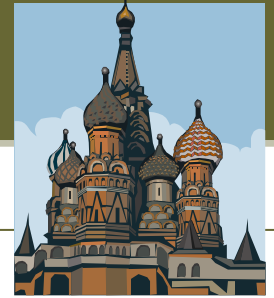


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From CSC to CSC, Ltd.

The Central Slavic Conference (CSC) held its 44th annual meeting at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri on March 11-12, 2005. At the annual business meeting, the CSC Executive Board began the unprecedented move of turning the Central Slavic Conference into a limited corporation under the laws of the state of Missouri. Thus, the organization was incorporated as a 501c3 body and a new board was constituted. The movement toward the creation of an endowment fund with a Board of Endowment Advisors to oversee the fund began as well. The 2004-2005 CSC president, Kurt Jefferson, called another Executive Board meeting for May 19, 2005 at the Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) at the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence. That day CSC member and attorney Norman Gaar announced the creation of the CSC corporation and that its charter had gone into effect on May 5, 2005. Under Article V of the Articles of Incorporation the following individuals were placed on the Board of Directors: Will Adams, Marilyn Gaar, Sam Goodfellow, Kurt Jefferson, Jacob Kipp, Gerald Mikkelson, and Robin Remington. At the same time the board elected Kurt Jefferson to serve as president for a three year term (thus replacing the current CSC

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process of having a rotating presidency each year). Will Adams was elected to a three-year term as secretary. Robin Remington was elected to a two-year term as vice president and Sam Goodfellow was elected to a one-year term as treasurer. The CSC was grateful to Erik Herron, the Director of the CREES at KU, and longtime board member, Slavacist, and KU professor Jerry Mikkelson for graciously hosting us in late Spring 2005 for this extremely important meeting. The CSC, Ltd. is fully functioning and will be looking to link Slavacists and other academics and professionals in new and exciting ways as the organization maintains the tradition of excellence it began in 1962 at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri.

CSC to partner with CARTA in Spring 2006

On May 19, 2005 at its re-organizational meeting, the Central Slavic Conference (CSC) Board of Directors voted to hold its 45th annual meeting as an experimental "joint" meeting with the Central Association of Russian Teachers of America (CARTA) in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 31-April 2, 2006. East Central University professor Mara Sukholutskaya, president of CARTA, invited CSC to participate and it was agreed that a partnership would be attempted in 2006. At the May 19, 2005 CSC board meeting,

the board voted Sherri Raney of Oklahoma Baptist University as CSC program chair in 2006 and a committee of Kurt Jefferson, Jerry Mikkelson, and Raney would work on the CSC part of the CARTA-CSC meeting program. Two CSC panels on Russian literary and cultural topics would be offered at the CARTA-CSC 2006 meeting and a separate CSC panel largely for CSC members on Friday afternoon (March 31, 2006) will be offered and the annual CSC business meeting will occur on Friday afternoon as well. The 2006 CARTA-CSC meeting

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The New CSC Endowment and Board

In Lawrence on May 19, 2005, the CSC, Ltd. reaffirmed the CSC endowment fund and Board of Endowment Advisors to oversee the fund that had been voted on at the annual business meeting on March 12, 2005 in Fulton at Westminster College. The following individuals were voted on to the Board of Endowment Advisors: Will Adams (5-year term), Norman Gaar (4-year term), Charlie Timberlake (3-year term), W. M. Bacon (two-year term), and Sherri Raney (one-year term). Some monies are already pending for the new CSC, Ltd. endowment fund. Some examples of how the trust might be used



are providing scholarships to students who want to study Slavic subjects and helping graduate students attend and give papers at CSC meetings.

Recap of the 2005 Annual Meeting in Historic Fulton, Missouri

By Kurt W. Jefferson

The 44th annual meeting of the Central Slavic Conference was held on March 10–11, 2005 at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. The meeting focused on “Change and Diplomacy in Central and Eastern Europe” and had participants from several college and universities, faculty, non-academic professionals, journalists, and graduate and undergraduate students from both the United States, Slavic states, and non-Slavic post-Communist developing countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The highlight was Dr. Terry D. Clark’s keynote address, “Reflections on the

Orange Revolution in Ukraine: Implications for relations between Russia, the EU, and the United States.” Dr. Clark, the head of the International Relations program at Creighton University is the CSC liaison to the AAASS. Other notable presentations came from two journalism professors from Moscow State University, Victoria Soukhareva and Oleg A. Bakulin who talked about civil liberties and professionalizing journalism in Russia. Yelena Kurolenko, a Visiting Ford Foundation Scholar at the University of Kansas, gave a paper

*45th Annual CSC Meeting
(with the Central Association of Russian
Teachers of America)
March 31–April 2, 2006
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Double Tree Hotel and U. of Tulsa
(Registration information can be found
online at <http://mlc.utsa.edu/carta>)*

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President's Welcome

By Kurt W. Jefferson

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of the new *Central Slavic Conference Newsletter*. The CSC has been a time-honored regional affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS). We will continue to serve Slavicists and other professionals interested in the Slavic world and eastern and central Europe. Our membership is drawn from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. The CSC is trying to find its identity and re-energize its membership base at the start of the twenty-first century. With the upcoming 45th annual meeting of the CSC (a joint venture with CARTA in Tulsa on March 31–April 2, 2006), we are attempting to reach out and continue to fill the gap as a regional professional organization that will welcome academics, professionals, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the six-state area here in



Kurt Jefferson at the University of Reutlingen, Germany in June 2005

the Midwest and Great Plains. We have much tradition to build on, but the current board of directors wants to make sure the CSC continues to be relevant and up-to-date in meeting the needs of its constituents. We plan on attracting more graduate student participation at our meetings and we will find ways to connect Slavicists and non-Slavicists (who might be interested tangentially in the Slavic world). We hope to utilize the intellectual hub at the University of Kansas's Center for East

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Commentary: Inside Russia, 2005

By Jerry Mikkelsen (U. of Kansas)
from St. Petersburg, Russia

The big news this morning (October 17, 2005) on Echo Moskvya radio was the following: (1) candidates of President Vladimir Putin's party, United Russia, seem to have won the regional parliamentary elections in Belgorod Oblast'. This will probably lead to the reappointment by Putin of Evgeny Savchenko as Governor, despite the fact that the latter is probably behind the recent campaign of intimidation against the corporation called "Inteko-Agro", whose board chair is Elena Baturina, wife of Moscow's mayor Yury Luzhkov. Unsolved are the nearly fatal axe attack on Intek's CEO Aleksandr Annenkov (he's still in intensive care) and the fatal beating of Intek lawyer Dmitry Shteinberg. And (2) a reporter for the newspaper *Versiia* has been arrested in Nal'chik, capital of the Kabardino-Balkariia province, for attempting to determine by on-the-spot investigation how many innocent civilians were killed in the shootouts between the local separatists and law enforcement officers in that North Caucasus enclave a few days ago.

Whoever is guilty of the above crises and abuses of power will probably never be punished, which means that, in this respect, "Nothing is new in Russia." In other words, corruption in high places, mishandling of the electoral process, and harassment and repression of investigative

reporters are still rampant.

Despite all the above, perhaps we Americans should recall that (1) in the year 2000 in our own country George Bush was not elected president either by a majority of the U.S. voters or of the electoral college, but rather selected by a one-vote majority on the Supreme Court, (2) Bush's appointees to the governing board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are trying to stifle dissent from his war policies in Iraq, (3) through our own government's propaganda machine, we are fed continuous misinformation about the motives and even the facts of what is happening both at home and abroad, and (4) our federal government's preparation for and response to both natural disasters and terrorist acts has been woefully inadequate.

The above facts suggest that, if Russia is experiencing a serious political and social crisis (and when wasn't it in crisis through most of its millennial history?), then we are too. There's no denying the differences of scale and quality: (1) Russia has a pitifully small middle class, which means that it is easy for those in power to keep the country's people confused and to discourage the more rapid development of a stabilizing civil society; (2) journalists in Russia, although technically free to report on reprehensible or

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CSC, Ltd. to Partner from page 1

will have the following fee structure: \$40 (CARTA members), \$45 (non-members, including CSC members who aren't CARTA members), \$30 (students and retirees), \$50 (on-site registration). The fee includes the opening reception, conference luncheon, keynote address, and Sunday breakfast. Hotel accommodations will be provided by the on-site host, Double Tree Hotel of Tulsa. The conference rate is \$70.00/night. Call 918-587-8000 by March 1, 2006 and identify

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suspicious actions on the part of authorities, do so at the risk of their lives; (3) official corruption in the Russian bureaucracy, both centrally in Moscow and in the provinces, is ubiquitous and virtually uncontrollable; (4) law enforcement authorities, including the courts, almost invariably support their masters in the executive branch of government, rather than defend the civil liberties of otherwise helpless private persons and public interests (commercial, intellectual, cultural, educational, etc.); (5) the vast majority of elected parliamentarians at all levels of the Russian political system do not have independent influence on public policy because they represent Putin's party and assure their president and his appointees at the local level of their support at all times; and (6) ordinary Russians are almost totally alienated and disgusted with both their country's political and business elite. With the lumpen element this alienation takes vicious and ugly forms, such as vandalism in cemeteries, beatings of foreign students, anti-semitism, drug addiction, and breaking glass bottles in the street. With others it leads to alcoholism and suicide.

In contrast, in the United States (1) the middle class, while sharply divided over religious, social, cultural, and political issues, and alarmingly susceptible to the pap fed to it by the advertising industry and popular culture, nevertheless does provide somewhat of a counterweight to the possibilities of total mindlessness and exploitation; (2) law enforcement authorities sometimes are punished for exceeding their authority or neglecting their duty to protect persons and property; (3) our economic system still encourages commercial enterprise; (4) our system of checks and balances in government, while under constant threat, remains more or less intact; and (5) we continue to enjoy the freedoms of speech, assembly, religion, etc., that are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, although, as we know from Nathan Hale, eternal vigilance is essential for their survival.

In a sense, all sectors of Russian public and private life are in a state of turmoil. What is encouraging, however, is the dedication and indomitable spirit of Russia's long-suffering people, especially those who work (1) in the cultural sector (literature, theatre, visual arts), (2) in education (both teachers and students) (3) in the mass media (where radio and print are more vigorous than TV), (4) in law and medicine (with both public and private sectors), and (5) in small and medium-size business.

Most of the people in the above categories, despite seemingly insurmountable handicaps, manage to survive and to

yourself as a CARTA-CSC participant to get the conference hotel rate. To get the pre-registration form in order to send it to Professor Sukholutskaya go online at <http://mllc.utsa.edu/carta>. Professor Sukholutskaya can be contacted at: msukholu@mailclerk.ecok.edu or 580-310-5293 or fax her at 580-4363329. You may also contact Kurt Jefferson as well.

pursue socially beneficial activities, although the majority of them are miserably compensated and have to pay the same price for goods and services that we do, with the possible exception of utilities and bread. Even the costs of heat, electricity, running water, and telephone service are growing faster than overall inflation, which in Russia is among the highest in the developing world.

Young people, if they are smart and resourceful enough, are able to survive and hope for the future by continuing their education beyond high school, and by working in the small, but gradually growing private sector. Retired people, if their health permits and they have some support from their grown-up offspring, manage to survive and even, in some cases, to lobby for the preservation of their social security benefits.

Finally, we need continually to remind our own students, in the United States, especially those who have already shown some healthy initiative by selecting optional courses in the Russian language and culture, Russian government and politics, and Russian history, that there is perhaps no more exciting field for them to apply their energies than the one in which we labor, and there is perhaps no better way for them to learn about the world in which they live, and to appreciate both the better aspects of our own culture and those of another; namely, the Russian one.

President's Welcome from page 3

European Studies as a pillar for growth and interest in this small, but historical organization. The 2005 meeting in Fulton, Missouri was a success and we hope the experiment in Tulsa will be a good one with our friends and colleagues at CARTA. We all know that cuts in higher education budgets have affected departments and faculty that study, write, and teach about the Slavic world. Despite this reality, our mission is still focused on educating and enlightening our society about the importance of Slavic studies, as well as politics, society, culture, and economics of the peoples of central and eastern Europe. I would love for you to join us in our efforts and please contact me if you would like to get involved in our organization.

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entitled, “*Khudozhestvennaia-pedagogicheskaia deiatel’nost’ professional’nogo muzykanta v Rossii*” (“The Performing Artist’s Role as Teacher in Russia”). On the same panel, the meeting’s outstanding graduate student paper was delivered by Lori Heikes of KU’s Department of Humanities and Western Civilization. She spoke on “Sports in St. Petersburg.” Wendy Noren, the Boone County (Mo.) clerk, who has monitored democratic elections in Kosovo, spoke about democratization and election issues. The European Union Center at the University of Missouri—Columbia sponsored a panel on EU enlargement in central and eastern Europe and Westminster undergraduate students from Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia spoke on the political, social, and economic transformations in their countries. In

general, the 44th annual meeting was very successful with seven dynamic panels and much discussion and analysis. Westminster College, the sight of the 2005 annual meeting, is home to the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library (WCML). The memorial is a tribute to Sir Winston’s 1946 “Iron Curtain” speech and a 17th century Anglican church (designed by Christopher Wren) was rebuilt, brick-by-brick, atop the memorial in 1968 (exported from England). A section of the Berlin Wall now sits adjacent to the memorial. Conference participants enjoyed a wonderful wine and cheese reception hosted by WCML director Dr. Rob Havers.



Ukraine: The topic of Terry Clark’s Keynote Address at the 2005 CSC meeting. Will President Viktor Yushchenko maintain the momentum of the Orange Revolution? (помаранчева революція)

Meet the CSC Board of Directors

The Central Slavic Conference (CSC) Board of Directors are as follows:

President: **Kurt W. Jefferson**, Professor of Political Science and Chair, Social Sciences Division, Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri); PhD, University of Missouri—Columbia ; Email: jefferk@westminster-mo.edu

Vice President: **Robin Alison Remington**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Missouri—Columbia; also affiliated with the NGO, Peacehaven International (Columbia, Missouri);

PhD, Indiana University; Email: remingtonr@missouri.edu

Secretary: **Will Adams**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, William Jewell College (Liberty, Missouri); PhD, Columbia University; Email: wadamsjr@swbell.net

Treasurer: **Samuel H. Goodfellow**, Professor of History, Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri); PhD, Indiana University; Email: goodfels@westminster-mo.edu



A poster from Ukraine’s 2004 Orange Revolution: “Glory to Great Stalin-Putin” (Public Domain)

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Additional Board Members:

Marilyn A. W. Gaar, Professor of Political Science and History and Chair, Department of Political Science, Johnson County Community College (Overland Park, Kansas); AM, MS, Indiana University; Email: mgaar@jccc.net

Jacob W. Kipp, Foreign Military Studies Office (Fort Leavenworth, Kansas); PhD, Pennsylvania State University; Email: JacobKipp@cs.com

Gerald E. Mikkelson, Professor of Russian Language, Literature, and Culture in the Department of Russian and East European Studies, University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas); PhD, University of Wisconsin—Madison; Email: gemikk@ku.edu

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