

Summer 2025 Newsletter



JULY 2025

Letter from the Chair, Gordana Crnković

Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,

We had a busy and joyful second part of the academic year. Our faculty continued to actively publish and teach, introducing our students to the riches of Slavic languages and world literature, cinema, and culture. Alongside our Slavic and Russian graduates, our festive June Convocation celebrated the first generation of graduates of our new and fast-growing GLITS (Global Literary Studies) major, a Humanities Division-wide major housed in our department. We also happily cheered our newest Ph.D., Taylor Eftimov, who worked with three South Slavic languages— BCMS, Macedonian, and Slovene—for research on her doctoral dissertation *Visions of Homeland in Yugoslav and Post-Yugoslav Literature, Film, and Culture...*

[Read the full letter](#)

Celebrating Students and Graduates

Meet the First Generation of GLITS Grads

This year, the Slavic department celebrated the first graduating class of the Global Literary Studies (GLITS) program. We sat down with our GLITS graduates to discuss their future plans.



[Best Russian Language Students Create Meaning, Find Connection](#)

Learning Russian language has opened doors for students, helping them build communities, learn more about their personal identities, and take on the world's challenges.



[Introducing Dr. Taylor Eftimov, the 2025 Outstanding Graduate Student](#)

Dr. Eftimov begins the next steps in her academic and professional journey.



Beyond the Classroom



[Oleg Fomin Award Recipient Goes Abroad](#)

Aidan Ruppert plans to travel to Tbilisi, Georgia; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



[Alumni Spotlight: Mira Martinovic](#)

From teaching and writing plays to co-founding a cultural center and establishing a career in change management, Mira Martinovic continues to find creative ways to connect people with languages and cultures.



[Vadim Pahn Scholarship Recipient Advances to 3rd Year Russian](#)

Anthony Veneziani's outstanding academic achievements earned him the Vadim Pahn scholarship.

News From You

Do you have updates to share? Submit an alumni update using the link below, and we'll add your news to our website!

ALUMNI UPDATE FORM



Additional News

May 2025

- [Taylor Eftimov Receives 2024 Alexander Dunkel Graduate Student Essay Prize](#)
- [Svetlana Ostroverkhova presents at 45th Annual Mid-America Theatre Conference](#)
- [Svetlana Ostroverkhova presents at 18th AATT Graduate Student Conference](#)
- [New Release: Contemporary Slavic Horror across Media: Cursed Zones](#)

- [José Alaniz publishes “Moscow 93” and “Tales of Bart: A Novel in Three Acts”](#)

April 2025

- [Opinion: Trump's NEH killed funding for my Holocaust translation project](#)

SUPPORT US

Your support makes a difference

Our students' education would not be possible without the generous support of our alumni and donors. Your crucial contributions allow us to host engaging public events, provide research support for our graduate students, and collaborate with community partners and international institutions to provide exceptional experiences and opportunities for our students.



Please consider donating to the Friends of Slavic Languages and Literatures Fund, or the newly established Friends of Global Literary Studies Fund.

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