

Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,

June is the most emotional month in the academic calendar, as this is the time when many of our students finish up their studies, defend their theses, graduate, and leave. While we are very proud of them for achieving their milestones (BAs, MAs, and PhDs), we also prepare to miss them. This year's convocation was a bittersweet occasion as usual: we said good-bye to the class of 2013 but also reconnected with an illustrious alumna and recognized the accomplishments of continuing students.

Our keynote speaker was one of the department's most distinguished alumni: H. Stewart Parker, class of 1979. Stewart is an entrepreneur (currently Chief Executive Officer of the Infectious Disease Research Institute, a global health

research institute developing diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments for neglected diseases) who remains very close to her alma mater. She has served on the Board of Directors of the UW Foundation since 1999 and is currently also serving as the chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board. Stewart's amusing and inspiring speech was organized around her favorite quotes from Russian literature and reflected on the value of a liberal arts education.

For over 20 years, Polish Ladies' Auxiliary of the Polish Home Association has been funding a monetary award for Best UW Polish Student of the year. This year other communities followed the lead of the Polish ladies and the best students of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Polish, Russian, and Slovenian received awards. Of particular note is the B/C/S award: a scholarship check made possible by the fundraising efforts of Ivana Orlović, a high school student and daughter of Advisory Board member Sonja Orlović. Thank you, Ivana! Also, this year the department re-established excellence prizes for the best undergraduate and graduate papers and these were awarded to Alison Knight and Veronica Muskheli respectively. Congratulations!!

Looking back at the academic year 2012/13, I want to highlight a

couple accomplishments. One of them is Professor Gordana Crnković's promotion from associate to full professor this winter. Congratulations!! Another is the work of the department's Advisory Board. I am very grateful for the members' dedication and service to the department and am looking forward to our working together next year.

Speaking of next year, we are planning to host two Fulbright Lecturers. Dr. Angel Angelov, coming to us from St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, will teach Bulgarian

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introductory language and culture classes in autumn and winter. The last class in the language series will then be taught in spring quarter by Professor James Augerot. The Polish Fulbright lecturer, who will be teaching for us winter and spring 2014, has not yet been selected.

I hope everyone reading this has a fun and restful summer. As always, please stay in touch with us.

Best wishes,

Kat Dziwinek

PAST EVENTS

January 17 – “Jazz on the Cover” – Lecture by renowned painter and illustrator Rafal Olbinski and exhibit of his cover illustrations for the Polish jazz magazine, “Jazz Forum.”

February 10 – Celebration of Slovene Cultural Day – Screening of the Slovenian film, *The Last Boat: Lake Cerknica, Slovenia’s Vanishing Lake**, with English subtitles, followed by a Q&A session with Aleks Markovčič, current Seattlite and native Cerknčan, recitations of favorite classic and contemporary Slovene writing and potluck social hour. Sponsored by Slovene Society Slovenska Miza.

February 14 – FIUTS CulturalFest – A huge thanks go out to Leah Jirova and Mary Sherhart, Veronika Muskheli and Lia Shartava, and Jacek Mikołajczyk for their roles in organizing the Bulgarian, Georgian and Polish booths.

March 10 – Annual Maslenitsa celebration with blini, games, skits, and a live musical performance by the Russian vocal ensemble, Pava.

April 10 – “Two Fatherlands? Zionist Youth and the Politics of Belonging in 1930s Poland” – In his lecture Dr. Daniel Heller, Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies, provided a vivid portrait of Polish-Jewish relations and the world of Polish Jewish youth on the eve of the Second World War.

April 25 – “Challenges in Face Transplantation” – Lecture by Dr. Maria Siemionow, world-renowned Polish scientist and microsurgeon and head of the Cleveland Clinic’s Plastic Surgery Section. She gained public attention in December 2008, when she led a team of six surgeons in a 22-hour surgery, performing the first face transplant in the United States.

May 4 – Annual Olympiada of Spoken Russian

May 7 – “The Guardian of the Past” – Screening of a documentary about Borys Voznytsky, long-time director of the Lviv National Art Gallery who devoted his life to saving thousands of icons and other liturgical objects from abandoned churches which otherwise would have been destroyed as part of the Soviet campaign against religion. Sponsored by the Polish Studies Endowment Committee and the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee.

May 16 – “Memory Wars on the Silver Screen: Ukraine and Russia Look Back at the Second World War” – Lecture by Professor Serhy Yekelchyk of the University of Victoria. Under Putin’s rule Russian cinema has engaged in a well-funded mythmaking effort aimed at re-establishing the old Soviet image of the Great Patriotic War as the foundation of the new official memory, and many of the latest Russian war films pointedly include negative Ukrainian characters. For years, however, the nearly moribund Ukrainian film industry has not been able to produce a successful answer to the spate of Russian war films – a movie that would engage the opponent by using the same tools of mass culture. It was only in 2012 that Mykhailo Illienko in his *Firecrosser* found a way to link new and old myths of the war in a film crafted in the Hollywood tradition and with elements of fantasy. Often called “the first Ukrainian blockbuster,” this movie found its way into the mainstream film distribution system and was even released in Russia (on DVD and television). In this talk, Prof. Yekelchyk made sense of this success story by positioning it in the context of post-Soviet memory struggles and global cultural trends. Organized by the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee.

Slavic Dept. Booths at FIUTS Cultural Fest



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 GRADUATES!

Ian G. Barrere
 Katarina F. Batina
 Artour V. Cherski
 Jeremy A. Coppock (graduating with Departmental Honors)
 Ivan Krylov
 Anna K. Moroz (graduating with Departmental Honors)
 Teyloure A. Ring
 Carole E. Stoddard
 Jason Garneau (Master of the Arts)
 David Richardson (Master of the Arts)
 Veronika Egorova (Doctor of Philosophy)

The annual Slavic Department Convocation ceremony took place in the Parrington Commons on Friday, June 14. Five of our bachelor's degree candidates, two master's degree candidates, and our Ph.D. candidate attended with their family and friends. Our chair, Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek, welcomed us as the Master of Ceremonies, and our keynote speaker, H. Stewart Parker (B.A. Russian, 1979), CEO of the Infectious Disease Research Institute, shared some humorous stories about her Russian helped her locate a hard-to-find dressing room at Loehmann's and deal with a young man on a plane who had improperly stored his suitcase under his seat, preventing her from using that space for her own carry-on luggage. On a more serious note, she shared some of her favorite quotes from Russian literature and how they have informed her and the path she's taken:

“We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human wisdom.” Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*
 “Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most.” Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
 “Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.” Leo Tolstoy
 “If you look for perfection, you'll never be content.” Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*
 “Any idiot can face a crisis; it's this day-to-day living that wears you out.” Anton Chekhov
 “I say let the world go to hell, but I should always have my tea.” Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground*
 “In the name of God, stop a moment, cease your work, look around you.” Leo Tolstoy

After the keynote address, awards were presented to this year's best language students: Kevin Spivey (in absentia) was awarded as best BCS language student by Dr. Bojan Belic, receiving a scholarship made possible by the fundraising efforts of community member Ivana Orlovic; Mikhail Balasyuk, Deanne Greaves, Jeremy Coppock, and Clara Summers were awarded as best 1st-, 2nd-, 3rd- and 4th-year Czech language students by Lecturer Jaroslava Soldanova, with each receiving a book; Anatolij Klots and Bonnie Layne were awarded as the best Polish language students by Wanda Cieslar-Pawluskiewicz of the Polish Home Ladies Auxiliary, and each will receive a check; Margaret Babayan, Brian Jacoby-McCurdy, Michelle Lie, and Teyloure Ring were awarded as best 1st-, 2nd-, 3rd- and 4th-year Russian language students by Lecturer Valentina Zaitseva, and earlier this quarter each received concert tickets made possible by a generous donation from the Seattle Symphony; Jeremy Coppock was selected as our all-around Best Russian Student for 2013 and received a certificate of recognition from the American Council of Teachers of Russian; and Veronica Muskheli was awarded as best Slovenian language student for 2013 and received a book donated by Slavic librarian Michael Biggins. Slavic Excellence Prizes were awarded to undergraduate Alison Knight and graduate student Veronica Muskheli for their papers written for Slavic Department courses. Michelle Lie was recognized as this year's winner of the Vadim Pahn Scholarship. Jeremy Coppock was recognized as the department's nominee for the Dean's Medal. Undergraduates Anna Moroz and Teyloure Ring were recognized as winners of the departmental photo contest; their photos will be proudly displayed in the main office. Professor Galya Diment then presented Jeremy Coppock with an award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student; followed by Professor Jose Alaniz presenting

Veronica Muskheli with an award for Outstanding Graduate Student; each will receive a small scholarship.

Faculty members then introduced each of the graduates in turn, recounting their achievements within the department. The Slavic Department congratulates the members of Class of 2013 on their remarkable achievements and wishes them the best of luck in your future endeavors! May the strength of the relationships that you formed here follow you wherever you may go!



Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek

Keynote speaker H. Stewart Parker



Nika Egorova, Jason Garneau, David Richardson, Jeremy Coppock, Carole Stoddard, Teyloure Ring, Anna Moroz, Ian Barrere

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Michael Biggins is in Ljubljana, Slovenia now through July 15, where he's doing groundwork in the archives of the National Library on a life and works biography of Vladimir Bartol, best known outside Slovenia as the author of *Alamut*. Bartol's archive is extensive and largely untapped. Among other things there are interesting questions about Bartol's university years in Paris and his associations with the early Slovene anti-Fascist movement in the Adriatic coastal region that the diaries, letters, sketch books and other material in the archive may help answer.

Professor Gordana Crnković has published a book chapter, "Vibrant Commonalities and the Yugoslav Legacy: a Few Remarks." In Radmila Gorup, ed.: *After Yugoslavia: The Cultural Spaces of a Vanished Land*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2013.

2013 saw the publication of two books by **Professor Galya Diment** [Pniniad: Vladimir Nabokov and Marc Szeftel. Seattle: University of Washington Press. Paperback edition, February 2013 and *A Russian Jew of Bloomsbury: The Life and Times of Samuel Koteliansky*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. Paperback and Kindle edition, April 2013] and a number of articles [1) "Мой дедушка, раввин Мордух Абрамович Димент, и его семья" (My Grandfather, rebbe Mordukh Abramovich Diment, and His Family), "Mishpokha," February 2013, Vitebsk, Belarus. 2) "Nabokov's *Original of Laura*," in *Shades of Laura, Vladimir Nabokov's Last Novel, The Original of Laura*, ed. Yuri Leving. Montreal: McGill UP, 2013. 3) "Невероятные похождения витебского художника Лейбы Шульмана" ("Leiba Shulman's Fantastic Adventures"). In 2012 Chagall Conference Proceedings. St. Petersburg, Russia 4) "Leon Schulman Gaspard," in Online Encyclopedia of Russian Art and Architecture. St. Petersburg, Russia.] Professor Diment was invited as one of the small group of distinguished Western scholars to form and chair a panel at the Conference on Culture: In Quest of a New Paradigm, Belgrade, March 2013, and in April 2013 was selected as the Thomas L. & Margo G. Wyckoff Endowed Faculty Fellow.

STUDENT NEWS

Graduate student **Matt Boyd** was awarded a Fulbright through ACTR for the summer intensive ACTR Russian Teacher Training Program at Moscow State University.

Jason Garneau (MA 2013) garnered the distinction of being the first to earn the UW's Graduate Certificate in Second and Foreign Language Teaching.

Graduate students **Anatoliy Klots** and **Veronica Muskheli** were each awarded Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowships for 2012-13 and presented their research at a spring research symposium on April 19. Anatoliy's talk was on "Victims, Fighters, Builders: Jews in Soviet Cinema of the Interwar Period," while Veronica's was on "From Metropolis to Shtetl: S.A. An-sky and Questions of National Identity for Jews in Late Imperial Russia."

Veronika Egorova is graduating in Summer Quarter 2013. Her dissertation, "Cognition, Language and Manipulation in Advertising Discourse," lends insight into aspects of advertising discourse as acts of communicative exchange and interpersonal relationship between advertising discourse participants. It investigates the various kinds of mechanisms that advertisers employ to gain an audience's interest through verbal and non-verbal information and the communicative procedures intended to make the viewers act on it. It also contributes to an understanding of the phenomenon of linguistic manipulation, particularly in the context of advertising. As a work in pragmatics, it differs from other works in pragmatics in that it also touches on aspects of psychology, film studies, and literary theory. The theoretical basis was derived from the work of Yokoyama (1986), as further developed by Moon (1995) and Chapman (2001).

In order to answer the main research question, how do viewers process information contained in television commercials and become consumers, moving from liking to acting, Veronika used Yokoyama's Transactional Discourse Model to analyze empirical data of 150 Russian and 150 American TV commercials in terms of the specific mechanisms that advertisers use to influence their audience. As such, Veronika analyzed the interaction between visual and verbal information and manipulation, communicative imposition and its relation to manipulation, ellipsis and manipulation, and a manipulative nature of specific set of questions that Veronika discovered in her data. Her observation of Russian and American data reveals similar tendencies and parallelism in structure of Russian and American TV commercials. It seems that the use of the manipulative structures investigated in her study is typical for global advertising discourse.

REMEMBERING REID

By Charles Mills



Lew Reid Micklesen, professor emeritus in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Washington, passed away on June 21, 2012 at age 91. To generations of UW undergraduate students, Professor Micklesen will perhaps best be remembered, together with Nora Holdsworth, as professor of third-year Russian, where Professor Micklesen headed up the grammar section, and Nora Holdsworth conducted conversation. Professor Micklesen laid the foundations of Slavic Linguistics at University of Washington and was highly regarded in the field, but it wasn't always clear that he would become a Slavic linguist.

Lew Micklesen, known to family and close friends as Reid, was born January 9, 1921 in Red Wing, Minnesota, not far from Minneapolis. Both his father and grandfather were pharmacists (In fact, if you go to Hudson, Wisconsin, you can still see the building where his father and grandfather had their drug store. The "Micklesen Building has retained its name to this day.), but the young Reid was not interested in the continuing the family business, thinking he would go into pharmaceutical chemistry instead. Lew had always been interested in languages, and at age twelve taught himself Spanish while trimming the yard, but you can't make a living at that, and so after earning a BS from the University of Minnesota's College of Pharmacy in 1942, he began graduate study in pharmaceutical and organic chemistry.

It was the Navy that gave him an opening to his true love--languages. Reid was in his final year of graduate study at the University of Minnesota in the winter of 1944 when he went into the Navy and was sent to a forerunner of the Defense Language Institute in Boulder, Colorado to study Russian. And so, after a brief stint translating in New York City, Lew Micklesen spent his naval career teaching Russian and Spanish at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland from March 1945 to July 1946.

After the war he applied to and was accepted into graduate school at Harvard, where he studied with Roman Jakobson, earning a PhD in comparative philology in 1951. After teaching at the University of Illinois for a couple of years, he began his UW career in 1953 as an Assistant Professor of Far Eastern and Slavic Languages and Literature. No one quite knows how many languages Professor Micklesen knew, and that remains one of the enduring mysteries. Certainly Russian and English and Spanish. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. In the graduate student lore, even numbers as high as 18 could be heard, and it all seemed to come to him so effortlessly that sometimes Professor Micklesen would forget that not everyone around him was familiar with Lithuanian or Middle Prussian or Old High German or Avestan or Latin or Greek. Baseball teams have a utility player, and Professor Micklesen filled that role when it came to teaching languages. If you wanted Georgian, Professor Micklesen could teach it. Polish? No problem. Together with Emil Kovtun, Professor Micklesen authored what is probably the best treatment of colloquial Czech to this day.

To graduate students, Professor Micklesen will always be remembered as the author of the hundred or so rules to derive the Common Slavic form from Proto Indo-European, the bane of our existence. I can't tell you how many hours we spent in the basement of Suzzallo Library with a copy of Pokorny's *Indogermanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch* and Professor Micklesen's rules in hand. Undergraduate students of Russian will fondly remember the verb wheel, and translating sentences such as "The boys with the shaven heads pressed their way across the room with a sheet of slightly yellowed paper crumpled in their hand".

Most of Professor Micklesen's scholarly work was in the area of Indo-European accentology; he spent a number of years investigating the accentual systems of the Slavic and Baltic languages, later applying the results of his investigations to Latin and Ancient Greek. Professor Micklesen was a scrupulous scholar, diligent, thorough, and extremely attentive to details, as can be illustrated with two examples. First, Professor Micklesen was always popping his head into the TA room to check the grammaticality of this or that with a native speaker. Another time I learned that Professor Micklesen had been working on a book review for over a year. A whole year for a book review? The amount of time seemed preposterous to me. When I asked him why so long, his reply made it crystal clear. He said, "There's something I still need to follow up on. I want to get it right."

When I think of my own private Professor Micklesen, I remember a man who was unfailingly nice--always with a kindhearted smile, always in a polo shirt with a bolo tie, always friendly and willing to help. Herb Coats, a colleague of Professor Micklesen's for over thirty years, tells the following story that illustrates to some degree what kind of a man Lew Micklesen was. When Professor Coats first arrived at the UW in 1968, Lew and his wife Jane invited his family over to their home for dinner. Somehow at some point Herb's two-year-old son managed to throw what looked like a very expensive and perhaps antique saucer--part of a beautiful matched place setting--onto the floor. The saucer shattered. Professor Coats was of course mortified, embarrassed and apologetic, but Reid immediately put them at ease. He said it was nothing to be concerned about, that that kind of thing was to be expected, and when Herb asked where he could buy a replacement, was told not to worry about it. The saucer, he said, was irreplaceable. Throughout this entire incident Lew was calm and considerate.

Professor Micklesen retired in 1991. Following retirement he remained active with his interests in philately, rock gardening, attending Medical Grand Rounds at the UW Medical Center, adding new languages to his repertoire and continuing to conduct research until a stroke in March of last year.

Professor Micklesen was a true gentleman and a scholar and will be sorely missed. He is survived by wife Jane, whom he married in 1950, as well as three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. His family will be taking his ashes back to Hudson, Wisconsin to have them buried in the family plot; the burial will take place on August 3.

Charles Mills holds a Ph.D. in Slavic Linguistics from the University of Washington, where he studied Russian with Lew Micklesen and Nora Holdsworth. He currently teaches Russian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California,

Slavic Graduate Student Colloquium Continues Strong – Veronica Muskheli

In winter and spring 2013, the Slavic Graduate Student Colloquium continued with its pattern of meetings on the second Friday of each month. As student members of the colloquium, we are very grateful for faculty support in generously giving up their Friday afternoons to hear us present our findings and comment on them in the most thoughtful way. We are also all very grateful to our “adjunct graduate student,” Lee Scheingold, for providing treats for the meetings throughout the entire year. Over the course of those two quarters, seven presenters from the department talked about their research and received useful input from fellow students and faculty.

In January Matt Boyd’s presentation on nostalgia for former Yugoslavia in the musical pop culture of the area attracted attention not only from Slavic Languages and Literatures Department but from REECAS students and faculty. The complicated situation in the Balkans fostered a lively discussion. In February Cyrus Rodgers gave a talk titled “Unorthodox Icons: Icons and Iconography in Early Soviet Propaganda,” arguing for two modes of Soviet use of icon patterns—one ridiculing religion and one converting icon conventions into conventions of Soviet iconography. Soviet visual culture theme was developed with Anatoliy Klots’ presentation, “Depicting the Trickster: Soviet Animation and Russian Folktales.”

Because our faculty often present their research at conferences elsewhere in the country, with our students ironically not having a chance to hear what the faculty members are working on, the colloquium was conceived of as the appropriate forum for faculty as well to give our graduate students a chance to learn about our own faculty’s research. In March, Dr. Bojan Belić was just such an inaugural faculty member when he practiced his talk for a conference in Serbia. Entitled “Vojvodina’s Languages, Speeches, Borders, Frontiers... So We Better Call the Calling Off Off!”; the presentation focused on the linguistic situation in that country’s Vojvodina province from the point of view of borderland studies, proposing the concept of frontier segmentation. This was another first for the colloquium: it was also an inaugural linguistics talk, because prior to it only literature and culture topics had been discussed.

In April, we had a mock conference in preparation for the REECAS Conference. In addition to Anatoliy Klots, who rehearsed his presentation on the trickster in Soviet animation, Lee Scheingold practiced a talk entitled “A Comparison of Form and Content of Two Poems by Russian Orthodox Priest-Poets” and I gave a talk entitled “A Post-Soviet Village Prose Tale: Natalya Klucharyova’s *A Year in Paradise*.” We focused on clarity of delivery within the twenty-minute time constraints dictated by the conference format. Bonnie Layne acted as timekeeper, and Raven Farr acted as the panel chairperson, introducing the presenters and making sure that everyone in the audience had an opportunity to ask a question within the allotted minutes. A chance to have a rehearsal helped us to have successful talks at the REECAS Conference.

The year wound up with two presentations in May. Bonnie Layne talked about Daniil Kharmis, a Soviet-era author who used traditional folk tale techniques to share his subversive ideas and disdain for the Soviet regime. The discussion focused on how this topic may become Bonnie’s thesis next year. Undergraduate Honors student and future graduate student Anna Moroz presented her research in a talk entitled “A Comparison of the Inventory of Polish and Russian Address Forms and Their Usage in Society.” Anna also had the honor of being the first student to talk on a linguistic topic. Students and faculty saw great potential for its further development in graduate school.

EXPLORING RUSSIA: TWELVE MONTHS IN ST. PETERSBURG AND BEYOND

By Jessie Redinger

Last June I bought a one-way ticket to St. Petersburg, intent on spending the next twelve months immersed in Russian culture. The plane was filled with Russians returning home. As I sat listening to their conversations, I tried not to let my anticipation overwhelm me. Traveling to Russia had never been a real possibility until I began studying third-year Russian at the University of Washington. So when I touched down and stood on actual Russian soil, I was in a bit of shock. I stood in the large, domed room that housed passport control and could barely contain my excitement. Then I looked up and was met by the glaring neon lights of a “Бургер Кинг” (Burger King). Albeit in Russian Cyrillic, I’d just flown almost 5000 miles and spent over a day on a plane to get to an exotic foreign country and there I was, staring down one of America’s most iconic burger chains.

Little did I know that for the next year I would be wrapped up in a whirlwind of such irony and most of my expectations about Russia would be crushed. I realized that Hollywood movies were far off base and that no amount of preparation could have readied me for the onslaught of cultural differences I encountered. My catch phrase quickly became “бывает” (“it happens”).

My first host mother, who inducted me into the quirky, delightful, sometimes frustrating, often adventurous world of all things Russian, taught me the value of being painfully honest and blunt. She freed me from the American love of suffering to spare the feelings of others. I learned this first-hand, through dietary warfare and the torturing of my taste buds. I had told my host mother, in earnest, that I wanted to try everything at least once. She was a fantastic cook, but so eager for me to like her meals that I didn’t have the heart to tell her that the mysterious, brown, hummus-like substance she proudly presented me with one fateful afternoon was utterly unpalatable. I assured her that it was delicious as I smeared it on my crackers and choked it down. I thought that afternoon would be the end of what turned out to be liver paté, but that tub of baby-poop colored mush followed me around for two weeks. It mocked me at the breakfast table in the morning, and was strategically placed next to crackers for my afternoon snack. It was full-on liver paté combat, one tablespoon at a time. I even took a weekend trip down to Moscow and it was there, waiting in all its putrid glory, for my consumption upon return. So when my second host mother made me holodets, which I like to translate as “meat Jell-O,” and tried to convince me that raw, yet warmed, eggs were good for my health, I was pretty open about the impossibility of my eating them twice.

I became familiar with Russian-American cultural differences through events like this. I might have disliked the liver, but I learned how much Russians value openness and frankness. By hiding my opinion about the paté, I wasn’t transferring my American politeness to my host mother. I was unknowingly telling her that I didn’t trust her enough to share my emotions and thoughts. I also learned just how strong the relationship is between St. Petersburg residents and food, a lasting remnant of the Blockade of Leningrad. Along with that giant scoop of liver, I got a dollop of cultural awareness and a history lesson.

Being blunt was difficult, especially when I did not know how to phrase my words in Russian to soften the blow of honesty. The language barrier I encountered in St. Petersburg was a source of both extreme frustration and funny anecdotes. Unable to speak English with my host family, I relied on simple sentences and perfected my ability to pantomime. Simple requests were easy—I was able to get my laundry done, ask for directions, and buy a metro token. To have a Russian understand my choppy requests and terrible accent was exhilarating in the beginning, but after a while I began to realize how much my sense of self is connected to how I speak and play with the English language. Every interaction was a struggle to find the right word, and I usually came up with a

vague synonym that didn't convey my exact meaning. I wanted to be able to defend my opinion on abstract topics, tell jokes, and play with words. I sounded like a five-year-old and felt robbed of my personality.

My language mishaps were not all gloom and doom, however. My personality began to edge through the language barrier, as I was able to make others laugh with my comical, unintentional grammar mistakes. I once spent part of an oral exam telling my professor about the killer sausages (сосиски) in St. Petersburg and found out at the end that I really meant to say icicles (сосульки). My patient host parents, Russian friends, and merciless professors (I say this as a compliment) all helped whip my grammar and pronunciation into shape, and my ability to express myself improved exponentially as my arsenal of vocabulary increased.

St. Petersburg was my home base, but I was fortunate to be able to travel. I studied for three semesters at St. Petersburg State University with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Part of the program involved group and lone travel, and I had the opportunity to see many cities in Russia and Europe, among them Moscow, Kiev, Tallinn, Veliki Novgorod, and the Pskov region. Most weekends I took a train or bus to see a nearby city, like Peterhof, and I explored St. Petersburg in my free time after school. My favorite hobby was wandering the non-tourist areas of St. Petersburg and collecting graffiti. I loved the White Nights, which let me stroll back alleys at midnight, armed with my camera.

I was always busy. Classes lasted eight hours a day. CIEE scheduled museum tours and cultural activities. I took a Georgian cooking class, introduced my Russian friends to "improv in the park" games, took a boat down the Neva River, signed up for dance lessons, and tutored English. My host mother taught me to cook my favorite dishes, and I spent endless hours gossiping with her in the kitchen about everything from family history to literature and politics. I spent some time mushroom picking and hiking with my host family at their dacha. My host sister invited me to tag along to jazz concerts. I befriended an art history major at school, and she turned museums into a regular event for me. My Russian friends showed me the hidden cafes and bars not listed in the guidebooks, and taught me some slang which I was warned against repeating in front of my professors. I made a few lasting friendships and dozens of interesting acquaintances. My goal had been to not regret a wasted minute of my time, and I didn't disappoint myself. My host mother assisted me in my endeavor though; whenever she caught me at home, she pushed me outside and ordered me to explore. If not for her, more of my time would have been spent napping (a common plague among new residents of St. Petersburg).

Throughout the year, I kept a journal so I wouldn't forget my initial impressions, but it wasn't until I returned home to the States that some of the differences between U.S. and Russian culture became more apparent. During my first trip back to a U.S. supermarket, I realized how accustomed I'd grown to the comparatively gruff nature of public interaction in Russia, which had affronted me at first. I felt jarred when the American cashier greeted me with a smile, asked me how I was, and told me to have a nice day. I think I prefer the Russian system; I don't have to smile unless I truly feel like it. The incident made me realize how crazy I must have looked during my first few weeks in Russia, smiling at everyone and greeting strangers in the metro.

On another note, it was lovely to be able to get a glass of ice water in my own kitchen. Russian freezers don't have an ice-making mechanism, due to Russians' zealous respect for the cold and a belief that all beverages below room temperature might cause colds. My host mom was shocked that I drink iced tea.

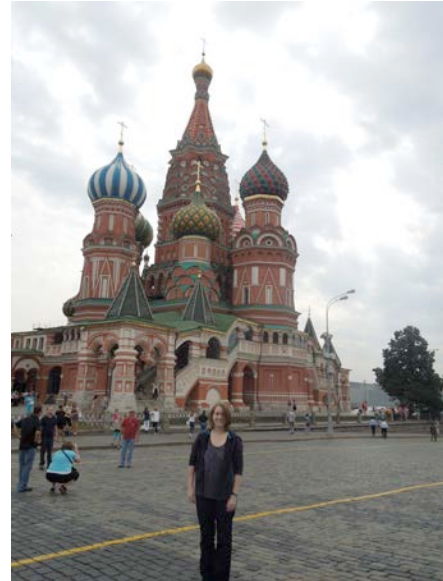
Coming home to the States, I took off my shoes and my feet automatically sought house slippers which weren't there; walking around barefoot in my Russian apartment was forbidden. It was also strange not to have to change out of my outfit and put on "house clothes"—comfortable clothing worn only inside. St. Petersburgers view their homes as safe, clean havens and won't wear their work clothes inside. Little differences like these keep popping up now and again, and I am amused at each one.

St. Petersburg left a lasting impression on me. I'm still very American in my thoughts and world view, but I

like to think that there is a Russian streak running through me now. I forged lasting bonds with my host families and my professors. My program coordinators, fellow students, and Russian friends made my experience amazing. I plan on returning to Russia in the near future; if my plans for graduate school pan out, then I will be studying for my Master's Degree in Moscow. I hope Russia and the Russian language will always be a part of my life, through my graduate research, a future career, and friends I made during my travels. My experiences this past year were so memorable and life altering, I would certainly feel like a part of me were missing without a little Russian in my life.



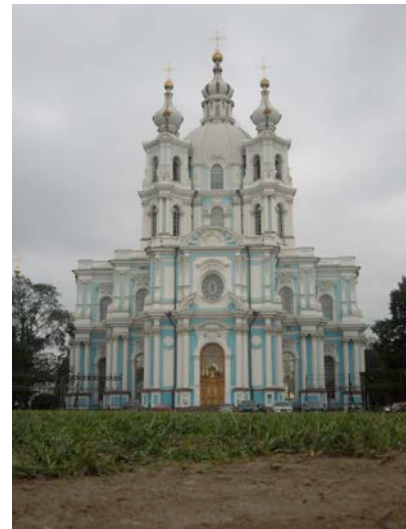
Killer Icicles, St. Petersburg



Moscow



Veliki Novgorod



Smolny Sobor, My Campus

UW POLISH STUDIES

by Krystyna Untersteiner

The beginning of the 2013 was marked by “Rafał Olbiński – Jazz on the Cover” exhibit at Allen Library Lobby, from 9-27 January 2013. The exhibit featured 30 magazine covers designed by Rafał Olbiński for *Jazz Forum* in 1970-1980. On January 17, the exhibit was officially opened by Rafał Olbiński and followed by a lecture by the artist. The exhibit was a great success thanks to the efforts and professionalism of the curator Iza Gabrielson and the team of volunteers. At the lecture, Mr. Olbiński captivated the audience through his personal and charismatic stories.

On February 14, 2013, the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) held its Cultural Fest on the UW Campus. This is an annual community event that showcases both the University of Washington's global campus and its student leadership. The themes of this year's Polish booth were Kraków and Małopolska. The booth, organized by Dr. Jacek Mikołajczyk, Fulbright Lecturer of Polish Studies, with the help and participation of students won the most Fun Award.



On April 10, 2013, Dr. Dan Heller, the visiting scholar at the UW Jackson School of International Studies, presented a lecture *Two Fatherlands? Zionist Youth and the Politics of Belonging in 1930s Poland*. This event was organized by the UW Jackson School Stroum Jewish Studies Program and co-sponsored by the UWPSEC and the Slavic Department.



On 25 April 2013, Prof. Dr. Maria Siemionow, world-renowned Polish scientist and micro surgeon, gave a lecture addressing *Challenges of Face Transplantation*. Dr. Siemionow is the Plastic Surgery Section's head at the Cleveland Clinic (Ohio). She gained public notice in December 2008, when she led a team of six surgeons in a 22-hour surgery, performing the first face transplant in the United States. This event was organized by the UWPSEC and co-sponsored by the UW Division of Plastic Surgery.

A documentary, *The Guardian of the Past*, by Polish director Małgorzata Potocka was screened on May 7, 2013. The screening was preceded by an introduction by Prof. Marek Wiczorek, Associate Professor of Modern Art History at the UW. This event was organized by the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee and the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee, and co-sponsored by Polish Cultural Institute in New York and the Ukrainian Association of Washington State.

In June we said goodbye to our 2012/13 Fulbright Lecturer of Polish Studies. We would like to thank Dr. Jacek Mikołajczyk for enriching the course offerings at UW Slavic Department and for sharing with our community his talents and enthusiasm for theater, musical, film, literature... and life!

UW UKRAINIAN STUDIES

by Maria Rewakowicz

As the 2012-13 academic year winds down, it is natural to reflect upon activities in Ukrainian Studies at the UW in the past six months. Most notably, after a four-year hiatus, two new Ukrainian literature courses were offered by the Slavic Department in winter and spring quarters, respectively. Dr. Maria Rewakowicz taught “Literature, Language and Identities in Post-Soviet Ukraine” and “The Ukrainian Novel” courses, drawing both undergraduate and graduate students from various departments who were eager to expand their knowledge about Ukraine either because of their Ukrainian ethnic background, or because of research interests. Moreover, students, faculty and the general public had an opportunity to participate in two campus events organized by the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee (USEC) that dealt with Ukrainian subjects: the screening of a documentary by Małgorzata Potocka *The Guardian of the Past* (2004) about Borys Voznytsky, Director of the Lviv National Art Gallery on May 7, and Professor Serhy Yekelchuk’s talk on “Memory Wars on the Silver Screen: Ukraine and Russia Look Back at the Second World War” on May 16. The first event was co-organized by the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee and facilitated by the Polish Cultural Institute in New York. The second event, Professor Yekelchuk’s talk, was co-sponsored by the Ellison Center for Russian, East European & Central Asian Studies. Both events received support from the UW Slavic Languages & Literatures Department and the Ukrainian Association of Washington State.

CONCERT FOR THE NEW ROMANIAN STUDIES FUND

by Ileana Marin and Claudia Jensen

About sixty people gathered in the lovely Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church on May 12 for the first benefit concert in support of Romanian language programming at the UW. The concert offered many ways of hearing Romania in music, ranging from the dramatic flair of Pablo Sarasate’s “Romanian Melody” to the ethnographic precision of Béla Bartók’s “Romanian Dances.” It concluded with two pieces by George Enescu, his beautiful trio “Aubade” and the haunting “Prelude à l’Unisson” from the *Orchestral Suite Op. 9*, arranged for string trio and piano. The performances were organized by UW student and violinist Cristian Gruber, and included pianist Angela Draghicescu, who is on the faculty at Seattle Pacific University; violist Adam Weiss, a student at Shorecrest High School and member of the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra; and cellist Cealice Kennison, a Seattle University student. Ileana Marin, one of the organizers of the event, gave an overview of the political and historical settings of these compositions, and Claudia Jensen, an affiliate in Slavic, discussed their musical context.

Ileana Marin originally came to the UW on a Fulbright grant in 2003 and taught both beginning and advanced Romanian here; she received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the UW last year. It was her effort that inspired Cristian to put the concert together. “When I heard about Ileana and her efforts to raise money for the Romanian program at the UW, I was overjoyed,” he said. “Immediately it became evident that my recital could help further not just her fundraising efforts, but raise awareness of Romanian culture on a completely different level. The importance of having a Romanian class at a great institution such as the UW is paramount, and it can be a conduit through which our culture can be more popularized and understood.” We were very

happy that pianist Angela Draghicescu was able to participate. Although she has only recently moved to Seattle, she has long been an avid promoter of Romanian music and Romanian culture, especially through her work on the art songs of Nicolae Bretan. “Through my music and various other projects, like my dissertation,” she said, “I have always wanted to promote and ‘educate’ non-native audiences on what it means to be Romanian, what constitutes a truly Romanian musical identity.” This was the first cultural event she has contributed to in Seattle, and, as she said, “it was quite wonderful!”

The UW has had a long history of offering Romanian language classes. As Emeritus Professor James Augerot explained, the Fulbright Program has provided exchanges between the UW and Romanian institutions since the early 1960s. Professor Augerot himself was one of the first to participate in the program, in 1964-66, and over the years, fifteen Romanian scholars have come to the University; one result of these exchanges was the production of a textbook, *Modern Romanian*, which was published by the UW Press in 1971 (and has since been republished under the name *Romanian / Limba Romana* by The Center for Romanian Studies, formerly in Iasi, Romania). Ileana’s work in 2003 is the most recent of the Fulbright exchanges. This September she will be strengthening these ties by leading a UW Exploration Seminar to Romania, where her students will visit iconic places in Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, and Suceava and learn about the realities of living in a country that is still struggling with the challenges of rebuilding its democratic institutions.

As Professor Augerot emphasized, only community pressure and support can keep a language and culture in the curriculum, and the Fulbright Program pays close attention to such public interest. Department chair Professor Kat Dziwirek also emphasized the importance of collaboration in providing stable funding: “I am very pleased that the Romanian community is interested in fundraising for Romanian courses,” she said, “and we hope to cooperate more closely in the future.” Angela was equally enthusiastic. “I believe that this event was very successful in bringing together the Romanian community,” she said. “However, what made this event very special was to have an audience almost entirely Romanian in a venue outside of Romania. I felt more than ever a bond with my audience that I have never felt before. This made it to me absolutely unique.” “I saw this recital,” added Cristian, “not only as an opportunity to play good music and raise money, but as a way to show people truthful and positive aspects of Romanian culture.”

The concert raised about \$1300 and additional donations may be sent to the Romanian Studies Fund at the Slavic Dept. And, as a final inducement for future events, the concert concluded with delicious Romanian delicacies, including cozonac (a Romanian version of panettone), placinta dobrogeana (Dobrudjan pie), and Turkish baklava.



Photo courtesy of Robert Ewen

NEWS FROM YOU

“While I (**James Barte**, BA 1969) might not be the oldest grad who still writes in, I am probably in that number--BA Russian Lang & Lit '69! I just wanted to share a quickie about how Russian studies continue to add interest to my life.

My father was Irish, and I've always had an interest in Irish Gaelic. So, I been studying away at it for a while--pretty tough going. But one of the aspects of Goidelic languages is that they distinguish palatalized consonants at the phonemic level.

“Almost all Irish consonants have a velarized/hard form, called "broad" in Irish and a palatalized/soft form, called "slender" in Irish. Imagine my surprise as I discovered this and could say to my self, "No biggie--any Russian speaker understands that!

“So /bo:/ with a hard "b" means *yellow*, but /byo:/ with a soft "b" means *alive*. Then I was trying to figure out how/why initial consonants undergo all these strange morphophonetic changes to show grammatical relationships. Aha! They're like case endings--only at the front of the word--easy-peasy--case beginnings! See how Russian still comes in handy?

“All the best from Morgantown, West Virginia--slán!”

“It's been an eventful couple of years since I last sent one of these in,” writes **Scott Brauer** (BA 2005). “I've moved to Boston where I am continuing my career

as a freelance photographer. I work regularly for the Wall Street Journal, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Education Week, MIT, and other clients and publications. In December of 2012, I joined 11 other American journalists in Moscow for the first Russia-US Young Journalists Exchange sponsored by the International Center for Journalists and the Knight Foundation. Twelve Americans worked in Moscow newsrooms, and twelve Russians worked in American newsrooms for a month. I worked for a month with the TASS Photo Agency (part of ITAP-TACC) accompanying their photographers on daily assignments in Moscow and also did some reporting from Ufa, Bashkortostan. It was a whirlwind trip that really tested my Russian. I'm happy to report that endless grammar drills in classes at UW made traveling back to Russia after 8 years feel like getting back on a bike. I thought I'd forgotten everything, but verbs of motion and participles came right back to me! You can see some pictures from Bashkortostan here: <http://mscottbrauer.photoshelter.com/gallery/Bashkortostan/G0000bVSUCxKfRyI/>”

“I don't have much news to report on since my last update,” writes **Roy Chan** (BA 2002), “but I do have a big piece of news I would like to share: I **have left my** position as Assistant Professor of Chinese at the College of William and Mary, and beginning in September, I will be joining the University of Oregon's

Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures as an Assistant Professor of Chinese. It was truly beyond my wildest dreams that I would get the chance to stay in the career I love and return to the Pacific Northwest, close to family and friends. Not only is UO a great public institution of higher learning, but it is situated between my two alma maters, UW and UC Berkeley. I am thus a hybrid species of Husky, Bear, and Duck. I intend to take advantage of this opportunity to make many trips to Seattle and Berkeley, and I'm hoping to stay at UO for as long as possible.”

Carol Davis will be heading to China in a week with a small group of faculty and staff. “The college where I teach has the second largest number of Chinese students of any community college in the U.S. (after Houston). While I'm in Beijing, I'll be giving a poetry reading at the American Center.”

Hey Shosh!

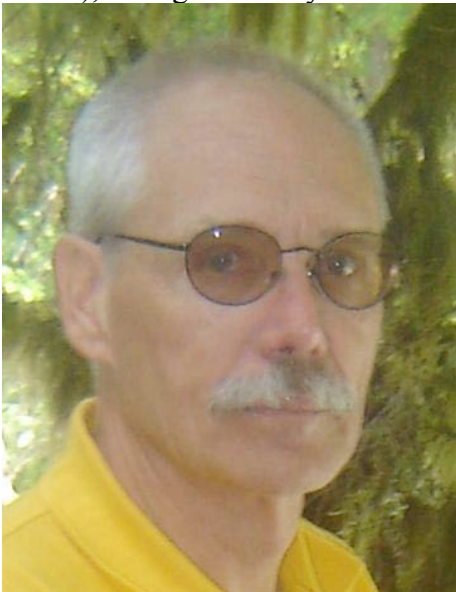
The quick update on my life (**Marina Mikhalchenko Dunaravich**, BA 2009):

- Spent all of 2012 traveling with Ažualas and visited 38 countries.
- Married Až in September of 2012.
- Started actively learning Lithuanian, also with Až.
- After coming back from the trip started working for Amazon as a Program Manager for the Appstore.

- Live in Seattle with Až.
- Až update, besides the above:
- Studied Linguistics as a graduate student at UW for a year after getting his undergraduate degree.
 - Worked at Microsoft and then transitioned to being a Software Developer for a Seattle startup in the field of Natural Language Generation.
 - While we were both traveling last year, he was actually still working remotely.

Serge Gregory's (PhD 1977) short film "By the Salish Sea" premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival in May. He's spending June and July in Moscow doing final research for *Antosha and Levitasha*, his book on Anton Chekhov and Isaac Levitan. His blog on the project can be found at chekhov-levitan.com.

"In March 1973, after completing my double major in Russian and German and minors in pedagogy and chemistry, which I had started at CWSC 10 years earlier, I (**Jay Hicks**), along with my wife and



1½-year-old son, went back to

Germany, where I had been stationed in the US Army from 1967 to 1970. I had been told that foreign language teachers were not needed in the United States. I had also been told that I would not be able to get a job as a teacher in Germany without a master's degree. Once back in Germany, I first got a job at Berlitz Language School in Hamburg and sent applications out to almost all of the state ministries of education in West Germany. As it turned out, a school in the state of Lower Saxony, in which I was then living with my wife in her parents' house and where my wife had always lived, was looking for a Russian teacher. At that time, Russian teachers were very rare. I went down to see about the job and got it, teaching a five-hour Russian class and three five-hour English classes. It was at a school that had just started up two years earlier with fifth graders and this school needed a Russian teacher for the coming seventh graders. This is one of the so-called comprehensive schools, which were just starting up at the beginning of the seventies as an alternative to the classical German schools, which are segregated according to learning abilities into three types. Earlier this separation was more according to social standing: the higher up a family was, the more intelligent the children were.

"I stayed at this school for the next 37 years! Besides teaching 20 hours a week at the beginning, I was involved in a commission

to develop the guidelines for the second foreign languages, to which French, Latin, Russian and Spanish belong. Because this was a new type of school with a mixed pupil population, there were no guidelines to take this situation into account. I was also head of the Second Foreign Language department at our school for six years.

"Russian was not so popular because of the emigrants coming from Russia, offering competition in the school, making it demotivating for the other learners. In 1985 Lower Saxony started a program, "Technology and Schools," to promote the use of computers in schools. I was selected to work in a group, "New Technologies and English." After training involving computer basics, word processing, simulations, special exercise forms, and even games, I gave six other 10-day in-service courses for other English teachers. Through this exposure, I became interested in other applications like spreadsheets and databanks and started teaching myself and taking a couple of courses. Then I got into programming and taught myself BASIC, Pascal, Delphi and HTML. I became so good that I was allowed to teach computer sciences and furthered it to teaching Microsoft Office programs which developed into the European Computer Drives License (a European computer-user standard) which I got with the right to teach the classes in the seven modules (concepts of information and communication

technology, using the computer and managing files, word processing, spread sheets, data banks, presentations, and web browsing and communication) and manage the testing when our school became a testing center. Even before this, I got involved in setting up the (eventually) six computer rooms and the over 100 computers with uniform software configurations and giving each of the nearly 2000 pupils and 150 teachers usernames and passwords and setting up user plans so that classes could get into the rooms when they need to: they were not just for computer science classes but also for other classes in order to teach the pupils general computer usage in the context of the teaching objectives. When the newest generation of computers came with Windows Vista, we could no longer run Office 2000 on all of the computers so we had to switch to OpenOffice because the city would not pay for new Office 2007 licenses for all of the computers. Then everything had to be redone for OpenOffice, including finding and/or writing new teaching material.

“Around 1988 I also started teaching English and Microsoft Word in the evenings at the adult education center. I then, two years later, got a job at the English Seminar at the University of Hanover where I gave grammar, composition and translation classes. Two years later, I transferred to the Centre of Applied Linguistics and Special Languages at the university to give classes in technical English for mechanical engineers and technical English for civil engineers and architects. While I was still a

full-time teacher, I wasn't allowed more than seven hours a week additional employment. In the meantime, after I retired in 2010, I increased my hours. Now I have added scientific English for all of the various fields of science and also academic writing for students in masters programs like Water Resources and Environmental Management or International Horticulture.

“In 2008, I finally got to go to Russia for ten days, all expenses paid. I went to Tyumen in western Siberia to evaluate the English teaching there at the Oil and Natural Gas University as part of a cooperative effort between the Hanover University and three Russian (Siberian) universities.

“In my free time, I work with our two beagles. They are really great man-trailers. I also take a lot of pictures of them and the things we see when we are out hiking. Besides that, I have two grandsons from our older son and a granddaughter is coming in September from our younger son.”

“Я (**Solomon Ioffe**, PhD 1985) уже давным-давно занимаюсь редкой, непопулярной, а для некоторых и просто неизвестной и исключительно интересной темой в литературоведении, стыдной темой, как говорил Алексей Толстой Парижский: пишу о своих или чужих семейных, глубоко личных тайнах. О том, кто Онегин,

кто Татьяна, кто Ольга, кто Ленский и прочие персонажи "ЕО" и вообще творчества Пушкина и кто Пушкин тем самым, кто Печорин, кто Мцыри, кто Иван Калашников и тем самы, кто Лермонтов, кто Иван Грозный у Лермонтова, по тому, как он оценивал своих персонажей и лиц, с которых писались персонажи, кто Гоголь, кто его персонажи и лица, если судить по персонажам и лицам Гоголя. кто советские писатели, ели судить их по избранными ими лицами и персонажами. ели судить по полковнику Турбину Булгакова, Григорию Шелехову Щолохова, Юрию Живаго Пастернака (а с моей точки зрения, -- они все три -- один и тот же человек, заданный в той или иной мере писателям Сталиным (как у Лермонтова, заданными отчасти Николаем, отчасти Бенкендорфм, у Гоголя Николаем и Бенкендорфом. Тема эта большая, как Вы, наврно понимаете, трудоемкая, мало интересующая литературоведов по этим же причинам.”

“This is **Steven Justesen** (BA 2007). I am going to be graduating from the University of Washington Dental School this Saturday, June 8th. My wife and I now have 5 children ranging from 10 years old to 7 months. We will be moving to Sandpoint ID where I will be taking an associate position in a private practice.”

Corey Krzan (BA 2012) just finished up his first year of AmeriCorps in Randle, Washington. He'll be continuing for another year serving at Washington Student Leadership, a program of the Association of Washington School Principals as well as with various youth programs in East Lewis County. During the summer he will be busy with camps, outreach and some work with a five-county collective impact coalition in the South Sound area. "The camps should be very fun (albeit exhausting). I have 3 on the docket so far: Mt. Adams Leadership camp (a camp for high school student leaders), La Cima Bilingual Leadership Camp (a bilingual camp for high school Latino student leaders), and Outdoor Recreation, Health, and Fitness Camp (an outdoor school for kids to earn PE credit). A funny note about the La Cima Bilingual Leadership Camp that I'll be staffing: I was asked to come on board for my language skills/understanding. However, I don't actually speak the second language of instruction, Spanish. My EELL degree is coming to great use already...even at a Spanish-speaking summer camp."

"It's hard to believe it's already been a year since I (**Elyse Kufeldt**, BA 2012) graduated UW and left the Slavic Department! In the last year:

- My husband and I spent a month in Russia (Moscow, Suzdal and Piter) wherein I successfully navigated us through on my Russian and upon return was dead tired of speaking considering I did

all of it in Russia ;)

- We purchased a borzoi puppy while in Moscow who came home to live with us in August. She is a terror and wonderful all at the same time. And her name is Zaria after the pagan Russian goddess. We have shortened it to Zar most of the time which is embarrassing to me only because I'm sure people think I'm stupidly calling our female dog "Tsar," which wounds my often misplaced sense of Russian knowledge elitism. ;) <https://www.facebook.com/sedonazaria> for pictures of the brat child.

- I am working as a localization expert and voice user interaction designer for a local speech recognition software company called VoiceBox in Bellevue. I spend a lot of time thinking about the mechanics of language and developing ways to localize our speech products in an efficient way, creating language-independent structures to work from. Sometimes I get to use my Russian. Often this involves eavesdropping on Russian conversations around me since I'm too nervous to jump in. One of these days.... I manage a small team of language experts for one of our major projects. All in all, not so bad, and my background in Russian definitely helps me on a daily basis!

- Got into a lot of TV shows. Fell into both the Whedonverse and the brilliance that is the BBC. Finally getting back into reading and writing for fun (come on, we all need that break post-graduation) and enjoying the ride. Miss lengthy conversations in the

Slavic literature classes, though!

I think those are all the major highlights. Really can't believe it's already been a year -- hope all is wonderful back on campus for those still there and for those out in the world who are not!"

Don Livingston (PhD 1998) just received a three-year renewal at ASU, where he coordinates the first- and second-year Russian program. He will spend the summer in Kazan with the Critical Languages Institute, where his students will be studying Russian and Tatar, and on the way to Russia he is looking forward to spending a few days in Edinburgh where he hopes to eat endless quantities of haggis.

"Hey Shosh! It looks like I (**Devon Livingston-Rosanoff** (BA 2003) finally have something to report! In March I successfully defended my dissertation and obtained my PhD in Immunology from Emory University here in Atlanta. I am spending the summer tying up loose ends in the lab and taking some time off before I re-enter medical school in the fall (I'm in the MD/PhD program at Emory and still have 2 more years of medical school to go). Sadly, I haven't had used my Russian in the lab, but we'll see what happens as I move back into the clinics."

"The five years since

graduating have flown by, and I regret that this is only the first time I've responded to one of your "News From You" requests! After graduating I (**Daniel Luce**, BA 2008) hopped into a less-than-cooperative job market and ended up taking a job with Warner Brothers Games for a few years before landing at Microsoft. I've been here for almost two and half years in my current role, and starting next week will be moving on to an analyst role, working with the Windows anti-spam team. I have been blessed to have met many Russian-speaking co-workers in my time here, all of whom have offered me opportunities to keep my language skills as honed as they can be. I credit them with keeping my knowledge from disappearing entirely.

"This spring, some of my family returned to Winona, Minnesota, where my maternal grandmother's parents and other family members settled after emigrating from Kashubia. While I wasn't fortunate enough to have gone along, it definitely sparked an interest in making a voyage to Poland to see "where it all began," so to speak. As a huge fan of the Slavic Department's summer intensive language series, I may be returning to pick up some new language skills one summer in the near future!

"I was happy to see so many familiar names still on the online faculty roster. I am still deeply indebted to all there who encouraged me, lent a helpful ear, and kept me on the path to success.

"Wishing you all the best!"

Rick McPeak's (PhD 1996) co-edited book, Tolstoy On War (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/0801478170>) was published in September 2012 to celebrate the bicentennial of the Battle of Borodino.

"My name is **Neil Makin** and I graduated from the UW Russian Dept. in 1972 with an M.A. and then spent 2 more years on a PhD course, not completing the latter. For the last five years, since Dec 2007, I have been teaching ESL at the Fulbright Commission in Quito Ecuador, having moved here for good? with my dog! Am fairly settled here but not so sure about staying for the rest of my life, but I do enjoy the English teaching. Many of our students, upon graduating from Fulbright, win a scholarship to study somewhere abroad in English and many gravitate to the US to pursue masters or PhDs."

"I had meant to submit something to 'News From You' ages ago, but it slipped away and I suppose I really needed this reminder! After graduation (2006), I [**Devin (Connolly) Mitchell**] began working in the Seattle office of MIR Corporation managing travel bookings for group and custom tours to Russia and her neighbors. During that time, I made my first trip to Uzbekistan, which sparked my interest in Central Asia. After two years at MIR, I married a Scottish screenwriter and moved to Glasgow, where I have lived for the last five years. I have two stepsons, aged 12 and 14, and I still work for MIR, except now my work has moved out of the office

and into the field. I lead several MIR tours every year, primarily to the Caucasus, Iran and sometimes Central Asia. Though I initially took the travel job for the chance to visit Russia more frequently, I hardly ever go to Russia for work! My work leading tours has led me to a passion for the Caucasus, which in turn has led me to graduate school. In September, I will begin a master's program at the University of Stirling (Scotland) in International Conflict and Cooperation, and I plan to write my thesis on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.



I sing in a Russian choir here in Glasgow called Russkaya Cappella (russkayacappella.com), and I am also the treasurer. The choir has been a great way for me to plug into the Russian community in Scotland. We recently sang at a party for the Russian Consul General, Sergei Konstantinovich Krutikov, to celebrate Russia Day. Our repertoire includes both sacred and secular music, and our membership is comprised of both Russians and Scots...and me, the lone American!

Ralph Olson graduated in 1958 with a BA in Russian Language and Far Eastern Studies. “My early post-graduation plans changed and I went to the U of W law school, graduating in 1962. I have practiced in a four-person law firm until my retirement three years ago and have been an attorney for Lewis County Legal Aid doing pro bono work for the past three years. This is, of course, out of the ‘profile’ for Slavic languages. However, my Russian has been useful in helping Russian refugees from Moldova, the Ukraine and other areas of the former Soviet Union. We helped perhaps 30 immigrants with legal and medical issues for a number of years using my college Russian.”

Michael Seraphinoff (PhD 1993) still works as an academic examiner for the International Baccalaureate Organization, responsible for their program in Macedonian literature. “A great deal for an organic farmer on Whidbey Island, since it allows me to hoe a field and then go in for a break and work at the computer on something for the IBO. For the past three years I have also been writing reviews of Macedonian literature for the quarterly Macedonian Human Rights Movement International Journal. Eventually I expect all of my reviews to make a nice little book on the subject. The MHRMI has also included my presentation, on Macedonian literature of the Balkan War period, in a conference they are putting on in Melbourne in September. So, despite my odd niche in Slavic studies and my unwillingness to leave our farm on Whidbey, I

continue to have opportunities to use my expertise in Macedonian studies acquired at the UW back in the late 80s and early 90s. Of course, I keep waiting for the Slavic Department to invite me to teach a survey course on Macedonian literature (the only likely school to offer such a course within commuting distance of the farm), but no luck so far. Maybe next year...”

Scott Sharp (MA 1998) is currently in London volunteering at an organization called Reprieve, however, his time in England is coming to an end. “I am returning to the US in July and will be settling in Portland and starting to work at my former place of employment as a lawyer (www.mpdlaw.com). I have taken up a new language, Italian. I have also taken up drawing while in London. I hope to continue with that hobby in Portland. For anyone who wants to get in touch, my email is scottsharp@outlook.com.”

David Snider (BA 1993) recently left Microsoft and moved to Amazon, “where I’m managing globalization for Amazon Web Services. We don’t support Russian yet, but I do occasionally get to use my other languages, rusty as they are. Son Julian just graduated from college and is back home and working downtown. We live on Frat Row just below Ravenna Blvd, so occasionally get a reminder of the university’s presence nearby - usually around 2:00 am when the frat parties wind down. Still enjoying life - at least when work allows - and getting as much exercise as my creaking

joints permit. Would love to hear from any of the old Russian House gang - dasnider@comcast.net.”

“I am for the foreseeable future staying here in the Seattle area, rather than spending half time in Serbia in my late husband’s village,” writes **Cheryl Spasojevic** (BA 1967). “My 93-year-old mother lives with me and is no longer up to making the trips back and forth. Hence I have been trying to whip my yard in to shape since it got pretty overgrown during the 10 summers that I wasn’t here. My older son, Rade, my daughter-in-law and two grandsons live right next door, so I get to spend plenty of time with little Mirko (5) and Aca (3). My younger son, Marko, just started a post-doc at Washington U. in St. Louis in plant ecology. And recently announced that he and his long-time girlfriend are now engaged. I am currently the Financial Secretary at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, where I also sing in the choir. Because I have a split tendon in my foot I haven’t been able to dance for 1 1/2 years, but I am part of a small group that gets together once a week to sing (mostly) Balkan folk songs. I keep in contact with the folklorists in Serbia via Facebook. From time to time I do some smaller translations. The projects at the Center for Social Work in Kragujevac, Serbia, that I

have been involved in for quite a few years, still keep me busy also. And I still work a few hours each month cooking in the deli at the Fremont PCC - have been with them for 21 years! All in all, plenty to keep me busy!!”

Hi Shosh,

I’m not sure how much of this information I’ve shared with the

Slavic Department previously, but here’s what happened to me since I left.

I spent about 10 years in Russia (St. Petersburg and Moscow), working for the U.S. Embassy and the International Organization for Migration. During this time I didn’t even come back to the U.S. for a visit, so there was a little reverse

culture shock when I finally did return. Since then, I’ve been working for the Social Security Administration. I live in Federal Way with my wife and two sons.

Hope this is enough. Maybe one of these days we’ll make it out to Navruz and see you.

Keoki Young, BA, class of 1997.

STUDENT PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



Photo by Anna Moroz

Copies of these photos now grace the walls of the Slavic Department office!

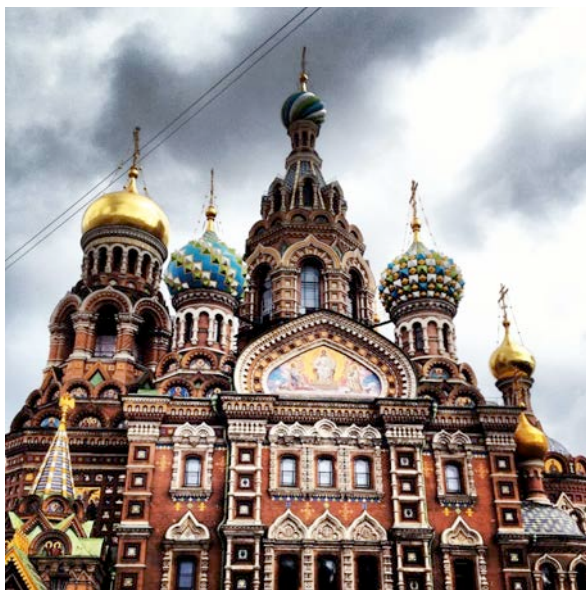


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GIFTS

The following is a list of gifts made to departmental funds since January 1, 2013.

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James E. Augerot and Ileana Marin	Cheryl Spasojević	Washington Assn of Language Teaching
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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 Graduate Student Award and the Slavic Excellence Prizes all come from this fund, as well as this year's prize for the student of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.

Ivana Orlović

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Camelia Ades	Anca Daian and Catalin Dumitrescu	Theodore Paul Hunter, J.D.
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Donors to the *Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund*:

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Donors to the *Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund*:

Oleksiy Bunynytssky	Ukrainian Assn of Washington State	Natalie Zimmer
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This year's recipient of the *Vadim Pahn Scholarship* is Michelle Lie, who is using it to study fourth-year Russian:

SLAVIC GIFT FUNDS

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