

Slavic News: Summer 2022



LETTER FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR, KATARZYNA DZIWIWREK

Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,



This past academic year, the third year of the pandemic, has, like the two previous ones, been quite challenging: moving back and forth between in person and online classes, getting vaccinated again and again, etc. Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues to keep many of us sleepless. Despite it all

the department managed to function quite well and even grow.

In response to the war in Ukraine, the department organized a series of lectures by Ukrainian scholars during spring quarter. When I say department, I really mean Prof. Sasha Senderovich, who came up with an amazing lineup of speakers and coordinated and led all of the events. The details of the series can be found on our [website](#).

I am very pleased to announce that we hired a new Assistant Professor in Global Literary Studies, Dr. Piotr Florczyk. Dr. Florczyk is a recent graduate in comparative literature from USC, a poet, poetry specialist, and a literature scholar. He will start teaching for us in winter 2023 and will be instrumental in helping develop the new Global Literary Studies curriculum.

As I mentioned in the January letter, the Maria Kott Endowed Professorship in Polish Studies has been established and we will search for a worthy holder next academic year. Also, next year we will be joined by the Polish Fulbright lecturer, Dr. Agata Stronciwilk, an art historian from Uniwersytet Śląski in Katowice. She will

teach a class focused on food motifs in Polish art. This year's Polish Fulbright, Dr. Dawid Junke taught a very successful course on Polish and American cinema.

During the last ten years of my 29-year career at UW, I have had the pleasure of serving as the chair of the Slavic Department. While being chair has been challenging at times, it was also a very rewarding experience, mainly because I got to meet and interact with so many wonderful members of the local Slavic communities. I will be on sabbatical for most of next year and will return to full time teaching in 2023/24. I am very pleased to announce that as of July 1, 2022 the new chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures is Prof. Gordana Crnković. She will be an excellent leader who will take the department forward in new and wonderful directions.

I hope everyone reading this has a relaxing and restful summer. Please stay in touch with us, as always.

Sincerely,

Kat Dziwinek

CONTENTS

> 2	Slavic Convocation
> 2	Announcements
> 4	Faculty News
> 4	Student News
> 5	Fulbright News
> 5	Polish News
> 6	Ukrainian News
> 6	News from You
> 7	Gifts
> 8	Support Us

2022 SLAVIC CONVOCATION

On June 9, 2022, faculty, staff, students, and guests gathered in person for the first time in two years to celebrate the accomplishments of our 2022 graduates and award winners.

Chair and Professor, Dr. Katarzyna Dziwirek, opened the ceremony with a warm welcome and introduction of this year's keynote

speaker, Dr. Timothy Riley (Ph.D., Slavic Languages & Literatures, University of Washington, 1999). Dr.



Riley then spoke to our graduates about how life does not always go as planned, but that sometimes the unexpected can lead to wonderful life experiences.

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 were thrilled to be able to celebrate in person this year and are so proud of all of the accomplishments of our students!



Congratulations to the class of 2022. We cannot wait to hear where your lives take you!

2022 Graduates and Award Winners

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Collin Thomas Byers
Matthew Welleck De La Roca
Sarah Margaret Laskowski
Joshua Swynenburg
Gretta Maria Woodall
Jordan Taylor Zaugg

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Nathan A. Marks

AWARDS

Outstanding Undergraduate Student
Gretta Maria Woodall & Jordan Taylor Zaugg

Outstanding Graduate Student
Stef Vukadinovich

Slavic Excellence Prize
Sommer Alexis Mayer & Tate Jordan Linden
(undergraduate)
Svetlana Ostroverkhova (graduate)

Outstanding Student of Polish
Sofia Fedzhora

Outstanding Students of Russian
1st Year: Maximilian Scot Zuber
2nd Year: Daniel Timoshenko
3rd Year: Raj Kumar
4th Year: Joshua Swynenburg

Vadim Pahn Scholarship
Maximilian Scot Zuber

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021-22 Slavic Lecture Series

This year the Slavic Department put together a year-long lecture series that introduced a major contemporary book critic with a background in Slavic Languages & Literatures to the greater UW community, as well as two scholars whose work and pedagogy center on questions of race and indigeneity in our field.

In Autumn 2022, Dr. Jennifer Wilson, who received her Ph.D. in Slavic from Princeton University, gave a public talk, "[A Book Critic's Task](#)" about her work for the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Nation*, and other publications, followed by a [workshop for faculty and graduate students](#) interested in publishing parts of their academic research in public venues. In Winter 2023, Prof. Naomi Caffee (Reed College) delivered a public lecture "[At the Crossroads of Invisible Paths: Russia's Indigenous Writers in Local and Global Context](#)." In Spring 2023, Prof. Sunnie Rucker-Chang (University of Cincinnati) gave a public talk on "[Re-envisioning Blackness in Southeast European Culture and Film](#)." Both Prof. Caffee and Prof. Rucker-Chang also conducted additional smaller seminars for faculty and graduate students, focused on the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Prof. Caffee conducted a workshop on [integrating principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies](#), whereas Prof. Rucker-Chang presented a seminar entitled "[From Exclusive Beginnings to Inclusive Necessity: Critical Romani Studies as Case Study](#)."

All lectures were co-sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities and the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies. Prof. Rucker-Chang's lecture was additionally supported by American Ethnic Studies and the UW's program in African Studies.

Update from SEETAW – Slavic and East European Teachers Association of Washington

SEETAW presented at the Pacific NW Council for Languages PNCFL second virtual conference March 18-19, 2022. Two UW grads, Vinton Eberly and Michele Anciaux Aoki, facilitated two sessions. You can view the recordings if interested:

- [Fostering Collaboration with Slavic and East European Language Teachers](#)
- [Live Meet-Up](#)

If you would like to support and expand the teaching and learning of Slavic and East European languages in schools, colleges, and the community, we welcome you to [join SEETAW](#) (it's free!) and we will post your bio and photo on our [members' page](#).

We are also very excited that Vinton (Vince) will be president-elect for WAFLT, the Washington Association for Language Teaching, beginning in October. This is a great opportunity to increase the visibility of our

languages. We hope you will consider joining us at the WAFLT Fall Conference (held jointly with Oregon) in Portland, OR October 13-15, 2022. Register on the [WAFLT website](#).

-Michele Anciaux Aoki (Ph.D., 1991)

OSPI Heritage Language Grant for Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and now Ukrainian

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Multilingual Education Department awarded a first-time [Heritage Language Grant](#) in 2021 to Wenatchee Public Schools in Wenatchee, WA, to offer a two-year remote-learning program for Heritage Language speakers of Romanian, Russian, Spanish, or Ukrainian. The project supports middle and high school students to develop their language proficiency and literacy in their Heritage Language while also preparing a portfolio for the [Global Competence Certificate](#) in the Heritage Language and English through the World Affairs Council in Seattle. Students may complete World Language Competency-Based Credit testing to earn high school credits in their language and qualify for the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy. They may also earn the [Global Seal of Biliteracy](#).

Cosponsored by the [World Affairs Council Global Classroom Program](#), the [Ethnic Heritage Council](#), the [American Romanian Cultural Society](#), and the [University of Washington Center for Global Studies](#). Grant sponsored by the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) and [Wenatchee Public Schools](#).

Learn more at the [International Education Washington website](#).

-Michele Anciaux Aoki (Ph.D., 1991)

UW Language Learning Center Awarded Two STARTALK Grants for Russian in 2023

Two Russian language programs will be offered in summer 2023 funded by STARTALK grants from the Department of Defense:

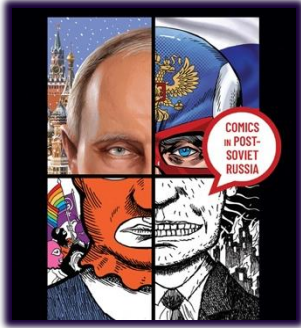
- Russian in the Sky and Outer Space (at UW Language Learning Center)
- Magnificent St. Petersburg (in Bellingham)

Learn more on the [STARTALK website](#).

-Michele Anciaux Aoki (Ph.D., 1991)

FACULTY NEWS

Professor José Alaniz published his monograph *Resurrection: Comics in Post-Soviet Russia* (OSU Press) in February 2022. The book “details the Russian comic landscape of the last three decades: beginning after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union and encompassing the fourth Putin administration, the COVID-19 crisis, and beyond.”



Assistant Professor Sasha Senderovich's first book, *How the Soviet Jew Was Made*, was published by Harvard University Press. The monograph relies on post-revolutionary Russian and Yiddish literary, cinematic and journalistic sources to examine how the Jewish community of the former tsarist empire was transformed by the Russian Revolution and during the first two decades of



Bolshevik rule. The requirement that most Jews live in what had been Russia's western borderlands--known as the Pale of Settlement--was abolished in 1917. With this new opportunity, many members of the Jewish community departed for larger cities or headed to Europe, America, Palestine or the new Jewish Autonomous Region in the Far East. Senderovich follows characters whose lives were disrupted by the revolution as they carry with them the practices and archetypes of a lost Jewish world.

Along with several colleagues from other universities, Senderovich served on the editorial board for the special “*Soviet Issue*” of the magazine *Jewish Currents* devoted to Soviet and post-Soviet Jews. The issue was published in April 2022, both in print and online.

Together with Prof. Aria Fani (NELC) and Prof. Nancy Bou Ayash (English), Senderovich received a grant from the Simpson Center for the Humanities for a yearlong set of activities including lectures and workshops during the academic year 2022-2023, aimed at establishing infrastructure for teaching translation and translation

studies at the University of Washington. He also received the Royalty Research Fund Scholar Award to support his translation from Yiddish and Russian, together with Prof. Harriet Murav (University of Illinois), of *In the Shadow of the Holocaust: Short Fiction by Jewish Writers from the Soviet Union* (under advance contract with Stanford University Press).

STUDENT NEWS

Biljana Konatar, Ph.D. candidate, was recently awarded two fellowships — the 2022-23 Hanauer Fellowship for Excellence in Western Civilization and the 2022-23 Chester Fritz Fellowship. The Fritz Fellowship, awarded by the UW Graduate School, will allow Biljana to spend a quarter in Montenegro to continue conducting her dissertation fieldwork and writing her dissertation. Apart from that, the abstract she submitted to the Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS) 2022 conference was chosen as one of the top three student abstracts submitted. Normally this would mean she would receive a travel grant to help with the cost of attending the meeting in Sapporo, Japan this September. However, since the conference will be online again, no travel grants are being given this year. Instead, she was awarded a free two-year membership in SLS.



Graduating seniors **Joshua Swynenburg** and **Jordan Zaugg** presented their undergraduate Honors theses at a departmental event on May 27, 2022. Joshua's work, entitled “The Orient is a Delicate Matter’: Representing the Sovietization of Non-Slavic Peoples in Film” was advised by Dr. Sasha Senderovich. Jordan's work, entitled “From D-503 to Equality 7-2521: Evgeny Zamiatin's *We* and Ayn Rand's *Anthem*” was advised by Dr. Galya Diment.



FULBRIGHT NEWS



I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the members of the faculty, administration and students of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Teaching at the Department this past quarter has been an amazing experience, one that I will remember and

cherish for years to come. I am extremely grateful for your positive attitude and openness – I have experienced nothing but friendly, considerate reactions from everyone and I felt really welcome. I would like to especially thank Krystyna Untersteiner and Katarzyna Dziwirek, who have gone out of their way to make me feel at home in our Department and Seattle in general. I am also very grateful for all the help I have received from Lani Phillips.

Even though I will be flying back to Poland soon, I have a firm belief that this is not the end of my UW adventure. I



am looking forward to cooperating with members of the faculty and students on joint scientific projects and I hope I will get a chance to show you all my University campus in

Wrocław – if you ever visit that part of Poland, let me know! Thank you so much and, hopefully, see you soon!

-Dawid Junke

POLISH NEWS

As we announced in the Winter issue of the newsletter, the Maria Kott Endowed Professorship of Polish Studies has been established, and in the past few months, it reached \$980,000 thanks to a most generous gift from Ryszard Kott in honor of his late wife Maria. Thank you, Ryszard! On April 12, 2022, on the occasion of Dean Robert Stacy's retirement celebration, we had an opportunity to pose for a commemorative picture celebrating the establishment of the Endowment. The search for the Endowed Professorship candidates will



begin this summer. The results will be announced in winter, and the new professor will start working in September 2023.

In February, Eric Karpeles gave a lecture entitled, *A Singular Spirit: Jozef Czapski, His Art and Life*. Czapski was a Polish artist, author, and critic, as well as an officer of the Polish Army. During WWII, he was imprisoned, and was among the very few officers to survive the Katyn massacre of 1940. After the war, he remained in exile in France where he was among the founders of *Kultura* monthly, one of the most influential Polish cultural journals of the 20th century.

In March, we had the pleasure to meet with Justyna Orłowska, Plenipotentiary of the Prime Minister for GovTech, at the Slavic Department. We talked about the history of teaching Polish at our University, the accomplishments of the UW PSEC, and our latest success—the establishment of the Maria Kott Endowed Professorship of Polish Studies.

During Spring quarter, Dr. Dawid Junke, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, taught an extremely popular course, *Introduction to Contemporary Polish Culture: Cinematic Metamorphoses: Polish and American Cinema After 1989*. In May, he gave a lecture entitled: *Witchers, Strigas, and a Man on the Moon – Polish Legends in Contemporary Popular Culture*. The presentation focused not only on the various incarnations of the famous Sepkowski's Witcher, but also brought to light pop-cultural representations of Polish legends, such as *Cracow Monsters* and Allegro's *Polish Tales*.

In June, at the departmental convocation ceremony, Sofii Fedzhora was announced to be the 2022 Best Student of Polish Award recipient. Since 1987, the Polish Women's Club (Koło Pań) has been honoring students of Polish language at the UW with this prize. Sofii is its 35th awardee. Congratulations!



-Krystyna Untersteiner, UW PSEC Chair

UKRAINIAN NEWS

Statement of Solidarity with the People of Ukraine

We in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Washington, where we often teach, side by side, Russian and Ukrainian linguistics, literature, and culture, are outraged by the shameless and brutal invasion of Putin's forces into a sovereign country. Several of us are from the former Soviet Union, with families who were affected by the worst atrocities of the Stalin regime, and there is no doubt that Putin has been trying for years now to imitate his dictatorial idol. While the events in Ukraine are utterly devastating, we are heartened by mass protests that are happening not just in Moscow and St. Petersburg but all over the Russian Federation. We are indeed all Ukrainians now. While we regret the loss of life on both sides of this battle, our fervent thoughts and hopes are with the people of Ukraine, who are fighting for their country with courage and dignity. We are also grateful to other Slavic and East European countries, Poland, Moldova, and Romania, for their willingness to shelter and help Ukrainian refugees. Peace and justice will prevail!

Lecture Series on Ukraine's History and Culture

When Russia, which first unleashed the war on Ukraine in 2014, launched its brutal large-scale invasion in February 24, 2022, the Slavic Department, together with History, the Ellison Center, and the Simpson Center, organized a lecture by Prof. Maria Sonevytsky (Bard College) on "Songs and Sovereignty in Ukraine" that helped contextualize the war with the help of music produced and performed after Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity in 2013-2014 (this lecture was co-sponsored by the School of Music).

The interest in the topic was so large, that a further lecture series, in Spring 2022, was launched to focus on a range of topics pertaining to Ukraine's history and culture—topics vital for understanding Ukraine in broader historical and contemporary context. Focusing on the work of scholars from Ukraine, some of them displaced by the war and others living under constant threat of Russian bombardment, the series organized by Prof. Laada Bilaniuk and Prof. Sasha Senderovich, featured four talks between April and June 2022. Dr. Oksana Kis (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Lviv) spoke on "[Beauty That Saved Their World: Ukrainian Women's Arts and](#)

[Crafts in the Soviet Gulag.](#)" Dr. Tamara Hundorova (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv) delivered a talk "[After Chernobyl: Post-Soviet Memory, Generations, and Trauma in Ukrainian Literature.](#)" Dr. Iulia Skybytska (War Childhood Museum, Kyiv) lectured on "[The Dream of all Soviet Children?: Artek Summer Camp in Crimea and the Challenges of Soviet Nationality Politics in the 1960s-1970s.](#)" Dr. Marta Havryshko (Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, Kyiv) spoke on "[Silenced Horrors: Sexual Violence during the Holocaust in Ukraine.](#)"

Planning is currently underway to continue this lecture series during the academic year 2022-2023.

NEWS FROM YOU

Bud Bard (B.A., 1955; M.A., 1966) writes: "I have been helping a bit with fundraising for the [EchoX project](#) as does Peter Davenport, A UW grad, suggesting some possible funding opportunities. Also, I currently serve on the Advisory Board. EchoX now contains 1,800+ local nonprofit members, such as the Nordic Heritage Council. Currently it is virtual, but probably will go public this year. It is a 501-C3 nonprofit organization and has a small local board. If anyone has information about a local nonprofit email Ann Wright, the corporation's CEO, at ann.upstream@gmail.com, but please first check the [Community Directory](#) to make sure the organization isn't already listed."

Gray Carpenter Church (B.A., 1977) is in her third year of grad school at the University of Arkansas; her research topic is competency-based education in higher ed. She expects to earn an Ed.D. in Adult Education Leadership in Winter '23 or Spring '23. In April, Gray and her husband, Al, moved from Bella Vista, Arkansas, to Holiday Island, Arkansas (about 10 minutes from Eureka Springs). In June, Gray returned to teaching computer science part-time at Western Governors University. If you come to the Ozarks, Gray and Al will teach you to Call the Hogs—Woo Pig Soie!

Clifford Frasier (B.A., 1991) joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of the Graduate School of Public Policy of Nazarbayev University, located in the capitol of Kazakhstan. He previously served as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Government & Politics of Wagner College in Staten Island, NY.

Rebecca Manning (M.A., 1984) Professor of Religious Studies and India Studies at Indiana University, has just been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru senior fellowship to pursue her research into the 12-day festival for Lord Dharma near Bardhaman, West Bengal, India. She'll be able to observe the festival and interview participants in two successive years. The project will give a fieldwork

component to her translation of Rupram Cakravarti's mid-17th-century epic, the Dharma-mangala.

Meanwhile, dredging up her somewhat dormant Russian, she has been helping her brother Nick in reading birth, death, and marriage records from the early 20th century in and around Tomsk, for her maternal grandmother.

GIFTS

The following is a list of gifts made to departmental funds since the Winter 2022 newsletter. Many thanks to all donors for their generous support of Slavic Studies at the University of Washington!

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

Michele Anciaux Aoki	Cheryl L. Lundgren	Michael G. Peskura	Lee D. Scheingold
Mara M. Blair	David M. Nemerever	Aleksandra Petrovic	Sharon A. Scully
Robert Charles Ewen	Stewart Parker	Brian M. Reed	Mary Sherhart

Donors to the *Friends of Polish Studies Fund*:

Wojtek Kozaczynski	Krystyna A. Untersteiner	Antoinette Wills
Jennifer Robertson	Christopher J. Wheatley	

Donors to the *Polish Studies Endowment Fund*:

Zbigniew Bochniarz

Donors to the *Polish Studies Distinguished Speakers Fund*:

Jennifer Robertson

Donors to the *Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund*:

Heather Rene Caturia	Bohdon Wowstchuk
----------------------	------------------

Donors to the *Czech Studies Endowment Fund*:

Lisa A. Frumkes

Donors to the *Romanian Studies Fund*:

Ileana Marin

Donors to the *Micklesen Graduate Support Fund*:

Frederick W. McDonald

Donors to the *Swayze Fellowship Fund*:

James E. Augerot

SUPPORT US

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:

University of Washington Foundation
Box 359505
Seattle, WA 98195

- () CZECHS Czech Studies Endowment Fund – Support for students studying Czech
- () POLISS Friends of Polish Studies Fund – General support for Polish studies
- () 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
- () POLFUL Polish Fulbright Fund – Increase Polish-specific course offerings by bringing Polish Fulbright scholars to the UW
- () POLEND Polish Studies Endowment Fund – 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 Slovene Studies Endowment Fund – Provide Support for Slovene Studies
- () SWAYZE Swayze Fellowship Fund – Fellowship support for graduate students
- () UKRANI Ukrainian Endowment Fund – Provide Ukrainian language and culture instruction
- () PAHNSC Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund – Russian language scholarship for undergraduates

Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with the law. If you are associated with a company that will match your gift, please include the appropriate form. Pursuant to RCW 10.09, the University of Washington is registered as a charitable organization with the Secretary of State, State of Washington. For information, call the Office of the Secretary of State, 1 (800) 332-4483.