

**FIRST KENNETH E. NAYLOR  
MEMORIAL LECTURE IN SOUTH  
SLAVIC LINGUISTICS**

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**LINGUISTIC EMBLEMS  
AND EMBLEMATIC  
LANGUAGES:  
ON LANGUAGE AS FLAG IN THE  
BALKANS**

**Thursday, May 28, 1998  
at 3:30 p.m.**

**The Ohio State University  
Faculty Club Grand Lounge  
181 South Oval Mall  
Columbus, Ohio**

**A reception at the Faculty Club  
Grand Lounge will follow**

***The Lecture***

Language is already attested as a source of identification and identity in the Bible: in Judges 12:6 the Gileadites identify the Ephraimites by making them pronounce the word “shibboleth”. the biblical story also portrays the role of dialect in internecine warfare. In battle, flags serve to identify friend and foe, while in peace they are used to reinforce the boundaries that divide and unite. Standard languages and the dialects on which they are based perform similar unifying and differentiating functions. this is seen especially clearly among the Southern Slavs and Albanians of the Balkans, where divers centrifugal and centripetal forces have brought about a variety of language-based fragmentations and consolidations at differing times and places. Religion and perceived history, too, have played significant roles. There was a time in the recent past in Southeastern Europe when Greeks were Romans, Bulgarians were Greeks, Albanians were Turks, and everybody and nobody was a Macedonian. During that same period, the names Serb, Croat, Bosnian, Illyrian, and Epirote had meanings quite different from those of today. The interaction of these factors has been crucial in the formation of modern Southeast European national ideologies and ethnic identities, which have been manipulated, contested, and crystallized as sites of conflict and sites of convergence. at times, language has been emblematic of religion, at others vice versa, and at still others the two phenomena have been dissociated. At the time of his death, my friend and colleague Kenneth E. Naylor was preparing a major project on the theme “language as flag”, and it is in homage to his many contributions to this study, especially in the realm of the former Serbo-Croatian, that I will discuss the history and the current state of the intersection of ethnolinguistic and political developments in the Balkans.

***The Speaker***

Victor A. Friedman was born in Chicago in 1949 and received his B.A. in Russian Language and Literature from Reed College in 1970. His Ph.D. in both Slavic Languages and Literatures and in General linguistics from the University of Chicago (1975) was the first dual degree granted in the Divisions at Chicago. His dissertation on the Macedonian verb won the Galler prize for the Humanities Division. He taught in the Department of Slavic Languages at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from 1975 until 1993, when he moved to the University of Chicago. He is currently Professor and Chairman in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures with a joint appointment in Linguistics and an associate appointment in Anthropology. He has over 200 publications and has received more than 40 academic awards and honors. His book, *The Grammatical Categories of the Macedonian Indicative*, was the first book on Modern Macedonian published in the United States. He is president of the US Committee of the International Association for Southeast European Studies, and vice-president of the US Committee of the International Committee of Slavists. In 1982 he received the “1300 Years of Bulgaria” jubilee medal for contributions to the field of Bulgarian studies and in 1991 he received the University of Skopje Gold Plaque Award for contributions to the field of Macedonian studies. In 1994 he became the second US-born American citizen elected to the Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also worked as a Policy and Political Analyst for the United Nations, he has advised the Council on Foreign Relations, and has lectured at the US Department of State and the National Security Agency. His research centers on grammatical categories, language contact, and sociolinguistics in the Balkans and the Caucasus.

### *The Professorship*

The Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Linguistics was established on November 5, 1993 in the College of Humanities through gifts to The Ohio State University from the estate of Dr. Naylor. The professorship is a five-year appointment, and is dedicated to preserving and continuing the scholarly legacy of Dr. Naylor. Professor Brian D. Joseph, a Balkan/Greek scholar of the Department of Linguistics at the Ohio State University and a colleague of Dr. Naylor, has the distinguished honor of being the first Kenneth E. Naylor Professor. He now holds joint appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures.

### *The Lecture Series*

As part of the Naylor Professorship, Professor Joseph has established an annual Lecture on South Slavic Linguistics in Kenneth Naylor's memory that will bring leading scholars in the field to OSU each Spring to give a public lecture and to lecture in Professor Joseph's South Slavic classes.



*Brian D. Joseph, first and current Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics*

### *Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr.*

Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr. was born on February 27, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. in French linguistics from Cornell University in 1958, and his M.A. in General linguistics from Indiana University in 1960. At Indiana, he began to study Slavic with Professor Edward Stankiewicz, who became a personal friend and mentor. When Professor Stankiewicz moved to the University of Chicago, Kenneth Naylor went with him. There he received his doctorate in Russian and South Slavic linguistics in 1966. Dr. Naylor was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1964 to 1966. In 1966, he began teaching Slavic linguistics at The Ohio State University. At the time of his death, Dr. Naylor was the Acting Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at the Ohio State University. Dr. Naylor was the recipient of numerous awards, grants and fellowships from many sources, including the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright program, and the countries of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, from which he was awarded medals of honor (the Jubilee Medal and the Order of the Yugoslav Flag with Golden Wreath, respectively). In 1990, he testified before the U.S. House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Committee on ethnic rivalry in Yugoslavia and the development of the Serbo-Croatian language. Dr. Naylor's research centered on the Serbo-Croatian language and on South Slavic linguistics in general. He served as editor of the journals *Balkanistica*, *Folia Slavica*, and *The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*. The overwhelming majority of his seventy articles focused on Serbo-Croatian and Balkan linguistics. His dedication and many accomplishments live in his work and in the love of the field he instilled in his students.

### *Brian D. Joseph*

Born in New York in 1951, Brian D. Joseph was schooled at Yale University (B.A. Cum Laude, 1973, with a major in Linguistics and a minor in Classics), and Harvard University (M.A. 1976, Ph.D. 1978, both in Linguistics), spending a year in Greece doing research on his dissertation. After a year as an Izaak Walton Killam Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta, Dr. Joseph began in 1979 as Assistant Professor in the Linguistics Department at The Ohio State University, where he has been ever since, becoming a full professor in 1988, and serving as Chair of the Department of Linguistics from 1987 to 1997. Dr. Joseph has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 1995 OSU Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, the Erskine Visiting Fellowship at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand in the summer of 1997, and the currently held Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Linguistics. Professor Joseph is recognized worldwide as one of the leading specialists in the history and structure of Greek and in Balkan linguistics. His primary scholarly interest is in historical linguistics, with an emphasis on the latter history of Greek. This has led him to study Greek in relation to its neighboring languages in the Balkans, including the South Slavic languages. His work on the Balkan *Sprachbund* explores the effects of years of language contact and bilingualism which have led to converging linguistic developments in the languages of the area. This area of research was one in which Dr. Naylor was also deeply interested. Author or co-author of 5 books and editor or co-editor of 8 volumes, Professor Joseph's long list of publications includes many dealing with Balkan linguistics. He is currently working with Professor Victor Friedman on a book on the Balkan languages for Cambridge University Press.

### *The 1999 Naylor Lecture*

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures is pleased to announce the Naylor Memorial Lecturer for 1999: Ronelle Alexander of the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Alexander specializes in South Slavic Linguistics, with special interests in Balkan Slavic dialectology and South Slavic oral tradition.



*The late, distinguished professor of South Slavic linguistics, Dr. Kenneth E. Naylor*

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