

# SLAVIC NEWS

---

WINTER 1998

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

## LETTER FROM CHAIR KARL KRAMER

This fall has been a season particularly busy with conferences. In October the annual Graduate Student Conference, organized by Galya Diment, got the year off to a splendid start. Lynne Walker, Brian Oles, Sofia Yusefpolskaya, Jeanne Farrow, and Charles Sabatos all presented papers in two panels which were chaired by faculty members.

The newly formed Textual Studies group on campus held an international conference here in October as well. Jack Haney, who is on the steering committee of that group, participated in a panel discussion on Contemporary Textual Studies in Eastern Europe. Next year, at the AAASS meeting Jack will be chairing a panel on Slavic and East European Folklore. In August Jack will be presenting a paper on Avvakum at a conference sponsored by Pushkinsky Dom in Nizhny Novgorod.

In November there were several conferences here in Seattle. The Society for Romanian Studies held a national meeting here. There were forty members of the group who participated in the sessions, which were organized by Jim Augerot. The high point of the meeting was a delightful gala affair held at Jim's home.

The same month the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies held its 1997 national convention in Seattle. James West chaired the Seattle Convention Program Committee, and Gordana Crnkovic presented a paper at the panel on East European Film and Its Public Influences. Gordana also participated in a roundtable discussion on Cosmopolitanism in the Literatures of the Former Yugoslavia. Galya Diment presented a paper on the Nabokov panel, and she was honored at a reception held by the University of Washington Press for publication of her new book, *Pniniad*. Katarzyna Dziwirek served as discussant on the panel, Slavic Gender Linguistics. Jack Haney was discussant at the panel on New Perspectives on Old Russian Hagiography, and I chaired one of the two Chekhov panels at this year's conference.

In December Eloise Boyle, Galya Diment, and James West will all be presenting papers at the AATSEEL convention in Toronto. All in all, it's been a busy season for us as conference participants.

"Slavic News" is published by the University of Washington  
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.  
Editor: Shosh Westen  
Your comments are welcome.

## EVENTS

### AUTUMN 1997

- October 3 We were to delighted to welcome Professor Tom B. Rainey of Evergreen State College as the first Slavic Salon presenter for the new academic year. Professor Rainey's topic was "To Save A Sacred Sea: The Struggle to Save Lake Baikal."
- October 23 Alumna Jane Miller Floyd, U.S. Consul General in Vladivostok, met with students in the afternoon to discuss foreign service career opportunities and then gave a talk in the evening at the Russian House about "The Wild, Wild East: Inside the Russian Far East."
- October 25 **FOURTH ANNUAL SLAVIC DEPARTMENT GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE** - see *Graduate Student News*
- November 6 Brian Boyd, professor in the English department at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and author of a two-volume biography of Vladimir Nabokov (*Vladimir Nabokov: Russian Years* and *Vladimir Nabokov: American Years*), gave a talk on "Jane, Meet Charles: Literature, Evolution and Human Nature."
- November 7 **HOME COMING** - see *Alumni and Friends Corner*
- November 14 Polish-born director and screenwriter Agnieszka Holland (whose films include "Europa, Europa," "The Secret Garden," "Olivier, Oliver," "Total Eclipse," and "Washington Square") gave a talk about "Movies and Culture."
- November 19 Andrew Wachtel, professor and chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Northwestern University, gave a talk on "The Failure of Multiculturalism: Literature and the Destruction of Yugoslavia."

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 14-16 Second annual **HIGH SCHOOL RUSSIAN STUDENT RETREAT**, Ensign Ranch, Cle Elum, Washington
- March 6 **WORLD LANGUAGE DAY** - The Slavic Department is just one of the many language departments campuswide that will be participating in the first-ever World Language Day. Students from high schools across the state will be able to attend language classes and special presentations geared toward
- March 8 If you're looking for an excuse to eat bliny, drink, and kiss winter goodbye, don't miss our annual **MASLENITSA** celebration! Call 543-6848 for more details.

April 11           **ACTR OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN** - Once again the Slavic Department will host students and teachers from across the state in this annual competition. The winner will receive the Nora Holdsworth Scholarship.

May 16             **SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DAY** - Last year's event was such a resounding success that we've decided to book an even larger space, the hall at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. We do, however, recommend that you keep your eyes open for the flyer advertising this event and buy your tickets early!

## **KEEP ABREAST OF SLAVIC DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS**

The Slavic Department's web page is the source of the latest, most up-to-date news on the department's doings, including upcoming events. Check it out at <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~slavweb>. Another way to keep is by subscribing to the department's listproc. Simply send an email message to [listproc@u.washington.edu](mailto:listproc@u.washington.edu) with nothing more than the following message: subscribe slaviv-uw (your name), i.e., subscribe slaviv-uw Jane Doe.

## **SPECIAL REQUEST FOR YOUR HELP!**

The department is seeking your help in making this year's High School Russian Student Retreat an even bigger success. If you have items that you would be willing to loan us for decorative purposes to help create a Russia-like atmosphere or if you have items you'd be willing to donate as prizes, please contact Shosh Westen at (206) 543-6848.

## **FOURTH ANNUAL REGIONAL REECAS CONFERENCE**

The REECAS (Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies) Center is sponsoring its fourth annual conference, to be held at the Portland State University campus on Saturday, April 11, 1998. The goal of the conference is to establish a regional community of scholars, educators, 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 on such topics as economic transformation, international relations, environmental degradation, and teaching methodology. For more information, phone (206) 543-4852.

## **UW SLAVIC LIBRARY EXHIBIT**

An exhibit entitled "Dear Friend: The Lives of a UW Professor in Art and Letters" is now on display in the Manuscripts and University Archives exhibit area in the basement of Allen Library.

The exhibit, based on Galya Diment's newly published book, *Pniniad*, limns the career of UW professor of Russian history Marc Szeftel (1902-1984), from his youth in Russia

and Eastern Europe to the professorships he held at Cornell University and the UW. At Cornell in the 1940s and '50s, ZefTel was a colleague of Russian-American novelist Vladimir Nabokov and is thought to have served as a model for the protagonist of one of Nabokov's best-known novels, *Invitation to a Beheading*.

Correspondence between Nabokov and ZefTel held by UW Manuscripts and University Archives is a focal point of the exhibit, which was produced by Michael Biggins and Kathryn Leonard and will be on display through January.

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Professor Herbert Coat's article, "On the phonemic status of Russian [s]," appeared in *Russian Linguistics*, Volume 21, No. 2, July 1997.

Look for **Professor Gordana Crnkovic's** article, "On Nations and the 'Global Village,'" in *2B/To Be: A Journal of Ideas*, 11-12, The American Institute of Polish Culture, Chicago, 1997.

Professor Galya Diment's latest book, *Priniad*,

## FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

At the

## FACULTY NEWS

Continuing a Slavic Department tradition, **Professor Gordana Crnkovic's** new daughter Zora considerably waited until the end of the quarter before making an appearance. Weighing in at almost ten pounds and measuring over 21 inches, Zora was born at 6:30 a.m. on November 28. Congratulations to Goga and her family!

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Our heartiest congratulations to the following graduate students for receiving their Ph.D. or M.A. degrees during the autumn quarter 1997: Ph.D.: **Mica Hall, Marilyn Hoogen, Galina Samoukova**; M.A.: **Dave Bennett**. Best wishes to all four!

At the **FOURTH ANNUAL UW SLAVIC DEPARTMENT GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE**, held October 25 at the South Campus Center, graduate students once again had the opportunity to debut their papers. Brian Oles and Jeanne Farrow presented papers dealing with the role of nature in 19th-century Russian narratives, while Lynne Walker, Sofiya Yuzefpolskaya, Amarilis Lugo Pagan, and Charles Sabatos (Comparative Literature) all presented papers having to do with "being different in the

twentieth century.” Following the conference student participants were treated to lunch courtesy of AAFSD.

In November **Amarilis Lugo Pagan** attended the South Atlantic Modern Language Association’s annual conference, presenting a paper on “In the Realm of the Poisoned Womb: Iconic Inversion and the Female Figure in Akhmatova and Petrushevskaia.”

Contrary to what we reported in our last issue, **Tim Riley** is spending the year at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland on a Fulbright, doing research on his dissertation, “The expansion of the grammatical category of animacy in West Slavic.”

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Harlan “Kit” Adams** (MA 1976) writes that he currently works as a Russian Trade Representative. His sons Luke, a senior, and Thomas, a sophomore, are students at the Seattle Academy of Arts & Sciences. Kit’s family is hosting an AFS exchange student from Austria this year.

**Christopher Colbath** (BA 1993) has spent the last three years in grad school at UCLA studying Russian and Ukrainian literature. He received his MA in 1996 and just returned from Ukraine. He is now preparing for his PhD exams.

**Carol Davis** (MA 1979) recently returned from spending the year at Petersburg Jewish University as a Senior Fulbright Scholar. Her new book of poetry, *It’s Time to Talk About...*, came out in September from Symposium Publisher in St. Petersburg in a bilingual edition.

**Zheng-min Dong** (PhD 1990) was recently granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor at Washington State University. His paper entitled “The Structures of Existential Sentences” has been published in *Linguistic Analysis*, Volume 26, Issue 3-4, 1996, pp. 195-215.

**David Graber** (PhD 1996) is now an editor for the *Eastern Europe Report* (published by The Bureau of National Affairs). David continues to teach Russian and German part-time at The George Washington University and to private students.

**Julie Ann Hansen** (BA 1992), 1990 recipient of the Vadim Pahn Scholarship, has moved with her Swedish husband to Sweden, where she is teaching Russian.

**Andra Hill** (BA 1992) has moved to Houston to accept a position as a translator and interpreter for TechTrans International, a language support contractor for NASA.

**Susan Johnson-Roehr** (BA 1989) is a graduate student in the PhD program at Indiana University and is the recipient of the Chancellor’s Fellowship in art history.

While in Seattle in November to attend the AAASS conference, **Anthony Qualin** (PhD 1996) gave a talk at the UW, "From the Mountains of Kirghizstan to the Cosmos: Chingiz Aitmatov's Changing Approach to Kirghiz, Russian and World Culture."

A professor of history and political science at Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio, **Jim Satterwhite** spent this past summer in Belgrade working with the Balkan Peace Team. He can be reached at [satterwhitej@bluffton.edu](mailto:satterwhitej@bluffton.edu).

After working for NASA in Houston for two and a half years supporting the joint US/Russian space program, **Heather Thorne** (BA 1994) moved to Moscow in July to work as an analyst for a Moscow-based investment bank.

A law student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Todd Thoroughman** (BA 1993) works as a law clerk at the Department of Justice.

## **ASSOCIATION OF ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE SLAVIC DEPARTMENT**

### **REPORT ON HOMECOMING '97**

The Center for Urban Horticulture was again the site of the annual Slavic Homecoming celebration, organized by the Association of Alumni and Friends of the Slavic Department under the auspices of the UW Alumni Association. Moderated by past AAFSD president Michele Anciaux, the event featured a talk by Professor James West: "Dale Carnegie and the \$2 hand-grenade: today's Russia and the way we study it." Other highlights of the evening were performances by students from Highland Park Elementary School and the Golubka Russian Folk Ensemble. Afterwards attendees were able to hook up with old friends, enjoy savory Slavic and Balkan cuisine provided by Cheryl Spasojevic, and dance to the lively music of Hank Bradley and Erik Butterworth.

AAFSD can be reached through adviser Lisa Border at the UW Alumni Association, (206) 543-0540.

### **LETTERS FROM READERS**

We are delighted when we receive mail from our readers and have decided to create a new section featuring selections from their letters.

June 28, 1997

Dear Slavic News Editor:

I received a copy of the Winter 1997 Slavic News and was delighted. I graduated with a degree in Slavic Literature & Language from U of W and lived in the Russian House from September 1975 to September 1976.

I was saddened hearing Vadim Pahn had passed away, having been one of his students. He had more stories than any person I ever knew. I remember his telling our class that when one adds milk to coffee, he creates "ompaba," because of some obscure chemical reaction. I frequently remember this (and hope he wasn't right) as I drink my morning latte!

I would like to attend one of the Homecoming events, but I'm not sure my trips to Washington will coincide with the schedule. If there were a 20-year Russian House Reunion I'd be very interested. If you know "Mawa" or "Juicy," please peredat; privet!"

Cordially,  
John Sheeran

July 8, 1997

It was a great pleasure to receive today a copy of the Summer 1997 Slavic News. I send the enclosed contribution in appreciation for the work of the department and also as a gesture of thanks for all that the Association of Alumni and Friends of the Slavic Department did to arrange the superb "Saints Cyril and Methodius Day" celebration this spring.

Sincerely yours,  
Ann G. Macfarlane, Director  
Russian Resources International

*(Ann has served as president of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society for the last three years and is the new president-elect of the American Translators Association.)*



Dear Professor Kramer,

I think that you should try to create a scholarship in honor of Professor Gribanovsky. He and Nora Holdsworth were two of the best teachers under whom I have studied. I have adopted many of their methods when I am teaching English to my Mexican students at Universidad Autonoma de Baja California. I am sure other students of his would support a scholarship in his honor.

Very truly yours,  
John Philip Bowen

September 5, 1997

Dear Professor Kramer,

Thank you very much for your letter. I don't like to attract attention to myself, but if you feel that my letter would help rally alumni to contribute to a fund honoring Professor Gribanovsky, go ahead and publish it in Slavic News. I think that it is important for alumni to support the Department, especially in view of its near-death experience a couple of years ago.

I don't use Russian professionally, but I deeply appreciate the grand humane education which I received from faculty in the Slavic Department and faculty in other areas as well. As I become older I understand better the privileges I enjoyed with such teachers as James West, Dan Waugh, Donald Treadgold, Herb Ellison, Willis Konick, Zoya Polack and other teachers with whom I became socially acquainted such as Vladimir Gross. I hope future generations of students at the UW can have the opportunity of benefiting from other equally inspiring mentors at the Slavic Department.

I never had the opportunity of studying with you, Professor Kramer, but I truly appreciate what you and all your colleagues did for me and other students.

Very truly yours,  
John Philip Bowen

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## GIFTS

The Department has always very much appreciated gifts. As we build and develop our new programs, they are particularly welcome. A list of some of the more important funds follows. In addition, we would like to recognize 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. This spring a special subset of this fund was established, to be used for outreach efforts to the public schools and the community at large.

Michele Anciaux

Laura McCormick

Russian Resources Int'l.

Lisa Frumkes

Bruce McKinney

Susanna J. Westen

Cynthia & Richard Marriott

•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 was **Christina Szabo**.

Gordon L. McDaniel

Bruce McKinney

John Sheeran

•In 1981 the *Russian House Fund* was established to provide general support for the Russian House. A second fund, the *Russian House Alumni Fund*, was established in 1988 to provide support for students eligible to live in the Russian House and, if necessary, for capital funds to guarantee continuing operation of the Russian House.

Eleanor Bache

Last year a special subset of the Institutional Allowance was used to create *the Nora Holdsworth Scholarship*. This year, thanks to some generous donations to this fund, a full scholarship to attend the Department's summer quarter intensive Russian language

program was provided to **Brian McDonald**, winner of the 1997 Olympiada (see EVENTS).

John Bowen

Gray Carpenter

Robert Ewen

Carol and Henry Cannon

•Over the past months *Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund* and the *E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fellowship Fund* have both been used 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.

Eloise M. Boyle

Galya Diment

Lew R. Micklesen

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

---

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

---

Address Correction Requested

