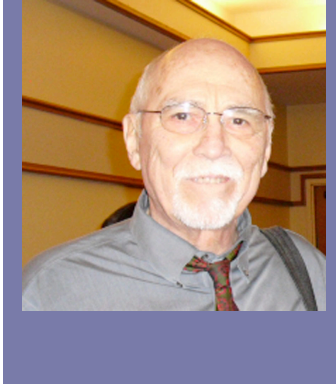


## Letter from Acting Chair Jim Augerot



Although we have missed the strict but thoughtful guidance of our Chair, Galya Diment, whom we are giving until the end of March some time for creative activities, it has been a good quarter. The rest of us, sans Barbara Henry who also is doing some research and writing this quarter, are enjoying our teaching and research in normal proportions. We happily had to deal with the largest first-year Russian enrollment in the nation. We put that into the capable hands of Bojan Belic, and we will have close to a record proportion of continuing students in Russian 102 in January.

We have been very fortunate to have two visitors from Eastern Europe helping us out with the teaching: **Maria Rewakowicz**, a Shevchenko Society Fellow, and **Artur Grabowski**, a Fulbright Scholar from Poland. Artur's presence is a part of our fortunate, continuing collaboration with the Polish community, whose cultural and social events are well worth your consideration as the year progresses; check out their newsletter [<http://www.polishstudiesuw.org/>] and you will find lectures, movies, parties, and balls. We especially recommend their annual auction, which directly contributes to our academic program at the university.

We hope that our relations with the other ethnic communities will grow to match our excellent relations with the Poles and their supporters. The Balkan communities have had

a flurry of activities recently; in addition to the always worthwhile Cyril and Methodius Picnic the Bulgarians put on in Sammamish Lake Park in May [<http://www.seattle-bg.com/>], the Serbian community holds its Serbian Days Festival in summer, in early October the Croatian community holds its annual Croatia Fest [<http://www.croatiafest.org/>], and in late November the Bosnian community held a concert entitled "Evening of Sevdah: The Love Songs of Bosnia Herzegovina" as part of the first annual "North American Day of Sevdah." Mary Sherhart has continued to bring music to our area on a regular basis and her web site is also worth visiting in order not to miss the next event [<http://www.marysherhart.com/>]. I don't want to forget to mention that the Balkan Fund has been established with a couple of modest, but meaningful contributions. We look forward to an eventual Endowed Balkan Teaching Assistantship to be shared among our South East European languages. It will help to guarantee that we do not lose any of our other languages to the always hovering budget axe that is of necessity unkind to small departments such as ours. I personally have committed myself to ante up \$1000 dollars a year to the Balkan Fund. I will be happy to shake the hand of any of you who would like to match my modest donation.

While I am talking about donations, I want to mention that we need some help if we want to continue the Slavic Fest that has brought so many together on the campus the last few years. We desperately need an organizer for this event, someone who has the will and the time to contact the various youth organizations in the local Slavic and Balkan communities and put together the parade and youth talent show in the spring. Please contact me or Shosh Westen, our

Department Administrator, if you are interested.

We all wish you a good 2008 and hope you will stay in touch. You can read some of the most recent news of our graduates in the following pages of this newsletter, please take a look at the *events calendar* at our web site [<http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/>] for public lectures and cultural events, and let us know about upcoming events in your community. And you former students are always invited to share your news with us no matter how trivial. Your old colleagues are very happy to know you are still functioning out there somewhere.

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## Beloved Professor Retires After 60 Years

– Nick Perry, Seattle Times higher education reporter (reprinted with permission of [The Seattle Times](#))

Willis Konick, looking a little like Groucho Marx without the cigar, asks a student to slap him. He prances from desktop to desktop. He rolls his arms wildly, screeching a little. And he lures one student into an elaborate discussion about moving with him to a place called "Easy Vista."

The scenes are from a 1979 public-television documentary, "Willis," and are exactly how students remember Konick, who retires today. One of the University of Washington's most beloved and unusual professors, his lectures were part burlesque, part improv, totally unforgettable and always enlightening.

Konick, 77, started his UW undergraduate degree 60 years ago and never really left, save for a three-year spell in the Army. He began teaching at the UW in 1952, and officials think he could be the longest-serving faculty member.

While other professors were squirreled away writing research papers and climbing the career ladder, Konick was reveling in the classroom and his theatrical teaching style. His somewhat obscure classes grew from 10 students to 100 or more and then sprouted waiting lists.

He will be most widely remembered for his comparative literature courses. But he also taught Russian language and film classes. He was named the UW's most distinguished teacher in 1977 and has taught generations of Northwest students from the Nordstroms to his own grandchildren.

"The first time I visited his class, I was 11 or 12 years old and he was lecturing on some Russian novel. He had me come up in front of the class and do this skit with him. I had no idea what was going on," said grandson Jeremy Konick, 20, now a UW sophomore. "Afterward, all these people came up and said, 'He's so cool, we love him, he's our favorite professor.'"

Jeremy Konick said that even today, it's impossible for him to

walk with his grandfather from his downtown condo to a restaurant without bumping into some former students whom Konick recognizes or who recognize him.

Seattle author Tim Egan, a former student who has kept in touch with Konick over the years, described Konick's classroom persona as a cross between Peter Sellers and Woody Allen.

"Not only is he one of the most popular and original and creative professors in the last 100 years, he's also literally changed people's thinking about literature and life," Egan said. "But first off, he's terribly entertaining."

Egan said Konick had the ability to relate a theme from a thick 19th-century Russian tome to something students had on their minds in their everyday lives.

"We'd walk out stunned, he was so brilliant. And his shtick was entirely self-taught," Egan said. "He's really sort of a shy guy. But once he was in front of a class ..."

Konick's father was a Russian immigrant who owned a grocery store on Queen Anne Hill. After graduating from the UW with a history degree and finishing his stint in the Army, Konick traveled to Russia for a year in 1958 as a graduate exchange student at Moscow University — one of the first American students allowed into the country during a thaw in the Cold War.

"I loved the people, they were so friendly," Konick said. "They were very curious. At first, they would come by and stare in my room, to see what an American looked like."

Back at the UW, his teaching style developed out of his spoken style of teaching the Russian language, and took on a life of its own. Konick said he found he got more from students by drawing them out through improvisation, and they seemed to love participating. Eventually, the zany antics became his signature and were expected of him.

Konick said teaching Dostoevski novels in the 1960s was easy because he didn't need to explain radicalism to students. The students also often came to class stoned — but he didn't find that as annoying as today's students, who often text-message during class, he added.

"The cellphones are an addiction. They're more than just a nuisance," he said. "It's hard to wean them from the phones."

As for retirement, Konick said he's getting too old to keep up the classroom theatrics and has long thought that 77 seemed a nice, symmetrical age at which to finish. He's planning to keep writing and will likely keep up some involvement with the UW.

Most of all, he will miss his undergraduate students.

"They are wonderful people," he said. "It's a wonderful age."

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## Spotlight on Our Visiting Lecturers: Maria Rewakowicz and Artur Grabowski - Phoebe Ambrosia

The Slavic Department is delighted to be hosting two visiting lecturers this year, Maria Rewakowicz and Artur Grabowski. Both will lend their distinction to the University's course list with some new and intriguing offerings.

### INTRODUCTIONS: MARIA REWAKOWICZ

Maria Rewakowicz is a Shevchenko Society Fellow, specializing in Ukrainian literature and culture. The focus of her work has been on literature and the construction of identity, Ukrainian émigré literature, literature and exile, feminism and nationalism in post-Soviet space, and Chernobyl as text. Born in Poland, Dr. Rewakowicz self-identifies as being Polish, though she has lived in the Ukraine for most of her life. In 1987 she came to work at Rutgers University as a Research Assistant Professor. Her path has taken her to the University of Toronto where she received her Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures in 2001. She went on to teach at the University of Toronto and has also taught at the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute.

Dr. Rewakowicz has written four collections of poetry, a number of articles on literature, and has translated Polish poetry into Ukrainian and English. Her work has been published in the Ukrainian magazines Suchasnist, Svitovydy, Poezia-90, Ukraina and Literaturna Ukraina and in Agni.

### 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY UKRAINIAN POETS IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION – NEW COURSE SPRING 2008

Dr. Rewakowicz's work as associate editor of the publication Svitovydy has allowed her to work on this unique publication founded in Kyiv by a group of avant-garde Ukrainian writers known as the New York Group and the Kyiv branch of the Writers' Association of Ukraine. As a publication, Svitovydy strives to present the most distinguished works of writers of Ukraine and the Diaspora, and acts as a forum for reflection on contemporary Ukrainian culture. Dr. Rewakowicz's Ph.D. dissertation was on the New York Group, and she will be teaching a course

entitled "20<sup>th</sup> Century Ukrainian Poets in English Translation" this spring.

MR: The most active group of poets in the Ukrainian Diaspora was called the New York Group. They began to publish in the 1950s from New York City. These were young people who moved to the United States as children or as adults. All the education they were getting was in English, yet they made a conscious decision to write their poetry in Ukrainian. Their poetry referenced surrealism and modernism. They were reading and creating new translations of Spanish writers and poets like Federico Garcia Lorca and Pablo Neruda. One of the poets in the New York Group, Yuri Tamawsky, went to live in Spain. His wife, though American, learned Ukrainian and began to write in Ukrainian so that she could participate in the discussions that were going on around her. These were young bohemians. They published their own poetry albums in the period 1950-1970, giving cohesion to the group, and they had regular poetry readings together.

After the 1970s the group dispersed. Some went to Germany, some to Chicago or other parts of the US, one lives in Brazil, and one returned to live in the Ukraine. For them, New York was the symbol of a new approach to poetry — an innovative way of expressing themselves. There is not really any poetic movement doing anything in a similar vein in the current scene. That was a special time—much of the poetry was a reaction to Soviet rule; after Ukraine became an independent country, there was not such a great inclination to form resistant writer's groups. There was a literary group in the late 1980s and early 1990s in the Ukraine that seemed to dominate and influence younger writers, but these were decentralized and compartmentalized. They attempted an understanding of the Soviet authority through burlesque and buffoonery, laughing at convention, and using it to critique what was going on.

### CHERNOBYL AS TEXT – NEW COURSE SPRING 2008

MR: The other course I am developing for spring quarter has to do with catastrophe in culture. I began to be interested in Chernobyl last year. All the academic

conferences at that time had lectures with commentary twenty years after this enormous catastrophe. It got me thinking about how much could be done in a course on this — with new written and artistic resources surfacing after the anniversary of Chernobyl. For example, I'm very interested in the next project of the documentary film maker Irene Zabytko, the author of The Sky Unwashed. To research her documentary film project on Chernobyl and the residents there, she went to the area that was sealed off by the government and interviewed people living in the area surrounding the disaster. She herself lived there during this time. It is very interesting.

I want to place this course in the context of Disaster Studies and examine questions such as "what can we do about it?" I'm interested in the premise that disaster entails a new beginning. This is true particularly in Ukraine, because they got to think "what is happening?" The shock kind of renewed a sense of fear for Ukrainians and woke people up into action.

### BOOK RECOMMENDATION: PERVERSION

MR: The book I would recommend is Perversion by Yuri Andrukhovych. It was published in 2005, and I've assigned it to my students who found it challenging, but definitely a favorite. The action takes place in Venice — there's an opera staged as well — Orpheus in Venice, very dramatic. My students read it this fall quarter and they also enjoyed it very much.

### INTRODUCTIONS: ARTUR GRABOWSKI

Artur Grabowski is the recipient of fellowships from the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Fulbright Foundation. He studied Polish Literature, Theory of Literature, and Philosophy at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland where he completed his PhD in 1998. He is an Associate Professor at Jagiellonian University and taught at the University of Illinois, Chicago 2004-2006. Dr. Grabowski teaches Modern Polish as well as European Comparative Literature and Theatre, Poetics

and Creative Writing. His published work includes four books of poetry, a collection of plays and short pieces for theatre, literary essays on European Modernism as well as numerous articles on literature and theater theory. He has run theater workshops in Poland, Italy and the United States, directed academic theater productions and translated American and Italian poetry into Polish. His newest play is to be staged in Zagreb, Croatia in January 2008. He is currently working on a novel and teaching at the University of Washington.

#### THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL - NEW COURSE SPRING 2008

This spring Dr. Grabowski is offering a new course through the UW's Ellison Center focusing on the idea of the "Central European Intellectual."

AG: The Central European intellectual is a kind of mythological image, invented and created by a group of intellectuals from Central European, communist-led countries. In sociological terms, they are self-named "intelligentsia," which is the spiritual ruling class of those societies. I wanted to examine this image as it appears in their works of art, novels and films. In this course we will work to find the source and the result of the artistic surge for identity in those Central European countries — using Poland, its art and literature, as an example.

#### WHAT CONSTITUTES AN INTELLENTSIA?

AG: In the United States this term refers to an educated class of people, but in Poland and the rest of Central Europe the intelligentsia is the heritage of the previously noble class — and there is a kind of desire for them to take on the task of spiritual leadership of the greater population. It's about pre-designed authority. In American society, to be a leader means to possess circumstantial power, but in traditional European society — the self-designated position of "intellectual" gives you immense social responsibility for the future of the nation. The intelligentsia is not one that questions whether they have the right to this spiritual authority — they are very sure about themselves and they believe in their own privilege. It is not related to

economic status — it's about social respect. Here in the U.S., the intelligentsia's power is related to what you can do in a private, individual context. In Central Europe, the intelligentsia is counted as a collective identity — a "collective treasure" as we say — a party discipline. If you play the role of the individual and go counter to the group, you lose the status and respect of that group.

When you have an opening of a gallery or a play — it is not an artistic event, it is a social event, a political event. Art always takes someone's side in Central Europe — it is always a commentary on the social situation at hand. The artist is not working for himself when he creates, he is working for an idea — that artist is an ambassador to the rest of his community. They are spiritually privileged in society, but at the same time there are very narrow and defined expectations for the artists of Central Europe. All artists must be aware of and concerned with the current "trend" in philosophical terms — and if you're interested in something else, it will be ignored by the intelligentsia.

For the last two years the debate in Polish art has been about the idea of intellectuals collaborating with the communists of the previous era. Unfortunately, it was common for the intellectuals to collaborate with the communist leadership and then to deny it completely. They would present their "liberal" face to the public, but everyone knew they had been involved with the communists. Even so, they persisted in their efforts to defend themselves, and they excluded any member of their group who admitted to having been a participant in the communist dealings. Denouncing your colleagues was quite common; this person over here would be pointing the finger at another person, while at the same time that person was pointing the finger right back at them!

Most of the literature and film of the last thirty years has been concerned with these "family" issues within the intelligentsia and the idea of the worth of that group. It was and still is very much a quarrel within the family. That is why they like to call themselves "Central European." The idea for them is: "we know we don't belong to the West, but we do not belong to Asia either." To call themselves the "Central European intelligentsia" was a way of gaining entrance to the Western European salons, but also

of signifying their allure and "strangeness." This difference was an exotic allure for Western Europeans. Establishing their credentials as a Central European intelligentsia was to say that they had more claim to the actual heart of the creativity going on at the time than their Western European counterparts. They were more European than Western Europeans, because their cultures were more well preserved. This was the idea they promoted.

If we look at Central European literature, there really is not a great deal of intersection between the literatures of the Central European cultures. To have a "Slavic Languages and Literatures Department" all grouped into one area of study is a very American phenomenon, since the literatures of these separate cultures rarely had the chance to influence one another until quite recently. If anything, the literature of Western Europe was the main influence on all of the writers in the individual Central European countries.

AG: I've found that living in the Pacific Northwest, one of my favorite books is The October Ferry to Gabriola, which mirrors the landscape and the sense of place here. This is a novel by Malcolm Lowry, published only after his death by his wife, Marjorie Bonner. Malcolm Lowry was a British writer who lived in Canada and Mexico, where he wrote his most famous work, Under the Volcano.

In the book, Gabriola is the name of an island in the Pacific near the border of the United States and Canada. The plot is very simple — the main character Ethan is traveling with his family to build a new home for them. There are three general ways of reading this book — on, is that it is about marriage between a man and a woman. Second, it is a symbolic reading of signs in the landscape of the Pacific Northwest — it is full of artistic metaphor and mysticism. One can also read it as a search for identity — spiritual identity on a very private and intimate level. In literature, when you leave a continent and leave civilization, to go to the island is to travel to the nucleus of that which is hidden.

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## Grad Student News

Before coming to Seattle, **Lena Doubivko** studied and worked at the University of British Columbia (Canada). After earning a BA in International Relations and an MA in Germanic Studies, Lena spent four years teaching German and Russian junior and senior language courses at the same institution. Growing hugely nostalgic about her culture, however, she had a change of heart and decided not to pursue Germanic studies, but to come back to her roots, and commit to a PhD in Russian literature and film. She is now enrolled in the second year of the PhD program, specializing in post-Soviet literature and film with a special interest in Kira Muratova's and Renata Litvinova's work. When Lena decides to put her course work on hold, she gets involved with Seattle's Russian community and helps to organize cultural events. On occasion, she also works on translation projects. When Lena grows up, she hopes to teach Russian language, literature and film at the university level.

**Malgorzata Laudanska** is working on her PhD in Slavic linguistics. She completed her graduate degree in Russian language at Warsaw University in the Department of Russian Studies and Applied Linguistics in Warsaw, Poland. She is passionate about both learning and teaching Slavic languages. Her main focus is linguistics, sociolinguistics in particular. She is interested in teaching Russian and Polish languages at the university level and loves reading Polish and Russian poetry.

After completing an MA in International Studies at the University of Washington, **Aleksandra Petrovic** decided that academia was the right place for her, and she is currently working on her PhD in the Slavic Department. Her main focus is social linguistics, in particular, language reforms and language policies in the Balkans and in the former Soviet Union. She is also interested in bilingualism and second-language acquisition. When she is not studying or cataloging Slavic books at the UW library, she enjoys working on jigsaw puzzles and watching foreign movies.

**Alsu Shakirova** started her PhD in the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department in the fall of 2007 after earning an MA in English Composition and Rhetoric in Illinois. She is interested in studies in cognitive and comparative linguistics and wants to teach Russian and linguistics at the university level in the future. She loves studying different languages and cultures, and, in her free time, likes to play the piano and ballroom dance.

**Cheryl Stephenson** completed her BA in Russian language and literature at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon and is now working on her MA in Russian literature. Working with both the Slavic Department and the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, she focuses on literary institutions and the interactions between politics and literature in late imperial Russia and the Soviet Union. In her spare time, Cheryl enjoys backpacking and creating costumes for theater and musical performances. After completing her graduate studies, she hopes to teach Russian literature and language at the university level.

Having completed his BA in Linguistics at Western Washington University, **Tim Wellman** is now working toward an MA. His main academic interests include language policy as well as how language is tied with a person's identity. Tim is also a musician who plays bass guitar and sings in a rock band called Incogneato, which has just recently started playing concerts in Seattle.

## Visit by Ukrainian Ambassador

- James D. West

At the beginning of April, His Excellency Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States of America, visited Seattle at the invitation of the University of Washington Ukrainian Studies Endowment. In the course of a three-day stay, Dr. Shamshur visited local firms and organizations that have strong ties with Ukraine, including Children's Hospital, Microsoft, and Boeing, and had meetings arranged with Governor Gregoire and other Washington state officials, and the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle. On Monday, April 2 the ambassador visited the UW Seattle campus, where he gave an outstanding and well-attended lecture sponsored by the REECAS Program, and met with REECAS and Slavic faculty and representatives of the Dean's Office. His schedule of meetings with the Ukrainian community in the Seattle area was unfortunately curtailed by events in Ukraine, which required him to make an early return to Washington, D.C., but his campus visit led to productive discussions of the possibility of establishing a chair of Ukrainian Studies at the UW, and we look forward to a repeat visit in the near future.

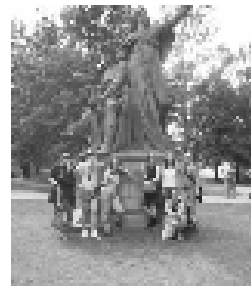
## Early Fall in Prague 2007

### - Jaroslava Soldanova

In the summer of 2004 the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at the UW together with Charles University in Prague launched a new study abroad program named Early Fall in Prague. This three-week program, created by Professor Jitka Ryndova of Charles University and the UW's Czech lecturer, Jaroslava Soldanova, was designed specifically for UW Czech language students. This past summer the third group of UW students traveled to Prague. In addition to widening their language skills, the nine students were given a unique opportunity to explore Czech history and culture and to meet with famous Czech personalities. During their stay, the students attended classes taught by a Charles University instructor three times a week, and spent the other three days of the week on fieldtrips in and around Prague. The group visited Czech castles, monasteries, churches and other sites of historical importance. On a trip to the city of Kutna Hora, students explored the medieval silver mines, the 15<sup>th</sup> century St. Barbora Gothic cathedral, and the famous Sedlec ossuary. On another fieldtrip, to 14<sup>th</sup> century Karlstejn Castle, they admired the exquisite Chapel of Holy Cross with its gallery of Gothic paintings from the 1350s.

When asked during the farewell dinner what experience they would remember most, the students had a variety of answers. Some students mentioned their meeting with world renowned author Ivan Klima, while others were deeply touched by their meeting with Mrs. Hoskova, a Terezin concentration camp survivor, a day after touring the Terezin camp. Still others cited the performance of Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" at the 18<sup>th</sup> century Theater of Estates where Mozart conducted the premiere of his opera, "Don Giovanni," in the 1770s. But one thing everyone could agree upon: the Prague program was exceptionally rich and rewarding and allowed them to discover Czech history and culture in a way that would have been impossible in any classroom presentation.

The students would especially like to thank the president of the Czech Center for Education and Culture, Mr. Wayne Jehlik (REECAS alumnus), who established the Jehlik Scholarship Fund with this program in mind. Not only did Mr. Jehlik contribute financial support to the overall program, but he also provided three students with individual scholarships; additional financial support for the program was provided by the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures. Early Fall in Prague 2007 was a great success, and we look forward to offering similar experiences to future students.



## Visit by Leszek Balcerowicz

- Arista Maria Cirtautas

That Professor Leszek Balcerowicz is still very much a man with a mission was clearly in evidence during his lecture on “Post-Communist Transformation in Central Europe,” and his meeting with students at the University of Washington, Nov. 1-2, 2007. While his mission was once to transform the “destructive system of communism” into a well-functioning “Western system of capitalism,” a revolutionary transformation that he carried out most ably as Finance Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and as President of the Polish National Bank, his current goal is to ensure the continuity and sustainability of sound market-building economic policies against the vagaries of intemperate and short-sighted political decision-making. As he noted in the question and answer session following his lecture, the most difficult challenge now and in the future is to navigate the “period of normal politics” when economic policies are all too easily politicized and distorted by non-market-building objectives. Difficult as the initial reform period might have been, the stabilization, liberalization and privatization policies introduced then under his leadership took place under a “period of extraordinary politics,” an admittedly short but vital grace period when a permissive consensus on the part of both elites and publics enabled radical reform. After political life routinizes and returns to ‘normal,’ the biggest question is, as Professor Balcerowicz elaborated at the student meeting, “how can good policies be maintained through regime change and beyond as in the case of Chile?”

Specifically, how can such policies be preserved in the face of growing political populism and the general unpopularity of the market economy? As Professor Balcerowicz himself noted in answer to a question after his lecture, this lack of popularity can be ascribed to a potent combination of socioeconomic interests (as those with a privileged status under communism like miners exchange places with those who held a much lower status under the previous regime like educated people), myths (such as the myth of the “free lunch” and “brotherhood”) and morality (as in the assumption that the “profit motive is bad”). Here, a more offensive, proactive strategy is needed to promote good communication (e.g., “good slogans” to undermine populist appeals) between market oriented elites and the general public. In his meeting with students, Professor Balcerowicz informed us that, precisely in order to foster good political communication in Poland, he has founded a new NGO, (with the acronym “FOR” – “we are for and not against,” he emphasized), which has the following goals: identify the most popular populist beliefs, use psychology and marketing to challenge and overcome these beliefs (for example, through the use of satire and sharp, pointed humor). Most recently, FOR initiated a “get out the vote” campaign, primarily directed at the younger generation using text-messaging and the internet, which doubtlessly contributed to the 15% increase in electoral turnout in the October 2007 parliamentary elections and the electoral victory of the Civic Platform, a party much more favorable toward sound economic policies than their opponents. Based on these results, Professor Balcerowicz is very likely to be as successful in his new mission as he has been in his past endeavors.

## NEWS FROM YOU

**Harlan "Kit" Adams** (MA 1976) currently works as an administrative assistant at the Lynnwood Dental Center. In his spare time, he keeps busy by translating Zagreb University Professor Ranko Matasovic's textbook Uvod u poredbenu lingvistiku from Croatian into English.

In September **Scott Brauer** (BA 2005) wrote, "During my travels in the past, I've sent emails about my thoughts and my progress periodically. This time, with technology being a bit closer to hand, I'll regularly be updating a website with bits about life in China, my work, and whatever else I see fit. The website is shared with my girlfriend, Heidi, who's here teaching English at a university in Nanjing, so she'll be posting as well.

"There likely won't be any more bulk emails such as this one; direct emails, phone calls, and the blog will be the best way to see what we're up to. We're in Nanjing, China, formerly Jinling, Shengzhou, and Nanking. You've heard of the "Rape of Nanking," if nothing else. The city is now at least 5 million strong, the largest port on the Yangtze, and a fantastic illustration of China's recent transformation from volatile dictatorship to global economic contender. There are people begging in the streets, desperate for food and medical care, and there are teenagers wearing Prada and driving SUVs. The city's alleys probably look like they always have, with street hawkers and junk collectors, but Nanjing's center is filled with outposts from the worldwide marketplace like Starbucks, KFC, and Pizza Hut. The world's newspapers say that the economy is showing signs that it's outpaced itself, but it's hard to tell on the ground. The department stores, and there are many of them, are 7 stories tall and filled with expensive designer products, and oddly, the Chinese are spending lots of money. This is the first time in history that China, like a lot of other countries, has had a middle class. It's a bit awkward, as if no one knows how to handle it all.

"So here I am in the middle of it all. I've got my camera, and I'm trying to document what's going on. Before I left, I made contacts at a few magazines and newspapers around the U.S.; I'll let you all know when my work shows up at your local newsstand. In the meantime, updates will be posted regularly to <http://update.mscottbrauer.com/>. There are already a few (short) posts. As we update the site more, we'll figure out what sort of updates will be included. And do check out the video of me and our new electric bicycle."

**Roy Chan** (BA 2002) was awarded an IIE Fulbright Grant for the year 2007-2008 to

conduct dissertation research in Chinese literature in Beijing. "While I will return before the advent of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, I hope my stay here will give me time to do research and a lot of writing. I feel just being in China does give me more insight into my own work, and it's wonderful how a change in scenery and location will inspire new ideas. When I have extra time, I have been exploring Russian studies in China, reading Chinese-language scholarship and meeting professors."

On August 31 **Sigma Chang** (MA SIS 2007) wrote, "I've just finished Pre-Service Training. I was officially sworn in on Friday the 24th. I'm pretty much property of the U.S. government now, hurrah!

"So far I've had a fantastic experience here. Georgia and Georgians are beautiful. They are the most friendly and hospitable people I've ever met, and unlike other parts of the world, they still like Americans for some reason. As far as the landscape, it's generally very green, but not heavily forest covered. Lots of jagged mountains, wine grapes, quaint villages, and old Soviet bases.

"Training was in a village near Gori, birthplace of Stalin. The Soviets erected a huge quasi-mausoleum over his residence. First cultural faux pas: trying to explain why I would not toast to Stalin. "He killed millions!" "Yes, but he was a \*real\* Georgian!"

"As you know I'm going to be teaching English here, but it turns out PC scouted out a few Russian speakers for assignment in the ethnic minority regions (at least the ones which are not currently trying to succeed). I'm bristling with red-blooded American pioneering spirit. But, seriously, my being here is part of a broader scheme for ethnic integration.

"My community is 70% Azeri, I live with Armenians, and I'll be teaching in a Georgian school. They taught me Georgian and Azeri. Georgian is the hardest language I've ever encountered. Azeri is the easiest. My family speaks Russian fluently, and in fact, I'm fairly certain that their Russian is better than their Armenian. Though I feel a bit like an ass not learning some Armenian; I don't know if I have it in me to learn another language just to flatter my family."

**Carol Davis** (MA 1979) just got back from a Fulbright-sponsored book and lecture trip to Russia. "On my return I got good news of a job for part of spring semester. I will be the 2008 Sandburg-Auden-Stein Poet-in-Residence at Olivet College, MI, but first I will be coming to Seattle for a

reading at Elliott Bay Bookstore. It will either be Sat. Feb. 16 or Sun. Feb. 17."

**Candace Faber** (BA 2005) wrote, "As I wrote to you earlier, I finished my Master of Science in Foreign Service degree at Georgetown University this past May. In the spirit of Slavophilia, I'm happy to report that my first post in the Foreign Service will be to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, where I will be serving for two years in a rotational position. I will work in the press section and the consular section for a year each.

"In the meantime, I'm here in D.C. doing job-specific training and learning Polish. It's exciting to get to study a language full-time for the first time since my summer of intensive Russian in 2003, and I'm looking forward to learning Polish."

**Mark Foss** (BA 1989): "I've been reading the 'News From You' section of the Slavic newsletter. So I thought I'd drop you a note. After I graduated I did quite a bit of interpretation for immigrants from the former Soviet Union — mostly Ukrainians. I've also traveled in the Russian Far East and Siberia. The last time I was there was in October 2000. I was in Khabarovsk, Chita, Irkutsk and briefly saw Lake Baikal. It wasn't quite winter yet but there was snow on the ground. Someday I would love to return to Lake Baikal in the summer.

"After raising two sons, I decided to return to school. In August 2007 I finished an MBA at Seattle University. I've enjoyed my business studies greatly. But I have to say that I still have a passion and heart for Slavic languages and Slavic cultures. I especially owe a debt of gratitude to those who introduced me to the world of Russian language and culture. It is in my blood. Thank you all!"

**Trey Hatch** (BA 1993) recently joined the legal department at HBO, where he enjoys working. "I have been living in New York since I moved here in 1998 to go to law school. I now live with my wife and dog in Brooklyn."

**Mary Kruger** (BA 1970) writes, "Did you know that this year, 2007, marked 200 years of diplomatic relations between Russia and the United States? Our U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg held a series of celebrations, ranging from a gala evening in the Hermitage Museum to America Days in regional cities of northwest Russia. In the process we learned all sorts of



fascinating facts about Russian-American history. I have six more months in this dream job, and next summer rotate out to something new.”

**Barbara Oakley** (BA 1977) writes, “I always enjoy getting the “Slavic News” newsletter. It’s so nice when I pick out some activities involving someone I knew. I always keep an eye out for my old friend Gwen Stipek (I’m not sure of her married name), but maybe I’ve missed something over the years... : (“

“Anyway, I wanted to give you an update that’s kind of fun. I have a book coming out in October: Evil Genes: Why Rome Fell, Hitler Rose, Enron Failed, and My Sister Stole My Mother’s Boyfriend. My experiences working as a Russian translator on Soviet trawlers during the early 1980s play a surprisingly

important role in the book. I’ve been very lucky — Warren Buffett helped me with the part of the book about him; Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker has called the book “fascinating”; and 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Literature winner Cormac McCarthy loves the book and sent me six pages of detailed annotations about it.

In September **Jennifer Marie Olson** (MA 2005) shared with us the following news: “After planning and planning and planning to defend my dissertation, I finally did it. Now, I am looking for a job everywhere but the academy. I don’t think that I’m cut out to be a brain on stick. Although it does feel odd to not be getting ready for another school year this September.”

In mid-September **Sunny Otake** (MA 1994) wrote, “Up to now I really haven’t been up to anything

newsworthy, but on September 30th Pat and I will be taking off to cruise around the world for four years. It’s something he has always wanted to do, so he saved up for it, bought a boat, took early retirement and we will be taking off soon. Our address will be a post office box while we are gone.”

In 2006 **Joel Quam** (MA REECAS 1985) was promoted to full professor at College of Du Page. He is currently on sabbatical writing an e-textbook on the geography of Russia.

Now retired from Pan American World Airways and the U.S. Navy, **John Zin** (BA 1956) — formerly John Reynold Zingmark — keeps busy working part-time as cook/cashier/caretaker. Daughter Annmarie, husband and two baby boys are off to Shanghai for a three-year assignment with Columbia Sportswear.

## HOME COMING 2007

On October 27, 2007 the department moved off campus to the Polish Home for its annual Homecoming celebration. The reason for this was primarily financial; on-campus rental rates have increased exponentially, while the support from the Alumni Association has decreased drastically. We are therefore extremely grateful to the Polish Home Association board of directors, who graciously allowed us to use the lower hall free of charge.

The event was planned as a traditional Polish *biesiada*, an evening of Polish cuisine and entertainment. After a welcoming song by the Vivat Musica Choir, Polish Home member Peter Pawluskiwicz and Acting Chair James Augerot both greeted guests, who included alumni, friends and many members of the Polish community, and then turned the podium over to alumna Sheila Charles, who spoke about what the Slavic Department has meant to her, both as a student and as an alumna (in order to satisfy her need for a “Slavic fix,” for a number of years Sheila has served as secretary of the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee and co-chair of the annual UW PSEC auction). Although we were disappointed that ill health prevented UW PSEC co-chair and art collector Tom Podl from giving his presentation on “Colors of Identity,” we were very fortunate that Wanda Pawluskiwicz was able to talk about how Tom had come to his interest in Polish art and that UW art history grad student Agata Morka was in the wings and able to speak about the School of Paris and Polish painting. The remainder of the evening was devoted to performances by Vivat Musica, which then led the audience in community singing and dancing.

We are also greatly indebted to the members of the Polish community who helped with all aspects of the event — planning, catering and entertaining: Martha Golubiec, Maria Grabowska, Barbara McNair, Barbara Niesulowska, Anna Sawicka, and Krystyna Untersteiner. We are also very grateful to our student volunteers who staffed the arrivals table, the kitchen and the bar, and then did yeoman’s work with cleanup: Sarah Cunningham, Azuolas Dunaravich, Anna Glazkova, Marina Mikhailchenko, Aleksandra Petrovic, Jared Pisinger, and Alsu Shakirova.

## GIFTS

Donors to the *Balkan Fund*:

Anonymous	Eric Kinzel	Ralitsa Sergieva
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Donors to the *Czech Studies Endowment Fund*:

Jaroslava Soldanova	Vilma Vojta	Sara D. Votipka
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Donors to the *Friends of Slavic Languages and Literatures Fund*:

## Contributors to the general fund include:

Anthony Allison	Trey Hatch	Anabel Malmquist
Anonymous	Hanns Hasche-Kluender	Ann Maltzoff
Michele and Paul Aoki	Vincent M. Jolivet	Cynthia and Richard Marriott
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## Contributors to the Aida Lominadze Fund include:

Gene and Alla Barabtarlo	Gordana Crnkovic	Lubov Penkova
Michael Biggins	Galya Diment	Jaroslava Soldanova

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 the scholarship for the Early Fall in Prague Program, funded by Wayne Jehlik and friends.

Anonymous	David and Mary Grembowski	Ann Romeo
John and Yvonne Basil	Wayne and Stacey Jehlik	Jaroslava Soldanova
Richard J. Brzustowicz Jr.	Allen W. Lyons	Mike Storosh
Vinton L. Eberly		

In 1981 the *Russian House Fund* was established to provide general support for the Russian House. Although the Russian House has not been in existence since 1999, we remain hopeful that we will be able to reestablish it sometime in the future.

Eugene M. Kleiner	Joel Eric Quam
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The *Low R. Micklesen Graduate Fund* supports graduate student programs in the Slavic Department.

David R. Miles	Jaroslava Soldanova	Susanna J. Westen
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The *E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fellowship Fund* supports graduate students in the Slavic Department.

Jaroslava Soldanova	Susanna J. Westen
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Every 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 Cadence McAfee, who studied second-year Russian.

Bruce W. McKinney	Susanna J. Westen
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The *Ukrainian Studies Fund* was created to endow a chair of Ukrainian Studies.

Roman Begej	Denis G. Martynowych
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Donors to the *Polish Distinguished Speakers Fund*:

Martha and Ronald Golubiec	Stanislawa Jeziorska	Krystyna and Norbert Untersteiner
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## SLAVIC GIFT FUNDS

The Slavic Department is very grateful to alumni and friends for their generous support. Please help the department continue its efforts by giving generously whenever possible. You may send a check made out to the University of Washington Foundation with one of the funds designated on the memo line of your check. Please send your check and this form to the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Washington, Box 353580, Seattle, WA 98195-3580.

- ( ) SLADIS      Balkan Fund – Ensure the continued teaching of Balkan languages
- ( ) CZECHS      Czech Studies Endowment Fund – Support for students studying Czech
- ( ) POLISS      Friends of Polish Studies Fund – General support for Polish studies
- ( ) SLADIS      Friends of Slavic Languages & Literatures – Gifts may be expended at the discretion of the Chair
- ( ) SLAVIC      Institutional Allowance – General support for the department, including awards for undergraduate and graduate students
- ( ) MICKLE      Micklesen Graduate Fund – General support for graduate program
- ( ) SLAVIC      Nora Holdsworth Scholarship – Scholarship for winner of annual Olympiada competition
- ( ) POLDIS      Polish Distinguished Speakers Fund – Showcase achievements of Poles by bringing speakers to campus
- ( ) POLFUL      Polish Fulbright Fund – Increase Polish-specific course offerings by bringing Polish Fulbright scholars to the UW
- ( ) POLEND      Polish Studies Endowment Fund – Promote permanence and expansion of program to include more levels of Polish language, history and culture
- ( ) RUSSHO      Russian House Fund – Provide general support for the Russian House
- ( ) WESTEN1      Shosh Westen Outreach Fund – Support for departmental outreach efforts
- ( ) SWAYZE      Swayze Fellowship Fund – Fellowship support for graduate students
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