

SLAVIC NEWS

SUMMER 2007

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

LETTER FROM CHAIR GALYA DIMENT

I apologize for the lateness of the newsletter. I just came back from a month and a half in Russia, of which two weeks were spent being a lecturer for the UW-UCLA Alumni Trans-Siberian Train Tour with a two-day dip into Mongolia for the Naadam Festival. It was my first round-the-world trip, and I am now ready for more!

This has been another solidly good year for us with three Fulbright scholars (two from Poland and one from Bosnia) adding to the diversity and excitement of our curriculum. We continue to have strong enrollments in first-year Russian and many of our Russian and East European literature and film courses, as well as in linguistics. The Nabokov class taught in winter attracted 70 students, which for a literature class is nothing to scoff at!

The faculty overall have distinguished themselves once again as excellent teachers, with four of our colleagues (Bojan Belic, Gordana Crnkovic, Jaroslava Soldanova, and Valentina Zaitseva) nominated and considered for the Distinguished Teaching Award. Next year promises to be equally strong as far as our curriculum and teaching go, and we will once again welcome two accomplished visiting faculty, a Fulbright in Polish, Dr. Artur Grabowski, who will teach three courses in Polish literature for us, and a Shevchenko Society Fellow, Dr. Maria Rewakowicz, who will teach three courses in Ukrainian literature and culture.

Slavic L & L faculty this year were all actively engaged in all aspects of scholarship activity: publishing articles and preparing their books for publication; receiving grants and fellowships, giving conference presentations and invited and public talks, serving on national and international committees, editorial boards of leading scholarly journals, and routinely reviewing applications for grants, journal articles and tenure/promotion cases.

Three of our faculty, Katarzyna Dziwirek, Jose Alaniz, and Barbara Henry, were awarded Royalty Research Fund Fellowships this year for three different projects, which is an acknowledgment of the strength of their research. Given that two of them are assistant professors (who are coming up for tenure in the fall of 2008), the future of the scholarship in the department looks very bright.

One of our graduate students, Daniel Newton, received an equally prestigious and competitive fellowship — a John C. Flanagan Dissertation Fellowship, only one of which was awarded in Humanities.

In the area of outreach, in March 2007 the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee held its annual auction, during which it raised \$40,000 to add the UW Polish Studies Endowment Fund, which, it hopes, will one day reach the level of an endowed professorship and endowed chair. UW Polish Studies also continued with its lecture series, this year bringing four distinguished speakers from different fields and areas of arts and culture, including the Polish Ambassador to the United States.

(continued on page 5)

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2007

by Phoebe Ambrosia, Undergraduate Adviser

On Friday, June 8th, the department held its annual Convocation ceremony, honoring our eight undergraduates receiving Bachelors Degrees: five with majors in Slavic Languages and Literatures, three with majors in Russian Language and Literature.

Department faculty, staff, and friends of graduates gathered in the afternoon sunlight of Parrington Hall to celebrate the achievements of our best and brightest, to acknowledge their departure, and to meditate on the new chapter ahead of them.

Timothy Riley (PhD 1999), who now works for the FBI, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. Tim spoke to graduates and their families about how things have changed in Slavic Studies since the fall of Communism. With humor and numerous amusing anecdotes, he described how he got from the University of Washington to his position at “the bureau” and how he has utilized the skills gained during his graduate studies. Each graduate was then introduced individually by a faculty member and given the chance to say a few words to their families and instructors.

Besides honoring our graduating class, the department was also proud to honor Marina Mikhailchenko, recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Undergraduate Award for her academic excellence and her volunteer service to the department. Marina, a sophomore, is also the first student to receive the newly established Asante Outstanding Paper Prize, for which she submitted the winning academic paper from a Slavic Department course in 2007 entitled: “Is Toska Doomed to Extinction?” Congratulations, Marina!



Some of our most passionate and vocal students are leaving with the class of 2007, and we will miss them greatly. As to their plans after school - a few will begin programs in dentistry school, one will begin service as a military officer, one has been hired as a photo journalist, and another will be entering law school. Others will be traveling, or accepting internships in their field of study. We wish them every success in their endeavors. After the ceremony, we got one last chance to talk to everyone, while enjoying the salmon, wraps, fresh fruit, and many other delectables provided by Shosh Westen for the occasion.

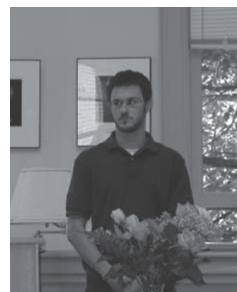
The class of 2007 includes B.A. recipients Michelle Alberty, Julian Chan, Sarafina Guio, William Ingersoll, Dmitry Levin, Roman Pastukhov, Anya Ziolkowski, and Kasa Zipfel. We are very proud of all your hard work and achievements!



Julian Chan



Sarafina Guio



Dmitry Levin



Marina Mikhailchenko



Roman Pastukhov



Kasa Zipfel



Anna Ziolkowski

FIVE YEARS OF UW PSEC by Krystyna Untersteiner

It is truly amazing to witness creation, to see something arise out of nothing. It is hard to fathom that five years ago the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee (UW PSEC) did not even exist, and it is amazing to contemplate how much we have accomplished since 2002, thanks to the good will and generosity of the community.

April 2002 saw our first outreach event at the University of Washington: Tom Podl's presentation on "Colors of Identity: Discovering Polish Heritage Through Art." In 2002 we also received two sizable grants from the Simpson Center for the Humanities and the Arts and Sciences Exchange Program to organize an outreach speaker series entitled "50 Years of Polish at the UW: Celebrating Polish-American Heritage" in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. The series was supported by smaller grants from the Polish Home Association, Ladies' Auxiliary of the Polish Home Association, Slavic, History, and Jewish Studies departments, the REECAS Program, and the Seattle Public Library. Thanks to a very generous gift from Izabella and Andrzej Turski, we have been able to continue the series, now renamed the **Distinguished Polish Speakers' Series**, in 2004/2005, 2005/2006, and 2006/2007, and planning for 2007/2008 events is well underway.

In addition to the speakers' series, we have held three **UW Polish Studies Auctions**, which have raised over \$120,000. In June 2005 we created the **UW Polish Studies Endowment Fund** with an initial deposit of \$35,000 (now \$120,000). We established a unique **Fulbright Lectureship at the University of Washington**, which combines funds from the US-Polish Fulbright Commission, the UW's Ellison Center, and the UW PSEC to bring a lecturer in Polish studies to the UW for three years starting in 2006/2007. At the latest auction, we inaugurated the **UW Polish Studies Scholarship Fund**, which will begin awarding grants to UW students to travel to Poland in 2007/2008.

The Polish Studies Endowment Fund with \$120,000, 23 Distinguished Polish Speakers' Series events, the Fulbright Lectureship, the Scholarship Fund: none of these existed five years ago. And neither did UW PSEC itself, a grass roots organization of volunteers, whose generosity and dedication to the twin goals of fundraising for an endowed chair of Polish studies and educating the Seattle community about Poland is truly awe-inspiring.

Please visit the UW PSEC website at: <http://www.polishstudiesuw.org/> and consider joining in our efforts!

2007 POLISH STUDIES AUCTION by Krystyna Untersteiner

As promised, there was a lot of "fun" in fundraising at the Polish Studies Auction held March 10, 2007. Close to 100 guests gathered at the University of Washington Club on campus. The new auction venue, offering a spectacular view of Lake Washington, provided not only gorgeous views and a friendly ambience, but also an elegant and spacious location to accommodate close to 200 items offered during the silent and live auctions. While sipping wine, guests strolled through the rooms, bidding, chatting, meeting old and new friends, checking out the items, admiring art, reading displays, and simply having a good time. Shortly after 7:00 p.m. the guests moved to the dining room. Seated at purple-and-gold-accented tables, the guests were served a delicious salmon, pork or eggplant dinner. After Martha Golubiec, UW PSEC Co-Chair, welcomed the guests and wished them an enjoyable evening, auctioneer extraordinaire Patrick O'Brian stepped up to start the bidding. The first basket of wines and Polish crystal glasses donated by the UW PSEC members and the PH Ladies Auxiliary went for \$340. That was only the beginning. Next came Polish vodkas, gourmet dinners, stays in Puerto Vallarta, Mazama, San Diego and Nordic Valley, mushroom hunts, paintings, Polish cooking classes, tickets to Europe. When we thought that the generosity of our guests had reached its limits, we were delighted by their response to Professor Kat Dziwirek's appeal to contribute to the Fund-a-Scholar effort to create scholarships for students of Polish at the University of Washington. As the student volunteers assembled in front of the audience, they witnessed paddles rising to the amount of \$8200 over the course of only five minutes! Next came the desserts. thirteen of them; decadent, mouth-watering, beautifully displayed, and mostly baked by ladies from the Polish community. The audience went wild, spending over \$1700 for these tempting treats! The evening ended around 10:00 p.m., leaving lasting memories and a legacy of close to \$40,000 in funds to supplement the Polish Endowment Fund, scholarships and programs. The Auction Committee would like to thank all the guests, donors, volunteers, students, underwriters, the UW Development Office and the UW Club for their support in making this evening a great success and for helping us make Polish heritage available to our community and the students at the UW.

Dziekujemy! Thank you!



NEWS FROM YOU

This has been a busy year for **Michele (Anciaux) Aoki** (PhD 1991) “with a lot of advocacy for world languages at the state level including multiple trips to Olympia to give testimony at the Legislature. We almost got a bill through that would have reinstated the World Languages Supervisor position at the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Hopefully, it will happen this session. Interest in early language learning is really exploding in the state now, and we desperately need some state leadership to assist districts and schools in developing effective programs.”

“I’ve had the great fortune of working on the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant for Chinese with the Seattle schools this year. My focus has been on language assessment training and program evaluation. It is so exciting to read all the surveys from families whose kindergarten and first-grade children participated in the program and see how excited they are about the opportunity for their children to learn Chinese -- and this in schools with large Hispanic and other immigrant populations!

“This year several centers from the UW Jackson School of International Studies and the Language Learning Center are collaborating on a project called MELL (Mapping and Enhancing Language Learning). We are surveying schools to see what languages are taught where. We now have pretty complete data for high schools and we’re moving on to look at middle and elementary schools. I’m the project manager for the project. It’s on the web at <http://depts.washington.edu/llc/mellwa/index.html>

“Meanwhile, my children are holding down the fort with Russian. Daughter Natalya Aoki (age 19) has just completed her freshman year at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. She placed into second-year Russian last fall and now has the possibility of having a Russian language minor along with her major in Aerospace Engineering. My son, Ante Hoath (age 25), has been living in St. Petersburg, Russia since last September. He loves it there and has found multiple opportunities to teach English. I’m sure hoping to visit him while he’s there (and see Slavic Dept. grad student Nika Egorova too).”

In June **Elizabeth Boe** (BA 2005) wrote, “I just received my MS in Education from Pace University in May, and I finish my two-year commitment to Teach for America later this month. I am working for Teach for America as the director of office operations at the NYC summer training institute and teaching classes for incoming ESL teachers. In August I start a full-time position with Teach for America as selection logistics manager on the admissions team. That’s really all. On Saturday I move to the Astoria neighborhood and will have a super from Croatia. So there’s a Slavic connection.”

Eric Clauson (BA 1966), an attorney and superior court arbitrator, would love to hear from others who lived in the Russian House between 1962 and 1965 (elclauson@verizon.net).

In February **Carol Davis** (MA 1979) was announced as the winner of the 2007 T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry sponsored by Truman State University Press. Her poetry collection was selected from more than 500 manuscripts in the eleventh annual competition. As winner, she received \$2000 and publication of her book, [Into the Arms of Pushkin: Poems of St. Petersburg](#), available from tsup.edu

or amazon.com. In other news, Fulbright has awarded her a special grant to attend a poetry biennale in Moscow in mid-October as part of “The Big Read” in the U.S. and the 200th anniversary of Russian/American relations. They are also sponsoring a book tour to Moscow, Saratov, Novgorod and Petersburg.

On August 26, 2006 **Robert Ewen** (PhD 1979) married Lily Werner. Later in 2006 he and Lily made a one-month trip to New Zealand that he describes as part family obligation and part honeymoon. While there, he visited **Ian Lilly** (PhD 1977), now an Associate Professor of Russian Literature at the University of Auckland, and wife Joan. As a consulting technology project manager under contract to Washington Mutual, Bob has witnessed a significant influx of Russian IT professionals, who “are shocked the first time I greet them in Russian on a conference call.” As a sideline, Bob is “researching an article on why/how the Bulgarians have captured the corner on the pizza trade in the Northwest. In the old days I could have sold it to the CIA in a heartbeat. Today “The Stranger” is a more likely buyer.”



David Fenner (MA 1979) is leaving the University of Washington after 24 years, having accepted a three-year assignment at World Learning. Based in Brattleboro, Vermont, the 75-year-old organization operates in more than 70 countries and is dedicated to social justice, peace and a more prosperous and sustainable world. David’s job will be “to develop several educational and training programs in the Sultanate of Oman. These activities will eventually lead to the establishment of joint graduate programs for Arab and Western students. I have accepted this position for several reasons: World Learning’s mission, caliber and track record; the Omani government’s enthusiasm; a compelling need to begin to repair the damage my country has caused in the Middle East; my administrative and Arabic language skills; and my love for Omanis and Oman, where my wife and I served as Peace Corps volunteers.”

Eric Kinzel (BA 1997) is still married to Katya. “In addition to our boy Konstantin Matthew, age 3, we have a new baby, Nikolai Eric, aged 7 months. My Russian skills are kept somewhat sharp by the fact that Katya speaks only Russian around the children. Kostya already speaks Russian better than his father, although I still hold an advantage in English.” In addition to working as a wireless engineer/estimator at NetVersant, in his limited spare time Eric maintains a lively interest in Slavic languages as well as old Germanic and Paleo-Balkan ethnography and linguistics.

For 2007-8 **Donald Livingston** (PhD 1998) will be teaching Russian in a lecturer position at Arizona State University - “a tiny improvement over the previous Faculty Associate position.”

On May 7 of this year, **Rick McPeak** (PhD 1996) took over as head of the Department of Foreign Languages at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. “Our 50 faculty members, both military and civilian, teach seven languages in cultural and regional contexts and offer a robust semester-abroad program, involving about 150 cadets a year, at military academies and civilian institutions across the globe. For example, our Russian-speaking cadets currently study in Voronezh and Vladimir.”

Monica Nunan has been working at Microsoft for ten years and is an executive assistant reporting to the senior vice president for strategy and partnership. Married, with two children ages six (Keegan) and three (Cameron), she is currently pursuing a master's at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston.

Robert F. Powers (BA 1978) is now a publisher, publishing foreign language phrase books, including Russian. For more details, check out www.rodnikpublishing.com.

Larissa Rudova (PhD 1989) has cause for celebration: she was recently promoted to full professor at Pomona College and her co-edited book (with Marina Balina), Russian Children's Literature and Culture (Routledge), is coming out in September.



Emily (Fields) Saunders (MA 1997) keeps busy taking care of son Henry, who celebrated his first birthday in June. "I've been trying to do a little freelance translation and whatnot on the side, but mothering

duties have been getting in the way of efficiency in any project I start. Sigh. One of the good things, though, about this time as a stay-at-home mom has been gardening. Looking after an almost toddler and weeding/watering are surprisingly compatible activities. Oh, and I have been an occasional participant on the SEELANGS listserv where I've noticed Charles Mills' name popping up from time to time as Assistant Professor Russian at Knox College. He sent in an interesting posting on glottal stops not too long ago."

Scott Sharp (MA 1998), who currently works for the Oregon Public Defenders, recently passed the California Bar and will be moving there this summer.

Dana Sherry (MA 1996) wrote that she would be filing her dissertation, "Imperial Alchemy: Governance, Ethnicity, and Population Movements in the Russian Caucasus, 1828-1865," at UC Davis at 3:00 p.m. on May 31. For the next 1-3 years she will be a postdoctoral teaching fellow in Stanford's Introduction to the Humanities program.

Heather Thorne (BA 1994) continues to work at Microsoft, where she has assumed a new role as director of business strategy for the machine translation team in Microsoft Research.

LETTER FROM CHAIR (continued from page 1)

In addition to the activities of UW Polish Studies, we held a well-attended annual Homecoming, celebrated Maslenitsa, hosted the ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian (a nationwide Russian language competition for Washington state high school children) and participated in World Languages Day.

Our year ended on a high collegial note when we all participated in an end-of-the year retreat, where we both had good time and discussed our departmental plans for the immediate future, among them study abroad programs.

We now have an active, annual summer program in Prague, which is handled by Jara Soldanova and Jose Alaniz. We have also begun putting into place an exchange program with Tomsk State University, the oldest university in Siberia, which will start in the fall of 2008. It is designed for undergraduates with two years of Russian and for graduate students in Slavic and REECAS wishing to take courses in their discipline in Russia. We also envision, down the road, occasional exchange of faculty. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of a summer program in Russian in Sochi, and next year we will determine whether we want to proceed with those plans as well.

All in all, it has been, we all feel, another very successful year in the rich history of our department, one which has helped to cement the foundation for more successful years to come!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our annual **Homecoming** celebration is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2007. As has been done for the past several years, the celebration will focus on a specific Slavic country. This year it's Poland, and the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee (UW PSEC) is helping to put on the event, which will take place at the Polish Home on Capitol Hill. The celebration will include Polish food and music as well as a not-to-be-missed presentation of "The Colors of Identity" by Tom Podl, co-chair of the UW PSEC and owner of the most extensive private collection of Polish art in America. Part of Mr. Podl's collection was featured in an acclaimed major exhibition tour in Poland in 2001-2003, and was also exhibited in The Smart Museum of Art in Chicago from May 25 through September 17, 2006.

GIFTS

Gifts to the Department play an indispensable role as we build and develop our new programs. Below we recognize the generosity of individuals and businesses that have contributed in the past six months.

Our newest fund is the *Czech Studies Endowment*, created to support students studying Czech language at the University of Washington.

Sarka and Antonin Hruby

Charles and Julie Mills

Sara D. Votipka

The *Friends of Slavic Languages and Literatures Fund* made be used at the discretion of the Department Chair. Gifts to this fund are invaluable, enabling the department to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest.

Contributors to Balkan Studies include:

Mary Sherhart

Contributors to the general fund include:

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Carolyn and Richard Leon
Bruce W. McKinney
Anabel Malmquist
Ann Maltzeff

Cynthia and Richard Marriott
Mary K. Mohler
David M. Nemerever

We were thrilled when John Asante, a senior in the Geography Department, contacted us. He did so at the encouragement of grad student Mary Childs, who told him how small departments are often most in need of gifts from donors. After consulting with the department, John established the Asante Outstanding Paper Prize, a subset of our discretionary fund. Each year this prize will be awarded to an undergraduate student whose paper, written for a Slavic Department course, is deemed outstanding. We are delighted to have this means by which to recognize and reward academic excellence.

James E. and Jane M. Chapin

Like the Friends Fund, the *Institutional Allowance* may be used at the discretion of the department to support its various activities. The annual Outstanding Undergraduate Award and Outstanding TA Award both come from this fund. A special subset provides the Nora Holdsworth Scholarship to the winner of the annual Olympiada of Spoken Russian. This fund is also used for the scholarship to participate in the Early Fall Study Abroad Program in Prague, funded by Wayne Jehlik and friends.

Anonymous
Richard J. Brzustowicz Jr.

John and Starla Budlong
David and Mary Grembowski

Nora Holdsworth
Melinda and David Olson

The *Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund* supports graduate student programs in the Slavic Department.

Lew and Jane Micklesen

Charles and Julie Mills

The *E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fellowship Fund* supports graduate students in the Slavic Department.

Charles and Julie Mills

Each year since 1989 the *Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund* has been used to pay tuition for one student to attend the UW's summer quarter intensive Russian language program. This year's recipient was Cadence McAfee, who studied second-year Russian.

Burton E. and Mary A. Bard

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Donors to the March 2007 Polish Studies Auction:

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The *Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund* was created to endow a chair of Ukrainian Studies.

Daniel Bray
Tim Hnatyko
Marta A.Korduba

Microsoft Matching Gift
Michael and Susan Peskura
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Anna L. and Thomas N. Wight

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Susanna J. Westen
Linda and Michael Wishkoski
Anna Witkowska
Helena Wrozyński
Jan and Barbara Zoltowski

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Slavic Department is very grateful to alumni and friends for their generous support. Please help the department continue its efforts by giving generously whenever possible. You may send a check made out to the University of Washington Foundation with one of the funds designated on the memo line of your check. Please send the check along with this form to the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Washington, Box 353580, Seattle, WA 98195-3580.

- ☐ SLADIS BALKAN FUND – Ensure the continued teaching of Balkan languages
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- ☐ POLFUL POLISH FULBRIGHT FUND – Increase Polish-specific course offerings by bringing Polish Fulbright scholars to the UW
- ☐ POLEND POLISH STUDIES ENDOWMENT – Promote permanence and expansion of program to include more levels of Polish language, history and culture
- ☐ RUSSHO RUSSIAN HOUSE FUND – Provide general support for the Russian House
- ☐ WESTEN1 SHOSH WESTEN OUTREACH FUND – Support for departmental outreach efforts
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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 below. Thank you. ***You can also contact us by email at *slavicll@u.washington.edu*.***

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We welcome your comments.

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Slavic Languages & Literatures
University of Washington
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