

Szczęśliwego nowego roku!

Sretna nova godina!

Boldog új évet!

Gëzuar vitin e ri!
Anul nou fericit!

Slava

Newsletter of The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures

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Winter 2009

Professor Celebrates Silver Anniversary

Dr. Charles Gribble has led several generations of scholars at OSU

Charles E. (Chuck) Gribble is not only the longest-serving professor in the Department, but also, with nearly 50 years' teaching experience, he is one of the longest-serving professors currently working in the field of Slavic Studies. Dr. Gribble has been teaching since 1961—first at Brandeis, then at Indiana University. He has been at The Ohio State University since 1975 and was promoted to his current rank of Professor in 1989. Even

though he has passed his thirty- (and forty-) year mark, he remains devoted to teaching, scholarship, and service. Indeed, for the past half decade, while serving as Graduate Studies Chair of the Department, he has voluntarily taught uncompensated overloads every year in order to ensure that enough classes and a broad enough spectrum of subjects are taught in our graduate program in Slavic Linguistics. In conversation, he has stated that he is enjoying teaching now more than ever and wishes to continue as long as his health will permit—a wish that his students fervently share. He is an outstanding teacher at all three levels—GEC, upper-division/major, and graduate—as is demonstrated by his continuously high SEI scores.



Students are most impressed by his devotion not only to teaching, but also to their personal welfare. Dr. Gribble spends a great deal of time helping students to prepare for their examinations and sometimes holds weekly review sessions for M.A. candidates. He lavishes immense time and attention on the papers that his graduate students write and is as solicitous as a mother hen about their progress. While at Ohio State, Dr. Gribble has

supervised nine M.A. theses and seven Ph.D. dissertations, as well as some five "first professional papers" (essentially, theses written in the first quarter after the M.A., which the Department requires of Plan-B M.A. recipients). Moreover, he has served as a reader of virtually every M.A. and Ph.D. dissertation in Slavic Linguistics defended in the Department for as long as we can remember. He has been on innumerable graduate examination committees.

Dr. Gribble is a well-published and well-respected scholar in Slavic Linguistics. He has recently completed a monograph entitled *The Forms of Russian*. He is also the author of two standard textbooks, *Russian Root List with a Sketch of*

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• **Acting Department Chair**

Irene Delic

• **Faculty**

Angela K. Brintlinger
Alexander Burry
Daniel E. Collins
Charles E. Gribble
Yana Hashamova
Ludmila Isurin
Brian Joseph
Jessie Labov
Andrea Sims
Halina Stephan
Jennifer Suchland

• **Visiting Faculty & Lecturers**

Andre Cretu
Predrag Matejic
Irma Murvanishvili
Agnes Risko

• **Administrative Staff**

Maria Alley
Linda Milbourne
Karen G. Nielsen

• **Editors**

Irene Delic
Linda Milbourne

• **Layout/Design**

Linda Milbourne

An update from DSEELL Acting Chair Dr. Irene Delic

After two delightful and rewarding years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I have returned to my academic home. I am happy to be back in our intellectually exciting and collegial Department and glad to be Acting Chair for a year, while we are looking for a new Chair and faculty member from outside. I am told by the Search Committee that we will soon have the opportunity to meet with the two applicants selected as final choices; they will visit us and present lectures in January of 2009.

Our Department has always prided itself in being “universal,” as open to linguistic as to literary and cultural perspectives, fully realizing that they can hardly be separated. We have also for a long time taken pride in not being Russo-centric but a truly Slavic and East European Department. It seems to me that these principles have borne rich fruit, as evidenced by the outstanding achievements of our long-standing faculty, as well as the enrichment of our programs provided by our new faculty who, apparently, have found our approach attractive.

We have three new faculty members and all of them already have something to “show” for their short time with us. There is, for example, Dr. Jessie Labov’s Honors course *Slavic 519: The City of Sarajevo*, which, “contingent upon approval by all relevant curricular bodies” was selected for funding by the Selection Committee of the *University Honors and Scholars Center* in autumn 2008. Dr. Andrea Sims received an invitation to teach in the Linguistics Department (L509,

S694), and Dr. Jenny Suchland has offered the Department exciting new course proposals about post-Soviet society. More details about our outstanding new faculty are to be found inside this *Newsletter*. The Department welcomes its energetic and talented three new colleagues and looks forward to working together with them on their innovative ideas!

We also welcome another colleague—not quite a newcomer—to our ranks. Maria Alley has been with us for some time, but she is “new” under the titles of *Acting Coordinator of Language Programs* and *GTA Coordinator*. Taking up these duties in autumn 2007, she has been of immense benefit to us all with her superb planning skills and constant readiness to make the best arrangements possible for each individual GTA. In spite of her heavy workload she co-authored the just published textbook *Animation for Russian Conversation*. It is presented in greater detail on page 13.

Nor is Dr. Ludmila Isurin quite a newcomer to our Department; she served as *Director of Language Programs* before being promoted to *Assistant Professor* last year. Her interests focus on second language acquisition and psycholinguistics, bilingualism and semantics and the last year has been one of intense research activity for her. She has visited locations in Israel, Germany, and the USA with significant Russian diaspora populations, in order to study changes in Culture perception, Identity (Jewish and Russian),



Slava is a publication of The Ohio State University’s Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures. *Slava* reports departmental news, highlights faculty achievement and showcases both graduate and undergraduate students. *Slava*’s article submission policy is open and all are encouraged to submit news or opinions. *Slava* would also like to thank all contributors, without whom this publication would not be possible.

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Jessie Labov joins us from Stanford University, where she was a postdoctoral fellow for a few years after receiving her Ph.D. from NYU in Comparative Literature. Her area of teaching specialization is twentieth-century Central European literature & visual culture, and in particular the connection between underground cultural production (samizdat) and emigre journals and broadcasts (tamizdat). At Stanford she was involved in two larger research projects, one on the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty collection at the Hoover Archives, and one in the digital humanities, on quantitative analysis of large collections of text. From the vantage point of literary and cultural studies, Jessie has been collaborating with those in history and the social sciences to try to understand how the movement of text and images across the iron curtain has had an impact on the movement of people and ideas, and vice versa. She is just completing work on an edited volume of essays, *From Samizdat to Tamizdat*, and revising her book manuscript entitled *Transatlantic Central Europe*. Her next project looks specifically at film as a medium, a material, and a cultural practice that traveled across the Iron Curtain, and she has written a series of essays on new approaches to Central European film based on this premise.



After receiving her Ph.D. from the Linguistics Department at The Ohio State University in 2006 (and an M.A. from the DSEELL), **Andrea Sims** held a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Linguistics at Northwestern University. She returned to OSU in September 2008 as an Assistant Professor in the DSEELL. Dr. Sims' research focuses on morphological systems, with a particular emphasis on Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. She is currently preparing a book manuscript titled *The Implicational Structure of the Paradigm: A Study of Inflectional Defectiveness*. In Autumn 2008 she taught an undergraduate class on East European immigration to the U.S., and a graduate seminar on corpus-based linguistic analysis.

Labov continued:

For the last three years, Jessie has also been a part of the international research project "Alternative Culture Beyond Borders: the Past and Present of the Arts and Media in the Context of Globalization," which is an Open Society Institute project supporting higher education in Central & Eastern Europe. The group consists of around 25 junior faculty from the region, and 10 "core faculty" who design seminars, subgroups, publishing projects and develop courses in tandem with partici-



Jennifer Suchland, Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures and the Department of Women's Studies, earned her Ph.D. degree at the University of Texas and comes to us from Southwestern University where she had a Visiting Scholar position.

Her areas of specialization are Women's and Gender Studies, Comparative Politics and Political Theory. Of specific interest to her are questions such as these: Are there universal categories of difference? How do different societies express, interpret and construct categories of difference? What does it mean to study gender across national boundaries in a transnational world?

Continued on page 6

pants. As one of the co-organizers of the project, Jessie has been spending a lot of time in Budapest, looking for effective modes of activism within the academy. Projects like this can improve access to resources and provide travel and research opportunities for academics in Central & Eastern Europe, but at the same time enrich Slavic Studies in North America by integrating the work of a new generation of post-89 scholars from the region.



Ludmila Isurin, formerly the Director of the Language Programs in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor, Fall 2007.

Dr. Isurin received a Ph.D. in second language acquisition and psycholinguistics from Louisiana State University. Her research interests include second language acquisition, effects of the second language on the first, bilingualism, psycholinguistics (i.e. memory construct, lexical access, cognition), and semantics.

Over the past few years, she has taught a wide variety of courses such as Introduction to Language; Bilingualism: Selected Topics from the Psycholinguistic Perspective; Language, Culture, and Cognition (Linguistic Relativity); Methodology of Second Language Teaching; Introduction to Russian Culture; Business Russian, Practical Pronunciation; 4th Year Russian (RU711, Advanced Stylistics), 3rd Year Russian (RU560-562), and Language Maintenance.

Dr. Isurin has co-edited a volume on *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Code-Switching* that is currently under review at John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam. The volume is based on the materials of the International Conference on Code-Switching that she co-organized at OSU in December 2007. She co-authored two chapters and the Introduction in the book. Among her recent publications is an article "Teachers' Language: The



Alexander Burry combines a traditional focus on Russian literature with an interdisciplinary perspective. A nineteenth-century specialist, he also works with twentieth-century literature, opera, film, comparative literature, and other topics.

Dr. Burry has been an Assistant Professor in DSEELL since Autumn 2004. He received his Ph.D. in 2002 from Northwestern University, and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University from 2003-2004. His book *Multi-mediated Dostoevsky*, which is under review at the University of Pittsburgh Press, examines transpositions of Dostoevsky's works into opera, film, and drama. Recent articles cover a

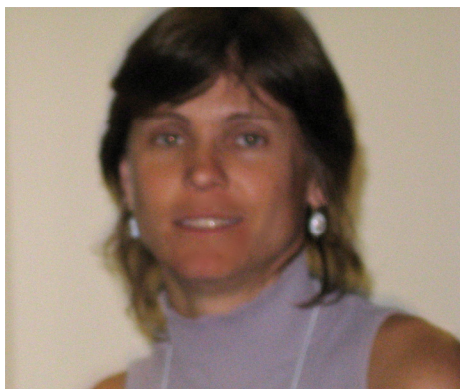
Effects of L1 Attrition" (*The Modern Language Journal*, 2007), "Lost in Between: The case of Russian Heritage Speakers", (*International Journal of Heritage Learners*, 2008), "Who is the Superior Speaker? Revisiting the OPI guidelines." (*Journal of Russian Language*, in press). She is currently teaching a new course, Introduction to Russian Linguistics, that is designed as a 5th year Russian course with a thematic focus on linguistics. In spring 2009, she will be teaching a seminar on Russian Diaspora that will explore different issues related to immigration from Russia (history of immigration, integration, identity transformation, cultural adaptation, and first language changes).

similarly broad spectrum of interests: "Transposing the Apocalypse: Kurosawa's *The Idiot*" (*Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, June 2007) and "The Poet's Fatal Flaw: Venedikt Erofeev's Don Juan Subtext in *Walpurgis Night, or the Steps of the Commander*" (*The Russian Review*, January 2005). He is currently working on several article projects, one of which explores execution, trauma, and post-apocalypse in Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*. Dr. Burry has also translated Anna Politkovskaya's *A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya* (with Tatiana Tulchinsky, University of Chicago Press, 2003). He has served as Program Committee Chair of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages since 2007.

Dr. Burry's teaching, like his research, focuses on the Russian canon and its intersections with other media and cultures. He has taught Russian literature on all levels, including the introductory undergraduate survey course Masterpieces of Russian Literature in Translation (which he is supervising this year), upper level undergraduate courses on Russian Realism, Literature and Culture of the Russian Revolution, and other topics, and graduate seminars on subjects such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Film Adaptations of Russian Literature. In 2007, he co-taught a course on Russian opera with Dr. Margarita Mazo from the OSU Music School. This course was followed by a study abroad trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, during which students attended performances of Russian operas, lectures by leading Russian musicians, and other cultural events. Dr. Burry is currently teaching an undergraduate course on gambling, dueling, and other aristocratic rituals in early nineteenth-century Russian literature. In Spring 2009, he will be offering an honors course entitled "Dead Man Writing: Literary Portrayals of Capital Punishment," which developed out of a freshman seminar he taught several times in recent years.

Brintlinger Translates Derzhavin's Biography

Dr. Angela Brintlinger is the the author of *Writing a Usable Past: Russian Literary Culture 1917–1937* and co-editor of *Madness and the Mad in Russian Culture*. She is also the author of the first English translation of the masterful biography of Derzhavin by another acclaimed Russian man of letters, Vladislav Khodasevich. Vladislav Khodasevich (1886–1939), called by Vladimir Nabokov (in 1939) “the greatest Russian poet that the twentieth century has yet produced,” was also an outstanding memoirist and biographer. Khodasevich writes with humor, intelligence, and understanding, and his work stands as a monument to the last three centuries of Russian history, lending keen insight into Russia's past as well as its present and future.



Russian poet, soldier, and statesman Gavriil Derzhavin (1743–1816) lived during an epoch of momentous change in Russia—imperial expansion, peasant revolts, war with Turkey, and struggle with Napoleon—and he served three tsars, including Catherine the Great. Derzhavin occupied a position at the center of Russian life, unit-

ing civic service with poetic inspiration and creating an oeuvre that at its essence celebrated the triumphs of Russia and its rulers, particularly Catherine the Great. His biographer Khodasevich, by contrast, left Russia in 1922, unable to abide the increasingly repressive regime of the Soviets. For Khodasevich, whose lyric poems were as commonplace in their focus as Derzhavin's odes were grand, this biography was in a sense a rediscovery of a lost and idyllic era, a period when it was possible to aspire to the pinnacles of artistic achievement while still occupying a central role in Russian society.

Angela Brintlinger's translation is appearing through the University of Wisconsin Press and was published in Autumn 2007.

Angela Brintlinger Edits Groundbreaking New Essay Collection

DSEELL professor leads interdisciplinary, international analysis of madness in Russian culture

The problem of madness has preoccupied Russian thinkers since the beginning of Russia's troubled history and has been dealt with repeatedly in literature, art, film, and opera, as well as in medical, political, and philosophical essays. Madness has been treated not only as a medical or psychological matter, but also as a metaphysical one, encompassing problems of suffering, imagination, history, sex, social and world order, evil, retribution, death, and the afterlife.

Madness and the Mad in Russian Culture represents a joint effort by American, British, and Russian scholars—historians, literary scholars, so-

ciologists, cultural theorists, and philosophers—to understand the rich history of madness, from the political, literary, and cultural spheres of Russia. Editors Angela Brintlinger and Ilya Vinitsky have brought together essays that cover over 250 years and address a wide variety of ideas related to madness—from the involvement of state and social structures in questions of mental health, to the attitudes of major Russian authors and cultural figures towards insanity and how those attitudes both shape and are shaped by the history, culture, and politics of Russia.



Brian Joseph, Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures extends its warmest congratulations to **Dr. Brian Joseph**, who was awarded an honorary Doctorate by the University of Patras, Greece, on March 31, 2008. He delivered an address to those assembled for the ceremony, speaking (in Greek) on reasons why Greek can be judged to be a major language of the world.

Congratulating Dr. Joseph on some award or honor has become a matter of habit in DSEELL, since he receives so many of them. Going back in time, we congratulated him last year for having been inducted (in 2007) as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), an international organization founded in 1848, and “dedicated to advancing science around the world by serving as an educator, leader, spokesperson and professional organization.”

In addition, Dr. Joseph received an honorary degree in 2006 from La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, where the citation noted his work in historical linguistics, studying the way language changes over time, and his work on the history of the Greek language.



Dr. Joseph holds a 70% appointment in the OSU Linguistics Department, which he joined in 1979 and chaired from 1987-1997. He also has a 30% appointment in DSEELL, where he has held the post of Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics since 1997. Brian Joseph was named a *Distinguished University Professor* in 2003 and was recognized for his work in historical linguistics, where he has focused especially on the languages of the Balkans and Southeastern Europe, including Albanian, Bulgarian, Greek, Macedonian and Romanian, with particular attention to the interactions among these languages over the past 500 years. He works on other languages as well, including Sanskrit, which he

teaches every other year here at Ohio State.

Joseph's role in the Slavic Department as Naylor Professor has enabled him to teach classes on the languages of the Balkans and their historical development and synchronic structure. Professor Joseph is author, co-author or coeditor of some 20 books and special issues of journals, in addition to having written around 200 articles and 100 reviews and notes. He currently also serves as editor of *Language*, the journal of the Linguistic Society of America.

A current project of Dr. Joseph's is this: in the summer of 2009, DSEELL will offer a special Albanological Institute. He will teach a four-week course offering an introduction to Albanian linguistics and **Matthew Curtis** will, in the same four weeks, offer a class on conversational Albanian. After those classes, in the last two weeks of August, they will lead a group to Prishtina in Kosovo, so that students can attend the Albanian Summer Seminar offered by the University of Prishtina, covering Albanian language and culture. For further information contact: Brian Joseph (joseph.1@osu.edu).

Suchland continued from page 3:

In her graduate work, Jennifer explored the legal roots of Russia's sexual harassment law and analyzed how indigenous norms regarding the recognition of discrimination and sexual difference are in tension with current interpretations by gender analysts and social activists. Any assessment of democracy, women's rights, or development, she argued, would have to include a normative understanding of what such categories have meant and

do mean in their cultural specificity.

Jennifer is working on a manuscript (tentatively) entitled, *Unclaimed Rights: The Politics of Gender in Post-socialist Russia*, in which she advances transnational feminist thinking towards a comparative study of gender.

Jennifer is also working on the issue of the place of Eurasia in transnational feminist research. She is currently writing an article ("Finding Eurasia in Transnational Feminist Thinking") where she argues that this elision is partially due to a continued assump-

tion of Cold War geopolitics in much feminist scholarship. As a result of this geopolitics, she argues, Eurasia often is collapsed into the 'new Europe' or not seen at all—with the sole exception of sex trafficking, which is picked-up by transnational feminist discourses.

Her future work will focus on the intersections and tensions between post-colonialism and post-socialism. The research will focus on the gendered, ethnic, and sexual specificity of HIV/AIDS activism and politics in Eurasia.

Yana Hashamova Begins New Book Project

The year 2007 was eventful for **Dr. Yana Hashamova**—she was tenured as Associate Professor and her book *Pride and Panic: Russian Imagination of the West in Post-Soviet Film* was published by the Bristol-based Intellect Press (distributed in the U.S. by University of Chicago Press). Helena Goscilo, Professor of Slavic



Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh writes about the book: "Lucid and eminently accessible, *Pride and Panic* differs from other studies of contemporary film in its theoretical framework, which incorporates psychoanalysis, gender, and concepts of alterity and community to analyze Russia's post-Soviet embattled cinematic reconstruction of masculine and national identity. An absorbing "read," the book pursues its argument of comprehensive politico-social trauma with consistency and conviction."

Her current book project, tentatively entitled *Film Representations of Trafficking*, attempts a comprehensive picture of trafficking in Eastern Europe, reading its film representations as discursive formations of the fantasies, fears and traumas caused by the region's political, social, and cultural realities. Her analysis of specific films addresses important issues of the fictional reproduction of aggression and how/if these films avoid reproducing the spectacle of violence. More importantly, she points out the differences between reality, myths, and fantasies about trafficking as it is shown on screen. The noticeable increase in the production of feature films, TV dramas,

and documentaries in Eastern Europe (and in the West) reflects a better understanding of filmmakers of the problems, as well as a broader public interest in their more nuanced representation. All these films, however, invite closer scrutiny, for the representation of trafficking and its violence can be as perilous as it is

helpful in addressing this twenty-first century Holocaust.

For the last two years the U.S. government has initiated a film outreach campaign; U.S. embassies around the world organize screenings of trafficking films for local audiences. However, prevention and awareness campaigns have often chosen films with questionable qualities, films that can turn away viewers rather than evoking empathy and transformation, calling for action. In studying film representations of trafficking and particularly the way traumatic films mark the viewer, Dr. Hashamova's research question is: how does film aesthetics create the viewer as "witness" who is open to transformation and action, and how do cinematic properties invite suspicion and disbelief. In exploring the effectiveness of film representations of trafficking, she employs a two-fold approach. First, she tests public responses to trafficking films and second, she analyzes the content and cinematic properties of selected films probing the empathy response that they generate. In April 2008, Dr. Hashamova received an IREX Short Term Grant for this project.

As Chair of the *Undergraduate Studies Committee*, Dr. Hashamova

and her Committee worked on further improving the quality of the undergraduate major. In order to secure a well-rounded education in Russian language, literature and culture, it is planned to increase the credit hours from 45 to 50, offering clusters of courses that will contribute to the students' language and literature-culture proficiencies. These changes are to be finalized in a near future. For Dr. Hashamova's trip to Bulgaria and conference participation, see *Faculty, Staff and Student News*.

DSEELL would like to congratulate Dr. Hashamova, who has been appointed as the new Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies.



Questions? Comments?

Would you prefer to receive future issues of our newsletter electronically? Do you have suggestions for stories?

Please drop us a line at:

slavicdept@osu.edu

Professor Emeritus Ilse Lehiste

Professor Ilse Lehiste, once a member of our Department (1963-1965), then founder of the *Department of Linguistics* (in 1965) and its Chair (1965-1971, 1984-87), is—among many other specializations—a scholar of South-Slavic Linguistics and author of *Accent in Serbocroatian. An Experimental Study* (1963) and *Word and Sentence Prosody in Serbocroatian* (1986). She is also an expert on language change and language contact (*Lectures on Language Contact*, 1988). In recent years, she has been conducting extensive research on the prosody of her native Estonian and other Finno-Ugric languages. Among her recent titles are *Meadow Mari Prosody* (2005) and *Livonian Prosody* (2008).



A frequent visitor to post-Soviet Estonia, Professor Lehiste has maintained lively contacts with leading linguists there; she has also set up a study group that, following her guidelines, will examine the prosodic structure of FU languages that have not been investigated by experimental phonetic

methods, especially those with a relatively small number of speakers.

Dr. Lehiste's academic career can only be called illustrious. Her list of honors, fellowships and other awards is long indeed; here we will only mention her latest one. On October 22nd, 2008, she received a diploma that signified her election (as Foreign Member) to the *Estonian Academy of Arts and Sciences*.

We are proud of the fact that Professor Emeritus Ilse Lehiste has been associated with us, and we are happy for her that a time has come when the *Estonian Academy of Arts and Sciences* can freely recognize illustrious Estonians who once had to leave their native land.

Fulbright Visiting Scholar

Temenuzhka Seizova-Nankova, Associate Professor at Konstantin Preslavski University in Shumen, Bulgaria is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures here at OSU. Her sponsor/mentor/adviser here is Brian Joseph, Professor of Linguistics and Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics. Her program at OSU, running from September 8 (2008) until February 8 (2009), includes both research and teaching. In terms of her research, she is concentrating mainly on a comparative study of English and Bulgarian with regard to reflexivity and the expression of possession, but she has also been participating in classes and in various discussion groups in both the Slavic and the Linguistics Departments, all connected with her



Video Conference

On December 3, one section of Russian 135 engaged in a video conference in 145 Hagerty Hall with a group of students in Saint-Petersburg, Russia. This cultural exchange allowed OSU students to swap questions with a group of students at EF English First, an English language school located on Nevsky Prospekt where section leader

main areas of interest and related in one way or another to her research project. She is also taking advantage of the University library and all other available resources, and is familiarizing herself with the US higher education system, US traditions, and U.S. culture. Finally, she is teaching a Bulgarian conversation class, in which the Bulgarian way of life, Bulgarian traditions and Bulgarian culture are topics of discussion.

Zoran Panjak had formerly worked as an EFL teacher. Discussions ranged from the global economy and world politics to leisure activities, music, film and foods.

Students were asked to submit questions beforehand which related to the course curriculum, how Russian culture has evolved, and to explore the ways in which those trends may have influenced contemporary Russian society. Recurring themes in the questions asked by OSU students included the class system in modern day Russia, gender roles, and the roles of President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin in their administration of foreign policy. Also of great interest were the ways in which Russians in Saint-Petersburg had fun and blew off steam from their day to day routines.

The Russian students were pleased at the opportunity to practice their English with native speakers of the language, and were particularly interest-

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Tomsk Language Program already in its 6th Year

Program popular among students is growing at a fast pace

Since the best way to learn a language is in a country where it is spoken, DSEELL naturally encourages students to participate in study abroad. One such opportunity offered by OSU is the Intensive Russian Language and Culture Program at Tomsk State University (TSU), the oldest university in Siberia and one of the oldest in Russia.

The program was established in 2004 by OSU and Tomsk State, specifically for OSU students. Each participant lives with a host family; a "buddy" from each family helps the student adjust to life in Russia. For many students, their host family is their favorite memory of the trip. The students also have ideal instructional situations with small class sizes and teachers from Tomsk State, all of whom have previous experience teaching Russian to international students. In addition to excellent instruction, the students are also able to take advantage of the location and the opportunity to travel in Russia. They spend three days in Moscow upon arrival in

mid-June and two days there before their return to the U.S. in early August. Activities in Moscow include visits to the Kremlin, St. Basil's, the Tretyakov Gallery and the WWII museum; students also take a scenic cruise on the Moscow River, visit the circus, and shop for souvenirs in Izmailovsky Park.

The OSU group also goes on excursions every Saturday and on some weekdays. These excursions vary from year to year; past Saturday excursions included a day trip to Novosibirsk. This year, the group is planning on visiting Krasnoyarsk. The students also have ample time to enjoy activities with their host buddies, such as attending the circus, shopping at the outdoor markets, and attending a soccer game and rooting for the local team.



The program has expanded since its inception. It has grown from six participants in 2004 to an anticipated seventeen in 2009, as it was reduced to seven weeks of instruction. It now includes two levels of instruction. The Tomsk program offers OSU students a chance not only to improve their Russian, but to get out of the main cities and explore a culturally and historically rich area of Russia.

Modern Russian Culture Trip to Moscow

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures is offering a short-term study abroad program to Moscow, with a focus on modern Russian culture and society.

This program was established and is directed by CSEES Director Yana Hashamova, with CSEES continuing to support with staffing and funds. The

program will take place after Spring Quarter of 2009, from June 23 to July 5, and students will experience everyday life and visit sites of major artistic, cultural, and historical importance. In order to be eligible, students must complete Russian 235 (Modern



Russian Culture) and maintain a GPA of at least 2.7. Students will also receive 8 credit hours of Russian 697 after completion of the trip.

For more information, contact Susan Vdovichenko (vdovichenko.1@osu.edu).



DSEELL Takes Students to Olomouc, Czech Republic

Summer study-abroad program offers the opportunity to improve Czech language skills

This four-week program suits a variety of needs and interests, with courses offered at levels from beginner to advanced and cultural activities such as weekend excursions and weekday visits to local points of interest. Participants from OSU typically include both undergraduate and graduate students, both of Czech and non-Czech heritage, who attend the courses in order to acquire Czech for research, business, or just personal interest.

From the Czech side, the program is administered as the Summer School of Slavonic Studies (Letní Škola Slovan-ských Studii or SSSL) by the Palacký University Department of Slavic Languages. Entering students complete placement exams and are then assigned to appropriate levels; the Summer School now offers roughly seven to eight levels of instruction. Participants have in-class instruction for four hours a day and have the opportunity to attend additional hours of Czech conversation each afternoon.

At lower levels of proficiency, students may receive instruction in English or German. Participating students come from a wide range of countries, with the single best-represented country being the United States in recent years, but otherwise dominated by European students. Japanese students also form a substantial contingent, and the program has also boasted students from such wide-ranging countries as Bangladesh, China, Mexico and Mongolia.

The site, Olomouc, is a town with roughly 100,000 inhabitants. The historical capital of Northern Moravia, it is also widely considered to be the second most important city in the Czech Republic after Prague, in terms of history and architecture. Olomouc



boasts a historic Renaissance town hall and numerous churches, fountains, and statues of various historical epochs, including the baroque Holy Trinity Column on the town's main square, placed on the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage in 2001.

SSSL's cultural offerings include sight-seeing excursions to points of interest in Moravia on the first and third weekends of the program, plus a second (or middle) weekend in Prague, which includes lodging and all-expense-paid tours and visits to museums, architectural landmarks, and other major tourist attractions, such as Prague Castle and Jewish Town. As the number of participants has grown

dramatically in recent years, the number of options has also increased. Students have also been able to take advantage of fully paid visits to local cultural events and sights on weekday afternoons and evenings.

The seven OSU students who travelled to Olomouc in the summer of

2006 were fortunate to be able to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Palacký University's Summer School. To commemorate this occasion, the school offered a number of special events for the students. The program included an evening of interactive folk music and dance at which a famed local *cimbalom* band performed and gave folk dancing lessons, an extended film and lecture series, and even a tour of Radio Hity, Olomouc's radio station. After twenty years, Palacký University looks forward to the continued success of its Summer School of Slavonic Languages, and OSU students look forward to the unique opportunities and experiences attending the summer school unfailingly provides.

Video Conference continued from page 8:

ed to learn about reactions to the recent victory of President-Elect Barack Obama. OSU students also fielded questions regarding leisure activities in America, the influences of non-Ameri-

can cultures in the United States, and American views of our culture as observed from the international stage.

During the course of the one hour long discussion, students on both ends shared a number of laughs, and displayed a genuine interest in one

another's lives. They learned that, aside from some of the political and social aspects that were discussed, they had quite a bit in common, and that modern day Russians and Americans have become quite similar in our globalized community.



Delic continued from page 2:

and Language for a book project. For details of her recent publications and conference activities, see page 4.

Likewise, not quite a newcomer is Dr. Alexander Burry who joined us in 2004, but has not had his academic profile presented in any detail in our *Newsletter* yet. Dr. Burry has a broad research perspective and favors interdisciplinary and cross-media approaches. His contribution to Dostoevsky research, especially his study of transpositions of Dostoevsky texts to other media, has attracted wide attention. His new honors course (Slavic H 584) *Dead Man Writing: Literary Representation of Capital Punishment* is yet another exciting contribution to our Honors course offerings. To find out more about Dr. Burry's career before and after he joined us, see page 4.

The faculty that have been with the Department for some time have also been very active with an impressive array of outstanding achievements. Professor Charles Gribble added yet another award to his illustrious career, receiving the prestigious ASC Harlan Hatcher Memorial Award for Excellence, given to faculty "who have developed a noteworthy profile of distinguished, sustained and balanced achievements in the areas of teaching, research, and service and who serve as role models for both younger colleagues and students." You can learn more about Dr. Gribble's numerous achievements on the opening page of our *Newsletter*.

Professor Brian Joseph, our Kenneth E. Naylor Professor whom we have the honor of sharing with Linguistics, as usual had a year of incredible accomplishments, many conference trips to diverse destinations and many awards, the most recent being an honorary doctorate by the University of Patras, in Greece, on March 31, 2008.

One of his latest exciting projects is the organization of a unique Albanian Summer Seminar involving a study visit to Prishtina, Kosovo. More information on Dr. Joseph's manifold activities is to be found inside the *Newsletter*.

Dr. Brintlinger, our current *Graduate Studies Committee* Chair, has added many new feathers to her already richly adorned cap. Her recent book publications are presented in detail inside the *Newsletter*, as is her conference "Beyond Little Vera," the contributions to which have become a volume in the series *Ohio Slavic Papers*. Her earlier book, *Writing a Usable Past*, has just appeared in paperback, testifying to its popularity. In addition she was invited by the Eikhenbaum society at RGGU, Moscow, and attended a conference on Chekhov in Yalta. More details about Dr. Brintlinger's manifold activities, attracting considerable attention from the Slavist community, can be learned inside the *Newsletter*.

It has likewise been a year of intense activities for our new Director of the *Center for Slavic and East European Studies*, Dr. Yana Hashamova. Congratulations on your Directorship, Yana, which is bound to bring our outstanding Center to new peaks of great accomplishments. Dr. Hashamova published her well-received *Pride and Pan-ic* devoted to Russian film, is immersed in another book project, organized numerous conferences with themes such as "Balkan War Rapes" and "Trafficking in People," was part of the 2008 AAASS Plenary Session and taught a course on Bulgarian culture, taking the students—OSU International Scholars—on a study tour to Bulgaria. The readers may learn more about her many highly successful initiatives inside the *Newsletter*.

I would like to thank the previous Department Chair, Professor Daniel Collins, for his eight years of dedicated service to the Department. During his

"reign" majors and minors enrolling in Slavic and East European increased to previously unheard-of numbers (to give an idea: in 2000, the Department had 18 majors, in 2008–98). When I tell colleagues in other departments of our enrollments, they cannot believe that such numbers are possible. They are real in our Department however, where Dr. Collins by some kind of magic in which full attention to each individual plays a major role, has attracted so many students to come to us. He may have learned something about magic from his unique course on the *Vampire in Slavic Cultures*, which has attracted so many students for so many years and hopefully also will be turned into a book now that Dr. Collins should have a bit more time for himself. Dr. Collins himself takes great pride in having made excellent hires and in a graduate program that has reached an exceptionally high quality, and no one would dispute the validity of these claims. For his recent activities in Novgorodian archeological excavations, in the *Medieval Slavic Summer Institute* (2008), and other activities, such as the book sale for the benefit of the Talvi Fund, see the reports inside the *Newsletter*.

Last, but not least, we are happy to see Dr. Temenuzhka Seizova-Nankova, Associate Professor at Konstantin Preslavski University in Shumen, Bulgaria in our midst. She is a Fulbright Scholar currently visiting in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, staying with us until February 2009. For details of her research interests and other activities here, see page 8.

Not only faculty have distinguished themselves, so have our students: we have three new Ph.D. degrees to report and two passed Candidacy examinations. We congratulate Dr. **Andrei Cretu**, Dr. **Yevgeniya Tyurikova** and Dr.

Continued on page 12

Gribble continued from page 1

Russian Word Formation and Reading Bulgarian Through Russian: A Short Dictionary of 18th-Century Russian, the only complete dictionary of that period of the language in existence; and the only chrestomathy of Old Russian texts published in the West. In addition, he has been exceptionally active as an editor, with six edited or co-edited volumes to his name. Dr. Gribble also served as editor-in-chief of the journal *Folia Slavica* from 1977–1988, and he continues to serve as a member of the editorial board of *Palaeobulgarica*, the premiere journal of Medieval Slavic Studies, published by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Finally, he has published 27 articles, 19 reviews, and 14 co-authored volumes of Individualized Instruction curricular materials.

The Slavic field was profoundly impacted through Dr. Gribble's leadership of *Slavica Publishers, Inc.*, which he founded in 1966, and edited through 1997. During his editorship, *Slavica* was the largest venue for Slavic publications in the Western Hemisphere. The firm operated on a "break-even" rather than profit basis and published high-quality textbooks and monographs on literature, folklore, and linguistics that,

because of their specialization, were not considered marketable by large university presses. As its leader, Dr. Gribble personally edited some 250 books and over 60 journal issues; thus he has had a huge impact on the work of other scholars and, in general, on the profile of Slavic Studies in the U.S. and Canada. His excellence as editor was one of the major reasons why the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, the major professional organization in our field, presented him with its Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Profession in 1992, following a Special Commendation in 1986.

Dr. Gribble has worked especially hard to promote Bulgarian Studies in North America not only through his publications and editorial work but also through his teaching and service. He served as president of the Bulgarian Studies Association from 2001–2003 and, during that time, co-organized the organization's conference, which was held in Columbus. He is well known in Bulgarian scholarly circles, has been interviewed in a popular newspaper, and has received several honors from Bulgarian institutions: a Jubilee Medal from the Bulgarian Embassy for "contributing to expanding relations between the USA and the

People's Republic of Bulgaria" (1985); a Jubilee Medal from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1986); a Jubilee Badge of Honor from Sofia University (1988); and a Certificate of Commendation from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for his scholarly, pedagogical, and organizational contributions to Bulgarian Studies (2003). In May 2006, we learned that he has been honored with the Marin Drinov Award by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; this is the Academy's highest honor—the equivalent of an honorary degree, which is seldom given to foreigners.

It is important also to bear in mind the immense contributions Dr. Gribble has made to the Department. He served as Chair from 1990–1996, during a difficult period in the program's history. Since then, he has worked diligently in departmental service and, in particular, was our Graduate Studies Chair for over five years. Besides skillfully performing the routine duties of the Graduate Studies Chair, Dr. Gribble has been instrumental in designing and implementing several curricular reforms and is currently at work on a redesign of our M.A. Reading List in Slavic Linguistics. We are very grateful for the depth of his concern for the Department and its students.

Delic continued from page 11:

Miriam Whiting.

We are very pleased to welcome our new graduate students: **Daniel Davidson**, **Anastasia Kostetskaya**, **David McVey**, **Zoran Panjak**, **Jeffrey Parker**, and **Shelley Price**, and we hope that they feel at home in our Department.

The Department would like to acknowledge the exceptionally generous donation given to Czech Studies by Ohio State alumna **Sharon M. Schweitzer**. She has established a

development fund—the Uprka-Laga-Schweitzer Fund—to further studies in Czech language and culture. We are deeply grateful for her marvelous boost to Czech Studies. You'll find more information on Ms. Schweitzer on page 15.

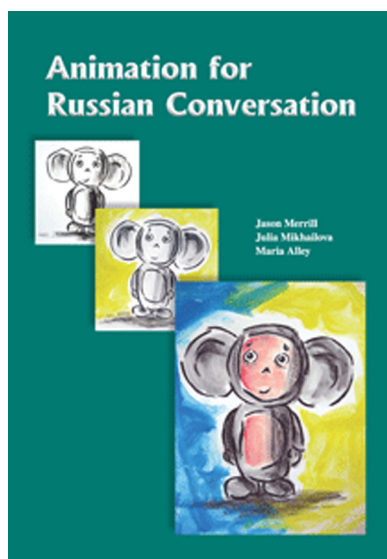
Finally, I would like to thank our fine staff, Fiscal Manager **Linda Milbourne** and Graduate Studies Coordinator **Karen Nielsen** for their making it easy for a Chair to be a Chair. Greatly appreciated are also our fine front desk students: **Kenney Hensley**, **Tomas Kas-**

paraitis, **Olga Kolenko**, **Shawn Mellor** and **Charity Myers**. I wish especially to thank Linda Milbourne for her extensive contribution to this *Newsletter*. I wish us all a SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR 2009. May it bring us much exciting news to put into the next *Newsletter*.



Maria Alley coauthored *Animation for Russian Conversation* (2008), a textbook that features language teaching materials from some of the best-known Russian works of animation: Cheburashka, Karlson, the Hedgehog, and Winnie-the-Pooh (in his Russian incarnation, Vinni Pukh). They are known and loved by many Russians, and should be considered a significant part of Russian culture.

While the importance of Russian directors and films has long been acknowledged, Russian animation also was created by some of the finest talents of the land, is of a high artistic level, and is certainly not just for children. Three authors have collaborated to create *Animation for Russian Conversation*: Jason Merrill (Michigan State University), Julia Mikhailova (University of Toronto, an OSU Ph.D.) and Maria Alley (Ohio State). The majority of the exercises presented in this collection are intended for Russian students of the Novice High to Intermediate Mid levels according to ACTFL guidelines, with some additional activities designed for more advanced learners. But hopefully the book will be of use to anyone interested in learning the language while working with authentic Russian materials.



Maria Alley also was the organizing force behind the Spring Olympiada. On March 7, 2008, the DSEELL with generous support from the *Center for Slavic and East European Studies* hosted the 2008 Ohio High School Olympiada of Spoken Russian. The Olympiada competition is organized and funded by the *American Councils of Teachers of Russian*. It is the oldest of all the American Councils' secondary school activities dating back to the 1960s. In this competition, which is largely based on the long existing tradition of oral examinations and competitions in the Russian educational system, Ohio high school students have an opportunity to test their knowledge of Russian and meet other students of Russian throughout the state.

Twenty-one students from Start High school in Toledo, OH, competed in this year's event. This year's winner, Andrea Reany, traveled to Vladimir, Russia, on a study abroad program, along with the finalists from other US regions who participated in Olympiada this year. Ms. Alley thanks all volunteer participants of this year's Olympiada! It was, by all accounts, a successful and enjoyable event for both the students and organizers.

Angela Brintlinger was, in April, 2008, invited by the Eikhenbaum Seminar at the Russian State University of the Humanities (RGGU, Moscow), where she gave a talk entitled: "Russian Literary Biographies and Writing a Usable Past" (in Russian). From there she proceeded to the Chekhov conference, *The World of Chekhov: Mode, Ritual, Myth, Yalta, Ukraine*, and gave another talk entitled: "A New and Glorious Chekhov: The Americanization of Chekhov's Story 'Lady with a Pet Dog' by Michelle Herman" (in Russian)." She is planning a grandiose Chekhov conference for 2010 at OSU, to celebrate the 150th birthday of the writer. Additional achievements: Editor, *Pushkin Review*

(volume 8-9, 2007, *Slavica*); Editor, *Ohio Slavic Papers*, volume 7 (*Beyond Little Vera: Women's Bodies, Women's Welfare in Russia and Central/ Eastern Europe*, 2008).

Daniel E. Collins, Brian Joseph, and Andrea Sims organized the Third Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society at OSU in June of 2008. Over eighty papers were presented by scholars from the U.S. and Europe, including several by OSU graduate students in DSEELL. The conference was judged to be a huge success by all in attendance. Support for the conference was provided by the College of Humanities, the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, and various departments on campus.

Daniel E. Collins is currently working on a book entitled *Voices on Birchbark: Language and Society in the Medieval Russian Northwest*, co-authored by Jos Schaeken of University of Leiden, the Netherlands. In summer 2007, with support from the Department, College of Humanities, and Netherlands Institute in St. Petersburg, Dr. Collins made a research visit to Novgorod, Russia, to work with his co-author. Capital of a vast "merchant republic" in north-western Russia prior to its annexation by Muscovy in 1478, the city, called Lord Novgorod the Great, possesses an abundance of well-preserved medieval sites, including its own Kremlin and dozens of churches and monasteries. In addition to these aboveground treasures, Novgorod offers continual discoveries for archeologists, historians, and linguists in annual summer excavations. Its moist, clay-rich soil provides perfect conditions for the preservation of wooden artifacts and letters written on birchbark, which document the everyday transactions of the city's medieval inhabitants—ranging from marriage proposals to creditors' threats

Continued on page 14

News continued from page 13:

and from tax receipts to military intelligence.

While in Novgorod, Dr. Collins was able to consult with prominent Russian scholars such as Aleksei Gippius of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Elena Rybina, head of the Novgorod Archeological Expedition, and Valentin Yanin, the foremost Russian expert on medieval Novgorod. With the help of Dr. Gippius, he gained access to numerous medieval sites not open to the public. He also got his hands dirty (quite literally) digging for relics at the Trinity



Excavations. While he did not unearth anything beyond an eleventh-century chicken bone, he gained detailed knowledge of the workings of the Archeological Expedition—from sifting through the soil to flattening out and deciphering a newly discovered birch-bark letter—which will be of great value in the preparation of his book.

In June and July 2008, **Daniel Collins** and **Predrag Matejic** (curator of the Hilandar Research Library) led the fifth biennial Medieval Slavic Summer Institute, sponsored by the Department and the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies. Fourteen junior scholars

participated in the workshop, including a postdoctoral scholar from University of Madrid; a lecturer from the Warsaw Christian Theological Academy; graduate students from Stanford University, Central European University, University of Madrid, and the Ohio State departments of History and Linguistics; and the Slavic Department's own **Matthew Curtis, Spencer Robinson, Lauren Ressue, and Daria Safronova**. The participants learned how to conduct original research on medieval Slavic manuscripts under the guidance of Dr. Matejic and gave their final presentations on previously undescribed and uncatalogued "mystery" manuscripts; in addition, they improved their close reading and analytic skills by working with other manuscripts in the collections of the Hilandar Research Library under the guidance of Dr. Collins. The participants rested from their labors with bicycle rides, a trip to the Columbus Zoo, dinners on the town, and a Fourth of July Picnic at the home of Daniel and Seleen Collins.

In winter 2008, **Dr. Hashamova** taught Slavic 245F, Introduction to Bulgarian Culture, to 72 International Scholars and during the spring break led the students to a study abroad in Bulgaria. Excitingly intensive, the trip went very smoothly due to the brilliant organizational skills of Debra Bermann from the Office of International Affairs. Dr. Hashamova and the students greatly benefited from the able assistance of six Resident Directors who participated in the study abroad, as well as Dr. Collins and Elizabeth Angerman. Now, a good number of these students are taking our Russian 101.

Conference Participation:

"Balkan War Rapes: A Challenge to Western Feminism" at Transnational Dialogues: De-centering the Academic Debate on Global Feminism, Kenyon College, September 26-28, 2008. "Is there a Feminist Press in Eastern

Europe?" - Roundtable, AAASS, Philadelphia, November 20-23, 2008.

Invited Talks:

"Trafficking in People: A Gender Perspective" Symposium on Gender Violence, Saint Mary's College, October 2, 2008.

AAASS-Presidential Plenary Session: "Revisiting The Gender Question: Scholarship, Exchange, Experience" - Roundtable, Philadelphia, November 20-23, 2008

Invited Participation in the Kenyon College Workshop: Film Studies Teachers Teach Teachers, December 3-4, 2008.

Brian D. Joseph, the Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics, attended conferences in Eastern Europe, speaking at a conference in Belgrade in early September 2008 celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the University of Belgrade and another in St. Petersburg later in the month celebrating the 20th anniversary of the founding the Modern Greek and Albanian Studies Program at the University of St. Petersburg. For his "Profile," see page 6!

Irene Masing-Delic published her article "Boris Pilnyak's *The Volga Falls to the Caspian Sea* as Trotskyite Sophiology" in SEEJ, 52: 3, 2008. Her recent interest in the writer led her to the city of Kolomna, 120 kilometers east of Moscow, where Pilnyak lived for many years (his house is preserved). Its Old City has a great deal of medieval architecture, such as a well-preserved Kremlin (with its famous *Marinkina bashnia*, where Marina Mnishek, Polish wife of the pretender Dmitrii languished for some years). Pilnyak called the city the "Russian Bruegge." Dr. Delic participated in the biannual conference *Pil'niakovskie chteniia*, led by Professor Aleksandr Petrovich Auer, who started these, and she also taught a "mini-course" on Nabokov's *Prin* and

Continued on page 16

OSU Alum Establishes Fund to Support DSEELL Czech Studies

Proud Czech-American Sharon Schweitzer provides a boost to an already strong program

Ohio State alumna **Sharon M. Schweitzer** has established a development fund to further Czech studies in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures (DSEELL).

Ms. Schweitzer endowed The Uprka-Laga-Schweitzer Fund in Czech Studies. The fund has been primarily set up to provide undergraduate students with scholarships in order to help them study Czech language and culture. The scholarship money will be used especially to support those students participating in OSU's Summer Language Program, conducted each year at František Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Ms. Schweitzer is a 1984 graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.A. in Sociology and Criminology. Ms. Schweitzer then spent the summer of 1984 on an OSU Summer Study Pre-Law Program at Oxford University before enrolling in the South Texas College of Law. She studied law on an Advocacy Scholarship and received her J.D. in 1989. Presently, she is a Labor and Employment attorney, with board certification in Texas. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern Districts of Texas, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Schweitzer is board certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, a trained Mediator, a certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR), and certified as both a

Corporate Etiquette and International Protocol Consultant and as a Children's Etiquette Consultant. She is also author of the book *Age Discrimination Issues for Baby Boomers: Are You Ready?*



Currently, Schweitzer is the President of the Protocol Center of Texas in Austin, Texas.

Ms. Schweitzer's mother, Evelyn Mary Laga Schweitzer, grew up in a Czech community in Nebraska and speaks fluent Czech. She is one of eight children of Czech parents and can also boast great uncles of renown—Jozef, or "Joža", Uprka (1861-1940), an artist known for his paintings and drawings on Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak folk motifs (see insert) and his brother František, a sculptor.

Ms. Schweitzer is interested in researching her genealogy in the Czech Republic, with her parents and Czech relatives. She says their efforts have proven the family lore on Uprka to be true, and she can trace her lineage back to the 17th century. Other goals of Ms. Schweitzer include renovating the Uprka Villa in Hroznová Lhota, the artist's birthplace in Southern Moravia, and the establishment of an Uprka Museum in Prague. There is currently an Uprka Museum in Strážnice, but a museum in Prague would bring more international attention to her great-great uncle's legacy. Additionally, she would like to become fluent in Czech herself.

In 2006, Ms. Schweitzer traveled to the Czech Republic and studied

with several Ohio State students during their participation in the Intensive Czech Language Summer Program at Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic. This trip provided Schweitzer the opportunity to learn more about Jozef and Jan Uprka, Sister Alzbeta Uprka, and sculptor Frantisek Uprka, all ancestors of Sharon on her mother's side.

During the summer of 2007, Ms. Schweitzer taught classes at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.

Ms. Schweitzer is extremely proud of her Czech heritage and is thrilled that Ohio State has one of the largest Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures programs in the United States.



*A book on Jozef Uprka,
Schweitzer's ancestor*

Donation of Books

The Department would like to express its gratitude to Dr. Charles ("Chuck") Gribble, for his extraordinarily generous donation of hundreds of scholarly books. Some of the books are being added to the reference collection of the Reading Room (406 Hagerty); others, at Dr. Gribble's request, are being sold to benefit the TALVI Endowment, which provides travel support for the Department's graduate students. The first book sale of the "Gribble Collection" was held during the Slavic Linguistics Society Conference, held June 10–12 in Columbus; it was a great success and added substantially to the principal of the Endowment. Other books from the "Gribble Collection" are being offered on a continuing basis so that our graduate students can begin building their own "professional libraries." For further information on the sale, please contact Daniel E. Collins (collins.232@osu.edu). Please also consider making your own gift to the TALVI Endowment—an investment in the future of our excellent scholars-in-training!

News continued from page 14:

Lolita in the *Department of Russian Literature* of Kolomna's *Pedagogical Institute* (in Russian). The Institute's hospitality was "chisto russkoe" – Dr. Delic and **Ms. Helen Halva** (from UNC) who is writing her Ph.D. dissertation on Boris Pilnyak, particularly enjoyed the excursions to the medieval city of Zairaik and to Dostoevski's childhood summer home "Darovoe" that they were treated to.

On December 4, **Dr. Andrea Sims** was a featured faculty member at the OSU World Media and Culture Center Open House. She talked about how she used the statistical and graphical program-

Olympiada Hosted

On March 17, 2008, Slavic Department with generous support from the Center for Slavic and East European Studies hosted the 2008 Ohio High School Olympiada of Spoken Russian. The Olympiada competition is organized and funded by the American Councils of Teachers of Russian. It is the oldest of all American Councils' secondary school activities dating to the 1960s. In this competition, which is largely based on the long existing tradition of oral examinations and competitions in the Russian educational system, Ohio high school students have an opportunity to test their knowledge of Russian and meet other students of Russian throughout the state.

Twenty one student from Start High School in Toledo, OH, competed in this year's event. This year's winner, Andrea Reany, travelled to Vladimir, Russia, on a study abroad program, along with the finalists from other US regions who participated in Olympiada this year.

ming language R in her graduate seminar to teach corpus linguistic analysis. She also demonstrated students' final course projects that were created using R.

Ryan Walker is the *Russian Table Coordinator* for 2008-2009; he was the Resident Director of the *Tomsk Study Abroad Program* (see page 9) last year and will have the same job next summer, for which we are very grateful, since he does such an excellent job. He participated in this year's *Midwest Slavic Conference* and presented a paper at the 2008 AATSEEL Conference in San Francisco.

Slavic Linguistics Society Conference

From June 10th to 12th, 2008, The Ohio State University hosted the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS). The SLS seeks to encourage dialogue among Slavic linguists of different theoretical persuasions, and the annual SLS meeting has developed into a significant venue for Slavic linguists in both North America and Europe.

This year's conference was a great success, with more than 60 papers presented by scholars from around the world, including plenary talks by Henning Andersen (UCLA), Peter Culicover (OSU) and Lenore Grenoble (U. of Chicago). Many members of the Slavic and Linguistics Departments at OSU also presented their research and/or served as panel chairs. Feedback from conference participants was extremely positive.

The conference additionally featured a sale of donated books, primarily from the collection of DSEELL professor Charles Gribble. Proceeds of more than \$1,000 went to the Talvi Fund to support future graduate student conference travel.

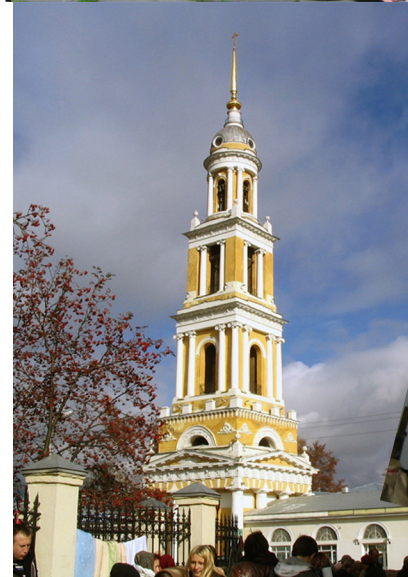
The event was organized by three DSEELL faculty members - Daniel Collins, Brian Joseph and Andrea Sims - with much help from the DSEELL staff and graduate students. It was supported by the DSEELL, the Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship, the CSEES, the College of Humanities, and the Department of Linguistics.

Yuliya Walsh read a paper titled "Classification of New Anglicisms in Russian" at the 6th Graduate Colloquium on Slavic Linguistics, on October 18th, 2008.

*Buckeyes travel to Bulgaria
with Dr. Hashamova*



*Scenes of Kolomna and the
biennial Pilnyak Conference*





*Searching for relics among the Trinity excavations
in Novgorod, Dr. Collins digs in!*



