

## Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,

We have some exciting personnel news to share. Starting on July 1, 2017 our faculty will be joined by a new Assistant Professor, Prof. Sasha Senderovich. Sasha comes to us from University of Colorado, Boulder. He is a literature specialist focusing on Russian-Jewish issues and his appointment will be split between Slavic and Jewish Studies. Prof. Senderovich is an innovative young scholar and a dynamic teacher, whose high public profile and lively engagement with the community in both talks and national newspapers and magazines

promise to raise UW’s profile in all areas of his expertise. We are very happy to welcome Prof. Senderovich to our department!

In the fall we will also be joined by a Polish Studies Fulbright Lecturer Dr. Justyna Budzik. Dr. Budzik is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland. She will be with us during fall and winter quarters of AY 2017/18. In the fall she will teach *People, Places and Actions: Poland and Eastern Europe in Contemporary Polish Photography*. Please help spread the word about this unique, once in a lifetime opportunity: we have never before offered a course on photography!

We are also hoping that we will be awarded an FLTA to teach Ukrainian language next academic year. To quote the Fulbright website: “The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA) is sponsored by the United States Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The Fulbright FLTA Program is

designed to develop Americans’ knowledge of foreign cultures and languages by supporting teaching assistantships in over 30 languages at hundreds of U.S. institutions of higher education.” This is the first year that Ukrainian is offered through the program and the decision is still pending, but we are hopeful! Please check our website for news regarding Ukrainian, and again please help spread the word about this possibility.

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And in one last bit of personnel news, I agreed to serve another 5-year term as chair of the department, so you can expect more letters from me! ☺

In other news, we are still planning to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the department. Please mark the date: May 11 2018! Our plans had to be scaled back somewhat, as we did not receive funding from the Simpson Center for the Humanities. Currently we are thinking of a keynote speaker, reception, and tree planting ceremony, where consuls or community leaders from Slavic countries would plant trees representing their countries. By the way, during the original 1932 International Grove planting, Russian General Consul Nicolas Bogoiavlensky (appointed before the Russian Revolution and thus representing tsarist Russia!) planted a birch tree and the consul for Czecho-Slovakia, Otto Strizek, planted a linden. Neither of these trees survived. Thanks to Guntis Schmidchens for these fun facts! We will keep you posted as the plans crystalize.

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

*Kat Dziwinek*

## UW POLISH STUDIES

-Krystyna Untersteiner

In February, the UW PSEC co-sponsored an Exhibit and a Lecture/Panel Discussion, *They Risked Their Lives: Poles who Saved Jews During the Holocaust*. The exhibit was on display from February 4 to 27 at the Allen Library North Lobby. On February 15, **guests** gathered at the Simpson Center for an informal reception which was followed by a panel discussion with **Lila Cohen**, Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee and **Mariusz Brymora**, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in LA.



After the panel discussion, attendees moved to the Library for the official opening of the Exhibit. At the ceremony, we were honored by the presence of **Richard Parasol**, a Holocaust survivor who shared his personal story of rescue by a Polish family in Czestochowa, Poland.

In May, **Prof. Clare Cavanagh**, an acclaimed translator of contemporary Polish poetry, gave a fascinating and engaging lecture entitled *The Art of Losing: Polish Poetry and Translation*, talking



about what modern American writers have found—and lost—in post-war Polish poetry in translation.

As it is the end of the year, we have some awards to announce: **Alison Knight** and **Nathan Marks** received Best Student of Polish Awards from the Polish Women's Club. This year



marked the twentieth anniversary of the Award. We congratulate Alison and Nathan and thank the Ladies for continuing this tradition of rewarding our students for their hard work and achievements.

The UW PSEC awarded a Student Scholarship to **Kevin**



**Aslett**, PhD student in Political Science, and a student of Polish, who is spending this summer in Poland gathering materials for his thesis.

We are pleased to announce that during Fall and Winter quarters of AY 2017/18, we will be hosting a Fulbright Lecturer from Poland,



**Dr. Joanna Budzik.** Dr. Budzik's stay at the UW is a result of cooperation between US-Poland Fulbright Commission, UW PSEC and REECAS. During the fall quarter, Dr. Budzik will be teaching a course "People, places and events: Images of Poland and Eastern Europe in Contemporary Polish Photography".

Our Endowment Fund reached \$265,000 this year. If you would like to make it richer, please go to:

<https://www.washington.edu/giving/make-a-gift/> and type "Polish" in the Search. Thank you! Dziękujemy!



## STUDENT NEWS

### *Winter and Spring Colloquia Summary by Nathan Marks*

Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

**Heekyoung Cho**, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at the University of Washington gave a talk titled "Literature as a Translational Process: Translation and the Formation of Modern Literatures".

This talk discussed the meanings and functions that translation generated for modern national literatures during their formative period to reconsider literature as part of a dynamic translational process of negotiating foreign values. By examining the triadic literary and cultural relations among Russia, Japan, and colonial Korea, Cho highlights translation as a radical and ineradicable part—not merely a catalyst or complement—of modern national literature. Cho also emphasizes a shared sensibility and literary experience in East Asia, which referred to Russia as a significant other in the formation of its own modern literatures, and thus rethinks the way modern literature developed in Korea and East Asia.

Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

**Bojan Belić** gave a talk titled "The Teachers Have Spoken:

Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian in U.S. College Classrooms".

The talk addressed results of the online survey that they conducted among teachers of Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian in U.S. college classrooms between December 19, 2016, and January 16, 2017. The results present a sketch of exactly how the teachers – and only to a certain extent their students, too – deal with the situation of four-languages-in-one-class-period.

Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

**Katarzyna Dziwirek**, Professor and Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures gave a talk titled "Touching Matters: Metaphorical Extensions of *dotknąć* and *touch*".

The talk addressed metaphorical extensions of the Polish and English verbs *dotknąć* and *touch*. These extensions concern emotions and well-being of people and places. They instantiate the conceptual metaphor of affecting is touching, but ways in which they do so depend on the lexical semantics of the verbs in question and whether the agent is human or not. Based on the data presented in the paper Katarzyna gave, the inclusion of hurting is touching in the list of "touch" metaphors seems warranted.

Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Slavic Ph.D. student **Cyrus Rogers** gave a talk titled "Thy Private Leviathan: The Sanctification of Space in Dolene and Hemingway".



Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

Slavic Masters student **Nathan Marks** gave a talk titled "Speaking Southern: Pride, Prejudice and Prestige".

Linguistic attitudes on Southern Russian features was discussed in this talk. The features that were searched and examined for degree of prestige were: a) having a voiced velar fricative rather than the voiced velar stop; b) exhibiting shokanye. Based on the data collection and analysis, it can be demonstrated, that based on the forums, the linguistic features examined can be determined to carry low prestige as well as cause a certain degree of linguistic discrimination leading speakers to abandon these features.

### **Veronica Muskheli wins Graduate School award**

In May Slavic Ph.D. student, **Veronica Muskheli** was announced as the winner of the "Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Fellowship". This award provides a 3 month stipend for Ph.D. students to allow them time to work on writing their dissertation. Veronica plans to use the stipend this summer to make progress her preliminary titled work "Matrilineal Narratives: Mother-Daughter Stories in Contemporary Russian Literatuere". Please join the department in congratulating her on this well-deserved honor!

## SLAVIC CONVOCATION 2017

-Eloise Boyle

### **Bachelors of Arts**

Rachel Bryan  
Natasha (Sabzpari) Ghias  
James Land  
Iryna Serhiychuk  
Yuxi Wei  
Alexandra Yacalis

### **Masters of Arts**

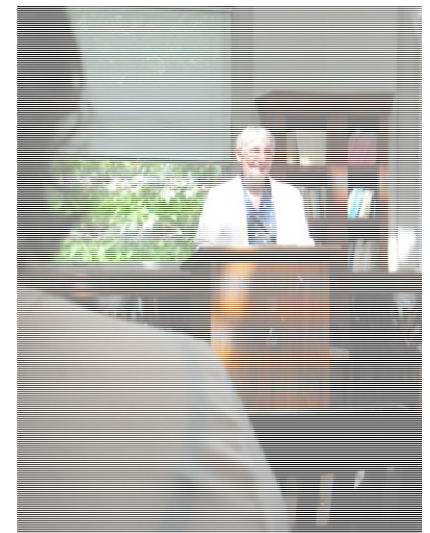
Alison Knight  
Nathan Marks

### **Doctor of Philosophy**

Matt Boyd

The annual Slavic Department Convocation ceremony took place in the Parrington Forum on Friday, June 9, where we celebrated the members of our Class of 2017. This year's ceremony was notable for the warm, insightful comments made by faculty about the award winners and graduates in attendance. Our chair, Prof. Katarzyna Dziwirek, welcomed us as the Master of Ceremonies, and introduced our keynote speaker, Doctor **Michele Anciaux Aoki** (Ph.D. 1991). Dr. Aoki's remarks took the students and their guests down three Slavic paths. The first was illuminated by the South Slavic phrase, "*ima vreme*" – "there's

time." Dr. Aoki reminded us all to take time to enjoy life and each other's company. Don't rush through experiences. The second path was decidedly older, and was introduced with an Old Church Slavonic quote: "I fell into the hole I myself dug." The message here is to practice humility. Know yourself honestly. The third path was actually a stroll down the *korzo* – in cities of the former Yugoslavia it is customary to stroll the main shopping area on a warm spring or summer's night. Michele's particular *korzo* was in the middle of Skopje, Macedonia, and she recounted a friend who was overjoyed with success and was the embodiment of excellence.



The keynote address was followed by a presentation of departmental awards.



*Dr. Kat Dziwirek greeting students and their families*

The award for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup>-Year Russian Student was presented by **Dr. Valentina Zaitseva** to **Levi Sy**. Our Outstanding 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year Russian Student, **Huanchong “Aleksey” Wang**, presented Dr. Zaitseva with a beautiful hand drawn print. The Outstanding Polish students of the year, honored by the Polish Women’s Club, are **Alison Knight** and **Nathan Marks**. **Jake Hansen** is doubly distinguished, as both our Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the year and as a 2017 ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate. **Roxanne Garcia** and **Gautham Velchuru** wrote this year’s best Undergraduate papers. Roxanne’s was entitled “Technology as an Underworld” and Gautham’s paper was “Terms of Address in Spanish.” Professor Dziwirek announced that **Sarah Skelec** won this year’s Vadim Pahn Scholarship. The best Graduate paper award was presented to **Will Zuercher** for his paper, “Technology Loanwords and Assigned Gender in Russian and Slovene”

Faculty members then introduced our attending graduates, recounting their achievements within the department. The Slavic Department congratulates the Class of 2017 on your remarkable achievements and wishes you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

## UKRAINIAN STUDIES

-Laada Bilakiuk

### *Ukrainian Christmas Traditions: Bria Blessing Concert & Discussion*

On Saturday, December 17, 2016, the University of Washington hosted a performance by Bria Blessing in Kane Hall, organized with the Ukrainian Association of Washington State.



Blessing was born in Texas, then moved with her family for missionary work to Ukraine in 1992, when she was 13. She now lives permanently in Lviv. She gained recognition as a singer and musician through Ukraine's *The Voice* competition (Holos Kraiiny) in 2014. Blessing came to UW as part of her North American Tour, “Christmas with Bria,” and performed original

renditions of traditional Ukrainian carols (including the famous Shchedryk/Carol of the Bells), Ukrainian versions of American carols, as well as her own original compositions. Blessing also shared her experiences of Ukraine and its traditions.

### *Images of Putin in War Debris*



On April 24, 2017, Ukrainian artists **Daria Marchenko** and **Daniel Green** presented a lecture on the “Five Primary Elements of War or the Evolution of Dictatorship” at the UW Allen Library Auditorium. Their talk was accompanied by striking images of a series of artworks depicting Putin and war, composed of gun shells from the war zone in Eastern Ukraine, splinters of bombs and rockets, gold, bronze, steel, banknotes, optical glasses, and military shoulder boards, as well as acrylic and oil paints. The

artists use this series of works as a vehicle for delving into historical processes such as the evolution of dictatorships and the causes of war.

***Graduate Degree in Ukrainian Studies completed***

**Chris Collison** received his Master's degree in International Studies in June 2017, with a thesis titled:



“Ukraine’s Two Maidans: How Competition Between the Grassroots and the Political Opposition During the Euromaidan Revolution Paved the Way for a New Civic Culture.” His thesis was based on his on-the-ground observations of the Euromaidan protests as they unfolded, coupled with interviews and further research into civic activism in Ukraine. Mr. Collison argues that ultimately the Euromaidan movement can be viewed as civil society’s rejection of party politics and as a roadmap for a new civic culture that seeks to redefine its relationship with the state. Mr. Collison’s thesis was awarded the Daniel C. Waugh Prize for the best Ellison Center master’s thesis. Beginning this summer, Mr. Collison will be interning

with the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine.

**SLOVENIA &  
SLOVENE AT  
UW**

-Michael Biggins

We have an endowment! The **UW Endowment for Slovene Studies**, based out of the Slavic Department and with an initial principal balance of \$140,000, is now producing almost \$6,000 per year in usable revenue to go in perpetuity in support of UW’s contribution to the UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange. As the endowment’s principal balance grows with new contributions from donors, we will be able to expand the UW-Ljubljana exchange, support one or more UW students per year attending summer intensive Slovene language courses in Ljubljana or conducting original research in there, and support other aspects of Slovene studies at UW. Please consider [contributing to the endowment!](#)

So far, this year’s visitors to UW on the UW-Ljubljana Scholars Exchange include **Prof. Matej Klemenčič** (U. of Ljubljana Department of Art History), a specialist in Slovene and Italian baroque art who during his 3-week visit to UW

delivered a [public lecture on the sculptor Francesco Robba](#), who created remarkable public and sacred art in the Slovene lands between 1720 and 1755. According to Prof. Klemenčič, UW has one of North America’s strongest programs in Italian renaissance and baroque art, and his work with his UW colleagues has inspired him to pursue further art history collaboration involving Ljubljana and the [UW Rome Center](#).

UW scholars visiting Ljubljana on the exchange in 2017 include **Prof. Ping Wang** (Asian Languages and Literatures), **Dr. Katie Dobkowski** (Biology) and **Prof. Bruce Burgett** (UW Bothell Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences).

As an added benefit of his visit to UW, Prof. Klemenčič also helped establish a conduit between the Slovene [National Gallery](#) and [Modern Gallery](#) and the UW Libraries to fill gaps in UW’s holdings of Slovene art history albums, monographs and journals. Keep an eye out as these and other [UW Slavic studies collections](#) fill out in the months ahead.

The 2016-2017 academic year at UW included a full sequence of introductory and intermediate Slovene language courses and saw outstanding achievement in language learning by UW’s newest generation of young Slovenists.



Finally, this past March the Department's affiliate faculty member **Michael Biggins** was elected president of the [Society for Slovene Studies](#) (SSS), an association of nearly 300 scholars, students and members of the interested public originally founded in 1973 as an affiliate of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES). During the three-year term of office (2017-2020), He looks forward to working with SSS colleagues to strengthen support for Slovene studies in North America and at UW.

## Faculty News

Prof. **Galya Diment** shared the following news "I am chairing the committee for the USC Book Prizes in Slavic Studies, with the prizes to be presented at the ASEEES conference in Chicago in November, so am going through close to 40 books this summer.



The volume I guest edited on 'Katherine Mansfield and Russia' for Edinburgh University Press is coming out in early September, and almost all finishing touches are about done.

Right now I am also starting to edit a volume on 'H.G. Wells and All Things Russian,' which I am hoping to complete by the end of next academic year.

Still working on my book on Marc Chagall and the Vitebsk School of Jewish Painters, where much of the work is to be done during the sabbatical I am anticipating in 2018-9.

### Principal Lecturer Bojan



Belić had an essay about his summer in Sapporo

published in "Slavic-Eurasian Research News" It is reprinted below.

**Crows, Frogs, and I: A Summer in Sapporo Bojan Belić (University of Washington, USA/Foreign Fellow, 2016)** If one has never visited Sapporo in mid-June, then one has never witnessed rows and piles of garbage bags left by orderly humans continuously being attacked by disorderly crows; they sometimes even turn their beaks and claws on the orderly humans themselves. And if one has never had the chance to live in mid-June Sapporo immediately to the north of the Hokkaido University campus,

right across the street from the Horse Track and the Crop Farm, then one has never fallen asleep to the tune of the never-ready-to-doze frogs; they hide in the bamboo springing from the canal bordering the farm. In 2016, I was honored to be invited by Hokkaido University's Slavic-Eurasian Research Center (SRC) to spend two months in Sapporo as a foreign visiting scholar, living and working there between June 15th and August 15th. I saw the attacking crows, I heard the hidden frogs, and I loved it all. Before my 2016 trip to Sapporo, I had previously visited the city in early February of 2015. I heard talks on Slovak and Kashubian matters and delivered a talk of my own at the SRC; I went to the Sapporo Snow Festival; and I dined in the famous Sapporo Biergarten restaurant. My second visit was a chance to experience Sapporo in the summer. On the first day I went to work, poplar fluff welcomed me to a beautiful campus. Those were the same poplars that would, as much as they could, protect me from late-June showers and July's merciless sun. On that same day I also walked by Ono Pond, covered in lotus, delightedly inviting children with their grandparents, college students with their notebooks, and random tourists with their cameras. And then eventually,

as I entered the SRC, I ran into—of all people—Osuga-san, with whom I had previously been communicating by mail and email. Her helping me with everything continued, only now in person. In a few short days, I met most of the SRC faculty, as well as the SRC General Office personnel. In addition to being ready to accommodate all of my whims, Tagata-san and Nakajima-san were also so kind as to accompany Dr. Nomachi and me to the July 30th Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters baseball game. Already, after those few short days, I knew that leaving it all behind in mid-August would not be easy, as indeed it wasn't. I came to the SRC with the plan of continuing to collaborate even more closely with my colleague, Dr. Nomachi, on various issues related to both Slavic majority and Slavic minority languages. During my two-month tenure, Dr. Nomachi and I were honored to visit the esteemed Dr. Nagayo at Waseda University in Tokyo, deliver talks at Kyoto University on the latest developments regarding what used to be the Serbo-Croatian language, and welcome to Sapporo renowned scholars from Europe, North America, New Zealand, and Japan, who participated in the international symposium, "Standard Language Ideology in the Slavic Lands." With all the work I was

able to accomplish in those two months at the SRC, I became convinced that the Foreign Visitors Fellowship Program is an extremely Almost like on top of the world. My friend's bicycle is now mine! No.24 April 2017 16 well-conceived arrangement for foreign scholars interested in studies of the former Soviet and East European countries to spend time in Sapporo, enabling them to dedicate their attention to various research projects, as well as avail themselves of the close proximity of Japanese scholars with similar interests. Within the SRC's comfortable confines, I enjoyed my continuing work on language-related issues of the Bunyev ethnolinguistic community of northern Serbia. This resulted in my delivering a paper entitled "Bunyev among Bunyevs: The 5W1H of the Bunyev Language Question" at the Symposium. At the same event, I also delivered a paper, "Standard Language Ideology without a Standard? The Varying Views of the Standard (Serbian) Language in Present-Day Serbia," which came out of my ongoing examination of the general notion of standard language and the particular notion of standard Serbian language. I was also able to expand on my anthroposophical notion of glottocommunicability as I prepared to deliver a talk at

Kyoto University under the title of "Where Once There Was Serbo-Croatian: A proliferation of language names in what used to be the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia." The time spent in Japan also allowed me once again to enjoy the company of Dr. Nagayo of Tokyo's Waseda University, with whom I have been in close contact ever since I first visited Japan in 2014. His wise, boundless, generous advice is something I appreciate most sincerely. I similarly reconnected with Dr. Mitani of the University of Tokyo and Dr. Hashimoto of Hokkaido University. All of this was indeed possible thanks to the SRC's Foreign Visitors Fellowship Program. If one has not had a chance to experience Sapporo in the summer, then one has not seen the attacking crows and heard the hidden frogs the way I have. If one has never come to the oh-so-vibrant Sapporo, the way I did in the summer of 2016, then one has not had the pleasure of getting to know many Sapporoans; they accept with open minds. My friendships with Koji-san, Shun-san, and Yusuke-san continue to grow. If one has not yet considered the possibilities that the SRC's Foreign Visitors Fellowship Program has to offer, then one should certainly consider them soon.



## NEWS FROM YOU

**Roy Chan** (BA 2002) writes “I continue to put my Russian language skills to good use. Recently, I presented a work in progress at the Association for Asian Studies annual convention in Toronto in March on the reading, reception, and interpretation of 19th-century Russian realist aesthetics in the People’s Republic of China. I am making progress, albeit slow, on my second book, a comparative study of Russian/Soviet and Chinese literatures. Just recently, I was named Associate Professor at my university (U of Oregon), and will be joining the program faculty of Comparative Literature starting next fall in addition to my current duties as a professor in East Asian Languages and Literatures. I look forward to catching up on much needed sleep this Summer.”

It was a psychedelic love-in, the likes of which may never be seen again. On April 1, 2017, peace-loving flower children from all over the country communed at the summit of Rancho Iglesias grapefruit farm to experience **Gray Carpenter Church's** (B.A. '77) one-and-only, far-out, 60s-themed 60th birthday party. The whole groovy scene got down with the sound of Really Classic, a Southern California SoCal live band that beat feet to play the gig, and Jack and Jackie Kennedy made a guest appearance. Everything there was a mind-blower: neon, paisley, peace signs, black lights and glow-in-the-dark posters, In-N-Out burgers, granny glasses, tie-dye, maxi dresses, IPAs on tap, mini skirts, munchies, love beads, incense, strobe lights, go-go boots, free

love, fringed jackets, Op art, lava lamps, light shows, 45 RPMs, sparklers, brownies topped with green stuff (that looked suspiciously like dyed coconut)—and hair! Oh, the hair! "Long, straight, curly, fuzzy, snaggy, shaggy, ratty, matty, oily, greasy, fleecy, shining, gleaming, streaming, flaxen, waxen, knotted, polka dotted, twisted, beaded, braided, powered, flowered, and confettied, bangled, tangled, spangled, and spaghettied." Even dudes who had been bald that morning once again had glorious hair for one magical night! If you missed it—You snooze, you lose. Like a true Nature’s child, we were born, born to be wild. Stay Cool and Don't Trust Anyone Under 40.

After nearly ten years in the travel and tourism industry **Devin Connolly** (B.A. 2006) accepted a job a month ago at a nonprofit in Bellingham called Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services. “My title is Rural Advocacy Coordinator and I am responsible for raising awareness of DVSA and improving access to their services among the rural residents of Whatcom County, where there is a sizeable Russian-speaking population. I provide advocacy-based counseling, legal support and assistance with safety planning to rural residents of the county who are affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. Cultural bridge-building is something I have always loved doing, and now I get to do it once again as part of my profession. This is exactly the kind of vocation I have been holding out for and I’m

beyond grateful to have landed this awesome position. I have been on the job for a month now and I have ‘rural’ part of my rural advocacy work. I am making connections in the community and actively looking for referrals. So far, so good.”

**Bob Ewen** (Ph.D. 1979) has this to say.”It has been some time since I contributed information to this newsletter, so I have quite a bit to tell. First, last year several alumni, including Kit Adams, John Mitchell, and me, Professor Emeritus Jam Augerot, and our respective spouses, cruised down the Danube from Budapest to Bucharest. For us, old friends since the 70s, it was the trip of a lifetime. The only language along the river that at least one of us do not speak is Hungarian. (Sorry, Imre!)

More recently in late Spring, Jim Hoath and I, with spouses, traveled to Asia, visiting China, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Since Jim’s Father taught Economics with the USAID on Java in the 60s the days we spend in Indonesia was a trip down memory lane for Jim.

Other than traveling I am still enjoying serving on the board of the Bulgarian Cultural Heritage Center in Seattle (BCHCS), and shamelessly urge any of you still in the Seattle area to attend any or all of our upcoming events.”

In June **Sara Garibova** (B.A. 2009) completed her Ph.D. in Russian Jewish history at the University of Michigan. In August she will begin an appointment as the *Geoffrey H. Hartman Postdoctoral Fellow* at Yale University’s

Fortunoff Vidoe Archive for Holocaust Testimonies.

**Serge Gregory's** (PhD, 1977) play *Sweet Lika*, based on the correspondence between Anton Chekhov and Lika Mizinova, performed by The Seagull Ensemble, premiered at ACT Theatre in downtown Seattle on June 6th.

**Corey Krzan** has some exciting news. "In May, I commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. I will be serving in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps after graduating from Georgetown Law and passing the bar next year. This summer, I am interning with the Military Commissions Defense Organization, where I assist the defense team for a detainee currently being held at Guantanamo Bay detention center. My dog and I will be making the long drive back to Washington State to visit family for a few weeks in August, then another long drive back to DC, visiting National Parks all along the way."

**Sarah Peyton** (BA 1984) has a book coming out from Norton Publishing in September called *Your Resonant Self: Guided Meditations and Exercises to Engage Your Brain's Capacity for Healing* She will be teaching this materian in St. Petersburg Russia, also in September.

Chair of the Russian Department at Sewanee University **Mark Preslar** (Ph.D. 1993) was in St. Petersburg this summer where he ran into fellow alum, **Tony Qualin** (Ph.D. 1995). Both had brought students to Russia on study abroad programs, mostly in downtown St. Petersburg but also with side trips to Novgorod and Moscow. The two reminisced about

the old days over beer and dumplings.

**Dieter Schambach** has certainly been a busy alum. He writes to us from Rumson, N.J. "I graduated in 1974. I had initially opted for a degree in Russian language and literature to enhance my professional experience in international shipping. Upon graduation, I returned to my native Germany after 15 years in the US and immediately got involved in organizing shipment of electronic communication equipment for the exhibition "svijaz" in Sokolniki Park. Later in 1975, I accepted a totally unexpected offer to represent an international ocean carrier in Brasil. At the time Brasil (I spell it that way deliberately) conducted large scale bartering business with the then USSR. In December (!) 1978 I travelled to Moscow and then Leningrad, to negotiate shipping details with our contacts at Morflot. Two weeks of 'molosol, beluga' 'krimskoje shampanskoje' and "ocobaja' and 'stolitchnaja' vodka were interrupted by tough shipping negotiations. Back in Rio, I developed a personal friendship with two Uranian professors who lectured at the University of Rio de Janeiro. Playing chess, drinking vodka at my home allowed me to keep my proficiency in Russian. Then, the CCCP collapsed and both my friends were recalled to their Alma Mater Kiev. The elder, Vladislav sent me a hat for my military hat collection. Under the sweatband it bore his name, and the rank "polkovnik KGB" 1996 I left Brasil and returned to the US. I continue practicing Russian by reading 'Pravda' and swearing at and getting in arguments with cab drivers in Manhattan. Meanwhile I had

returned to now "Russia" and was surprised at how quickly they had caught on to capitalism. When crossing the Nevskij Prospect in St. Petersburg, once need to take care not to be run down by a Bentley, Rolls Royce or Jaguar. And yes, caviar costs now 90 Euro for shto grammov at my favorite watering hole - the sidewalk bar of the gostiniza Evropa."

It's been a good year for **Michael Seraphinoff** (Ph.D. 1993) "I presented a paper at the REECAS Conference at Reed College this spring on human rights violations at the infamous Goli Otok island prison camp in the former Yugoslavia. Then I attended an academic workshop with my employer, the International Baccalaureate Organization, in Cardiff, Wales. This was an opportunity to improve my examiner work in their Macedonian literature program for high school seniors and juniors. I have worked for them in this program for 20 years now and the program has grown from some 20 students to almost 60 today. I enjoy the work, and, as many of you probably know, those Macedonian teenagers can be quite precocious, if not always so well versed in ethical considerations.(Given their hand in the results of the recent US presidential race.)

Now I intend to spend most of the summer hiking the mountains and working in my garden here on Whidbey Island."

After graduating from the UW in 1971 **Walter Skya** traveled to Japan to further pursue another of his passions, Japanese studies. "I spent the next 10 years in Tokyo, studying at the University of Tokyo for 6 years and also worked in the Tokyo Head Office of Mitsubishi Corporation as a

translator for 3 years. I graduated from the University of Chicago (Ph.D. in the History Department) in 1994. My major publication is *Japan's Holy War: The Ideology of Radical Shinto Ultrationalism*" His works are now being translated into Russian including the title above and his essay "*The Great European War and the Rise of Radical Shinto Ultrationalism in Japan*," which appeared as a chapter in the book *The New Nationalism and the First World War*. Walter is the director of the Asian Studies program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

This summer the Slavic Department was saddened to learn of the passing of **Michael Vickery** (B.A. 1952). Michael graduated from the UW majoring in Russian studies and while at the university, he participated in a Scandinavian Folk Dance group that went on tour in Sweden and Norway in 1950 or 1951. He often recalled that experience as a highlight of his undergraduate career, and he stayed in touch with several of the members of the group for many years. His obituary is posted below.

**MICHAEL THEODORE VICKERY PhD, 1931-2017**

Michael Vickery, a historian whose work challenged established assumptions about the history and historiography of Cambodia and the Cambodian people, and who made significant contributions to

knowledge about the origins and development of Angkor, died June 29 in Battambang, Cambodia. He was 86.

Mr. Vickery was born in Billings, Montana, the son of William T. (Ted) Vickery and Margaret Sandilands Vickery. He grew up in Maine and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1952. He also attended the Université Paris-Sorbonne and the University of Helsinki, Finland.

During the 1950s, he traveled widely in Europe, combining language studies with a variety of jobs ranging from laborer on a seismographic survey project in Switzerland to administrative assistant at an import/export company in Macedonia, and ultimately English teacher at a private school in Istanbul, Turkey.

He came to Southeast Asia in 1960 to teach English, first in Cambodia and later Laos. He became fluent in Khmer and Lao, and later mastered Thai and Bahasa Melayu.

In 1967, he returned to the US to enter the PhD program in Southeast Asian Studies at Yale University. His dissertation, *Cambodia After Angkor, the Chronicular Evidence for the Fourteenth to Sixteenth Centuries*, initiated the rigorous scholarship he pursued until shortly before his death.

He is the author of *Society, Economics and Politics in Pre-Angkor Cambodia: The 7th-8th Centuries* and the *Introduction to Bayon: New Perspectives*, as well as more than 20 chapters in other books, and numerous scholarly and journalistic articles.

Mr. Vickery had held research positions in Southeast Asian studies at the Australian National University and the University of Adelaide, and had been on the faculty of the Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, and the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh.

He also published books and articles on contemporary issues, including *Cambodia 1975-1982; Kampuchea, Politics, Economics and Society*; and *Cambodia: A Political Survey*.

Michael Vickery is survived by his longtime companion Otome Klein of Chiangmai, Thailand; their foster daughter Amema Saeju, of Chiangmai; his daughter, Anchalina Thurlow and husband Gregg, of Portland, Maine; granddaughter, Michaela Thurlow, of Los Angeles, California; sister, Kathleen, of Berkeley, California; and nephew, Yvan Iturriaga, of Oakland, California. Mr. Vickery was divorced from Anchina Chea, of Portland, Maine.



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