



SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
at the university of washington

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LETTER FROM CHAIR GALYA DIMENT

To begin with, I would like to express my gratitude to Jim Augerot for holding down the fort so capably and nobly during autumn and winter quarters, while I was in my ivory tower.

The “highest” highlight since my return to duty was our Ten-Year Review, a two-year process that culminated in an on-site visit in May. It was a long and often laborious process, but writing our Self-Study, which was a truly collective effort, made us realize both how successful we have been in many ways and also where we need to improve. We are very thankful to all our majors, graduate students, affiliate, adjunct, and visiting faculty, alums, and members of the community who were so eager to share their thoughts about the department with the committee. We are still waiting for the committee’s final report but are already looking forward to implementing their suggestions as to how to become an even stronger department, especially with respect to our graduate program. BTW, if you want to read our Self-Study (you won’t be tested on it), please send a request to Shosh, and she will email it to you. Some of it found its way into our new, revised Strategic Plan, which you can see on our web site — see: <http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/development/stratplan/index.html>

Since I am writing this letter in the summer, let me tell you about our summer-early fall programs. As in previous years, we are teaching three levels of intensive Russian, and this year they are fuller than in previous years, despite the fact Summer Quarter still unfortunately charges out-of-state tuition for non-Washingtonians. Our PhD student, Lena Doubivko, is in charge of first-year Russian, while Valentina Zaitseva and Zoya Polack are teaching second and third. This year Bojan Belic has chosen our summer program over Pittsburgh’s (their loss!) and is teaching both first-year Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and a course in Slavic Linguistics which “examines phenomena such as language death and language birth... by focusing on the case of Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian.”

While our late summer program in Prague is taking a vacation this year, we have two exciting early Fall Exploration Seminars to boast about. Valentina Zaitseva is leading a group to her native Sochi and is teaming up with Professor Frances Lewis, from the UW School of Nursing, who is currently engaged as a technical consultant in the Ukraine for the training of their physicians and nurses in behavioral interventions for women with breast cancer. (She has also been taking our Russian classes, including those taught by Dr. Zaitseva, for a number of years now.) James West is going to lead another early Fall Exploration Seminar in Georgia. He will be assisted by Mary Childs, a PhD Candidate from Comparative Literature who specializes in Russian and Georgian, and Allison Dvaladze, Outreach Coordinator at the Ellison Center. If you want to learn more about the seminars, please check out:

<http://depts.washington.edu/explore/programs/2008/russia.htm>

and

<http://depts.washington.edu/explore/programs/2008/georgia.htm>

Finally, a few words about next year. We have decided to start a new series of lectures on topics in literature, linguistics, pedagogy, cinema, theater, visual arts and music given by prominent outside Slavic scholars and by our wonderful affiliate and adjunct faculty. The response of the latter group has been outstanding. We have already secured all the commitments we need for next year. They came from Guntis Smidchens (Baltic Studies), Claudia Jensen (Muscovite Music), Brian Reed (Russian Constructivist and Avant-Garde Book Art), and Barbara Citko (Slavic Linguistics). The other two lectures will be given next year by our very own José Alaniz (Russian Comics) and our visiting faculty, Dr. Maria Rewakowicz (Ukrainian Literature and Culture), who just got a wonderful award, which you can read about below.

We are fortunate to have Maria staying with us and teaching next year. And while we had to say good-bye to our Polish Fulbright, Artur Grabowski, next year we will welcome another Fulbright Scholar from Poland — Dr. Przemyslaw Chojnowski, from the Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. Among the three courses he will teach, one — “Jews and Holocaust in Polish Literature and Cinema” — will be cross-listed with Jewish Studies.

We have also decided to streamline our outreach activities some so that we do not spread ourselves too thin. Polish events will continue as in previous years, and we will still hold Russian Maslenitsa, but the Slav Fest will take place once every three years, and in its stead in other years will be Homecoming, which is changing seasons from Autumn to Spring (and will take place the same weekend as our annual Student Student Symposium). The frequency of the Slav Fest is negotiable if our community volunteers convince us that there is enough interest and, most important, a critical mass of people willing to plan, organize and carry it out. We do miss Mary Sherhart at the helm!

Wishing everyone a great, productive, restful, and in all other ways fulfilling summer!

FACULTY NEWS

Adjunct Professor Laada Bilaniuk won AATSEEL's prize for Best Contribution to Slavic Linguistics for her book, Contested Tongues: Language Politics and Cultural Correction in Ukraine (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2005).

Professor Galya Diment's co-edited volume, MLA Approaches to Teaching Lolita, has just been published. See <http://www.mla.org/store/CID2/PID343>.

Dr. Maria Rewakowicz's translation (from the Polish) of three poems by Jerzy Harasymowicz appeared in the prestigious magazine, “Modern Poetry in Translation,” Ser. 3, No. 9 (April 2008), published in London, England. In addition, the Ukrainian journal Krytyka has published a Ukrainian translation of her article, “New York on the Map of Ukrainian Poetry,” Vol. 12, no. 5 (May 2008). Finally, in June she was awarded “The Order of Princess Olha, 3rd class,” by the President of Ukraine. The Order of Princess Olha was instituted on August 15, 1997 in honor of Grand Princess Olha, the outstanding state figure, energetic and sagacious ruler. During her reign (945-957) central power consolidated in the provinces and diplomatic relations with foreign countries intensified. The Order of Princess Olha is awarded to women of Ukraine and foreign countries for their distinguished personal services in state, public, scientific, technological, educational, cultural, charitable, and other spheres of social activities, and in bringing up children in the family.

On November 2, 2007 **Professor James West** gave the 2007 Susanna Greiss lecture to the American Translators Association at their 48th annual conference in San Francisco. This is an endowed annual lecture established by the Slavic Section of the ATA. The lecture was entitled “Lost in Translation: the Verbal Content of Visual Art.”

CORRECTION: *We would like to apologize to Dr. Maria Rewakowicz and make a correction to her interview which was included in the Winter 2008 newsletter. Dr. Rewakowicz did not live in the Ukraine and was there as a visitor only. She grew up in Poland with her parents who were Ukrainian. She later immigrated to Canada via Italy, and eventually came to live in the US.*

SLAVIC STUDENT SYMPOSIUM - Phoebe Ambrosia, Undergraduate Adviser

On May 10 our students had the opportunity to present their research at the fourth annual Slavic Student Symposium, an academic conference organized to showcase the current research of UW students in the field of Slavic Studies. Students from departments across the University of Washington attend each year to hone their presentation skills and to solidify their projects into something that they might consider presenting in other academic arenas. Small scale and in a friendly atmosphere set close to home, the Slavic Student Symposium is designed to familiarize students with the format of an academic conference.

Six students, four undergraduates and two graduates, presented in three panels on topics ranging from the films of Renata Litvinova (presented by graduate student Lena Doubivko) to the language policy of Tartarstan's government [presented by graduate student Alsu Shakirova]. (continued on page 10)

REVOLUTION'S AFTERMATH - Arista Cirtautas, Visiting Lecturer, Jackson School of International Studies

Adam Michnik began his talk on "Revolution's Aftermath: Twenty Years of Polish Democracy," (April 30, Kane Hall, University of Washington) with the simple but striking pronouncement that "Poland is a success; finally a success." The seemingly hopeless aspirations of the past, that censorship be abolished, that free elections be held, that the communists lose power, that the Soviet army leave Poland and that the Soviet Union collapse, have all been miraculously attained: "Good God listened to us and granted us all of our prayers." In this context, the October 2007 parliamentary elections represented a victory for those Poles most happy with the dramatic changes of the last 18 years; the electoral results were a validation that Poland has been heading in the right direction since communism's collapse. Why then, Michnik asked, are many Poles so angry, so frustrated and disappointed with the developments since 1989? In reply to this question, Michnik addressed the problems of postcommunist transformation on three different levels: consciousness, socioeconomic change and political mobilization. On the level of consciousness, Michnik noted that Poles had been "given a difficult gift of freedom. No one can decide for us, we have to decide for ourselves." The tensions inherent in this newly won autonomy are best captured by the "paradox of the prisoner" who dreams of freedom while imprisoned and then, the miracle happens and he is free; free finally to enjoy the "green grass, the sun shining and the pretty girls," but at the same time he doesn't know what he will be eating, where he will be sleeping – all of the primary needs of daily life had been granted by the director of the prison. The former prisoner is now dirty, free and profoundly unhappy, imbued with "a nostalgic longing for a predictable world," as Michnik elaborated in a 2001 lecture.¹

On the level of socioeconomic change, the difficulties of the transformation from central planning to the free market have been especially acute in the case of Poland, given the experience of Solidarity. Of Poland's three transformations, from Soviet satellite to free sovereign nation state and member of NATO and the EU, from dictatorship to democracy and citizenship rights, from central planning to free market, only the first two follow directly from the ethos of Solidarity. According to Michnik, this ethos can be summarized as "emancipation from Soviet domination, emancipation from the dictatorship of the party, and emancipation from economic control." Emancipation from economic control via free market mechanisms has, however, made victims of the very workers who had been striking for freedom under the banner of Solidarity; they have become "victims of their own victory." This problematic outcome has led to questions whether another form of economic reform, one more consistent with Solidarity's aspirations and the interests of the working class, might have been possible instead of the road chosen under the Balcerowicz plan. Yet, for Michnik, as for Balcerowicz, such "third way" alternatives would only have resulted in "third world" outcomes for Poland: "I don't love capitalism, but it is the only thing that works." There was, thus, no conspiracy to impoverish the working class; instead the "inbuilt mechanism of social change that had been started peacefully, resulted in radical change." Unfortunately, while the negative consequences of this radical socioeconomic change, this "unwanted social revolution" as Andrzej Tymowski has called it, may have been unintended, they are no less painful for those affected.² The disillusionment is all the greater for those who once participated in Solidarity, a "great popular coalition" to restore human dignity in which, "for the first time, workers could speak with their own voice, in their own factories."

On the level of political mobilization, Michnik identified four troublesome tendencies that have contributed to social anxieties and frustrations often by manipulating them for political gain. While the first two tendencies, associated with the evolution of Solidarity and the Catholic Church, are more specific to Poland, the latter two, demagogic leadership and populist-nationalist political discourse, are prevalent across the postcommunist region. Not surprisingly, when faced with the challenges of market economy reforms, the Solidarity coalition, once a movement for change and for reform, broke apart, leaving a conservative, anti-reform, anti-communist group to appropriate the Solidarity legacy. Seemingly imprisoned by the past, this group speaks with the same language of the communist era ("us versus them"), suggesting that all of the ills of the present can be cured by ever harsher lustration regimes. Consequently, in a pluralist setting Michnik pointed out that we "must question if every anti-communism is good. Is Hitler good just because he is anti-communist?" The Polish Catholic Church, as well, has evolved from an open, tolerant institution under the leadership of Pope John Paul II into an institution pursuing integral nationalist, anti-democratic political objectives: "the Church ceased being a meta-political moral authority and started becoming part of the political game." Whereas the Pope conveyed crucial messages of dignity

and tolerance that once inspired Solidarity's struggles against communism (to bow only before God, to be not afraid, and to remember that we are fighting for something, not against someone), today Father Rydzyk, the founder of Radio Maryja, with his fundamentalist sectarian agenda of hatred and intolerance, is the most influential figure in the Polish Church. Given the importance of the Church in Poland, this change of attitude on the part of the Polish Church toward pluralism, from supportive to antagonistic, is "a foundational change." In more general terms, Michnik observed that all postcommunist countries have been plagued by charismatic leaders, often self-styled "heroes of the people," whose political ambitions and abilities are ill-suited to parliamentary politics. As Michnik noted in regard to Poland's former national hero, Lech Walesa, "Number 10 Downing Street is not the place for Robin Hood." Problems emerge, however, when "Robin Hoods" insist on their right to public office not by virtue of their programmatic political positions, but by virtue of their 'special' relationship to the people and the nation. Finally, all countries have seen the rise of populist-nationalist political mobilization promoting illiberal agendas that equate democracy with the dissolution of core national values, with "empty talk and corruption" and with the continuation of ex-communists in power. But, as Michnik emphasized, it is not the return of communism that threatens democracy, instead it is "anti-communism with a Bolshevik face." Hence, the political struggle is now between those who want to establish an open society dedicated to democratization and modernization and those who want to close society, to protect society against perceived pernicious external and internal influences, by authoritarian means if necessary.

While the closure of society to dissenting voices, to pluralism and difference, is most evident in countries like Russia, Belarus and Serbia, even successful democracies like Poland face a continuous challenge to keep society open to genuine political debate, to the rights of the political opposition and the press, to the rights of minorities, to modern forms of patriotism and national identity consistent with European Union membership, to constructive relations between the state and non-governmental organizations, and even to the right of emigration. When asked about the debate on emigration in Poland and the potential loss of too many qualified young people to western labor markets, Michnik replied, "I have fought all my life so that people can live where they like. It is not for me to decide where they should live." With that statement Michnik demonstrated that, in spite of the multiple, contested legacies of Solidarity, there is still a vital and valuable continuity between the ethos of Solidarity and the spirit of modern democracy in Poland.

Endnotes

1. Adam Michnik, "Confessions of a Converted Dissident: Essay for the Erasmus Prize 2001," available at www.eurozine.com.
2. Andrzej Tymowski, "The Unwanted Social Revolution: Poland in 1989," in *East European Politics and Societies*, vol. 7, no. 2 (Spring 1993).

SINGING IN A POLISH VOICE

Over the last couple of years, more and more Polish names have been cropping up on the Seattle music scene. This will especially be true in the upcoming season, when three opera superstars will be gracing the stage: Ewa Podles (contralto), Malgorzata Walewska (mezzo-soprano) and Mariusz Kwiecien (baritone). Ewa Podles and Mariusz Kwiecien will return to Seattle after previous successes; Malgorzata Walewska will make her debut as Judith in Bela Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle* (the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee invites you to her performance and a reception on February 28 and March 1, 2009).

But let us return to the current 2007/2008 season, a highlight of which was Mariusz Kwiecien's performance in Bellini's *I Puritani*. An extremely talented and popular artist, he was unable to leave McCaw Hall with the other singers due to the number of fans waiting outside his dressing room door. Fortunately for his admirers, Mr. Kwiecien accepted an invitation to a fundraising event organized by the Polish Studies Endowment Committee. On May 10 nearly 50 supporters of the Polish Studies Endowment attended a production of *I Puritani* at Seattle Opera and then met with the artist at a private reception the following day. Still amazed by Mariusz Kwiecien's operatic performance, they were now captivated by his youthful and engaging personality.



Mariusz Kwiecien (center) with supporters of the Polish Studies Endowment at the fundraising event

Ewa Poraj-Kuczevska Considering all your successes and leading roles at grand opera houses, to what do we owe our luck in seeing you again in Seattle?

Mariusz Kwiecien First of all - when I came here some years ago, I was at once enchanted by this young, polished, culturally dynamic city. And then there's Speight Jenkins, a man with an authentic passion for the opera, a man who has given his heart, his life and probably all of his money to the opera, who has created and directed a fantastic opera house for the last 25 years. And one more thing which brought me back was the warm welcome I received from the Polish and American audiences. It is also the reason why my hand does not quiver when I sign contracts with Seattle Opera.

EPK You have been awarded the title of Seattle Opera's Artist of the Year for your performance of *Don Giovanni*, which seems to have been one of your favorites for years...

MK *Don Giovanni* is such a great experience - I have a feeling that somehow Mozart composed this music with me in mind. I simply adore this music, love to sing this piece by Mozart and hope I am not too bad in it since I have been receiving recognition for this role. I tell you something else - I am not like Don Giovanni in real life. Maybe being a person completely different from this character makes it so appealing to me - I can enact something which will never, ever happen in my personal life.

EPK Next year we will see Malgorzata Walewska in Seattle. Have you had a chance to work with her?

MK Yes, of course, we are also very close friends. Not long ago I invited Malgosia to Krakow, and together we did a program called *Spotkanie z Artysta* at Slowacki Theatre. In this program we sang, danced, told stories and goofed around. It was a lot of fun. When Malgosia arrives, I hope you will be able to invite and interview her - I pale in comparison with her. Malgorzata Walewska is such an amazing talent in so many areas: she is an extraordinary artist, great comic, and a great conversationalist, not to mention her singing - but the singing you can get from her recordings. She is a wonderful human being with a huge heart, so please take advantage of this rare opportunity to appreciate the wonder that she is.

EPK You are not only a singer but also a painter, poet, photographer, you design furniture, and so on, and so on...

MK I think that everyone possesses several talents in his life. For example, as a singer I can also draw, dance or write, and somehow it flows together. An artist is someone who is brave, not afraid to present himself, so you do not fear to draw a line with a pencil or - even if you have never sung - come out and sing in public. An artist has a predisposition, a desire and a calling to manifest himself to the world.

EPK You are only 35 years old and as an artist you have already accomplished so much. Do you lack for anything?

MK No, I really do not... I indeed have achieved more than I ever dreamed of. I knew that my career would develop but did not expect it to gather such momentum. Today I only want to continue getting those fantastic contracts and keep on playing interesting operatic roles.

EPK In the coming season you will perform in a new role...

MK I will play King Roger in Karol Szymanowski's opera, which will be staged in Paris (*Opera national de Paris, June 18 - July 2, 2009*) by the famous Polish director, Krzysztof Warlikowski. It is my first *Krol Roger* - we will see how it works.



No rehearsals yet, but it is already truly exciting that I will be performing in a Polish opera abroad. I know that a lot of people love *Halka* and *Straszny dwor*, but in my opinion only *Krol Roger* deserves a world premiere.

EPK I wish you good luck in this production as well as in your other performances. See you next year, since you are coming back to Seattle, am I correct?

MK Yes, in May I will return as Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* - I will be looking forward to meeting the same fabulous Polish audience.

EPK We will be here, I promise.

Mariusz Kwiecien in *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Metropolitan Opera

ETERNAL FLAME

On May 4, 2008, the University of Washington hosted the "Eternal Flame," a commemoration honoring the memory of those who perished in Ukraine during the Famine "Holodomor" of 1932-33. The commemoration, aimed at disseminating information about the Holodomor, began on April 1, 2008 in Australia and is continuing on to 33 countries around the world. Seattle received the Eternal Flame torch from Canada, thus initiating its journey across the United States. Organizers of the day's event were the Ukrainian American Club of Washington and the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund at the University of Washington. The Eternal Flame torch will return to Ukraine in November 2008 for the official national recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine Genocide.

The event began in Kane Hall, where at the front of the room flickering candles outlined the Ukrainian trident symbol, and the commemorative torch, covered with symbols, awaited lighting. It had traversed many miles since originating in far away Australia and then to Canada, where it had carried along the light of memory to many towns and cities. Addresses by invited speakers were emotionally laden and poignant. The purpose of the occasion was to reach the world with the truth of Ukraine's history, and particularly to that page of it that had been silenced. Participants included Oleh Shamshur, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA; Ihor Ostash, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada; and Tetyana Izhevs'ka, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine to the Vatican; the Ukrainian ambassadors to the USA, Canada and the Vatican; and Mykola Tochytskyi, Consul General of Ukraine in San Francisco.



Other speakers included U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott (D-7th District); Professor Stephen Hanson, Director of the Ellison Center; Pavlo Grod, President of the Congress of Ukrainians in Canada (CUC); Mykhajlo Sawkiw, Jr., President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA); and Stepan Horlatsch, an eyewitness to the Famine. Afterwards, outside in Red Square, the torch was lit. The official elite stood solemnly, with youth, Ukrainian Plast scouts in uniform, creating an honor guard. The Eternal Flame was then passed among all of those present, hand to hand, from heart to heart. Ukraine Remembers, the World Recognizes.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2008 - Phoebe Ambrosia, Undergraduate Adviser

On Friday, June 13, the department held its annual Convocation ceremony, honoring ten undergraduates receiving Bachelors Degrees: five with majors in Slavic Languages and Literatures, five with majors in Russian Language and Literature. This year we also celebrated the accomplishments of two departing graduate students: Candice McDougall, who completed her Masters of Arts, and Emily Schuckman, who completed her PhD.

Department faculty, staff, and friends of graduates met in Parrington Hall's great domed room overlooking the treetops to celebrate the achievements of our best and brightest, to acknowledge their departure, and to meditate on the new chapter ahead of them.



We were honored to host **Professor Emeritus Herbert Coats** as the keynote speaker for the day. Professor Coats spoke to graduates and their families about his memories of his first Russian language teacher, Tatyana Nennsburg, who started him on the path to becoming an instructor himself. Each graduate was then introduced individually by a faculty member who had worked closely with them during their time at the University.

The Convocation ceremony is also the department's awards ceremony, and we were proud to honor five outstanding students in 2008. Graduating senior and dedicated student of Russian Daniel Luce was honored as an ACTR Russian Language Laureate Scholar. Bridget Swirski was the recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Award for her academic excellence and her time spent volunteering both in the department and at the Polish Home. The Asante Outstanding Paper Prize was awarded to David Feldman for his research paper entitled: "Prometheus Ridiculed: Structure, Meaning and the Futurist Influence in Vladimir Mayakovsky," which he wrote for Professor Barbara Henry's course. PhC student Lyuba Penkova was recognized for her excellence in teaching and materials preparation with the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, and Travis Currit was recognized by the Polish Home with the Best Polish Student of the Year Award.

What do the graduates plan to do now that they've finished? Some will begin programs in graduate school or begin looking for teaching positions, one will begin service in the Peace Corps this August, and another will be entering law school at the University of Washington next Fall. Others will be traveling, accepting internships in their field of study, or working in the private sector. We wish them every success in their endeavors. After the ceremony faculty had a chance to talk with the families of the graduates while enjoying the many delectable treats provided by Shosh Westen for the occasion.

The class of 2008 includes BA recipients Heather Caturia, Peter Daniell, Vitaliy Demyanik, Michelle Fu, Quinn Hanson, Heather Harris, Daniel Luce, Aleksandr Maslov, Alma Mujacic and Brittany Uglesich, MA recipient Candice McDougall, and PhD recipient Emily Schuckman. We are very proud of you for all your hard work and achievements!



From left to right: Michelle Fu, Heather Harris, Quinn Hanson, Candice McDougall, Daniel Luce, Peter Daniell, Emily Schuckman, Alma Mujacic, Brittany Uglesich, Heather Caturia, Vitaliy Demyanik

NEWS FROM YOU

"After many long years," **Michele Anciaux Aoki** (PhD 1991) writes, "I'm finally moving into a full-time career position in my field (languages).

"This spring, for the first time in two decades, the Legislature funded the reestablishment of the World Languages Program

Supervisor position at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in Olympia. I interviewed for the position and was hired, starting in July. I'll be responsible for promoting and supporting world language instruction in all public K-12 schools in our state, providing professional development for teachers, implementing memoranda of understanding for visiting teachers

from other countries, working with higher ed toward creating a seamless world-language system K-16, etc., etc. It will be an exciting year.

“One of the things I am committed to is finding ways to further nurture language study by heritage speakers in K-12 schools. I'd like to see them reach the 4-year institutions having already achieved a high-level of literacy and academic-level language proficiency. With the growing number of heritage speakers of Slavic languages in our state, I think this offers great potential for outreach to the community. I look forward to working with the Slavic Department on this initiative.

“On a family note, I have two kids in Russia at the moment: son Ante Hoath is finishing up his second year living and teaching English in St. Petersburg; daughter Natalya is on a 4-week summer language program in Vladimir with students from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. I think they're both having a ball.”

Roy Chan (BA 2002) is finishing up an IIE Fulbright grant in China. “During my time here I've been able to sit in at lectures, peruse through libraries and archives, and do some dissertation writing. More important, I've finally had the chance to explore this vast and fascinating country, and visit many beautiful and intriguing locales. I think the opportunity to get to know this country a little better has by far been the most important thing to me both professionally and personally. Now it's time to get back and do some serious writing!”

Gray Church (BA 1977) writes, “I have many hobbies but travel and bird-watching rank near the top. So I have been fortunate to combine them on several occasions. I spent January and February working overseas: first in Oslo and then in Amsterdam. I had expected terrible weather but was pleasantly surprised with temperatures around freezing much of the time. In Oslo, I also got two “lifers” (first time to spot a particular species of bird). My husband Al and I plan to move to Kona when we retire, so we spent a couple of weeks on the Big Island in April. While there, we joined a small group of tourists on an 11-hour eco-tour to look for endemic species. It was a fabulous trip and I highly recommend the tour company we used. (Email me at graychurch@verizon.net for more info.) I'm going to Madrid on business in July. I've never been to Spain, but I'm already planning my weekend bird-watching adventures there! One last note: There is a SMALL chance that I will go to Kiev on business later this year. If so, it will be my first trip there since 1979. I bet I won't recognize it!”

Carol Davis (MA 1979) just finished teaching at Olivet College, MI as their 2008 Sandburg-Auden-Stein Poet-in-Residence. “It was great. While I was there I spent a weekend in Ann Arbor with Bogdana Carpenter, who used to teach in the Slavic Department at UW. I also lectured at Michigan State University on translating poetry and on the current state of Russia. I'm back teaching at Santa Monica College now.”

Emily Fields Saunders (MA 1997) “got a chance to see Shosh and meet other folks in the Slavic Department as a judge for this year's Olympiada competition, something I enjoy participating in when possible. In general I spend my days taking care of my 2-year-old son Henry, working in the garden, and teaching beginning Russian one night a week through the Olympia Parks and Recreation Department. I've also somehow become the primary planner (nobody else would do it) of my 20th year high school

reunion that'll take place in Toronto (a city I've never been to) in the middle of July. Strange how these things happen!”

Doug Johnson, AKA ‘Demian,’ (BA 1974 Russian Regional Studies) writes, “My youngest son, who is majoring in biology at the University of Washington, made the dean's list last quarter. Both daughters and my oldest son are married now, and I just became a grandfather for the first time. My wife Luci helps others with their genealogy and family history research these days, and I'm still “a math geek for hire” at a small software company here in Seattle.”

Laura Kemmer (MA 1992) defended her dissertation in Cognitive Science from University of California-San Diego and has accepted an assistant professor position teaching Psychology at Upper Iowa University.

Dimitri Kotlyar (BA 1997) is still teaching, this year in the Bellevue school district. “I'm finishing a Secondary Math Endorsement through UW Extension, and this summer I'm travelling to Taiwan for 2 weeks.”

Ian Lilly (PhD 1977) writes, “I have recently retired from teaching (I could not match Willis Konick's record!) but continue to write newspaper columns on developments in Russia in the New Zealand business press. I also continue to travel to literary conferences in Russia and publish in collections of essays on Russian literature.”

In 2007-2008 **Don Livingston** (PhD 1998) worked at ASU as a Visiting Lecturer. For 2008-2009 he will “become a Senior Lecturer, which is a step upwards. I am currently taking a 30-40 day road trip from Phoenix to Vancouver, BC, and back, visiting friends and relatives. I have become one of our family historians, visiting the older relatives, scanning their photos, identifying the subjects and integrating them into our family genealogy site. (One branch of the family has reliable records going back to the 1600s in Norway.)”

“On December 5, 2007, Nestor Eugene Fabritz Lugo joined big brother Victor, Daddy Jason and me (**Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz** – PhD 2001). In September, I will be returning to teach at Howard University as a Lecturer, teaching Russian and Spanish - hooray for academic multitasking. We have settled in the DC region fairly well, with Jason getting a new job at the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins. Victor will start kindergarten in September; that makes me feel moderately traumatized. Friends can contact me at amarilis@bugbytes.com.”

Rebecca Manring (MA 1974) is still at Indiana, teaching Sanskrit and Indian literatures. “This fall I'm offering an exciting new course on religion in South Asian cinema, which should be a lot of fun (India produces more movies than any other country, and both Bangladesh and Pakistan have thriving film industries as well). My second (or third, depending on whether you count a catalogue of a private manuscript collection) book, “The Glory of Advaita,” is currently under review with Oxford, and I've got an article on a medieval sectarian Sanskrit grammar coming out in December in the International Journal of Hinduism Studies. And this summer, and into the foreseeable future, I'm serving as Director of Curriculum for the Bangla Summer Institute, an intensive Bengali language program in Dhaka for American students. This program is run (this time around) by CAORC (the Council on American Overseas Research Centers) with State Department

funding for critical languages. We're located at the Independent University of Bangladesh, with an entirely local faculty of very gifted teachers, and it's a pleasure and an honour to be working with them."

In 2007 **Jan Miller Anderson** (BA 1968) made her third trip to Russia, visiting Moscow, Pskov and Saint Petersburg in two weeks. "I noticed many changes since my first trip in 2001, mostly the increase in big, flashy casinos in the oddest places, mini-marts open 24/7 everywhere, and 'western' stores such as IKEA in the suburbs. Moscow's population is now about 22 million, of which at least 1 million are illegal immigrants from other parts of Russia who lack the documents to live in Moscow officially. Even with an ever-expanding Metro and autobus system, traffic is so bad that morning and evening rush hours last five hours each. Some Soviet-era buildings, such as Hotel Rossiya, have been razed and replaced with 5-star hotels. Saint Petersburg is not as prosperous as Moscow, in spite of close ties to Putin, and the infrastructure is definitely crumbling. Still the arts are strong, museums and concert halls are packed and the quality of musical performance is still very high." (When I lived in Russkyi Dom I was Zhenya, in class I was Evgenia Yakovlevna, and my maiden name was Miller. I still remember Mrs. Holdsworth, Vadim Pahn, Vladimir Gross, Jack Haney and all the other instructors from that era. Even after 40 years, Russians tell me I have 'beautiful' pronunciation, although I suspect they are being polite!)

Three major events have occurred in **Allan Mustard's** (BA 1978) life since January. "First, I was promoted to the rank of career minister of the Senior Foreign Service. The Senate confirmed the President's nomination in March. Second, the Foreign Agricultural Service is transferring me from Moscow after five years as minister-counselor for agricultural affairs at the American Embassy to Mexico City, where I'll have the same job. At age 52 I will have to learn Spanish, a new language for this former Russian House resident. Third, my wife's and my daughter has been accepted to the Pratt Institute in New York City, where she will study film-making. BTW, you can see a TV interview with me on <http://agrotv.ru> Best regards from Moskva!"

In August 2007 **Jennifer Olson** (MA 2000) defended her dissertation, "The Romantic Poet in Modern Garb: Four Interpretations of Karel Hynek Macha and Mikhail Iurevich Lermontov," which is about avant-garde reinterpretations of the romantic poet. "Shortly before my defense, I moved from Toronto to Winnipeg, where I've been working as a freelance editor. The academy is not for me but I have yet to decide what is."

Marijana Pavlich (BA 2004) writes, "Here's an update: Over the last two years, I've secured \$500,000 in private grants for the Mockingbird Society. (The Mockingbird Society is dedicated to building a world-class foster care system.) In March, I became the grant writer at Richard Hugo House, a center for the literary arts that supports writers of all ages and backgrounds and promotes the creation of new writing. I'm also a pre-screener for the Seattle International Film Festival and the Awards Coordinator at the Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. I still do Balkan folkdancing and drop in on Bojan's Nas klub occasionally to stay in touch with my Slavic roots. Unfortunately, I don't think BCS will help me on my trip to Cuba, so I'm trying to learn a little Spanish. Nema problema."

Alida Purves Abbott (BA 2000) reports, "We have some news...I

gave birth to our fourth child, Caleb, in January. We are in the process of moving from Ann Arbor, MI to Denver, CO. My husband accepted a medical fellowship in Denver. I am a busy mom of 4 children ages 5 and under. I have enjoyed speaking Russian with the Russian women that I meet at the park."

Tim Riley graduated from the UW in 1999 with a Ph.D. in Slavic Linguistics. Since 2001 he has worked as a Russian linguist and Intelligence Analyst for the Seattle FBI. The skills he garnered from professors Augerot, Coats, Dziwirek, and Diment at the UW - research, analysis, writing, and linguistic skills - have allowed him to excel at this very interesting career. (He erroneously thought he was escaping "publish or perish" when he left academia.) Tim has become an avid bicyclist and commutes to work 20 miles a day, year round. (Professor West is his inspiration.) Tim is currently in training to complete the Seattle to Portland ride in one day - 204 miles - unless he can find a good excuse to get out of it.

Ann Romeo (BA 1979) writes, "My life is bumping along per usual. I'm winding up my term as Hospitality Chair for the Seattle (Contract) Bridge Unit and am looking forward to having more time to spend with the Slavic Association. My company, Guideline (based in NYC) was bought by InfoUSA (now InfoGroup); my duties have changed, and I am now working closely with a wide variety of industrial/manufacturing clients. Best of all, I've rediscovered the Seattle music scene and can be found at Neumo's, ZooTunes, and lots of other venues."

Larissa Rudova's (PhD 1989) news is that she was promoted to full professor last year, her book Russian Children's Literature and Culture, co-edited with Marina Balina, has been published by Routledge, and that she "started publishing in languages other than English. My article on Grigorii Oster was published in *Neprikosnovennyi zapas* (No. 58) this month; *Teoriia mody* will feature my co-authored article on Russian school uniforms in September (see No.8). My article on Alexander Sokurov's "Russian Ark" will come out in French in the collection "L'hôte étranger" published by the University of Caen in the fall. I'm currently doing research on nature books and early Soviet educational policies."

Michael Seraphinoff writes, "My professional path since completing my PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature at the UW in 1993 has been quite satisfying, if a bit unusual. My concentration on Macedonian studies (my dissertation topic as well) seemed to narrow my options, and a desire to spend most of my time here at my home on Whidbey Island really narrowed my options for work in my area of professional expertise. However, I just did the best I could to "follow my bliss." I presented a paper on Macedonian literature at a Balkan studies conference at Indiana University in the spring of 1994 and went on to present another paper at a Macedonian studies conference that summer in Ohrid, Macedonia. Then I submitted my doctoral dissertation to an academic publisher, University Press of America, and it was published in 1996 under the title The 19th Century Macedonian Awakening. In the summer of 1997 I presented another paper on Macedonian literature at a conference at the University of Toronto. That fall I was contacted by the International Baccalaureate Organization, based in Cardiff, Wales and asked if I would be interested in becoming their examiner responsible for Macedonian literature. A professor at the University of Chicago had suggested they contact me. They needed someone with a background in Macedonian literature and fluency in both Macedonian and English. I have been employed part-time by the IBO for 11 years

now. I work from home, where I update a prescribed book list of Macedonian literature and prepare literature exams for the some fifty students in the Macedonian program each year. Later I receive their term papers and their essay exams by courier service, and their oral exams on cassette tapes from a literature class taught at their local schools, a course with a balance of classics of world literature and their native literature. (IBO offers this same program in some 120 countries around the world, mainly to high school seniors). Two years ago I stood for election to be the representative of the some 120 literature examiners from around the world on an IBO governing board. I was chosen by my peers, and so now I also travel to Cardiff twice a year for governing board sessions in which I represent the interests and concerns of my fellow examiners from around the world. So I get to work in my special niche in Macedonian studies part time, and I get to spend at least half my time pursuing my other favorite activity, organic farming/gardening here on Whidbey Island. I've also continued to present papers at academic conferences. Most recently I presented a paper this spring at the annual REECAS Conference, this year in Portland, entitled "Dimensions of the Macedonian-Greek Name Dispute." Over the years I've translated four book-length Macedonian works and written a novel set in Macedonia and published by a Macedonian literary association in Sydney, Australia. Most recently I co-authored a Macedonian history book with a colleague, Chris Stefou, in Toronto, Canada. Anyone interested in any of my books can access information about them at www.macedonianlit.com. The Slavic Department and Suzzallo Library both have copies of most of them as well. All I can say is, life is good these days, despite some initial trepidation concerning where my odd concentration on Macedonian studies through the UW Slavic Department could possibly lead. And perhaps my experience can serve as a lesson to some of you still in doubt about the value of your own pursuit of some unusual niche in Slavic studies or some other unusual subject of interest. I don't think I got lucky. I just paid some dues, as they say, and things happened."

Cheryl Spasojevic (BA 1967) writes, "On April 27, Orthodox Easter morning, my first grandchild was born to my older son and his wife. He and parents are doing well and this past weekend (June 8) he was christened at St. Sava Serbian Church. He is named Mirko in honor of his grandfather. I am back in my Serbian village of Vuckovica, busily trying to get my garden caught up. This past year I again worked on several translations, the most challenging being a catalog for a firm producing electrical installation products. It was a challenge as it was in Corel, which I had never used. Always something new to learn! I regularly translate for a very good quality magazine, "Folklor", and also for other works in the folklore and ethnological fields. Many of our weekends are spent attending some of the numerous folklore festivals held all over Serbia during the better part of the year."

Anne Thorsteinson (BA 2006) writes, "I will just let you know briefly what I have been up to... As you may remember, I traveled to Budapest, Hungary after graduation and spent a year there teaching English (at a Catholic University in Piliscsaba - just a short distance outside of Budapest). Strangely enough it was our Jewish friends who got us jobs there. So I did some traveling in Central Europe in the Balkans and now I'm back in Seattle. I am working down in Pioneer Square at MIR Corporation, maybe you are familiar with it. Devin Connolly works here too, which is a nice coincidence since we studied together and have been buds for a long time. I've been here about a year now, and I can say that it is a great place to work and I have really good colleagues.

It's a good job for me because I'm learning all the time. I'm thinking about going back to school here, but....only time will tell :--)."."

Carmen Votaw (MA 1996) now teaches elementary school in Seattle. "Our school has 80% English-language-learner (ELL) students, and we use a system called Guided Language Acquisition Design (or GLAD) to promote language acquisition and literacy. It revolves around intensive units in oceanography, herpetology, the desert, and so on, to front-load higher-level academic language that kids then use with authority. Pretty cool to hear Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Somali, and Hispanic first graders all discussing sea life, cacti, reptiles, and amphibians in English, then reading and writing using their new vocabulary. Makes me wish I'd learned Russian this way! <http://www.projectglad.com/>"

In May **Agnieszka Witkowski** (BA 2001) returned from an 8-week trip around the world that included Hungary, Poland, Germany, UK, India and Singapore. In June she will graduate from the UC Davis School of Medicine and start her residency in Internal Medicine at UCD.

Kasa Zipfel (BA 2007) now works for the fourth largest newspaper in Montana as a writer and photographer. "I'm also a volunteer at a local hospice, where I interview patients and compile their life story into a book for their family. I also teach a volunteer yoga class at a mental hospital. In a couple of years I plan to apply to law school or pursue a Masters in creative writing."

SLAVIC STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

(continued from page 2)

The opening panel on literature, moderated by Professor Barbara Henry, began with a PowerPoint presentation by departmental honors student Cameron Rule, who presented his research on "Social Apathy and the Plight of the Individual in the War" on Garshin's representation of the individual soldier. Nicole Burgund then presented her research, "Dumb Language, Blind Sight: Tadeusz Rozewicz and Paul Celan."

In the second panel, centered on film and moderated by Professor Gordana Crnkovic, Kathryn Moffat discussed the use of costumes in the films *Little Vera* and *The Diamond Arm*. Lena Doubivko followed with a look at the work of the unique film personality, Renata Litvinova.

During the afternoon panel on "Issues of Identity," moderated by Professor James West, we heard first from Christine Lindell on "[Mis]management of Memory: WW II memories as a resource for political stability, common identity, and nationalist sentiment in Yugoslavia." Alsu Shakirova closed out the symposium with her examination of the linguistic and cultural issues surrounding Tartarstan's national language policy.

POLISH STUDIES 2008 FALL AUCTION - Krystyna Untersteiner, Auction Co-Chair

Continuing the tradition of the previous three years, the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee is gearing up for its Fourth Annual Auction. This year the event will take place in the fall, on **Saturday, October 11, 2008** from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the University Club on the UW campus. As in the past, we anticipate a lively evening that will give guests an opportunity to bid on unique and original items while enjoying wine, food and the company of friends. Right now all our efforts are concentrated on **procurement**. We need small items as well as attractive, expensive donations. We welcome both gift certificates to your favorite restaurant and vacation packages to exotic locations such as the Bahamas!

Please make sure to mark your calendar for October 11 and join us at the 2008 auction. This is a great opportunity to take care of holiday shopping while having fun and supporting Polish Studies at the University of Washington.

Contact auction@polishstudiesuw.org or visit www.polishstudiesuw.org for more information.

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 *Southeast European Studies Fund (Balkan Fund)* is now a reality! Formerly a subset of our *Friends Fund*, this new fund was officially established on November 6, 2007. Its formal purpose is "to sustain the program in the SE European area by supporting graduate students with academic interests in the languages and cultures of this area."

Anonymous

Michele Anciaux Aoki

The *Czech Studies Endowment Fund* was created to support students studying Czech language at the University of Washington.

Lisa Frumkes

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The *Friends of Slavic Languages and Literatures Fund* may 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 the general fund include:

Anonymous

Harlan "Kit" Adams

Michele and Paul Aoki

Rosemary Bodien

Christy Clerf

Robert Croskey

Lyudmila Gordina

Shannon Gularte

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 fund is also used for scholarships to participate in the Early Fall in Prague Program, funded by Wayne Jehlik and friends.

Anonymous

David R. Grant

Nora Holdsworth

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

Jonathan R. Gallant

Lew R. Micklesen

Theodore J. Ralston

Each year since 1989 the *Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund* has been used to pay tuition for one student to attend the UW's summer quarter intensive Russian language program. This year's recipient was Kelli Hanson, who is currently studying intensive second-year Russian.

Burton E. Bard Jr.

The *Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund* was created to support the Ukrainian Studies effort.

Ukrainian American Club of Washington

The *Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund* was created to provide support for courses, lectures, studies and research on Ukrainian language, culture, literature or history and on the social, political and economic environment of Ukraine.

Michael and Susan Peskura

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Michael and Barbara Waske
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OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN

On April 12, the UW hosted 29 students from nine Washington schools in the annual Olympiada. Putting the students through their paces as judges of the panels were Slavic faculty **Michael Biggins** and **Valentina Zaitseva**, alumna **Emily Fields Saunders**, grad students **Mary Childs**, **Anna Glazkova** and **Malgorzata Laudanska**, and community members **Ilya Goloshchapov** and **Yelena Popelianskaya**. The overall winner of the competition and winner of the **Nora Holdsworth Scholarship** was Peter Rusev, a student at Tacoma's Henry Foss High School.



Students, teachers and judges

SCENES FROM MASLENITSA 2008



Khorovod



Grad student Lena Doubivko



Bliny toss



"Pin the nose on Maslenitsa"

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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