

Slavic News: Winter 2020



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, KATARZYNA DZIWIREK

Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,



Happy 2020! I hope your year is off to a good start. We have some exciting news to share. Our two Romanian lecturers, Otilia Baraboi and Ileana Marin, have been awarded the Order of Merit in Education at the Rank of Cavalier by Romanian President Klaus Iohannis! This honor, awarded on December 1, 2019, was bestowed upon them for their activities promoting Romanian language and culture. In addition to co-founding the American Romanian Cultural Society (ARCS) and building educational programs for the Romanian community in the Seattle area, Ileana and Otilia have also created a course exploring the art, literature, and film of Romania, which they teach every year at the University of Washington. We are very proud that their hard work and dedication have been recognized. Congratulations, Ileana and Otilia!

In October of last year, Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. To celebrate, we have invited Jennifer Croft, Olga's translator, to give a talk on May 5, 2020. Jennifer is an accomplished author and translator. She translates Polish, Spanish, and Ukrainian, and is perhaps best known for her translation of Olga Tokarczuk's novel Flights, for which both she and Tokarczuk won the 2018 Man Booker International Prize. Last year Jennifer also published her own book, Homesick, which is an original memoir that mixes photography and impressionistic autobiographical writing to tell the story of her artistic coming of age. We hope you can join us for her event.

January was a very exciting month in the department. On the 17th, we had our first ever Malanka celebration. This Ukrainian New Year festivity involves singing, games, and kutia, and we were happy to bring the tradition to the department. On January 23rd, UW History Professor James Felak gave a fascinating talk on the collapse of Communist regimes in the "northern tier" of East Central Europe during the revolutionary year of 1989. The lecture recounted the dramatic events of the time, highlighted the key personalities involved, and presented some important insights bequeathed to us by these experiences. Finally, as part of our efforts to give our students professional outlets for their language skills, we invited Dr. Anthony J. Vanchu (Ph.D.) of TechTrans International, to speak about his experiences teaching Russian at NASA.

I want to close by wishing you all a very good New Year: much success in your professional endeavors and much joy and fulfillment in your private lives. I hope you will stay in touch with us in 2020.

Kat Dziwirek

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures** is getting a **new major!** On January 17, 2020, Divisional Dean Brian Reed announced that the newly proposed division-wide literature major will call our department home. The Global Literary Studies major, or GLITS for short, is projected to go into effect in Autumn 2021, and aims to “ensure that future undergraduates at UW have options to engage in the study of literature across national boundaries and across historical periods from ancient to modern times.” Unlike traditional majors, GLITS will be managed by a Steering Committee, which will work with all of the UW language and literature departments to offer undergraduates an “array of courses that examine the specific characteristics, importance, impact, and effects of the many forms and genres of literature.” We are happy to welcome GLITS to the department, and owe a special debt of gratitude to Professor Gordana Crnković, who has been one of the key members of the special task force developing this major.

In collaboration with the **UW Libraries** and the **American Romanian Cultural Society (ARCS)**, the Slavic Department has begun sponsoring a monthly East Central European, Southeast European and Baltic book discussion group called *Readings from the Heart of Europe*. Meetings, which take place on the first or second Saturday of each month, are held in the Odegaard Undergraduate Library and are open to all interested individuals in the greater Seattle community. For a schedule of upcoming meetings and the books that will be discussed, visit and follow the [Readings from the Heart of Europe Facebook page](#). For more information, contact coordinators Otilia Baraboi (otilia@uw.edu) or Michael Biggins (mbiggins@uw.edu).

Join the **Slavic East European Teachers Association of Washington!** SEETAW, formed in October 2018, seeks to provide recognition of and support to the growing number of teachers of Russian and other Slavic and East European languages in Washington State. Priority goals include:

- Promotion and expansion of Slavic and East European languages in K-12 and higher education.
- Dissemination of information about World Language Competency-Based Credit Testing and the Seal of Biliteracy to Slavic and East European language communities in Washington.
- Support for heritage language learners and community-based language schools.
- Professional development for teachers of Slavic and East European languages in our region and integration into the world language teaching profession.

All Slavic and East European heritage language schools are eligible to [partner with SEETAW](#), and all teachers of these languages (whether community-based, K-12, college or university) are invited to [join the association](#) (for free). We hope to see you at our 2020 events!

FACULTY NEWS

Professor José Alaniz may be on sabbatical this year, but he has had a busy fall and winter. In addition to participating in the UW-University of Ljubljana 2019 Scholars Exchange (you can read more about that in the Slovene News section), he recently gave a talk on historical trauma and disability in Czech comics as part of the Disability Studies Brown Bag Series, and was interviewed by the [UW Translation Studies Hub](#) for their [#UWtranslators](#) series!

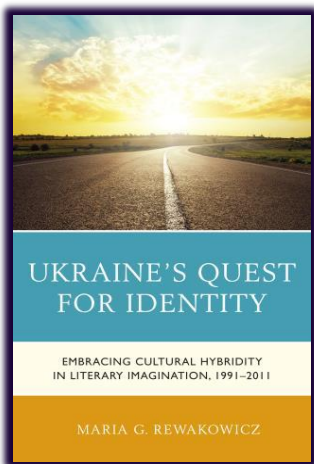
Affiliate Professor Michael Biggins' article titled “How Kovačič's Fur Coat Is Made: What a Formalist Analysis Tells Us about the Great Slovenian Novel” and his essay titled “Raising Adria: Vladimir Bartol's Evocation of the Last Decades of Habsburg Trieste” were published in the Fall 2019 issue (vol. 41, no. 2) of the journal *Slovene Studies*. His English translation of Book Two of Lojze Kovačič's three-volume autofictional novel [Newcomers](#) (*Prišleki*, first published in Slovene in 1984-85) appeared in February 2020 from Archipelago Books in New York.

Professor Galya Diment had a productive sabbatical in the fall. As a member of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Commission, she flew to Washington D.C. in October 2019 to take part in evaluating the proposals for English, British Empire, and European literature. She also finished two long articles—one on Katherine Mansfield and Russian Mystics, and the other on Vera Inber's book for children, "When I Was Small"—both of which will be published this year. January has been equally exciting, as Professor Diment's 2019 book of essays, *H. G. Wells and All Things Russian*, was recently reviewed in the [Times Literary Supplement](#), and her article on Marc Chagall and Amedeo Modigliani as Jewish painters appeared in the January 24, 2020 issue of Tablet Magazine.

Affiliate Professor Gene Lemcio gave a podcast interview to the UW Jackson School of International Studies in December 2019, as part of their "ReligioPolitics" series. This podcast, intended for diplomats and international affairs professionals, invites a number of academic guests to speak on how religion influences politics, and vice versa. To hear Dr. Lemcio's interview, in which he explores the relationship between religion and politics in Ukraine, visit the Jackson School of International Studies' [webpage for the series](#).

Dr. Lemcio would like to include the following correction to the information in his podcast: The Tomos granting autocephaly to Ukraine's Orthodox Church was issued on January 6, 2020, not January 2.

Affiliate Faculty Maria Rewakowicz's 2018 book, *Ukraine's Quest for Identity: Embracing Cultural*



Hybridity in Literary Imagination, 1991-2011, won the inaugural Omeljan Pritsak Book Prize in Ukrainian Studies this past October. She was presented with the award at the annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in San Francisco on Nov. 25, 2019.

STAFF NEWS

Meet our new student office assistant, Lupe García!

Being a first-generation college student with a farm-working family, the idea of a post-secondary education seemed out of place. Going against my culture's norms, I decided to attend the University of Washington in hopes of giving back to my community and family who sacrificed so much for me. Coming from Eastern Washington from a small city where the population consisted of Hispanics and Caucasians, moving to Seattle was a huge culture shock. I struggled to find a "home" in such a huge campus. Navigating this big city was very difficult but I was not going to let my fear get in the way of my success.



Like most first generation college students, I did not come here to waste my time and money on a degree that wouldn't give me the results I wanted. I decided to aim big and go for Pre-Medicine and become a doctor to help my family who suffers from a variety of medical conditions. The first two quarters were not going as planned, Chemistry wasn't going well and the stress was affecting my mental health. I had a realization that Pre-Med wasn't something that brought me joy, it was something that was expected of me to do. Still wanting to help my community and unrepresented people, I came upon the major of Speech and Hearing Sciences. As of now Speech and Hearing Sciences still remains as my intended major and I aspire to become a speech pathologist. There has been a lot of self-growth and learning from my time at UW. I am happy to work for the Slavic Department and I am excited to see what the rest of my UW years have to offer!

STUDENT NEWS

Ph.D. Candidate Veronica Muskheli participates in UW – University of Ljubljana Exchange

Doctoral candidate Veronica Muskheli visited Slovenia in September / October of 2019 as part of the University of Washington—University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange Program. There she collaborated with her mentors Dr. Milena Blažič of the Pedagoška fakulteta (School of Education) and leading Slovenian ethnologist Dr. Monika Kropelj of the Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti –SAZU (Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts).

In the true spirit of faculty exchange, Veronica co-taught a course on world folk- and fairytales at the



Veronica with Dr. Milena Blažič (left to right) in front of the Muzej rezjanskih ljudi (Museum of Resian Folks) in Solbica, Italy

University of Ljubljana with Dr. Blažič. The course, offered through the English-language Erasmus Program, was designed for students from all over the European Union. Veronica delivered 24 hours of lectures and translated two Slovenian canonical works of literature into English for the course—Frane Milčinski’s “Mama morje” (“Mother Sea”) and “Rdeče jabolko” (“The Red Apple”) by Svetlana Makarovič. Aside from leading class discussions on tales, as a storyteller herself, Veronica

performed a Russian and French folktale for the students. As an observing guest, she also attended thesis defenses by Dr. Blažič’s students and Dr. Blažič’s other classes, which were taught in Slovenian. Veronica was particularly interested in learning Dr. Blažič’s pedagogical method of digitally mapping stories—a technique that Veronica plans to use in her own teaching of Slavic folk narratives at the University of Washington.

For her research, together with her two mentors, Veronica visited the village of Solbica in the Resia Valley of far northeastern Italy, where people speak, or more accurately, used to speak, the Resian dialect of the Slovenian language. Her visit was scheduled to coincide with a conference held there and dedicated to the centennial of the most prominent collector of

Resian folktales, Milko Matičetov. In the 1950s, Dr. Matičetov’s team collected hundreds of highly original yet traditional tales—a veritable treasure of Slovenian folklore, still waiting their turn to be presented to the world. Today Drs. Blažič and Kropelj head research efforts into the tales, which include their translation.

At the conference in Solbica, Veronica delivered a talk on the joys and challenges of translating Resian folktales into English. Her talk attracted the attention of Peter Česnik, the Slovenian Minister for the Diasporas, to the project. Veronica also met other Slovenian and Italian colleagues who are involved in this collaborative endeavor: Professors Matej Šekli from the University of Ljubljana and Kasilda Bedenk from the University of Graz, Austria, as well as Luigia Negro, the director of the Muzej rezjanskih ljudi (Museum of Resian Folks) in Solbica.

Connections and associations established during the trip are extremely important for Veronica’s current research, translation projects, and teaching. At the recent inaugural meeting of Translation Readings at the University of Washington Translation Studies Hub, Veronica presented her version of Tina Wajtawa’s tale “Žabica” (“The Frog Maiden”), which was very well received by the audience. There she also discussed some of the challenges of translating Slovenian, a language that has grammatical gender, into English, a language that lacks this feature. She focused on this characteristic of the Slovenian language because grammatical gender creates a particularly interesting tension in this tale, apparently impossible to capture in an English translation.

Veronica is very grateful to have been able to participate in the University of Washington—University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange Program in the fall, and would like to thank both the UW and the University of Ljubljana for giving her the financial support to allow her to partake in this important, educational experience. She would also like to thank Professor



Kasilda Bedenk, Veronica, and Svetlana Makarovič (left to right) in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Kasilda Bedenk, who shared her knowledge about Resia and helped with the translation and editing of the Slovenian language slides for Veronica's presentation at the conference in Novo Mesto, as well as her hosting mentors, Dr. Milena Blažič and Dr. Monika Kropelj, who not only made arrangements for her teaching schedule and her attendance of conferences, but treated her to great Slovenian food, museum visits, excursions around towns, and theater performances.

-Veronica Muskheli

For more information about Slovene Studies, see the Slovene News section.

POLISH NEWS

In Memoriam of Maria Kott

On January 23, 2020, our dear friend Maria "Isia" Kott passed away after a battle with cancer. Isia has been associated with UW PSEC from the moment the organization was founded in 2005. We were always able to depend on her to help organize lectures, exhibits, or auctions. Isia brought brilliant ideas to the Lecture Program meetings and supported our programs financially. Last year, Isia and her husband Ryszard donated \$25,000 to the UWPSEC Lecture Series Fund. The memories of Isia will stay forever in our hearts and her legacy will live on at the Polish Studies at the University of Washington.



Maria "Isia" Kott

On January 23, 2020, **Professor James Felak** gave a lecture entitled "Evolution and Revolution in the Year of Wonders: The Fall of Communism in Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia in 1989." The lecture, sponsored by UW PSEC, was a continuation of a series of lectures organized in October



Dr. Felak at his January 23rd Talk

by REECAS to commemorate the events of 1989 and assess the outcomes of that transformational year for Europe.

The annual **FIUTS CulturalFest** took place on February 6, 2020. The Polish booth attracted many visitors who learned about Poland and Polish culture from students who volunteered their time to share their knowledge with the guests.



Polish Booth at 2020 FIUTS CulturalFest

On May 5, **Jennifer Croft**, an author, critic and translator, will give a lecture about the specific challenges

of translating The Books of Jacob—the most recent novel by Nobel Prize-winning Polish author, **Olga Tokarczuk**. (Free and open to the public: May 5, 2020 at 7:30PM, Kane Hall -Walker-Ames Room)

This year, our Endowment fund reached over \$314,000, for which we are deeply grateful to our donors. One of the initiatives supported by donations is our continuous cooperation with the Polish – U.S. Fulbright Commission, which over the years has allowed us to enrich Polish curriculum at the UW by bringing lecturers from Poland. In this academic year, we will welcome **Dr. Justyna Zych** from the University of Warsaw as our Fulbright Lecturer of Polish Studies. During Spring Quarter, Dr. Zych will be teaching a course entitled *Warsaw: A Window to Contemporary Polish History and Culture*. We invite students and auditors to sign up for this exciting class.

Wishing you all a successful and happy 2020!

-Krystyna Untersteiner, UW PSEC Chair

ROMANIAN NEWS

2019 was a great year for Romanian programs at the UW thanks to a fruitful collaboration between the Slavic Languages & Literatures Department, REECAS, and the American Romanian Cultural Society (ARCS). On April 27, Slavic Affiliate Lecturer Otilia Baraboi presented a research paper entitled "Community

Dreams: Heritage Education in Romanian” at the 25th REECAS Conference at UW. Drawing on her experience as a language teacher, curriculum developer, and co-founder of ARCS, a local non-profit initiated together with her colleague and REECAS Affiliate, Ileana Marin, Otilia talked about various attitudes toward heritage language acquisition that add to the more concrete challenges of creating the first secular Romanian language school in the U.S.

From July 15-26, 2019, the 2nd edition of ARCS Summer Camp “Romanian Role Models” brought 20 heritage students on campus for an intensive language program, paired with cultural history and filmmaking. Otilia Baraboi coordinated the program together with two Romanian instructors, actress Ioana Flora and director Iulia Rugina, who came from Bucharest for this special occasion. For the second year in a row, they taught students how to write a script, act, film, direct, and edit their projects. The program included a special



2019 ARCS Summer Camp

fieldtrip to Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, where the students learned about their heritage and Queen Marie of Romania’s official visit to the region in 1926. The students integrated the information they learned about various Romanian personalities into their final projects and produced four shorts that were presented at the 6th edition of the Romanian Film Festival on November 16.

The CHID Exploration Seminar “Borderlands between West and East” (August 25 - September 19, 2019), co-directed by Mark Gitenstein, former US Ambassador to Romania (2009-2012), and Ileana Marin, a REECAS affiliate, took a group of UW students to the margins of the EU in Romania and the Republic of Moldova, and even further to the East to Ukraine. In all three countries, the schedule combined in-class lectures

with peripatetic courses through downtown Bucharest, Iasi, Chisinau, and Kyiv, as well as museum visits, and trips to hidden gems of architecture and culture (painted monasteries in Bukovina, Peles Castle, Old Orhei in Moldova, the baroque village of Kozelets in Ukraine, to mention only a few). In each country, students and program directors were the guests of the American Embassy and saw the dedication, hard work, and professionalism of American diplomats who inspired some of the students to consider a career in diplomacy.

On October 29, 2019, Professor Dennis Deletant’s lecture on the Romanian Revolution opened the series of academic presentations about the fall of communism and its aftermath. His talk was the pre-event of the 6th edition of the Romanian Film Festival organized by ARCS. Trying to untangle several theories about the events in December 1989 and to check their validity against recently declassified documents, he also offered a multiperspective approach on the most confusing days in Romania’s contemporary history.

The Romanian Film Festival “One Eye Laughing, One Eye Crying: Stories OFF the Wall” (November 15-17, 2019) was by far the most successful edition. Celebrating 30 years since the fall of communism in Eastern Europe through films from Ukraine, Moldova, Germany, Bulgaria, and Romania, the festival attracted a diverse crowd of moviegoers ranging from Americans of Eastern European descent who share similar histories, to locals interested both in the powerful lesson of communist history and in the artistic accomplishments of the Eastern European film. For the first time, the festival hosted a debate on the social discrimination of Roma children in Romania that followed the screening of *Toto and His Sisters* by Alexander Nanau. Another first was the fact that several screenings were attended by students enrolled in the class “Romania Transformed,” co-taught by Otilia Baraboi and Ileana Marin. It was for their contribution to promoting Romanian culture that on December 1, they were awarded the Order of Merit in Education at the Rank of Cavalier by the Romanian President Klaus Iohannis.

On December 7, 2019 at Northwest Film Forum, the screening of *Videograms of a Revolution*, the documentary by Harun Farocki and Andrei Ujica, opened the series “The Romanians: 30 Years of Cinema

Revolution,” a U.S. tour organized by Making Waves in New York. Through April 2020, nine more screenings of famous, yet less distributed Romanian film masterpieces will be presented at SIFF Film Center and Northwest Film Forum. More information can be found on the [ARCS website](#).

On January 9, 2020, Ileana Marin and Otilia Baraboi participated at the MLA Annual Convention in Seattle. Marin presented a paper on the politics of translation of Romanian post-1989 literature into English. Baraboi talked about gender and post-communist memory formation in her paper “Post-Communist Memory in the Documentaries of Romanian Women Directors”.



Otilia Baraboi (left) and Ileana Marin (right)

Romanian heritage students’ needs. For the first time, STEM vocabulary and linguistic competence will be addressed together in one program.

On March 7th of this year, Otilia Baraboi and Ileana Marin, alongside Emeritus Professor James Augerot, invite you all to the first fundraising event of the American Romanian Cultural Society at Hotel Sorrento. Part of the money raised will be directed to the Romanian Studies Fund, hosted by the Slavic Department, to support and revive the long tradition of teaching Romanian language and culture at UW, and to continue their successful course on contemporary Romanian literature, art, and film.

-Ileana Marin and Otilia Baraboi

SLOVENE NEWS

The UW is broadening its options for engaging with Slovenia and Slovene Studies. While the UW curriculum has enjoyed an active Slovene studies

presence since the 1960s, when Professor Jože Velikonja (Geography and REECAS) joined the faculty here, in 2020 the options for UW students and faculty to engage with Slovenia across many disciplines will be experiencing their most dramatic increase in the University’s history.

In January 2020, the UW Study Abroad Office announced UW’s first ever campus-wide quarter and semester-long [student exchange with the University of Ljubljana](#) in Slovenia. Each year the exchange will support up to twelve participants, both undergraduate and graduate students, from each university. Located just one hour by car from Trieste, Italy and the Adriatic Sea, one hour from Zagreb, two hours from Venice, four hours from Vienna, and no time at all from the diverse and spectacular natural environments of Slovenia, Ljubljana will offer UW students a rich educational and cultural experience in an easily navigable, historic city. Students will be able to choose from an array of courses taught in English by accessible faculty, many of whom are among the top researchers in their fields.

Students curious about Slovenia, artificial intelligence, and the humanities may want to test the waters by enrolling in UW’s first-ever Early Fall Start program set to take place in Slovenia from August 30 – September 19, 2020. Designed and led by UW assistant professor [Gašper Beguš](#) and newly appointed UW Slavic languages affiliate instructor [Nina Beguš](#), this intensive, broadly interdisciplinary 3-week program will explore current issues in AI and their implications for ethics and the humanities on site in Ljubljana, designated an AI innovation hub by the European Union. Numerous expert guest speakers representing various aspects of Slovenia’s and Europe’s IT industry and its AI initiatives will engage with students in the classroom, providing insights into real-time issues, while a syllabus featuring relevant literary and critical work by major Slovene and European authors (in English) will provide context for engaging with the human and social implications of rapid technological change.

Finally, the longstanding [UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange](#) is continuing to provide participants from both institutions with invaluable experiences. You can read about Slavic Ph.D.

candidate Veronica Muskheli's experience in the Student News section of this newsletter. The other 2019 UW scholar, Professor José Alaniz, participated in the UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange in December 2019. He reports that his academic counterpart there, Professor Darja Zaviršek, Chair of Ljubljana's Program in Disability Studies, proved the perfect host and colleague, and an excellent contact for Disability Studies in the region. He gave three lectures on his work; met with members of the disability rights organization YHD Društvo za teorijo in kulturo hendikepa, including founder Elena Pečarič; got a private tour of the [Muzej Norosti](#) from founding director Sonja Bezjak; and interviewed several comic artists, rounding out what he describes as "a very full and productive trip."

The Scholars Exchange Committee is also happy to report that they have identified six new faculty and Ph.D. candidate participants to take part in the exchange during the 2020 calendar year. From UW, Professor Patricia Campbell (School of Music), Professor Mark Zirpel (School of Art), and Ph.D. candidate Jorge Bayona (History) will each be visiting Ljubljana for a period of two to four weeks to pursue a variety of research and curricular enrichment initiatives with colleagues at the University of Ljubljana. From Ljubljana, Professors Janez Štebe (Sociology), Krištof Oštir (Civil Engineering, Environment), and Dimitar Hristovski (Bioinformatics) will visit UW during the year to collaborate on research projects with their UW faculty counterparts.

-Michael Biggins

UKRAINIAN NEWS

Fulbright scholar Yana Sabliash is continuing the teaching of Ukrainian language at UW this year. On November 8, 2019, to celebrate Ukrainian Language and Literacy Day, Ms. Sabliash invited the broader community to join her class in trying their hand at writing the "Dictation of Unity." This dictation, broadcast throughout Ukraine to honor Ukrainian language and foster a sense of togetherness, also tests one's mastery of writing. On this occasion, Professor Laada Bilaniuk also presented a talk about language politics in Ukraine.



Yana with UW Community Members on Ukrainian Language and Literacy Day

Continuing our tradition of hosting showings of new films from Ukraine, on October 20, 2019 director Igor Piddubny presented his documentary titled "Ivan Mazepa: I Appoint You a Traitor" at UW. This film, honoring the 380th anniversary of the birthday of Hetman Ivan Mazepa, brought together rich archival material, works of art, and commentary from Ukrainian and international experts to trace the complexities of Mazepa's life and the conflicts that he faced. The film took the form of a riveting detective genre to tell the story of the famous kozak leader.

In Winter quarter, on January 17, 2020, Ms. Sabliash organized a Ukrainian "Malanka" celebration. Malanka is the celebration of the "Old New Year" according to the Julian calendar, which is still followed in Ukraine for religious holidays. Ms. Sabliash presented stories of traditions and videos of their practice in contemporary Ukraine, where participants dress up in a vivid and crazy costumes depicting various characters and beasts, then parade around the village caroling and performing. At the Malanka celebration in Padelford, participants joined in singing carols, including the famous "Shchedryk" (known in the US as the "Carol of the Bells"), and ate "kutya" (a wheat, poppy seed, honey



2020 Malanka Celebration

and nut dessert) and other treats. The celebration concluded by trying out a traditional divination practice using a handful of grains.

-Laada Bilaniuk

NEWS FROM YOU

Michele Anciaux Aoki (Ph.D., 1991; M.A., 1975) writes: "I officially retired from my position as International Education Administrator for Seattle Public Schools on September 1, 2019. Now the fun begins! I hope to apply all that I've learned working in the K-12 educational world these past 25+ years to promoting and expanding the learning and teaching of Slavic and East European languages in our state. Back to my roots, you could say, not by ethnicity, but by passion for these languages and cultures."

A starting place is the launch of the Slavic East European Teachers Association of Washington (SEETA), with our [UW Language Learning Center-hosted website](#). SEETA is officially represented on the Board of the Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT), thanks to our growing number of Russian teachers who completed the UW STARTALK Russian Teacher Program. Many of those were also UW Slavic Department grad students. We've so enjoyed their involvement in STARTALK.

I am also thrilled to continue my involvement in the [UW Committee for Multilingual Teaching, Research, and Learning](#). This group (recently formalized as a committee) has provided tremendous support to our Dual Language Immersion programs in Seattle and beyond. Check out our [upcoming and past events](#) (University of Washington and CELIN Forum: Raising Multilingual Citizens of the World on March 7, 2020).

On a personal note, I am so grateful for my increased free time to spend assisting my mom, who has dementia, through this time of transition. I've also assumed the guardianship for my 52-year-old sister with Down Syndrome. I feel like I'm becoming an expert in aging and dementia. So, if anyone's planning on getting old, feel free to contact me."

Bud Bard (M.A., 1966) was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, by the Government of Japan on May 21, 2019. This honor was bestowed upon him in recognition of his contributions in promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States, through his facilitation of sister city relationships.

Gray Carpenter Church (B.A., 1977) has begun work on a Doctor of Education degree in Adult and Lifelong Learning at the University of Arkansas. She plans to research distance education (online learning) with an emphasis on using technology to enhance student satisfaction.

Bob Ewen (Ph.D., 1979) writes: "In the Winter 2019 Newsletter I reported that I, as a board member of the Bulgarian Culture and Heritage Center in Seattle, was engaged in the final round of fundraising for Sound Portraits from Bulgaria: A Journey to a Vanished World, a partnership between American Ethnographer, Martin Koenig, and The Smithsonian Institution. We finished raising funds last July. The Project was unveiled September 18th and 19th in Sofia, Bulgaria in a ceremony at the Presidential Offices during which Mr. Koenig was presented with the Presidential Medal by Bulgarian President, Rumen Radev, and the opening of a Photography Expedition at the National Gallery of Art. Smithsonian Folkways has now released the 2 CD, 144 page, 12x12 hardback book of the same title. It is available on their website. On behalf of Martin Koenig, thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this effort."

Don Livingston (Ph.D., 1998) writes: "I continue to work a split appointment at Arizona State University as Senior Lecturer in Russian at the School of International Letters & Cultures and as Curriculum Coordinator & Faculty Lead of the Critical Languages Institute (CLI) in the Melikian Center. CLI this year began teaching Macedonian again, as well as instituting second-year Ukrainian in Kyiv. For the second year in a row I circumnavigated the planet: Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, France and Washington, DC."

Allan Mustard (B.A., 1978) writes: "I retired in June 2019 after almost 38 years of public service in three U.S. foreign affairs agencies (USICA, FAS, and State), including 4-1/2 years as U.S. ambassador to Turkmenistan. I am currently chairman of the board of directors of the non-profit OpenStreetMap Foundation, and a member of the advisory board of the Caspian Policy Center, a Washington, D.C. think tank. Ann and I are back in our house in Falls Church, Virginia, after 16 years straight abroad (Moscow, Mexico City, New Delhi, Ashgabat)."

GIFTS

The following is a list of gifts made to departmental funds since July 1, 2019. Many thanks to all donors for their generous support of Slavic Studies at the University of Washington!

Donors to the *Friends of Slavic Languages & Literatures Fund*:

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