

Slavic News: Winter 2021



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, KATARZYNA DZIWIUREK

Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,



Happy New Year! I certainly hope that it will be better than the last one for all of us. Here at the department we are soldiering on. This is our fourth quarter of teaching online and spring quarter looks to be the same. We are looking forward to next fall when we hope classes can resume in person.

Despite many challenges, especially to language teachers, our remote mode of operation has allowed us to organize events which would not be possible otherwise. There were two lectures on Soviet cinema organized by Prof. Sasha Senderovich. Our Ukrainian FLTA Marta Tomakhiv organized two exciting and well attended events on modern Ukrainian literature and on the holiday of Malanka. Both included presenters from Ukraine and the latter had live performances as well. The Polish group organized lectures about the economic underpinnings of the fall of socialism in Poland and the writing of Polish-Jewish history in interwar Poland. Prof. Michael Biggins continues to lead the Readings from the Heart of Europe book club monthly. Please make sure to check our website and Facebook to learn about future events!

I am keeping my fingers crossed that soon we will be able to travel, see our loved ones and do all the things we have missed so much over the course of the last year. I want to close by quoting an anonymous Polish poem (in my translation) which has been circulating on social media lately.

Co jest w szczepionce?
Zapomniane pocałunki i uściski.
Wycieczki szkolne. Babcie
i dziadkowie przy świątecznym stole.
Film w kinie z popcornem
i dużą colą. Wieczór w teatrze
przy pełnej sali. Koncerty.
Kolacja w restauracji z przyjaciółmi,
podczas której próbujemy nawzajem
swoich przystawek. Weekendowy
wyjazd wymyślony w zeszłym tygodniu.
Domówka, na którą każdy przynosi
własnoręcznie zrobione przysmaki.
Zawody sportowe. Uścisk dłoni
na powitanie. Spokojny sen
i otwarte granice. Nauczyciele spacerujący
między rzędami ławek, Odloty co kilka
minut i tłok na dworcu. Swoboda pozostania
w domu, kiedy chcę,,,,

*What is in the vaccine?
Forgotten kisses and hugs.
School trips. Grandmas
and grandpas at the holiday table.
A movie in the theater with popcorn
and a big cola. An evening in a full
theater. Concerts.
A dinner in a restaurant with friends,
during which we try each other's
appetizers. A weekend trip
thought up last week.
A house party to which everyone brings
homemade delicacies.
Sports competitions. A handshake
in greeting. Peaceful sleep
and open borders. Teachers walking
between rows of desks. Departures every
few minutes and a crowded station.
Freedom to stay home when I want....*

Please take care during these difficult times and keep in touch.

All the best,

Kat Dziwiurek

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

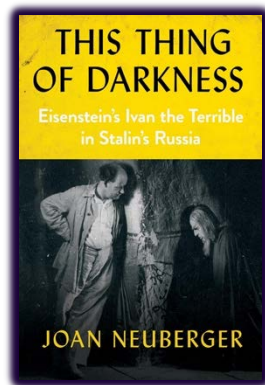
A message from the Slavic and East European Teachers Association of Washington (SEETAW)

Please join us for the first Zoom meeting of the Slavic and East European Teachers Association of Washington (SEETAW). We were recognized in February 2020 as an official chapter of AATSEEL and we are represented on the Board of the Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT). The meeting will take place on February 20, 2021 at 1pm, and will be a 30-minute introduction for everyone who believes that we should support and expand the learning and teaching of languages spoken in Russia and Eastern and Central Europe. [Register in advance for the meeting](#), and you will receive a confirmation email with information about how to join.

Before the SEETAW meeting, join language teaching colleagues from the University of Washington and around the state for the 2021 UW Heritage Language Symposium. The symposium will take place from 9:00am – 12:30pm on February 20th, and features a keynote speech by Dr. Olesya Kisselev, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas San Antonio. For more information and to register, visit the [2021 UW Heritage Language Symposium website](#).

Lecture Series on Stalinism and Russian Cinema

In connection to his course "Russian Revolutions: Film," Assistant Professor Sasha Senderovich organized a series of two public lectures during the Autumn 2020 quarter. Prof. Lilya Kaganovsky (University of Illinois at



Urbana Champaign) spoke on "The Voice of Technology: Soviet Cinema's Transition to Sound, 1929-1935" on October 26, and Prof. Joan Neuberger (University of Texas Austin) gave a talk entitled "Sergei Eisenstein's Ivan the Terrible in Stalin's Russia" on November 9. The talks were co-sponsored by the departments of History,

Cinema and Media Studies, and the Ellison Center for

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies; they were held remotely because of the Covid-19 pandemic and were attended by about 160 people both from the Seattle area and other cities in the United States and Europe.

Creation of new scholarship for students

Marina Dunaravich (BA 2009) has recently created a scholarship to honor the memory and legacy of her late grandfather and brother. This scholarship, named the Oleg Fomin Scholarship, is intended to encourage and promote the exploration and study of the languages, cultures, and histories of the post-Soviet states. It will provide one student per year with \$1,500 to travel to the region for this purpose. Initially funded for a period of five years, Marina hopes this scholarship will provide undergraduate and graduate students in the Slavic Department with an opportunity to conduct self-directed travel and to research and tell the stories that people have lived, but that have not yet been told. We would like to wholeheartedly thank Marina for her generous gift and establishing this fund!



Oleg Vadimovich Fomin and Oleg Valerievich Fomin-Shakhov

FACULTY NEWS

Professor José Alaniz published a new essay on disability representation in Russian superhero comics. The essay, entitled "Allies and Disability Representation in Contemporary Russian Comics," is available to read at [Comics Forum](#). He also

reviewed the 2020 Russian horror/sci-fi film "Sputnik" in [KinoKultura](#).

Affiliate Professor Michael Biggins has received the 2020 Trubar Award! This prestigious award is given only to the most highly regarded contributors in the preservation and promotion of Slovene written language and/or written cultural heritage, and is an honor to receive. Be sure to check out the [40-minute interview](#) with Dr. Biggins about the Trubar Award that was broadcast over RTV-Slovenija, as well as the interview on [Radio Prvi](#) and articles by the [Slovenian Government](#), [The National and University Library](#), [RTV-Slovenija](#), and [Primorske Novice](#).

Professor Galya Diment was a Peer Reviewer for both The Fulbright US Scholar Program and NEH (National Endowment for Humanities) in the fall. She also served as a member of the UW Fulbright Scholarship Committee and published an article—"Katherine Mansfield and Russian Mystics"—in *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Katherine Mansfield*.

Affiliate Professor Gene Lemcio continues his research post retirement. Last March he published a new book, entitled [The Way of the Lord: Plotting St. Luke's Itinerary. A Pedagogical Aid](#) (Wipf and Stock, 2020), in which he observes that Polish and Ukrainian versions of Scripture are among translations that render the Greek ΑΦΕΣΙΣ as "letting go" or "release" (odpuszczenie and відпущення, respectively), and notes that dynamics of "forgiveness" are more evident in them than in English Bibles. He also critically reviewed Andrii Danylenko's [From the Bible to Shakespeare: Pantelejmon Kulish \(1819-1897\) and the Formation of Literary Ukrainian](#). His review, which also makes suggestions for further research, appears in *Наукові Записки: Серія Богослов'я* ["Academic Texts. Series Theology, The Ukrainian Catholic University]. 5 (Lviv: 2018) 209–13.

Assistant Professor Sasha Senderovich presented a paper entitled "'We are Dead People: The Soviet Jew as the Undead'" at a conference on Jewish Zombies organized by Pennsylvania State University and held remotely. He received a competitive fellowship at the Frankel Institute for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, to begin his new project on "Translating the Soviet Jew between Russia and America." He finished his first monograph, *How the*

Soviet Jew Was Made, which is scheduled to be published by Harvard University Press in the spring of 2022.

STUDENT NEWS

Despite the pandemic we welcomed three new graduate students to the department this year. Even though we have not yet met in person, we are so happy they are here!

Meet Taylor Eftimov, Ph.D. Student

Taylor is interested in former Yugoslav literature and culture. She is originally from Pennsylvania, where she did her undergrad at Delaware Valley University with a double major in Wildlife Management & Conservation and English Literature. She then went to live in Florida and got a Master's in English Literature from Florida Atlantic University where her concentration was in World and Multicultural Literature. While writing her Master's thesis, she took an interest in a memoir called *Bluebird* by Vesna Marić. That is how she developed an interest in former Yugoslavia and why she finds herself at UW studying with "some really great professors."



Why did you choose to apply to the UW Slavic Dept?

I was really drawn to UW's Slavic department because it is one of the only programs in the country that doesn't just focus solely on Russian language and literature. I don't know Russian and that was a big requirement to attend other universities. I was very impressed by the range of languages offered by the department (even rarely taught languages in universities, such as Slovene!) and it made me excited to expand my knowledge of different Slavic languages, as well as focus on the literature aspect as well.

Have you ever been to Seattle before? Any "must see" destinations for you (once things open up again)?

I'm living in Bellevue right now and I've still never been to Seattle. It's funny because my family took a family vacation to Seattle the summer that I went to Macedonia for two months, so I never got to see it, but my family assures me it is a cool place and that after COVID they will come and show me around my own city! I'd love to explore campus once it opens and I've heard a lot about the Space Needle, but that's about all I know of.

Meet Svetlana Ostroverkhova, M.A. Student



Svetlana is from Moscow, Russia and last year got her Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Literature. She would like to focus on Russian literature in her further studies, specifically on the links between the oeuvres of Dostoevsky and Solzhenitsyn.

Why did you choose to apply to the UW Slavic Dept?

UW was recommended to me by the people whose opinion is important to me. I have chosen the Slavic Department because this is the place, I believe, where I could learn and contribute to the most.

Have you ever been to Seattle before? Any "must see" destinations for you (once things open up again)?

One might find it curious, but I have never been to neither Seattle nor any other American city before - life is full of surprises! Once things open up again, I would love to go to the opera. My dream is to visit Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Anything else you would like to share?

My first quarter at UW began with a TAship for the "Ways of Feeling" course. It helps me a lot in understanding American culture as well as the other ones represented here, and thus to adjust to the new

conditions. I would like to thank Prof. Dziwirek for such a great opportunity!

Meet Stefana Vukadinovich, Ph.D. Student



Stefana earned a B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature at the Kazan Federal University (Russia) and an M.A. in Mandarin Linguistics at the University of Alberta (Canada). Her research interests center around the analysis of naturally occurring social interaction. Using linguistic and sociological tools, she analyzes how languages are shaped by interaction. This includes various verbal and nonverbal phenomena that occur during casual conversations and institutional interactions. She believes her passion for languages and linguistics naturally developed due to two factors: that she was born in Kazan, a city with a mix of Tatar and Russian languages; and that she was raised speaking Russian and Serbian at home. During her program at UW, she plans to analyze teacher-student interaction in Second Language Classroom and acquisition of Russian in classroom settings.

Why did you choose to apply to the UW Slavic Dept?

During my M.A. program, I conducted a small study on hashtags in Russian Twitter for one of my sociolinguistic classes. The study inspired me to start reading more papers on Russian linguistics and this interest eventually grew into an idea of dedicating my doctoral dissertation to the Russian language. While I wanted to focus on Russian, I was looking for a diverse Slavic department where I can also learn about other Slavic languages and cultures. UW Slavic Department offers a wide range of courses in linguistics and literature which gives me the freedom to search for a more holistic view of my research work. I am also glad that faculty members and students form a very friendly community that supports and helps with any research ideas.

Have you ever been to Seattle before? Any “must see” destinations for you (once things open up again)?

I have, but it was a 24-hour layover, so I only visited a few places. My must-see attractions are the Space Needle, the Olympic Peninsula, Mount Rainier, and the San Juan Islands. Washington State has much to offer!

Anything else you would like to share?

I am excited to be a part of this program and look forward to meeting everyone in person!

FULBRIGHT NEWS

In addition to our new graduate students, we also welcomed a new Fulbright FLTA from Ukraine this year, Marta Tomakhiv. Although in the middle of a pandemic, she is enjoying every minute of her experience!

I still don't know what places to call home – I feel at



home anywhere I go. I was born in a small city in Ukraine called Ternopil, where my parents live. During the last five years, I have lived in Kyiv. Before coming to the UW to do my Fulbright, I have worked as an English Instructor at the National Academy of

Ukraine and a Project Specialist for the Academic Integrity Project at a non-profit organization called American Councils for International Education.

I guess I can gather all my ‘activities’ under the field of education. I enjoy working with people and facilitate learning and culture exchange. I believe that we learn from every person we meet in our life and share our knowledge with them in kind. My hobbies include playing the guitar, do freewriting, yoga, cycling, and just roaming around and exploring new places.

At the moment, I work as a Fulbright Ukrainian Language Teaching Assistant at the Slavic Languages

and Literatures Department, and I love my job and studies. There is nothing as enriching for me as teaching my mother tongue and spreading the word about Ukraine through my classes, Ukraine NOW Zoom Talks monthly, and Speak Ukrainian Conversation Club weekly.

This is my first time in Seattle - I am a coffee-lover and don't mind the rain. Being a girl-scout, I appreciate the embracing and beautiful nature of the evergreen city and the State of Washington. Even though covid-times are challenging, I value this once-in-a-lifetime chance to come to the US and become a part of the UW community. When the situation improves, I still hope to meet more people in person and follow my dream-destinations of Alaska and Hawaii and more places around.

So far, I enjoy each and every minute of my Fulbright experience. I have been lucky to have made friends with my acquaintances and colleagues, which certainly helps me feel at home in Seattle. And I do hope that the best experiences are yet to come!

-Marta Tomakhiv

POLISH NEWS

In Memoriam

On January 22, 2021, our beloved friend, co-founder, and generous supporter **Martha Golubiec** passed away. Martha was a pillar of our Polish community. She promoted Polish history, culture, language, and traditions, contributing greatly to the Pacific



Northwest's ethnic landscape. Martha was always ready to bring new ideas to broaden our organization's activities and visibility, she personified our mission of Bridging Cultures through Education. She will be greatly missed, and her legacy will live forever

at the Polish Studies at the University of Washington.

More about Martha's life can be found on the [Polish Home Association's website](#).

Past Events

We are pleased that the pandemic challenges did not curtail our 2020 activities and we were able to bring great lectures to our community.

In September, **Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek** gave a lecture *From Ours to Alien: The Journey of Polish OBCY*, which traced the history of the Polish word **obcy**, whose original meaning of *common, joint, mutual, societal, collective, communal, or public*, has changed over time to mean *alien, foreign, or strange*, while in other Slavic languages the word retained its original meaning.

In October, **Professor Brian Porter-Szűcs** from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, talked about (*Why Did Socialism Fail in Poland?*) In his lecture, Prof. Porter-Szűcs discussed what the economists thought they were trying to accomplish, and what this tells us about the historical success or failure of socialism.

In November, we hosted a lecture by **Professor Natalia Aleksiu**, a scholar of Modern Jewish History at Touro College. Professor Aleksiu gave a lecture *Women and the Writing of Polish Jewish History before the Holocaust* about the social and cultural backgrounds of Sara Ajzensztejn and other Polish Jewish female historians, and examined their scholarly contribution as Jewish women, public intellectuals, and minority historians.



Looking Forward

On February 17, 2021 at 6:00PM, **Professor Beth Holmgren** from Duke University will give a lecture *Interhuman History: How Magdalena Grzebałkowska Rewrites the Aftermath of World War II in "Poland 1945: War and Peace"*. Magdalena Grzebałkowska, an award-winning author of Polish *reportaż* has produced a 21st-century *War and Peace* strikingly different from Lev

Tolstoy's great 19th-century novel.

To attend the lecture, join us on [ZOOM](#).

Mark your Calendar for the upcoming lectures:

Anna Cholewinska, *Fr. Jan of the Ladybug: A story of Fr. Jan Twardowski*; March 24, 2021.

Marek Wieczorek, Lecture about an iconic Polish artist Katarzyna Kobro; April 14, 2021.

Iza Gabrielson, *Visual Metaphors: Bridging American Push Pin Studios and Polish Poster School*; date TBA.

ZOOM links to the lectures will be accessible later on the Slavic Department's website.

We hope to see you, virtually!

-Krystyna Untersteiner

SLOVENE NEWS

June 2020 saw the close - online over Zoom - of the Department's most recent two-year cycle of accelerated Slovene language instruction, during which, as ever, we covered the equivalent of three years of study in two. One of that cohort's graduates, M.A. student Hannah Standley, simultaneously completed her REECAS M.A. thesis on a topic in Slovene cultural anthropology that drew heavily on her Slovene language competency; another student from the cohort, Gerrit Scheepers (UW School of Music, DMA 2020), who in winter 2018-2019 was a scholar in residence at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana as part of the UW-Ljubljana Scholars Exchange, upon receiving his doctoral degree in 2020 assumed a job as director of the choral music program at a 4-year college outside of Pittsburgh, PA, where he is already developing a choral music repertory and degree program that will draw heavily on Slovene choral traditions - and he's in exactly the right place geographically to do that.

The newest cohort of Slovene language students coalesced this past fall and is on course to produce new readers, speakers and writers of the language by spring 2022. For those who already know some basics

of Slovene, or who know another Slavic language well and are very quick studies, there's still time to climb aboard beginning with our spring quarter 2021 course, SLVN 404 (Intermediate Slovene I). Contact mbiggins@uw.edu.

Last March the pandemic put all plans for the UW-Ljubljana University Scholars Exchange on hold, but fortunately all of our excellent candidates from last year have declared their intention to participate during the 2021 calendar year. From UW our participants will include Professor Patricia Campbell (School of Music), Professor Mark Zirpel (School of Art), and Ph.D. candidate Jorge Bayona (History). From Ljubljana, Professors Janez Štebe (Sociology), Krištof Oštir (Civil Engineering, Environment), and Dimitar Hristovski (Bioinformatics) will visit UW later this year to collaborate on research projects with their UW faculty counterparts.

Our hugely successful and impactful [UW-Ljubljana Scholars Exchange](#) is *entirely* funded at UW by the Slavic Department's Roma Boniecka/Anna Cienciała Endowed Fund for Slovene Studies. At this point I would be remiss if I didn't encourage newsletter readers to consider making a contribution to the [Boniecka Slovene Studies Endowment](#), the mission of which is to support Slovene studies at UW in perpetuity.

Likewise, the planned inauguration of [UW's new student exchange](#) with the University of Ljubljana, supporting up to 12 student participants from each university per year, was also abruptly put on hold for a year, but we look forward to a lively exchange of UW and UL students beginning with the 2021-21 academic year. Interested UW students should contact the UW Office of Study Abroad for more information.

Finally, on behalf of our greater Seattle-based organization of Slovenes, Slovene Americans and friends, *Slovene Table/Slovenska miza*, I'd like to invite anyone interested to join us at our Sunday, February 7 celebration from 1-2pm of a national holiday, Slovene Culture Day. We'll have a lively program of presentations by members of our group on topics in Slovene art history, choral music, literature, and folkways. Contact slovenska.miza@gmail.com to register for the online event.

-Michael Biggins

UKRAINIAN NEWS

The 2020-21 academic year, even while following the restrictions of the pandemic, has brought some exciting events in Ukrainian Studies at UW. First of all, this fall we were very lucky to welcome a new Ukrainian language teacher and Fulbright scholar to UW, Marta Tomakhiv (see her featured elsewhere in this newsletter!). Ms. Tomakhiv has organized a series of talks and events for this year under the theme "Ukraine NOW." The first event in this series, on November 20, featured a talk by Anastasiia Yevdokymova on "Ukrainian Literature NOW." Ms. Yevdokymova is a graduate student in the Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and she is also the head of the Reading Promotion Department of the Ukrainian Book Institute and a curator of the Educational Program Gymnasium of Gogolfest, an international multidisciplinary festival of contemporary art in Ukraine. In her talk, Ms. Yevdokymova shared her insights on contemporary literature and other innovative new ways that Ukrainian culture is promoted through popular media.

The second event in the "Ukraine NOW" series, on January 14, celebrated the occasion of "Malanka," on the "Old New Year" in the Julian Calendar. This event featured a talk by historian and ethnologist Dr. Maria Bahlai, who

explained the ancient history and symbolism of various Malanka traditions, including caroling, cross-dressing, mask wearing and enacting live Nativity scenes. Dr. Bahlai shared beautiful images and a video made the previous evening of "leading the goat" (a Malanka caroling tradition) by students from the folklore department of Tonique Vocal School in Kyiv, who sent greetings to the UW Slavic Department! Dr. Bahlai also shared an edgy "Modern Vertep" video, with singing by pop star Alina



Pash, showing how ancient traditions are being revived, embraced, and transformed by the new generation. Dr. Bahlai's talk was followed by a wonderful collection of carols performed in Ukraine and in the US. Contributors of carols included Iryna Kovalenko (of the world-renowned ethno-chaos group Dakha Brakha), Seattle local Daniel Centore on the bandura, Norma and David Schmidt of Fairfield, CT in a bilingual duet with Marta Tomakhiv here in Seattle (virtual space does afford some new possibilities for creative collaborations!). From Ukraine, carolers from Kyiv and Ternopil joined the celebration: Antonina Vinnyk, Natalia Kyiak, Kyryl Pysarenko, Oksana Lemishka and the Bidovanets family all shared beautiful carols, bringing the audience together in a holiday spirit across the ocean, continents., and many time zones!

On January 22, Ph.D. candidate Nathan Marks presented a colloquium entitled "From Luhans'k to Uzhhorod: Regional Perceptions and Peculiarities of Ukrainian." In his talk, Mr. Marks shared his findings from new research on perceptual dialectology in Ukraine—that is, the study of how people view language differences. The study asked people to

indicate on a map "where they think people speak differently," "where the most correct Ukrainian is spoken," and "where the way people

speak Ukrainian grates on one's ears." Using Geographic Information System software to combine the maps from all respondents, Mr. Marks found general trends of how language differences are perceived. A surprising finding was that Kyiv tends to be seen a locus of correct speech, along with the more traditionally recognized strongholds of Ukrainian (like Lviv), testifying to the growing authority of the capital. Mr. Marks' research also showed that native speakers' perceptions of Ukrainian do not necessarily coincide with the substantiated dialect division of the Ukrainian language offered up by dialectologists. This research is

an important contribution to sociolinguistics, and we look forward to more exciting findings from Mr. Marks.

-Laada Bilaniuk

NEWS FROM YOU

Michele Anciaux Aoki (M.A., 1975; Ph.D., 1991) writes: "I hope all my alumni friends have survived the pandemic this past year. I, fortuitously, had retired from my position as International Education Administrator for Seattle Public Schools in September 2019, so I did not have to face the challenge that our teaching colleagues in higher ed and K-12 faced of inventing how to teach a full load of classes every week remotely. I spent much of the spring and summer taking walks in the neighborhood and visiting my 93-year-old mother, Kathy Sellars, who was quarantined in an assisted living home not far from my house. She would stand up and wave from the window and we would have long phone conversations on many days. She passed peacefully in August. She had visited with me in Croatia, Serbia, and Macedonia when I was 17 and Romania when I was working there as a State Department exhibit guide, and she wired money to Vienna to rescue me after my wallet was stolen in Moscow when I was studying with the UW on the CIEE program in Leningrad. (Yes, A LONG time ago.) She and my stepfather Bill came to every Sts. Cyril & Methodius Day celebration that we grad students organized at the Russian Center through the UW Slavic Dept starting in 1976. In her honor, I decided to make a monthly donation to the Slavic Dept. starting this year. She was always my biggest supporter in my academic pursuits. She even proofread my dissertation.

The year ended on a high note with the arrival of Paul's and my first grandchild, Ruth Emiko Cooper, on November 7. I am looking forward to helping care for Ruthie most of 2021 in Florida, while continuing to pursue my retirement avocation of World Languages and International Education Advocate. You can always find me at <https://www.internationaleledwa.org/>."

Bob Bergstrom (B.A., 1977), once known as "Boris" when a student or Russian from 1972-1977, resides on Bainbridge Island, now working as a patent attorney from an empty-nest home after closing our Seattle



office due to the pandemic. Following studies at UW, Bob finished an M.S. in computer science and Ph.D. in biochemistry, at UW Madison, and, after working for 9 years in computing, a J.D. at UC Berkeley, in 1995. Still studying Russian, after all of these years, and actually using it, on occasion, when working with clients in Moscow. Attended the 50th anniversary for the Slavic Languages Department, but was disappointed in not recognizing any former, fellow students there. On the other hand, doubtful that anyone would have recognized me. bob@www.olympicpatentworks.com

Lisa Frumkes (M.A., 1992; Ph.D., 1996) writes: "After a wonderful year teaching French, German, and Russian at Yellow Wood Academy on Mercer Island, it's time for me to move on. I have accepted a position at Duolingo as part of the content and curriculum team, and I'm excited to get started on February 8th!"

Patrick Gallagher (1969) writes: "After studying Russian for two years at the University of Oregon, in 1968 I transferred to the University of Washington and lived in the Russian House, taking the intensive summer third year Russian course. I learned more in that summer than I had learned the two previous years combined. My experience living in the Russian House with Nina Nikolaevna and Ono San (Motohiko Ono) was a highlight of my life. My fellow students who lived in the house were wonderful friends whom I will never forget. I would love to make contact with any of them." patrickdenver@comcast.net

Ron LeBlanc (Ph.D., 1984) writes: "In 2016, when I retired from teaching at the University of New Hampshire, where I had worked for nearly thirty years (on a split appointment between the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the Humanities Program), my wife Lynda and I decided to relocate to the Seattle area, where we had lived while I was in graduate school at the UW back in 1977-1984. We moved back to the Pacific Northwest largely because our son Martin, his wife Mandy, and our (sole) grandchild Amélie, were now living in the area. The UW Slavic Department was gracious enough to appoint me as an Affiliate Faculty member (with library privileges), which has allowed me to pursue a number of research projects that I had not managed to complete while I was busy teaching full-time at UNH.

Two of those unfinished research projects focused on little-known works by the well-known (and ill-fated) Soviet-era writer Boris Pilnyak (1894-1938), a number of whose works had not yet been translated into English. So I proceeded to finish a translation that I had begun several years earlier of *Miaso: Roman* [Мясо: Роман] (1936), a pseudo-Socialist-Realist novel about the Soviet meat industry, and to begin a translation of *O'kei. Amerikanskii roman* [О'кей. Американский роман] (1933), a travel account that describes the author's five-month stay in the U.S. during the spring and summer of 1931. Pilnyak's visit was undertaken primarily so that he could consult on a Hollywood film being made about an American engineer who goes to the Soviet Union to work on a construction project as part of Stalin's first Five-Year Plan. I just recently completed my translation of this travelogue and deposited it – just as I had done earlier with my translation of *Miaso: Roman* – in the Scholars Repository at UNH (a public access site).

I am currently working on a translation of the lengthy picaresque novel, *Rossiiskii Zhilblaz, ili Pokhozhdeniia kniazia Gavrily Simonovicha Chistiakova* [Российский Жилблаз, или Похождения князя Гаврилы Симоновича Чистякова] (1814), written by Vasily Narezhny (1780-1825), a proto-realist who is considered by some to be the first native writer in Russia to write authentically Russian novels. This text was the central focus of the dissertation research I conducted during the academic year that Lynda, Martin, and I spent in the former Soviet Union way back in 1981-1982, when I was on an IREX/Fulbright Fellowship and the three of us were living in the dormitory at Moscow State University. Returning to this particular literary text at this stage of my life (and of my academic career), and returning to it now that I'm back at the Slavic Department, the UW, and the Seattle area, certainly makes me feel like I've come full circle."

Jared West (M.A., 2003) writes: "After my husband and I both lost our jobs due to COVID, we decided to do what any normal people would do - we sold our house in Dallas, and purchased a theater in upstate New York! It has always been one of our dreams to run our own theater, so now we're just waiting for the green light to open up. Looking forward to putting Fort Salem Theater (fortsalem.com) back on the map...and maybe we'll have to throw some Chekhov into the season!

GIFTS

The following is a list of gifts made to departmental funds since July 1, 2020. 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*:

Harlan C. Adams	Lisa A. Frumkes	Michael G. Peskura
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