

## Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,

Thankfully, the last six months have been fairly uneventful, at least as far as the department was concerned. Our new administrator, Chris Dawson-Ripley, has settled in nicely and the department operates as smoothly as ever. We had a number of events since we came back this fall, with particular emphasis on Polish and Slovenian.

On the Polish front, we hosted Agata Zubel, a Polish composer who was commissioned to write a piece for the Seattle Symphony and who gave a talk about her creative process. Dr. Tomasz

Łysak, a former Polish Fulbright lecturer at UW, came back this fall to give a lecture based on his new book, *From Newsreel to Posttraumatic Films: Classic Documentaries about Auschwitz-Birkenau*. The Holocaust theme will be continued in February when the department will cosponsor an exhibit at the Allen Library entitled *They Risked Their Lives: Poles who saved Jews during the Holocaust*. (More on this in the article by Krystyna Untersteiner in this issue.)

As far as Slovenian studies are concerned, we received two sizeable donations which allowed us to establish a Slovenian Studies Endowment Fund. (More on this in the article by Dr. Michael Biggins in this issue.) We also hosted two Slovenian scholars: Milena Blažič and Vesna Mikolič, who gave talks on Slovenian children’s literature and tourism discourse respectively.

In October our department cosponsored the US premiere of *Pineapple*, a film by Russian disability activist and filmmaker Vladimir Rudak. Mr. Rudak also appeared at a question and answer panel.

Our faculty are working hard on their classes and research. Prof. Galya Diment’s article on *Nabokov and Epilepsy* appeared in the August issue of the *Times Literary Supplement*. Her article on *Chagall’s Struggle with Fatherhood* appeared in the August issue of *Tablet*. She also wrote an introduction for a new translation of Ivan Goncharov’s *The Same Old Story*, which will be published late in 2016.

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Prof Gordana Crnković published a chapter in a book on postwar European novel entitled *A Betrayal of Enlightenment: EU Expansion and the Estonian Border State*. Our Russian language instructor, Valentina Zaitseva applied for and received a Global Business Center Grant from the UW's Foster School of Business. The Funds will be used to create an online module for Russian Business language. Yours truly's article *Smell in Polish: Lexical Semantics and Cultural Values* just came out in the latest issue of *Slavic Linguistics Journal*.

As I mentioned in a recent letter sent to many of you, in 2018 the Slavic department will celebrate its 50th anniversary! We are busy planning a commemorative conference tentatively entitled *Shining a Light on the Other Europe*.

I want to close by wishing you all a very good New Year: much success in your professional endeavors and much happiness, joy and fulfillment in your private lives. I hope you will stay in touch with us in 2017.

All the best,

*Kat Dziwinek*

## NEW ADMINISTRATOR

-Eloise Boyle

In June the Slavic Department welcomed its new administrator, Chris Dawson-Ripley. Chris is a graduate of UW, having earned a BA in Political Science and History. Before joining the Slavic Department, Chris worked in the Physics Department, and in the UW School of Medicine Departments of Anesthesiology and Neurology. Chris brings his skills as a supervisor and fiscal specialist to our department where he's found a warm welcome.



Chris is enthusiastic about working with the dedicated, accomplished faculty and talented graduate students of the Slavic Department. When not at work Chris can be found on the ice as he is an avid rec-league hockey player and referee. He also enjoys such pursuits as reading, cooking and playing

the bass. Please join us as we welcome Chris Dawson-Ripley to our department!

## UW POLISH STUDIES

-Krystyna Untersteiner

A few magical days with **Agata Zubel**, a Polish composer and singer, took place in October.



A lecture hosted by UWPSEC on the UW Campus focused on inspirations, approach to compositions, and their vocal aspects. Later during the week, three concerts took place at Benaroya Hall, including the premiere of Ms Zubel's *In the Shade of an Unshed Tear*, an orchestral work recently commissioned by the Seattle Symphony, and a performance of Ms. Zubel's composition *Chapter 13*.

In November, **Tomasz Łysak, Ph.D.**, gave a lecture entitled *From Newsreel to Posttraumatic films – Classic Documentaries about Auschwitz-Birkenau*. The lecture shed light on the aesthetic choices and film genres: newsreel, posttraumatic film, scientific film, and first person testimony in representations of liberation of the Nazi camp Auschwitz - Birkenau. Dr. Łysak spent AY 2010/11 at our Slavic Department as a Fulbright



Scholar co-sponsored by the UW PSEC. We enjoyed seeing Tomasz back in Seattle after such a long time.

From the fundraising point of view, we are very proud to announce that our Endowment Fund reached **\$250,000!!**  
**To give to the UW Polish Studies Funds**, go to: Make a gift - University of Washington <https://www.washington.edu/giving/make-a-gift> and search with keyword: **Polish**

### *Coming Up in 2017*

In early 2017, we will be co-sponsoring an Exhibit and a Lecture/Panel Discussion:  
***THEY RISKED THEIR LIVES: POLES WHO SAVED JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST***  
**Exhibit: February 4 - 27, 2017, Allen Library North Lobby** (during Library hours)  
**Lecture/Panel Discussion: February 15, 2017, 7:00-8:00 at Communications, Room 120**

with panelists Lila Cohen, Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee and Mariusz Brymora, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles. The discussion will be followed by the official opening of the Exhibit at the Library  
*The event is co-sponsored by: AJC Seattle, Consulate General of Poland in Los Angeles, Consulate of Poland in Seattle, University of Washington Jewish Studies and University of Washington Polish Studies Endowment Committee*

#### **JOIN US:**

If you are interested in joining our organization, learning about our activities, or subscribing to our newsletter, please contact us at [contactus@polishstudiesuw.org](mailto:contactus@polishstudiesuw.org)

## STUDENT NEWS

### **Fall Quarter Colloquium**

#### **Summary**

#### **-Nathan Marks**

This autumn quarter there were a total of three Slavic Graduate Student Colloquia. The first colloquium took place on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The title was “What I did over the summer flashback.” At this first colloquium we discussed our summers, what we did, including research projects, teaching projects and travels of some of the graduate students and faculty that were present. The second colloquium of the autumn quarter took place on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Veronica Muskheli, a PhC in the department of Slavic Languages and Literatures gave a talk entitled “A Post-Soviet Village Prose Tale: Klyucharyova’s “A Year in Paradise” as a Critique of Solzhenitsyn’s “Matryona’s House”.” The talk addressed the current concerns about the death of the Russian village, in regards to the young author’s suggestion that the idea of Russian “paradise” needs to be reevaluated while looking for answers in Russian folklore. The third talk of the quarter took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. The talk was given by Alison Knight, an M.A. student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. The talk was entitled “On Reading, Empathy, and Why Unlikeable

Women Still Matter". The talk was on the topic of unlikeable women in literature and even film and why they matter and are very important in a cultural, social and political context. Please see the write up on this talk posted below.



### **On Reading, Empathy, and Why Unlikeable Women Still Matter**

**-Alison Knight**

As one of Professor Diment's TAs for her course on *Anna Karenina*, I gave a lecture to the class on the importance of unlikeable women, which I then gave again at our Slavic graduate student colloquium. Much that we had looked at dealt with the position of women in the historical context during which the novel was written and in which the novel is set. However, in discussions there were, of course, very real and present reactions to the events in the novel and to Anna herself, with some dismissing her and the text because they disagreed with her choices. As the day I was scheduled to lecture came the day after

Election Day, I decided to broaden the talk a little to include the real-world ramifications for dismissing women that we do not like personally. The students had read Vladimir Nabokov's analysis of *Anna Karenina*, so I included his rules for what makes a good reader, paying special attention to his denunciation of the idea that a reader should be able to identify with the protagonist. An important aspect to the distinction to make was that while characters did not need to be our favorite humans, there is a difference in not relating to a character and having a character not read as authentic or believable. Nabokov mentioned that a reader must have imagination, which we explored as an ability to engage with the text and to empathize. From the view of Nabokov's own writing, it can be seen how one can engage with the characters in a story without relating to them—after all, one must engage with Nabokov's narrator Humbert Humbert in his novel *Lolita* and try to imagine how a scene might look objectively, but no reader needs to like or approve of Humbert Humbert in order to do so. As Alaa Al Aswany said of *Anna Karenina* and *Emma Bovary*, "We do not judge them, but to try to understand their weaknesses and their mistakes. Literature is not a tool of judgment—it's a tool for human understanding." We then talked about the importance of this

type of reading to build empathy skills. I then addressed that although Tolstoy did give Anna nuance and rounded out, she still died at the end of the novel, as many transgressive women in fiction have. We discussed how this problem persists, and many novelists (Claire Messud, Rivka Galchen, and Margaret Atwood, to name a few) who write women who are unlikeable are questioned as to why they would do that. As Galchen noted, "[T]here's the whole tangle of a book's popular reception, which includes mass media and its reporters: Is a character's "likability" being conflated with the artistic success of a work?" and states that this happens much more often with female characters as well as those written by women. We should be embracing depictions of women, real women with flaws of all sorts, when we encounter them (as well as fully-fledged characters from other marginalized groups) because that will help pave understanding for real people from these groups as they carve out new paths in the real world.

### **Slavic Department Major Published in *The Birch***

Congratulations to current EELLC major Anna Wahler-Edwards! Anna will be published in this year's *The Birch* – a national undergraduate publication for Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies housed at Columbia University.

Spring 2017 will see the publication of a chapter from Anna's novel in progress, *Diary of a Polish Airman*.

## SLOVENIA & SLOVENE AT UW

-Michael Biggins

UW's fall 2016 calendar of Slovene studies events was lively, with emphasis on campus visits and public lectures by Slovene specialists from the universities of Prague, Ljubljana and Koper; a day-long weekend event about Slovene American culture by an expert from the second largest Slovene city in the world, Cleveland; the establishment of UW's first endowment to support Slovene studies; and, underlying it all, the start of a new 5-quarter cycle of accelerated Slovene language instruction, encompassing beginning (fall 2016, winter 2017), intermediate (spring 2017, fall 2017) and advanced (winter 2018) language courses.

**Prof. Alenka Jenšterle-Doležal** directs the [South Slavic and Balkan Studies Program](#) at Charles University in Prague, where she also teaches courses in Slovene literature. Though she visited UW during the 2016 summer-fall interim mainly for research purposes, in the course of her two-week stay she made time for informal consultations with UW faculty colleagues.

More integrated with UW fall quarter activities was a three-week-long visit in October by **Prof. Milena Mileva Blažič**, who teaches methods of K-12 instruction of Slovene literature at the University of Ljubljana's School of Education. Her public talk on [Slovene Literary Culture in Picture Books](#) presented a broad and impressive cross-section of a highly sophisticated, smart publishing sector that clearly does not underestimate the intelligence of its young audience. UW faculty and graduate students made plans to collaborate with Prof. Blažič in compiling and translating a new bi-lingual Slovene-English anthology of Slovene crossover literature, consisting of texts that function equally well for juvenile and adult readerships. Toward the end of fall quarter, **Prof. Vesna Mikolič** from the University of the Adriatic Littoral (Koper, Slovenia) spent two weeks in Seattle, during which she delivered two intriguing public talks – [Stereotyping in Tourism Discourse](#), which explored the cultural pragmatics that underly differing translating strategies for rendering Slovene or Italian touristic literature in neighboring languages; and [Language and Interculturality in the Poetry of Tomaž Šalamun](#), involving statistical analysis of the corpus of the work of Slovenia's best-known 20th-century poet.

In addition to this wealth of scholarly offerings, UW also hosted a day-long *Celebration of Slovene-American Culture* on Saturday, October 8, featuring guest speakers **Joe Valenčič** (from Cleveland) and **Mary Lou Deyak-Volk** (from the Minnesota Iron Range). A varied program of original documentary films produced by Valenčič, brief lectures, folk music and refreshments created a virtual panorama of the Slovene American subculture that thrived in mid-20th century and is acquiring new life today with the post-1991 influx of immigrants from Slovenia. During the fall the Department also established UW's first-ever endowment to support Slovene studies. Thanks to the generosity of two major donors across country, and with significant contributions from local donors, the Boniecka Endowment for Slovene Studies was established with a principal balance of over \$110,000. When the endowment matures in fall 2017, it will produce funds to help keep the UW-University of Ljubljana Exchange of Scholars in operation for many decades to come. Higher fundraising goals remain for us to achieve in the months and years ahead as we continue our drive to establish various aspects of Slovene studies permanently at UW, but the Boniecka Endowment is a major success and a cause for celebration and thanks.

## STARTALK SUMMER 2016

-Anatoliy Klots

Every summer for the last six years, dozens of high school students filled the classrooms of the Language Learning Center located in Denny Hall, the oldest building at the University of Washington, to learn about space and airplanes – in Russian. In four intensive weeks, they studied the Space Race, familiarized themselves with Russian cosmonauts and



rocket engineers, learned about the Solar system and stars, and even participated in a cosmic odyssey that took them to Mars and back without leaving the Museum of Flight in Seattle. The University of Washington Russian Student program, Russian in the Sky and Outer Space, is a part of the STARTALK (a portmanteau for “start talking”) program launched by the National Security Language Initiative. The aim of STARTALK is to increase the number of citizens learning, speaking, and teaching critical foreign languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian,

and several others. This year the UW STARTALK team included **Dr. Svetlana Abramova**, lead instructor for the UW STARTALK student program and an affiliate lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, **Anatoliy Klots**, program director, instructor, and a doctoral student at the Slavic department, and Dr. Marina Zamarashkina, STEM Instructor.

The Russian student program, the only such program in the state of Washington, was aimed at heritage speakers who are raised in homes where Russian is spoken and who are to some degree bilingual in English and their heritage language. Most of students came from local high schools. Due to a lack of Russian in the Washington state school system, students gain formal language proficiency in church and private schools and with tutors. Some students have additional exposure to language while visiting Russia, or other Russian-speaking countries and staying in touch with relatives and friends. This created a diverse classroom with a variety of educational backgrounds and linguistic experiences. In 2010, there were almost 50,000 speakers of Russian in the state of Washington making it the fifth most common language. The Russian-speaking community, having grown by 20,000 in just ten years (2000-2010), has a significant presence

in the Puget Sound region. Many heritage speakers of Russian in families of recent immigrants have a strong grasp of Russian. This allowed for the creation of a course for students with high language proficiency who are able to read and write, and are interested in improving their language skills. The program gained significant popularity in the Russian community. Average enrollment was around 20 students but the number of applications was much higher. The program allowed students not only to learn something new over the summer, but also to earn university credits, take language tests, and earn high school world language credits. All classes of the program were taught exclusively in Russian, using authentic visual materials, texts, and multimedia. UW STARTALK included not only traditional lessons. The program hosted interviews with local Russian-speaking professionals who built successful careers in Microsoft, Boeing, Philips, and other major companies. Students also participated in several STEM-related field trips. In 2016, UW STARTALK took them to the Museum of Flight and to Alaska Airlines to learn more about airplanes. While the focus of the program was teaching Russian through STEM, the UW STARTALK team thought that it was essential to give students an opportunity to study subjects of their choice in addition to the

core curriculum dedicated to space exploration and aviation. For example, a Russian history course was taught from 2014 to 2016. Other elective projects, such as linguistics, media literacy, and LEGO robotics, were also included in the program. Apart from the opportunity to learn about various subjects, students were engaged in teacher-guided independent research projects. At the end of the program, they had a chance to present their findings during the conference in front of their peers, family members, community members, and representatives from UW's Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies and Slavic department. For many participants, this was the first time that they employed Russian publicly in an academic setting. As many students said during their post-program interviews, research and presentations were among the most demanding, but also the most rewarding experience during the program.

To learn more about the STARTALK program, visit <https://depts.washington.edu/startalk/>

## UKRAINIAN STUDIES

-Laada Bilakiuk

During the two years since our last update, many exciting Ukrainian Studies events have

taken place at the University of Washington, including talks, classes, concerts, conferences, and film screenings. This section presents some highlights.

UW undergraduate club *Ukrainian Students United (USU)* held “*Ukrainian Film Days*” in 2015-16. The monthly showing of films in the Allen Library Auditorium featured the classics *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors* (1965) and *Wedding in Malynovka* (1967), and recent films *Taras Bulba* (2009) and the Turkish-Ukrainian film *Love me/ Люби мене/ Sev beni* (2013). In February 2016 USU represented Ukraine at the FIUTS CulturalFest International Expo with a richly decorated and informative booth.



**The UW Slavic Department and the Ellison Center** regularly hold Ukrainian studies-related conferences and presentations. Select Ellison Center presentations are available as **podcasts**, including the following panels and talks:

**Dr. Oleksandr Fisun**, Professor of Political Science at Kharkiv

National University, was a Carnegie Fellow at UW in 2014-15. On Apr. 15, 2015, he



took part in a panel on “Ukraine and Russia: Is There Any Way Out?,” along with Derek Norberg, Executive Director, Russian American Pacific Partnership, Council for U.S.-Russia Relations; Jennifer Carroll, PhD Candidate in Anthropology at UW; and Scott Radnitz, Associate Professor in the Jackson School and Director of the Ellison Center.

**Dr. Svitlana Khutka**, sociologist from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, presented a talk on Nov. 5, 2015 on “How Ukraine is Seen in Russia: Public Opinion Dynamics.” Dr. Khutka was previously a Carnegie Fellow at UW in 2012-13.



**Dr. Mykola Riabchuk**, senior research fellow at the Institute of Political and Nationalities Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, presented “Examined by War: New Bonds and Old Cleavages in Post-Maidan Ukrainian Society” on Oct. 11, 2016. He analyzed sociological data to show how



political views and geopolitical orientations of many Ukrainians have changed, shaping a new Ukrainian identity that supersedes ethnic, linguistic and other divides.

The University of Washington collaborates with the Ukrainian Association of Washington State to host community events, such as the concert on Saturday, March 21, 2015 by Ukrainian singer Anastasia Prykhodko, as

part of her North American Charity Tour "Songs for Peace."



Prykhodko's history as a performer reflects the complex relationship between Ukraine and Russia. In 2009, she was chosen to represent Russia in the 2009 Eurovision competition, with the song "Mamo," which she sang in a combination of Russian and Ukrainian lyrics. In 2014, she spoke out publicly against Russian-backed aggression in Ukraine and gave concerts in the war-torn eastern Ukrainian regions, which led the Russian media to label her an enemy. She is among many other performers who have spoken out against Russia's involvement in the war have consequently been vilified in

Russia. Between songs, Prykhodko invited questions from the audience, responding with her candid views on everything from popular culture to current political issues. The event drew close to 400 people, raising \$8470 in charity funds, divided between humanitarian aid for victims of Ukraine's proxy war with Russia, and support for the making of a film about historical justice called "True Rus'."

The UW continued this tradition with the December 17, 2016 concert by **Bria Blessing** in Kane Hall.

***Graduate Degrees in Ukrainian Studies completed at UW***

**Dr. Jennifer Carroll** received her PhD in Anthropology in summer 2015, with a thesis titled "Choosing Methadone: Managing Addiction and the Body Politic in Ukraine." Her research was



based on interviews and participant observation with public health advocates, medical professionals, and people seeking treatment in preventative opiate substitution programs in Ukraine. She explored the tensions that exist between practitioners and patients in their understandings of addiction and health, and how

this relates to the broader social constructs of citizenship and morality. Dr. Carroll's fieldwork period (March 2013-March 2014) coincided with the EuroMaidan, and her observation and documentation of the protests fueled her further interest in the study of social upheaval and visual anthropology. She is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Miriam Hospital, a teaching affiliate of the Alpert Medical School at Brown University, Rhode Island.

**Christi Anne Hofland** received her Master's degree in International Studies in December 2015, with a thesis titled: "Institutions of Activism:



Museums and Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity." Ms. Hofland is now the director of America

House in Kyiv, the United States' premier venue for cultural programs and outreach events in Ukraine. There she coordinates a wide variety of activities, including discussions on pressing policy issues, speaker series, workshops, movie nights, discussion clubs, art exhibits, and concerts. Ms. Hofland has been featured as a cultural ambassador in various public events as well as on the Ukrainian television program "Snidanok z 1+1."



## NEWS FROM YOU

**Bud Bard** (BA 1955, MA 1966) writes “For a number of years I have been active with the Seattle Sister Cities and continue to serve as President of the Seattle Sister Cities Association. During this time I have been actively involved with assisting the Japanese Consulate in keeping their roster of Japan’s Sister City programs with cities in Washington State up to date. There are currently 37 such affiliated cities, with the oldest being the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association, which was founded in 1957 under the then Mayor Gordon Clinton, who served from June 4, 1956 to April 5, 1960. So this year the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association will celebrate its 60th Anniversary. Many events will take place as the Association and the Japanese Consulate join forces in marking this mile stone.



On July 20th, the 28th year of Heisei (2016) I was honored to receive a Certificate of Commendation from Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. The award states “In recognition of your distinguished achievements in

promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the United States of America and thus contributing to the strengthening of friendly relations between Japan and foreign countries, you are hereby presented this award with the utmost respect. This award was presented on October 6, 2016 at the Seattle Sister Cities Reception by the Honorable Masahiro Omura, Consul General of Japan in Seattle. The reception, which honors Seattle’s 21 Sister Cities, was held at Seattle City Hall, hosted by Mayor Ed Murray, and attended by more than 550 individuals.

International travel guru Rick Steves was the featured speaker, and the evening host was the Emmy Award winning veteran broadcast journalist, Jean Enersen.

**Scott Brauer** (B.A. 2005) now lives in Boston where he works as a freelance photojournalist for international magazines and newspapers. “It’s been a busy year for me professionally. I covered the presidential election as a photographer for publications including Time, Bloomberg Businessweek, Esquire, Le Monde, Stern, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Mother Jones, the Globe and Mail, and others. It was all part of a project I called ‘This is the worst party I’ve ever been to.’ and you can see it on my website at <http://2016.mscottbrauer.com/> A few of my photos were also included in Time magazine’s “Most unforgettable photos of the

election” list this year. The project has also been exhibited in the US, Canada, and Europe. I got to use my Russian a bit while showing the work as part of festivals in Lithuania, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Serbia, including speaking Russian during an interview on a Bulgarian national television news program. During those festivals, I got the chance to meet with local photojournalists, doing portfolio reviews and helping them think about getting their work out to larger audiences outside of their countries. The election basically took over my life for the last couple of years, but it ended up giving me great opportunities to get back to Eastern Europe a few times.”

**Roy Chan** (BA 2002), now an Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures at University of Oregon had this to say “In August I returned to St. Petersburg for the first time since I did a study abroad there as a Russian major fifteen years ago. The week I spent there was truly wondrous, and I got to present my ongoing research on Chinese author Ba Jin’s translation of Alexander Herzen’s 19th-century memoirs, *My Past and My Thoughts*. The conference was hosted by the European Association for Chinese Studies, and both my Chinese and Russian skills were put to good use. In November my book, *The Edge of Knowing*, finally came out with the University of Washington Press. In my acknowledgements I thank such important teachers

like Galya Diment, Gordana Crnkovic, and Willis Konick. In these uncertain times, I keep busy with my teaching and advising duties.”

In July 2016, Al and **Gray (Carpenter) Church** (BA 1977) moved into their new 40-year-old hacienda on a hill, and started another business: grapefruit ranching. Yes, apparently in California, one doesn't “farm” citrus; citrus is grown on ranches. (Images of herding grapefruit...) Appropriately, the business has been named Rancho Iglesias. In December, the co-op that harvests the crop delivered the first payment to Sr. and Sra. Church: a whopping \$22.93. (Hey, you Slavic fans—EAT MORE GRAPEFRUIT!) Rancho Iglesias consists of 330 white, pink, Star Ruby, and Oro Blanco grapefruit trees, as well as a handful of Valencia oranges, Navel oranges, and mandarins; and one each Meyer lemon, kumquat, and persimmon. Most of the trees were planted when the home was built in 1976—some trees are over 25 feet tall. Because the grove hadn't been maintained in quite a few years, Al and Gray have been quite busy pruning, skirting, weeding, and generally enjoying life as grapefruit ranchers.

**Carol Davis** (MA 1978) has recently published her 4<sup>th</sup> poetry collection titled *Because I Cannot Leave This Body* by Carol V. Davis, published by Truman State Univ. Press. As always, some of the poems relate to Russia. This spring she is organizing a trip to St Pete's for members of her current university, Santa Monica College.

**Rebecca Manring** (MA 1974) recently participated in the first ever Middle Bengali literature retreat-cum-workshop in Miercurea Ciuc, Transylvania, Romania. “My first ever visit to eastern Europe. Nothing to do with my Slavic days except that it was geographically a lot closer than West Bengal. Gorgeous countryside (we had to drive over the Carpathians from the Bucharest airport to the small town of Miercurea Ciuc), wonderful produce fresh from the fields, and delightful people. The workshop itself was perhaps the most inspiring intellectual activity of my career since graduate school, spending all day every day for ten days with 15 other scholars of Middle Bengali literature. And we're going to do it again next summer!”

**David Miles**, (BA 1974) former department administrator says, “I retired from UW after 41 years, 26 of which I worked in the Slavic Department office. Though I retired from French and Italian Studies, a good representation from the Slavic Department came to my retirement party December 13 -- Jim Augerot, Eloise Boyle, Galya Diment, Kat Dziwirek, and Shosh Westen among them. I'm off starting January for more playing accordion, riding my bicycle, and cleaning my basement -- besides seeing more of relatives and friends, with maybe you among them!” “Hi all, **Ann (Anya) Romeo** here (Russian Lang & Lit, Soviet Studies, '79). I'm still at my same job (although my company has been bought a few times, and we're now known as ORC International--best known for

doing the polling for CNN...). Besides work, I've been playing lots of competitive duplicate bridge, even got to go to this year's Summer Nationals in D.C. (Yeah...D.C. in July, our organization (ACBL) knows how to pick a winning time of year). My big news? I'm getting married in April to a terrific guy, Ray Miller, a fellow Husky, a bridge bum (er genius), and an all-around sweetie. My other news? I've organized a weekly bridge game in the U-District for UW students, alumni and anyone else who wants to come play, at the Church of Christ at 47th and Brooklyn. Game time is 6:00. The cost is \$6.00 for alums and others; students are free! Fellow Slavic alums Dave Bauman and Kit Adams are often in attendance. Come join us!”

**Lee Scheingold** (Senior Access Student) has had an article published in the Journal of Poetics Research. <http://poeticsresearch.com/article/lee-scheingold-the-hills-are-alive-a-review-of-the-novel-2017/> After returning in June from a Fulbright fellowship in Indonesia, **Clara Summers**, class of 2014, relocated to Washington, DC, where she works as a Legislative Assistant for Earthjustice. While she hasn't yet figured out how to incorporate Czech into her job, Clara is thrilled to put her passion for environmental justice to work.

# GIFTS

The following is a list of gifts made to departmental funds since July 1, 2016.

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

Harlan Cady Adams	Heidi Anne Beck	Allison Elice Cloud
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**Donors to the *Friends of Polish Studies Fund*:**

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**Donors to our newest fund, the *Roma Boniecka-Anna Cienciala Endowment for Slovene Studies*:**

Katie Anne Adamson	Gloria L. Barello	Roma Boniecka
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**Donors to the *Romanian Studies Fund*:**

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