

Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,

Please allow me to introduce myself: my name is Katarzyna (Kat) Dziwirek and as of July 2012 I am the new chair of the department. I am originally from Łódź, Poland. Before coming to the UW in 1993, I studied at the University of Łódź, the University of Illinois, and UC San Diego, and held a post-doc at Simon Fraser University in BC. I teach Polish and linguistics and my research areas are syntax, semantics and pragmatics, particularly of emotion expressions.

The word that comes to mind as I take over the chair's duties from Professor Galya Diment, who was our chair for the past 12 years, is

stewardship. Galya has shepherded the department very successfully through the good and not so good times, and I can only hope that when my term ends in 2017 the department will be in as good a shape. Thank you, Galya, for your splendid leadership!

I am also mindful of President Young's initiative of *Tomorrow's University Today* and am looking for ways in which we can better serve our ever-changing student population. Many of our majors and minors are transfer students, and we are hoping to reach more such students via hybrid courses and moodles that would enable them to take Slavic language courses away from campus and join the department as they transfer to the UW.

Autumn was a busy and productive quarter in the Slavic Department. We welcomed two Fulbright scholars to campus, Dr. Elkhan Azimov from Russia who is conducting research on a Russian-English dictionary of pedagogical terminology, and Dr. Jacek Mikołajczyk from Poland, who is teaching some exciting

courses for us: during autumn a course on Contemporary Polish Theater and during winter a course on Terrorism in Eastern Europe. We also sponsored lectures on "Household and Gender Roles in 19th Century Central Europe," "Eight Days in Bulgaria," and "Polysemy copying or grammaticalization? The Recipient Passive in West Slavic Languages with

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Special Attention to Kashubian.”

The Slavic Department has provided an excellent education for many generations of students, and we hope to continue to do so in the future despite the unprecedented cuts in state funding for higher education. Over the course of the last three years, we have had to learn to do more with less. We have persevered. Our faculty are busy teaching and preparing new courses which we hope will appeal to wide audiences, and we are engaged with other departments in reshaping our graduate education to include digital humanities and certificates, such as the *Graduate Certificate in Second and Foreign Language Teaching*, the *Graduate Certificate in Russian, East European, Central Asia Studies*, the *Certificate in Public Scholarship* and several others. Our current and future graduate students will be better prepared for their careers beyond UW.

Given the diminishing level of state funding, the fundraising efforts of the local Slavic communities on behalf of the department are more essential than ever. In this regard, I am very proud to report that the Ukrainian community came together to

raise funds for a course in Ukrainian literature and culture, which Dr. Maria Rewakowicz, our affiliate faculty member, will teach in Winter 2013. Prof. James West and Prof. Emeritus Eugene Lemcio (SPU) were instrumental in getting this initiative off the ground. Thank you! The UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee, led by the amazing Krystyna Untersteiner, held a dinner and auction, celebrating the 150th anniversary of UW and 60 years of Polish instruction at UW. The proceeds brought the Polish Studies Endowment Fund to \$200,000. Thank you!

I am also happy to report that the Slavic Department's Advisory Board has been reconstituted and met in September. I was very impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the new board members and their unselfish willingness to serve their communities and the department. We will continue to meet quarterly and work together. As a new chair I attended many Slavic events this fall so as to introduce myself and the department to the various communities. I went to the Polish Festival and Croatia Fest at the Seattle Center, the Czech knedliky party, the “Eight Days in Bulgaria” lecture at the

Simpson Center, the Saint Martin's Day Slovenian celebration in Redmond, and the Ukrainian concert and auction in Kirkland. All I can say is I am truly awed by the vitality of our local Slavic communities and hope to engage with them further in the future.

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 2013.

All the best,

Kat Dziwinski

Slavic Graduate Student Colloquium Off to a Great Start

– Veronica Muskheli

It is still an experiment, and we are still working on its format, but our new Slavic Graduate Student Colloquium that meets every second Friday of the month has been pronounced a success by the students, the staff, and the faculty. Since October 2012 five students have presented their work and received helpful input from fellow students and members of the faculty at those meetings.

Comments on the meetings themselves are overwhelmingly positive. Lena Doubivko, a Ph.D. Candidate in our department, marvels at the fact that it is the first time that she has an opportunity for a long, friendly discussion with a large supportive and informed group. She says she is happy to share her excitement about her research with the rest of the students and faculty and that she appreciates the ideas and suggestions generated during the discussion. Bonnie Layne, as the only new graduate student this year, appreciates the fact that attending the meetings gives her a greater opportunity for integration into our community of scholars, even without a cohort of her own. Dr. Jose Alaniz states that the colloquium is “the highlight of the day” for him. And together with Dr. Barbara Henry, everybody says that the colloquium is “much needed.”

The idea for such a forum originated from discussions of the Student Symposium held in May 2012. Dr. Bojan Belić pointed out that more frequent meetings would be beneficial for students. He visualized a format of weekly meetings, with students working on their presentations throughout the year, with the May symposium a culmination of those efforts. As a graduate student interested in being better prepared for conferences in general, I was in total agreement with Dr. Belić’s suggestions and offered to be an organizer of such a forum. It was an easy decision because in the email discussion that ensued, everybody made statements in support of the idea and because Lee Scheingold, an Access student in our department, most generously offered to provide edible treats for such gatherings. Food and Slavistics, what could be more enticing? I thought.

It turned out to be a bit more effort than I anticipated. All of our students not only study but work as well. As much as the idea appealed to them, many students, when they started looking hard at their calendars, realized that they could not devote that much time to the gatherings. After much emailing back and forth, we finally settled on a monthly meeting format. The slots filled quickly when I approached people personally with requests for presentations. Our proposed schedule was shared with the faculty at their meeting and received full support. The topics had a considerable variety and ranged from folklore to fitness, from statues to Stravinsky...(see talk abstracts below). We sent an e-flyer within the department and to REECAS and waited with bated breath for who would show up for the first meeting.

The inaugural meeting, just like the following ones, was very well attended. (In fact, we may have to think about getting a bigger room for our future meetings than the current Slavic Department conference room.) To lead by example, I was the first to talk. My topic was the present tense functions in oral narrative forms, such as Russian wonder tale, vs. in *skaz*, a literary form pretending to be an oral art. Probing questions and insightful comments from students and faculty allowed me to improve my talk, which I successfully presented later that month at a student conference on the East Coast. Also at that October meeting, Jason Garneau explained his notion of researching the philosophy of fitness as part of Russian culture. During the discussion, which was of a brainstorming variety, many ideas on how to approach such a topic were generated. And so, after initially not being quite sure about the narrowness of his topic, Jason was encouraged by its potential by the end of the meeting.

We went from such a nascent topic to a practically fully outlined dissertation when in November Lena Doubivko presented her work on the image of *rusalka* in Russian literature, stressing the non-traditional aspects

of the image. Lena's talk was not only fascinating but instructive, as she spoke about her dissertation writing, a shared experience that many attending students found useful. Also at that meeting, David Richardson presented his talk on statues coming to life in Venedikt Erofeev's *Moskva-Petushki*. David discussed their connections to statues coming to life in other examples of Russian literature, such as Pushkin's Bronze Horseman in an eponymous narrative poem. Aside from substantive discussion, his presentation led to a discussion on presentation skills, i.e., when to retell a story and when to read a passage. Such discussions are particularly useful input for students preparing to present at outside conferences, as Marilyn Sizer did, when in December she had a test run of her fascinating and thoroughly researched talk on Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* headed for the MLA convention in January. She found that her talk took longer than she expected, and that it needed considerable trimming to be ready for the conference.

Such technical issues as timing are one area that the colloquium allows us to address, but, more important, it allows the community of the department to improve professional communications. Research done by its members is no longer a mystery to each other. And such communications, of course, do not stop as the bell rings at the end of the colloquium's formal part. Here is a great opportunity for me to thank Lena Doubivko, who after the October meeting asked me for my actual paper and wrote for it a thorough critique, the comments of which I was able to incorporate into my conference presentation. This is an example of the team spirit that the colloquium is designed to foster.

"Team" is a key word for the success of the colloquium. Everybody attending the meetings has contributed to the common cause. But I would like to recognize two faculty members in particular: Dr. Bojan Belić and Professor Jose Alaniz, who have been present at every meeting and who have most actively participated in discussions. And, of course, Lee Sheingold deserves our particular gratitude for being "the angel" who donates and arranges treats for the meetings. Lee is there ahead of time making sure that the food is ready for the 2:30 pm "munching and mingling" portion before the 2:45 pm start of the talk portion. This is the arrangement to which we have come after noticing that everybody was too delicate to eat during presentations. Another modification is to have just a single presenter for each meeting to allow for more thorough discussion of the topic and the manner of delivery.

Next quarter's colloquium meetings promise to be just as interesting and useful. On January 11 Matt Boyd will talk about popular music culture in the former Yugoslavia just before the breakup of the country; Cyrus Rodgers will talk about the use of icon imagery in Soviet propaganda on February 8; and Bonnie Layne will talk about Daniil Kharms and absurdism in early Soviet literature on March 8. The meetings of the colloquium are open to all lovers of Slavic languages and literatures.

Fall Quarter Presentation Titles and Abstracts

Veronica Muskheli, "From Propp to Propps: Theatricality of Tense Alternation in *Skaz*"

Tense Alternation, a consistent switching from past tense to present tense is characteristic of orally delivered Russian wonder tales. I demonstrate that tense alternation functions as an identifier of Propp functions in a tale. In *skaz*, however, tense alternation may play a variety of functions, from referencing to folktales to setting theatrical mini-scenes, as in Leskov's *Levsha*.

Jason Garneau, "Philosophy of Fitness in the Soviet Union"

Fizkultura and Sport were a major part of Soviet culture. With books like Nikolai Amosov's *Thoughts on Health* and unique fitness "tools" such as the kettlebell "гиря" there is no doubt that the Soviets held strength and fitness in very high regard. With this in mind, my research will turn to how the "ideal physical man" was represented in Soviet art, music, and literature.

Lena Doubivko, "Reclaiming the Rusalka: Towards Multiplicities of Gender in Russian Visual and Literary Culture"

The presentation illuminates key ideas of my dissertation. There I focus on the *rusalka*'s revisionist depictions as an alternative, more productive vehicle for the representation of Woman in Russian visual and literary culture beyond the popular binary understanding of her ambivalent image.

David Richardson, "The Motif of Moving Statues in Erofeev's Novel *Moskva - Petushki*"

Life and statues are confused in the Venedikt Erofeev's novel *Moskva - Petushki* to impart a cinematic quality, lend to the theme of movement, and provide a critique of Soviet urban planning, especially public art.

Marilyn Sizer, "The *Rite of Spring*: Stravinsky's *Mysterium*"

This paper challenges the commonly held view that this ballet celebrates a subhuman, barbaric and dehumanized world. An examination of the cultural context in which Stravinsky and Roerich worked shows the collaborators' intention to create from a grand synthesis of the arts a ritual that would transform a world perched on the brink of chaos.



Attendees of December 7 colloquium

A Recent Conversation with Jacek Mikołajczyk, Visiting Fulbright Lecturer – Megan Styles

The Slavic Department is proud to host Jacek Mikołajczyk, our visiting Fulbright Lecturer for the 2012-2013 academic year. Jacek joins us from the University of Silesia in southern Poland. His research and teaching interests focus on the intersection between theater and politics in Eastern Europe.

Recently, Jacek sat down with Megan Styles, the Slavic Program Coordinator, for a short conversation about his impressions of Seattle and his plans for his Fulbright year.

MS: We're very happy to have you here, Jacek! Why did you choose to do a Fulbright year in Seattle?

JM: This program is prestigious in Poland now, and I received the advertisements from the Fulbright commission. This was an opportunity to teach at an American university, a good one. I knew that it would be a unique experience. I applied and went through a long process of qualification and selection, and as you can see it turned out well for me!

I didn't know anything about Seattle, except of course I had seen some movies set here. *Sleepless in Seattle* and such. After applying, I looked up Seattle and realized that it is a very affluent, culturally developed city, and I was very excited to come to a place that is very cool and very open-minded. My specialization is also in musical theater, and I knew some musicals that were born in Seattle. On an earlier trip to New York City, I saw *Memphis*, which is a production of the Fifth Avenue Theater. I found in my research that several musicals were born here, including *Hairspray*. I was very excited to discover this!

MS: What projects are you working on during your year here at UW?

Since I came here, I have been cooperating with people in the UW Drama Department. I am sitting in on a graduate seminar taught by Odai Johnson, the head of the Center for Performance Studies, on English-language drama during the 18th century. This is a fascinating period in the history of theater in England and colonial theater in American. In Poland, we don't know much about this period. We focus on German and French theater at that time.

My main field is musical theater and popular theater, which are both strongly rooted in the history of twentieth century American theater. I focus on the relations between politics and theater – not only the argument that these are always related but how we can use the tools for analyzing theater life for analyzing social and political life. This is interesting because performance is also taking place in politics, not just in theater.

MS: Which classes will you be teaching at UW? Are you doing anything with your students that you are particularly excited about or proud of?

My next course is on the history of terrorism in Eastern Europe, specifically the relations between politics, literature, and culture. Terrorism is also performance. The main idea of the kind of fight [involved in terrorism] is to show people that, 'I'm doing something dangerous. These things are connected with this approach – through the lens of performance. This is also a course on the history of this difficult problem. How is it reflected in literature and culture?

During autumn quarter, I taught a very exciting course on contemporary Polish theater. The main problem in teaching this course is that you must be a spectator to understand it! It's difficult to study contemporary theater outside of Poland. So I relied heavily on recorded



performances. The students were very interested in taking advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about Polish directors and watch these recordings. The difference in cultural context made it challenging! What was obvious to me was hard for the students to grasp. They had to move from an American to a Polish context. It was absolutely fascinating, and we succeeded! I think it was eye-opening for the students and for me.

The whole approach to theater is different in Poland. Theater is not entertainment. In the 1970s through the 1990s, this was a way of discussing reality and the problems that we were facing. The theater was really an island of freedom during the Communist era, a place where people could escape and talk about what is difficult, what pains them in life. The theater is therapy. When we go, we go to discuss difficult and painful problems, not just to enjoy. Polish theater touches difficult things – sexuality, our place in the world, our place in Europe. The director is fighting for something or fighting with someone, sometimes even with the audience. The director is telling them uncomfortable things about themselves. This was different from what the students were used to.

This quarter, I also directed a performance with Ph.D. students in the Slavic Department and other programs at UW for the Polish Community Auction. It was also a celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of teaching Polish language at UW. It was fascinating because they were not

actors! It was a fifteen-minute performance with some challenging limitations. It's not easy to stand on a stage and perform. We had to find a modern way of telling people the very strange Polish fairy tale of Wawel the Dragon. And we were very modern! We did it without any words. It was like a silent movie performed live with the music from *Shrek*. The music helped us combine an old fairy tale with a modern one. It has interesting results, and I think the audience really enjoyed it.

MS: What is your current academic position or affiliation at home?

At home, I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Silesia in southern Poland, and I also work as a dramaturge [a drama consultant] at the Gliwice Musical Theater. We put on translations of big musical productions. Most recently, we did *Tarzan* with music by Phil Collins.

MS: How does the University of Washington compare to your home institution?

The first thing is that you have a truly amazing library! This is very fascinating for a Fulbright fellowship. The collections are very big, strong, and accurate. It's easy to get access to anything. Everything works perfectly, and it's a beautiful building. This library is an A+!

The students at UW are also different. Here I'm teaching an elective course with many different majors. In Poland, all of my students specialize in theater or culture. Here I start with an introduction and take a broader approach. I can be more specific in Poland. There are positives and negatives. Students here work very hard, and I would say they are little bit lazier in Poland, except at the end of the quarter. I was very pleased with my students this past quarter. They had to write three papers, and the third had a much broader theme. They had to choose a single theater director. I was impressed with the way they pulled together knowledge from lectures,

readings, and their individual research. The papers were very interesting.

The other scholars here in the department are also very supporting and positive. You [in the United States] combine work more with social life. There are parties organized by departments, events that are very friendly, unofficial, and informal. There is an openness among colleagues that I really enjoy here.

MS: What do you miss most about home?

I miss the theater! It's very unique and specific in Poland. Before I left, I knew all of the productions in development, and I am missing them all while I am here. I'll have to catch up when I go home. I read the reviews on the internet, and I think, 'I want to see that!' Fortunately, I've discovered some interesting theater here in Seattle, like the Washington Ensemble Theater, a very small venue in Capitol Hill. My wife and I have seen all of their performances this season.

MS: Many of our alumni and supporters are interested in popular books, movies, and plays developed by artists and scholars living in Eastern Europe, but it can be difficult to follow the latest developments from afar. Can you recommend any recent books, movies, or plays that you find interesting and enjoyable?

Thanks to my course, the UW library bought a Polish Contemporary Theater Collection. The collection includes not only theater performances, but also footage of two opera productions. If people are interested, they should watch these! Also, my favorite recent production is *Krum* by Walikowsky. It's the story of a young man going back to Israel after staying in Texas in the U.S. He tries to find his place in life again and establish strong relationships with other people, and he fails. It's the most complex and emotional of all of his works. It shows why he's such a

celebrity and why his voice is so important. Great music, great acting. But it's very sad. The problems that it deals with are difficult.

MS: Are you planning to do any traveling while you're in the United States? Where will you be going and why?

Yes! Next week I'm going to New York City. I was there two years ago, and it was very exciting. I'm spending a week there, and I'm going to seven or eight Broadway and off-Broadway plays. One is a first preview, so I'll be seeing it before it even opens – *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with Scarlett Johansson.

MS: What's next for you? Where are you headed after the fellowship year?

At my university in Poland, we're starting new majors and establishing new fields of research. We're going to change from a focus on the history of theater to a new focus on media and communications. We'll have to create new programs for teaching, and it will be a lot of work. But it's very exciting. I'm hoping that my life in theater will also continue. I want to direct, especially musicals from the U.S., not just Broadway hits but smaller things to rehearse with a small ensemble. I'm on the lookout here for something to direct!

A Recent Conversation with Elkhan Azimov, Visiting Fulbright Researcher – Megan Styles

The Slavic Department is also proud to host Elkhan Azimov, a visiting Fulbright Researcher who is here for five months working on an exciting Russian dictionary project. Elkhan joins us from the Pushkin Institute of Russian Language in Moscow, where he specializes in the teaching of Russian as a foreign language.

Megan also had the exciting opportunity to speak to Elkhan about his plans for his Fulbright fellowship.

MS: Why did you choose to do a Fulbright year in Seattle?

I sent a letter about my project to several different institutions in the United States. I received several different offers, and the Fulbright office in Moscow decided that the University of Washington would be the best. I also received a very welcoming letter from Professor Galya Diment explaining the benefits of coming here. Some of the universities that I wrote to never replied, others sent a letter but did not give me much information. Professor Diment's letter was very kind and cordial. I felt that this would be the best place to work on my project.

MS: What projects are you working on during your time here at UW?

I am writing an English-Russian dictionary designed specifically for language teachers. It will include explanations of vocabulary terms and verbs that will help them with their work in language instruction. For example, it will be good for heritage speakers and for people learning English as a second language. It will be a dictionary that works well for people that are bilingual, for older people, or for anyone who may need additional help understanding these terms. I already have a contract with a publisher in Russia, and it should come out at the end of 2013.

The library here has been very useful. It has a wonderful collection of special

publications, and you have the ability to special order texts that are not available in Russia. I have also visited classes in different departments that are focused on language teaching, and I have been consulting with professors here about this issue. These contacts are also very useful in my work.

MS: What is your current academic position or affiliation at home?

I am a Professor at the Pushkin Institute of Russian Language in Moscow. My department focuses on the psychology and methodology of teaching foreign languages. We cover English, Russian, and German. My research focuses on teaching Russian as a foreign language. Many of our students are teachers who are completing their service training.

MS: How does the University of Washington compare to your home institution?

The main thing that I notice about UW is the size. Our institution is not so big, maybe one thousand students and only one field of study. You have forty thousand students and many different departments. You also have enormous resources, especially the library and the electronic reserves.

MS: What do you miss most about home?

I don't know. In the new electronic era, with Skype and email, I don't feel homesick or alone. It's easy to keep in touch. I do miss the theater. I love theater performances, and I go to them frequently in Moscow. We have a great tradition of these. I have been to the Seattle Repertory Theatre three times since I've been here, and all of the performances have been excellent.

MS: Are you planning to do any traveling while you're in the United States? Where will you be going and why?

Yes, I was invited to Los Angeles as a



guest lecturer at UCLA. I also visited friends in Washington, D.C. They are teachers of Russian, and we discussed teaching Russian in the United States. If I had more time, I would go to San Francisco or Chicago, but I'm out of time! Maybe during my next visit! San Francisco is very famous in Russian literature, and it's not far from here. I hear that Chicago has beautiful architecture.

MS: What's next for you? Where are you headed after the end of your fellowship?

I will teach at my institution and finish the dictionary project. My next project is about the development of Russian electronic media, and the way that language and communication change with emails and texting and the internet. I already published a book on this topic, and now I have to revise it for the second edition and include Twitter and using Russian in Facebook and social media.

As a teacher of Russian, I am often invited to lecture abroad. I've been to Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland, China, Mali, and Congo. An important part of my work is to travel and meet teachers and students of Russian all over the world. The number of students studying Russian has declined, but there are still many departments left. I want to help them improve their language instruction.

UW POLISH STUDIES

Looking Back at Autumn 2012



Krystyna Untersteiner welcomes attendees

October 27, 2012. A “Celebration of 150th Anniversary of the UW and 60 years of teaching Polish at the UW” was held at the Polish Cultural Center. The evening was filled with tasty treats, silent auction treasures, music, good cheer, newfound friends, and captivating ideas and facts from the guest speakers: Robert Stacey, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, UW Historian Antoinette Wills, Polish Studies Alumna Bridget Swirski, and UW PSEC member Martha Golubiec. A short skit, “The Legend of the Wawel Dragon,” a modern adaptation of a famous Polish legend staged by Jacek Mikołajczyk, Polish

Studies Fulbright Lecturer, and the UW students, topped the evening.



Dean Robert Stacey



Historian Antoinette Wills



Alumna Bridget Swirski



Students perform “The Legend of the Wawel Dragon”

November 11 - 13, 2012. The Polish Studies participated in the Boeing/Lot Airlines Dreamliner festivities. LOT is the first European airline to receive the new jet; in celebration of this happening, there were many events, both public and private, including Witkacy Theater workshop, held at the UW’s School of Drama. The interaction between the Polish actors and the students was very positive, with some students even attending the Witkacy performance at the Polish Cultural Center.

November 29, 2012. “Household and Gender Roles in 19th Century Central Europe,” a lecture by Dr. Tomasz Pudłocki. Dr. Pudłocki presented selected aspects of household and gender roles in 19th-century Central European communities, examining diverse social classes and their everyday life conditions, marriage, as well as single life. Dr. Tomasz Pudłocki is a historian from Jagiellonian University



(Krakow, Poland) and this year's Kosciuszko Foundation Grantee at Columbia University.

Look What's Coming in 2013!



January 7-29, 2013. Exhibit in Allen Library Lobby: "Rafał Olbiński – Jazz on the Cover"

The exhibit will feature 30 magazine covers designed by Rafał Olbiński for *Jazz Forum*. The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours.

January 17, 2013. Official opening of the exhibit by Rafał Olbiński, followed by a lecture in the Walker Ames Room in Kane Hall at 7:30 pm focusing on how Olbiński's experience in Poland prepared him for his New York artistic career. Reception with the artist after the lecture. The event is free and open to the public.



April 25, 2013 at 7:30 pm, Kane Hall Room 220. Lecture "Challenges in Face Transplantation" Dr. Maria Siemionow, world-renowned Polish scientist and microsurgeon, will be a guest lecturer. She is the Plastic Surgery Section head at the Cleveland Clinic (Ohio). She gained public attention in December 2008, when she led a team of six surgeons in a 22-hour surgery, performing the first face transplant in the United States. The event is free and open to the public.

More information to come.

UW Polish Studies Endowment Fund reaches \$200,000!

Thanks to the generosity of our donors who contributed over \$12,000 at the occasion of our recent fundraising, we were able to fulfill our goal of reaching \$200,000 by the end of 2012. Please help us continue the 60-year-old tradition of teaching Polish at the UW. Your tax-deductible gift will ensure that future generations of students will "THANK YOU" for giving them an opportunity to study Polish and learn about the Polish culture. Dziękujemy!

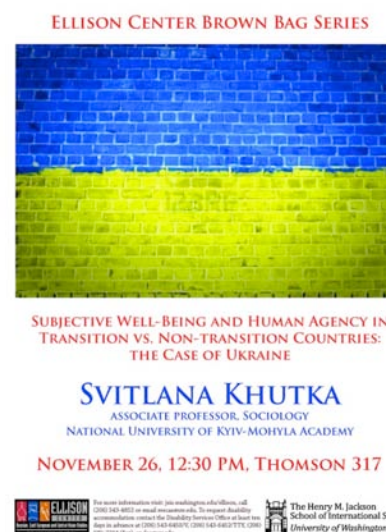
UKRAINIAN STUDIES ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (USEC)

It has been a memorable year for the Ukrainian Studies Program at the University of Washington. First, the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee (USEC) resumed the publication of its electronic newsletter, and we are proud to have just published the third issue this year. Second, our fundraising efforts considerably intensified in the second half of the year, raising close to \$10,000 for the instruction of Ukrainian literature and culture courses, beginning in Winter 2013. Moreover, with the assistance of the Ukrainian Association of Washington State, for the first time ever we held a live auction benefiting the Ukrainian Studies Program at Kirkland Performance Center on Nov. 25, which was a great success.



During autumn quarter we also welcomed a visiting scholar from the National

University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” in Ukraine, Dr. Svitlana Khutka, Associate Professor of Sociology, who was a Research Carnegie Fellow at the UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. On Nov. 26, 2012, as part of the Ellison Center Brown Bag Series, Dr. Khutka presented a lecture on **Human Agency and Subjective Well-being in Transition vs. Non-transition Countries**. Her talk analyzed the cross-cultural relationship between life satisfaction, happiness and feeling of freedom (on the basis of 83 countries from World Values Survey data) in mostly post-socialist (transition) countries compared to non-transition countries. She examined individual- and country-level differences of institutional settings as drivers of human development in relation to the level of economic development, quality of life, and democratization, and concluded that that kind of research is important to Ukraine as it attempts to develop public policy solutions in the sphere of “national accounts of well-being.”



Finally, on Dec. 1, 2012, Prof. Laada Bilaniuk and Dr. Maria Rewakowicz participated in a workshop **Teaching Ukrainian Studies in North America**, organized by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Victoria, and shared their presentations with other scholars from Canadian universities. Prof. Bilaniuk’s talk examined the politics inherent in teaching “high” and “low” aspects of Ukrainian culture and Dr. Rewakowicz’s talk focused on the challenges and rewards of teaching Ukrainian literature in translation.

RECENT POPULAR FILMS & NOVELS OF INTEREST TO SLAVIC SCHOLARS

Anna Karenina [Film, 2012]. British director Joe Wright (*Pride and Prejudice* and *Atonement*) approached this re-telling of Tolstoy's masterpiece as "a ballet with words." The actors move through each scene with choreographed precision and exaggerated, dancelike movements. The *New York Times*' A.O. Scott describes Wright's adaptation as "risky and ambitious enough to count as an act of artistic hubris, and confident enough to triumph on its own slightly — wonderfully — crazy terms." Keira Knightley, Jude Law, and Aaron Taylor-Johnson star as the adulteress heroine, her husband, and lover. See it in a theater near you to judge for yourself how it compares to the novel! *New York Times* review: <http://movies.nytimes.com/2012/11/16/movies/anna-karenina-from-by-joe-wright-with-keira-knightley.html>

Freud's Sister [2012]. Joyce Carol Oates describes this novel, written by Goce Smilevski and translated from the original Macedonian by Christina E. Kramer, as a "meditative work of fiction" pervaded by "an air of paralyzing melancholia." The narrative follows the life of Adolfina, one of Sigmund Freud's four sisters, who were condemned to the Terezín concentration camp after Freud left Vienna for London in 1938. Given the opportunity to list the people whom he wished to take with him, Freud neglected to name his sisters. The novel is a work of historical fiction that reconstructs the life and voice of a person about whom virtually nothing is known. Oates writes that Smilevski's "appropriation of the private life of Freud's youngest sister Adolfina and of the Holocaust generally is bold and unexpected." *Publisher's Weekly* concludes, "Though occasionally plodding, Adolfina's story is deeply moving, and Smilevski's approach to her final moments is unforgettable." *New York Review of Books* entry by Joyce Carol Oates: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/dec/06/very-sad-freud/>. *Publisher's Weekly* review: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-14-312145-9>

How to Get Into the Twin Palms [2012]. This novel by Karolina Waclawiak, chronicles the misadventures of Zosia, a twenty-five-year-old Polish immigrant living in Los Angeles, who reinvents herself as Russian in order to get into the Twin Palms, a local Russian nightclub. She dyes her hair, dons new clothes, and assumes the name Anya as part of her elaborate ruse. The book has received some critical acclaim, but reviewer Abigail Deutsch (of the *NY Times*) warns us, "While the novel's improvisational quality complements the character, it confounds the reader." <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/21/books/review/how-to-get-into-the-twin-palms-by-karolina-waclawiak.html?>

FACULTY NEWS

Two of Galya Diment's books are coming out as paperbacks in winter and spring 2013: **Pniniad** (UW Press) in February and **A Russian Jew of Bloomsbury** (McGill-Queens UP) in April. Both will also be available on Kindle, Nook and Kobo. In other news, she has been appointed as the Thomas L. & Margo G. Wyckoff Endowed Faculty Fellow for a three-year term effective April 1, 2013.

THE YELLOW ROOM

Shosh Westen sent a nice reminder to share memories for the newsletter. I am pleased to do so. I entered the University of Washington in the fall of 1951, determined to follow a love of fishing. Classes in Fisheries and Oceanography were of great interest to me, but science did not seem to be my forte. Finally, taking a Biology class taught by the future Washington State Governor, Professor Dixie Lee Ray, when I had to dissect frogs in the lab, changed my mind and set me on an interesting path. A language class was part of the curriculum requirements in those days, and I was interested in Russian. I had taken Russian classes at the Downtown Seattle YMCA during high school years, so it was a natural.

What wonderful and interesting individuals taught Russian! My main instructors were Professors Noah Gershevsky and Vadim Pahn. Professor Gershevsky was an excellent instructor, a charming gentleman, but the students got away with a lot in his classroom! I recall two young attractive ladies, who were daughters of Russian immigrants, and spoke Russian fluently (they were obviously in the class to get an "A") and sat in the back of the class chattering away. He did not have the demeanor to clamp down on them, and they would continue to chatter in Russian and often giggle and disrupt class. Professor Pahn loved to fish and tell stories about his fishing trips. Perhaps this made my transition easier from Fisheries to the Far Eastern and Russian Institute. Pahn did not brook any disruptions to his teaching of the language or the telling of his fish stories, and the young ladies were silent! But they often would join me and other Russian students at the HUB in drinking vodka disguised as water. Did I really say that?

My early memories of the Institute, which was located in Thomson Hall and was to become The Jackson School in later years, revolved around the interesting professors that many of us held in awe! The names that I recall were, of course, Professors Gershevsky and Pahn. Then there were Professors Wilhelm, Wittfogel, Tatsumi, Poppe - who I believe was a Mongolian scholar and responsible for bringing some Buddhist Monks to the campus; also the "Dragon Lady" (not named by me, but a common one used by the students of a very physically short, but imposing, professor of Chinese), and Don Treadgold, a renowned professor of Russian history. I remember being thrilled to receive an "A" from him! And then there was George Taylor. Early on I enrolled in Far Eastern 310, taught by Professor Taylor. He was an excellent instructor, but this was the only course I took from George. In later years we came to know each other professionally when he became head of the Washington State Council on International Trade. During a meeting with him on mutual interests one time, he said, "Yes, I remembered you, but I never thought that you would amount to a hill of beans." He did have a great sense of humor.

By now you will wonder why I titled these memories of 1951 to 1955, when I graduated with a BA in Russian Studies, "The Yellow Room?" The Yellow Room was on the third floor of Thomson Hall. The window into that room was always covered over so one could not see into that room, and the door was locked. I, and other students, would often see these awesome professors go into that room, but never students! What went on in that room? We could only imagine! But you can guess what we thought! Well, I finally found out - nothing! I returned to the UW to pursue an MA in Slavic and Linguistic studies in 1961, finishing in 1966. I was asked to defend my MA Thesis in the Yellow Room. I was more excited to see the room than worried about my thesis defense. The room was spartan and nothing special, and I don't even recall the color. In retrospect, it had to be a place for the professors to get away from us!

*Of all his many accomplishments during his distinguished career, **Burton E. "Bud" Bard Jr.** claims to be most proud of the following:*

- *Founding President of the American Cultural Exchange, 1973*
- *Founding President of the Ethnic Heritage Council, 1980*
- *Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1998 by the UW Multicultural Alumni Partnership*
- *Founding President of the Seattle Sister Cities Association*

NEWS FROM YOU

In June Al and **Gray (Carpenter) Church** (BA 1977) went bird watching and sport fishing in Belize. They saw some fabulous birds and then flew to Ambergris Caye to go fishing and snorkeling. "Sadly, our underwater camera malfunctioned and was ruined, and the photos along with it. Otherwise, I could have sent you photos of me holding a 5-foot-long "sleeping" Nurse shark and feeding stingrays. The wildlife down there is unbelievable (or as they say down there, it's unBELIZEable!)" They will be moving into their new home in Temecula, CA, in January 2013.

Roy Chan's (BA 2002) response follows: "This fall quarter I was lucky enough to spend my junior research leave from The College of William and Mary as a Visiting Scholar under sponsorship from the UW's Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures. While in Seattle, I put the finishing touches to my manuscript titled "The Edge of Knowing: Dreams, History, and Realism in Modern Chinese Literature," which I submitted to a publisher and is now under review. With the first book project submitted, I went back to my second book project, a comparative study of the theme of sovereign crisis in modern Chinese and Russian literatures. I'm very close to submitting an article based on that project that discusses Lev Tolstoy, Gyorgy Lukacs, and Eileen Chang. I also presented another chapter from the project at the ASEES Convention in November in New Orleans. In the meantime, I ran my first marathon, the Seattle Marathon, with a pretty good time of 3:32:20. In January I return to William & Mary to resume my post as Assistant Professor of Chinese and will nervously be awaiting reader reports on my book..."

"I've returned from Afghanistan in one piece and am on sabbatical from my career with the U.S. Department of State," writes **Candace Faber** (BA 2005). "I am working on a book that compiles stories of women on the front lines of public policy and international affairs careers, who speak bravely about the role their personal identities play in their public life. The interviews are waiting in the wings, but I am writing frequently on women's issues at www.inmybinder.com. In the meantime, I'm greatly enjoying life back home with my family in Seattle, and hope to visit you and the rest of the department early next year."

Lisa Frumkes (PhD 1996) writes, "Well, my life certainly has taken an odd turn. I am still at Apex Learning, and I am still the Curriculum Manager for World Languages and Advanced Placement. But I am now also overseeing the work of our English Language Arts team. It has been a lot of fun working with my instructional designers, all English teachers, as they create our new courses, many of them based on the Common Core State Standards. I'm learning a lot and am enjoying it more than I could have imagined."

Yelena Furman (MA 1996) is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at UCLA, "where I went to graduate school after UW. I've taught there on and off for the last few years, and my most recent position there started in January 2012. I've also been publishing articles, most recently on contemporary Russian-American writers, and I'm supposedly (!) working on a book on this subject. In personal news, my husband and I had a baby in June 2011 - a boy named Sasha. At a year and a half, he's of course fully bilingual and applying to graduate school :)"

Serge Gregory (PhD 1977) completed his short film "By the Salish Sea" in November. The film was funded by a Seattle City Artist grant. He is in the process of submitting it to festivals nationally and internationally. Next June and July, Serge plans to go to Moscow to complete his research for the book "Antosha and Levitasha: The Shared Life and Art of Anton Chekhov and Isaac Levitan."

Don Livingston (PhD 1998) continues to teach 1st-, 2nd and 3rd-year Russian at Arizona State University. "I've been pleased to work on a 3rd-year reading course based on the textbook, "The Roots of Russian through Chekhov," which was written by UW grad Margaret Gibson (царство ей небесное). I continue as resident director of our intensive summer Russian program in Kazan, a city I have come to love more than Moscow and Petersburg. We have a 2nd-year Russian intensive summer program for ROTC students in Project Go, plus 3rd- and 4th-year intensive summer Russian for all students, as well as 1st- and 2nd-year Tatar. This year we are also offering 5th- and 6th-year Russian in Kiev and St. Petersburg. ASU also has an intensive Russian language program, where students can study 2nd-year Russian over 8 weeks in Tempe."

After an overseas tour to Moscow Russia in 2009-10, and a stint in DC working on Trade Promotion Programs more recently, **Nancy Luther** (MA REECAS 1986) has been posted to Cairo with the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. "Any grads who are interested in taking the upcoming assessment for the foreign service can find information at the U.S. Department of Commerce website."

“Well, not too much from me this year,” writes **Rebecca Manring** (MA 1974). “The one big thing is that I now chair the Language Committee of the American Institute of Indian Studies, and provide academic oversight to the numerous Indic language programs the AIIS runs in various sites around India. That means two trips annually for site visits as we run separate summer and academic year language programs for American students. It's somewhat humbling to see our dedicated instructors and realize the long hours they put in, simply out of love of their respective native languages, and their students. As I write, I'm about to leave for the winter visit, which will take me to Delhi, Jaipur, Mysore, Madurai, and Kolkata.”

David Nemerever (BA 1976) modestly writes, “I know this is not suitable for the newsletter, but I am still working my way through Eugene Onegin. I was asking my girlfriend for help with some of the lines in the poem, and she suggested I check out Nabokov's translation (she said that none of the others, including Arndt's, are any good). Well, the Nabokov translation turned out to be a goldmine. Very accurate rendition into English and beautifully written as well, minus the rhyme. Also, there are three volumes of notes full of all kinds of fascinating information on the poem, line by line. One of the fun things about Nabokov's notes is that he points out faults in translations by others, the incredible sacrifices made for the sake of rhyme.”

Monica Nunan, who did four years of Russian studies at the UW, recently completed a master's degree from the Global Master of Arts Program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. “This included passing an oral and written exam in Russian, so thank you to the professors at the University of

Washington who helped to prepare me for the graduate degree!”

“Nothing too exciting, writes **Lee Pickett** (BA 2006). “I'm in the middle of my second year at Cardozo Law School in New York. My wife and I had our second kid about a year ago. Part of the neighborhood where I live on Long Island got flooded in Hurricane Sandy, but luckily our house is on higher ground and avoided any serious damage, and our electricity was restored about a day later. A lot of our friends and family in the area weren't so fortunate. That's about all I can think of.”

“**Anthony Schlumpf** (BA 2011) here once again from Moscow, Russia. I've been living here for about a year and a half now. I'm still teaching English, but now for a better company. I'm teaching business English to individuals in a corporate atmosphere rather than teaching children. It's much less stressful. Over the summer I played on a baseball team called Tornado based at Moscow State University. We won the Russian national championship for the 10th year in a row. I feel very blessed to have been a part of that team as it was part of my dream to help the Russian baseball community. It's pretty cold here now though, I'm not sure if I can handle more than one more Russian winter. It's been -22 C/-7 F for weeks now. It makes me really miss the States. Besides all that I've finished my first semester at University of South Florida in the master's program for Physical Education.”

For the past three years, in addition to **Michael Seraphinoff's** (PhD 1987) work for the International Baccalaureate Organization, he has been writing reviews of works of Macedonian literature for the

Macedonian Human Rights Movement International and the Australian Macedonian Human Rights Committee Journal. These reviews, about a dozen so far, can be accessed at the AMHRC website.

Scott Sharp (MA 1998) is on sabbatical and living in London, UK while his wife attends graduate school. He writes that he may work or take up a volunteer position while there, but for the time being he is relaxing and pursuing creative hobbies and catching up on leisure reading as well as “taking advantage of all the cultural awesomeness that London has to offer.”

Since graduating in 2011 (BA), **Ekaterina Shilkina** and husband have had a beautiful baby girl. “Her name is Natalia Eleanor Hensley. She was born in April 2012. So far motherhood has been wonderful and exciting!”

Heather Thorne (BA 1994) got married in 2010 and spent her honeymoon traveling and climbing in Zimbabwe and Namibia. She also left Grameen Foundation this summer after three years leading their mobile innovation programs in Agriculture, Microfranchise and Health, joined Google, “which involved leaving our beloved Seattle and moving to the Bay Area. We miss the city but won't deny that the weather is pretty fantastic! I don't get to speak Russian as much as I'd like to anymore, but continue to be surprised that it's there in passive memory when I need it (thanks to my UW Russian professors!).”

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