

SLAVIC NEWS

SUMMER 2005

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

LETTER FROM CHAIR GALYA DIMENT

This has been another solidly good year for us. It started, again, with great enrollments in first-year Russian and ended with two wonderful outreach events: the Polish Studies Auction and another successful and well-attended Slavic Fest.

Among the year's academic highlights was the revamping of our undergraduate curriculum, with four new lower-division (100- and 200-level) courses in Russian and Slavic film; culture and civilization; and literature. Two courses in the fall - Introduction to Russian Culture and Civilization (RUSS 110) and Russians in Hollywood (SLAV 223) - feature special Freshman Interest Group sections, and both classes already have significant early enrollments.

In the area of outreach, in April 2005 the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee (PSEC) held an auction which raised \$32,000 towards creating a Polish Studies Endowment Fund at the UW, with the hope that it will one day reach the level of an endowed professorship and endowed chair. The auction also raised an additional \$7,300 to supplement the stipend of a Fulbright scholar of broadly understood Polish culture. Fundraising efforts were successfully capped with the formal signing of an Endowment Fund agreement between PSEC and the University of Washington. We are immensely grateful to Associate Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek and the members of PSEC for their drive and dedication to further developing and strengthening the Polish component of our program.

As last year, the Slavic Fest, which took place in mid-May, drew lots of people. It featured ten national groups with kids in ethnic costumes and folk musicians marching through Red Square to Kane Hall for performances by children's groups. As last year, the event drew significant notice in the local press. The spirit and soul behind it all was former student and Balkans music specialist, Mary Sherhart.

In the spring we completed a search for a Russian language lecturer and first- and second-year Russian language coordinator to replace Dr. David Freedel, who is changing careers (he starts law school in the fall) and thus decided not to seek reappointment. Our new lecturer, Dr. Valentina Zaitseva, is a 1992 Ph.D. from Harvard and an accomplished and published scholar of language pedagogy, with many years of teaching experience at Harvard and NYU.

We also hired a new lecturer in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bojan Belic, who is expected to receive his Ph.D. from Ohio State this summer. Bojan received an OSU Graduate Associate Teaching Award in 2002 and is responsible for BCS's now being offered at OSU at the third-year level.

In addition, next year we are bringing in Denis Basic (a JSIS Ph.D. candidate and director of the Bosnian-Herzegovinan folk dance ensemble, Sevdah, a star performing group in our Slavic Fests) to teach two more courses pertaining to the Balkans: Islam in the Balkans and Bosnian Alhamijado (Bosnian Slavic written in Arabic script) Literature.

On a sad note, we are now in the midst of a search to replace program coordinator and undergraduate advisor Michelle Foshee, who has decided to move to Tucson to earn a second M.A. in second language acquisition. For almost four years Michelle has been the first point of contact for visitors and callers. Though perpetually busy, she greets everyone with a smile, ready to help. We will miss her energy, creativity, warmth and sunny presence but wish her all the best!

Finally, on a happier note - Affiliate Professor Michael Biggins was awarded the Distinguished Staff Award. Michael's nomination by the UW Libraries was enthusiastically endorsed by Slavic and the Ellison Center. This makes us the proud home of two Distinguished Staff Award recipients in recent history (Shosh Westen received hers in 2001).

NEWS FROM REECAS'S STEVE HANSON

I am happy to report that in addition to the hiring of Valentina Zaitseva and Bojan Belic, the College of Arts and Sciences has authorized the hiring of four new tenure-track faculty members in our region over the next four years. The first of these, Dr. Florian Schwarz, an expert on Islamic and Central Asian History - fluent in Uzbek, Russian, Arabic, Persian, German and English - will be joining us this coming fall. Dr. Schwarz will teach and do research on the historical and contemporary connections between post-Soviet Central Asia and the neighboring civilizations of the Near East and South Asia. In the three years to follow, the Ellison Center will be hiring an historian of tsarist Russia, a specialist in Central Asian and Eurasian international security, and a scholar focusing on the states and societies of contemporary Eastern Europe and the Balkans. At a time of budgetary scarcity in the State of Washington, this represents an extraordinary commitment of resources to our area; it demonstrates the seriousness of the University's pledge to make the expansion of the new Ellison Center a top strategic priority.

In addition, the UW administration has authorized our hiring a new, full-time outreach coordinator to supervise our programs with local K-12 schools, community colleges, businesses, and public organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

As a direct result of the public announcement of the Ellison Endowment and the Russian Studies Symposium hosted here last November, one of the most important research organizations in our field - the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER) - will be moving its headquarters to Seattle in the fall of 2006. NCEEER's president and board agreed that the founding of the Ellison Center was so exciting that they wanted to be part of it. As a result of this new NCEEER-Elison Center initiative, we'll be able to bring outstanding young U.S. and Eurasian scholars to Seattle as visiting scholars, while at the same time greatly expanding our contacts with the policymaking community in Washington, D.C. It's a major coup for our program, and another step in realizing Herb Ellison's vision of interaction and collaboration among scholars and citizens of the U.S. and the former

Soviet Union. We are so grateful to Herb's family and friends for their generous support, without which none of the above would have been possible.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE POLISH STUDIES ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Polish Studies Endowment Committee (PSEC) has just ended its most successful fundraising year yet with the signing of an Endowment Fund agreement with the University of Washington on Wednesday, June 29 at the Simpson Center for the Humanities. The document was signed by Dean David Hodge and Slavic Department Chair Galya Diment on behalf of the University and by Co-Chairs Martha Golubiec and Tom Podl and Secretary Sheila Mayer Charles on behalf of PSEC. A small reception followed the signing.

The official establishment of the \$35,000 Endowment Fund was made possible by the community's generosity and participation in 2004-5 fundraising efforts. On April 9 PSEC held an auction which raised \$32,000 for the Polish Studies Endowment Fund and \$7,300 to supplement the stipend of a Fulbright scholar. The stipend is intended as an additional incentive to attract a scholar who could offer courses on Polish culture, literature, history, or art or on the social, political and economic aspects of modern Poland, thus increasing Polish-specific offerings at the UW.

By lucky coincidence Mr. Andrzej Dakowski, Director of the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission, happened to be visiting Seattle at the end of May. Mr. Dakowski took the opportunity to meet with professors Diment and Dziwirek and University officials. He left Seattle impressed with Polish holdings in the UW Library and the local community's support for Polish studies at the UW. We are very hopeful that this visit will produce results in the near future.

All of the above was the culmination of a very successful third year of the Distinguished Lecturers Series, now funded through the generous gifts of Andrzej and Izabella Turscy. The first lecture of the year took place on October 3, 2004. Professor Marek Chodakiewicz, a research professor of history at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C. and consultant for the CNN documentary on the Warsaw Uprising that aired in June 2004, gave a fascinating account of the unfolding of the Warsaw Uprising against the Nazis.

On February 4 Professor Bozena Shallcross of the University of Chicago spoke about the work of 19th century Polish post-impressionist painter Olga Boznanska. This was followed on April 1 with a talk by Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud, who presented their book on the legendary Polish fighter squadron, [A Question of Honor - The Kosciuszko Squadron: Forgotten Heroes of World War II](#). A particularly touching moment occurred when real-life hero Alexander Herbst, of Squadron 303 and 308, was introduced.



On Sunday, May 1 two outstanding poets, Adam Zagajewski and Edward Hirsch, mesmerized the audience with their presentation, "Czeslaw Milosz and the Future of Poetry." Displaying irresistible charm, the two poets engaged in a dialogue, first reciting their own and Milosz's poetry and then discussing their own personal artistic journeys. On the same day, our distinguished guests participated in an elegant fundraising luncheon attended by nearly 50 people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends from the Polish community and Americans who embrace our culture for their support. By attending events, volunteering and donating money you have enabled us to create the Endowment Fund, continue the lecture series and finance other programs.

SLAVIC STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

by Michelle Foshee

This spring the department hosted its first Slavic Student Symposium, adding an academic component to Slavic Fest weekend revelries. We asked for abstracts and were delighted with the healthy response. Not only did students want to participate, but the caliber and range of their research interests were most impressive. On a beautiful day in May, ten undergraduate and graduate students presented their research findings at an all-morning symposium. We started the morning on a light note with a talk on representations of crime and squalor in the Russian media as the Soviet Union crumbled. This was followed by a look at two post-Soviet book phenomena - Father Arseny and Anastasia - which appear to signal the rebirth of religious life in Russia.

The linguistics and language pedagogy panel included a diverse group of presentations. They ranged from an exploration of emotional terms in Russian language textbooks for English speakers to a comparison of Anglo-American and BCS culture. One student spoke about her research involving words toward and about the elderly. Another student designed and conducted a study of Russian immigrants in the Seattle area. He was interested in finding factors that influence the use of formal and informal speech and how they merge into one grammatical concept.

Our last panel, film and theatre, offered the audience a history of Georgian cinema and an analysis of a rarely performed S. I. Witkiewicz play, "The Crazy Locomotive." We also learned about the construction of a new type of hero in Russian Formalist films of the 1920s, embodied most starkly in the work of Dziga Vertov.

It's never easy to pull something like this off, so thanks go to Katarzyna Dziwirek and Jose Alaniz for helping to organize the symposium. It never would have happened, though, without our talented participants: Scott Brauer, Mary Childs, Candace Faber, Laura Friend, Matthew Keeton, Irene McManman, Lyubov Penkova, Aleksandra Petrovic, Monica Schertzinger, and Simona Sivkoff.

CLASS OF 2005

by Michelle Foshee

Well, it's happened again. Sometime during the whirlwind of activity that surrounds the end of the school year, we acknowledged the fact that some of our students had earned their degrees and, like it or not, we had to let them graduate. Luckily, we were able to mark the occasion with a well-attended convocation ceremony.

It's always a treat to see our newly relaxed grads with their families and friends and with the Slavic department faculty and staff who showed up to wish them goodbye and good luck. Our ceremony began with keynote speaker James Hoath (Ph.C.), who talked about the many ways that the spirit of internationalism can be kept alive well after graduation through travel, music, food and friends. Then faculty members introduced each of our sixteen graduates, when it became clear what an accomplished and remarkable group of cultural ambassadors we are sending out into the community. They've already left a dent in the world through their service and travel, and their prospects look bright. Several will pursue artistic endeavors - one in film school in Prague, the other as a photojournalist in New York. Others will start graduate school in the fall (one in our department), as will our future doctor and lawyer. Two students enter service to their country: one as a naval officer and the other as a volunteer for Teach for America in Brooklyn. Some grads have decided to travel and relax before seeking employment. We wish them all luck and prosperity and hope that they, like you, continue to keep in touch.

Our B.A. recipients for 2005 include Elizabeth Boe, Scott Brauer, Candace Faber, George Ford, Christopher Frager, Janice Garr, Sofya Goykhman, Matt Keeton, Maxim Marchenko, Mirjana Martinovic, Edward McGowan, Kamil Palubicki, Bohdana Ramos, Charles Richter, and Sara Votipka.

RUSSIAN 421: LATE/POST-SOVIET RUSSIAN LITERATURE

Jose Alaniz, Assistant Professor (jos23@u.washington.edu)

What happens when history intrudes on private life? When the “truths” of one’s reality abruptly shatter into the lies of a new social order? What changes does language register in a “time of transition”? How do artists (especially writers and filmmakers) in such a situation respond to the protean landscape around them, in real time?

NEWS FROM YOU

Phillip Belenky (B.A. 2004) now works as a realtor with Coldwell Banker Bain.

On June 18 **Thomas Campbell** wrote, "I was advanced to candidacy in the winter and got my M.Phil. degree from Yale this spring. This coming year I'll be doing research for my dissertation, "The New Artists and Their Environs," in St. Petersburg, for which I received a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Grant. At the moment I'm already in Petersburg, working as the coordinator for Yale's summer program.

Crossroads, an English-Russian dictionary of East Asian cultural contacts, edited by Dr. **Zheng-min Dong** (Ph.D. 1990) was published last September and won a gold medal at a regional book fair in Vladivostok. During spring 2005 Dr. Zheng-min Dong was on professional leave, working on a new Russian-English dictionary of Chinese, Japanese and Korean words in contemporary Russian language. Recently promoted to full professor, he would like to take this opportunity to express his sincere gratitude to the department, especially professors Coats, Augerot and Brame (Linguistics) for their help and support.

Yelena Furman (M.A. 1996) writes, "As for me, I am done with UCLA - that is, I got my Ph.D. in December (finally!). In January I started teaching at UCSD as visiting lecturer in the Department of Literature. In the fall I will be teaching a course on Chekhov and, as it turns out, have just found and re-read my notes from the Chekhov seminar I was in with Karl Kramer in 1995 (it was a great seminar - thank you, Karl!). I'm going on the job market this year (at least I think I am) - wish me luck!"

Andra Hill (B.A. 1992) is hanging up her interpreter hat and has "accepted a terminology management position at Microsoft. Looking forward to new challenges and less travel!"

"Well, finally I've really got 'news' to share," writes **Marilyn Hoogen** (Ph.D. 1997) (soon to be Marilyn Sizer). I'm getting married on June 25 to a wonderful man I met 1 1/2 years ago. He's drawn

me into his amateur fire circus activities with the Cirque de Flambe; I even had a walk-on role last summer and have stood (in head-to-toe protective clothing) with a long pole topped with exploding fountains and pinwheels in their "Pyrochaotica" finale. I've clowned in two Fremont Solstice parades, and this summer we'll go to Burning Man again. It's way more fun than the dreary professional development days that Seattle Public Schools has scheduled for that week. I've always been in favor of wellness days.

"Lest you think I've abandoned my own cultural interests, we've also ushered at a number of theaters, attended chamber music concerts and the opera together. Life is sweet. I hope we can be role models for middle-aged people everywhere: two sixty-year-olds find compatibility, companionship and bliss."

On June 21 **David Hopper** (B.A. 1979) left for Moscow to spend 12 days with friends at a dacha. "Ah, dachnaya zhizn'! I'm looking forward to hanging out, shopping in Moscow and the obligatory walk on Red Square, not to mention the greenery and cooler weather. Since I visited the Slavic Department last summer, my nephew married a lovely lady from Siberia. Now we have a Russian niece (Olga Gorbacheva - no relation to Mikhail). She's a wonderful gal, a fine addition to the family, and I get plenty of Russian speaking time with her. I've seen quite a few American-Russian relationships that went sour over the years, but this one is going to last. After I get back from my travels in late July, I begin a new job as technical writer for a semiconductor company in Chandler, Arizona."

In September **Camilla Hveding** (B.A. 2001) heads to Cape Town, South Africa for a two-week visit. She then returns to Seattle University for her final year as a grad student specializing in teaching ESL.

Maria Jett (B.A. 2000), now editor for books, music and film at World Pulse Magazine, writes, "Wow! Turns out the humanities weren't a waste of my time after all. Hooray!"

Amy Canon and **John Johnson** (both B.A. 1997) are both in the Foreign Service and recently spent

two years working in Bulgaria as the press attache (John) and information systems officer (Amy). “We are currently in Washington, D.C. studying Serbian for several months before heading out to Belgrade, where we will have similar positions in the embassy there. We are also expecting our first child in September of this year!”

For the 2005-2006 school year **Don Livingston** (Ph.D. 1998) will be teaching first-, second- and third-year Russian at Arizona State University and yoga at Club Blue in Phoenix.

Rebecca Manring’s (M.A. 1974) big news is the publication of her first book, Reconstructing Tradition: Advaita Acarya and Gaudiya Vaisnavism at the Cusp of the Twentieth Century, just out from Columbia University Press.

Heather McAuliffe, a former manager of the Russian House (B.A., REECAS, 1991), now works for the City of Seattle Historic Preservation Program, where she coordinates the Pike Place Market Historical Commission and the Ballard Avenue Landmark District Board. Heather has a personal interest in local history and preservation, having restored her 1904 Fremont home together with husband **Shawn Mulanix**, a former Russian House resident and now art director at Zombie, an independent video game studio in Pioneer Square. Shawn and Heather are enjoying watching their daughter Emma (now 3) grow up.

“I’ve now turned 48 big ones,” writes **Ann Romeo** (B.A. 1979), “and that means 50 is around the corner and there will be a huge ‘Friends of Anya’ party in ‘07. Lots of travel in the months ahead: to NYC (twice, for work), to Chicago (I’m awards chair for the annual Boucheron convention for mysteries and their fans), and to Albuquerque for the Balloon Fest. I’m playing lots of bridge and am the hospitality chair for the Seattle Bridge Unit, a somewhat overwhelming job involving feeding 400 or so ravenous contract bridge players four times a year.”

Lynne Stamoulis (B.A. 1971) was just appointed Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at California State University after four and a half

years as Director of Institutional Research at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Steve Watkins’ (B.A. 1973) big news is his retirement from teaching at Kamiak High School in Mukilteo. Steve was hired right after graduating from the UW with a teaching degree and B.A.s in history and Russian to teach history and world geography at Olympic Middle School in the Mukilteo School District. “I taught those subjects along with Spanish before starting a Russian language program in the mid-1980s at Olympic View. The program became so successful that I began to add more advanced levels of Russian and was split between Mariner High School and Olympic View in the late ‘80s-early ‘90s, teaching exclusively Russian. In 1989 our first reciprocal exchange took place with a school in the former Soviet Union. Such exchanges continue to this day. Kamiak’s current exchange partner is School 539 in St. Petersburg. Once Kamiak was built in 1993, I transferred there, taking my Russian language program. I have been teaching Russian and Spanish ever since. However, it is time for someone else to fill the role as I look for new opportunities in my life. I have turned out many kids who have gone on to pursue careers in which they are using their Russian. I’m quite proud of them. I’m also thankful for the excellent education I received while at the UW. After 6-9 months off enjoying my newfound freedom, I plan to search for a second career. ‘Bog znaet’ what that will be. Time will tell.”

From January to June **Ed Vajda** (M.A. 1983, Ph.D. 1987) was a visiting scholar at the Linguistics Department of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary An-



thropology in Leipzig, Germany. He was also able to go to Tomsk, Russia to conduct a month of intensive fieldwork with two native Ket speakers.

Nancy (Arnold) Weinstein (B.A. 1967), an on-call office worker with a nonprofit social service agency, began taking Russian again last summer and was amazed at what she still remembered. “The language holds the same fascination and frustration for me that it always did. Czech, too, but don’t think I should try to brush up on it and Russian at the same time!”

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