

SLAVIC NEWS

WINTER 2002

Slavic Languages and Literatures, Box 353580
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3580

LETTER FROM ACTING CHAIR GALYA DIMENT

As we finish the first quarter of the new academic year, I find myself in the unanticipated position of again being an acting chair of the department. Jack Haney retired during the second week of autumn quarter for health reasons, and he is sorely missed by students and faculty alike.

Jack was hired by the university in 1965 and served as its chair twice, first for seven years in the 1970s and, more recently, for the past three years. Throughout his years at the university, in addition to being an excellent scholar, Jack taught medieval literature and folklore (as well as nineteenth-century Russian literature, Russian language, and whatever else was necessary) to thousands of students. From the time he started teaching as an undergraduate TA, just shortly before he went to England on a Rhodes Scholarship, and up until two months ago, Jack was, without a doubt, one of the most popular and beloved instructors on campus. When I went to his class back in early October to announce his sudden retirement, there were many tears and much sadness. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he will continue contributing to the department in smaller but still meaningful and much-appreciated ways.

Upon Jack's retirement, Daniel Waugh, our colleague from the History Department and a strong friend and supporter of the Slavic Department, pitched in and taught Jack's medieval course. We are grateful to him and to Jack's and his very able TA, Dan Newton, for enabling us to continue offering the course to students not only this year but in the nearest future as well.

To replace Jack this year we have hired two new people. Visiting Assistant Professor Lisa Wakamiya (Ph.D. 2000, UCLA) will be teaching two courses in winter quarter (19th-century Russian literature and a seminar on Russian emigre writings), and Visiting Assistant Professor Vladimir Mylnikov (Ph.D. 1995, Volgograd Pedagogical University) will teach two more in the spring (folklore and Russian literature in Russian). Both are experienced teachers and promising scholars. Lisa has taught at Florida State University and will teach at UC Santa Barbara spring quarter. In addition to being a specialist in Russian literature, she is also an expert in Czech literature, culture and film. Volodia taught a semester at Wesleyan and, prior to that, five years in China, where he lectured in both Russian and English literatures.

The spring quarter will feature one more new lecturer in the department - Laurel Schultz, who got her B.A. from us in 1989 and who is now finishing her Ph.D. at UCLA. Laurel will be teaching a course on Russian women writers ("Masculine Femininity") which is directly connected to her nearly completed dissertation. Laurel was a student of Jack's, one of the very brightest he ever had, according to his own characterization, and it is very fitting to have her on board this year!

This year we are also lucky to have a Fulbright Scholar from Romania, Professor Marina Cap Bun. In addition to teaching Romanian, in the spring she will also teach a course, "The Fantastic and the Absurd in Literature," which is cross-listed with Comparative Literature. Marina also organized a wildly successful celebration of the Romanian national holiday. I can personally attest to the fact that there was standing room only (more than 100 attended), but the food was so abundant that despite our fears everyone was both well fed and well entertained.

Our short- and long-term futures look a bit uncertain ("It's the economy, stupid!") but promising. If things do not take a very sharp turn for the worse, we do anticipate hiring another year-long replacement for Jack next year and, at the same time, conducting a nationwide search for new tenure-track faculty in the department, most likely in the field of post-Soviet literature, film, and culture. We are also intensifying our efforts to raise money from non-federal sources, so keep all your fingers (and toes) crossed for us -- and if you want to invest in any way in our future, we would humbly accept any contributions you can offer!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2, 3-5 p.m. **CZECH LECTURE** - A lecture by Visiting Assistant Professor Lisa Wakamiya and entertainment by the students of Lecturer Jaroslava Soldanova will be followed by refreshments. We hope you can join us. Please call 206-543-6848 or email slavicll@u.washington.edu for more information.

March 2 **ACTR OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN**
As it has done since spring 1996, the Slavic Department will once again host students from across the state of Washington competing in the Olympiada. Last year's overall winner - and winner of the Nora Holdsworth Scholarship - was Quinn Carey, a student of alum Daniel Erickson. Quinn, who started her study of Russian in October 2000, did so well that she earned a spot on the U.S. Olympiada team that competed in Russia! We hope you will be considering supporting with your donations the Nora Holdsworth Scholarship, which is awarded each year to the top-place finisher of the Olympiada and covers tuition to the UW's summer quarter intensive Russian language program.

March 10 All are cordially invited to attend our annual **Vfcktybwf** celebration, which will be held at the Waterfront Activities Center, near the UW stadium. Festivities begin at 2:00 p.m. This is your chance to eat bliny and kiss winter good-bye! Call 206-543-6848 for more details.

May 12 Keep an eye out for the biannual flyer from the Association of Alumni and Friends of the Slavic Department giving the details on how you can participate in the annual **SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DAY** celebration, which this year will be held at the Polish Home.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Professor James West attended the AAASS Conference in Washington, D.C. in November, participating in the panel on "The Fantastic in Russian Literature" and on the roundtable on "Management of Digital Projects."

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Michael Biggins' book, *Publishing in Yugoslavia's Successor States*, an edited collection, was published this year by Haworth Press.

Geoff Schwartz, who is teaching second-year Polish this year while Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek is on sabbatical, had a paper, "Speech Perception, Language Change and the Slavic Palatalizations," published in *Folia Linguistica Historica XXI*, 1-2, pp. 277-300, 2001.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

We are delighted to welcome **Michelle Foshee** to the department as Program Coordinator. Rather than tell you about her, we'll let her tell you about herself:



Privet! My name is Michelle, I'm the new face in the Slavic Department. I began studying here in 1990 and had no idea at the time that my connection to the university would last this long. Lucky me! After studying politics and then international studies at the Jackson School, I temped for a long while, which gave me the money to do what I loved: explore Seattle, go to the theatre and the opera, and travel around the country. But I grew restless. And then one morning I woke up and found myself in the Russian Far East as a Peace Corps volunteer. "How did this happen?" I asked myself. But I stuck with it and grew to love it: the long train rides, the meals that never seemed to end, and the banya. Adventure seemed to be lurking around every corner. I never thought that going to the post office or the train station

could be so...vivid. I completed my service in June 2001. As I looked for a job, one advertisement leapt out at me: Slavic Languages and Literatures needed a part-time Program Coordinator. "Home," I thought. Well, I got the job and am happy to be working with such delightful, warm people. Stop by the office sometime. We love visitors.

On a sad note, **Evgenii Smirnov**, former house father of the Russian House and a friend to many students and faculty members in the Slavic Department, died on Monday, November 12 at 11:00 p.m. For those of you who know his wife, Liza, please take the time to visit or write her and give her some support. She loves having visitors and needs them now more than ever. Lisa is in room 217 at Columbia Lutheran Home, 4700 Phinney N., Seattle. The telephone number at the reception desk is (206) 632-7400.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Charles Mills, now in his third year teaching at Knox College, is spending most of December in Moscow with a group of Knox College students. Plans include a visit to the banya and ice skating in Gorky Park. He returns in time to present a paper, "Deriving cliticness in Czech," at the AATSEEL conference in New Orleans.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWS

Hildegard Arnesen (Ph.D. 1976) writes, "Dear good old Slavic Department, where I spent some of the best years of my life. Hello to those who remember and and Holiday Cheers to all. I am sorry for not keeping in touch, life has been busy. After defending my dissertation (Alexander Blok), I had an offer to teach at Antioch University in Seattle. I declined and instead pursued work long dear to my heart: spirituality and healing. I entered the public healing practice of Christian Science in Olympia and in 1993 accepted an invitation to transfer this work to St. Petersburg, Russia, where I have been active, six months of each year, since then. I teach and practice spirituality and healing. My lecturing work takes me to many cities, both large and small, inside Russia and the former Soviet republics. Most recently, besides lecturing in St. Petersburg, I also lectured in Moscow, Almaty, Kiev and Kherson, Arsenyev, Ukhta and Riga. During the month of April I always lecture in Western Europe, mostly Austria, Germany, Switzerland and England, and the rest of the year I spend at home with husband Bill and kitticat Vesnushka in Olympia, WA. Bill also spends part of his time with me in St. Petersburg."

Scott Baier (B.A. 2001) has landed himself in Missoula, Montana, where he is trying to make a home for himself. "People laugh strangely when I tell them that I'm a Russian major. I only smile serenely back.

Oscar Bandelin (B.A. 1986) has a book coming out spring 2002. Entitled *Return to the NEP: The False Promise of Leninism and the Failure of Perestroika*, it will be published by Praeger Publishers, a subsidiary of Greenwood Publishing Group.

Jared Blum (B.A. 2000) is now a first-year medical student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where "sadly my use of the Russian language is limited to occasional conversations with a native classmate."

Cassandra Cavanaugh (B.A. 1988) writes, "Thank you very much for sending the department newsletter, which I enjoy reading very much, although it is a reminder of how long it has been since my graduation.

"Since then, after a year spent in Russia and one interpreting for MRCI, I received an M.A. in Russian Area Studies from Yale University and a Ph.D. in History from Columbia University, where I defended my dissertation, "Biology and Backwardness: Medicine and Power in Russian and Soviet Central Asia, 1868-1934," in December 2000. During my time at Columbia, I spent two years living and working in Uzbekistan, and the past three years here in New York, where I have been the Senior Researcher in the Europe and Central Asia division of Human Rights Watch. In August, I will begin my appointment as Assistant Professor of History at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, and as a fellow at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian Research."

Carol Davis (M.A. 1979) went back to St. Petersburg last summer to work with an American program and is planning to go back again to resume her teaching job there at Petersburg Jewish University. "I've been publishing a lot recently (poetry) in literary magazines in the U.S. and in Ireland, including *Heliotrope* (NY), *The Stinging Fly* (Dublin), *Red Cedar Review* (Michigan State) and *Into the Teeth of the Wind* (UC Santa Barbara). I'm in my 2nd year as an adjunct professor of English at Santa Monica College."

In November **Larry Frost** (B.A. 2001) headed for Prague to spend the next six months working at the U.S. Embassy as a translator.

David Graber (Ph.D. 1996) is a foreign correspondent in Berlin reporting on Germany and Eastern Europe for BNA Inc. He "recently performed in several English-language theater productions and films."

Mica Hall (Ph.D. 1997) presented a paper at the Twentieth Annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois at Champaign as part of the Summer Russian Lab and will be presenting at the AATSEEL and MLA conferences in New Orleans at the end of December.

Andra Hill (B.A. 1992) moved back to the Seattle area late last year after eight years in Russia, California and Texas. "For now I am continuing to work as a freelance interpreter and hope to pursue an interest in computational linguistics in the near future."

Andrew Inniss (M.A. 1994) and his wife just had a son born on September 25. "David weighed 7 lb. 1 3/4 oz. at birth and is brilliant in every way. Congrats may be sent to *ratlady@uniserve.com*."

Alan James (M.A. 1988), a high school humanities teacher in Hong Kong, "stopped teaching Russian at the high school level in 1997 due to falling enrollments...sigh."

Doug Johnson (B.A. 1974 Russian Regional Studies) writes, "Still alive and still plugging away as a consultant with a statistical software firm in Seattle. Two of my kids have graduated from college, and the third started college this fall. Lucky them: no military draft to contend with."

Mary Anne Kruger (B.A. 1970) writes, "I continue my job as Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy, Brasilia, Brazil. As you can imagine, diplomatic lives and work have changed since September 11. In fact, I was in Washington on that day, working at the State Department and living in a temporary apartment just blocks from the Pentagon. Now all U.S. embassies are putting the fight against terrorism at the top of their public affairs agenda, explaining U.S. policies and taking measures to strengthen security. Although far from Slavic matters at the moment, I am following Russia's role with great interest. The world has certainly changed since I graduated from the U.W. in 1970!"

Former Russian House resident and manager **Heather McAuliffe** (B.A. 1991 Russian Regional Studies) lives in Seattle with husband **Shawn Mulanix** (B.A. 1989 Russian Regional Studies), also a former Russian House resident, and daughter Emma, born December 2001. Heather works as a crime prevention coordinator for the Seattle Police Department.

Allan Mustard (B.A. 1978) writes that effective summer 2003 he will be assigned back to the American Embassy in Moscow as minister-counselor for agricultural affairs.

Melinda Olson (B.A. 1971) and daughter **Anna** (B.A. 1998) spent two weeks in St. Petersburg in August, where much has changed, "even since our last trip there the preceding August. The city is alive with preparations for its upcoming 300th anniversary. Anna spent an additional two weeks in the city of Kurgan and its environs. Her stay was extended for yet another week in Petersburg after the September 11 tragedy."

Dwight Roesch (M.A. 1982) writes, "I was deeply saddened to learn that Evgenii (Smirnov) passed away. Very sad. We spent a lot of time together, sitting on the sofa at the Russian House chatting about language and Russia. I will miss him."

Linda Tapp (Ph.D. 2000) is currently an Assistant Professor of Russian at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa (also known for the Ames strain of anthrax). "I didn't know when I took this job I would wind up at bioterrorism central!"

Heather Thorne (B.A. 1994), now Director of Marketing, e-Acumen, spent the summer travelling in Europe, Russia, Turkey and India, and has spent the last three months working in beautiful Boulder, CO. "I will be returning to Seattle to start working as a consultant for McKinsey and Co. in January 2002."

Edward Vajda (Ph.D. 1987) has had two books published in 2001: *Yeniseian Peoples and Languages*, Curzon Press: Surrey, England and *Ket Prosodic Phonology*, Lincom Europa: Munich.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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GIFTS

Gifts to the Department play an important role as we build and develop our new programs. Below we recognize the generosity of individuals and companies who have made donations in the past six months.

- *Friends of Slavic Languages and Literature Fund* - for use at the discretion of the Department Chair. A special subset is used for outreach efforts to the public schools and the community at large.

Walter L. Baker	Gibbs Houston Pauw	H. Stewart Parker
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- *Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund* - used since 1989 to pay tuition for one student to attend the summer intensive Russian language program. Last summer's recipient was **Sarah Newby**.

Burton E. Bard

- The *Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund* and the *E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fellowship Fund* are both used for graduate student support.

Eun Soon Yoon

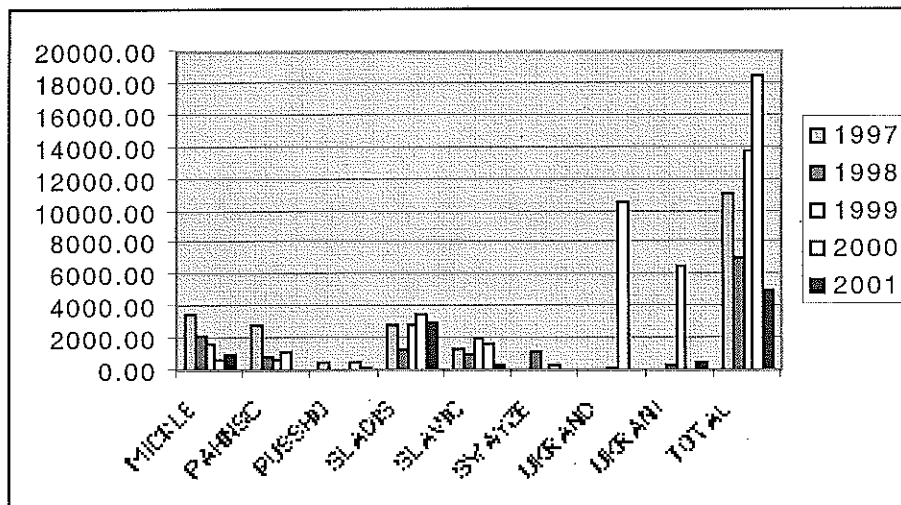
- In 1981 the *Russian House Fund* was established to provide general support for the Russian House. Since 1999 money from this fund has been used to keep the Russian House open during the summer quarter intensive language program and to hire a Russian language informant.

Heather McAuliffe

- Our newest fund, the *Ukrainian Studies Endowment*, was created to endow a chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Washington.

Carol and Henry Cannon Denis Martynowych

Gifts to Slavic Department 1997-2001



NEWS ABOUT YOU

We would like to keep in touch with you, as we hope to share news of our alumni in next July's newsletter. Please fill out the form below, clip and send to us: Slavic Department, Box 353580, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3580. At the same time, please make any needed changes on your label below. Thank you. ***You can also contact us by email at slavicll@u.washington.edu.***

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