph on corpus-based teaching of German, commissioned by Routledge. Prof. Vyatkina's service to the profession included her work as Associate Editor of Language Learning & Technology (a high-impact scholarly journal), reviewing for multiple other journals, conferences, and presses, and serving on the National Screening Committee for the Fulbright U.S. English Teaching Assistants program.



After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, **Oleksandra Wallo** worked together with colleagues in Slavic to provide the KU community and the wider public with accurate information on the war and rally support for Ukrainian students and scholars. She gave a lecture about the war during the teach-in organized by the department,

participated in putting together the fundraiser to benefit Ukrainian students and scholars, and worked throughout the summer to bring four students from Ukraine to SGES for graduate study. She was awarded a sabbatical leave for Fall 2022 and spent it conducting research on her new book project about the New Drama phenomenon in Ukraine. She submitted a chapter related to this project to an edited volume and co-authored an essay on Ukrainian testimonial drama about the war with a colleague from Ukraine. In 2022, Dr. Wallo also presented papers at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages conference and two international online conferences: "Independence. Archive. Prognosis. Ukraine in 1991-2021" and "Beyond: A Conference of the Ukrainian Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand" (University of Melbourne) and "Slavic Literary Studies Deconstructed: Translating Ukraine" (Ivan Franko National University in Lviv, Ukraine). She has also been actively involved in establishing the International Association of Teachers of Ukrainian.

This edition of the SGES Newsletter was edited by Dr. Marike Janzen.

