

SLAVIC NEWS

SUMMER 1998

Slavic Languages and Literature, Box 353580
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Seattle, WA 98195-3580

LETTER FROM CHAIR JACK HANEY

For some of you, reading that I am once again going to chair the department may precipitate a bad case of *deja vu*. I was chair from 1970 through 1977, and, yes, that was a long time ago. We have new directions and some new challenges as the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures prepares to meet the twenty-first century. First and foremost, we must win the confidence of the students and their parents that we have something significant to offer. We have already begun to do that with our new graduate program. Our undergraduate program will soon get the same sort of careful scrutiny. We already know that one of our challenges will be aimed at majors and prospective majors in their first quarters here, a one-quarter seminar led by a senior professor perhaps focusing on an important text and its context. We have not offered any courses for freshmen and sophomores, other than language courses, for many years, and we will be under some pressure to do so. I see this as a wonderful opportunity to read a great novel with some people whose reading of great novels is pretty limited!

The other challenge will be how to rebuild a faculty somewhat shattered by events of five years ago. Whether we can persuade our alumni and friends to help us remains to be seen, but without some outside resources and I am not talking about raising the money to endow chairs and we will have difficulty over the short run in meeting our teaching commitments in Russian, Czech, Polish, Serbo-Croat and Ukrainian. I am in the process of forming an advisory committee of alumni and friends to guide us. All advice is most welcome; my e-mail account is haneyjav@u.washington.edu.

"Slavic News" is published by the University of Washington
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
We welcome your comments.

Editor: Shosh Westen.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CORNER

REPORT ON SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DAY



After a five-year hiatus, last year's celebration of Saints Cyril & Methodius Day was welcomed with open arms by many alums and members of the community. This year's event was held at the spacious St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. The evening began with a sit-down dinner at 6 p.m. catered by Kay Pratt, at which guests had an opportunity to visit and network. Dinner was optional for party-goers; doors opened at 7 p.m. for the party itself.

This year's Master of Ceremonies, Professor Willis Konick, welcomed attendees and introduced Carmen Votaw, outgoing president of AAFSD. Carmen welcomed everyone, mentioning that AAFSD is a subsidiary of the University of Washington Alumni Association (UWAA). Your membership in UWAA helps to support events such as our revival of Cyril & Methodius Day. (Call UWAA at 206-543-0540 to join.)

Professor Konick then introduced the evening's performing groups: the Radost Folk Ensemble, Saint Sava Dancers, Dave and the Dalmatians, Kisbetyarok, Klapa Doowopella, and Khorovod. After the performances, while bands set up for dancing, grad student Charles



Mills announced raffle winners for the wonderful items donated by individuals and local businesses. Money from the raffle will be used for graduate student support.



The remainder of the evening was dedicated to dancing to the music of the Cociks, Orkestar RTW, Druzba, and Balkanarama. The party was a great success, and our thanks to all of you who attended—see you next year!

INVITATION TO HOMECOMING

Plans are already underway for our annual Homecoming celebration, to be held Friday, October 23 at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Washington Secretary of State Ralph Munro will be this year's featured speaker. Keep your eye out this fall for a flyer from the Alumni Association with more details.

PAST EVENTS

WINTER-SPRING 1998

January 27 **Leonard Rolfes**, a lawyer who has spent the past six years working extensively with Russian policymakers on land issues and conducting research in the Russian countryside, spoke at the January Slavic Salon about the current struggle over private land ownership and development of a land market in Russia.

February 24 Linguistic anthropologist **Laada Bilaniuk** spoke at the February Slavic Salon on "The politics of language and identity in Ukraine." Dr. Bilaniuk's recent research focuses on the role of language in the social and political transformations of post-Soviet Ukraine.

March 3 Alumna **Pam Hafey**, former director of the American Center in Moscow, spoke about her experiences at the March Slavic Salon. Her talk was entitled "Running an American Library and Information Center in Post-Soviet Russia."

March 6 Some 600 high school students descended on the UW campus for **WORLD LANGUAGE DAY '98** and the opportunity to explore the wide range of foreign language and cultural programs the UW has to offer. Among the eight sessions put on by Slavic Department faculty and grad students were: "Czech Puppets and the Culture of Prague" by grad student Charles Mills; "Slavic Mini Lessons" by grad student Laura Kemmer, alumna Emily Fields and Czech instructor Dasha Koenig; "Polish Culture or What to Do When A Strange Man Kisses Your Hand" by Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek; "Cyrillic Alphabet, Your Name and Your Hometown" by Lecturer Eloise Boyle; and "Slavic Culture through Significant Objects" by Professors Jack Haney and James West.

March 8 A large crowd gathered at Russian House for this year's celebration of **MASLENITSA**, which featured bliny and songs and games by Golubka, a local women's Russian folk ensemble formed in 1995.

April 11 On the second Saturday in April, the Slavic Department hosted students from Richland's Hanford High School and Spokane's West Valley High School at the 1998 **ACTR OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN**. Students were first welcomed by Professor James



Augerot and Lecturer Eloise Boyle before heading off for appearances before three commissions covering conversational Russian, Russian culture and civilization, and reading/discussion and poetry recitation. Lecturer Eloise Boyle, alums Val Karren and Dima Kotlyar, and grad students Jeanne

Farrow, Emily Fields, and Laura Kemmer served as judges. Ashley Ness of West Valley took first place at Level 1, Tiffany Wildman of Hanford took first place at Level 2, and Oxana Ivashchenko of West Valley took first place at Level 5. All were awarded gift certificates to University Book Store.

April 27

Professor Helena Goscilo of the University of Pittsburgh outlined general trends in contemporary women's art in her talk "Canvassing Gender: Contemporary Russian Women's Art." Debate today focuses on representational versus nonrepresentational art, with the former viewed as old-fashioned. Certain similarities in contemporary women's art include the prominence of self-portraiture, domestic objects/materials, ironic distance from self, and parallels with developments in recent Russian prose. Although Professor Goscilo showed slides of the work of many artists, she concentrated her remarks on the work of Olga Bulgakova, Elena Romanova, Elena Figurina, and Bella Matveeva. The first is a surrealist/symbolist who often paints "family portraits contrasting interactions along gender lines. Elena Romanova, in her early work, portrayed women as the link and guarantor of cultural continuity. Her works portraying conventional hierarchy (e.g., a male with arm around a female holding a baby) invite Jungian analysis. She demythologizes the male and privileges the female, showing women as possessing increased power (e.g., her portraits of Alla Pugacheva as a professional, not as an object of desire). Elena Figurina's sense of brooding unease and her visually alienating humanoids evoke Matisse's dancers and the German expressionists. There is an intimation that life is tragic and that the humanoid is insignificant. Bella Matveeva is exclusively preoccupied with the body vis-a-vis gender. She is a choreographer who frames bodies as aesthetic objects, foregrounding androgeny and homoeroticism. In her work there is an excess of decorative detail, and art nouveau methods and a degree of opulent style are evident. *Write-up by D. Lynne Walker*

April 28

Professor of history **Bill Richardson** of UW Tacoma, who spent June-July 1997 in Pskov working with Pskov Volnyi University and a group of American K-12 and community college, was the speaker at April's Slavic Salon: "A Summer in Pskov: Scenes from a Changing Russia."

April 29

A professor of linguistics and chair of the English department at the University of Gdansk (Poland), **Roman Kalisz** gave a talk on "Language and Evil." Professor Kalisz spent 1997-8 as a Fulbright scholar at the University of California-San Diego and is the author of *In Search of a Frame of Mind: An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence* and *The Syntax and Semantics of the Clauses of Result in English and Polish*. His talk focused on the importance of axiology (the branch of knowledge dealing with values) in linguistic analysis, and in particular on how the notion of evil is rendered in various languages and cultures (certain languages seem to have a single word for evil/bad and ugly, while others do not have a clear good vs. bad lexical opposition) and the metaphors associated with good and evil in languages of the world (good is up/bad is down, as in doing evil is falling, separate is bad/together is good, evil as lack of self control, etc.). *Write-up by Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek*

May 8-10

This year the UW hosted the **SEVENTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP OF FORMAL APPROACHES TO SLAVIC LINGUISTICS**. The conference, held for the first time on the West Coast, featured a stellar line-up of participants, including invited speakers Barbara Partee from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Johanna Nichols of the University of California-Berkeley, and David Pesetsky of MIT. Virtually all major Slavic linguists were here as well as many of the young up-and-coming people. Participants came from all over the US, as well as from the UK, Holland, France, and Bulgaria. The talks and discussions were excellent, and the conference ran very smoothly thanks to the efforts of co-organizers Katarzyna Dziwirek, Jim Augerot, Herb Coats and Julie McCalden, and volunteers Dowell Eugenio, Laura Kemmer, Don Livingston, Amarilis Lugo Pagan, Charles Mills, Galina Samoukova, and Shosh Westen. The conference volume, to be published by University of Michigan Press, will be edited by Katarzyna Dziwirek, Herb Coats, Julie McCalden, and Cynthia Vakarelijska. *Write-up by Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek*

May 12

May's Slavic Salon featured a talk by **Adam Rubin** on "Creating a Nation in Exile: Jewish Cultural Autonomy in Interwar Poland."

RUSSIAN HOUSE

It appears that students attending this summer's intensive Russian language program will be the last to enjoy the opportunity to live in a Russian-speaking environment. In spring 1998 the Department of Housing and Food Services announced its intention to close the Russian House effective autumn 1998. Housing's plans for the house include either selling the building or turning it over for use by other unnamed student groups. The Slavic Department and the divisional dean of Arts & Sciences have appealed this decision, but so far Housing has not responded.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek's paper "Reduced Constructions in Universal Grammar: Evidence from the Polish Object Control Construction" appeared in the prestigious journal *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, Vol 16.1, February 1998.

Be sure to look for the following two articles by **Professor Karl Kramer**: "Satiric Form in Saltykov's *Gospoda Golovlevy*" in *Saltykov-Schedrin's The Golovlyovs: A Critical Companion*, ed. by I. P. Foote, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, 1997, pp. 119-136 and "Mistaken Identities and Compatible Couples in *Oblomov*" in *Goncharov's Oblomov: A Critical Companion*, ed. by Galya Diment, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, 1998, pp. 68-77.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

What would you say if it were your last day at the UW? On May 7 students, faculty and staff had the opportunity to hear what **Professor Jack Haney** would say when he spoke on "When There is No Wedding: After the Fairy Tale Ends," as part of the 1998 Spring Quarter Last Lecture Series.

FACULTY NEWS

At the end of June, **Professor James Augerot** was in Iasi, Romania for a “launching” party for his Romanian textbook, “Limba Romana,” which was published in Iasi in May at the Center for Romanian Studies.



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

David Bauman (M.A., 1980) delivered the keynote talk, “Hopefully Helpful Hints,” at June’s graduation convocation, at which undergraduate and graduate students were honored. The following undergraduates earned their B.A.’s in Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1997-8: **Christopher Ayers, Ida Boeckstiegel, Elena Bruk, Christy Clerf, Eric Davis, Rachel Grot, Tricia Husbands, William A. Koontz, Michael Lykken, Michelle Morgen, Heather Mosman, Irena Nikolayeva, Anna Olson, Arianna Rogalski, Mark Sewell, Kathryn Smith, and Reed Yurchak.**



Era Pogosova, a junior majoring in Russian and biochemistry, has received a Mortar Board Scholarship for 1998-9.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our heartiest congratulations to the following students for receiving their Ph.D. or M.A. degrees during winter and spring quarters 1998: Ph.D.: **Erin Collopy** and **Don Livingston**; M.A.: **Scott Sharp**. Best wishes to all three!

Emily Fields spent the month of July working with elementary students in a foreign language program piloted by Seattle Public Schools.

In April **Amarilis Lugo Pagan**, **Lynne Walker** and **Sofiya Yuzefpolskaya** all presented papers at the Western Social Science Association conference in Denver. Amarilis's paper was titled "Iconoclasm, Bolshevik Culture and Odessan Society," Lynne's was "Gender and the Abject: Sasha as Catalyst to Madness in Sologub's 'Melkij bes'," and Sofiya's was "The Spectacle and the Stereotype in Babel's and Mandelstam's Prose."

In May, at the University of California, Los Angeles, **Joseph Kautz** presented a paper on integrating internet-based activities in the Russian classroom.

In May **Lynne Walker** chaired the Nabokov Society panel at the American Literature Association's San Diego conference. Lynne has received a PEO Scholar Award for 1998-9. PEO Scholar Awards were established to provide substantial awards to women of the United States and Canada who are pursuing advanced degrees or are engaged in advanced study and research.

ALUMNI NEWS

In 1996 **Michele Anciaux** (M.A. 1975, Ph.D. 1991) joined the professional staff of the Washington State Parent/Teacher Association as Parent Involvement Director. In addition to providing parent involvement training to PTAs, schools, school districts, and community groups, she has launched the annual PTA "Parent Involvement Summit," which has attracted parents, educators, administrators, business people, media, and policy makers from across the state. Perhaps the most important part of her job has been representing the parent perspective on various statewide committees working on designing and implementing education reform in Washington State and communicating to parents and the public about the work that is unfolding. She enjoys the job tremendously because the work is so varied—each week is different.

Oscar Bandelin (B.A. 1986) received his Ph.D. in history at the University of Washington in June of this year. His dissertation topic was "Soviet reconsideration of Lenin's New Economic Policy during the 1980s as an attempt at ideological justification of Gorbachev's *perestroika*."

Dick Carter's (M.A. 1969) new website entitled "Russia's Leaders" is a work in progress and has information on Russian governmental officials as well as some leaders from other countries in the FSU. If you think he should add someone, he'd appreciate your sending a bibliographic citation to the address listed on the front page of his website: www.halcyon.com/djcarter.

Lisa Frumkes (M.A. 1992, Ph.D. 1996) is now director of the Tri-College Mellon Language Project at Haverford, Bryn Mawr and Swarthmore Colleges in Pennsylvania. Her new job is similar to her old one—working with foreign language faculty at three liberal arts colleges to integrate technology into their teaching—only now she's in charge!

This summer internationally acclaimed dancer, scholar, instructor and choreographer **Laurel Gray** is once again sharing her knowledge at the 3rd Annual Central Asian Dance Camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The intensive four-day seminar is designed for complete immersion into Central Asian dance and culture.

After teaching for some six years at Marlboro College in Vermont, where the student body numbered less than 300 and he was the entire Russian department, **Dick House** (M.A. 1976) has just accepted an academic computing position in support of the Modern Language Department at Wabash College in Indiana. "Though I'm a bit sorry to step out of the classroom itself, I find that my interests in media, along with a desire to share those interests with faculty, have a greater pull at the moment. Slavic Linguistics and the situation in the Balkans still occupy my interests as well."

Jesse Kincaid (B.A. 1996), who has been working with Russian-speaking refugees for Catholic Community Services, has been admitted to the University of Washington School of Medicine for autumn 1998.

Eric Kinzel (B.A. 1997) has been working as a technical manager for a communications firm in Moscow, Russia since October 1997.

Valerie Navarro (B.A. 1978) recently earned her Ph.D. from the University of Puget Sound in Cultural Studies and Second Language Acquisition. Her dissertation was entitled "Personal Transformation through Second Language Acquisition."

Hannah Sard (B.A. 1975) currently lives in Moscow, Russia, where she is a full-time teacher of "Art of Living" courses, including breathing and meditation techniques from the ancient Vedic tradition of India. She received an M.A. in Russian Literature from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and an A.B.D. in Russian from Bryn Mawr College.

Heather Thorne (B.A. 1994) still works for Sovlink in Moscow and continues to research the metals and transportation industries. From November to March she performed due diligence on the Russian airline TyumenAviaTrans. This spring she traveled to Irkutsk and Cherepovets for meetings with companies she is researching as well as to Tyumen, Pervouralsk and Krasnoyarsk in May. She plans to remain in Moscow for another year before returning to the West Coast.

Dana Weintraub (M.A. 1992) has been living in Washington, D.C. for the past four years and works as a grant writer. She first worked at ACTR as a program officer, then at IREX as a proposal writer, and now at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a proposal writer, helping to raise over \$8 million for all three organizations. She recently bought her first home, a beautiful apartment near the National Cathedral.

Hugh Whinfrey (B.A. 1994) still lives in Aarhus, Denmark, where he has been doing translations for a Danish agency for three years - mostly Scandinavian languages, though occasionally Russian-English jobs come his way.

Alex Zahajko (B.A. 1968) is delighted to announce that Russian is once again being offered at Seattle's Garfield High School. This year's beginning class, with 20 students, made field trips to Boeing and Kaleenka Restaurant. Alex invites high school age students interested in studying Russian to transfer to Garfield.

NEWS ABOUT YOU

We would like to keep in touch with you, as we hope to share news of our alumni in next January's newsletter. Please fill out the form below, clip and send to us: Slavic Department, Box 353580, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3580. Thank you.

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Current occupation: _____

Personal news: _____

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

Business phone and address: _____

GIFTS

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures gratefully acknowledges the generosity of individuals and companies who have made donations in the past six months:

- 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. Last spring a special subset of this fund was established, to be used for outreach efforts to the public schools and the community at large.

David Bauman

Lois A. Westen

Anonymous

- 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. This year's recipient is **Kelley Kilanski**.

Mark Kiken

Mary Anne Kruger

- In 1996 a special subset of the Institutional Allowance was used to create the *Nora Holdsworth Scholarship*. Last year a full scholarship to attend the Department's summer quarter intensive Russian language program was provided to **Brian McDonald**, winner of the 1997 Olympiada.

Kenneth M. Butler

Robert N. Cave

Nora G. Holdsworth

Jekaterina I. Lorentson

MIR Corporation

Lois A. Westen

Susanna J. Westen

Weyerhaeuser Corporation

- The *Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund* and the *E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fellowship Fund* have both been used in recent months to support graduate student travel to present papers at conferences. In October 1997, the Micklesen Fund was used for the Department's annual Graduate Student Conference. This spring it was used to fund travel to various conferences for Joseph Kautz, Amarilis Lugo Pagan, Lynne Walker, and Sofiya Yuzefpolskaya.

Anonymous

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- Friends of Slavic Languages and Literatures Fund (SLADIS):** used at the discretion of the chair to support ongoing cultural programs and activities, some general services to the Department, and other special events which require the use of non-University funds.
- Nora Holdsworth Scholarship Fund (SLAVIC):** honors retired Lecturer Nora Holdsworth and rewards high school student winner of annual ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian by providing scholarship to the summer quarter intensive Russian language program.
- Shosh Westen Outreach Fund (SLADIS):** used for outreach to public schools and the general community.
- Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund (MICKLE):** honors retired Professor Micklesen and provides general support for the Slavic Department graduate program.
- E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fund (SWAYZE):** honors the late Professor Swayze and provides fellowship support for Slavic Department graduate students.
- Vadim Pahn Scholarship (PAHNSC):** established in 1986 in memory of Lecturer Vadim Ottovich Pahn; provides scholarship support for undergraduate students of Russian language.

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May we thank you publicly for your gift? _____ (No amount will be specified)

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