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News from the North American Dostoevsky Society

There have been some changes in the Society's Executive Board during the past two years. In 2023, we welcomed Katya Jordan (Brigham Young University) to the Board as a new Member-at-Large. In 2023, Chloe Papadopoulos (University of Southern California) began a new role as Assistant Editor of *Bloggers Karamazov*, the Society's blog. In 2024, Papadopoulos was elected onto the Board to replace Katherine Bowers (University of British Columbia) as Communications Chair and Editor of *Bloggers Karamazov*. Bowers has served as Communications Chair and Blog Editor for NADS since 2016 and was elected, additionally, Vice-President in 2019; moving forward she will continue to serve as the Society's Vice-President.

Bloggers Karamazov has featured a call for a student blog series on "Reading Dostoevsky Today" this year. Entries in that series are published on the blog as they are submitted and can be found on the blog site. So far posts from students have included one on generative AI and *Brothers Karamazov* and one on Dostoevsky and disability. This year, the North American Dostoevsky Society has continued its work with students through its regular student essay contests. In 2024, the Society ran both of its regular student essay contests, which included entries for the period 2022-24. The 2024 Undergraduate Essay Contest winner was Natalie Adderton (Pepperdine University) for her essay "The Redemptive Gaze in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*", with honorable mentions going to Jaden Rodriguez (Duke University) and Romi Vaturi (Rutgers University). The 2024 Graduate Essay Contest winner was Anna Tropnikova (Yale University) for her essay "Thresholds and Hands: Transgression through Corporeal Space in Kurosawa Akira's *Idiot*", with an honorable mention going to Alina Fiorella (University of Bristol). The winning essays will be included as part of the NADS Graduate and Undergraduate Research Forum, to take place online on 9 and 10 January 2025, respectively. The Forum is organized this year by NADS President Kate Holland (University of Toronto), Sarah Hudspith (University of Leeds), and Katya Jordan.

The North American Dostoevsky Society continues to support a virtual speaker series that showcases members' research and unites the community. This series of events provides a mechanism for NADS to co-sponsor talks given

or hosted by Society members. On October 11, Katherine Bowers spoke about her recent book in the talk “Writing Fear: Physiological Petersburg, Dostoevsky, and the Rise of Gothic Realism”. The event was hybrid, including both an audience in-person at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah and an audience of NADS members on Zoom. Thanks to Katya Jordan for organizing the event. Information about working with the Society to co-sponsor a talk at your institution is available on the Society’s blog.

As it does every year, the North American Dostoevsky Society organized sponsored panels for the annual large North American conferences in 2024. For the Modern Language Association (MLA) conference, held in Philadelphia in January 2024, Katya Jordan organized a panel on “Narratives of History in Dostoevsky: Past, Present, and Future” featuring papers by Chloë Kitzinger (Rutgers University), Lindsay Ceballos (Lafayette College), and Chloe Papadopoulos. For the 2025 MLA conference, to be held in New Orleans in January, Melanie Jones (Independent scholar) has organized a panel on “Dostoevsky and Disability” featuring papers by Melissa Miller (Colby College), Ruth Levai (University of Miskolc), and Chloe Papadopoulos. For the 2024 American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference, held in Las Vegas in February 2024, Katherine Bowers organized a panel on “Dostoevsky and Gambling” with papers by Lynn Patyk (Dartmouth College) and Kate Holland (University of Toronto). For the November 2024 Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) conference held in Boston, Kate Holland organized a panel on “Dostoevsky and Modernity: Economy, Society, Reading Public, Psychology”, featuring papers by Jonathan Paine (Wolfson College, Oxford), Amy Ronner (St Thomas University), and Sergei Motov (University of Illinois). Sergei Motov is the inaugural recipient of the Society’s Deborah A. Martinsen Graduate Conference Travel Grant.

The Deborah A. Martinsen Graduate Conference Travel Grant was established by the North American Dostoevsky Society in 2024 to honor our dear friend Deborah Martinsen, who was instrumental in nurturing both the intellectual and the human parts of our Dostoevsky studies community. By establishing this award, we hope to ensure that Deborah’s work in community building lives on through tangible support to graduate students presenting their work on Dostoevsky at our conferences.