

Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,
 Much has happened in the department since June. We welcomed three new faculty members to our ranks. Assistant professor **Sasha Senderovich** has taught his first class on Russian cinema and has been busy with several projects. UW Polish Studies Fulbright Lecturer **Dr. Justyna Budzik** is teaching an exciting class on Polish cinema and photography, and our Ukrainian Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant **Oksana Zubchenko** has been teaching first year Ukrainian. You can learn more about these fantastic new faculty members elsewhere in this newsletter. The plans for the 50th anniversary celebration are well underway. Please mark your

calendars for May 11th 2018! On that day we will have a lecture by Douglas Smith, a historian of tsarist Russia, and a reception. You are invited! We have launched the [anniversary page](#) on our website where we will be posting your memories as well as lots of pictures from the beginning of the department onward. Please keep sending us your stories and photos and please click the anniversary banner on our [website](#) and look for yourself and your friends!



I want to close by wishing you all a very good New Year: much success in your professional endeavors and much happiness, joy and fulfillment in your private lives. I hope you will stay in touch with us in 2018.

All the best,

Kat Dziwirek

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STUDENT NEWS

Winter Quarter Colloquium Summary

-Alex King

This autumn quarter there were a total of four Slavic Graduate Student Colloquia. The first colloquium, titled “Summer Report Session” took place on September 29th. At this first colloquium we discussed what we had done during the summer. Attendees were invited to report on what they had done, including research projects, teaching projects, presentations and travels of some of the graduate students and faculty that were present. The second colloquium of the autumn quarter occurred October 27th. **Wilhelm Zuercher**, an M.A student in the Department of Slavic Linguistics and Literature presented a talk entitled “Avoiding Salty Words.” The talk was focused on discussing some of the ways a number of Slavic languages handle taboos and profanity. Guest speaker **Dr. Motoki Nomachi**, a professor at the Slavic-Eastern Research Center at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan, gave the third talk of the autumn quarter on November 17. The talk was titled, “Can the Gorani language be planned? The latest sociolinguistic developments in the Gorani community of the former Yugoslavia” and addressed some of the more

recent social and political developments regarding speakers of the Gorani language in the former Yugoslavia. The fourth colloquium of the autumn quarter was given on December 1st by visiting Fulbright Fellow **Justyna Budzik**. The talk was titled “Haunted cinema: the 1980s and 1990s in contemporary Polish films (The Lure by A. Smoczynska and United States of Love by T. Wasilewski),” and was on the topic of nostalgia as represented in contemporary Polish cinema.

In September of 2017, graduate student **Wilhelm “Will” Zuercher** gave a talk at the yearly Slavic Linguistics Society Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The talk centered on the strategies speakers employ to self-censor their speech in regards to obscene language, looking at strategies such as euphemism (indirectly referring to an obscene topic or word) and omission (removing the word) among a handful of other strategies. The strategies were predominantly illustrated with Russian usage, but some Polish examples and English examples were used to show that the avoidance strategies were not Russian-specific. The development, usages, social and psychological implications of non-standard and/or taboo styles of speech have always been of special interest for Will.

Slavic Department Welcomes Honors Student

-Eloise Boyle

The Slavic Department is pleased to announce that Sean Kosick has been selected as a candidate for Departmental Honors. Sean has been a Russian major since Autumn 2016. Sean’s high academic achievements are reflected in this departmental invitation. Honors students work closely with a faculty member who supervises a research project for one, two, or three quarters. The thesis will be professionally bound, and a copy will be filed in the Slavic Conference Room. Honors students are acknowledged at the Slavic Department Convocation in June. We congratulate Sean, and wish him all success on this project.

FACULTY NEWS

Prof. José Alaniz has 3 recent publications. * “The Shoah, Czech Comics and Drda/Mazal’s *The Enormous Disc of the Sun*.” [*Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*](#). Vol. 17, No. 1 (2018): 64-78.

* ““We Are All Scream!: Woodgod and the ‘Animal Superhero.’” *Critical Animal Studies and Superheroes: The Heroic Beasts of Total Liberation*. Ed. Joe Leeson Schatz and Sean Parson. Lexington Books, 2017: 33-48.

* ““The Most Famous Dog in

History': Mourning the Animot in Abadzis' *Laika*." *Seeing Animals: Visuality, Derrida, and the Exposure of the Human*. Ed. Sarah Bezan and James Tink. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books (2017): 39-64.

Prof. Galya Diment is currently editing, for Anthem Press, a volume on "H. G. Wells and All Things Russian" to be submitted in the Fall of 2018. The contributors come from UK, Canada, Russia, and the US. **José Alaniz** is among the contributors (collaborating with **Richard Boyechko**, PhD candidate at the UW's department of Comp Lit). The volume will be dedicated to H. G. Wells's granddaughter, Catherine Stoye, whom Galya befriended while working on her "The Russian Jew of Bloomsbury" book since she was the keeper of Samuel Kotliansky's archive.

Prof. Barbara Henry's article "Bulgakov's 'Young Doctor' in the Land of the Dead" will be published by the *Russian Review* this July. It's part of a book that examines the *katabasis* or underworld descent in Russian literature.

Prof. Sasha Senderovich, together with **Harriet Murav** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), has published his translation, from the Yiddish, of *Judgment* -- a novel by David Bergelson (1884-1952) set in the borderlands of Ukraine and Poland during the Civil War that followed the Bolshevik

Revolution. Released in the Northwestern World Classics series that also includes titles by Pasternak, Mayakovsky, Rilke, and Pushkin (Northwestern University Press, 2017), the book is accompanied by an article-length introduction and critical apparatus co-authored by the translators. In addition to teaching his first class at the University of Washington -- a course on Soviet cinema -- Senderovich traveled to New York City to teach a three-part seminar on the Russian Jewish experience, at the invitation of the Wexner Foundation's Heritage Program devoted to the education and leadership development for volunteer leaders in Jewish communities in North America.

UW POLISH STUDIES

-Krystyna Untersteiner

In September 2017, we welcomed **Dr. Justyna Budzik**, Fulbright Lecturer of Polish Studies. Dr. Budzik is an assistant professor at the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland. During the fall quarter, besides teaching Polish at the Department, Dr. Budzik became actively involved with the Seattle Polish Film Festival during which she introduced movies, interpreted and led Q&A. On Nov. 29th, she gave an excellent lecture entitled "Gloomy or Glam: New Polish

Cinema and Photography" at Thomson Hall. The lecture was open to the public and attended by a diverse audience.



Dr. Budzik continued her involvement with the community by volunteering at the Seattle and Bellevue Polish Schools, introducing and leading the post-screening discussion at the Polish Film Club OKO, and giving presentation at the Department. During Winter quarter, Dr. Budzik will teach a course *Haunted Images: New Polish Cinema and Photography*. Dr. Budzik's two-quarter stay at the Department was made possible by cooperation with Polish-U.S Fulbright Commission and financial support from the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee and The Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies. On Thursday, February 8, 2018, Polish students will have a booth at the [FIUTS CulturalFest](#). The Fest celebrates the diversity and talent that international students bring to our campus and welcomes visitors of all ages and backgrounds to the UW for cultural exploration and learning.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday,
March 17, 2018

UW PSEC invites you to a
Fundraising Dinner, Silent
Auction and Lecture:
“Paderewski and World
Politics”

Keynote speaker **Prof. Marek
Zebrowski**, *USC Thornton
School of Music*. The event will
benefit the UWPSEC funds,
mostly the Endowment Fund
which reached this year
\$280,000!

More information will be
available shortly on the events
pages of the [Polish Studies
website](#) and [the Slavic Dept
website](#).

UW UKRAINIAN STUDIES

-LAADA BILANIUK

Looking forward: Mark your
calendars!

- Thursday February 8, 2018:
Ukraine Expo Booth at the
FIUTS University of
Washington CulturalFest at the
HUB, from 10:30am-3pm.
- Friday March 2, 2018, 1pm in
Allen Library Auditorium: **Dr.
Serhii Plokhii**, Mykhailo
Hrushevs'kyi Professor of
Ukrainian History at Harvard
University and Director of the
Harvard Ukrainian Research
Institute, will present a talk
titled “Lost Kingdom: Ukraine
and the Search for Russian
Borders.”



Dr. Plokhii

Ukrainian language is being
taught again at UW this year!
Oksana Zubchenko, a Fulbright
Foreign Language Teaching
Assistant from Ukraine, is the
instructor for first year
Ukrainian during the 2017-2018
academic year. She hails from
Lviv, Ukraine, where she has
been teaching and continuing
postgraduate studies after
completing her Master’s degree
in Translation/Interpreting
Studies and Contrastive
Linguistics at the Ivan Franko
National University. We are
very lucky to have Ms.
Zubchenko and the Fulbright
Program supporting Ukrainian
Studies at UW! New Ukrainian
Cinema: This fall, in
collaboration the Ukrainian
Association of Washington
State, the University of
Washington Ukrainian Studies
Initiative hosted two film
screenings at UW, including
discussions with the filmmakers.
Both were new films, released
in 2017, in Ukrainian with
English subtitles. On October
15, director **Volodymyr Mula**

presented his documentary
“American Dream: In Search of
the Truth.” This film focused on
the stories of eight Ukrainians
who left their homeland and
moved to the United States in
pursuit of success: singer Mika
Newton, Hollywood actress
Tetyana Rodyna, Major League
Soccer champion Dmytro
Kovalenko, medical doctor
Yuriy Melnyk, Twitter
programmer Arsen Kostenko,
inventor Vadym Chalenko,
Columbia University lecturer
Yuriy Shevchuk, and sports
lawyer Elena Jirnova. On
November 18, directors **Leonid
Kanter** and **Ivan Yasnij**
presented their film “MYTH,”
which told the story of the life
and death of **Wassyl Slipak**, a
Ukrainian opera singer who
gained fame in Paris. In 2014
Slipak took an active part in the
Revolution of Dignity, leading
demonstrations and the
volunteer movement in France
to gain recognition for
Ukraine’s plight. When war
came to his native Ukraine,
Wassyl decided to leave the
stage and his career in Europe to
join the ranks of volunteer
soldiers. The aria of
Mephistopheles was his
favorite, and from the name of
that character Wassyl later took
the pseudonym “Myth. Wassyl
“Myth Slipak died heroically
during the execution of a
combat mission. The moving
film combined documentary
footage with animation by Yuriy
Zhuravel.

Looking back: An important event that was not yet reported in this newsletter took place on February 16, 2016. As an official public demonstration of his support for establishing Ukrainian Studies at the UW on a permanent footing, **Valeriy Goloborodko**, Ukraine's Honorary Consul for Washington and Oregon hosted a dinner reception for about 100 guests in the Walker-Ames Room of Kane Hall. Guests included civic leaders from Seattle and Bellevue, clergy, business people, members from the diplomatic corps, leaders of the local Ukrainian community, and Slavic Department chair **Prof. Katarzyna Dziwirek**. Entertainment was provided by the Ukrainian Children's Choir, "Svitanok," under the direction of Oleh Mayovsky. Violinist Taras Umrysh came from California especially to perform, and Diane Quick played the organ. Highlighting the occasion were Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, the Hon. Valeriy Chaly, and his wife, Liudmyla Mazuka, who had earlier presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Honorary Consulate's Seattle office on Pioneer Square. Check out the Facebook page of the Ukrainian studies at UW initiative:

<https://www.facebook.com/UkrainianUW>

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM BRINGS POLISH AND UKRAINIAN NATIVES TO UW

-Eloise Boyle

This fall the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures welcomed two Fulbright participants to campus: **Dr. Justyna Budzik**, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, and **Oksana Zubchenko**, Visiting Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant. Here are the results of our recent interviews with them.

Dr. Justyna Budzik



**Assistant Professor,
University of Silesia
Katowice, Poland**

Tell us a little about yourself: where is home, what is your field of study/expertise, etc.

I am affiliated with the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, where I am

Assistant Professor at the Department of Film and Media Studies. I graduated from culture studies at this same university in 2008, after having accomplished a transdisciplinary program including many courses from different areas of the humanities (literature and languages, philosophy, sociology, history of art...). After graduating I began my doctoral studies in humanities, while acquiring additional post-graduate diplomas in history of art, teaching Polish as a foreign language and bibliotherapy. I also went for an Erasmus Student Placement to France, where I worked for 6 months at the educational department of the Cinémathèque de Toulouse, the second biggest film archive in France. That is where I developed a profound interest in media education, which has become my field of expertise since then, although my doctoral dissertation concerned sensorial cinema theory and its manifestations in different works of art on the cinema experience. Even before defending my thesis I gradually got involved in many educational projects and that is what I have been doing almost all the time since then – I lead workshops and give presentations and talks to students at all levels, and to teachers and educators in cooperation with public institutions and NGOs in Poland. I have been also teaching Polish as a foreign

language since I completed the special studies in this field and I am particularly interested in the use of film in transferring cultural and language skills. Recently I finished a joint work with my colleague from Katowice: next year a textbook featuring 20 Polish movies and examples of exercises for students in Polish will be published.

Why did you choose to do a Fulbright in Seattle?

This has been a time for professional travels for me, it seems. Last year I was working in the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales in Paris, France, as an instructor of Polish. I was still there when I learnt about the call for applications for the Fulbright Slavic Award and thought that it was the perfect moment to go for it. I chose Seattle because I had the feeling that I fit better with the expectations outlined in the description of the award here. Also some of my friends have been to Seattle and told me it was a great city, lively and close to wonderful nature.

What will you be working on while you are here?

At the beginning of my stay I was still working on the exercises for the textbook I mentioned earlier. After I finished it I began to collect research materials regarding the history of new Polish cinema seen from international and transnational perspectives. I am also exploring studies in

hauntology (the yearning for the recent past) and popular culture of the early 21st century. I also continue to look for opportunities to get involved in the Polish community's cultural sphere. In October I led a few question and answer sessions with the guest artists of the 25th Seattle Polish Film Festival. I also visited Polish schools in Seattle and Bellevue to give guest classes there and to get to know children and adults who are learning Polish.

How does UW compare to your home institution?

It is definitely bigger and better equipped, and there is a real campus here. Back home different buildings are dispersed in a couple of cities in the region, and the views are not so stunning as from my office in Padelford Hall. I also appreciate the library and mediatheque resources – I can find here everything that I need for my classes, which is a new experience of comfort that I will be longing for after returning home.

What do you miss most about home?

Our cat and family, some food and a well-developed public transportation service.

Can you recommend any Polish authors, films or artists that you find interesting and enjoyable?

Recently there has been an increase in Polish cinema production and many of the new films are definitely worth recommending! I will highlight

some most interesting phenomena and filmmakers and photographers in my Winter class “Haunted Images: New Polish Cinema and Photography” (POLSH 420A). All the films that have been



At the Polish Film Festival

accepted to Sundance, Toronto International Film Festival or screened at the Seattle Polish Film Festival for the past few years are really great. Personally I admire films by Wojciech Smarzowski, Marcin Wrona, Małgorzata Szumowska, Agnieszka Smoczyńska, Tomasz Wasilewski and Łukasz Palkowski (among others) – there is a handful of DVDs at the UW library to check out. I am not an expert in literature, but I like to read Olga Tokarczuk, Joanna Bator, Adam Zagajewski, and Łukasz Orbitowski.

Would you like to travel while you're here? (or have you traveled since you've been here?)

Together with my husband Bartek we are fond of hiking and rock climbing so we were

very excited to come to Seattle because of the nearby mountains. We've already hiked some peaks near North Bend and at Stevens Pass and went for a trip to the Olympic Peninsula. I also traveled to Toronto where I gave a talk at a conference in November. Our next destinations to explore are the Central Cascades, maybe Portland and Vancouver, and hopefully some of California.

What's next for you?

We have our return tickets booked for the beginning of April and once we have returned I will be on a leave for research purposes until October. Then I am supposed to continue my duties at my home university after 2 years leave. I very much hope that the experience from UW will prove fruitful to my new ideas for classes and research!

Oksana Zubchenko



**Ivan Franko National
University
Lviv, Ukraine**

Tell us a little about yourself: where is home, what is your field of study/expertise, etc.

My name is Oksana Zubchenko and I am a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. So, this academic year, 2017-2018, I am privileged to teach Ukrainian 401 at the University of Washington.

I come from the Western part of Ukraine, from the beautiful city of Lviv which is known as a cultural capital of Ukraine. So, when you get a chance to travel to Ukraine, visiting Lviv for a couple of days is a must! I have graduated from the Hryhoriy Kochur Department of Translation/Interpreting Studies and Contrastive Linguistics (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine) and have worked there as an assistant lecturer since 2011. Mainly I have been teaching English and translation classes. I also do freelance translation and interpreting (in particular, I have worked at various projects for the OSCE, USAID, Nestle, FIBL, UEFA and many others). I have recently finished the translating *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and it will soon appear on the shelves of Ukrainian bookstores. Now I am working on another translation – a book on psychology. In addition, I am researching *the reception of American prose in Ukraine from the 1960s to the 1980s*. These three

professional passions, i.e., teaching, interpreting/translating and research, inspire me every day as I feel it to be my true vocation!

Why did you choose to do a Fulbright in Seattle? What will you be working on while you are here?

My dream has always been to participate in a cultural exchange program. I love sharing my culture and exploring new ones. That is why when I learned that the Fulbright Foreign Assistant Program was open for Ukraine I did not hesitate a second and immediately applied, as this is a perfect opportunity to promote Ukraine and contribute to building bridges between Ukraine and the USA. It is a real honor to get a chance to serve as a cultural ambassador for your country!



With Ukrainian Honorary Consul Valeriy Goloborodko and Gene Lemcio

I was so excited to learn that I was selected a Fulbright grantee and I feel myself really lucky to be placed in the University of Washington and at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

where I have met only amazing and highly professional people!

The university is truly wonderful, it has so much to offer to its students and staff – top-notch education, best professionals, great facilities and so many possibilities for career development! The Fulbright Foreign Language Assistant Program enables me not only to teach but also to take classes, so the experience of being both instructor and student contributes to a better understanding of the educational system in the United States. Teaching your native language and culture is a truly enjoyable and rewarding experience! The interest in Ukraine and the sparkling eyes of the students inspire and encourage me to develop and share more and more!

Would you like to travel while you're here? (or have you traveled since you've been here?)

Seattle with its nature has fascinated me from the very first moment I saw it from the window of my plane and it keeps enchanting me every day more and more. So far, I have enjoyed a hike at Mount Rainier and Wallace Falls State Park. In Arizona, where I had the Fulbright orientation, I had a chance to see Phoenix, the Antelope Canyon, a ghost town and a small part of the Grand Canyon. All of them have left a

long-lasting memory in my mind. I have also traveled to Washington DC for the Fulbright mid-year conference. Unfortunately, there was no time for sightseeing but the experience was rewarding as I had a chance not only to professionally enrich myself but also get involved in community service – planting trees in the park. I hope to have many more opportunities to travel in the USA and also meet more wonderful people and make true friends!

Can you recommend any Ukrainian authors, films or artists that you find interesting and enjoyable?

To those who would like to learn more about the Ukrainian language and culture, I would recommend flipping through the book *Awesome Ukraine*, reading works of classic (Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka) and modern (Lina Kostenko, Pavlo Zahrebelnyi) writers or watching the movies “The Stronghold,” “Cyborgs,” “The Guide,” “Firecrosser,” among others. And, of course, I invite everyone to travel to Ukraine as everyone will definitely find something for themselves! And if you have any questions, feel free to email me or drop in to my office, I will always be glad to help!

I would also love to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Department of Slavic

Languages and Literatures, in particular chair Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek, administrator Chris Dawson-Ripley, undergraduate adviser Eloise M. Boyle, the Fulbright Program and the Institute of International Education and to all the amazing people I have met! Thank you for making my American dream come true, for your constant support and friendly attitude! You will always stay in my heart!

NEWS FROM YOU

Burton “Bud” Bard Jr. (MA 1966) “There is always something to share when the call goes out for news for the Newsletter. I am happy to do my bit for sharing information for the upcoming edition. First of all I would like to send congratulations to the UW Slavic Language and Literature Department as it celebrates 50 years this year; a wonderful accomplishment. I do predate this as I received an MA in Slavic Linguistics from this Department in 1966. Then it was called the Russian and Far Eastern Department. I still have fond memories of my time spent in Russian Language and History studies at the UW and contribute to the Vadim Pahn Summer Scholarship Fund

every year. He was one of my professors in the Russian language in the mid-fifties, and I remember him very well. Not only did he teach Russian, but he loved to fish and talk about it!

This year marks another anniversary. The Foundation for International Understanding through Students, FIUTS, was founded in 1948. FIUTS celebrates its 70th Anniversary this year! I was fortunate to serve as FIUTS Director from 1967 to 1973; as well as being a Foreign Student Advisor in the International Services Office for much of that time. Two of FIUTS original founders were Lulu Fairbanks, a community activist and Lyle Goss, who was the Director of the University Book Store. In those heady days FIUTS, and the Foreign Student Office with its Foreign Student advisors, as well as the Study Abroad Office were all located in one office, the International Services Office. I have wonderful memories of my international work at the UW and it guided my career in international education. And by the time this is sent out I will have had lunch with Era Schrepfer, the current FIUTS Executive Director to share some past history.

Next year will also mark another anniversary. The Ethnic Heritage Council (EHC) will celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2018-19. Founded by a number of local ethnic leaders, one of whom was Rosanne Gostovich

Royer, who received her MA in East European Studies in 1976, and whose idea the Council was, and who currently serves as President of the Ethnic Heritage Council's Board of Trustees. The Council presently is embarking on a project called EHConnect, which will be a dynamic online portal with social media interfaces where regional ethnic community organizations and leaders consolidate ethnic heritage resources and information, increase public visibility and engage, share and collaborate with each other. This Directory will contain searchable pages with contact, written and visual information on hundreds of ethnic organizations, speakers, venues, resources and volunteers. Further information can be obtained by contacting Ann Wright, Project Lead at: awright.ehconnect@gmail.com, or myself at paljoeybard@comcast.net. I am excited about this project, and involved in fundraising for it. Many who have known me over the years know that I was elected as the Founding President of the Council in 1980.”

Richard Bathazar (MA. Slavic Linguistics 1966) offers this update. “I retired five years ago from a career as a non-profit administrator and then as a vendor of recycled “used plants” at the Santa Fe Farmers Market, I’ve since been concentrating on writing and art, both posted for

free download on my website www.richardbalthazar.com. Besides a library of my various prose, poems, and plays written over several decades, the website also offers three esoteric nonfiction books, a novel, a biography, and a memoir. The latter is entitled “There Was a Ship” and covers my two years in Seattle (1964-66) as a UW grad student. The focus of my artistic work (for the past 30 years) has been on Aztec deities and iconography, including a re-visioning of the Mesoamerican ceremonial calendar. In the past four years I’ve been working on a coloring book of b/w icons of the deities called “YE GODS!” and have so far posted fourteen on the website. I attach a copy of #14, Quetzalcoatl, the Plumed Serpent. In addition, this year I’ve been publishing articles on pre-Columbian history of the Americas in a citizen-researcher magazine called ‘Ancient American.’ The first was on the source of the Mesoamerican calendar, the second on the migration of the Plumed Serpent concept into North America, and the third will be on stone tablets in the ancient Ohio Valley.”

Nina Boe (BA 2010) says “ In June, I’ll be finishing my Masters in Public Administration from the Evans School at UW, with a focus on management and international development. Since my undergrad work, I’ve spent two years in Brazil and become an

advanced high speaker of Portuguese, having received a FLAS for continued study this academic year. Oddly enough, my BCS seems to create connections all over the world, even multiple times in Brazil! Amongst the many job opportunities into which I am currently looking, I'm also waiting to hear back on an application to the Peace Corps for a position in Macedonia, as I'd love to get back to the Balkans. I'm looking for opportunities in multiple US cities as well as international placements. In the meantime, I also sit on the boards of two Seattle area nonprofits — Kids4Peace, and the Young Professionals International Network. One of my fellow board members is actually from Bosnia, so I'm never far away from keeping up my BCS! Hvala, Bojane"

Carol Davis (MA 1978) Is currently in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia where the temperature recently hit -30 degrees! She is teaching contemporary American literature and poetry.

Lisa Frumkes (MA 1992, PhD 1996) "I am currently Senior Director of Content Development at Rosetta Stone, and I'm based in Seattle. In September, I traveled to Dresden, Germany, to participate in the drafting of ISO standards for distance learning as part of the US delegation to ISO Technical Committee 232.

During my week in Dresden, I worked with delegations from Germany, France, Japan, China, and other countries on this new standard, which is intended to ensure that consumers of distance learning around the world have access to quality resources and support. What a great experience! We'll be continuing our work in 2018 via other virtual and face-to-face meetings. More information about ISO/TC 232 can be found here: <https://www.iso.org/comm/ittee/537864.html>

Serge Gregory (PhD, 1977) has contributed a chapter ("Burned Letters: Reconstructing the Chekhov-Levitan Friendship") for the forthcoming book *Chekhov's Letters: Biography, Context, Poetics* to be published by Lexington Books this spring. This is the first collection in English of monographs and essays devoted to Chekhov's letters. It includes contributions by Carol Apollonio, Rosamund Bartlett, Alexander Chudakov, John Douglas Clayton, Svetlana Evdokimova, Michael Finke, Robert Louis Jackson, Vladimir Kataev, Alevtina Kuzicheva, Radislav Lapushin, Katherine O'Connor, Emma Polotskaia, and Galina Rylkova.



Don Livingston, (PhD 1998) continues to work as Senior Lecturer in Russian at Arizona State University, usually coordinating the 1st- and 2nd-year Russian language curriculum. He spent the summer of 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as resident director of ASU's summer intensive Russian program. On the way there he was delighted to stop for several days in Florence, Italy, to see the statue of David and portraits of Machiavelli... not to mention sampling the freshest food he has ever encountered. In academic year 2017-2018 he is functioning as Interim Director of ASU's Critical Languages Institute, which teaches eleven less-commonly taught languages in intensive summer programs both in Arizona and abroad. (<http://cli.asu.edu>)

Devon Livingston-Rosanoff (BA 2003) says "I guess I do have some news to share. I'm continuing my medical training at the University of Wisconsin. In the summer I started a 2 year research fellowship after finishing my first two clinical years of general surgery

residency. But in bigger news my husband and I welcomed our daughter Eleanor in the beginning of January.

This month, **Timothy Ott** (MA 2012) began a 1 year contract teaching English in Moscow. “The school is called Windsor Academy. I instructed for the Northwest Outward Bound School, mostly in Oregon but a little bit in Washington, the last two years after returning from Peace Corps in Rwanda. Now I am finally making it to the Slavic part of the world!” He also reports that on his first day in the country people were already asking him for directions on the metro which he was able to successfully provide. He says that credit for his fluency is due to Zoya Mikhailovna Polak for being a great teacher.

Michael Seraphinof (MA 1987, Ph.D 1993) has this news “I continue to work part-time for the International Baccalaureate

Organization in Cardiff, Wales as their Principal Examiner Responsible for Macedonian literature, which was my special interest as a graduate student in the Slavic department back in the 1980’s and early 90’s. I also continue to write a column on Macedonian literature for the on line MHRMI Macedonian Journal, and I continue to write book length works from my home here on Whidbey Island. Most recently I have written a historical novel set on Whidbey Island forty years ago. It is available at local bookstores such as Third Place Books and Left bank Books.”

Elsbeth Suthers (BA, '03) “My news is that, as on December 1, I moved to Tbilisi, Georgia. I continue to be the Senior Program Officer for the Caucasus at the National Endowment for Democracy, and invite everyone to come share a glass of Georgian wine with me!”

Heather Thorne (1994 BA) My husband and I live in San Jose after moving here 5 years ago to take a job with Google. I'm currently chief of staff and director of program management for Google Hardware. Prior to Google I spent over three years at Grameen Foundation heading their mobile Agriculture and mobile micro franchise programs in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Prior to that I was with Microsoft for 5 years during which time I led a number of Emerging Markets consumer efforts, including the Windows growth strategy for Russia. My husband and I are rock climbers and try to get to the Sierras as often as possible. However our priorities recently shifted when we celebrated the birth of our first child - Micah Finn Matthews. We are thrilled, and I'm enjoying reading him Russian fairy tales to try to keep up my vocabulary!"

GIFTS

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