

# CARTA RESEARCH JOURNAL

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF  
RUSSIAN TEACHERS OF AMERICA



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## **From the Editor**

**Welcome to the first issue** of the CARTA Journal, a publication of the Central Association of Russian Teachers of America. This publication marks both an anniversary and another important step toward fulfilling the goals of an organization which has grown markedly in significance during the past fifteen years. Those goals are "...to enhance and expand Russian studies in the region, provide professional and moral support for existing programs, and to create new programs of interest to students at all levels of public, private, secondary, and higher educational institutions." The region envisioned in that original mission statement as reflected in the association's name included the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas but the organization quickly moved beyond those borders. In the last fifteen years, it has held annual meetings in seven states, including memorable sessions in Oxford Mississippi and San Francisco California, while hosting presenters from twenty different states and thirteen foreign countries. The growing importance of the organization has also been seen in regular visits from a variety of prominent Russian figures including most notably our honorary members, Vitalii Kastamarov and Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Listing these accomplishments is another way of saying that the association has far surpassed its original goals. Both the programs and fellowship it has promoted have provided professional support to Russian language teachers and students at public schools, community colleges and universities from small regional institutions to regional and national leaders in higher education. Similarly, students from beginning undergraduates to doctoral candidates have been given a wide variety of opportunities to enhance their skills and develop a broader appreciation of the Russian language and culture.

Few, if any of the ten people who gathered for a brief meeting in Oklahoma City fifteen years ago could have

envisioned either the scope of past accomplishments or present promise of the association when they gathered in response to an invitation from Dr. Mara Sukholutskaya of East Central University. My hope is that we will be able to look back in another fifteen years and write similar evaluations of this journal. This issue contains abstracts of thirteen presentations from among the thirty-two given in ten sessions at the meeting held at Baylor University, April 5-7, 2013. As with any new development, the production of the journal has required some compromises to work within the parameters defined by the range of disciplines reflected in the presentations, pagination goals and similar concerns. The most noticeable of these for the average reader will be seen in occasional editorial inconsistencies in abbreviating and formatting. The learning curve represented by this issue should allow for future improvements in these areas and others. Until then, I hope that such matters will not create concerns for the writers or otherwise detract from the content of the research presented. Even more, I hope that readers will gain an enhanced appreciation for ongoing developments in Russian studies and the continuing evolution of CARTA and its mission.

Alvin O. Turner

#### **Founding members**

Mara Sukholutskaya, Fran Stackenwalt and Alvin Turner, East Central University

Sally Ziebell, Eleana Doshlygina and Roman Brysga, public school teachers from Oklahoma

Larry Lonard, and Liz Collins, public school teachers from Texas and Kansas, respectively

Gordon Allison, an international businessman

George Morris from the ACTR.