

SLAVIC NEWS

SUMMER 2006

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LETTER FROM CHAIR GALYA DIMENT

Just after our last newsletter was sent out for copying, we learned of the sad news of Natalie Tracy's death on December 30. Born on July 14, 1915 in Osh, Russia, Natalie was associated with the department for more than 20 years as a lecturer in UW Extension. Although she retired from teaching at the UW in 1983, she remained a regular presence at the department's annual Homecoming celebrations; she will be missed.

Later in January a second sad event occurred, the death of Lecturer Emeritus Vladimir Gross. Elsewhere in this newsletter Lecturer Emeritus Nora Holdsworth shares some of her thoughts about Volodya, as he was known to all. I invite you to go to our web site (www.washington.edu/slavweb/) to read what others have written and to share your own memories.

When we think of Natalie and Volodya, both so well loved by their students and their peers, we realize how fortunate this department has been and remains. So many gifted and giving individuals have been part of the department, either as faculty, staff, or students or simply as friends. It goes without saying that our successes are all attributable to all of them.

One recent success, which you can read about on the next page, is an award by the National Endowment for the Humanities funding the creation of a digital archive and web site for the William C. Brumfield collection of photographs of Russian architecture. Once completed, this project, which has been spearheaded and carried out by Associate Professor James West and our Slavic Librarian Michael Biggins, will have enormous value for researchers in many related fields.

Other faculty accomplishments include: the very successful two-day conference in May, "Yiddish Theatre Revisited," organized and stitched together through numerous grants by Assistant Professor Barbara Henry; Assistant Professor Jose Alaniz has been awarded a Society of Scholars Research Fellowship for 2006-7; Gordana Crnkovic has been awarded an Associate Professor Research Initiative Grant from the Humanities Center; and Associate Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek has received a Royalty Research Fund Scholar Award for 2006-7. Professor Jim Augerot very ably served as acting director of the Ellison Center (formerly REECAS) this year since the regular director, Professor Stephen Hanson, was on leave, and our two new Lecturers, Valentina Zaitseva (Russian) and Bojan Belic (BCS) surpassed all our expectations by being nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award during their very first quarter of teaching.

This year we also hosted a wonderful young scholar from Tomsk, Natalia Gavrilova, as a part of the Carnegie Fellowship Program sponsored by NCEEER (National Council for Eurasian and East European Research). We are looking forward to hosting more scholars from Eastern Europe in the coming year. In autumn we will

welcome our first Polish Fulbright, Professor Piotr Lewinski of the University of Wroclaw. We would have not been able to do it without the financial support and enthusiasm of the Polish community and Katarzyna Dziwerek's tireless efforts. While here for the year, he will conduct his own research and also teach a course for REECAS and one for Slavic. We are excited that students and faculty will have an opportunity to study and engage in issues of currency and importance to Polish culture. Another Polish Fulbright, Anna Sobieska, will join us in the spring and will work with James West on her own research.. We are also delighted that Dr. Nedzad Ibrahimovic, from the University of Tuzla, will be joining us for the year as a Fulbright Scholar from Bosnia. By avocation both a literary and film critic, he has written extensively on Bosnian contemporary literature and cinema and received a Dutch award (Gouden Vlam) for a 1996 documentary, "Volle maan boven Bosnie." He will teach courses on both literature and film for our students.

Last year we had to say good-bye to our Program Coordinator Michelle Foshee, who went to the University of Arizona for graduate studies. While we still miss her greatly, we are delighted to have Phoebe Ambrosia fill that vacancy and contribute her initiative, enthusiasm, and painstaking care to our program. Phoebe was instrumental in making sure our annual student conference (the largest yet this year supervised very effectively by James West) and outreach activities went smoothly and productively.

On April 15 we hosted high school students for the annual Olympiada of Spoken Russian; this year's winner (of the Nora Holdsworth Scholarship) was Dennis Huo, from Foss High School, a student of UW alumnus Daniel Erickson. The following Saturday marked the Second Annual Polish Studies Endowment Auction, a very successful event that raised over \$30,000 for the Polish Studies Endowment Fund and over \$11,000 for our Polish Fulbright commitment. The next Saturday brought together young members of the Slavic communities to the UW for the Slavic Fest children's concert, followed by a party that evening at the Russian Community Center. One of the highlights of the Slavic Fest was an exhibit in the Suzzallo Library, "Stitched with Love: Czech and Slovak Folk Dress" from the collection of Helen Cincebeaux with materials from the UW Libraries Collections, which ran May 1 - June 8, 2006 and was made possible by hard work of our Czech Lecturer Jara Soldanova and Michael Biggins. Finally, on May 19, we had the pleasure of hosting internationally renowned jazz pianist Adam Makowicz in a concert benefiting the Polish Studies Endowment Fund.

COMING TO A SCREEN ON YOUR DESK: THE HERITAGE OF RUSSIAN ARCHITECTURE

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded to the University of Washington Libraries a grant of \$325,000 to fund a project on which Michael Biggins and James West have been working for several years now: the creation of a digital archive and website for the William C. Brumfield collection of photographs of Russian architecture. Professor Brumfield, of Tulane University, began photographing Russian buildings in the early 1970s, and has since become an internationally renowned authority on Russian architecture, author of several books and many articles on the subject, a frequent lecturer and exhibitor of his work, and a full member of the Russian Academy of Architecture and Building Science. His photographic collection is one of the most extensive visual records of architecture in Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union, and its more than 110,000 images include color transparencies and black-and-white photographs of religious and secular structures from the early eleventh century to the present.

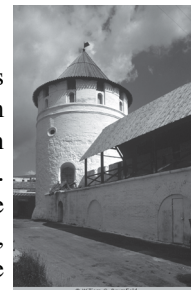


The aim of the project is to make high-resolution archival scans of about 30,000 photographs from the Brumfield Collection, and make smaller versions of them available on a website, where they can be searched using multiple criteria, and displayed in the context of a scalable map of the Russian Federation, along with unusually full descriptions of the architectural objects they represent.

The story of this project begins about five years ago, when Dr. Biggins and Professor West were developing the Central Eurasian Information Resource, a collection of digital information sources covering the Russian, East European and Central Asian area, funded by a new Title VI grant program created to develop this increasingly important type of information source in foreign area studies. An approach to Professor Brumfield chimed immediately with his growing sense of the need to preserve his collection

of fragile slides from physical deterioration, and negotiations began. A modest grant from the Delmas Foundation made possible a pilot project based on about 1,500 photographs, which in its turn was instrumental in securing the major grant just awarded by the Reference Materials Program of the NEH.

The project involves an unusual and rewarding collaboration between academic researchers, librarians and technical specialists, most of them with skills that straddle different areas of expertise. The team includes Diana Brooking, the Slavic Cataloging Librarian, whose first degree was in Russian, and Eileen Llona, Technical Librarian and digital mapping expert, who is a former student of the Slavic Department. By the summer of 2008, with 30,000 images scanned and catalogued, the Brumfield Collection online database will have enormous value for anybody with a serious interest in Russia – researchers, students, teachers, the architectural profession, conservation specialists and the public at large. It will make possible a kind of “virtual travel” to remote corners of Russia, including some where very few westerners have received permission to take photographs. It will bring to life an aspect of Russian culture that is little known by reason of its inaccessibility even to most Russians, and is in danger of being lost to disrepair and demolition before many people have a chance to discover it.



NEWS FROM THE POLISH STUDIES ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

This spring the Polish Studies Endowment Committee not only organized a successful **auction** but also hosted two interesting events in the Distinguished Speakers Series: a concert by jazz piano virtuoso **Adam Makowicz** and a talk by an Oscar winning composer **Jan A.P. Kaczmarek**.

On April 22, over 130 guests filled the Polish Home in support of the 2006 Polish Studies **Spring Auction**. The auction brought in \$30,173, which will supplement the already existing Endowment Fund and bring it up to \$80,000. An additional \$11,850 was raised for the Fulbright Scholar Fund. This amount, added to the \$7,300 raised last year, will allow the Committee to fulfill two years of its three-year commitment to support the Fulbright Scholar who will come to the University of Washington in autumn 2006.

In May jazz piano virtuoso **Adam Makowicz** took the stage at the Sherman Clay Salon. He began his concert with jazz interpretations of Frederic Chopin, dazzling the audience with his extraordinary piano technique. The concert continued with some American jazz standards, followed by the artist's compositions from his latest album, “From My Field.” After multiple encores, the audience headed to the upstairs reception hall where, surrounded by Steinway grand pianos, the guests had an opportunity to chat with Mr. Makowicz and the host of NPR “Jazz After Hours,” Jim Wilke.



In February, **Jan A.P. Kaczmarek** brought “Music Without Borders” to Kane Hall. Kaczmarek, a charismatic speaker, gave the audience a glimpse into his life. He talked about successfully reconciling work in Europe and the U.S., composing music for cinema and theatre, creating symphonies and cantatas; he also spoke about his life in Hollywood, his inspirations, his dream of composing an opera, and his latest project, *Institut Rozbitek*, created in Poland in support of young independent artists. The evening concluded with “Cantata for Freedom,” written by the composer to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Solidarity.

Speaking of Solidarity, the Committee, in collaboration with Professor Michael Biggins from the UW Library, is working on creating the **Solidarity Archives**, a collection that will be the first of its kind in the United States and will be an excellent resource for students, scholars and the public wishing to study the movement that led to the fall of the Soviet Union and brought freedom to the countries under communist control.

We thank all of you for your support and interest in the Polish Studies this academic year. The **Distinguished Speakers Series** will return in the 2006/7 academic year with lectures ranging from literature to politics. A presentation on writer Joseph Conrad and a visit by the new Polish Ambassador to the U.S. are being scheduled. Please visit our web site later this summer for more details: www.polishstudiesuw.com

SECOND ANNUAL SLAVIC STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

by Phoebe Ambrosia

On Saturday, April 22nd the department hosted the second annual Slavic Student Symposium, and what a great turn-out we had! Faculty and students attending this all-day event enjoyed themselves so much that many encouraged the department to expand its scope for 2007 to encompass an international audience.

Ten students, undergraduates and graduates alike, presented in three panels on topics ranging from the films of director Kira Muratova, [presented by Smilja Jankovic] to the classical literary motifs found in Georgian author Otar Chiladze's *A Man Went Down the Road* [presented by Mary Childs].

Those attending were treated to a morning that spanned the arts. We heard first from Sarah Cunningham, who presented her research on "Music as a Response to Soviet Oppression," detailing the life of censored composer Dmitri Shostakovich. In recognition of her excellent research on this topic, Sarah received the Library Research Award for Undergraduates, an extremely competitive award juried in the greater University. Dan Newton then examined the black humor found in "Life with an Idiot: Erofeev's Story, Schnittke's Opera," and Jennifer Lavy presented her research on the highly unconventional theater of Jerzy Grotowski: "The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus." In her paper titled "Machines and the New Hero," Laura Friend compared the works of Vertov and Zamiatin in a utopian/dystopian light.

Participants came from all over the university this year: REECAS, European Studies, Drama, Dance, and, of course, many of our own Slavic scholars were represented. We also had the chance to hear from Natasha Gavrilova, a Carnegie Research Fellow visiting from Tomsk. During her stay with us, Natasha completed intensive research on Joseph Brodsky, a poet censored in the Soviet Union, whose works have only recently been openly published.

Later in the day we heard from scholars on such topics as "Slovak Attitudes toward Federalization and Democratization," presented by Scott Brown, followed by Benjamin Glahn's detailed exploration of Bosnia and Herzegovina's print media and its coverage of the 10th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords. Aleksandra Petrovic, a recent graduate of the REECAS program, closed out the afternoon with her insightful examination of the linguistic issues that have impacted national identity in Bosnia from 1990 to the present.

Many thanks to all who turned out for this event, particularly to Professor James West for his organizational and technical expertise. Professor West's *culinary* skills were also greatly appreciated, as he and his students showed up with quiches, strawberry salads, dolmas, truffles, and other delectables for us to enjoy!

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2006!

by Phoebe Ambrosia

On Friday, June 9 the department acknowledged our most recent graduates, sending seven B.A.s, one M.A., and one Ph.D. a little further on the path unfolding before them.



Five graduates attended the afternoon ceremony, which was held in the Evans School's sun-lit, circular "commons" room at the top of campus. With leafy summer trees surrounding us in a view spanning nearly 270 degrees, Slavic faculty, staff, and friends had the pleasure of hosting our graduates' families, who came from Seattle, Alaska, and even Israel to celebrate with us!

Our keynote speaker, alumna Marilyn Hoogen Sizer (Ph.D., 1997), shared with us her favorite memories of the Slavic Department and encouraged those graduating to continue to re-form their ties with the department -- their academic family. Each graduate was then introduced in depth by a faculty member who knew them well, then given the chance to say a few words to their families and teachers. The class of 2006 has proven to be full of remarkable people, and while we are sorry to see them go, we can't help but feel excited for them, too! Some of our graduates will begin teaching and tourism careers. Some plan to pursue certification as translators. Others will be traveling to Hungary for study abroad programs or embarking on journeys across three continents beginning in the mountain jazz festivals of Bosnia! Afterwards, at a relaxing reception, laughter and conversation filled the domed room, as we closed the final chapter of the academic year.

The class of 2006 includes B.A. recipients Lindsey Arnold, Devin Connolly, John Dover, Scott Jackson, Lee Pickett, Alex Spoonde, and Anne Thorsteinson, M.A. recipient Smilja Jankovic, and Ph.D. recipient Sofiya Yuzefpolskaya. We are very proud of all of you! Make sure to visit us often!



THE “OLD-TIMER” SPEAKS

by John R. Krueger, Ph.D., 1960

Imagine you are interested in the sea and might become an oceanographer, but the authorities won't let you GO to the sea; you can only read books and speak to a few people, and there even remains puzzled hostility against you. Well, that was the position one was in for post-1945 study of Russia and related areas. Though my memories of the UW and Thomson Hall remain vivid, it was decades before I could convert my summer school Russian to use for travel thither.

My first exposure to classroom Russian was as a high school senior (but in night high school, January-June 1945). As a college German major during and after World War II, attitudes to that enemy were not always friendly or useful. As Cold War tensions mounted and confrontations began (e.g., the Berlin airlift), I was hired to study intensive Russian translation by an “alphabet agency,” and to deal with political, diplomatic, scientific and military text. We had excellent training, and one summer (1951) I even took leave to attend the famed Middlebury summer Russian program, the next best thing to visiting the country itself. It wasn't bad at all, but one also heard poor Russian from students.

I went to Denmark (1952-4) to study Central Asian languages (Turkic and Mongolian), for which a good grounding in Russian and German was needed to use dictionaries and grammars. Still, it was unthinkable to get to the USSR, and Mongolia was impossible to enter. Finally, by 1968, as I had some reputation as a scholar of Mongolia, I was able to go to Moscow, get a visa and fly by night to Ulaan Baator. In those years foreigners in Russia were given surveillance, but if they followed me, they went on the Moscow subway and to tourist spots like “Park kulture i otdykha,” space exhibits and the like. I could make myself understood and grasp replies (I think they thought from my accent and shabby attire I was an East German, where the high schoolers all had to learn Russian). In fact, it could be disadvantageous to speak Russian; the tourists needed but to stand on a corner and say, “I wonder where a good restaurant is?” and some Russian would come up and help. Later I could get my MPR visa in London and bypass Moscow city airport.

In Mongolia I spoke Russian everywhere, as people at all levels had learned this language for their purposes. We got along very well: I understood them, they understood me, but dealing with the Moscow airport cafeteria devushka was another matter. Now I saw that in Mongolia we were both using a language we had learned, not one that we really knew deeply.

In the years 1954-8 I came to Seattle to the old Far Eastern and Russian Institute, though not as a Slavic major, and did attend some classes. I had to take a minimum of nine quarter hours and that got in the way of my serious research with Professor N. Poppe, who had been the leading scholar of Mongolia in Russia during the 1930s. From that time come my interactions with the Russian department. I taught German one year and hoped I might do the same with Russian. Noah Gershevitch knew me as Poppe's student of Mongolian and, I suppose, as a junior faculty member of German. I stopped in once for a chat, spoke to him directly in Russian. He had no idea I knew it at all, but there was no position open for me. To fill up my hours, I took Old Church Slavic and other courses, but it was not my real interest (I had learned modern Bulgarian). Thus, in some ways contacts with the core Russian majors were few. I stayed at the old Wesley House on 15th Avenue, since demolished, and met a really fine group of Methodist students. Sunday nights we all went to the Columns, now gone, for a Chinese snack. “The Ave” today is quite overdone in comparison with the atmosphere then. Thus I knew no students even from the 1960s and '70s.

In the '50s the level of Russian instruction at colleges and universities was really low; the teachers were Russians and, of course, knew their language but had little idea of grammar, history and literature; this level later rose higher.

You will recall the famous battle of Stalingrad, but as the Germans advanced, many native Mongols (the Kalmyks north of the Caspian Sea) thought even the Germans were preferable to the Russkies and “voted with their feet.” Quite a lot of them were in displaced person camps in Europe and came to the U.S. in 1950-1. On Labor Day 2001 they held a 50th anniversary of their arrival. As I was one of the few scholars who knew their history and even the ancient script language, I attended (one of the few white faces!) and mingled with the natives. They had settled in the Philadelphia and New Jersey areas, taking jobs and raising their children to be Americans. I remember how they used to buy furniture, clothing and goods from the Russian Jewish merchants on Broad Street because they could speak to them in Russian.

Some journalists had come from Elista in Kalmykia, and I was interviewed about their history and resettlement, this resulting later in a big full page in a newspaper there. I can't resist quoting one sentence about me, “on priyatnyi chelovek, i khorosho govorit po-russki.” I'll treasure it forever! But, alas, memory of this celebration just across the Hudson from downtown Manhattan is marred by the NYC Big Bang of September 11th the following week.

NATALIE TRACY (JULY 14, 1915 - DECEMBER 30, 2005)

Natalie Tracy had successful careers at Cornell University, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the University of Washington. At the UW she taught Russian language, established the Russian for Travellers program and led tours to the Soviet Union. She was active in the Tashkent Sister City Committee, was a Goodwill Games interpreter and provided teaching and interpreting services throughout her life. An immigrant herself, Natalie showed special compassion and provided assistance to others as they settled in their new lives.

VLADIMIR GROSS (FEBRUARY 9, 1933 - JANUARY 23, 2006)

by Nora Holdsworth



When I came to the Slavic Department in the 1960s, Vladimir Gross was already there. When I think of Volodya, it occurs to me that his persona was considerably bigger and more luminous in the eyes of those he taught than many of us realized during all those years he was among us in the halls of the Slavic Department. Interestingly, it is from Volodya's former students who attended his memorial service on January 27, again the following morning, and later at a reception following his burial, that I had an opportunity to learn something of Volodya's special significance.

What I learned from Volodya's grieving ex-students, who came to pay their last respects to him, decades after they had graduated, was how much more they had learned from Volodya than had been officially included in the syllabus. One after another of his former students told me how much Volodya had taught them - along with the Russian language - about some very important human values.

Into his communication with students he injected special warmth, a special humor, a spirit of generosity, as well as love for the Russian language and culture, and a love of life itself. It was when observing the grief in the faces and voices of Volodya's former students - at least one of whom had traveled all the way across the country to attend his memorial service and his burial - that I realized what an inspiration Volodya had been to so many young people. He had made the Russian people and Russian culture so much more attractive to them by projecting his own generosity and kindness into his interactions with students, even when chiding them during their inevitable slips with the language, and they hated to disappoint him. So, as a result, Volodya appears to have excelled more than many of us might have noticed back then.

What is more to the point and of definite significance here is that I was also pleasantly amazed to hear a number of Volodya's former students speak excellent, fluent Russian. Those students had never lost their zest for mastering the Russian language and for learning all that they could about the Russian people and Russian life.

And now that he had left us, his former students let it be known to us how much and in what important ways Volodya had contributed to their overall education. It was not just the academic material presented to his students, but his total persona that contributed to his success in teaching his students.

NEWS FROM YOU

Michelle Anciaux Aoki's (Ph.D., 1991) focus this year has been on "working at the national and state level on promoting International Education through the National Coalition for International Education and our Washington State Coalition for International Education. Our main goals are to integrate international perspectives into the P-20 (preschool through graduate school) curricula; expand world language education, with an emphasis on early childhood education and improving second language proficiency outcomes; and encourage all forms of international exchanges.

"One area in particular that we have been working on is helping students earn World Language credits in high school based on language proficiency. This is allowed by the state regulations, but most school districts do not have a policy or procedure in place to handle it. Changing this could have the effect of encouraging students who learn languages outside the school day (perhaps at home or in community schools) to take that learning to higher levels. This would be especially beneficial for heritage speakers who often decide late in life (by university) that, yes, they would like to become fluent and literate in the language of their parents. If we could encourage them to do more earlier in their schooling, then they could focus on advanced level language courses at the university.

"On the personal side, my daughter, Natalya Aoki, has just graduated from high school and is going to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. (They do offer Russian there, so perhaps she'll have a chance to continue her language study.) My son, Ante Hoath, is planning to go to Russia later this summer. It will be a bit strange to have our kids so far away, but maybe it will be a good excuse to travel more. It looks as though the Garfield (High School) Technology Academy will be going to St. Petersburg next June to take refurbished computers to several orphanages, so we may tag along."

Since receiving her M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1997, **Sheila Mayer Charles** "spent a wonderful year in Krakow, Poland studying all things Polish, worked at a Russian-American joint venture fishing company, got married, attempted bartending, customized group tours to Russia and Eastern Europe at MIR Corporation, bought a condo, sold a condo and bought a house, and now find myself working in administration at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. My husband and I recently obtained a Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog, who has become our spoiled little princess. I volunteer on the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee (UWPSEC) as Secretary and Auction Committee Co-Chair. UWPSEC keeps me involved with the Slavic Department and the local Polish community (which has graciously taken me in). I enjoy traveling back to Russia and Poland, but my most recent travels took me to Paris, where I was delighted to find a Polish

fashion magazine in my hotel room. At this point in my life, I hope to keep traveling, stay involved with the local Polish community and remain close with my friends in the Slavic Department.”

After six years as a freelance journalist in Berlin, Germany, **David Graber** (Ph.D., 1996) is moving to Prague in August 2006 to teach Business English. This summer he is teaching intensive German at Concordia College Language Village "Waldsee" in Minnesota for four weeks.

On June 11 **Camilla Hveding** (B.A., 2001) graduated from Seattle University with an M.A. in Adult Education, specializing in teaching ESL.

“Hello from St. Petersburg, where I (**Mary Ann Kruger**, B.A., 1970) am working as U.S. Consul General. Although this job didn't exist when I studied Russian at the UW, it is exactly what I wanted to do. As the senior U.S. government representative to northwest Russia, I look after the interests of American citizens and businesses, build ties with Russian officials and organizations, and encourage better understanding of each other's cultures. Earlier this year I was delighted to see people from "home" -- representatives of the Washington State Apple Commission and a group of Rotarians from my home town, Lynnwood. And right now our consulate is intensively preparing for the G8 summit in St. Petersburg. I use the knowledge I gained at the UW in my job every single day. What more can one ask?”

Rebecca Manring (M.A., 1974) writes, “Well, the biggest thing from my side is that I've been awarded tenure here at Indiana University! My appointment's been split between our India Studies Program and the Religious Studies Department, and just because that hasn't been complicated enough, we're about to make it a three-way split, with the Comparative Literature Department. Crazy as all that sounds, I'm enjoying the work and my students and life in Bloomington in general.

“My first book, Reconstructing Tradition: Advaitacarya and the Gaudiya Vaisnava Tradition at the Cusp of the Twentieth Century, came out a year ago from Columbia University Press, and the Association for Asian Studies has just published my "Catalogue of the Sukumar Sen (Barddhaman Sahitya Sabha) Manuscript Collection." And next month I fly off to Edinburgh to speak at the 13th World Sanskrit Conference. Life is good!”

As usual, **Larissa Rudova** (Ph.D., 1989) is heading for Europe this summer. One of the places she intends to visit is her birth place of Novosibirsk, where she hasn't been for 25 years. Recent publications include: Russian Children's Literature and Culture, Ed. Larissa Rudova and Marina Balina. New York, London: Routledge, forthcoming; "Les nouvelles tendances dans la littérature enfantine populaire." Le premier quinquennat de la prose russe du XXIe siècle. Ed. Helene Melat. Paris: Institut D'Etudes Slaves, 2006. Pp. 325-333; "The Dystopian Vision in Sasha Sokolov's Palisandriia," Canadian-American Slavic Studies, 40, nos. 2-3-4 (2006), pp. 163-77; "Russian Children's Literature: Changing Paradigms," with Marina Balina, Slavic and East-European Studies Journal 49:2 (summer 2005): 186-198; "Favorite Bastard!: The Children's Detektiv in Post-Soviet Russia." Special issue on children's literature, ed. by Marina Balina and Larissa Rudova, Slavic and East European Studies Journal 49:2 (summer 2005): 282-303.

David Simmons (B.A., 1976, General Studies) sent in snapshots taken in the HUB Ballroom at the UW Folkdance Festival, spring 1974. “The four members of the group were (from left) Al Swenson (guitar and, I think, accordeon), David Simmons (that's me, playing darabuka ? and a Bulgarian drum, Yugoslavian frula/flute, and a Bulgarian gajda), Tim Rice (gajda, kaval, clarinet), and Doug Rutherford (violin/fiddle).

“We played for some folk dances, plus for the Sts. Cyril and Methodias Day event held in Thomson Hall. These are the only two pictures I

have. I don't even remember if there was a Slavic Festival back then.

“Tim Rice was the Bulgarian music specialist. Ethnomusicology students used to meet at his house somewhere near Roosevelt in the evenings to learn dances from his wife and sing songs. Our group met separately to learn and practice music from Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia. I don't know where Tim went. I think Al is still in the Seattle area and I think Doug left to join a commune in Ohio. He sold everything. I bought his copy of the Kalevala and then I ended up living and working in Finland for eight years. While there I learned to play Kantele (Finnish zither, sort of like a Romanian cymbalan but played only with fingers, no sticks). We got to play around Finland and in Soviet Estonia (1979).

“Well, it was another era, sort of. I'm not playing Bulgarian music (although I would love to). I played bassoon in the Spokane Falls Community Orchestra for eight years and played Irish tinwhistle, bassoon, flute and clarinet in a folk music group, Passport, in Spokane Valley for about six years. And now I'm teaching French. So life evolves.”

Casey Swanson (B.A., 1982, German Area Studies) just recently founded the Dailey Swan Publishing Company, publisher of sci-fi, fantasy and poetry.

After almost three years doing Windows Emerging Markets strategy for Microsoft, **Heather Thorne** (B.A., 1994) has moved to a new role doing strategy and acquisitions in the Windows Live (Windows +MSN) group. “While I may not travel to Russia quite as frequently in the new job, I have a Russian teammate who gives me lots of opportunities to practice! The two weeks between jobs gave me a chance to do some photography and backpacking in the slot canyons of southern Utah... I'm struggling to get back in work mode!”

After spending autumn quarter at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, **Edward Vajda** (Ph.D., 1987) is back in the U.S. In January he assumed the position of Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at Western Washington University.

Jared West (M.A., 2003) is currently working as a flight attendant for US Airways. “Oddly enough, I get the chance to use my Russian on a regular basis onboard the aircraft. On the side, I do some Russian interpreting work in the local courts. Also, this spring I went back to Russia for my first time since living there in the mid-90s. I spent almost two weeks in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Perm visiting several of my friends. It was a great experience, and yet I was amazed at how much things has changed in just ten years. More cars, more gambling/casinos, and more capitalist influence. But, the Russian spirit still hasn't changed: they are as hospitable and friendly as ever!”



GIFTS

Gifts to the Department play an indispensable role as we build and develop our new programs. Below we recognize the generosity of individuals and businesses that have contributed in the past six months.

The *Friends of Slavic Languages and Literatures Fund* made be used at the discretion of the Department Chair. Gifts to this fund are invaluable, enabling the department to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest.

Contributors to Balkan Studies include:

Cheryl Spasojevic

Contributors to Czech Studies include:

Zdenko F. Danes

Jaroslava Soldanova

Lew and Ramsey Vojta

Contributors to the general fund include:

Anonymous
Carol and Henry Cannon
James E. Chapin
Gray C. Church

Lisa Ann Frumkes
Hans Hasche-Kluender
Vincent M. Jolivet
Mary Anne Kruger

Ann Maltzoff
Sara D. Votipka
Nancy and Ross Weinstein

Like the Friends Fund, the *Institutional Allowance* may be used at the discretion of the department to support its various activities. The annual Outstanding Undergraduate Award and Outstanding TA Award both come from this fund. A special subset provides the Nora Holdsworth Scholarship to the winner of the annual Olympiada of Spoken Russian. This year's winner of the Olympiada was Dennis Huo, a student at Tacoma's Foss High School.

Anonymous

Each year since 1989 the *Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund* has been used to pay tuition for one student to attend the intensive Russian language program. This summer's recipient is Cadence McAfee.

Theodore Hannah

Casey Swanson

Susanna J. Westen

The *Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund* supports graduate student programs in the Slavic Department.

Lew R. Micklesen

The *Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund* was created to endow a chair of Ukrainian Studies.

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FULBRIGHT LECTURESHIP IN POLISH STUDIES: A LONG-AWAITED DREAM

Maintenance of Polish language and culture is of great importance to Poles everywhere, but perhaps nowhere more so than in the Pacific Northwest, an area far removed from Poland geographically. The local Polish-American community is relatively small, but very active and organized. The UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee is a local grassroots organization dedicated to the twin goals of preserving Polish language instruction and providing education about Poland and Polish culture to the general public through the medium of the University of Washington.

The current offerings in Polish studies at the University of Washington are very limited and consist of two years of Polish language classes: beginning and intermediate Polish taught in alternating years. Polish literature, culture, and film are included in general courses on Eastern Europe. Similarly, Polish history is taught as a part of broader courses offered by the History Department and Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS).

This situation is about to change! Financial contributions from the Polish community, UW (REECAS), and the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission have made it possible to create a new and unique Fulbright Lectureship at the University of Washington. For three years, beginning with 2006/2007, a lecturer from Poland will teach classes about Polish culture, literature, history, art, the social, political and economic aspects of modern Poland, etc., thus significantly increasing Polish-specific offerings at the UW.

We are delighted to announce that next year's recipient of this new award is Dr. Piotr Lewinski, from the University of Wroclaw. Dr. Lewinski is a Polish language and linguistics specialist, but is also qualified to teach a wide range of subjects, such as Polish history, literature, theatre, art and music. Dr. Lewinski has published three books including a Polish language textbook *Oto polska mowa (This is Polish Language)*. He is a very versatile instructor and a talented researcher, who promises to be an excellent addition to our emerging Polish Studies curriculum. The courses which Dr. Lewinski will teach have not yet been determined, please consult the Slavic Department website (<http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/>) or the UW PSEC website (<http://www.polishstudiesUW.org/>) for updates.

We hope you will help spread the word about this new exciting development, which we believe is an important first step in fulfilling our goal of making the UW a vibrant, creative and inspiring locus for Polish Studies in the U.S.

SLAVIC FEST 2006 CHILDREN'S CONCERT

Photos provided by Denis Basic



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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NEWS ABOUT YOU

We would like to keep in touch with you, as we hope to share news of our alumni in next January's newsletter. Please fill out the form below, clip and send to us: Slavic Department, Box 353580, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3580. At the same time, please make any needed changes on your label below. Thank you. ***You can also contact us by email at slavicll@u.washington.edu.***

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