



Slavic News: Summer 2024

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, GORDANA CRNKOVIĆ

Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,



We celebrated the end of another productive year at our Department's Convocation on June 7. Aside from graduating our majors and awarding prizes for best language students, we were also very pleased to honor our newest

Ph.D., Cyrus Rodgers. The past year brought distinguished acknowledgments to our department's members. Emerita Professor Galya Diment won the national Best Post-Secondary Teacher Award from AATSEEL. Associate Professor Sasha Senderovich was honored by the 2023 Best First Book Award from AATSEEL for his monograph *How the Soviet Jew Was Made*, and our Ph.C. Stefana Vukadinovich won the UW Libraries Student Employee Scholarship.

Events related to the Department's development of Polish Studies included a visit from renowned poet and translator Jerzy Jarniewicz, whose poetry has recently been translated by our Assistant Professor Piotr Florczyk. The BCMS club, dedicated to BCMS language(s) and culture of the post-Yugoslav region and open to community members, grew under the committed guidance of doctoral candidate Biljana Konatar. Ukrainian Fulbright visitor Dr. Nataliia Kovtoniuk organized several well-attended events. Thanks to the Slovene Studies Endowment under the steady leadership of Dr. Michael Biggins, UW through the Slavic Department will be offering its

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first-ever Early Fall Start study abroad program in Slovenia this September. And a few months ago, we welcomed a new department administrator, Mr. Paul Siscel MBA, who has already proved to be an excellent problem-solver and a great colleague.

While our beautiful Seattle campus gets much more peaceful and less crowded during the summer, work and learning continue. Many faculty use the summer to dedicate themselves fully to research and writing, and some of our graduate students, like Biljana Konatar and Taylor Eftimov, are abroad doing field work (in Montenegro and Macedonia, respectively). But teaching goes on as well—after a short hiatus, we are very glad to be able to offer again the intensive 1st-year Russian this summer, taught by our Ph.D. Veronika Muskheli.

The change of generations continues. I am very sad to report the retirement of Professor Kat Dziwirek at the end of this year. Since coming to the UW in 1993, Katarzyna has built a distinguished career as a prominent scholar, dedicated teacher, and selfless colleague. Her service as the Chair of the Slavic Department and tireless supporter of the UW PSEC

has been invaluable. Though Kat will return in the Fall to teach part-time, her full-time presence and contributions, and her cheerful and calm demeanor will be greatly missed.

As always, stay in touch and let us know what is going on in your lives!

Wishing everyone a good summer,

Gordana

FACULTY NEWS



Galya Diment received the 2023 Excellence in Teaching (Post-Secondary) award from American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). The citation for the award will be posted on the [AATSEEL website](#).



Piotr Florczyk has a new book of translations out! *A Calligraphy of Days* (co-translated with Alice-Catherine Carls) is a career-spanning volume of poems by Krzysztof Siwczyk, one of Poland's most celebrated poets and critics.

The book, which constitutes Siwczyk's debut in English, is [published by Seagull Books](#).

Additionally, **Piotr Florczyk** was recently interviewed about his book *Swimming Pool* on BBC 4's "[Thinking Allowed](#)" program, and his translations of poems by Anna Świrszczyńska are featured in a Jenny Holzer show currently on view at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.



Sasha Senderovich received the 2023 Best First Book Award from American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European

Languages for *How the Soviet Jew Was Made*; the award was announced at the annual AATSEEL conference in Las Vegas in February 2024. Together with Prof. Harriet Murav (University of Illinois), he was awarded a two-year (2023-2025) grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant, in the NEH's Scholarly Editions and Translations category, is for the competition and publication of *In the Shadow of the Holocaust: Short Fiction by Jewish Writers from the Soviet Union*, which Senderovich and Murav are co-translating from Yiddish and Russian; the book is expected from Stanford University Press in 2026. He delivered the keynote address at the conference "Per Aspera ad Astra: The Making of Soviet Jewish Selves" organized by graduate students at Columbia University. He was invited to give talks about his work at the Universities of Kansas, Kentucky, and Pittsburgh, and at Stanford University.



Sasha Senderovich and the UW Translation Studies HUB (TSH) welcomed visiting writer and literary translator

Anton Hur to the University of Washington as part of the TSH's new "translator-in-residence" program. This collaboration was recently highlighted in articles in [Cascade PBS](#) and the [UW Daily](#).

2024 SLAVIC CONVOCATION



On June 7, 2024, faculty, staff, students and guests gathered in the Allen Library Petersen Room to celebrate the accomplishments of our 2024 graduates and award winners.

Chair and Professor, Dr. Gordana Crnković, opened the ceremony with a warm welcome and introduction of this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Emily Schuckman-Matthews, who spoke to our graduate students about the lifelong skills earned from Slavic studies that translate to various careers.

The ceremony concluded with recognition of the award winners and graduates, who were given the opportunity to share what studying in the department has meant to them. We are so proud of all of the accomplishments of our students, and we are excited to see what their futures have in store!

2024 Graduates and Award Winners

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Katerina Frantiska Hemstad
Amal Jacob
Diana Nord
Jacqueline Bouvier Row
Daniel Timoshenko
Mariia Usatenko

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Cyrus Rodgers

AWARDS

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Katerina Frantiska Hemstad

Outstanding Graduate Student

Svetlana Ostroverkhova

Slavic Excellence Prize

Sophia Keen (undergraduate)

Outstanding Student of Polish

Seorim Kim

Outstanding Students of Russian

1st-year: Ellen Allen and Cody Pender

2nd-year: Julia Dupin and Lennon Taylor

3rd-year: Max Zuber

4th-year: Rachel Quiles



STUDENT NEWS



In April, **Taylor Eftimov's** article titled, "Reinvention and Location of Identity across Unstable 'Homelands' in the works of Luan Starova" was published in volume 37 of *Balkanistica*. This volume includes the proceedings from the Eleventh Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies, in which Taylor presented a version of this paper in November 2022.

At the end of June, **Taylor Eftimov** embarked on her travels to Bitola, North Macedonia as a volunteer English teacher through the Macedonia Schools Project (MSP) Volunteer Teaching Experience Program. Taylor is the first volunteer that the MSP has sent to Bitola, so she is currently helping to establish the program and MSP relations in Bitola at the Gjorgji Sugarev School. Due to the pandemic and other challenges, Taylor is the first volunteer teacher being sent through the volunteer teaching program since 2019. To learn more about the MSP visit: <https://msp.charity/>

In September, **Taylor Eftimov** will be attending UW's Early Fall Start course in Kamnik, Slovenia. She plans to complete her exploratory project on the literature and film of Goran Vojnović in relation to her dissertation topic of conceptions of "homeland" in Yugoslav, Post-Yugoslav, and diaspora texts.



On February 29, 2024, **Stefana Vukadinovich**, along with fellow award recipients, was recognized at a UW Libraries ceremony for having earned the UW Libraries Student Employee Scholarship, with a stipend of \$1,000, for her outstanding contributions to the operations of the UW Libraries – specifically to its Slavic and East European Section – over the past year and more. These scholarships are awarded to the Libraries' very best student employees annually on a selective basis.

Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian (BCMS) Club „Po naški“ by Biljana Konatar



In the Fall Quarter of 2022, I decided to start our BCMS Club „Po naški.“ Our department is one of the few in the US that offers BCMS language courses, and I wanted to give the students taking BCMS classes, those interested in taking them, and the community members, an opportunity to get together in a low-key setting where they can practice speaking (and/or start learning to speak) BCMS and learn and share more about Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian cultures.

The club has been meeting weekly for two years – we started small, but the club grew over time, which I am very proud of. In the club, we have played games, listened to music, watched films, read poems and parts of novels and all that with a freshly brewed cup of coffee, and sometimes snacks, from the region.

On Thursday, May 29, we had a celebration of the end of the academic year with the lovely BCMS KLUB donuts pictured below (and, of course, coffee), and on Friday, May 30, we went bowling, which has become our end-of-quarter tradition. This was also my last time organizing the club since I am starting a new job at the University of Kansas in the fall. The farewell was sad, but I am beyond happy to announce that the BCMS Club will live on as three students, Marko Milovanović, Mila Bojanić, and Nikola Bojanić, have agreed to continue organizing it next academic year, so keep an eye out for the announcement of the day and time.



I also want to use this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has come to, promoted, and supported our BCMS Club. You are the best! It has been a wonderful two years and cheers to many, many more of the best club at UW.



FULBRIGHT NEWS

“The weather is horrible here, figuring out how your insurance works is almost impossible, but people... will warm you up and help you to cope with everything,” I will probably tell the next Ukrainian FLTA if they ask me.

I still cannot believe that this year ended because it was one of the most life-transforming years I've ever had. When I packed my bags in Irpin (a town near Kyiv) in August 2023, I was anxious about what I could give to my new students, the Ukrainian diaspora, and UW in general. In contrast, as I now pack my bags in Seattle, I am grateful for how much

my students, the Ukrainian diaspora, UW, and the Fulbright grant have given me.

First, in Seattle, I paradoxically had the opportunity to live an even more Ukrainian life than I usually live in Ukraine. Every day I taught the Ukrainian language course to my devoted students. We learned the language but were also immersed in Ukrainian humor, fairy tales, movies, traditions, and songs (for this we had a special Songs Day every second Friday). Additionally, we met every Friday for the Ukrainian conversational table “Skoromovka” which was also open to the community. Every quarter we cooked one Ukrainian dish (varenyky, holubtsi, zelenyi borshch). I am still sincerely impressed by the amount of work done by the proactive students of UW from the Ukrainian Student United and the incredible Ukrainians from the Ukrainian Association of Washington. I was lucky to visit a lot of their events to promote Ukrainian culture, such as the Motanka (traditional Ukrainian doll) workshop, the Pysanky workshop, the Ukrainian dance workshop, among others. What is more, I was honored to collaborate with them in managing Vyshyvanka Day and Ukrainian movie nights at UW.



Second, although I expected this grant just to give me training in teaching Ukrainian as a foreign language and improve my English, it also turned out

to dramatically broaden my worldview, enrich my research methodology, and enhance my social network. As a visiting graduate student, I was enrolled in such courses as “Language Teaching Methodology,” “English for International TAs,” “Modernity and Global South,” and “Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies,” which have given me not just effective tools for teaching, but also a more comprehensive understanding of the world and human beings in terms of colonization, decolonization, and feminist approaches. Thanks to the resources provided by UW, I was able to participate in the 2024

American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference in Las Vegas as well as the annual *ASEEES Northwest Regional Conference for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS)* in Seattle, where I presented the first results of my research on the Crimean narratives in Ukrainian literature of the last decade.



Third, I was given an amazing chance to explore the world and all the complexity of the USA through traveling. Those who’ve met me know that I am obsessed with traveling as the best way to learn and decompress. With other Fulbrighters and graduate

students from UW, I hiked in the Olympic Peninsula and in Oregon, camped in Arizona, admired Navajo turquoise jewelry in New Mexico, and was welcomed in Latinx, Chinese, and Black neighborhoods in Los Angeles. I explored American Indian reservations in New Mexico and Arizona, as well as held a little Mexican girl on my knees to help her mother during a bumpy ride in a cramped Mexican public transportation van. It seems, that



during these 10 months, I saw Hollywood, what Hollywood has shown me, and what Hollywood has never shown.

Finally, the Fulbright grant, UW, and Seattle have brought into my life fantastic people such as my students, attendants of “Skoromovka”, other FLTAs, Ukrainian diaspora, and colleagues from Slavic and Scandinavian Departments as well as from REECAS. And you know what? If the next FLTA asks me, I will definitely say “Remember, it is not sun and rain that makes the weather in Seattle but people! The weather is horrible here, and figuring out how your insurance works is almost impossible, but people you meet will warm you up!”

With lots of love and appreciation,

Nataliia Kovtoniuk
Fulbright Ukrainian Language Teaching Assistant 2023-2024



POLISH NEWS

The beginning of 2024 brought us the joy of welcoming our long-awaited Professor Agnieszka Jeżyk, the first Maria Kott Professor of Polish Studies. During winter and spring quarters, Professor Jeżyk taught three courses. The winter course focused on literature, cinematography, and art in Poland and East Central Europe during communism. In spring, students learned about sci-fi while discussing works by Stanislaw Lem, Jacek Dukaj, Andrzej Wajda, Yevgeny Zamyatin, Karel Capek, Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, Fritz Lang, Andrei Tarkovsky, and others.

In academic year 2023/2024, UW PSEC was pleased to return to in-person Distinguished Polish Speaker Series events. In November, we had the pleasure of spending an evening with Professor Piotr Florczyk, who talked about translingual poetry and prose. Besides his own poems, Professor Florczyk shared his translations of Anna Świrszczyńska's poetry and excerpts from his new book of prose *Swimming Pool*. Professor Florczyk also talked about why writing in a second language continues to be resisted by the literary establishment.

In April, we held another poetry event as we hosted Jerzy Jarniewicz, an acclaimed Polish poet whose poetry volume *Landless Boys*, translated by Professor Florczyk, was just released in the US. After Jerzy read several of his poems, Jerzy and Piotr talked about the challenges of translating literary works. Both events were thought provoking and edifying.



At the end of November, we had an impromptu visit by Tomasz Grzywaczewski, a Polish writer and documentary filmmaker. The audience had an opportunity to watch his powerful story *Erase the Nation*, detailing the devastating destruction of Ukrainian cultural heritage during the Russian invasion. Q&A followed the documentary.

The last event of this academic year in May was a lecture by Michal Oleszczyk, PhD, Polish film scholar, who talked about representations of Polish working-class women of rural origins ("chłopki") in post-war Polish films. The lecture and a short movie initiated a lively discussion.



Seorim Kim is this year's recipient of the Best Student of Polish award presented by the Polish Women's Club. Seorim is a first year PhD student in the Slavic Department. Her academic focus is Polish and Russian modernist poetry. We congratulate Seorim and wish her continuous success in studying Polish language and culture.



Maria Kott Endowed Professorship of Polish Studies

We are grateful to late Martha and Ron Golubiec whose last will included a bequest of \$10,000 to the Endowment. We would also like to thank Cristina and Wojtek "Roy" Koczarski's family for suggesting donations to the Endowment in memory of their late parents.

We want to thank all UW PSEC friends for attending the events, participating in discussions, and for their continuous financial support. Thanks to you our Endowment is growing!

We are also extending our thanks to the Maria Kott Endowed Professorship of Polish Studies, UW Slavic Languages and Literatures, and UW Translation Studies for their collaboration and financial support of this year's events.

Wishing you a great summer and looking forward to seeing you in AY 2024/25!

SLOVENE NEWS

UW 2024 Early Fall Start Program in Kamnik, Slovenia



From September 1st to 21st of this year, the Slavic Department will offer its first ever 5-credit Early Fall Start intensive study abroad program in Slovenia. Titled

“Slovenia: Language, Culture and Society at a Crossroads,” this year's program will immerse fourteen UW students from a wide range of majors and disciplines in an intensive introduction to Slovenia's history, geography, literature, art, culture, current affairs and language within their wider European contexts. The program will be conducted entirely in English as students draw on key source material made available to them in English as the focus of in-class discussions and presentations.

In addition to participating in 20 classroom hours per week, the students will learn rudimentary Slovene language skills and will complete a series of study-related afternoon field trips as well as a weekend excursion through the Adriatic Littoral, including Trieste. As a final capstone to the program, each student will also formulate and explore a topic

in their major discipline or some other area of particular interest to them as it relates to Slovenia.

The program, including instruction, room and board, will be based at the former Mekinje Ursuline Convent just outside of Kamnik, Slovenia (15 miles northwest of Ljubljana) which since 2020 has functioned as a residential study facility for groups such as ours. The program will be led and classes taught by UW Slovenists Prof. Michael Biggins and Dr. Cyrus Rodgers, supplemented with guest presentations by a number of prominent Slovene writers, artists, and academic experts. In 2024 the fee for the three-week program, including tuition, room and board, but exclusive of airfare to Slovenia, is \$2,500.

At present, plans are to offer UW's Early Fall Start Slovenia Program on an annual basis. Each year a limited number of program slots will be open to non-UW students for the same affordable program fee paid by in-state UW participants, with the 5 credits earned transferable to the students' home universities. We welcome inquiries about the program from students, faculty and the interested public anywhere – write to mbiggins@uw.edu.

NEWS FROM YOU



Michele Anciaux Aoki (PhD, 1991)

writes: Greetings from Newport, RI, where I've been since September, 2023, taking care of my 1-year-old grandson and 3 1/2-year-old granddaughter, while our daughter, Natalya, attends the Naval War College. Natalya is now Commander Natalya Cooper, and after she graduates in the fall, she'll be an Executive Officer for a Navy helicopter squadron down in Florida. I expect to continue "grandparent duty" for a while longer in Jacksonville, FL. As it happens, one of the international students at the War College is from Romania, so I had the opportunity to have a conversation with him (in

Romanian) and share my experience as a Fulbright lecturer in Romania under Ceaușescu in the 1970's.

Although I retired as International Education Administrator from Seattle Public Schools in 2019, I've continued my advocacy work with languages. I've co-authored a couple of briefs for the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) on "[Facilitated Interdependent Language Learning \(FILL\)](#)" and I've been presenting on FILL at a number of conferences. I've also worked on several projects with Dr. Russell Hugo, the new Interim Director at the UW Language Learning Center, including the [Languages without Borders Project](#) and [STARTALK](#) and [GenCyber](#) grants. My dear colleague from STARTALK, Dr. Svetlana Abramova, invited me to co-author a chapter in a new book on Russian STEM about our 10-year experience with the Russian STARTALK program for Heritage Language speakers, "Russian in the Sky and Outer Space."

Another project that was launched early on during COVID in 2020, a [Heritage Language Grant](#) for Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian, funded by the Legislature, was a most rewarding experience for three years. This year we've been finishing up translations of some of the lesson plans on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. You can see the fruits of our labor in the [OER Commons](#).

One project I launched in 2018, in collaboration with the UW Language Learning Center, [SEETAW](#) -- the Slavic and East European Teachers Association of Washington, has been languishing for several years, between the effects of COVID and the war in Ukraine. But, this spring, after talking with several valued colleagues, I decided it was worth pursuing again. We have a new [SEETAW Blog](#) and monthly update (see the [June 1, 2024 update](#)). If you are reading this Slavic Department Newsletter, I would love to see you [join us in SEETAW](#) (even if you're not currently teaching or perhaps never thought of yourself as a language teacher). It is our opportunity to be a witness to the continued support of these languages, some large, but mostly pretty small.

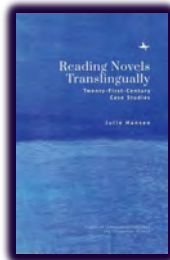
Wishing you all a wonderful summer and fall,
Michele Anciaux Aoki, Slavic Linguistics MA 1975,
PhD 1991

Is it Miss, Mrs., or Ms.? None of the above! It's **DOCTOR Gray Church (BA, Slavic Lang & Lit, 1977)**! Gray completed the Doctor of Education, Adult and Lifelong Learning, program at the University of Arkansas in December 2023. To start their next big adventure, she and her husband, Al Church, sold their home in Northwest Arkansas and purchased a new home in Spain. Al suggested they move to Spain while they are "still relatively young and healthy" so they can travel around Europe and enjoy retirement. By the time this newsletter comes out, they may already be living in their new home in Cómpeeta, Málaga, Andalucía. Gray says, "If you're ever in the area, let us know!"



Serge Gregory's (PhD, 1977) latest book, *The Sirens of the Hotel Louvre: An Actress, a Writer, and the Creative Life in the Silver Age of Chekhov*, will be published by [Cornell University Press](#) next April.

The venue for its Seattle book launch will be announced at a later date. Gregory recently gave a talk on the book, which focuses on the personal friendship and professional collaboration between the actress Lidia Yavorskaya and the dramatist Tatiana Shchepkina-Kupernik, at the [2024 REECAS Northwest Conference](#) held at the University of Washington in April.



Julie Hansen (BA, 1992) recently published *Reading Novels Translingually*, a monograph which discusses translingual practices in various works of fiction. More information can be found on [Academic Studies Press](#). Hansen is

currently Associate Professor of Slavic Languages at Uppsala University in Sweden.



Demetrius Koubourlis (PhD 1967), writes: My book *My Ailing Champion: A Memoir* contains my account of my graduate years in the UW Slavic Department with specific mention of the excellent teachers there. *Published June 1, 2024.*

Ronald D. LeBlanc (PhD 1984)

writes: I am still working on an English-language translation of Vasily Narezhny's comic novel, *Бывшак* (1822) ("The Divinity School Student"), which I hope to complete by the end of this year.



Charles Mills (PhD in Slavic Linguistics, 2004)

will be attending the Summer Russian Language Teacher Program in July, a refresher course at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, under the auspices of American Councils. Charles teaches Intermediate and Advanced Russian in the Russian Post Basic Course at DLI in Monterey, California, and would like James West and Zoya Polack to know that, yes, he finally learned Russian!



Melinda Olson (Nelson) (BA 1972) writes:

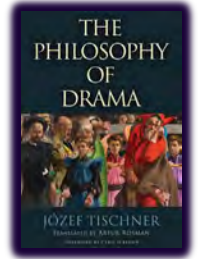
The Russian Community Center on 19th Ave E welcomes visitors to their events. The last Friday of the month is an informal

gathering with food and music. All ages. Programs there are also well organized and fun. I enjoy this connection to the language and culture. And the food is authentic. I'd encourage other alum to come and see. In good health!



View more upcoming events at slavic.washington.edu/calendar.

Artur Rosman (PhD 2014) will publish his translation of Tischner's *The Philosophy of Drama* on September 1st through the University of Notre Dame Press.



Rosman is associate research professor at the University of Notre Dame and editor-in-chief of Church Life Journal. During both his grad and undergrad years at the UW (triple-dawg!), Rosman took multiple classes with Professors Crnkovic, Diment, and Dziwirek, graduating with a minor in Slavic in 2001. In 2014, Rosman received his PhD from Comparative Literature on a Slavic-related topic: The Catholic Imagination of Czeslaw Milosz.

About the book: *The Philosophy of Drama* provides an in-depth and erudite exploration of human existence as a dramatic existence, interpreted in terms of encounter, dialogue, reciprocity, erring, temptation, condemnation, and justification.

In this magnum opus, Catholic philosopher Józef Tischner offers a philosophical interpretation of the human experience and articulates a metaphysics of good and evil, arguing that the drama of existence is revealed most clearly through the painful encounter with evil. Long overdue for translation into English, *The Philosophy of Drama* is one of the most important works of Polish philosophy to date and a major contribution to phenomenology and the philosophy of dialogue.

Tischner writes of a drama that is at once personal and social, that is bound both by the stage of the present world and by the flow of time. It supposes human freedom while also recognizing the way in which human beings refuse to take responsibility for their freedom. It is a drama between divine and human freedom, on the one hand, and between the choice for good and evil, between humans as cursed or blessed, on the other. *The Philosophy of Drama* addresses the profound question of why we should be responsible for one another and for the

world in which we live and is essential reading for anyone trying to understand what it is to be human.

Michael Seraphinoff (MA 1987, PhD 1993) writes:

I haven't checked in very recently. My association and experience with the Slavic Department goes quite a ways back. I studied Slavic Linguistics at the UW in 1986 and 1987 and received my MA in Slavic Linguistics in 1987. I then continued on in pursuit of my Ph.D. in Slavic literature and completed that in 1993. My experiences during my school years in the department were rich and rewarding in themselves, but they also opened many doors for me. I received travel grants during those years that allowed me to study in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Russia.



The diplomas allowed me to teach at Skagit Valley College from 1987 to 1997 and teach for a semester at a Russian college in 1993 and then become employed as the Examiner Responsible for Macedonian literature for the International Baccalaureate Organization from 1997 until the present. I should add that both my teaching at SVC and my work for the IBO were part time contract work which suited me fine. I and my wife established ourselves on a six acre rural homestead on Whidbey Island in the early 1980's. It was a place and a lifestyle that I never wished to give up, and so I was never a candidate for a university academic placement. My part time teaching at SVC and later my long distance work from home at my computer for the IBO allowed me to be a part time farmer and homesteader throughout my academic career.

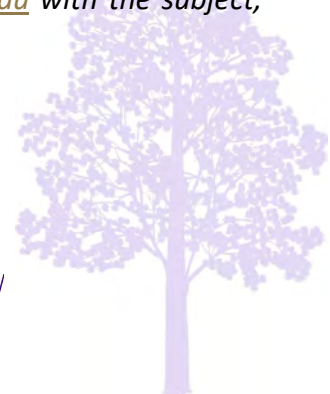
We kept dairy goats, a donkey, chickens and ducks. We sold vegetables through a farmers market on weekends, and for a number of years I grew a half acre of loganberries that I marketed through food coops and farmers markets. I am still an avid gardener today, living in a retirement cottage in the town of Langley on the island.

In addition to those activities I had many opportunities to pursue independent academic research over the years. I participated in a number of academic conferences in Eastern Europe and North America, including several REECAS conferences at the UW. This activity was often done in conjunction with projects that led to publication of studies and book length works in my field of interest and expertise. I also tried my hand at literary translation and wrote two novels. My IBO work also included attendance at 14 workshops at the IBO curriculum center in Cardiff, Wales, UK over the years.

I participated in my most recent REECAS conference at the UW this spring, presenting a paper on a theme from Macedonian studies, a special field of interest to me from the days of my doctoral dissertation. I have another recent project that fell to me after having an editorial on Eastern Europe, the war in Ukraine and US military spending, published in the local island newspaper. I was asked if I would contribute a monthly column to the paper. I have now completed six monthly columns and I am working on my July offering. If you are interested in what an elderly, independent scholar with credentials from the UW Slavic department has chosen to write for them, you can look for the South Whidbey Record on line and look for editorial opinion pieces by me.

I am now 77 years old, and as long as my body and mind remain intact, I will remain open to what life offers in the realm of new opportunities to learn and create. I wish you all as rich and rewarding a life as I have lived so far, and for which I must give some real credit to those years of academic study and research I engaged in through the UW Slavic Department.

If you have news you would like to share, please write to us at slavoffice@uw.edu with the subject, "Winter Newsletter 2025."



GIFTS

Our donor list will be published in the Winter Newsletter, which will arrive in January 2025. Many thanks to all donors for their generous support of Slavic Studies at the University of Washington!

THANK YOU

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for supporting Slavic Languages and Literatures

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We are very grateful to our alumni and friends for your generous support. Please help us continue our efforts to further the study of Slavic languages and literatures by giving generously whenever possible. Donations may be made by credit card on the [Support Us](#) page of our website, or by sending a check made out to the *University of Washington Foundation* with one of the funds designated below on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

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- () CZECHS Czech Studies Endowment Fund – Support for students studying Czech
- () SLADIS Friends of Slavic Languages & Literatures – Gifts may be expended at the discretion of the Chair
- () SLAVIC Institutional Allowance – General support for the department, including undergraduate and graduate student awards
- () FOMSCH Oleg Fomin Scholarship Fund – Travel scholarship to promote exploration and study of the languages, cultures, and histories of post-Soviet states
- () MICKLE Micklesen Graduate Fund – General support for graduate program
- () POLDIS Polish Distinguished Speakers Fund – Showcase achievements of Poles by bringing speakers to campus
- () POLISS Friends of Polish Studies Fund – General support for Polish studies
- () POLEND Maria Kott Endowed Professorship of Polish Studies – Promote permanence and expansion of program to include more levels of Polish language, history and culture
- () ROMANI Romanian Studies Fund – Support Romanian Studies, including but not limited to support for a Romanian Fulbright
- () RBCEND Roma Boniecka-Anna Cienciala Endowment for Slovene Studies – Provide support for Slovene Studies
- () SWAYZE Swayze Fellowship Fund – Fellowship support for graduate students
- () UKRAND Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund – General support for Ukrainian studies
- () UKRANI Ukrainian Endowment Fund – Provide Ukrainian language and culture instruction
- () PAHNSC Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund – Russian language scholarship for undergraduates

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