



Letter from Chair Galya Diment

Dziwirek's co-edited volume (*Complex Emotions and Grammatical Mismatches: A Contrastive Corpus-Based Study of Polish and English*) is in press as we speak. My co-edited volume, *MLA Approaches to Teaching Nabokov's Lolita*, came out last year, and Affiliate Professor (and Slavic librarian) Michael Biggins' English translation of Tomaž Šalamun's book-length collection of poems *Sinji stolp* (Slovene first edition: Ljubljana, 2007) was accepted for publication by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2010 as *The Blue Tower*.

Last summer was a banner year for our programs abroad. Jaroslava Soldanova took her students enrolled in the Early Fall Program to Prague, and her description of their trip is included here. Professor James West and Dr. Valentina Zaitseva both led Exploration Seminars – in his case to Georgia and in her case to Sochi; you can find their first-hand accounts in this newsletter. We should also mention that REECAS/Ellison Center is now headed by our esteemed colleague, Professor James Augerot.

Other highlights of the year include our continued collaboration with Dr. Przemysław Chojnowski, our Fulbright scholar from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, who was extended for one more year (and who is now also teaching Polish language, in addition to courses in literature, film and culture, since Professor Dziwirek is enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical). We did, however, have to say good-bye to our other Fellow, Maria Rewakowicz, who was with us for two years, teaching Ukrainian literature and culture and who is now a Fulbright Scholar in Kiev.

As to disappointments, they were

hardly surprising, given the country's economic situation. We lost two TA quarters; the summer salary for our Program Coordinator, Phoebe Ambrosia; and took a hit to our operating budget. The bleeding has not stopped, alas, and this year and next we are bracing for more cuts to every aspect of our budget, which, needless to say, makes us even more appreciative of all the support we have been getting from our alums and friends. I would like to say, "Please keep it coming," but I am also aware of how the same dismal economy may have affected many of you, so I would like to modify it by "Please keep it coming, if you can!"

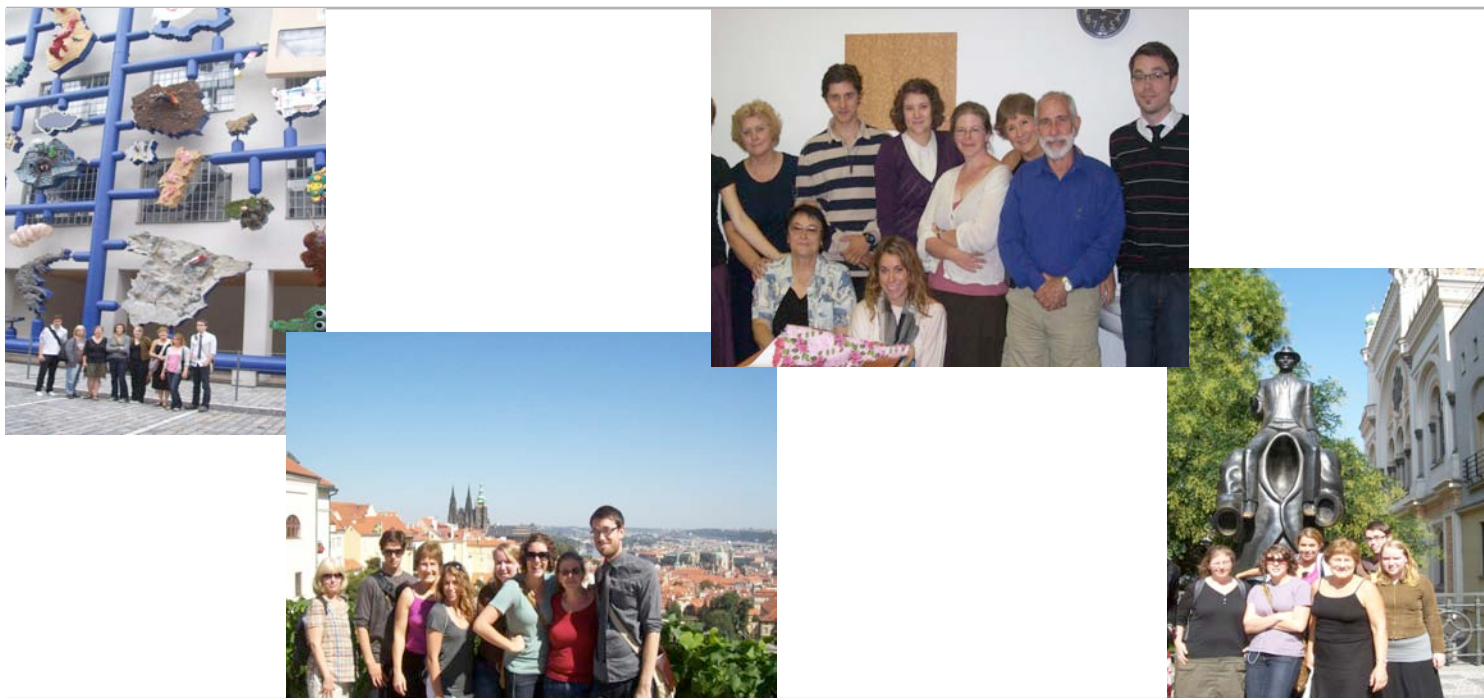
We hope 2010 will bring with it even more triumphs – and definitely fewer disappointments and budget cuts!

First of all, on behalf of the entire department, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and successful 2010! Looking back on the last year, I would have to admit that the department had its lion's share of successes but also disappointments. All the successes had to do with our personal and collective achievements; all the disappointments came from the worsening economic situation which we all share, and harsh budgets for higher education, in general, and this university, in particular.

But let's start with the triumphs! We are happy to report that both Professors Jose Alaniz and Barbara Henry were granted tenure and promotion last year and are now Associate Professors. Their first monographs — Jose's (*Komiks: Comic Art in Russia*) and Barbara's (*Rewriting Russia: Jacob Gordin's Yiddish Drama*) are coming out this year from the University of Mississippi and the University of Washington presses respectively. So is Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek's monograph (*Studies in Cognitive Corpus Linguistics*, Peter Lang Publishing Group). In addition to these publications, Professor Henry co-edited a volume (*The Global Yiddish Stage: Yiddish Drama, Performance and Show Business*) which is forthcoming from Wayne State University Press, and Professor

Contents:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Letter from the Chair |
| 2 | Early Fall in Prague |
| 3 | Golden Fleece, Panther Skin and Rose Revolution |
| 4-5 | Russian Talk: Communication, Culture & Health in Sochi |
| 5 | Class of 2009 |
| 6 | UW Polish Studies |
| 7-9 | News from You |



Early Fall in Prague 2009

– Jaroslava Soldanová

Prague, the center of the Czech State for over eleven centuries, was the destination of a group of UW students in August 2009. The 3-week-long program, established by the Slavic Department in 2004, was designed for students of Czech language. The program combines intensive language study and exploration of historical monuments in and around Prague. It also includes meetings with famous Czech personalities such as Czech author Ivan Klíma, film director Mária Procházková, historian Marie Homérová, film critic Vojtěch Rynda and others.

During the first week students explored Prague. The city with its glorious and tragic history never lost its momentum throughout the ages. It is still full of churches, abbeys, convents, palaces and new buildings. Many of them were examined and admired by our students.

During the second week students made a fieldtrip to the historic town of

Kutná Hora. It became a rich Royal Town in the 13th century due to the silver discovered there. Students explored one of the silver mines, the gothic churches of St. Barbora and St. Jakub, and the famous bone-chapel of Sedlec.

Another fieldtrip took them to the former concentration camp of Terezín. Later they discussed Terezín with author Ivan Klíma, who spent several years in this concentration camp as a boy.

The next fieldtrip led them to Karlštejn, the most important of all Czech castles except Prague Castle. Karlštejn was founded by Charles IV, the Czech king and Holy Roman Emperor in 14th century, as a depository for the bohemian and imperial crown jewels. Students were especially impressed by the Chapel of Holy Cross with its 127 panels of gothic paintings by M. Theodoric from the years 1355-65. It is a very rare and valuable collection of original gothic

art, and the number of visitors of this chapel is strictly limited.

During the third week of the program, the students visited the Modern Art Gallery DOX, and went to see a performance of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" at the 18th-century Theater of Estates. After that, it was time for our farewell dinner, where students met with their Charles University instructors and honorary lecturers. Everybody agreed that the program had been very exciting and rich, and everybody expressed regret that the program could not last longer.

As director of this program, I would like to thank the president of the Czech Center for Education and Culture, Mr. Wayne Jehlik, and the Slavic Department, who contributed financial support toward the program. Our new students of Czech language are looking forward to the next Early Fall in Prague.

Golden Fleece, Panther Skin and Rose Revolution

- James West



In September 2009 James West and Mary Childs (a doctoral student in Comparative Literature) led an Exploration Seminar with this title in Georgia. The seminar was planned for 2008, but had to be called off when hostilities broke out between Russia and Georgia over the break-away regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Though the seminar was based in Tbilisi, the first two weeks involved extensive travel in the country to give the students a first-hand knowledge of its geography, economy and culture. We spent time in the high mountains and deep valleys of North-Eastern Georgia, the Kazbegi and Khevsureti regions, where vultures and eagles soar among crags punctuated by ancient fortresses, watchtowers and monasteries, some carved from the rock of sheer cliff-faces. We visited in particular the celebrated Shatili Castle, half-ruined but also half-occupied to this day, and famously used as the setting for a number of films celebrating medieval Georgian history, legends and culture. Other trips took us to Central Georgia, including the important city of Kutaisi where the Russian futurist poet Mayakovsky spent most of his childhood, and the 'local attractions' range from Bagrati Cathedral, ruined but currently under controversial restoration, to

an exposed limestone slope with the fossil footprints of a family of dinosaurs. We also ventured as far as the Black Sea coast, spending a couple of days in Batumi, a major port city since the time of the ancient Greeks, with a rich heritage of archeological remains. Other visits took in some of the most important religious centers of medieval Georgia, including Mtskheta, famous for its exterior carving that appears to reflect both Christian and pre-Christian traditions, and Bodbe, center of the veneration of St. Nino, who brought Christianity to Georgia in the fourth century. We saw few signs of the Summer 2008 war with Russia: we passed bomb-damaged buildings only in Gori



(an ironic target, since this city is known first and foremost as the birthplace of Stalin, and is home to a major museum devoted to him). We visited the source of the celebrated Borjomi mineral waters and, in the wine country of Eastern Georgia, the historic city of Telavi, between whose university and the UW we are trying to forge a working partnership.

Back in Tbilisi, the students enjoyed interesting lectures, particularly by the director of the Institute for Strategic and International Studies, whose advisory role in the immediate entourage of President Saakashvili gave us a privileged insight into

the skirmish with Russia, and by the head of the School of Byzantine and Greek Studies at Tbilisi University, whose perspective on the birth of the Georgian nation was enormously valuable. Both the University and the Institute were generous in providing access and consultation as our students worked on their seminar papers. We were impressed by the adventurous spirit and intellectual curiosity of our small group of five students, whose majors ranged from history and international studies to mathematics, astro-physics and civil engineering, and their maturity, good-natured flexibility and stamina made a sometimes exhausting exploration go smoothly. We are hoping to recruit at least twice this number (including some participants from the Slavic Department!) in the 2010 version of the Georgia Seminar, which will probably begin by flying to Turkey and travelling overland into Georgia. A slide show of some highlights can be viewed at faculty.washington.edu/jdwest/ExploSemGeorgia.



Russian Talk: Communication, Culture & Health in Sochi

- Valentina Zaitseva



It took almost three years to prepare this program and some convincing of Sochi authorities to permit UW students to observe communication in natural situations. (What? American students will be present in classrooms? You are going to observe doctor-patient conversations? Who would ever permit that?) The program is unusual, but so is the fact that Sochi will be hosting the 2014 Olympics. The city must be ready not only to receive a flood of foreigners but also, by that time, to have constructed the best sports facilities in the world and a model infrastructure. Communication with guests from all over the world will be part of the picture. It turned out that the UW Exploration Seminar in Sochi could help with identifying potential cross-communication problems.

We received all the permissions, especially because the project showed the importance of Sochi in studying what exactly it is that makes Russian communication Russian. The Sochi University Foreign Languages Department expressed keen interest in our research project and offered its support and collaboration. All was ready by August 2008, but...the program was cancelled because of the one-week war between Russia and Georgia. Our seminar commenced only in August 2009. Here we finally were, all ready to explore!



Sochi is a beautiful subtropical resort town stretched along the Black Sea at the foot of the Caucasus, a national health and recreation center since early Soviet times. The city managed to retain some of its famous health institutions after the fall of the Soviet Union, when many sanatoria fell into neglect or were restructured to join in the rapid development of tourism. Located in that part of Russia between Georgia and Ukraine, Sochi displays a rich demographic and ethnic diversity (over 100 ethnic groups), which makes it an ideal place to study cross-cultural communication and social interaction.



National pride, national identity, as well as the dynamically changing aspects of the speakers' identities in any communicative exchange are wonderfully fascinating and potentially explosive aspects. Their connection with language, culture, non-verbal behavior, and communicative strategies are not immediately obvious, and an outside look is often a great help. This is why the active involvement of the Sochi University students and faculty was so important: they participated in our theoretical seminars on communication, took part in the field work, went with UW students around the town translating, explaining, asking questions, helping to collect the data...

“Hello, we came to study you! Would you like to study us?” They would! The group of students and their teachers who became our Sochi partners was as interested in cross-cultural communication as we were: they studied English and Anglo-Saxon ways of communicating. Thus, we approached the same process from two opposite ends. Looking at the results of our first endeavor, we agreed that for next summer (end of August to mid-September 2010) we would organize a conference with the participation of students and faculty on both sides.

Our group lived in a residential area on the hill called Bytkha Mountain, in a nice, clean hotel with a beautiful view of the sea. The students had a chance to participate in the daily life of the region at marketplaces, stores, cafes, movie theaters, banks, clinics, hairdresser salons, apartment buildings, schools, kindergartens, old-style majestic sanatoria with beautiful parks and great walks leading down to the seaside. Written and spoken language surrounded us (from billboards to handwritten notes addressed to the general public, such as the one on the door of a little print shop: “I am in my vegetable garden; enter from the





back yard”) – each spot was a rich site for field notes, revelations, discoveries. Our visits to health and educational institutions provided a wealth of culture-specific data in terms of both verbal and non-verbal communication.

We also visited famous tourist attractions (such as Krasnaya Polyana, near the construction site of the future Olympic games) and lesser known sites of ancient burials (dolmen) in Sochi National Park, guided by local cultural archaeologist, enthusiast, historian and designer Professor Andrei Kizilov of The Sochi Black Sea Academy.

I would like to thank all the Sochi Exploration participants for coping with the problems of experiencing other people’s culture **personally** and for taking joy in experiencing it, analyzing it, and describing it earnestly in their field notes and observations, submitted daily. See the article, “Spotlight on Sochi: A UW Exploration Seminar Experience,” by participant Amy Paul for a student perspective:

<http://depts.washington.edu/jsishelp/ellison/2009/fall-winter/sochi>

I look forward to the next session in Sochi in 2010, which will be enriched and assisted by such a wonderful and experienced teacher of Russian language and culture as the Slavic Department’s own Zoya Polack, who has agreed to act as my co-leader of the program in Sochi.



Celebrating the Class of 2009

- Phoebe Ambrosia, Undergraduate Adviser

On Friday, June 12th, the department honored nine undergraduates receiving Bachelors Degrees: five with majors in East European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and four with majors in Russian Language, Literature and Culture. We also celebrated the accomplishments of departing graduate student Tim Wellman, completing his Masters of Arts. Though not all graduates could attend the ceremony, this was one of the largest undergraduate classes our department has had in recent years, with twenty-two students receiving their degrees, fifteen of whom were on the Dean’s List.

Department faculty, staff, family and friends of graduates met in Parrington Hall overlooking the campus to celebrate the achievements of our best and brightest, to acknowledge their departure, and to meditate on the adventures ahead of them.

We were honored to host Professor Ronald LeBlanc as the keynote speaker for the afternoon. Professor

LeBlanc (BA 1977, MA 1979, PhD 1984) is a Research Associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University and Professor of Russian and Humanities at the University of New Hampshire. Following his talk, each graduate was individually introduced by a faculty member who had gotten to know them during their time at the University.

The Convocation ceremony is also our annual awards ceremony, and we were proud to honor five outstanding students in 2009. Graduating senior, honors student and recipient of a Fulbright award, Cameron Rule was honored as an ACTR Russian Language Laureate Scholar. Honors student Diana Aitova was the recipient of both the Outstanding Undergraduate Award for her academic excellence and the Asante Outstanding Paper Prize for her research paper entitled: “What’s in a Middle Name: On Patronymics”. Ph.C. student Alsu Shakirova was recognized for her excellence in teaching with the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award,

and Olga Gulchuck was recognized by the Polish Home Ladies’ Auxiliary with the Best Polish Student of 2009 Award.

After the ceremony faculty had a chance to talk with the families of the graduates who had traveled to be there from inside and outside Washington, while enjoying a delicious spread provided for the occasion by Shosh Westen.

The class of 2009 includes B.A. recipients Julia Agapov*, Diana Aitova* (Honors), Sarah Cunningham* (Honors), Nathaniel Dawson, Tatiana Franzen*, Alexandra Ghetie, Caitlin Hagen*, Erin Horvath*, Yevgeniy Karpik, Ludmila Khilchenko, Christine Lindell* (Honors), Gail Mahrenholz*, Marina Mikhailchenko* (Honors), Gwendolyn Mitchell*, Peter Murray*, Kamil Pawlowski*, Matthew Riser*, Cameron Rule* (Honors), Anastasia Shatilo, Nicolette Stauffer, Artem Wallace, Kyle Walker*, and M.A. recipient Tim Wellman. We could not be more proud of these students.

* Deans List

UW POLISH STUDIES

2009 was a busy and productive year for the **UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee** (UW PSEC), a group of volunteers dedicated to raising funds to establish an endowed chair of Polish studies in the Slavic Department at the UW. In addition to this ambitious, long-term goal, UW PSEC sponsors the Distinguished Polish Speakers Series, raises money to partially support visiting Fulbright Scholars, and grants scholarships to UW students studying in Poland.



In January–February 2009, UW PSEC organized a series of lectures entitled “Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews,” co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles and the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center, in cooperation with the UW Slavic Department, Jewish Studies Program, Ellison Center, and History Department. This series honored Poles who risked their own lives and the lives of their families in order to protect Jews from the Nazis during WWII. The series included a lecture about the challenges of the rescuers and rescued; a lecture and films about Irena Sendler who, with the Żegota organization, saved 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto; a presentation by Henry Friedman, a Holocaust survivor and one of the rescued; and a lecture describing the complicated relations between Poles and Jews in the Polish countryside. This moving and educational lecture series was accompanied by an exhibition by photographer Chris Schwartz. The exhibition, hosted in Allen Library North, told the story of 21 Poles who rescued Jews during the World War II German occupation of Poland.

UW PSEC greeted spring with two special receptions for visiting Polish opera stars Małgorzata Walewska, who performed in *Bluebeard's Castle*, and Mariusz Kwiecień, who performed in *The Marriage of Figaro* at Seattle Opera. Both events included tickets to the performances and a private cocktail reception with the performers. We are grateful to these talented stars for donating their time to support UW PSEC's mission, as well as to the opera lovers who attended the events, the proceeds of which benefited the Polish studies endowment fund.

In June Professor Bochniarz of the UW's Evans School of Public Affairs gave a lecture commemorating the first free Polish election of June 1989. His talk was followed by a discussion with a panel of speakers who participated, supported from abroad, or witnessed this historical election.

In December the Committee welcomed Professor Andrea Marks from Oregon State University who presented her documentary film on Polish poster art, “Freedom on the Fence,” which is accompanied by an exhibit of Polish posters in Allen Library North until January 24, 2010. Finishing up the year, the committee collaborated with the Ellison Center in hosting a lecture by UW Professor Daniel Chiroty on “Ideology and the Tragedy of East Central Europe in the 20th Century.”

UW PSEC is delighted to have its 2008/2009 Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Przemysław Chojnowski, return to the Slavic Department to teach second-year Polish language and courses in literature and cinema. Dr. Chojnowski is the fourth visiting Fulbright Scholar to teach courses in the Slavic Department through the efforts and financial support from UW PSEC and Ellison Center. Additionally, we awarded Patricia Erickson with a scholarship to help support her studies in Krakow, Poland over the summer. Ms. Erickson is our second annual student scholarship recipient.

In January we welcome back Małgorzata Walewska for a night at the opera followed by a private reception. You will find more information about this and other events at our website: www.polishstudiesuw.org.

We would like to thank all of our supporters, invite you to attend upcoming events and lectures and encourage you to support our endeavors financially. As you probably noticed, this year we are not holding an auction, and for that reason we are seeking donations to supplement not only the speakers' fund but also the scholarship and endowment funds. If you feel these programs are valuable to you and our community and should be continued, please consider supporting us by making a financial donation. Thank you! Dziękujemy! <http://www.polishstudiesuw.org/contributions>

NEWS FROM YOU

Alida Purves Abbott (BA 2000) writes, "We finally moved back to Washington this year. My husband took a job in Olympia with a local orthopedic group. I am now homeschooling my two older children. We are excited to be back in Washington. We love our new home. In fact, it has been really fun living here because I've had a chance to use my Russian to translate a little bit for a family at church. It's always fun when knowing Russian comes in handy."

"This year has been a time of healing and repair for me," writes **Janet Anderson** (BA 1968). "I had two surgeries, which resulted in a new knee and newly re-connected intestines, as well as an injection which finally relieved my sciatica. As an added enhancement, I was able to speak Russian with medical staff in the hospital, many of whom were intrigued and commented on my "non-American" pronunciation. (Thanks again to my wonderful instructors at U of W in the 60s!) In this past year, I have gone from feeling like an 82-year-old to feeling younger than my chronological age. Work as a Public Defender is still interesting and enjoyable, and my four grandchildren are always a delight."

Gwyneth Barber (BA 1996) writes, "I am still in Germany, still working for the Marshall Center (www.marshallcenter.org) as Eurasian Outreach Division Chief in the Outreach Programs Directorate. I still have some opportunity to practice my Russian as we work with people from all over the region. I can't remember if I told you we had a second baby last March. Tibor and I now have two daughters - Geneva (3 years old) and Zsófia (9 months)."

Burton "Bud" Bard Jr. (MA 1966) was appointed as Sister Cities International Coordinator for Washington State.

You never know when Russian will come in handy. **James Bartee** (BA 1969) was walking out of his building at West Virginia University and overheard a mother call to her child going in, "Vsyoy vporyadke, sweetie." "Turns out she recently emigrated from the Ukraine and she and I enjoyed a nice conversation about her new life here in Morgantown with her son. I am so happy that after more years than I care to recount, my use of Russian is still fluent enough to have a casual, but lengthy conversation with a native speaker--thanks to such luminaries as Prof. Holdsworth, Pahn, Gross, Tracy and others. She even said she couldn't hear any American accent--maybe she was just being kind."

"I just finished my first semester of teaching at the College of William & Mary in the Chinese Section of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department," writes **Roy Chan** (BA 2002). "It's been a real roller-coaster, especially as I've had to step in for the section head who took an emergency leave of absence. In my first semester as a professor I was the "the face" of the Chinese section! Hopefully things will settle down more in Spring!"

"Hola! I (**Gray C. Church**, BA 1977) am writing this note from Bogota, Colombia, where my husband, Al Church, has joined me on another business trip. He did not accompany me to Beijing (where I spent a freezing month in January) or to Shanghai (where I spent a sweltering month in September). To make up for it, we are going to fly to Cartagena this weekend and take a short vacation on the Caribbean island of Tierrabomba, off the coast of Colombia."

Vitaliy Demyanik (BA 2008) moved to Seoul, South Korea in September and is now an English teacher there until September 2010.

Robert Ewen (MA 1973, PhD 1979) continues to work as an IT Project Manager. "My last contract ended in February, so I have had opportunities to pursue other interests since then. My wife, Lily, and I travelled in Japan for three weeks during April, spending five days visiting my stepdaughter in the small town where she is teaching English in middle school through the government-run Japanese English Teaching (JET) program. In addition to tending our flower and vegetable gardens this summer, I also found time to travel in Oregon, crew a 40-foot sail boat, and co-host a huge pig roast with fellow alumni Kit Adams and Jim Hoath. This fall finds me looking for new contracts and wondering how I can manage to turn travel into a full-time, or even part-time, occupation. I can be reached at robertewen@verizon.net."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Oct. 21, 2009) -- The Fulbright Association announced today that **Laurel Victoria Gray**, artistic director of the Silk Dance Road Company, will present the 2009 Selma Jeanne Cohen Lecture in International Dance Scholarship on Saturday, Oct. 31, at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C. Ms. Gray is adjunct professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at George Washington University.

Ms. Gray will discuss "A Living Legacy: Uzbek Dance" and will touch on the 1989 Seattle Soviet Theatre Arts Exchange, in which Dr. Cohen participated. Her

presentation will include a performance by members of the Silk Road Dance Company of traditional Uzbek dances from the company's Legacy Repertoire.

Ms. Gray first visited Uzbekistan in 1973 and, in 1981, joined the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Committee. She participated in the official 1984 delegation of Seattle residents to Uzbekistan and founded the Uzbek Dance and Culture Society that same year. Gray also co-founded of an annual dance camp that hosts dance instructors from Uzbekistan. In 2007, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Uzbek Ministry of Culture at a ceremony held at Tashkent's Institute of Art in recognition of her work in promoting and preserving traditional Uzbek culture and dance. She has produced performances at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Washington, D.C. She received the Kennedy Center's Local Dance Commissioning Project Award for her production of "Egypt: Myth, Magic, and Mystery" in 2003.

In 2009 the Silk Road Dance Company was the subject of a special BBC broadcast about our preservation of Persian dance. And during the course of 2009, Silk Road Dance Company appeared twice at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; worked with Russian Romani (Gypsy) dancers and musicians; learned choreography from an Iranian dance specialist; traveled to Seattle and St. Paul for special concerts; performed at the Kazakh and Uzbek embassies; participated in a lecture demonstration at the Fulbright Association conference; debuted over 20 new pieces; entertained family audiences at museums, universities and schools; danced at Seattle's TurkFest, the Dance DC Festival, the Herdzeljezi Roma/Gypsy Festival and DC's Turkish Festival; and premiered two new concert works.

Serge Gregory (MA 1972, PhD 1977) is the inaugural recipient of Artist Trust's Claire Short Ireland Residency. He will be shooting a short film about the people and landscape of Sheep's Head peninsula on the remote west coast of Ireland. His most recent film, "When Herons Dream," received a judge's award from critic Kenneth Turan at Portland's Northwest Film & Video Festival in November 2009.

Trey Hatch (BA 1993) was promoted to Senior Counsel at HBO here in New York.

Richard House (MA REECAS 1976) has "been here at UNH for 7 years now as Director of the Language Resource Center, teaching Russian courses whenever Ron LeBlanc is on leave. Ron and I feel as though our lives are something of a Pasternak novel, he having begun studies in Seattle the semester I was finishing my masters. Turns out that he also lived next door to one of my undergraduate roommates when they were growing up in Nashua, New Hampshire together.

"Though my direct use of linguistics is minimal here in Durham, I find that the rigor of examining data imparted to me by Lew Micklesen and Herb Coats has served me well in analyzing the technology needs of our Faculty. That same rigor aided me in revisiting my undergraduate literature studies when I was faced with teaching a Russian Literature in Translation course last Spring. Truth to tell, some of the analysis for that course sprang from an Independent Study course with Davor Kapetanić. Not the content, obviously, since Davor and I were looking at the development of South Slavic Literature generally. The approach, though, allowed me to form a pretty good narrative of Russian prose from 1790 to 1940.

"The temperature here today is 43 F and it's drizzling rain (after a bright sunny Sunday), so I don't find myself in need of a Seattle fix for the moment."

David Hughes writes, "I graduated in 1960 in the Far Eastern and Russian Institute as it was known then. And went into the Foreign Service (which is not a big thing since the UofW has been in the top five universities for supplying persons to the American foreign affairs community for many decades). Earlier this year I was awarded, by the President of Hungary, Laszlo Solyom, The Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit for "his promotion of the Hungarian political and economic democratization process." I worked in our Embassy in Budapest, from 1989 to 1991. While it is true that Hungary is not conventionally thought of as part of the Slavic community, perhaps you could bend the rules under the circumstances? Phil Shekleton bends the rules to let me sit on one of his West European committees."

Dimitri Kotlyar (BA 1997) is still teaching and subbing in the Bellevue, Issaquah, School District. "I did go to Israel for the first time, for about 2 weeks, to visit my cousin that I hadn't seen in 30 years and to see the country; it was a great trip. I'm still single, which I'm getting really tired of, so if you know of any single

women between the ages of 27 and 37, please let me know."

"I haven't ever contributed to the newsletter before," writes **Ron LeBlanc**, "so let me provide a brief overview of what has transpired with me since I left the UW back in 1984 with a B.A. (1977), an M.A. (1979) and Ph.D. (1984). My wife Lynda and son Martin followed me to Pullman, where I taught at WSU for four years before taking a position at Notre Dame and then one at the University of New Hampshire, in my home state, where I've been teaching for over twenty years now. I've continued to travel back and forth to Russia regularly ever since my Fulbright/IREX exchange year at MGU back in 1981-82, sometimes on sponsored programs (such as the CIEE Summer Language Program in St. Petersburg and an NEH Summer Institute in Moscow), but more often simply to attend conferences and visit friends there. Lately I've been going there to attend the international Tolstoy conference held on alternate years at the Tolstoy family estate at Yasnaya Polyana. I've also spent semesters in Hungary (2001) and Italy (2006), directing UNH study abroad programs.

"The most recent news for us is that Lynda and I spent my spring 2009 sabbatical in Seattle, housesitting for close friend and fellow UW alum, David Fenner, and his wife, Elisabeth Mitchell, while they traveled to Oman to set up an Arabic Studies center there. It was great to spend some time back in Seattle and see old friends. Galya Diment was kind enough to secure a Visiting Scholar affiliation at the UW for me, so I was able to avail myself of the resources in the Suzallo Library while I was in town. And she invited me to deliver the keynote address at last year's Slavic Convocation. My book on Dostoevsky and Tolstoy came out this past summer (you can read the UPNE blurb on it at <http://www.upne.com/1-58465-767-7.html> <http://www.upne.com/1-58465-767-7.html>). But the greatest piece of recent news is that Martin (who now works for the Sierra Club and lives in Seattle with his wife Mandy) is going to become a father for the first time in March. I told Lynda I wasn't so sure just how enthused I was going to be about sleeping with a babushka, but she assured me that I ought to be thankful that anyone would agree to sleep with me these days!

"The arrival of our first grandchild means that there will be even added incentive for us to get back to Seattle on a more regular basis in the years to come. We also plan to

retire somewhere in the magnificent Pacific Northwest. So I hope we'll get to start seeing more of the alums from the Slavic Department that we have lost touch with over these many years.

Back in August of 2008 **Don Livingston** (PhD 1998) founded "Russian Word of the Day," a blog that provides some supplementary input for first- and second-year Russian students. This semester the blog is getting 300+ browser hits a day (quite a few more if you count RSS/Atom feeds). For those interested, they can read the blog at <http://shininghappypeople.net/rwotd/>.

Devon Livingston-Rosanoff (BA 2003) got married on August 8 (to another UW alum - John Richmond). "Other than that I'm just hanging out at Emory in Atlanta working on the PhD portion of my MD/PhD (in Immunology)."

"This is **Cadence McAfee** (BA 2008), just updating you on recent events. I recently returned from Orenburg, where I was teaching on a Fulbright grant. I'm now applying to graduate school in creative writing."

Rebecca Manning (MA 1974) has spent the last few summers as Director of Curricula for the Bangla Summer Institute, one of the State Department funded Critical Language Scholarship programs. Carefully selected undergraduate and graduate students from around the US spend nine weeks in Bangladesh learning the Bangla language while immersed in the culture. "Our teaching faculty are a dedicated and energetic group who work so hard that they have just about rendered me redundant. Meanwhile back home in Indiana, I've just been elected to serve as Acting Director of the India Studies Program for calendar 2010 while the regular director is on leave. My third book, translations of the hagiographical corpus for a medieval Bengali devotional leader, is under contract with Oxford University Press. And this year I finally managed to give my love of South Asian cinema some academic legitimacy through a new course, "Mandir [temple] and Masjid [mosque] at the Movies," which has been a tremendous success. A far cry from Slavic Linguistics, but still in the language and literature mode."

Gwendolyn Mitchell graduated in June, married in July, started working for the Husky Team Shop in September, and began course work for a certificate in

Paralegal Studies from the UW Extension in October.

Allan Mustard (BA 1978) is still head of the agriculture section at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, where “I am learning about such tropical agricultural products as cacao, sugar, and avocados. There is nothing else to report for now!”

“After getting my Russian Lang & Lit BA in '76,” writes **George Nease**, “my very first trip there will be over Russian Christmas & New Year, 2 weeks in Piter. I can't wait !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

After teaching Russian history at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, **Robert L. Nichols** (BA 1964) has now retired to the Seattle area.

“A note for the newsletter--this year has definitely been one of significant changes for me (**Sunny Otake** MA 1994). By chance I got back in touch with someone I knew only slightly in college (20 years ago). We fell in love, and in August I moved to Chicago to be with him. Work here is scarce, so in January I will start back to school working on a nursing degree. I will also begin the process of converting to Judaism. I guess the big lesson of this year for me is that you never quite know where life will take you.”

This past year **Lee Pickett** (BA 2006) finished his MA in International Affairs from George Washington University. Currently, he is living near Washington, DC and looking for work.

Dwight Roesch (BA 1976) continues working at the UN as a Russian/French to English interpreter in NYC, where after 60 years they have started a huge overhaul of the building. “August 2008 my wife and I spent a month in St. Petersburg: I was studying at a special language seminar at the university, in the same Philfac building I had studied at ages ago. I am informally studying Georgian, which is a very interesting and beautiful language (particularly interesting in that my wife is from Tbilisi).”

Michael Seraphinoff (MA 1987, PhD 1993) stills work for the International Baccalaureate Organization based in Cardiff, Wales. “I get to work mostly from home on Whidbey Island, and they fly me over to Cardiff twice a year for conferences. I am their Examiner Responsible for Macedonian Literature, and I also serve on their curriculum review committee. It has been a nice little niche for me as a Macedonian literature specialist. I've worked for them for some dozen years now. I also continue to translate works from

Macedonian literature. The most recent, this year, is the Macedonian folk tale “Silyan the Stork”. It was first recorded in the 19th century by a tailor from Prilep, Marko Tsepenkov. It is probably the longest and most popular of Macedonian folk tales, and I don't know why it hasn't become better known outside of Macedonia. My translation is now available as a book. (I left one with the Slavic Department.) It is also available as a free download from my website. This year I also participated in a North American Macedonian Studies Conference held in Salt Lake City at the University of Utah. I presented on the life and art of Seattle-based Macedonian folk music and dance teacher Atanas Kolarovski, whose career as a world traveling teacher of Macedonian dances now spans some 60 years.”

Dana Weintraub (MA 1992) writes, “I had a big change in 2009. After 6 years and having raised approximately \$7 million, I left the University of California, San Diego, and am now the Director of Philanthropy at the San Diego Hospice Foundation, primarily responsible for Planned Giving and also working on Major Gifts. San Diego Hospice and The Institute for Palliative Medicine is the first and largest hospice and palliative care organization in San Diego, serving approximately 1,000 patients per day. We're a well-respected, complex organization -- in addition to caring for patients and their families (our Bereavement Program helps adults and children dealing with grief), our physicians train all the medical students, medical residents, and nursing students in San Diego in palliative medicine, conduct a fellowship program in Palliative Medicine, and we have a strong research program here, as well. Our physicians were primarily responsible for Palliative Medicine becoming a recognized sub-specialty by the American Medical College.”

Rhonda Ziadeh Salem (BA 1975) has been teaching Russian at Langley High School in McLean, VA for the past six years. “I'm also certified in special education and teach a writing and reading course to students with learning disabilities. My husband George and I have been living in the Washington, DC area for almost 30 years now. We have four children, including a 12-year-old who keeps us from being empty nesters.”

“No real academic stuff in my update,” writes **Kasa Zipfel** (BA 2007). “I've primarily just been enjoying how beautiful it is here in northwest Montana, living right next to Glacier National Park! I love it here!”

“I've been working as a writer and photographer for two years for a newspaper

here in Kalispell. For the last year and a half I've been volunteering at a mental health center and teaching yoga to clients. As part of this I've been developing curriculum that helps alleviate anxiety, tension and stress with people who have schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and chronic depression. I just love the clients because they are completely authentic with no pretense. It's really fun! For about a year I worked at a local hospice agency, helping to interview and write the life histories of hospice patients for their families and friends or simply for them to feel as though they have left a legacy. It was one of the most humbling and profound experiences I've ever had. Currently, I'm applying to graduate school to pursue an online master's of science in technical communication (I love Montana and would like to be able to stay here despite pursuing a grad degree). I also teach yoga at the hospital's fitness center. My oldest yoga student just celebrated her 78th birthday!”

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 14	Maslenitsa
Mar. 5	World Languages Dav
May 7	Slavic Student Symposium
May 7	C&M Celebration

If you would like more information, please call 206-543-6848 or email slavicll@u.washington.edu.

GIFTS

Donors to the *Balkan Fund*:

Anonymous

James E. Augerot

Cheryl Spasojevic

Donors to the *Czech Studies Endowment Fund*:Sara E. Boos
Lisa FrumkesSarka and Antonin Hruby
The May AssociationJaroslava Soldanova
Sara D. VotipkaDonors to the *Friends of Slavic Languages and Literatures Fund*:Harlan and Asja Adams
Anonymous
David A. Bauman & Susan C. Howlett
Carol and Henry Cannon
James and Jane Chapin
Robert M. Croskey
Vinton L. Eberly
George W. GranthamSerge V. Gregory
Shannon L. Gularte
Hanns Hasche-Kluender M.D.
Stephanie A. Janicek
Mary Anne Kruger
Brian E. Lyson
Anabel Malmquist
Ann MaltzoffCynthia Marriott
Bruce W. McKinney
Stewart Parker
David & Mara Pitkethly
Rhonda M. Ziadeh and George Salem
Susan and Zoya Simon
Patricia Weis-TaylorDonors to the *Institutional Allowance*:Anonymous
John and Staria Budlong

Gray and Al Church

Wayne and Stacey Jehlik

This year's recipient of the *Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund* was David Feldman, who studied second-year Russian in the UW's summer quarter intensive Russian language program.

Burton E. and Mary Bard

Mark E. Kiken

Bruce W. McKinney

Donors to the *Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund*:

Lew and Jane Micklesen

Susanna J. Westen

Donors to the *E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fellowship Fund*:

Marian Swayze Erdelyi

Mary A. Frisque

Donors to the *Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund*:

Roman Begej

Michael and Susan Peskura

Anna L. and Thomas N. Wight

Donors to the *Polish Distinguished Speakers Fund*:

Anthony and Hanna Krol

Donors to the *Polish Fulbright Fund*:

Anna Gertler

Eugene M. Kleiner

Donors to the *Polish Studies Endowment Fund*:Daniel C. Beck
Julianne Crowl
Martha and Ronald Golubiec
Piotr and Marija Horoszowski
Christine and Michael KellyJohn J. Klekotka M.D.
Roy and Cristina Koczarski
Piotr Michalowski
Roman Rogalski
Ewa RoszkowskiIrene Rudchenko
Maria and Donald Shaffer
Frances Skinner
Krystyna and Norbert UntersteinerDonors to the *Friends of Polish Studies Fund*:Dale and Katarzyna Ackerman
Bohuslawa and Stephen Bass
Zbigniew and Henryka Bochniarz
The Boeing Company
Joanna Plichta Boisen
Joanna Bordniewicz
Richard John Brzustowicz Jr.
Roman and Shoshanna Budzianowski
Agnieszka and Krzysztof Burdzy
Sheila and Marcus Charles
Bozena and Leszek Chudzinski
Teresa and Theodore Davis
Ronald and Maureen DiGiacomo
Katarzyna Dziwirek and Chester Pabiniak
Elizbieta and Marek Filipeczuk
John and Liz Golubiec
Martha and Ronald Golubiec
Grzegorz and Maria GrabskiDavid E. and Mary W. Grembowski
Elzbieta K. Grzeszczuk
Marija and Piotr Horoszowski
Jean J. Huang
Lidia and Christopher Jasklowski
Allen and Janice Jaworski
Hanna and Mateusz Karczewski
Ronald C. Kinsey Jr.
Krystyna Konopka
Ryszard and Maria Kott
Mary F. Lampe and Karin A. Williams
Teresa Malinowski and Irv Eisenberg
Malgorzata E. Mazany
Barbara and Mark McNair
Piotr Michalowski
The Microsoft Corporation
Aleksandra MonkWilliam C. Morchin
Robert and Peggy Nitschke
Katarzyna Pietrzyk
Eva and Krzysztof Poraj-Kuczewski
Bogdan Raciborski
Janice and James Rozanski
Eva Salamonik
Tomasz Seibert
Boguslawa and Tadeusz Skrobecki
Ewa and Andrzej Sledziewski
Wena T. Springer
Marcin L. Stasiak
Kristin M. Storey and Steve Johnson
Krystyna and Norbert Untersteiner
Wanda M. Cieslar
Christopher John Wheatley
Barbara and Jan Zoltowski

SLAVIC GIFT FUNDS

The Slavic Department is very grateful to alumni and friends for their generous support. Please help the department continue its efforts by giving generously whenever possible. You may send a check made out to the University of Washington Foundation with one of the funds designated on the memo line of your check. Please send your check and this form to the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Washington, Box 353580, Seattle, WA 98195-3580.

- () SLADIS Balkan Fund – Ensure the continued teaching of Balkan languages
- () CZECHS Czech Studies Endowment – Support for students studying Czech
- () POLISS Friends of Polish Studies – 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 awards for undergraduate and graduate students
- () MICKLE Micklesen Graduate Fund – General support for graduate program
- () SLAVIC Nora Holdsworth Scholarship – Scholarship for winner of annual Olympiada competition
- () 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 – Promote permanence and expansion of program to include more levels of Polish language, history and culture
- () RUSSHO Russian House Fund – Provide general support for the Russian House
- () WESTEN1 Shosh Westen Outreach Fund – Support for departmental outreach efforts
- () SWAYZE Swayze Fellowship – Fellowship support for graduate students
- () UKRANI Ukrainian Endowment Fund – Provide Ukrainian language and culture instruction
- () PAHNSC Vadim Pahn Scholarship – Russian language scholarship for undergraduates
- () VGROSS Vladimir Gross Memorial Endowment Fund

Amount I wish to contribute: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

___ Enclosed is my check payable to the University of Washington Foundation

___ Please charge my gift to ___ my VISA ___ my Mastercard ___ my AmEx

Account Number: _____

Signature: _____

Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with the law. If you are associated with a company which 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.

NEWS ABOUT YOU

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

Name: _____
Current occupation: _____
Email address: _____
Personal or professional news: _____

“Slavic News” is published by the University of Washington Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.
We welcome your comments.
Editor: Shosh Westen

Slavic Languages & Literatures
University of Washington

Box 353580
Seattle, WA 98195-3580

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 62

Address Service Requested
