REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The big news from the Slavic Department this year is that we are still here, alive and healthy, recovering from the review for possible elimination last year. One of President Gerberding’s last acts in office, at the end of June 1995, was to affirm that the Slavic Department is too important a unit on campus to be eliminated and that the work of the prestigious Jackson School of International Studies would be undermined without the contributions of the Slavic Department.

He also announced, however, that the Department should be downsized. As luck would have it, this year happens to be the time for the Department’s ten-year review. We are currently busily engaged in producing the Self-Study Document, which is the basis for the review. We hope to argue for the retention of as many positions as possible, and we are now negotiating with the administration for the establishment of a fair, knowledgeable, and objective review committee.

Meanwhile, the end of 1995 saw the distinctly premature retirement of Nora Holsworth. In December a celebration in her honor was held at the Russian House, and, as everyone agrees, Nora is really irreplaceable in the Department. Nevertheless, we welcome new lecturer, Dr. Eloise Boyle, at the beginning of winter quarter 1996. She earned her Ph.D. at the Ohio State University. And in the fall of 1996 we look forward to the arrival Dr. Serafima Radivilova as a new lecturer. She attained Kandidat status in St. Petersburg and currently teaches at both Berkeley and Stanford.

We are also working away on establishing a Visiting Committee for the Slavic Department and on setting goals which we hope to reach in the coming years. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the various funds already established in the Department. These funds are an important aspect of our ability to carry out our work in the best way possible.

We look forward to seeing you at the functions we plan to hold in 1996, including the Homecoming gathering in the fall. We hope to hear from you regarding your current activities, and we wish you the best of all possible new years!
EVENTS

AUTUMN 1995

October 27  HOMECOMING  The department celebrated both homecoming and survival at this annual event. Held at the Russian House, the celebration featured songs by residents of the Russian House and guest speaker Ann Macfarlane, of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society, who spoke on "Ways in Which Our Community Benefits from the Work of the UW Slavic Department." Michelle Anciaux called for alumni to come together to discuss ways in which the department and the community can work together for mutual benefit. The celebration culminated with an appearance of the Radost Folk Ensemble, which roused the entire audience with song and then transformed them into a whirling group of dancers.

December 2  SECOND ANNUAL SLAVIC DEPARTMENT STUDENT CONFERENCE  (See Graduate Student News)

December 6  Christmas - East European Style  Presentations by faculty and grad students about the Christmas traditions/customs of the Balkans, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania.

December 9  Reception for Nora Holdsworth  A reception was held at the Russian House to honor Senior Lecturer Nora Holdsworth, retiring after 32 years with the Slavic Department. We wish her all the best in her new life!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 9 & 23  Russian Folkdancing  Winter quarter we are once again privileged to have Lusia Kuimova teach folkdancing every other Tuesday evening at the Russian House at 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate. It's a great opportunity to brush up on Russian verbs of motion!

February 6 & 20  March 5

Believe it or not, February 25 marks the end of winter. We know this because that is when we will be holding our annual Maslenitsa celebration. To quote Genevra Gerhart, Maslenitsa is "a week of joy" that gives "special sanction to arsonists, gluttons, and wild drivers because its major features" include "bonfires, blini, and sleigh rides." David Miles cautions me to include the warning that none of this happens at the Russian House - but how would he know, since he's never attended! Call 543-6848 for more details.
CALL FOR PAPERS and SESSION PROPOSALS
for the
SECOND ANNUAL REGIONAL REECAS CONFERENCE

The REECAS (Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies) Center is sponsoring its second annual conference to be held at the University of Washington on **Saturday, April 20, 1996**. The goal of the conference is to establish a regional community of scholars, educators (elementary school through university level), and others who are interested in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The conference will consist of formal and informal paper presentations, round table discussions, research updates, and other REECAS-related sessions. REECAS is soliciting individual papers and session ideas from individuals in the Pacific Northwest on such topics as economic transformation, international relations, environmental degradation, and teaching methodology. If you are interested in participating in the conference as a session organizer, presenter, or discussant, please return the form below by **February 1, 1996**.

I am interested in participating in the Second Annual Regional REECAS Conference. Please include me as a:

- [ ] session organizer
  session topic: 

- [ ] presenter
  paper title: 

- [ ] discussant
  area(s) of expertise: 

  name: 

  affiliation: 

  email: 

  address: 

  phone: ___________ fax: ___________

Return to: Regional REECAS Conference
University of Washington
Jackson School of International Studies
203 Thomson Hall
Box 353650
Seattle, WA 98195-3650

fax: (206) 685-0668
or email: kengel@u.washington.edu
NEW FACULTY

Eloise M. Boyle received her Ph.D. in Russian Literature from Ohio State University in 1988. She holds an M.A. from the same institution. She has published in the area of teaching methodology and pedagogical research, and has recently completed two chapters for a book on Edgar Allan Poe, forthcoming from the University of Iowa Press. In addition, she is an ACTFL-certified oral proficiency interviewer in Russian. This year she is teaching second-year Russian and fourth-year courses on 19th and 20th century Russian literature.

Serafima Radivilova received her Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition from Gertzen Pedagogical University in Leningrad. Her area of specialization is Methodology of Teaching Russian to English-Speaking Students and preparation of teachers of foreign languages. She has authored and co-authored more than 20 published works - textbooks and articles - on teaching foreign languages.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

At the Second Nice International Nabokov Conference, Professor Galya Diment presented "From Kafka's Castle to Axel's Castle: Nabokov vs. Wilson as Critics of Modernism" (the proceedings have been published in CYCNOS, FRANCE). Other papers she presented this past year include "The Nabokov-Wilson Debate: Art Versus Moral and Social Responsibility," at Lubbock, Texas (to be published in Studies in Russian and European Literature), "Nikolai Polevoi as a Critic" (AATSEEL), and "Goliadkin as Cinderella: The Case of a Lost Galosh" (AAASS).
At the November 1994 AAASS Conference in Philadelphia, Professor James West presented a paper on "Landscape and Living Things in the Poetry of Lermontov." At the International Symposium at Budapest University in July 1995, he presented "Filosofskie korni simvolizma i natsional'nii vopros v Rossii." In October he presented "The Greek Heritage and the Paradoxes of Russian National Consciousness" at the Western Humanities Conference at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor James Augerot spent spring quarter 1995 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, working with computational linguists.

SENIOR LECTURER SAYS GOODBYE AFTER 32 YEARS

Fall 1996 marked the end of an era for the Slavic Department. Senior Lecturer Nora Holdsworth retired after over three decades of tireless effort. Her fame is such that she was featured in a front-page article of the December 6, 1995 Daily, excerpts from which follow:

Colleagues and students alike warmly appreciated Nora's efforts. Professor James West said, "Language teaching is a very labor intensive business. Nora was certainly one of the most energetic and dedicated teachers I've ever met." Russian major Keoki Young acknowledged, "I've learned more in her classes than in any others I've taken at the U," and Shannon Millican, a junior majoring in Russian, praised Nora's constant accessibility. Nora spent hours after school to help students and conducted one-on-one sessions in her office with those who struggled with the rigors of Russian grammar.

Even Nora's answering machine was an extension of her classroom. She recorded pronunciation tapes on it so her students could review how the material sounded.

This story of hard work and boundless energy began in a village outside Leningrad. Nora was 14 in 1941 when the Germany army encircled the city and began its four-year siege. In the first year alone, 650,000 people died from starvation, disease and German shelling.

Nora recalled the hardships of being too weak to walk up a few steps and the difficulty of everyday things. "Each time I went to get water from the pond in the park, I didn't know if I would return." The danger for Nora and her family was not from German artillery, but from the Russian shelling on the German position in her occupied village. She remembered going out to the fields digging for leftover beets while shells exploded around her.

"The wave of the war took me out of Russia in the winter of 1942," Nora said. It was a cold winter for Leningrad; Nora's family had to burn their furniture to survive. With her mother and brothers, she spent 10 days in a cattle car headed for an unknown destination. It didn't matter where they went, because to stay meant almost certain death.

As a refugee in a small village that offered hospitality, Nora had "the thrill of seeing American tanks for a change" as they were "making their grand entrance." A young
American refugee worker inspired her to go to work for the United Nations organization he worked for. Nora was 18 at the time and since she had spent her teens surviving the war, she had no formal education past the sixth grade. Her mother, though, has been a college English teacher, and she made sure her children were bilingual.

Nora was now literate in German as well, so she translated and did office work. But the International Refugee Organization's work was temporary, and Nora and her family still waited to emigrate. "Our fondest dream was to live in America." Emigration, however, required sponsorship. A tracing officer located a relative of Nora's in Seattle, and the trip to "the most desired destination in the world - the United States!" began. Some years later Nora married that helpful refugee worker, and they had three children.

At that point Nora decided to return to school. She enrolled at Edison Technical, now Seattle Central Community College. After two years she graduated and applied to the UW.

Getting through college was "no small task." Her husband stood by her and "cooked a lot of meals." When Nora was a sophomore, she interviewed for a teaching position in the Russian language program. "And as the American saying goes: The rest is history."

Nora attributed much of her success to her students. Of her teaching accomplishments, she said, "Two enthusiastic parties can't help but succeed." Even on the eve of leaving the profession she was still enthusiastic. "May the teaching of Russian always flourish at this university."

**AN INTERVIEW: VISITING PROFESSOR DUMITRU DOROBAT**

_by Allison Barton, Jackson School of International Studies_

AB Cred că ei vor să știe mai multe despre tine. Ce faci aici și ce ai făcut la lași?

DD Să răspund în ce limbă, în română sau în engleză?

AB În ce limbă vrei tu?

DD Deci, să spunem în limba română, da?

AB Da.

DD Deci, la lași, predau literatura britanică medievală și renașințistă și metodica predării limbii engleză că limba străină. În același timp, sunt și "teacher trainer." Aceasta implică nu numai ținerea unor cursuri cu privire la metodele de predare ale limbii engleză ca limba străină dar și observarea studenților la practica pedagogică pentru că în România după ce studiezi patru ani devii profesor de limba engleză și o altă limba străină.

Prin urmare în ultimii doi ani de studiu pe lângă cursuri teoretice, studenții fac și practică pedagogică în școala. În acest sens, am urmat și niște cursuri în Marea Britanie la Edinburgh în 1991 și 1995 cu acest profil: metode de predare comunicative și pregătirea profesorului.

AB Deci, când sunt elevi... la...

DD Deci, sunt studenți în anul trei și patru la engleză și merg la școală, la liceu, și acolo fac practică sub supravegherea unui profesor... so they... it's a bit of training, ... Usually we try to select the best teachers and then they teach a number of classes.
AB OK.

DD So they are, for a while, on a period of probation and finally, when a student teaches for his grade, he is observed both by the teacher and by the teacher trainer.

AB OK. Și ce ies după patru ani de facultate?

DD Deci, pe lângă faptul că merg la cursuri și seminarii studenții fac și practică. După patru ani devin profesori de engleză și o altă limbă străină.

În această perioadă, adică, în ultimii patru ani, am fost și șeful de catedrei de engleză. Prin urmare, a trebuit să aduc la zi, update, planurile de învățământ și programele, syllabus. Am organizat și un curs pentru absolvenții cu specializarea literatură engleză și americană. Am dezvoltat relații foarte bune cu Universitatea de Freiburg și Universitatea din Edinburgh. Incercăm să organizăm și un curs pentru MA în "Cultural Studies".

DD Despre România sau despre ...

AB De exemplu ... ?

DD De exemplu, organizarea bibliotecii lectoratului american și o sală în care se folosesc mijloacele audio-vizuale. Lectorul american se ocupă de aceasta bibliotecă. El prezintă filme și casețe din Statele Unite. De asemenea, tot catedre de engleza asigura personalul didactic care preda engleza la alte facultăți, deci, la matematică, la fizică, la biologia.

DD Da, și despre România dar în relație cu literaturile americană și engleză. Cursul organizat anul trecut a fost profilat pe literatură. În cei patru ani de studii, spre deosebirea de universitățile americane, studenții urmează un program fix, cu posibilități de alegere în anii 3 și 4, pentru că studiază limba și literatura o două limbi straine sau o unei limbi straine și limbii române. Această din cauză că absolvenții care cunosc două limbi straine găsesc serviciu mai ușor, ca profesor sau în alte domenii. Deci, am organizat acest curs, sigur, și alte activități.

AB Este diferit acum decât în vremea comunistului?

DD Anumite schimbări s-au făcut. Înainte în România studenții aveau multe ore și nu aveau timp să citeasă. Trebuiau să meargă la cursuri cam trei ore și două de ore pe săptămână și câte odată și mai mult.

AB Nu se poate!

DD Ba da, e adevărat. Prin urmare le rămâne puțin timp pentru studierea cele două limbi straine. Deci, s-a mai usurat programul studenților (s-a redus numarul de ore) prin eliminarea disciplinelor ideologice care nu aveau nici o legătură cu specialitatea. De asemenea, s-au oferit studenților mai multe posibilități de alegere la cursurile speciale, asigurandu-se, încă din anii 3 și 4 or anumită specializare în lingvistică sau în literatură.


AB De ce au fost foarte puține?

DD Răspunsul oficial era că se face economie și că nu ne voie de mai mulți pentru că nu trebuie să existe șomaj intelectual. De fapt, explozia demografică de după interzicerea avortului (1968) ar fi
trebuie să fie urmăță și de a creștere e numărului de locuri în universități. În realitate, numărul de locuri a fost redus.

AB Când eram în București, am făcut cunoaștință cu mulți oameni care erau foarte educați, care sunt ingeri, și profesori. De crezi că vor fi mai mulți oameni educați în viitor?

DD Vor fi mai mulți pentru că s-a dezvoltat și o rețea de universități particulare. Nu știu care va fi calitatea. Înainte fiind un număr mic de studenți, examenul de admitere era foarte dificil, și concurența era acerbă. Aceasta implică o pregătire foarte bună. De exemplu, dacă studiai o limbă străină practic trebuie să o ști foarte bine când intrai la facultate.

Sunt specializări în care performanța studenților e foarte mare. De exemplu, la matematică, informatică, fizică, chimie.

AB Ce facultate este cea mai populară în rândul studenților?


Cele mai multe locuri repartizate de Ministerul Învățământului erau la universitățile politehnice, și cele mai puține la universități tradiționale umaniste. Dar acum tinerii nu mai merg la politehnică, decât în număr mic. Deci, mulți studiază dreptul, limbiele străine, sociologia, psihologia, etc.

AB Este nevoie de oameni în aceste discipline?

DD E nevoie pentru că multe secții nu au primi locuri pentru studenți o perioadă lungă (cum e cazul psihologiei, sociologiei). De exemplu, Facultatea de defectologie de la Cluj. Știți despre ce e vorba?

AB Nu.

DD E facultatea care pregătește profesori pentru școlile speciale ale handicapății.

AB Așa.

DD Prin urmare au fost înființate facultăți de acest gen și în alte centre. De asemenea, s-au înființat facultăți de asistență socială, teologie.

AB Există interes pentru computere?

DD Sigur că există. La școli avem o facultate de informatică la universitate și o altă profilată tehnic la universitatea politehnică. Studenții sunt foarte buni pentru că sunt pregătiți în acest domeniu la liceele (high schools) unde fac specialitatea computere.

Sigur că baza materială trebuie îmbunătățită. Nu există suficiente computere nici pentru Facultatea de Informatică și de Științe economice. Cei lați studenți, din cauză insuficienței computerelor rareori folosesc computerul. La științe economice au computere, dar în general, folosesc și computerile de la în formată, cred.

Absența bazei materiale se explică și prin faptul că învățământul de stat în România a rămas gratuit. Prin urmare, nu există bani suficienți pentru a asigura o bază materială comparabilă cu cea a studenților din SUA.

AB Am inteles. Acum, despre tine, ce faci aici?

DD Sunt Visiting Professor, Fulbright. Am fost selectat pentru acest grant pe baza unui concurs al cărui rezultat a venit în lune iulie când mă aflam la Universitatea din Edinburgh.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS: 1995-96

Welcome to the following new graduate students for 1995-96.

After earning her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College in 1992, Emily Fields studied and taught for two and a half years at the Far Eastern State University in Vladivostok. A native of Weaverville, a small town in Northern California, her favorite author is Bulgakov, and she would like to read more of Altmatov and Aksyonov.

Sheila Mayer received a B.A. in Russian Language and Literature from the University of Oregon in 1992. During the summer of 1993 she studied Russian in St. Petersburg, where she plans to return this summer to do research. Her interests are post-Revolutionary literature, East European twentieth century women writers, and Polish film. She is currently working towards an M.A. in Russian Language and Literature.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our heartiest congratulations to the following graduate students for receiving their Ph.D., advancing to Ph.C., or receiving their M.A. degrees during the 1994-95 academic year: Ph.D.: Hyung-Goo Lee, Raymond Preslar; Ph.C.: Donald Livingston, Richle McPeak, Charles Mills, Carol Price, Galina Samoukova, Lin Zhong; M.A.: Jeanne Farrow, William Michael Nelson, Galina Samoukova, Katherine Tucker, Eric Voss. Our heartiest congratulations to all!

Erin Collopy is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

David Graber is the recipient of a Woodrow Wilson Center research grant, a UW Fritz International Travel Award, and an Alvord Humanities Fellowship. He has spent the 1995-6 year in St. Petersburg, Krakow, and Washington, DC, conducting research and writing his dissertation on early 20th century Russian, Polish, and German literature.

Charles Mills has returned from a semester as a sabbatical replacement at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, where he taught second-year Russian, Readings in Russian, and Russian Culture and Civilization. In April he will be reading a paper and chairing the Slavic linguistics panel of the Southern Conference of Slavic Studies meeting in Asheville, NC.

Anthony Qualin is now in his second year as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.
Look for Linda Tapp's translation of excerpts from the works of Natalya Ilina, which will appear this year in a new volume, Russian Women Writers, edited by Christine Tomei and published by Garland Publishers.

AT THE SECOND ANNUAL UW SLAVIC DEPARTMENT STUDENT CONFERENCE, held December 2 in HUB 209A, graduate students "tried out" the papers they presented at the AATSEEL (American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages) conference later in the month. The following students presented papers on topics in Russian literature: Yelena Furman, Rick McPeak, Brian Oles, Carol Price, Dana Sherry, and Sofiya Yuzefpolskaya. Joseph Kautz, Don Livingston, Tim Riley, and Galina Samoukova presented papers dealing with topics in Slavic linguistics. Geoff Schwartz participated as discussant on the Slavic linguistics panel.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Our undergraduate major enrollment currently stands at about 50 majors in Russian or East European languages. 31 undergraduate students were honored at the June convocation for receiving B.A.'s in Slavic Languages and Literature during the 1994-95 academic year. Alumna Michele Anciaux, Systems Analyst for Safeco, gave a lively keynote talk on how one may use in the business world skills learned in our Russian language program.

We expect to have news of our recent graduates in the next alumni newsletter.

-David Miles, Undergraduate Adviser

Any alums interested in being resources for undergraduates looking for work in the Slavic field, please contact David: 543-6848. Thanks to all of you who have already agreed to do so! We will be working with Professor Daniel Waugh, Chair of Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, to prepare a data base to assist students in finding employment.

ALUMNI NEWS

Fresh out of school, Doug Heath got a job with American General in Khabarovsk, a firm related to Associated Grocers. He plans to do relief work in Zagreb, then return to Khabarovsk.

Connie Spangler, who received her BA in spring 1995, is currently in Almaty, teaching English for the Soros Foundation.

Eve Yee-Fen Sun is currently in Khabarovsk as an exchange student through the American Collegiate Consortium.
ASSOCIATION OF ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF THE SLAVIC DEPARTMENT

A small group of alumni have met with the faculty of the Slavic Department and are now making a proposal to the UW Alumni Association to become a "Partner Club." The idea is to revive the Association of Alumni and Friends of the Slavic Department formed by alumni in the 1980s. The purpose of the AAFSD is to identify resources outside of the department that can augment and enhance the work of the department and connect it to the broader community. Our goal is to make people in the community aware of the department, what it does, and how it can help them, and to make members of the UW faculty, staff, and students aware of the community's needs and interests and identify ways for the community and Slavic Department to work together for mutual benefit. Some preliminary ideas for doing this are fundraising, information sharing, sponsoring cultural events, helping with requests for speakers, providing resources to advise students of future job possibilities, supporting Russian House programs, supporting Special Interest Groups in academic and professional areas, and advocating at the legislature.

If you are interested in the AAFSD, please check the level of involvement you would like:

- I want to be informed as the AAFSD gets established
- I support the formation of the AAFSD, but can't help right now
- I can volunteer some time to get the AAFSD off the ground
- I'd consider volunteering for specific events/projects
- I'd consider running for the board or steering committee

NEWS ABOUT YOU

We would like to keep in touch with you, as we hope to share news of our alumni in next July's newsletter. Please fill out the form below, clip and send to us: Slavic Department, Box 353580, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3580. At the same time, please make any needed changes on your label on the other side. Thank you.

Name: 

Current occupation: 

Personal news: 

I would /would not be willing to be a reference for Slavic Department students seeking employment.

Business phone and address: 


SLAVIC JOINS THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Thanks to professors James West and Katarzyna Dziwirek, ably assisted by David Miles, the latest information about the Slavic Department - including Slavic News - is now available on the World Wide Web. The department's home page address is http://weber.u.washington.edu/~slavweb.

GIFTS

Gifts to the Department are always welcome. For your information here is a list of some of the more important funds.

• The Friends of Slavic Languages and Literature fund is made up of gifts to be expended at the discretion of the Department Chair. Gifts to this fund are invaluable, allowing the department to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest.

• Each summer since 1989 the Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund has been used to pay tuition for one student to attend the intensive Russian Language program. Last year's recipient was Clayton Leishman, who graduated in December 1995.

• Two relatively new funds are the Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund and the E. Harold Swayne Graduate Fellowship Fund. Four of the six graduate students who presented papers at the AATSEEL conference in Chicago received their airfare from the Micklesen Fund.

All gifts are appreciated. If you wish to make a contribution, give us a call at 543-6848.

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

Address Correction Requested