

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATORS

*Elena Bogdanovich  
Jen Guernsey*

It's fall, which means that the Division's big news all relates to the upcoming ATA Annual Conference in San Francisco October 31 – November 3. Check out the list of planned SLD sessions on page 4. We hope to see you there!

If this will be your first ATA conference, or if you will be attending for the first time after a long hiatus, allow us to welcome you at our planned newcomer events. Lucy Gunderson has kindly offered to serve as the SLD's Conference Newcomer Coordinator (and you thought SLD Assistant Administrator was a long title!). See her announcement below. If you are a conference veteran, please join us at the newcomer events to help our newcomers feel welcome and to make some new acquaintances.

For many years, we in the SLD clung to the notion of a Slavic-themed banquet at the annual conference, but we wisely abandoned that tradition last year in New Orleans—a city known for its culinary traditions, none of which are the least bit Slavic. This year, having learned that the Slavic food scene in San Francisco is a pale shadow of its former self, we are continuing the updated tradition of seeking out cuisine that best reflects our host city's culture and traditional specialties. Thus, our Slavic banquet this year will be held at Kan's Restaurant, a well-known Chinatown

restaurant that is within easy walking distance of our hotel. Very special thanks here are due to Mira Beerbaum, who lives in the San Francisco area and took it upon herself to find a suitable restaurant, negotiate the menu, and visit the restaurant in person to make all of the necessary arrangements. The diverse menu will accommodate carnivores, vegetarians, and everyone in between. Hopefully, by the time you read this, you will have already received e-mail notification of the planned SLD banquet, and better yet have already mailed off your check to Jen Guernsey. If not, you can find more details and a form on page 4.

Our year of interim service as your Administrator and Assistant Administrator is already drawing to a close, and this is the last column you will see from the two of us. We are excited and grateful to see the candidates put forth to fill the Administrator and Assistant Administrator positions, Becky Blackley and Elana Pick, both active SLD members who will undoubtedly serve us well over the next two years. Their candidate statements can be found on page 3. We look forward to supporting them in their new roles, and encourage you to do the same.

### NEWCOMER ACTIVITIES

For several years the SLD has tried to hold activities at the conference targeted at making one's first conference less daunting. This year Lucy Gunderson has agreed to serve as Newcomer Coordinator. She writes:

As a first time attendee last year, I know how important it is to have a built-in group of friends at the conference. Members of the Slavic Division would be pleased to meet conference newcomers 15 minutes before the opening gala on Wednesday night. We are also planning to meet up for breakfast every morning and have lunch together on Thursday. I will also try to put people in need of roommates in touch with one another. If you need a roommate or have any suggestions for newcomer activities, please contact me at [russophile@earthlink.net](mailto:russophile@earthlink.net). I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco!

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## DESPERATELY SEEKING DIVERSITY (IF WE HAD WANTED NOTHING BUT RUSSIAN WE WOULD HAVE CALLED IT *RUSSFILE*)

### LOOKING FOR NON-RUSSIAN LANGUAGE EDITORS

We are once again in need of *SlavFile* editors for Slavic languages other than Russian. We currently have an excellent pair of co-editors for Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian (see page 20) but are in need of volunteers to coordinate contributions in all the other non-Russian Slavic languages. These positions **do not** require a large commitment of time or energy—all we ask is at least two articles a year pertaining to the language(s) you specialize in, which you can write, solicit or identify for reprinting. In exchange you will receive:

- Your name on the masthead
- The opportunity to air topics you consider important and to present your own point of view
- Heightened visibility among Slavic language professionals—including potential clients and sources of recommendation
- Enhanced contacts with others working in your language pair(s)
- A chance to work with the delightful and laid-back *SlavFile* staff
- If you are a non-native speaker of English, the benefit of editorial suggestions from experienced editors
- Our undying gratitude!

Reluctant to commit to an editorship? Simply send articles pertaining to languages other than Russian directly to the editors now on the masthead. Do not worry that your English is less than perfect; we will work with you on the text.

Of course, we are also actively soliciting articles from those who work with Russian, most especially from new contributors!

Lydia ([lydiastone@verizon.net](mailto:lydiastone@verizon.net))  
and Nora ([norafavorov@bellsouth.net](mailto:norafavorov@bellsouth.net)).

OFFERS OF WORK FROM EMPLOYERS  
AND CLIENTS ARE PUBLISHED FREE

# CONFERENCE PREVIEW

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

*SlavFile* is delighted to announce the candidacies of Becky Blackley and Elana Pick, running unopposed for the positions of SLD Administrator and Assistant Administrator, respectively. For those of you who did not see their candidate statements distributed recently to SLD members via email, we are reprinting them here.

### **Becky Blackley ([beckyblackley@starband.net](mailto:beckyblackley@starband.net))**

#### **Candidate for Administrator**

I am a Russian to English translator, specializing in law, business/finance, and the arts. I have an MA from the Russian Language School of Middlebury College and an Advanced Certificate in Translation Studies from the University of Chicago's Graham School of General Studies. My undergraduate studies were at the University of California, where I received my BA in Russian and Russian Area Studies many, many, years ago. I have been actively translating since 2000 and working as a full-time freelance translator since 2006.

I have been a member of ATA and the Slavic Language Division since 2004 and have found this to be my primary source for developing and maintaining professional contacts with other translators as well as with language service providers and other clients. During the 2005 and 2006 annual conferences, I took advantage of the networking opportunities provided by the SLD and discovered a warm and welcoming group of colleagues. Having personally benefited from the services provided by ATA and the SLD, I want to become more active and contribute some of my time to help out with the many SLD activities.

I have served on the boards of directors and as an officer of several associations (local, county, state, and international) and have had experience overseeing association activities. I have developed various computer keyboard commands for Cyrillic, as well as other shortcuts, some of which were included in "At Your Command: Creating Customized Keyboard Shortcuts" (*The ATA Chronicle*, January 2006). I am SDL Trados Certified for Translator's Workbench 2006 and 2007 and have dealt with and solved Cyrillic-specific issues. I will gladly help other SLD members who want assistance with computer-related Cyrillic questions in any way I can.

As the Slavic Language Division's Administrator, I hope to be able to share my personal experience with other SLD members. I look forward to serving the Slavic Language Division in any way possible.

I hope to see many of you in San Francisco!

### **P. Elana Pick, Ph.D. ([creativeserv@att.net](mailto:creativeserv@att.net))**

#### **Candidate for Assistant Administrator**

I am honored to accept the nomination for the SLD Assistant Administrator position and look forward to serving my term in this capacity.

I am a native Russian speaker, born and raised in the former Soviet Union. I came to this country 17 years ago. I have two master's degrees: in teaching English from Tbilisi Teacher's Training Institute and in journalism from Moscow State University. I also hold the degree of Candidate in Pedagogical Studies from the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. I have taught for over 40 years on both sides of the Atlantic. Currently, I am teaching Consecutive Medical Interpreting at the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies. I am an ATA-certified EN>RU translator and court-approved interpreter.

When I joined the ATA and SLD 8 years ago, I was very warmly welcomed by, among others, SLD's administrator at the time and the editor of *SlavFile*, whom I feel fortunate to call my friends. Over the years, I have made more friends within the division and the ATA, been a part of various translation teams, been an editor, and had my translations edited by my esteemed colleagues in ATA. Needless to say, this has helped me become a much better translator/interpreter than I was before joining. In short, I have benefited from both the ATA and the SLD, from the conferences and *SlavFile* and *ATA Chronicle*, as well as from personal networking and bumping heads and arguing over difficult or tricky terms with my colleagues.

I am now at a point where feel I should and can give back and put time and energy into strengthening the educational/professional growth component of the SLD. The SLD is an excellent vehicle for raising professional standards in the Slavic T/I community, and I would like to see its role in spreading knowledge, skills, and information expand. We can all benefit from this. I also feel ATA certification is a valuable asset and we should assist our membership in achieving and maintaining certification through educational sessions and *SlavFile* articles.

### **CONFERENCE POETRY READING**

Once again ATA's Literary Division will sponsor its After Hours Café (aka poetry reading) at the conference, on Thursday at 9:00. Everyone who would like to read his or her original or translated poetry in and/or from any language is welcome to read here with no preliminary application. But to do so you must **remember to bring your work**. Absolutely everyone is invited to come and listen.

# CONFERENCE PREVIEW

## PRESENTATIONS

- SL-1 **Aid for the Imperfectly Articulate: Tips on English Article Usage**  
Vladimir J. Kovner and Lydia Razran Stone  
Thursday, 1:30-3:00pm - All Levels
- SL-2 **Translating Court Forms: Lessons Learned**  
Emma A. Garkavi  
Thursday, 3:30-5:00pm - All Levels
- SL-3 **Susanna Greiss Lecture: Lost in Translation—The Verbal Content of Visual Art**  
James West  
Friday, 10:00-11:30am - All Levels
- SL-4 **Translation and Corporate Governance in Russia**  
Megan G. Lehmann  
Friday, 1:30-3:00pm - All Levels
- SL-5 **1001 Ways of Translating Children's Poetry from Russian into English**  
Elena S. McGivern  
Friday, 3:30-5:00pm - All Levels
- SL-6 **Chemistry 1: Basic Nomenclature of Organic and Inorganic Compounds**  
Dennis W. Wester  
Saturday, 8:00-9:30am - Intermediate
- SL-7 **Slavic Languages Division Annual Meeting**  
Elena E. Bogdanovich-Werner  
Saturday, 10:00-11:30am - All Levels

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## SLD BANQUET

Come Join Us for the  
Slavic Languages Division Annual Banquet!  
Reserve now as there are only 60 spots available!

Date: Friday, November 2, 2007  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Location: Kan's Restaurant  
708 Grant Avenue, San Francisco (eight blocks from the Hyatt)  
(415) 362-5267

Price:  
\$45.00 per person—includes appetizers, entrees, desserts, tea, tax, and tip. (Alcoholic beverages will be available at additional cost, Bottles of wine start at \$18; sake and other liquor will also be available.)

Menu:  
Vegetarian Imperial Spring Roll • Vegetarian Village Style Pot Sticker • Golden Crispy Crab Claw • Egg Flower Soup • Honey Glazed Walnut Prawns • Sesame Chicken • Sweet and Sour Pork • Marinated Beef with Garden Fresh Broccoli • Vegetables Delight • Braised Tofu with Black Mushroom • Salt and Pepper Fish Fillets • Vegetables Fried Rice • Vegetables Chow Mein • Plain Rice • Mini Cheese Cake • Sesame Ball

To reserve your spot, send the form below along with a check payable to Jen Guernsey, 6722 Holford Lane, Springfield, VA 22152 by October 24. Your payment will be acknowledged by email.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address (for confirmation of receipt)

Number attending \_\_\_\_ X \$45.00 = Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

# REQUEST FOR CORRESPONDENTS

Said Mahmudov



Warm greetings to you from Uzbekistan!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Saidabbos Mahmudov, but everyone calls me Said. I live in a town called Karshi, in the southern part of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I am a 20-year-old student, studying Modern Linguistics. I am in my third year at Karshi State University, studying English and French – these are my main working foreign languages. The Russian language is my mother tongue, but I am also fluent in Uzbek. I have already worked as an interpreter and translator for four years. I have worked mainly in the English-Russian and Russian-English language pairs. I can also translate and interpret English-Uzbek, Uzbek-English, but this is my secondary language pair. The demand for Uzbek-English or English-Uzbek translation is not very high.

I began loving languages when I worked on a USAF Air Base located at Karshi-Khanabad. I started learning English, Spanish, and Italian on the base. As I mentioned above, at the university I am studying French as well as English. Recently, I started learning German on my own. There are good teachers of German at my university who are helping me with advice and speech practice. My highest life-aspiration is to become fluent in ten separate languages that include English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, Arabic, Farsi, Chinese and Japanese, in addition to Russian and Uzbek. I would ultimately love to become a world-renowned linguist and work with different people and global organizations. For example, working for the United Nations as an interpreter or translator focusing on international issues facing the United States, Western Europe, and the countries of Central Asia would be my idea of a dream job.

I worked with the organization World Wide Language Resources for about seven months. They hired me to serve as a translator, interpreter, and cultural advisor at the USAF Airbase in Karshi. My duties included translation of agreements, simultaneous interpretation, and serving as WWLR's main simultaneous conference interpreter for a conference between a Virginia senator and the local Uzbek command crew. I am very proud that WWLR named me the best interpreter of the Antiterrorist Coalition Uzbekistan-Afghanistan 2005.

This experience was a high point in my life. I loved communicating with people of other nationalities and working on a team. After this experience, I decided that I wanted to study to be a translator and interpreter in the United States. I have been trying to gain acceptance and financial aid at American universities but so far have not been successful.

And now, a little bit about my life in Uzbekistan. My mother, an ecologist, makes the equivalent of about \$1000 a year, as does my father, who is an engineer. Here in Uzbekistan this is not bad money, but we are aware that people still can live better. Working as a freelance translator is also not very profitable here in Uzbekistan. The agencies headquartered in the former USSR do not pay well and often pay freelancers even less than their regular employees. Working as a translator is not very easy here (by "here" I mean the town of Karshi and Uzbekistan in general). That is why people here prefer to work for foreign agencies and why I have the dream of going abroad to be educated and start my career.

No one in my family believes that it is possible for a young specialist to find a good job as an interpreter abroad. Only my mom tells me to do what my heart tells me to. I realize the task I have set myself is not easy, but I intend to continue trying. I have tried to apply to work with various language agencies but am told I am too young. One company did suggest that I try to correspond with experienced professionals in my chosen field. I have emailed many interpreters and translators whose names I have found on the Internet, but none have been willing to correspond with me and give me advice. Some of them have even answered me rudely. But I am still looking. I really believe I can meet my goals if I persist, and this is both the subject and the purpose of this article. If you have any comments or would like to correspond with me, I would be really delighted. Aside from practical advice or even help, I would just be pleased to meet others who share my passion for languages.

Respectfully and hopefully,

Said

Said Mahmudov

[international.interpreter@yahoo.com](mailto:international.interpreter@yahoo.com)

*Editor's note: I do not know Said personally, of course, but I can testify that his English does not require significantly more editing than many of the Russonates I correspond with, and that when he promises to do something, he does it exactly when he says he will. LRS*



































