



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
SLAVIC, GERMAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

THE SGES NEWSLETTER

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CHAIR'S CORNER

by Ani Kokobobo



Dear all –

I hope that everyone is taking some Here in SGES we have had a wonderful semester, and I am exceptionally grateful for the work of my colleagues.

The faculty have been working to help and support students and advance their research in multiple directions.

We have been teaching a new translation course that cuts across multiple languages and a new course on German fairy tales that has been growing exponentially. Our course on vampires and ethics had 150 students this fall, and is one of the more popular lecture courses in the humanities at this point.

We hired two new faculty members this year: Bogi Perelmutter and Patrick Ploschnitzki. They have both hit the ground running and have been doing wonderful work contributing to our curriculum and helping advance student education.

Marike Janzen began her role as Director of the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies last January and has also hit the ground running at full speed. We hosted a wonderful, national exhibit at the Center this fall, “Thomas Mann: Democracy Will Win!,” in partnership with the German government and the Villa Aurora. Patrick and Marike worked to host German-Kurdish writer, Ronya Othmann, at the Max Kade Center to discuss her newly translated novel, *The Summers*.

Through fundraising and institutional support, the department hosted four Ukrainian students and a faculty member last academic year, is now hosting three Ukrainian students, and a new faculty member will be coming in January 2024. We are proud to be doing our part as a department with unique expertise in Ukraine to support our colleagues in Ukraine during this extraordinarily difficult and ongoing war.

We started the third year of our US Russia Foundation grant and continued to offer Russian language for free to high school students across Kansas. We will be launching a lecture series affiliated with the grant this spring to help provide critical understanding of Russia.

I want to thank our administrative associate in the department, Wyatt Haywood, for the incredible work he does to ensure that everything runs smoothly and the consistent support he provides to all our faculty as they take up projects.

We wish you and yours best wishes for the upcoming holidays. Please keep in touch.

Best wishes,

Ani Kokobobo
 Professor and Chair
 akokobobo@ku.edu

DISPLACED is a heartbreaking story about the Kovalchuk family, who were among the first refugees to arrive in America after fleeing Ukraine at the start of the Russian invasion. The film follows three generations of the close-knit family through their first days and weeks in Southern California after traveling through six countries and two continents. While displaced, they grapple with their identities and grieve for their beloved war-torn homeland. As they search for housing and try to rebuild the sense of security their children have lost, the family must reimagine their entire futures.

English Room, Kansas Union
 Tues. Oct. 24th
 5:00 - 6:00pm
FILM SCREENING
 With first hand accounts from SGES graduate students from Ukraine
 Oksana Vykhopen
 Andriyana Baran
 Andrii Drobko

KU DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC, GERMAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

DISPLACED
 HOW DO YOU REIMAGINE A FUTURE THAT YOU NEVER ASKED FOR?

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

by Oleksandra Wallo



2023 was a fruitful year in the Slavic graduate program as our new and continuing graduate students took on a variety of academic and service projects while also excelling in their studies. In Spring 2023, Kamila Saifeeva finished the work with Prof. Dickey on the open-access textbook *Russian Aspect in Conversation*;

Jordan Zaugg continued to work as an editorial assistant for *The Russian Review*; and Andriyana Baran designed and taught a free beginner's Ukrainian course at the Lawrence Public Library to members of the Lawrence community. Andriyana's efforts in promoting the Ukrainian language and the SGES Ukrainian program were recognized this year with the departmental graduate student service award.



Andriyana Baran and Dr. Oleksandra Wallo

In the summer, several of our graduate students were busy teaching Slavic languages in intensive programs, both at KU and elsewhere. Kamila Saifeeva and Jakob Johnson co-taught intensive elementary Russian at KU while Mariia Shishmareva was hired by the University of Pittsburgh Summer Language Institute to teach intensive Russian there. In addition, for the very first time at KU, Andriyana Baran and Oksana Vykhopen co-taught intensive summer courses in beginner's Ukrainian to two groups of U.S. special forces personnel.

This year was also full of significant milestones for our graduate students. Five students graduated with the M.A. degree from our program, including Kate Crnkovich, who specialized in Slavic languages and literatures, and four students who completed the REES concentration: Marta Puhach, Antin Zaiarniuk, Kevin Thomas, and Mason Hussong. Two students, Marta Kapszewicz and Aidana Rysbek, completed their M.A./Ph.D. qualifying exams and were admitted into our Ph.D. program. In Spring 2023, Jakob Johnson and Molly Godwin-Jones successfully defended their professional Ph.D. portfolios and advanced to the dissertation writing stage. Finally, Frane Karabatic, who has already been teaching Slavic languages at the University of Texas at Austin for several years, successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation, "Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence in Beginner Learners of L2 Croatian: Evaluation of the Culture-Centered *Tako lako* Curriculum." Sincere congratulations to all of our talented and hard-working students!

Three new graduate students began their studies in our program in the fall: Murad Jalilov, Naomi Galindo Galarza, and Andrii Drobko. Welcome, Murad, Naomi, and Andrii!

Whether they specialize in linguistics or in literature and culture, our graduate students have been very active this year in presenting their research at professional conferences. For instance, doctoral students Kamila Saifeeva and Chul Hyun Hwang participated in June 2023 in the annual conference of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association at Harvard University. Their papers, "(Sure), Go Ahead, (But): Levels of Approval and Russian Imperatives" (Kamila) and "Tošnit' vs.



Mariia Shishmareva at the Central Slavic Conference in Saint Louis

tošno, dušit' vs. dušno: A Corpus Analysis" (Chul Hyun), were very well received. M.A. student Jordan Zaugg gave his first conference presentation, "Home and Trauma: Understanding Chernobyl's Elderly Women through Film," at the Dmytro Shtohryn International Ukrainian Studies Conference, which took place in October at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. M.A. student Mariia Shishmareva also presented her first academic paper, "Redemption of a Fallen Woman Themes in Works of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky," at the Central Slavic Conference in Saint Louis; and Murad Jalilov participated in the 2023 ASEES Convention in Philadelphia with a presentation titled "Traversing Controversy and Nationalism within Azerbaijani Folklore."

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

by Ari Linden



The fall semester was a busy and productive one for our undergraduates and for our department in general. We grew as a program, adding both new majors and minors. Early in the semester, a recent graduate from our German program (summer 2023), Natalie Miller, presented her Capstone Seminar research on the rise and

influence of the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) in Germany and the European Union. This presentation took place at the Max Kade Center in conjunction with the visiting exhibition at the time, "Thomas Mann: Democracy will Win!" In October we had a successful SGES luncheon in the Kansas Union, in which students, faculty, and staff gathered to eat lunch, learn more about our various minors, concentrations, and course offerings for the spring, and get to know one another outside of the classroom environment. Later that month, our Herbstfest/Fall Fest—an extension of our newly rebranded "Spätigetränk" (the German Club's weekly table formerly known as "Stammtisch")—provided a great mid-semester diversion. And our Winter Festival—which would not have been possible without the efforts of Wyatt Haywood and the

contributions of Dr. Bogi Perelmutter—was a special way to end the semester and provide delectable, wintry, holiday treats for all members and friends of our department. We intend to continue organizing informal events like these in the spring, as such events provide great opportunities for students in our program to socialize with one another and to get to know their instructors better.

Changes to our German Studies concentration (and minor) are currently in the works and will be officially implemented next fall. We are now allowing students who declare a German concentration to retroactively count GERM 201 and GERM 202 toward the concentration (as opposed to being considered mere prerequisites). The 12 elective credits students will need to complete for the concentration will consist of any 300-level course or above in our program, regardless of the language of instruction. And finally, our Capstone Seminar (GERM 580) will now require a research paper to be written in English as opposed to German, as it has been in the past. We intend for these changes to make the concentration more feasible, more flexible, and more tailored to the academic needs and professional aspirations of our students. Please contact me if you have any questions about these impending changes.

Students who are concentrating or minoring in REES, German, or any of the Slavic languages, or even just considering a concentration, should feel encouraged to contact me at ari.linden@ku.edu to set up an advising appointment; I will also hold regular office hours in the spring on Tuesday afternoons. Meetings can be focused on specific questions related to our department, curriculum, scholarship opportunities, impending changes to the KU Core, your path to degree, or study abroad opportunities, or we can simply have an informal session just to check in and catch up on life at KU.

As a reminder: 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.

KU'S SUMMER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE RETURN TO HOLZKIRCHEN (FOR REAL THIS TIME!)

by Andrea Meyertholen

Summer 2023 marked the triumphant return of the Summer Language Institute (SLI) in Holzkirchen to Holzkirchen!

While the SLI restarted last year after a pandemic-induced two-year hiatus, the lingering effects of Covid forced the program's temporary relocation to Berlin. This summer we were finally able to come home to Holzkirchen and experience the program in its traditional format, complete with host families, cross-country travel, and weekly outings to cultural sites in the Bavarian countryside. And school of course!



At the beginning of June, eight highly engaged students from KU and the University of Arkansas brought good humor and positive attitudes to Germany: Kaylee Schlein, Neily Randall, Jack Bugee, Andy Denekas, Corbin Goodloe, Jenyn Pinkley, Joshua Marvine, and Toby Freeman. We first embarked on a two-week trip to visit Cologne and Berlin, before heading down to Bavaria for our homestay in 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, the students' host families, and a marching band. During our next five weeks, I met with

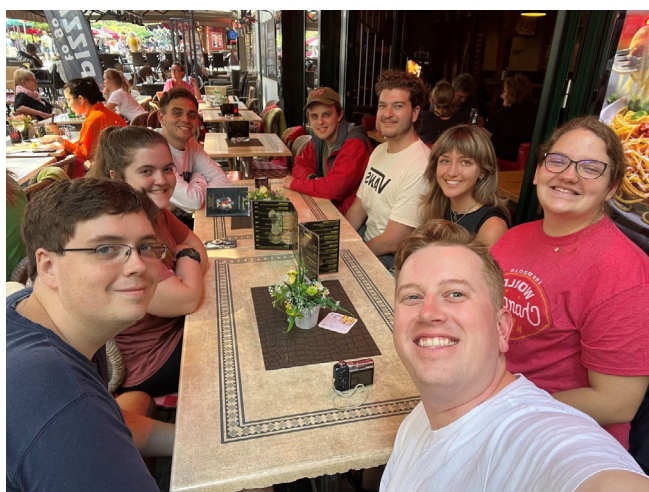
our eight wonderful students daily to watch German films, review German grammar, discuss current events, and read German fairy tales. Some evenings we took part in traditional town cultural events, such as at the local *Trachtenverein*, a society dedicated to the preservation of traditional dress and dance. After learning the intricacies (and prices!) of *Dirndl* and *Lederhosen*, students took to the stage to learn the choreography of knee-slaps and pirouettes typical of traditional Bavarian dance. On another occasion, the local *Metzgermeister* (“master butcher”) treated us to a behind-the-scenes tour to learn, quite literally, how the sausage—and *Leberkäs*—is made.



On Mondays we took learning out of the classroom as we visited cultural sites set in the surrounding environs. A walking tour in Munich exposed the students to the city's history, including sites related to the Third Reich. In Salzburg we had a musical tour through the “Mozartstadt,” which also included some familiar façades from *The Sound of Music*. We hiked around the Tegernsee and rode the ferry across the Chiemsee to visit Schloss Herrenchiemsee. We headed into the German and Austrian Alps, first to visit the other two castles built by King Ludwig II, Neuschwanstein and Linderhof; and then to reach the Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden. After ascending the Alpine heights of Berchtesgaden, we descended into the nearby salt mines where we rode no less than two trains, two slides, and an ambient boat ride over an underground salt lake with a light show choreographed to new-age music (best tour EVER).



The summer ended bittersweetly, as it always does, with a tear-filled farewell from our hosts and host family. This past summer's farewell party was particularly poignant and emotional when my predecessor and decades-long director of the SLI Holzkirchen, Dr. Bill Keel, came into town for a special visit. The entire town gathered to celebrate his life, his accomplishments, and his service to the SLI. While Bill will be dearly missed and his absence acutely felt, he always has a home in Holzkirchen where his friends and the SLI are ready to welcome him back! Congratulations and thank you, Bill!



UPDATES FROM THE MAX KADE CENTER FOR GERMAN- AMERICAN STUDIES

by Marike Janzen



In Fall of 2023, the Max Kade Center hosted three events that highlighted the transnational scope of German intellectual and cultural work. At the beginning of the semester, we hosted the traveling pop-up exhibit developed by the Villa Aurora/Thomas Mann House, the Literaturhaus München, and the German Federal Foreign Office, “Democracy will win!” The exhibit focuses on the German writer Mann’s political development from monarchist to committed supporter of democracy as he witnessed his country’s embrace of fascism and sought exile from Germany in the United States. In U.S. exile, Mann continued to write novel, but he also gave public talks and radio addresses about developments in Germany and the importance of defending democracy. The exhibit draws on the example of Mann to explore contemporary challenges to democracy, and the need to continuously defend it. We were delighted that Brad Allen, director of the Lawrence Public Library, spoke at the exhibit opening on the topic of “All Are Welcome: Public Libraries and Democracy.”



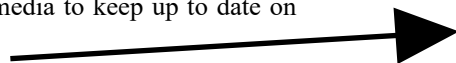
In November, Ari Linden, associate professor in SGES, presented a talk titled “On Nature and Need in Theodor Adorno.” We were pleased to have Professor Linden speak on his recent research based on Adorno’s 1942 essay “Theses on Need.” The piece grew out of Adorno’s conversations held in Los Angeles that same year with fellow members of the Frankfurt School—exiles from fascist Europe—on the topic of human nature and human need. According to Professor Linden, these conversations were responses “both to the Third Reich and the New Deal,” and “Adorno’s position was the most radical and dialectical of all the members in attendance.”



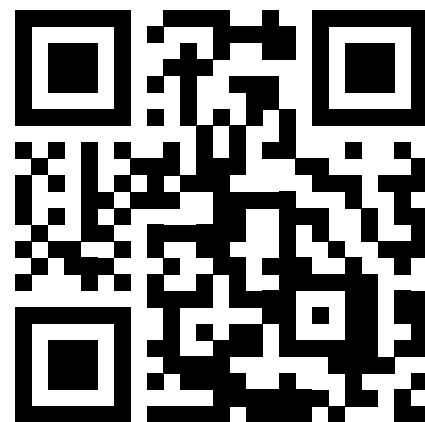


While the exhibit on Mann as well as Professor Linden’s talk on Adorno placed the significant collection related to the history of German emigrés in the US in the twentieth within a larger context, our final event of the year, a visit by German author Ronya Othmann, highlighted the way that displacement continues to inform German letters. Ronya Othmann, the child of a Yezidi Kurd father and German mother, is an emerging voice in the German literary sphere. She works as a journalist, poet, and novelist, and focuses on themes of trauma, flight, migration, racism, violence, and discrimination—particularly (though not exclusively) in the context of Germany’s relationship to the Middle East. During her visit to KU, Ronya Othmann spoke about her own work as a writer, and held a reading in English of her recently translated novel “The Summers” (University of Wisconsin Press, 2023, originally *Die Sommer*, Hanser, 2020).

Please do follow the Max Kade Center for German American Studies on social media to keep up to date on future happenings!



This fall, we were thrilled to welcome Hannah Kaiser as our new student assistant. Hannah is from Leipzig, Germany, and pursuing a degree in Psychology. She brings a positive energy to the Center as she helps with essential tasks such as setting up for events and cataloging various items. Recently, Hannah completed a painstaking cleaning job—vacuuming historic puppets used to perform “Faust” before putting them into acid-free storage. (Thank you to KU’s Spencer Research Library for allowing us to use their precision vacuum cleaner!) We look forward to having her help on many other tasks required to keep the Center running successfully.



MEET THE NEW ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSORS

Questions by Wyatt Haywood



BOGI PERELMUTTER

Tell us a bit about where you are from, how you came to the U.S., and your career trajectory.

I'm from Hungary and I've been living in the US since late 2013; more recently as a naturalized citizen. My spouse RB is also in Slavic, German and Eurasian Studies; we are the two Perelmutter's.

My career trajectory is somewhat atypical. After dual master's degrees in Psychology (with a specialization in Experimental and Cognitive Psychology) and Theoretical Linguistics in Hungary, and some time studying Clinical Neuroscience in Austria, I did my PhD in Speech-Language Pathology in the US, focusing on the speech production of young adults with a history of developmental language disorders. I started at the

University of Iowa and transferred to the University of Kansas. While working on my PhD, I taught Slavic and Jewish Studies as an adjunct lecturer, and it became increasingly clear to me that I wanted to move in this direction. I've also been writing and publishing fiction and poetry on the side.

Why do you work in this field? What are some of your academic and teaching interests?

Working in an experiment-based field in the health sciences, I was moving from quantitative methods to qualitative and mixed methods, and I eventually realized that most of my research interests were in fact in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. (I still think experiments are great!) My current research mostly focuses on Hungarian and other Eastern European Studies (with attention to the Soviet occupation of Hungary), Jewish Studies, and Science Fiction Studies – though I haven't entirely stopped participating in the language disabilities field.

What attracted you to or excited you about working with the Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies?

I think the first time I engaged with the department was when I was the beta tester of the online version of the Slavic Folklore course, many years ago. I really liked the course and later ended up teaching it, adding more material to it, and also being in charge of its recent Canvas conversion. I was eager to start in an Assistant Teaching Professor position because I already had plenty of good experiences with the department as an adjunct lecturer, and I enjoy teaching and am now happy to do it full time. I think KU students are awesome, and I learn a lot from our class discussions.

What are some plans for the future? Do you have projects that you are working on or about to start?

I'm looking forward to the launch of my second short story collection *Power to Yield and Other Stories*, coming in February 2024. I'm also excited about being a keynote speaker at the 2024 conference of the Science Fiction Research Association, held this time in Tartu, Estonia. I'm planning on talking about rediscovering historical queer and trans speculative narratives in a Hungarian and English cross-linguistic and cross-cultural comparison.



Next year I'm hoping to submit a book proposal for my project focusing on the Hungarian Jewish writer Zsuzsa Kántor, a bestselling author of stories about the Young Pioneers during the Communist regime. Her work has largely been ignored by scholars in the present day as too propagandistic, but it's an oversimplification. While she did write plenty of propaganda, especially early on in her career, she also wrote stories that subverted the regime's aims, including ones that reevaluated some of her own earlier work. She was the author of multiple firsts, like one of the first Holocaust novels for children and teens (globally!), and one of the first (possibly the first) transgender stories for this age group in Hungarian. I presented about the latter at the yearly conference for the Association for Jewish Studies last year, and was also the recipient of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Jewish Gender Studies Research Award for this research. I'm looking forward to expanding it into a book.

I have also been hoping to develop a course that combines language disabilities and area studies, exploring language disabilities from a global perspective. My aims for it would be that people in a wide range of area studies – including Slavic, German and Eurasian Studies – would be able to take the course and find out about language disabilities in their own area of interest, and speech-language-hearing students would get to know non-American viewpoints.

Why do you think students should pursue German/Slavic Studies? What cultural and/or professional horizons does the language/field open up for students?

As someone who is both a STEM person and a humanities person, I like to point out that contrary to popular belief, jobs can actually be easier to find in the humanities. When it comes to area studies, this type of specialized knowledge about a region and the languages spoken there can also be a wonderful gateway to engaging with the area professionally. If you appreciate a culture or a region, you can be *paid* to spend time and effort on this interest.

On a more personal note: Is there something about Lawrence or KU that you love (outside of our department, of course)? Any hidden gems that you have found so far?

I think people are really nice here; the concept of Midwestern Nice has been criticized and sometimes with good reason, but I find it relaxing that people are not so confrontational. As for hidden gems, I really like Wonder Fair – it's the perfect combination of stationery store, art supply, and distributor of strange offbeat items. And as close to *literal* hidden gems as it gets – I enjoy Summit's Steps Minerals! Fun fact: one of the proprietors is an alumna of KU SGEs.





PATRICK PLOSCHNITZKI

Tell us a bit about where you are from, how you came to the U.S., and your career trajectory.

I grew up in the small town of Hameln in southern North Germany. If people have heard of it, it is because of the Pied Piper legend that allegedly took place there. Growing up, I developed a strong interest in US popular literature and culture. While I was working on my undergraduate degree in “English Studies” (i.e., American Studies), I secured an internship in the German Section of the University of Rhode Island’s Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures department, and their acclaimed German engineering program. One of my supervisors there served as the director of Middlebury College’s German School at the time and offered me an assistant job for the seven-week intensive summer program. In the following three summers, while completing my degree in Germany during the year, I returned to Middlebury in various assistant and instructor roles during the summer. Eventually, I met my future dissertation advisor there, who had just launched a German program with a translation component at the University of Arizona’s Department of German Studies, which was a perfect combination, and one that I found no

match for in the German-speaking academic landscape. In 2016, I graduated with an MA in German Studies on the Translation track, and a PhD in Transcultural German Studies with a minor in Translation Studies in 2021. I was hired by the University of Florida as a Visiting Assistant Professor for two years before coming to KU.

Why do you work in this field? What are some of your academic and teaching interests?

My work as an educator and researcher has always been at the intersection of translation and language and culture. In my dissertation, I analyzed the consumer / fan and translator relationship in propriety online platforms (such as fan forums). My other research includes contemporary iterations of Heimat literature in punk and rap lyrics. I also work as a literary translator into both English and German, even though my most recent publications were mostly journalistic texts that accompanied artistic photography.

What attracted you to or excited you about working with the Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies?

During my online and campus interviews, it became clear to me right away that there was a very kind and welcoming atmosphere and community here. I also got the impression that my future colleagues were genuinely interested in my work and my approaches to instruction (which also overlapped). I was and am also excited to have other colleagues in the department who work in Translations Studies and / or are literary translators, like myself.

Undergraduate Luncheon SLAVIC, GERMAN, & EURASIAN STUDIES

HAVE LUNCH ON US! | LEARN ABOUT SPRING COURSES | ASK ABOUT THE MAJOR OR MINOR | MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS AND PEERS

HELP US GET A HEADCOUNT. RSVP HERE

Wed. Oct. 11th | 12:00 - 1:30pm | Kansas Room



What are some plans for the future? Do you have projects that you are working on or about to start?

I'm currently working on turning my dissertation and a follow-up project into a book. I'm also translating a Ukrainian children's book that tells the story of the Russian attack from a kid's perspective into German. I also hope to work with various departments and units across KU to create and offer a non-language-specific translation certificate in the coming semesters.

Why do you think students should pursue German/Slavic Studies? What cultural and/or professional horizons does the language/field open up for students?

At this point, with many learners no longer being able to pursue language learning without a clear career goal or other pay-off in mind, we need to rethink what learners can and should get out of pursuing German Studies. While knowing the German language and perspectives are wonderful outcomes, the broader goals of empathy, being able to change perspectives, and critical thinking are the most important inter- and post-disciplinary pursuits. When we start thinking of learning German as more than being able to speak German and navigate German-speaking areas, these skills truly open into much broader skillsets, making language learning relevant to a much broader audience again.

On a more personal note: Is there something about Lawrence or KU that you love (outside of our department, of course)? Any hidden gems that you have found so far?

Given the size of Lawrence, I've found a number of unique places that I would not have expected here, like the Au Marche international store where I can always find a piece of home, a soda store on Mass with the largest variety of soda I've ever seen in one place, and excellent food all around. The fact that there are so many music stores on Massachusetts Street also makes me look forward to seeing some good live music!



FACULTY UPDATES



For **Vitaly Chernetsky**, 2023 was marked by continued public outreach efforts to the broadest possible audiences about Ukraine in the context of Russia's brutal and criminal invasion. He delivered 16 talks and 12 conference presentations at venues across the US, as well as in Germany, Italy, Lithuania, and the UK (in person), as well as Latvia, Portugal, Poland, and Ukraine (online), which included the annual Stasiuk Lecture at Cambridge and keynote addresses at conferences at the University of Giessen, the European Humanities University, Indiana University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also gave numerous interviews to local, national, and international media. His publications this year include *Winter King: Selected Poems* by Ostap Slyvynsky, which Prof. Chernetsky co-translated from the Ukrainian with Iryna Shuvalova, and "Queer Culture(s)," an article co-authored with KU Slavic Ph.D. alumna Devin McFadden, in *The Oxford Handbook of Soviet Underground Culture*. Prof. Chernetsky joined the jury of the BBC Ukrainian Book of the Year Prize, one of the most prestigious prizes for Ukrainian literature, and became the first US academic to serve in this capacity. In his role as Vice President/President-Elect of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), in 2023 Prof. Chernetsky began actively shaping the future of the association; as its President for the year 2024, he has chosen the theme for the 2024 convention: Liberation.



This fall, **Prof. Marc L. Greenberg** has enjoyed teaching a first-year-experience seminar on how to learn a language effectively as an adult. The students worked on Russian, Japanese, and other languages. A highlight of the semester was a visit to Dole Archives, which also included Russian-language interaction provided by graduate student Kamila Saifeeva and Prof. Greenberg. In October he gave a talk for the International Dictionary Day organized by

the Lexicographic Section in the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, on "How the Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages is Being Built" (delivered in Slovene as "Nastajanje Enciklopedije slovanskih jezikov in jezikoslovja"). He continued his work as Editor-in-Chief of the *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics*, Brill Publishers. The online edition saw some 100 new articles appear in the online edition in 2023 and the print edition will be prepared in 2024 with more than 400 articles and some 2 million words. As such, it will be the largest reference work on this topic. An interview with him, focusing in part on the Encyclopedia project, was published in *Delo*, the national daily paper in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in November 2023. In August, his article "Poskus razlage razvoja stalnih naglasnih sistemov v slovanskih jezikih" ('An attempt to explain fixed-stress systems in Slavic languages') appeared in *Akademik Fran Ramovš (= Razprave SAZU, Razreda za filološke in literarne vede 29)*. In December, his co-authored article with Siniša Habijanec (Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava) "Акцентологические наблюдения к реконструкции праславянского диалекта в Паннонии" ('Accentological observations on the reconstruction of the Proto-Slavic dialect in Pannonia') was published in *Балто-славянская компаративистика. Акцентология. Дальнее родство языков. К 90-летию В.А. Дыбо* (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow). Prof. V. A. Dybo, born in Pyrohivka, Sumy Oblast', Ukraine, passed away in November, having been one of the leading comparative linguists of his generation and the leader of the Moscow Accentological School. Prof. Greenberg has also recently been appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Мова: класичне - модерне - постмодерне* ('Language: classical, modern, postmodern'), published by the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine.



In January 2023, **Marike Janzen** took on the directorship of KU's Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, and spent the year familiarizing herself with its history and collections, and organizing several events (see Max Kade Center update in this newsletter). Also in

January, she gave a talk on “The German Literary Sphere: Forming Citizens in Spaces of Un/Freedom” at the University of Regensburg as part of the conference “Un/Freiheiten im Raum/ Resistant Responses and Empowering Replies to Modernity’s Un/Free Spaces.” The talk derives from her current book project, which explores how Germany’s contemporary literary field supports writers living and working there in exile. In Summer 2023, she conducted two months of field research on this project in Berlin, thanks to support from an NEH summer stipend. In the fall of 2023, her chapter “Refugees and International Solidarity in the Work of Anna Seghers” appeared in a *Festschrift* honoring her doctoral advisor, Dr. Janet Swaffar. In October 2023, she presented a paper on Anna Seghers at the annual German Studies Association meeting in Montréal, titled “Refugeedom as a Response to State Internationalism in Seghers’s Late Works.” A highlight of the year was being chosen to teach a global scholars seminar for KU’s Honors Program during the 2023 spring semester titled “Refugee, Citizen, Human.”



Andrea Meyertholen once again 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. In Fall 2023 she taught the second iteration of her new English-language, general education class, “Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm to Disney and Beyond,” a course which more than doubled its enrollment from the previous spring. After introducing students to the decidedly more gruesome tales of the Brothers Grimm, it explores various cinematic and television adaptations with particular emphasis on Disney and the Disney industry. The course culminated in a museum-style exhibition featuring original artworks of fractured fairy tales created by students for their final projects. Represented were paintings, all forms of digital art, collages, sculptures, dioramas, and even a four-tiered cake (promptly eaten)! Though hard to compete with fairy-tale themed cakes, Andrea continues to work on her second book project. In the meantime, she keeps herself busy pursuing other research topics of interest. In Spring 2023 she had a presentation on

Goethe’s ballad “Der Erlkönig” at the annual conference of American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), along with one in Fall 2023 at the German Studies Association conference on the Eternal Feminine in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and Goethe’s *Faust*. In Fall 2023 she also wrote two articles, one invited and one currently under review. Finally, this past year also welcomed the addition of three new family members, each adopted as kittens from separate litters: Gretchen (gray tabby), Mephisto (solid orange), and Caspar David Friedrich (orange tabby). So far only a lamp has fallen victim to their frenzied fits of group-zoomies.



Bogi Perelmutter edited an anthology of fiction and poetry titled *Rosalind’s Siblings – Fiction and Poetry Celebrating Scientists of Marginalized Genders*. This anthology, dedicated to Rosalind Franklin, has garnered support from a member of the Franklin family. In addition, they also had two English translations of stories by Hungarian Ukrainian authors, translated from the Hungarian, appear in the anthology *Embroidered Worlds: Fantastic Fiction from Ukraine and the Diaspora*, edited by Valya Dudycz Lupescu, Olha Brylova and Iryna Pasko. Perelmutter was one of the 2023 winners for the Hauffer Award for KU Core Innovation (along with RB Perelmutter and Rami Zeedan), was a finalist for the Ignite Awards in the Critics Award category, and will be one of the keynote speakers at the yearly conference of the Science Fiction Research Association, held in Tartu, Estonia in 2024. They attended two conferences this semester, the KU Sturgeon symposium, and at the Disruptive Imaginations science fiction studies conference at TU Dresden, Germany (remotely).



Patrick Ploschnitzki spent this semester teaching the new-to-him third- and fourth-semester German language courses, as well as GERM 315, an introduction to German literature with a “Magic, Murder, and Monsters” theme. He presented his research and organized seminars at three conferences: he was invited to Emory University

in Atlanta, GA for the “Making the Canon, Breaking the Canon: The Task of the Translator” conference. He presented his research on Heimat/Home(land) imagery in German contemporary punk lyrics at the German Studies Association conference in Montreal, where he also hosted and co-organized a panel on feminist comedy in German-speaking areas. He also organized a seminar on reconciling academic and non-academic (literary) translation at the American Literary Translators Association conference in Tucson. Additionally, he participated in the Department’s Colloquium series in a hybrid format that allowed some learners of German to join. He co-organized the visit of the guest author from Germany, Ronya Othmann, rebranded and hosted the weekly German language table, aka Spätigetränk, and joined the Engel library modernization committee. He also helped with finding ideas for the highly successful Fall Fest and Winter Festival outreach and recruitment events. He is in the process of creating a tutoring opportunity for interested learners of German.



In September **Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova** gave an invited talk titled “Disease as Dissent in the Coming-of-Age Novels of Poland’s Last Communist Generation” at the international conference “From Birth to Death: Age and Aging in the Postsocialist Transformation,” organized by the Hannah Arendt Institute for Totalitarianism Studies, September 26-28, in Dresden. In November Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozova participated in another international conference “Urban Narratives: Reconstructing and Re-branding European Cities from the 20th Century until Present Day,” hosted by the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, October 18-20, in Marburg. Her paper was titled “Reinventing the Polish City of Wałbrzych through Film.” In 2023 she published two articles: “The Reconciliatory Potential of Objects in Stefan Chwin’s Novel *Death in Danzig*” as part of a special cluster on Polish-German Borderlands in the journal *Transit* and “Славистиката в Канзаския университет” [Slavic Studies at the University of Kansas] in the Bulgarian journal *Литература/Literature*.



Prof. Nina Vyatkina’s book *Corpus Applications in Language Teaching and Research: The Case of Data-Driven Learning of German* was published by Routledge. It is devoted to the applications of corpora - large electronic collections of authentic texts - in language teaching and learning. The book presents a comprehensive historical survey of corpus applications for German, an original empirical study showing the effectiveness of corpus-based teaching of German to KU students, and a new corpus-based Open Educational Resource developed by the author freely available online for all teachers and learners of German. Prof. Vyatkina has also published the article “Expanding Methodological Approaches in Data-Driven Learning Research” in a high-impact journal, *TESOL Quarterly*, in collaboration with Alex Boulton (University of Lorraine, France).



In 2023, **Prof. Oleksandra Wallo** continued her research on Ukrainian contemporary drama and presented various papers related to it at three conferences, including an invited presentation at the international symposium “Language, Media, Culture, Literature, and the War: Constructions, Representations, and Responses” in Hannover, Germany. Together with colleagues from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she co-organized the Dmytro Shtohryn International Ukrainian Studies Conference, reviving the long-standing tradition of Ukrainian Studies conferences at this institution. The conference took place in October and Prof. Wallo presented a paper on the Ukrainian dramatist Natalka Vorozhbyt’s 2009 play *The Grain Store*, which commemorates the victims of the Holodomor. A chapter

by Prof. Wallo on a different play by the same dramatist is forthcoming in an edited volume on neo-Gothic cultural productions. In March 2023, an essay co-authored by Prof. Wallo and Ukrainian colleague Anna Halas was published in *World Literature Today*: “Warsick: Testimonial Plays Share Ukrainians’ Experience of War.” Also in March, Prof. Wallo joined other colleagues in presenting at the KU teach-in and panel discussion “Russia’s War against Ukraine: 365 Days In” and gave a public lecture “How Russia’s War Is Changing Ukraine” at the Lawrence Public Library. In the summer, Prof. Wallo developed and supervised a new intensive in-person course in beginner’s Ukrainian, which was successfully taught by SGES graduate students Andriyana Baran and Oksana Vykhopen to two groups of U.S. special forces personnel. In Fall 2023, Prof. Wallo greatly enjoyed teaching a newly reworked version of her SLAV 600 course on the cultural biography of Kyiv to a lively group of Slavic graduate students and advanced undergraduates. Some of the most meaningful national and international service activities in 2023 included serving as a subject matter expert in an ACTFL Standard Setting Study for the Defense Language Proficiency Test in Ukrainian and collaborating with colleagues in Europe and North America on firmly establishing the International Association of Teachers of Ukrainian.



Prof. Wallo in front of Xplanatorium Herrenhausen in Hannover, Germany. (February 2023).

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