



## Letter from Chair Galya Diment

Having served as chair of this department for 12 years (the first two as acting chair), and having considered it both privilege and honor (and only occasionally something else), I am relinquishing this position as of June 30 and putting the department in the very safe and steady hands of **Katarzyna Dziwirek**. My colleagues' warmth, kindness and good will towards me during my last year as chair only proved that I was stepping down at the right time. Who knows what would have happened in another 5 years (Khadafy and Mubarak come to mind...)

This has been an excellent year for scholarship in the Slavic Department, probably one of the most remarkable in its history! To wit, 5 books written or edited by faculty and 2 translated works of literature came out. **Gordana Crnković's** monograph, *Post-Yugoslav Literature and Film: Fires, Foundations, Flourishes*, was published in the Spring by Continuum, and soon on its heels, another book she co-edited — *In Contrast: Contemporary Croatian Film Today* (Croatian

Film Association) — followed. **Barbara Henry** also contributed two books to our field: she authored *Rewriting Russia: Jacob Gordin's Yiddish Drama*, which came out in late fall from the University of Washington Press, and her co-edited volume, *Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage: Essays in Drama, Performance, and Show Business* (Wayne State University Press), made its appearance in June. My book, *A Russian Jew of Bloomsbury: The Life and Times of Samuel Kotliansky*, was published in November by McGill-Queens University Press. **Michael Biggins**, our Slavic Librarian and teaching colleague, produced two translations from Slovene, both novels: Drago Jančar's *The Galley Slave* (Dalkey Archive Press) and Mate Dolenc's *Sea of Eclipse* (Litterae Slovenicae). *A Russian Jew of Bloomsbury* and *The Galley Slave* have been awarded starred reviews — in Booklist for the former, and Publishers' Weekly for the latter.

Among other significant scholarly achievements, **James West** landed a very prestigious two-year \$50,000 NEH Digital Humanities Grant to build an innovative interface for the Brumfield Russian Architecture Photography Collection at the University of Washington Library. **José Alaniz** was on sabbatical this year, doing work for his next book, and also received a Smithsonian Latino Studies Fellowship for conducting

research this summer in Washington DC. His essay, "Czech Comics Anthropology: Life and Story in 'O přibjeji: Keva,'" was featured in the spring on the popular UK site "Comics Forum."

We were also very active on the conference front. In addition to many of us giving papers at different venues (including, for me, a conference in New Zealand!), **Bojan Belić** and **Jim Augerot** organized a highly successful national conference on the Balkans here on campus (see Bojan's write-up of the event in this issue), and we hosted a reception for all our

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colleagues across the country and the world who came to the AATSEEL conference held in January in Seattle/Bellevue. I still hear raves from our non-Seattle colleagues about both events!

To make our year even more exciting, we had two very distinguished speakers come to our campus — **Brian Boyd** and **Timothy Snyder**. Boyd and another fellow Nabokovian, Dana Dragunoiu (Carleton University, Ottawa) joined me and Alsu Shakirova, who is writing her dissertation on Nabokov, in a panel discussion in front of the class I taught in the spring. The presentation coincided with Nabokov's birthday, April 23. Later in the afternoon Boyd gave a general and well-attended lecture "Why Lyrics Last: Evolution, Cognition, and Shakespeare's Sonnets" (and the same day just happened to be Shakespeare's birthday too!) Timothy Snyder, the author of the bestselling book *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*, came to campus in May. His lecture in Kane Hall was organized by the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee as part of their Distinguished Speakers Series. Kudos to Katarzyna, among other members of the Endowment Committee, for securing such a sought-after author! **(For more on the lecture, see page 8.)**

The department also held a one-day student symposium, where our graduate students presented their work in progress, and their peers and faculty got a chance to learn from — and comment on — their research.

In other news, **Jim Augerot** is stepping down this year from the job he has held for three and a half years as Director of the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies. He has embarked on his gradual retirement but we are lucky to still have him teaching

several courses and being around for the next three years.

As has been a tradition, several of us will be leading groups of UW students abroad early in the fall: James West to Georgia, and **Valentina Zaitseva** to Sochi. **Jara Soldanova** led her group to Prague last fall.

Next year we are looking forward to welcoming not one but two Fulbright scholars: in autumn quarter, Dr. **Elkhan Azimov**, a Professor of Methodology and Psychology from Pushkin Institute of Russian Language (Moscow) who specializes, among other things, in "Role of Technology in Teacher's Education"; and for the entire year, Dr. **Jacek Mikołajczyk** of the University of Silesia, a specialist on Polish Theater who also recently published a book on "Literature and Terrorism." Dr. Mikołajczyk will be teaching for us as well. The following year we will be welcoming a Fulbright from Bulgaria — Dr. **Angel Angelov** — who will be teaching first-year Bulgarian for us. The last time we had a Fulbright from Bulgaria was a very long time ago. We are therefore immeasurably grateful to Mary Sherhart and Elka Rouskov of the Bulgarian Cultural and Heritage Center of Seattle for being so active and effective on this!

One of the most gratifying experiences this year continued to be hearing from former students who still think of us fondly and believe the education they received from us has helped them go through life (even if not to make a living...). One such student from quite a while back just contacted me earlier this academic year. "I'd like to read the Brothers Karamazov again," he wrote to me, "I heard Pope Benedict called it the greatest novel." What Pope

Benedict says about the novel is important to this former student because he is now studying in a Seminary and will be eventually ordained a Catholic priest. He is spending this summer back in Seattle, undergoing Clinical Pastoral Education, which he describes as "learning how to help the sick and the dying and their grieving families." "By the way, I just started reading Anna Karenina for the first time," he wrote to me back in December. Well, he and I are going to have dinner next week, and I am sure much of it will be spent discussing Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. And it is discussions of this kind with our former and present students that many of us truly cherish as among the most meaningful parts of our professional lives!





# Congratulations to the Class of 2012

## - Megan Styles

The annual Slavic Department Convocation ceremony took place in Parrington Commons on Friday, June 8. The sun shone brightly through the skylights as we celebrated each of the members of our Class of 2012. Eight of our bachelor's degree candidates and one master's degree candidate attended with their family and friends. Chair Galya Diment welcomed us as the Master of Ceremonies, and keynote speaker Sheila Mayer Charles (Masters of Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1997) spoke eloquently about the



many wonderful opportunities that her Slavic degree has created for her along her career path. Whether working for a Russian fishing company, making travel arrangements for clowns entertaining children in Eastern European hospitals, or serving in her current position as a Project Director for the National Bureau of Asian Research, she has always found her Slavic degree indispensable. Her stories of her career adventures were both inspiring and humorous!

After the keynote address, Prof. Diment presented awards to our

Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate Students. The undergraduate award went to Corey Krzan, a double major in Eastern European Languages and Literatures and French, who has both excelled academically and demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in his service to the department and the Polish community in Seattle. The faculty selected Matthew Boyd, a doctoral student, as this year's outstanding graduate student in recognition of his scholastic excellence and his stellar performance as a teaching assistant. Martha Golubiec of the Polish Home Ladies Auxiliary also presented the award for the Best Polish Student of 2012 to continuing undergraduate Morgan McAllister, whom she praised as talented, enthusiastic, and truly devoted to his Polish language studies. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Faculty members then introduced each of the graduates in turn, recounting their achievements within the department. Each graduate warmly thanked the faculty and their loved ones for supporting their academic and personal development.



Graduating master's candidate Timothy Ott left us with a few words of wisdom from one of his mentors in the Outward Bound program – “The success of all human endeavors depends on the strength of the relationships between all humans involved.”

The Slavic Department congratulates the Class of 2012 on your remarkable achievements and wishes you the best of luck in your future endeavors!

May the strength of the relationships that you formed here follow you wherever you may go!

Class of 2012:

Karel L. Cipra  
Anna T. Grzankowski  
Alen Hirkić  
Rachel Ann Katz  
Sara Elyse Kufeldt\*  
Edgar M. Kumpin  
Daniel J. Marciniak  
Yulia V. Minzer  
Maria Razumovich  
Jula Stafford  
Julie Ann Zehnder  
Timothy Ott (M.A.)

\*(graduating with departmental honors)

In March of this year, I had

# Local Slovene Americans and UW Slavic Department Join Forces to Celebrate Slovenia

- Michael Biggins



Since its creation just two years ago, the Seattle-based society of Slovenian Americans and students of all things Slovene known as Slovenska miza (Slovene Table) has sponsored an active calendar of social, cultural and educational events. Besides its support for Slovene language tables at UW, its scholarships for students traveling to study in Slovenia, its assistance in hosting UW's annual faculty exchange visitors from the University of Ljubljana, community cooking lessons and other activities, each year Slovenska miza organizes celebrations around three of the principal holidays on the Slovene calendar: Slovene Culture Day, also commonly referred to as Prešeren Day (February 8), Slovene Statehood Day (June 25), and St. Martin's Day (November 11).

The particular significance – and popularity – of the two state holidays becomes evident when they're understood within the context of Slovene history and the fact that, for centuries, language and the creative products of language – song, folklore, and literature – were the sole distinctive markers of Slovene identity. Culture Day is observed on the anniversary of the death of France Prešeren (1800-1849), the first and – as even major poets in Slovenia today proudly assert – still the greatest world-class poet writing in Slovene. Occupying a revered place in the culture comparable to that of Pushkin for Russia, Prešeren created a fresh literary diction for the Slovene language and gave voice to the themes of independence (both personal

and national) and melancholy that still mark Slovene writing almost two centuries later. In Slovenia, Culture Day is observed in many ways, from creative writing competitions and school field trips to sites associated with Prešeren's life to broadcast performances of Slovene music, drama and dance, and the announcement of the year's winners of the Prešeren Prizes, the most prestigious awards for achievement in the arts.

In Seattle, Slovene Culture Day has been observed with weekend events held in 2011 at the UW Simpson Center for the Humanities, and in 2012 in Suzzallo-Allen Libraries. The 2011 event featured literary readings in both Slovene and English translation by UW students of Slovene and children from the Seattle Slovenian-American community. Our 2012 celebration began with a viewing of the 2008 movie *Sea at Eclipse (Morje v času mrka)*, based on a 2000 novel of the same title by Slovene writer and deep sea diver Mate Dolenc, and continued with a potluck reception and program in the Library's Petersen Room.

Slovene Statehood Day marks the formal declaration in June 1991 of Slovenia's independence from the Socialist Federated Republic of Yugoslavia – and the establishment of the first-ever sovereign Slovene state. Celebrations of Statehood Day are also becoming a Seattle tradition, beginning with last year's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of Slovene independence and continuing with this year's event on June 23 in Woodland Park.

The third and only non-state holiday on Slovenska miza's calendar of annual festive events is St. Martin's Day (martinovo). Annually on or near November 11 all interested parties – Slovenes, friends of Slovenia, students of Slovene, and even just those curious

about the country) are invited to participate in Slovenia's version of the harvest festival, devoted to grapes, one of Slovenia's most abundant crops. November 11 is the traditional date on which the fermenting wine must from the year's grape harvest becomes drinkable wine. As at all of the organization's social events, Slovene culinary specialties ranging from golaž (goulash), žlikrofi (potato dumplings), štruklji (rolled walnut or cheese dumplings) and rdeče zelje (red cabbage) to prekmurska gibanica (Prekmurje layered pastry) and potica (pastry rolled with walnut paste) grace the potluck table alongside wines, including renowned reds from western and south central Slovenia and whites from the northeastern regions bordering on Hungary. All of this is quite hard to resist and goes perfectly with socializing, conversation in Slovene at any level of proficiency, and occasional live music.

Anyone with an interest in Slovenia, whether literary, linguistic, historical, culinary or otherwise – and whether a speaker of Slovene or not – is welcome to get on the Slovenska miza events list by sending e-mail to Polona Brooks, the organization's president, at [slovenska.miza@gmail.com](mailto:slovenska.miza@gmail.com)

*(Photographs courtesy of Piotr Horoszowski)*





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## After the Olympiada

### - Quinn Carey Dombrowski

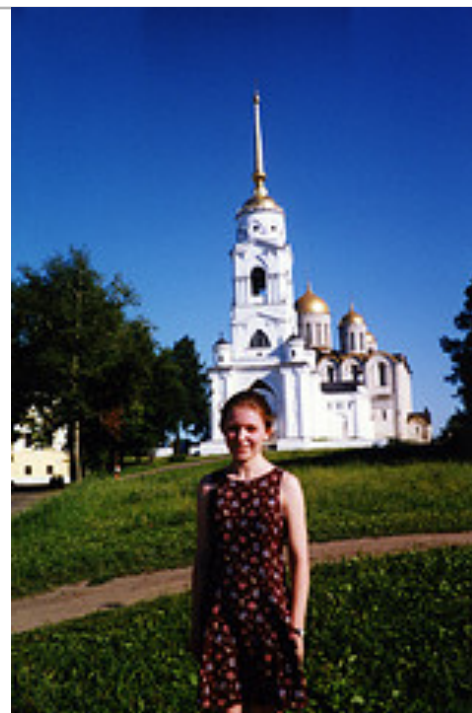
the pleasure of returning to the UW for the first time in ten years. While I flew out from Chicago to attend the Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore conference, I discovered that the Russian Olympiada was being held concomitantly. Watching my alma mater, Foss High School, once again claim victory was a deeply nostalgic experience.

Winning the Olympiada in 2001 at the highest level for foreign learners, after only six months of studying Russian, was not only the defining experience of my high school career, it also laid the groundwork for the following ten years of my life. I had the good fortune of winning in a year when the International Olympiada of Spoken Russian was being held, which meant that in addition to the ACTR-hosted summer homestay in Vladimir, I competed in the Russian-organized competition in Moscow, where I won a gold medal for the US team. While college admissions offices work in mysterious ways, I suspect the Olympiadas played no small role in the University of Chicago's offer to admit me with a full-tuition merit scholarship.

I left for Chicago in fall 2002,

with plans to major in linguistics, after spending a summer taking advanced Russian at UW on a Nora Holdsworth Scholarship. But instead of enrolling in phonetics or syntax at the University of Chicago, I signed up for Intro to Slavic Linguistics, where I fell in love with the Glagolitic alphabet and was delighted to learn more about proto-Slavic, palatalizations, and the jers — the source of those pesky fleeting vowels in Russian. The next quarter, I signed up for Old Church Slavonic, and was introduced to some charming new Cyrillic letters (А, Ѫ and Ъ, which I fancifully nicknamed "Pacman ghost", "squid-on-a-stick", and "devil jer", respectively) and some infuriating scribal errors that kept me up nights, trying to figure out which mangled form of the aorist the monk had in mind. By my second year of college, I decided to skip the linguistics department entirely, and instead major in Slavic Languages & Literatures, with a focus on Slavic linguistics.

Thanks to my summer at UW, I tested out of almost all the required language courses for the Slavic major, and by the beginning of my third year I found myself with only a BA thesis left to write. Pointing to a similar program that was already in place in the



Linguistics department, I petitioned the Slavic department chair to establish a BA/MA program in Slavic, which would allow students to receive both degrees in as little as four years. The discipline and focus I'd directed towards preparing for the Olympiada was once again very useful as I slogged through dense Russian-language tomes on the history and structure of Russian in preparation for my MA exam, while taking courses with PhD students and writing a BA thesis on the phonology of the old Novgorod birchbark letters.

In 2006 I graduated from the University of Chicago with the first BA/MA in Slavic linguistics, and spent the summer at Ohio State University's Medieval Slavic Summer Institute, and in Russia and Macedonia. I

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started the PhD program in Slavic at the University of Chicago that fall, but after a month, I decided that I'd be in a better position to pursue the digital humanities inflected scholarship that interested me from outside a traditional PhD program, and I left.

Since then, I've been working in the Academic Technologies area of central IT at the University of Chicago, in positions that have allowed me to partner with librarians and faculty from a wide range of disciplines, in order to develop innovative projects for research and teaching. Working outside academia proper, I've had the luxury to be able to pursue whatever academic pursuits interest me during my free time, without worrying about how it fits into a coherent research agenda. My projects have included developing a scholarly wiki for Slavic linguistics, taking a quantitative look at various aspects of the old Novgorod birchbark letters, developing a system that produces more nuanced maps and identifies potentially interesting correspondences in the data from the Bulgarian Dialect Atlas, working with Prof. Ronelle Alexander at Berkeley on a system for annotating field recordings with linguistic and cultural features, and documenting graffiti in university libraries. I regularly present at Slavic conferences on projects using digital humanities methodologies, as well as at

digital humanities conferences, where I'm one of the only Slavists in a discipline dominated by English literature. On a personal note, I've also gotten married — to Andrew Dombrowski, the 2000 winner of the New York State Olympiada of Spoken Russian, and the second recipient of a BA/MA in Slavic linguistics in 2006, who is finishing up a joint PhD in linguistics and Slavic linguistics at the University of Chicago.

Opportunities abound for high school students who are interested in math, science, and engineering to put their skills to the test in a competition with their peers. For the humanistically-inclined student, the Olympiada of Spoken Russian is one of a few longstanding events that provide that same experience. While the number of participants has dwindled as the competition enters its fifth decade, I remain hopeful that — in some form or another — the Olympiada will persist to see its centennial, and continue to inspire high school students to engage more deeply with the field of Slavic languages and literatures.

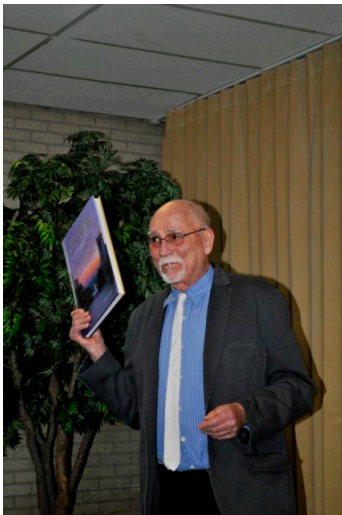
# 18<sup>th</sup> BSSLLF Conference

## - Bojan Belić

The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore was hosted by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and held on the University of Washington campus from March 29 to March 31, 2012. This event showcases research in Slavic (Bulgarian, Macedonian, Slovene, Ukrainian, Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian), Romance (Dacoromanian, Aromanian, Meglenoromanian, Judezmo), Greek, Albanian, Romani, and Turkic (Turkish and Gagauz) languages, literature, and folklore. This year there were participants from the USA, Canada, Russia, Germany, Albania, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria, who, according to some counts, presented a total of 24 papers (16 in linguistics, 2 in literature, 4 in folklore, and 2 in cultural studies).

In addition to the 24 academic papers, there were two special series of talks: *My Balkans* and *Coffee Break Chat*. The latter featured Tom Priestly's recounting of his 1960 trip from Ljubelj Pass to places beyond Ohrid; Thede Kahl's and Helmut Schaller's presentation of the newly published book "Balkanisms Today"; and Bjanka Marčeta's and Gordana Subotić's introduction of their Internet bookstore "Plavi kit". The former brought to the conference, at the end of each conference day, three world renowned admirers of everything Balkan from the great Pacific Northwest, notably Peter Lippman, Yvonne Hunt, and Mary Sherhart.

The conference concluded on the evening of Saturday, March 31, 2012, with recognition of our own Professor Jim Augerot on the occasion of his retiring from the department, though he intends to continue teaching part time for an additional three years. In the words of one conference participant: "*In talks full of warmth and respect for Prof. Augerot many beautiful memories were evoked.*" The recognition ceremony was followed by dinner and a party celebrating Balkan food and music as well as the Balkan in all who attended the event.



Jim Augerot accepts gift and applause from admirers



Rosanne Royer and Jim Augerot



Jim and granddaughter skip the light fantastic



Co-organizers Jim Augerot and Bojan Belić

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# UW PSEC in 2012

## - Krystyna Untersteiner

We, the members of UW PSEC, would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Kat Dziwirek on becoming Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures Department and wish her a successful and rewarding term.

We also want to thank outgoing Chair Galya Diment for her enduring support of and cooperation with our organization. Many of our achievements would not have been possible without her!

### Past events

Two outstanding scholars gave lectures as part of the Distinguished Speakers Series during winter and spring quarters: Professor Robert Faggen and Professor Timothy Snyder.

In celebration of the 2011 Miłosz Year, **Professor Robert Faggen** gave a fascinating lecture entitled "Miłosz and the American Poets He Loved . . . and Hated." Professor Faggen is the Barton Evans and H. Andrea Neves Professor of Literature and the Director of the Gould Center for Humanistic Studies at Claremont McKenna College. He is also a founder of the Miłosz Archive and Institute at the Gould Center. His outstanding lecture inspired the audience to read more not only of Miłosz but also of the American poets associated with him. Miłosz was fascinated by Whitman but also developed an appreciation for and strong interest in the work of Robinson Jeffers, Robert Frost, Robert Lowell, Thomas Merton, and Allen Ginsberg. Among his younger contemporaries, Miłosz came to appreciate Merwin, Waggoner, Levertov, Kowitz, Hirshfield and his translators, future U.S. Poet Laureates Robert Pinsky and Robert Hass.

In May close to 400 people filled Kane 120 to attend a lecture by **Professor Timothy Snyder**. Professor Snyder is the Bird White Housum Professor of History at Yale University and, among others, the author of *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*. *Bloodlands* won five awards, including the Emerson Prize in the Humanities and the Leipzig Award for European Understanding, and has been translated into more than twenty languages. The lecture was co-sponsored by a number of UW departments and community organizations and attracted a diverse audience. The listeners were held captive by Professor Snyder's eloquence, based on deep knowledge and understanding of the topic of Soviet and Nazi killing policies, famine in Ukraine and the Holocaust, with special emphasis on understanding why the lands between Hitler and Stalin were the most dangerous place on earth.

### Looking forward

In June we said goodbye to our 2011/12 Fulbright Lecturer, Dr. Adam Kożuchowski. In September, we will welcome **Dr. Jacek Mikołajczyk**, who is an Assistant Professor of Theater Studies at the University of Silesia in Katowice and a Dramaturgy and Literary Consultant of the Gliwice Musical Theater. He is the author of two books: *The Musical by the Vistula River. The Musical in Poland in 1957-1989* (2010) and *The Destructive Flirtation: Literature and Terrorism* (2011) and of about 40 articles and reviews published in periodicals, journals and books. He is an active translator of literature and one of the most successful Polish translators of musicals. He made his debut as a theater director in 2011, directing *Spring Awakening* at the Ludwik Solski State Drama School in Cracow.

This fall **Dr. Mikołajczyk** will be teaching the class **Contemporary Polish Theater**. His course will attempt to answer the following questions: Why are Polish theatre directors stars of the most important international festivals? Why has Polish theatre become one of the most interesting phenomena in European culture? Are there any successors of Jerzy Grotowski or Tadeusz Kantor in contemporary Polish theatre?

Dr. Mikołajczyk is the sixth Fulbright lecturer co-sponsored financially by the Polish Studies Endowment Committee since 2006. These lecturers have been enriching course offerings in the Slavic Department and REECAS and brought outstanding expertise in their respective fields.

### October 27, 2012

UW PSEC is planning a **celebration** of the 150th anniversary of UW, the 60th anniversary of Polish at UW, and the 10th year of UWPSEC. The event will include dinner, an engaging program, and a small silent auction. The celebration will be held at the Polish Cultural Center – aka the Polish Hall – on Capitol Hill in Seattle. Look for upcoming details on our webpage, in your mail, or in the next PSEC e-newsletter.

All are welcome!



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# West Coast of America Macedonian Celebration

- Michael Seraphinoff

The following is a story about a recent celebration and honoring of elder Macedonian cultural ambassadors in America, Ljupka and Atanas Kolarovski. These former members of the folk troupe Tanec moved to Seattle, Washington, USA, in the early 1970s. On April 14 of this year they were honored for their contribution to the greater understanding of the culture of Macedonia here in America and for their role as "aunt and uncle" to all Macedonians who have come this way. The celebration took place in the lovely little American town of Langley on Whidbey Island near Seattle, Washington, USA.

The story of this most recent celebration of Macedonian culture here in our region of America really begins for me back in the fall of 1975. It was that year that, as a young man, I arrived in Seattle, after hitchhiking out to the West Coast of America from Michigan. When I first came to Seattle I stayed in a communal house in the Madrona neighborhood where another young Michigan friend was already living at the time.

I had spent part of that previous spring and summer in Macedonia, and that included helping an old uncle from the village of Ratae tend the family's sheep while staying in a bachilo, shepherd's hut, up on the Shar Planina mountain range. So I readily joined Peter Lippman and others in the household when they went to join in a Balkan dance at a local hall. And that is where I first met Atanas and Ljupka Kolarovski, who had already moved to Seattle, and Dragi Spasovski, who was studying

at the university at the time.

Although Dragi would return to Macedonia, where I would eventually visit him, and it would be many years before he returned to Seattle, I would often visit Atanas and Ljupka, especially after they opened their Yugoslavia restaurant in Seattle. Even after my wife Susan Prescott and I moved out to Whidbey Island, Ljupka and Atanas remained in our lives. In 1984 they even came out to the island to help us put on a Balkan village dance. Atanas led the dances and Ljupka, of course, had a hand in food preparation. The dance was a fundraiser to help pay for our travel and participation that summer in the Ohrid Summer Seminar on the Macedonian Language, Literature, History and Culture.

Over the years Ljupka and Atanas remained at the center of a small Balkan and Macedonian community in Seattle. No one of Macedonian heritage could pass through the region without a visit to their home. And everyone was welcomed warmly, and given advice and help either to settle in if they were immigrants, feel less homesick if they were students, or just learn a little bit about our region if they were only visiting. For many years they were Seattle's unofficial Macedonian cultural ambassadors and consuls, and their home an unofficial consulate.

I have always looked for ways to repay nearly 40 years of generosity, encouragement and hospitality, for all of those delicious meals, the muabets - - those slow, ambling Macedonian conversations -- and the helping hand. One of these came when I featured Atanas and his role as premier world-traveling teacher of Macedonian dance

and music in a presentation I gave at an academic conference at the University of Utah a few years ago. Now I have managed to extend that recognition to Ljupka through the April 14 program at the Northwest Language Academy (NWLA) in Langley village on Whidbey Island, which featured a dinner of Macedonian dishes of Ljupka's as well as Macedonian music and dance.

I had a bit of a hand in the preparation of this event, recommending Dragi Spasovski and his fellow musicians for the music, and offering a historical and cultural presentation on Macedonia at the academy on the Wednesday prior to the dinner/dance spring celebration, along with journalist Peter Lippman, who has expanded his interest in the Balkans in recent years with active work there with peace organizations. I encouraged NWLA director Josette Hendrix to enlist Ljupka Kolarovska in the food preparation.

For me this event was very special, bringing together a number of old friends to celebrate a special Macedonian something that has always united us as kindred spirits. See the Northwest Language Academy website [nwlanguageacademy.com](http://nwlanguageacademy.com) for details about this event.



## NEWS FROM YOU

**Diana Aitova** (BA 2009) spent a year in Moscow, Russia working in consulting and volunteering with the Foundation for Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and is now back in the US, waiting to begin graduate studies in August; she will be attending Yale for her MBA.

**Michele Anciaux Aoki** (PhD 1991) is busy with preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Russian STARTALK programs at the UW. "Our Teacher Program runs July 9-20, and the Student Program is July 16 – August 10. I am the Program Director for the Teacher Program this year. We had an amazing experience last summer, and I'm looking forward to it again this year. If you are in the area, stop by and visit us in Denny Hall 123 9 am – 3 pm daily (except when we're at the Museum of Flight for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) part of the program. Or check out the STARTALK website: <http://depts.washington.edu/startalk/>.

"I am just completing my 4<sup>th</sup> year as the World Languages Program Supervisor at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in Olympia. I have now added the duties of International Education Program Supervisor, and Supt. Randy Dorn recently renewed our Memorandum of Understanding with Nantes, France, to promote the learning of French language and culture in our state. At the meeting with the representative from Nantes, Supt. Dorn indicated his support for teaching many languages in our state (even if a lot of districts now tell him that they'd like to start offering Chinese). I'm glad that at the state level there is recognition that one language is not better than another. In fact, looking at the statewide enrollment data, it looks like we are actually seeing an expansion of languages offered. I am hopeful that we'll see more and more Russian in future years too. Our STARTALK program is one good source of new teachers in K-12 schools.

"My biggest project this year has been

piloting testing for Competency-Based Credits for world languages. There is not space here to describe the whole thing, but you can find information and presentations on the OSPI website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/CompetencyBasedCredits.aspx>.

Noteworthy is that well over 300-350 students have earned from 1-4 high school credits for languages that they have not learned in the typical high school class. Most of these are students receiving English Language Learner services in high school (so, usually fairly recent arrivals from their home countries). Several dozen are dual immersion 8<sup>th</sup> grade students transitioning into high school. Besides Spanish, Mandarin, Japanese, French, and Arabic, we worked with Vietnamese, Russian (over a dozen students), Nepali, Amharic, and Somali students and even American Sign Language. I am expecting this to be a major focus of my time next year, and I could not be more thrilled for these students whose "less commonly taught languages" (with the exception of Spanish) have, generally, not gotten any attention before.

"In our family, we have much to look forward to this summer, including an Aoki family reunion in Seattle in early July and the wedding of our daughter, Natalya Aoki, on August 12 in Annapolis, MD. She is marrying her sweetheart from the Naval Academy, who is now out on submarines, while she completes helicopter training. Our son Ante Hoath, who has been living in St. Petersburg, Russia for the past six years, is also coming home for the wedding and visits with family and friends.

"I have to close by saying that a highlight for me this year was attending the wonderful Balkan Conference organized this spring by Bojan Belić. It was a trip down memory lane to visit with old friends like Ronnie Alexander and Victor Friedman. To see how the field of Balkan linguistics has evolved now that Albanian is more open for

research was also fascinating. The surprise retirement party for Professor Jim Augerot and evening of singing and dancing on Saturday night made it an unforgettable experience. Thank you to Bojan and Jim!"

**Bud Bard** (MA 1966) wrote in, saying that he certainly remembered two instructors he had for Russian in the early fifties: Vadim Pahn and Noah Gershevsky. "Pahn was a real character, who loved fishing, and Gershevsky was a real gentleman. I do remember there were a few children of Russian emigres who spoke fluent Russian and were taking the class for an easy credit. They used to stay in the back of the class and certainly irked the professors, as they were jabbering away in Russian all the time."

**Nina Boe** (BA 2010) admitted to being one of those people to find out what other alums are up to. As of last year, she finished a course in Peace Studies at the University of Oslo's International Summer School, spent a few months in NYC, and is now preparing to leave in September for a year of work and service in Sao Paulo, Brazil. "Already heard of a decent Serbian restaurant there, believe it or not! Am also applying for an MA in Global Affairs from NYU, hopefully to begin in 2013 when I am done in Brazil, but we will see what happens – might find a way to keep traveling. A Bosnian friend of mine from Canada and I started a website, ThePeaceBlog.org, and have been busy trying to get that off the ground as well. Things are good!"

**Robert Box** (REECAS 1996) is still living in the Czech Republic (16 years now), "which has done wonders for my fluency in Czech. Otherwise, my wife, 4 bilingual children, 3 cats and I are enjoying the Czech countryside, since we moved a few miles outside of Prague a couple years ago. I am traveling in the region often since I am responsible for international business in East and Central Europe for a Swedish consulting

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company."

Al and **Gray (Carpenter) Church** (BA 1977) visited **Anne** (MA 1978) and John **Winski** and Joyce Gross over the Memorial Day holiday. It was Al's first time in Seattle and Gray's first trip back in 20 years. Anne chauffeured a quick drive past the Русский Дом and Anne, Joyce, and Gray enjoyed recalling many happy times with good friends.

**Christina (deMille) McCormick** (BA 2000) writes, "I got married in 2009 and had my first child, a son, last August. I am currently a project manager at an independent nonprofit in South Lake Union focused on basic research in infectious disease. I regret that my job affords me little opportunity to speak Russian but I try to keep my language skills up by reading and listening to Russian talk radio."

"Well, here's the news from me (**Emily Fields Saunders**, MA 1997). I've, strangely and fortunately enough, found part-time employment that allows me to work from home and to drop kids off and pick them up again from the places that they need to be dropped off at and picked up from. I teach Russian language online to high school kids in Pennsylvania. At first I was skeptical, but it's amazing what you can actually do online. I've been learning how to create learning activities in Blackboard and Softchalk as well as how to make best use of the features available in Elluminate web-conferencing for Live Class sessions (think Skype with a juiced up super-cool whiteboard). One definite plus to conducting a Live Class online is that your realia and props are all clipart. No need to lug a heavy bag full of props from your car or the bus stop all the way to a brick and mortar classroom. Just find the correct folder and click upload! Also no xeroxing of handouts!

"At any rate the regular school year finished about two weeks ago and now I'm gearing up for a virtual language

summer camp that'll run (if it gets enough sign-ups!) the last two weeks of July with Live Class sessions daily 9-11am Eastern Time and supplementary online activities for the afternoons. It's an intense two weeks! Anyone interested in signing their high school aged kid up? Send me a note at [esaunders@blendedschools.net](mailto:esaunders@blendedschools.net) or go to [http://li.blendedschools.net/summer\\_camp.php](http://li.blendedschools.net/summer_camp.php)."

"I (**Lisa Frumkes**, PhD 1996) enjoyed seeing other department alums and friends both at the AATSEEL reception in January and at Jim Augerot's retirement party this spring. As I write this, I'm 45 minutes away from presenting at the CALICO (Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium) conference at Notre Dame. I've been attending this conference semi-regularly since 1990. For me, it's always more like a festive reunion than a work obligation. Speaking of work: I continue to expand my horizons at Apex Learning, where I've been working since 2003; this year, I oversaw the development of a third-year Spanish course for high school students. Looking forward to a somewhat restful summer!"

**Serge Gregory** (PhD 1977) is working on "By the Salish Sea," a landscape film told from the perspective of a Salish shaman. It is funded by a City Artist grant from the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs and is scheduled for completion this November.

**Allan Mustard** (BA 1978) is settled into U.S. Embassy New Delhi as chief of the agriculture section, overseeing USDA activities in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

**David Nemerever** (BA 1976) writes that he is "working as a medical transcriptionist with the UW Medical Center. I have not given up my Russian, though, and after having

graduated 36 years ago am finally reading through Eugene Oegin in Russian and enjoying it immensely."

"I decided to drop a quick line about myself. Actually today I (**Elena Ogden**, BA 2011) am heading off to Boston. I got accepted into the graduate program in Slavic Linguistics at Boston College and have been awarded a research assistantship and tuition remission scholarship for the entire first year. Hopefully, with the training I got during my undergrad studies, I will be able to receive this honor next year, too. I wanted to thank UW's Slavic Department and especially the people who taught me. Without the knowledge you gave me, I would have never achieved this. Thanks!"

**Ann (Аня) Romeo** (BA 1979): Have been with my company, now called ORC International, for 26 years (and just survived our most recent round of layoffs). My team is based in Minneapolis, my company is HQed in New Jersey, but my heart is still in NYC, and I've been telecommuting for the past 13 years. I'm a Senior Analyst on our Industrial/Techology team, and basically get to play trivial pursuit for a living--and I still love my job! In the past few years I've become very active in the local duplicate bridge community, and love organizing the hospitality for our many local tournaments. We have a game in the U-District every Friday night--come join us ([annromeo@gmail.com](mailto:annromeo@gmail.com) for more info). I made Life Master last year, also Bronze Life Master (which means, basically I play a lot of not very good bridge). And this past fall, I helped to host the NABC Nationals, participated in the Bridge Follies (I got to belt out a great tune about my bad bridge play), and helped to organize a cruise for 280 people. Looking forward, I hope to spend more time with my Slavic buddies from college days--we all need to keep in touch.

"Hello, from Russia with love! **Anthony Schlumpf** (BA 2011) here in Moscow..."



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Well, after graduating from UW last year I took a job teaching English at EF English First in Moscow and I must say that it was a success! I have become much more confident in my own native language (with grammar) and can even speak Russian freely now after living here for ten months. I have adored almost every step of the process along the way so I have decided to continue living in Moscow. I recently signed another one-year contract at a company called CREF to teach English in a corporate business setting. Honestly, It was a little rough getting settled into the Russian lifestyle at first, but I managed well, even though surviving my first Russian winter was the greatest challenge of all. I have had a British roommate and we have even been able to learn many idiomatic phrases from each other as well. So it has been really enlightening to be able to culturally expand my language skills from all angles.

“Everything has been such a wonderful experience thus far. The greatest part about living here is that I still get to play baseball with the highest professional baseball league and even play on the team that won the Russian championship the past three straight years. Most of my teammates also play on the national team, and of course I cannot play with that part without Russian citizenship. So, do not be surprised to hear from me again in the future regarding my marrying a beautiful Russian girl to obtain citizenship for such reasons. I'm joking... or am I?

“In other news, I also recently decided to go to graduate school to obtain my master's degree. I was admitted and will start with an online program at the University of South Florida this fall before eventually moving to St. Petersburg, FL to study on campus. I will be studying physical education and kinesiology and will some day soon be qualified to teach English, Russian, and Sports back in America. It is more of my dream to do all that while coaching

baseball at a college or high school. I will be returning to the States later this week and plan on dropping by UW in late July for Russian Table and conversations with whoever will be putting them on. I am very thankful to the entire staff in the UW Slavic Department for pushing me so hard to become more educated. The dedication to a higher education has fully permeated my Russian soul and has become an addiction! See you soon, UW!”

“After spending 23 years in North Africa and the Middle East, my husband John and I (**Janet Searle Minear Sharp**, BA 1976) are now settled in Mililani, HI. I am a teacher/librarian in an elementary school and loving it. I still subscribe to magazines written in Russian, and enjoy the challenge of trying to keep up. I fondly look back with gratitude on wonderful teachers Mr. Gribanovsky, Mrs. Holdsworth, and others. “

**Scott Sharp** (MA 1998) lives in Portland and continues to practice criminal defense in Hillsboro, OR. “I recently taught a class on criminal law at a convention in Bend, OR. I work with all the Russian speakers who are appointed attorneys at the Public Defenders office. I and some of my cases have been mentioned in the OregonLive news section. The cases are unpalatable to some, so I won't go into details, but if anyone is interested, go to Oregonlive.com and do a search for me and you'll find some of my cases.”

**Cheryl Spasojević** (BA 1967) is in Vuckovica right now for three weeks “as my mom is no longer up to traveling with me, and since she lives with me, I can't be away for long. As it is, others are coming in to stay with her while I am here. I basically had to come to pick up a new bank card in person so that I

can keep up the utilities here online.”

“Well, I graduated two years ago. Since then I (**Cody Swartz**) haven't done everything I've wanted to do, but I have managed to retain a job in a clinic where I take blood and have managed to pay off my debt. I've also been saving for a house and then plan to return to school for an MBA. I began teaching a volunteer English program at the Russian Community Center in Seattle last year; the program has changed into a conversation group that former graduate student **Tim Wellman** (MA 2009) and I now maintain. Unfortunately, because of my heavy work schedule, I have not traveled as much as I would like, however, I am planning to fly to Germany for a short vacation in September, with a possible day trip to the Czech Republic.”

**Dana Weintraub** (MA 1992) writes, “All's well here in San Diego. Interesting things going on at work -- more shifts in thinking that keep my brain active and alive. Nothing newsworthy, but just a lot of fun. I am coming up to Seattle mid-month to attend the high school graduation of my nieces (they live in Silverdale) -- looking forward to catching up with old Seattle friends, too.”

“It still seems like just yesterday that I (**Jared West**, MA 2003) was hanging around the Slavic Department and enjoying my time at UW. I miss everyone there! I don't think I have any big updates. I am still working in the Leadership Development department facilitating leadership courses. Since I quit flying back in 2009, I have gotten back into theatre. Yep, I'm acting, singing and dancing as often as I can.”

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