

Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,

It is time to look back at another academic year. This past one was particularly busy as our faculty introduced several new courses and our staff undertook some new initiatives.

One of the latter was initiating “mentor lunches,” where successful alumni meet with a small group of students to talk about their careers and help the students with networking. We held the first lunch this spring, and we and the students are very grateful to alumna **Laura Iglitzin** for being their mentor. We hope to host one such lunch each quarter. Another initiative, which unfortunately did not take place, was a fundraiser for graduate student support.

We hope to reschedule this event in October and are looking forward to your participation.

Among the new courses offered were **Prof. Barbara Henry’s** course on “Underworlds” and **Prof. James West’s** courses, “Russia in Pictures: Exploring a Visual Culture” and “Third Rome, Venice of the North: Russia’s Complex Relationship with the West.” “Underworlds” explored real and metaphoric underworlds: subways and mines, Hades and Hell, criminal subcultures, political undergrounds, horror-movie basements and windowless office cubicles. Stories of these underworlds address the most profound questions of our lives: what happens after we die? Where do we come from? Where are we going? **Professor West’s** first course focused on the visual culture of a country to which widespread literacy came relatively late, where the visual medium became the primary mode of communication, requiring a particular ability to ‘read pictures.’ **Prof. West’s** course on the Third Rome looked at two focal points in Russia’s relationship with Western Europe embodied in the two

cities that have been its capital. Russia responded to the fall of Byzantium by declaring itself ‘The Third Rome,’ the successor to Rome and Constantinople as the leader of the Christian world. Under Peter the Great, St. Petersburg was built as a new capital, designed to more than match the splendor of Western Europe’s capital cities.

In faculty news, I am very proud to announce that **Prof. José Alaniz** was selected as the new director of the Disability Studies

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Program. Congratulations!! Sadly, two members of our faculty are leaving us this year. Czech lecturer **Jaroslava Soldanova** is retiring after 16 years of teaching Czech. Upon her retirement Honorary Czech Consul Wayne Jehlik established the Jaroslava Soldánová Award for Excellence in Czech Studies, which was presented at this year's convocation to graduating senior Clara Summers. Congratulations!! Affiliate lecturer **Maria Rewakowicz**, who taught several Ukrainian literature and culture courses, is moving back to New York. We will miss Jara and Maria tremendously and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

This year we also said a final goodbye to **Professor Emeritus Karl Kramer**, who passed away on February 19, 2014 at age 80. Prof. Kramer chaired the Slavic Department between 1988 and 1998. A world-renowned Chekhov scholar, he taught a wide variety of courses during the nearly thirty years he spent at the UW. Loved by his colleagues and students, Karl and his generosity of spirit, nobleness of character and dry, self-deprecating sense of humor will be greatly missed. Karl's memorial service took place on April 5.

On another sad note we have asked the Alumni Advancement people to close out the Russian House Fund, which has been stagnant for many years. The Russian House represents a wonderful part of the department's past, which we had hoped to resurrect at some point, but, alas, that does not appear possible any time in the near future.

The linguists in the department have been very busy this spring preparing for the Slavic Linguistics Conference, which will take place 19-21 September at the Simpson Center for the Humanities on the UW campus. This will be the ninth annual meeting of the conference, which takes place in alternate years in Europe and the United States. This event, hosted by leading centers of Slavic linguistics in North America and Europe, is attended by top scholars from several continents as well as numerous younger scholars and graduate students. SLS aspires to be as open and inclusive as possible; no school, framework, approach, or theory is presupposed or excluded. The conference program can be found at <http://depts.washington.edu/slavls14/program.php>. I hope that many of you can attend at least some of the talks.

Looking forward to the next academic year we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Polish Fulbright lecturer, **Dr. Jakub Tyszkiewicz**. Dr. Tyszkiewicz is a historian from the University in Wrocław who has taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago (1997), the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (2007-2009), as well as Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2011). His research focuses on Polish-American relations since 1945 and contemporary history of Poland, especially the complex history of Lower Silesia after WWII. He will teach a survey course of Polish history in the fall quarter.

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

Best wishes,

Kat Dziwinek

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014 GRADUATES!

Undergraduate

Megan Arriola
 Gregory Chapman
 Brian Collins
 Brittany Crabtree
 Alexander Crown
 Mylon Emard
 Daniel Kessler
 Laura Kim
 MacKenzie Kleven
 Je Gug Lee
 Michelle Lie

Connor Lynch
 Amanda Malesa
 Ena Martincic
 Dominique Moore
 Megan Mulcahy
 Jessica Redinger
 Joel Smith
 Kevin Spivey
 Rachel Spivey
 Ksenia Sukhova
 Clara Summers
 David Vergulyanets

MA Graduates

Anatoliy Klots
 Bonnie Layne
 Nicole Page
 Cyrus Rodgers

PhD Graduate

Elena Doubivko

The annual Slavic Department Convocation ceremony took place in the Parrington Commons on Friday, June 13 where we celebrated each of the members of our Class of 2014. Seventeen of our bachelor's degree candidates and four master's degree candidates attended with their family and friends. Our chair, Prof. Katarzyna Dziwirek, welcomed us as the Master of Ceremonies, and introduced our keynote speaker, Professor Edward Vajda of Western Washington University (MA, 1983, PhD, 1987), who described his career path. Early in his career he assumed that his research would center on the Russian language, but as it turned out, Russian became a research tool and an avenue to other disciplines. He concluded his remarks with the following words: Whatever your plans, your dreams, your aspirations, I hope that your graduation does not mark the end of your desire to learn. Along with all the cars, the electronic gadgetry, the houses, the supermarkets filled with goods – don't forget that another kind of wealth exists and is all yours for the taking. And this wealth no economic downturn can threaten and no one can take away. Try picking up a book you never made time to read. If you feel drawn to another culture, try learning the language by listening to a tape to and from work. Find a poem that speaks to you in a special way and commit it to memory so it will always be with you. Whatever your profession – make learning your vocation. Let learning become a philosophy rather than a task. Continue to learn just for the sake of knowing, and you will never regret it. You will be the richer for it in ways that cannot be measured.

The keynote address was followed by a presentation of the following awards. Wayne Jehlik, UW alumnus and Honorary Czech Consul, announced the establishment of the Jaroslava Soldanova Award for Excellence in Czech Studies, which was presented to Clara Summer. On behalf of the Polish Home Ladies Auxiliary, Wnda Cieslar-Pawluskiwicz presented awards to Anatoliy Klots, Brian Collins and James Pabiniak for their excellence in Polish. The awards for the best 1st-year and 2nd-year Russian students were presented by Dr. Valentina Zaitseva to Angelina McMillan-Major and Alison Knight. Professor Jim Augerot presented a certificate to Connor Lynch as 2013 ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate. On behalf of Slovenaska miza Ms. Marija Horoszowski presented an award to Gregory Chapman as the best Slovenian language student of 2014. Professor Dziwirek presented the Slavic Undergraduate Excellence Prize to Shannon Foss for her paper, The Contextual Dimension of Bilingual Emotion Expression. Professor Dziwirek also announced Krystine Cabrera as winner of this year's Vadim Pahn Scholarship. Dr. Bojan Belić recognized Jessica Redinger as the Slavic Department's nominee for the Dean's Medal. Professor Galya Diment presented the award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student to Alison Knight, and Professor Dziwirek presented the Graduate Departmental Service Award to Bonnie Layne.

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. The Slavic Department congratulates the Class of 2014 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!



Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Keynote speaker Edward Vajda



From left to right: Anatoliy Klots, Laura Kim, Clara Summers, Mackenzie Kleven, Rachel Spivey, Kevin Spivey, Megan Mulcahy, Amanda Malesa, Megan Arriola, Ena Martincic, Jessica Redinger, David Vergulyanets, Gregory Chapman, Lee Je Gug, Steven Crown, Alison Knight, Dominique Moore, Bonnie Layne, Nicole Page

FACULTY NEWS

At the beginning of April **Dr. Bojan Belić** was elected to the board of the Southeast European Studies Association, and he has had two articles appear this year: "Eine neue Sprache entsteht: die bunjevakische 'Sprache' oder 'Mundart' in serbischen Grundschulen." Christian Voß & Wolfgang Dahmen, eds. *Babel Balkan? Politische und soziokulturelle Kontexte von Sprache in Südosteuropa*. München – Berlin: Verlag Otto Sagner. 2014. 93-114. (with Marija Ilić) and "Linguistic Vojvodina: Embordered Frontiers." Tomasz Kamusella & Motoki Nomachi, eds. *The Multilingual Society Vojvodina. Intersecting Borders, Cultures and Identities*. Sapporo: Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University. 2014. 1-23.

The full 35-page text of **Professor Galya Diment's** article: "Two 1955 Lolitas: Vladimir Nabokov's and Dorothy Parker's" (which appeared in a shorter version in the November 2013 issue of the *New York Magazine* -- see <http://www.vulture.com/2013/11/dorothy-parker-and-vladimir-nabokov-lolita.html>) was published in the April 2014 issue of *Modernism/modernity*

Professor Katarzyna Dziwirek has been named Alumna VIP by her Polish alma mater, University of Łódź. She shares the honor with a distinguished group that includes the president of the Polish National Bank, representatives to the European Parliament, and an Olympic gold medalist.

STUDENT NEWS

Undergrad **Connor Lynch** was awarded a president's medal: <http://www.washington.edu/uaa/2014/01/23/2013-14presidentsmedalists/>

Veronika Egorova, who defended her dissertation in Summer 2013, has accepted a position as Preceptor of Russian Language at Harvard University starting September 2014.

Veronica Muskheli was awarded an Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Endowed Scholarship in the Humanities for the 2014-15 academic year. In addition, she participated in the 17th annual *Folktales Today Festival (Pravljice danes)* in Ljubljana, Slovenia, held from March 16 to March 22, 2014. The events, most of which were SRO, took place in the premier performance space of *Cankarjev dom* in Ljubljana and at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum.

Not only did Veronica tell a Russian fairy tale in Slovene at the festival (she reports that her audience laughed in all the right places), she also used the opportunity to do extensive field research on the folklore revival underway in Slovenia over the past twenty years. She then presented her preliminary findings at the 2014 REECAS Northwest Conference in Portland (April 26, 2014) and will also present a formal paper at the annual conference of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in San Antonio, TX, this November.

JAROSLAVA SOLDANOVA



Lecturer Jaroslava Soldanova – or Jara as she is known to one and all – is retiring after 16 years in the Slavic Department, where she taught first- and second-year Czech. She also offered countless independent studies – often teaching as many as five different levels of Czech each quarter for those thirsty to continue their studies – hosted a biweekly Czech Table where students had the opportunity to practice their Czech with native speakers, and introduced groups of students to the Czech Republic through 3-week Exploration Seminars. She was legendary for how much she cared about all of her students and was nominated numerous times for the Distinguished Teaching Award, “She absolutely refuses to let them fail. She’s always flexible and available for students.”

The following student comments attest to the high esteem in which they held her:

She's very strict, but she's the best language professor I have ever had. She knows everything about Czech language. If you want to take her class, you have to be dedicated to the language and the studies; otherwise, you're wasting your time.

Pani Soldanova is fantastic!! If you don't take the class seriously, she'll call you on it, but what do you expect? This is how she makes her living, so OF COURSE she takes it seriously. She's a great teacher and always willing to help. She got me into grad school on the East Coast!!

Pani Soldanova is the best professor I have had at UW. The class is small, which means great one-on-one attention. The material is quick and you have to keep on the ball with homework. Soldanova cares if everyone knows the material and will help keep everyone on track! If you are interested in Czech, take this class!

This was, hands down, the best classroom situation I have ever been in. Czech is a challenging language, so everyone in that room is committed to working hard. Imagine being a room where you don't waste time b/c NO ONE is slacking. It's amazing! Small classroom means lots of personal attention, and Soldanova is very generous with her office hours!

Prof Soldanova is so dedicated to her students. She will always meet with you for extra help and truly cares if you do well in the class. I don't speak any other Slavic language, but I picked up Czech quickly in this class. My favorite part of the course was singing Czech songs while she played guitar!

Tomáši, come here! If you put Russian in your homework one more time, I will punish you!" Those were the words I became used to hearing on a daily basis in Paní Soldanova's Czech class during my stint in Seattle, while working on my M.A. at UW. It's funny what coincidences turn out to be pivotal moments in our lives, how some decisions we take lightly at the time have long-term consequences. I won't even begin talking about how I ended up at University of Washington. But I took Czech classes with Jara because I was required to take a second Slavic language, BCS was full by the time I registered (I was in Iowa at the time and had yet to set eyes on the UW campus), and first-year Polish wasn't offered that year. So I said, "To hell with it! I'll learn Czech! I'll be the first person I've ever met who studied Czech!" At the time I thought it was a requirement I was getting out of the way to make room for other interests (I was then thinking I wanted to focus on Russian language skills and study Russian literature set in the Caucasus). It turned out that Czech became one of the

most interesting things I studied, I kept taking Czech classes until I graduated, and one of my three M.A. exams was in Czech (I read and translated a short passage of "The Joke" by Milan Kundera; I never would have heard of that guy if it weren't for Jara, and now he's absolutely one of my favorite authors.). It has now been two years since I've been in a Czech class, but it will always be a part of my life. Right now I'm teaching English in China, and for many of my lessons I show them pictures I took in Prague. On Christmas, I taught a bunch of Chinese kids how to say "Veselé Vánoce!" A few months ago, I was at a hostel in Beijing, found a book in Czech about Watergate, and spent a good half hour reading it and finding that I understood a surprising amount. In about a month, I'm going to stop in Prague for a week "on my way home" to America, and I doubt that will be the last time I go to the Czech Republic. So thank you to Paní Soldanová for all she taught me; she was a great teacher and even though she liked to yell at me for poor Czech grammar, she was one of the kindest people I knew in Seattle.--Tim Ott, M.A. '12

It's hard to know where to start. I have had Paní Soldanová for every quarter of my undergraduate experience, and Czech defined my college journey in a way I never expected it to. Paní Soldanová's teaching style really worked for me: I had already learned some Czech before I came to UW, but I never knew how to decline things properly until I joined the class and had actual handouts and her instruction. Paní Soldanová was rather dismayed with some aspects of my Czech at first, as it was too Prague-y and slangy: "Klárko, nikdy nepoužívej „oni kupujou!“ Jen „oni kupují!“" Being in her class was especially fun because we watched cartoons, learned about history, and sang Czech songs while Paní Soldanová accompanied us on the guitar. Seriously, who gets to have classes like that? Not to mention all of the other things that Paní Soldanová did for us outside of school, like organizing singing events and Český stůl, as well as leading some of us on a study abroad trip to Prague. But for me, the defining aspect of Paní Soldanová's teaching has been her dedication to her students. After the end of second-year Czech she taught a group of us as an Independent Study. Even though it is an extra class, and I believe there were seven of us in the first year of Independent Study, that's not something you get paid for. Jara took us on; she made the time in her schedule, she graded our work, she came up with new, higher level lesson plans. And she's done that for the past three years. Because of her, I had the linguistic abilities to carry out my Honors thesis research in Prague, and upon my return she helped me with all of my translations and put up with the barrage of articles to be translated about Roma in the Czech Republic. Without her attentiveness to my language learning over the past four years, I would never have been able to carry out my research. Besides being a good teacher, Jara is simply a good person. Over the past four years I've gotten to know her, and she's always been incredibly supportive and kind. I feel very blessed that I was able to be a part of the last bastion of Czech students, and I send Jara off to her retirement with all the best wishes and a thankful heart.—Clara Summers, B.A. '14



UW POLISH STUDIES

by Krystyna Untersteiner

Looking back



In February we celebrated composer Witold Lutosławski's centenary. Prof. Huck Hodge of the School of Music introduced the audience assembled in Brechemin Auditorium to Lutosławski's legacy. The introduction was followed by a documentary by two experts on Lutosławski's music, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Steven Stucky, who took a trip to Poland to visit places associated with the artist. After the film, School of Music students Allion Abraham Salvador and Josh Archibald-Seiffer performed *Partita for Violin and Piano*. Finally, acclaimed pianists Dr. Ivona Kaminska and Dr. Christopher Bowlby performed a perennial favorite - Lutosławski's *Variations on a*

Theme by Paganini for Two Pianos.

In April we co-sponsored a lecture, "Military Security of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland," by Glen Grant.



In May Agnieszka Taborska of the Rhode Island School of Design gave a lecture, "Femmes Fatales Figures in late 19th and early 20th century Western Art."

Planning for next year

In October **Professor James Felak** of the UW Department of History will give a lecture about legacy of John Paul II. In February we will be hosting "The World Knew – Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity" exhibit at the Suzzallo Library. In spring 2015 Prof. Krzysztof Gorski, an astrophysicist from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, will take us for a vicarious trip into space.

In the meantime, this Summer

Visit us at the [Polish Festival Seattle](#) on Saturday, July 12 at Seattle Center.

Thinking of Giving in 2014:

To give to the Polish Studies Endowment Fund, go to: Make a Gift - University of Washington
Keyword: Polish <https://www.washington.edu/giving/make-a-gift>

Thank you for your continued support of the Polish Studies Endowment Committee's endeavors and for your presence at our events and lectures. We value your volunteering and we appreciate your financial support! Dziękujemy!

UW PSEC <http://www.polishstudiesuw.org/home>

UW UKRAINIAN STUDIES

by Maria Rewakowicz

During winter and spring quarters 2014, Ukraine's Euromaidan Revolution and its aftermath continued to capture our attention and mobilized our efforts to accurately comment on what was happening on Kyiv's Independence Square to the American audience. All the events related to things Ukrainian on campus reflected these tumultuous and groundbreaking times in Ukraine. The Ellison Center of Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies hosted two roundtables devoted to Ukraine, one in January and another in April; the Russian Youth Organization hosted its own panel in which two members of USEC, Dr. Eugene Lemcio (SPU) and Prof. Laada Bilaniuk (UW), were presenters. Our Committee sponsored an April 8 talk by Jennifer Carroll, a UW Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology who did her fieldwork research in Ukraine and was an eyewitness to the events on the Maidan in Kyiv.



Dr. Eugene Lemcio

Another graduate student, Christi Anne Hofland from the Jackson School of International Studies and Evan School of Public Affairs, participated in the Annual Social Studies Leadership Retreat, giving a talk on Ukraine's Euromaidan in mid-March and again at the UW seminar, "Exploring the History and Charting the Crisis: Understanding Ukraine," that took place in



Jen Carroll

April. It was uplifting to see not only students and faculty at these events but also members of the local Ukrainian community. Moreover, the Slavic Department continued supporting courses in Ukrainian literature during 2013-14 academic year, which allowed Dr. Maria Rewakowicz to teach two courses in the first half of 2014: "Literature of the Ukrainian Diaspora" during winter quarter and "The *Other* in Ukrainian Literature: Female Characters and Authors" during spring quarter.

SLOVENSKA MIZA

by Alenka Jaklic



On February 7-8, the Seattle area organization of Slovenes, Slovene Americans and friends, together with students of Slovene at the University of Washington, hosted a Slovenia booth at UW's CulturalFest, an annual event, which presents world cultures in an engaging way to over a thousand Seattle area middle schoolers who are based in to the University on those days. At the Slovenia booth,

middle schoolers could try their hand at lace-making Idrija-style, learn to say common Slovene phrases, create Slovene-themed Valentine cards, explore a giant map of Slovenia and its attractions, try on an authentic Slovene lady's wedding headdress, have their picture taken with one of the Ljubljana dragons, and help themselves to one of a variety of small souvenirs of Slovenia



(flag pins, lanyards, caps, and more).



On Sunday, February 9, Slovenska miza (Slovenian Table Society) members and friends gathered for the group's 5th annual Prešeren Day celebration, which was held this year at the Simpson Center for the Humanities on the University of Washington campus, for a program that included readings from Slovene literature and folklore, a viewing of a short Slovene documentary film, and – of course – lots of delicious homemade Slovene food.

On May 18 Slovenes and other friends of Slovenska miza gathered at the home of Prof. Michael Biggins to welcome a visiting professor from Slovenia, Prof. Vesna Pozgaj-Hadzi. This was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the bond between Slovenska miza and the UW. Everyone again brought delicious Slovene dishes and drinks that made another "Slovene table."

On June 5 a few of the members of Slovenska miza went to the Seattle International Film Festival to see a recent Slovene film *Class Enemy* (*Razredni Sovraznik*).

Lastly, Slovenes and friends of Slovenska miza society gathered on June 15 to commemorate Slovenian Statehood Day, officially held on June 25. This year we decided to celebrate this important holiday a little earlier, since many of us left for Slovenia the week after. We gathered in Woodland Park and spent a cold, yet delightful day in a good company with thoughts and best wishes for our young country's celebrating 23 years of independence.

NEWS FROM YOU

According to **Janet Anderson** (BA 1968), “My oldest grandson, Alexander Seto, decided he wanted to learn Mandarin Chinese via Rosetta. So I bought the program and took the first lesson, in solidarity with him. That first lesson gave me one of the worst headaches I have ever had! Alex hasn't even started. Oldest granddaughter Courtney Seto just finished her freshman year at UW in Industrial Engineering. She is not interested in learning Mandarin, although she is participating in a month-long trip to China this summer with a UW program. I plan to continue to struggle to learn something of the language.”

“This year I (**Michele Anciaux Aoki**, PhD 1991) feel like I've been living and breathing language testing almost every day. It's all part of our state work on Competency-Based Credits for World Languages. Students are able to take nationally available language proficiency tests and then earn from one to four high school world language credits based on their results. (Learn more about it on the OSPI website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/CompetencyBasedCredits.aspx>.) We've tested hundreds of students statewide in about 50 languages this year.

“Slavic languages, especially Russian and Ukrainian, have been well represented this year. Most of the students are heritage language learners or fairly

recently arrived English Language Learner students. It is amazing how well they do on these tests. The majority are earning four credits. It means so much to them to have their languages recognized at school. In addition, those who earn four credits are likely to qualify for the new State Seal of Biliteracy next spring (see: <http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/SealofBiliteracy.aspx>).

“We've had strong support for this effort through a two-year \$460,000 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to fund seven districts in South King County to test their students. This March our project was recognized with the "Collective Impact" Award by the Road Map Project and Community Center for Education Results. Over the next six months, I'll be working with Education Northwest, which is producing a report on the focus groups and surveys that they did of students who participated in the program and then a lot of quantitative analysis of the impact of the program on the students.

“Other than testing, I continue to be very involved with the UW summer STARTALK Russian programs for teachers and students and the Confucius Institute of the State of Washington, which is hosted by the UW and Seattle Public Schools. OSPI is also expanding international partnerships considerably and I was invited to travel to Japan in June for an

educational trip funded by the Japan Foundation.

“On the home front, I'm hoping to visit my son, Ante Hoath, in Malta later this year. He moved there last August after spending seven years in St. Petersburg, Russia. My daughter, Natalya Aoki Cooper, is a Navy helicopter pilot in Jacksonville, FL. Hope to visit her too soon! My husband, Paul Aoki, continues in his role as Director of the UW Language Learning Center, so I still spend a lot of time in Denny Hall.”

“Well, knowing Russian, and knowing it pretty well--thanks to great training I had at the UW back in 1965-69--never fails to come in handy. Although there is quite a bit of water under that bridge by now, I (**James Barte**, BA 1969) consider myself very fortunate to have been taught by some of the brightest lights in the field in their day.

“I am the director of clinical training in a PhD program in Health Service Psychology, and I just had the happy task of launching one of our doctoral candidates on a highly sought, full-time, year-long predoctoral psychology internship. Funny thing is, she's a Russian. She joined our program 4 years ago, and she and I were able to form a special bond due to my knowledge of Russian language culture, literature, music, and history.

“It was very special for me to

have this student in our program, and it was equally special that we shared some unique connections--all due to my time among the faculty at the UW.

"I still use the language quite often, still sing "Stinky Raisin" in the shower, and catch the occasional Russian film on TV--truly my BA in Russian Language and Literature is a gift that keeps on giving and giving. Who could forget our 1st year Russian class as we joyfully intoned, "Пусть всегда будет солнце"?"

Heather Caturia is currently in Senegal teaching English.

In May **Gray Carpenter Church** (BA 1977) and her husband, Al, started a charter yacht service, soon to offer San Diego harbor cruises, marine wildlife and pelagic birding tours, and custom charters. Al is a Coast Guard-licensed captain with over 40 years of experience sailing, fishing, and surfing in Southern California. The yacht, *Someday Is Now*, is a gorgeous 46' Defever POC sedan, and as of this writing, Gray and Al are spending their free time getting her ready for business.

Roy Chan (BA 2002) is finishing up his first year as Assistant Professor of Chinese in the Dept. of East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Oregon. "I've been in Eugene now for close to a year, and it's been a very busy year. Taught five new courses and learned to readjust to a quarter system after four years working on a semester system. I presented papers at three conferences. One conference, a Columbia University symposium

on Russia and East Asian cultural exchanges, I helped organize. I also published two articles and am continuing to make progress on my book manuscript. A teaching release this fall will allow me to spend the rest of 2014 finishing my first book project and continuing progress on my second book. In the meantime, I've kept up with my hobbies of running and cooking."

Carol Davis (MA 1979) says that she's "been shamed into writing. Don't think I'd given you this news (good and bad). Along with teaching, I'm now poetry editor for the *Jewish Journal*, a Los Angeles newspaper read by about 50,000/wk. The news that is not what I had hoped for is that I was a finalist for a Guggenheim grant, made it to the final level, but didn't get it. I am getting published a lot recently lot in literary journals and in good anthologies including 'The Bloomsburg Anthology of Contemporary Jewish American Poetry'."

In March **Robert Ewen** (PhD 1979) joined the Board of the Bulgarian Cultural Heritage Center in Seattle. "What a great group of people to be associated with! The BCHCS sponsors and produces programs celebrating Bulgarian culture. During the month of June I am away in Scotland trying to chase down my Scottish heritage by attending a Ewen Clan Gathering and making a not-so-leisurely grand tour of Scotland."

The last year or so has been something of a blur for **Lisa**

Frumkes (PhD 1996). "In May 2013, I left Apex Learning after almost 10 years to join Rosetta Stone as Director of Curriculum. And in May 2014, my wonderful boss left the company and I was named Interim Vice President of Language Learning Products. It's still to be seen if I will hold the position after the interim period, but I'm grateful for the opportunity and enjoying the experience very much. In July, my family and I are traveling to Belgium (I'll be presenting at a conference there) -- and it'll be 30 years to the week since I first set foot in that country to be an exchange student. Enjoying a full life with my husband Paul, my son Vaughn (11) and my daughter Gwen (8). Eager to hear everyone else's news!"



At the Ukrainian Embassy

Laurel Victoria Gray is still living in the Washington, DC area. "My ensemble, Silk Road Dance Company, performed at the Ukrainian Embassy this past

January with a theme of scenes from Gogol's *Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka*. Silk Road Dance Company also performed at the White House in March, for the very first White House Nowruz Celebration.



Nowruz Celebration at the White House

Serge Gregory's (PhD 1977) manuscript, "Antosha and Levitasha: The Shared Life and Art of Anton Chekhov and Isaac Levitan," is now under review by a university press for possible publication. In May Serge and his wife Rachel had the adventure of a lifetime as they retraced the journey his grandparents made in 1919 in escaping Siberia during the Russian Civil War. His mother was born in Kosh-Agach along the way. Serge and Rachel started out in Biysk (Siberia), traveled across the Altai Republic into Mongolia, where they took a nine-day trek organized by Mongolia Expeditions through the Altai Mountains west of Khovd, then crossed the border into China and ended their journey in Urumqi in Xinjiang Province.



The oldest inhabitant of Turgen Valley in the Altai Mountains of western Mongolia talks of being born the year of the last local skirmish between the Red and White Russian armies.

"Russian may be part of my past," writes **David Hopper** (BA 1979), "but certain words like "koshmar" are often used by both my wife and I in our daily vocabulary. Koshmar is one of those words that is too useful to forget, esp. with addressing problem situations and people. Not that this happens all the time, but life happens. (zhizhen bivaet)

"On another note, I finally wrote the book I've been wanting to complete for years. It's a spiritually related book called: "The Soul Source - A Primer for Living as a Soul." It's available on Amazon at:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Soul%20Source%20-%20A%20Primer%20for%20Living%20as%20a%20Soul

"Regarding my book and related subjects, I just spoke at a Conference in Mesa, AZ on: Building Purpose, Intentionality, and Livingness into a Spiritual Practice."

"With this book there is also a "Russian Connection," at least in an indirect way. When I lived in Moscow from 1990 to 1991 I connected with a number of spiritual/metaphysical groups in both Moscow and Leningrad. I actually taught Russians lessons on learning how to use the mind and emotions, and how to live as a Soul for about 12 weeks in 1991. I also visited groups, attended museums, and any place that had info on Nickolas Roerich and Mme. Helena Blavatsky. Both these people were famous Russians regarding what they gave to the world in spiritual understanding. If anybody has any questions or interest in my book, its consents, please have them contact me at jdhopper7@gmail.com anytime."

"I wish I had more to report, but I (**Kelley Kilanski**, BA 1999) have been marginally employed since receiving my Ph.D. in 2009. I currently deliver pizza, but continue to look for full-time challenging employment. Besides that, I have a project I am working on - Jet City Emerald List - It is a local website completely focused on locally made products and the companies that support them. The website is still in its beginning states, but I am hoping that the response I have gotten since its inception translates into visitors."

“Let's see...news... I (**Lee Pickett**, BA 2006) just graduated from law school in May. Also had a baby boy born during finals week. Now I am studying for the bar exam and looking for permanent work. That's about it.”

“Most significant thing I've (**David Richardson**, MA 2013) been doing is painting watercolors--soon moving on to oils. The most interesting to the Slavic Dept. are the ones from traveling while in the Slavic Dept. I've painted scenes of St. Petersburg, Moscow, Krakow, Kiev, Lviv, Odessa with more on the way. I shared a picture with the Slavic Dept. Facebook page. My pages are called Arkasha Watercolors soon to be Arkasha Watercolors and Oils. I'm "curating" my online shop on etsy tonight and can send a link once it is more presentable. That will have the best display of my work since I post some unfinished drafts on my Facebook page.”

“This past year has been rather eventful for my family,” writes **Cheryl Spasojević** (BA 1967). On March 5 my mother passed away at the age of 93. Up until three years ago she was traveling with me back and forth to Serbia. Then on March 28 my younger son, Marko, married his long-time girlfriend, Lorelee. I flew down to Santa Ana where her family lives and spent the next 5 days cooking - a combination of Serbian and Mexican dishes. My older son, Rade, and his wife and two small sons drove down with the pig roasting equipment on the roof of the car and the jug of šljivovica that my husband put

away years ago for the boys' weddings.

“My current project is organizing a humanitarian benefit dance to be held on August 8, co-sponsored by St. Sava Serbian Church (Issaquah) and the Seattle Balkan Dancers, to raise funds for relief for the Serbian people who were devastated by the terrible flooding that struck the Balkans earlier this spring. Seven local music groups are donating their playing for this event. The Russian Community Center has waived the rent for the evening as their donation to this cause, and the sound equipment and running of it has also been donated. Come join us for a lively evening of Balkan dancing, August 8, 7:30 pm, at the Russian Community Center, 704-19th Ave. E. in Seattle.

“Otherwise, I am on the board of St. Sava Church, serving my second term as Financial Secretary. I continue to work with the Center for Social Work in Kragujevac Serbia on the ongoing project there with children who lack parental care. A small group is meeting at my house on Monday afternoons to blend our voices in Balkan singing, just for fun. I still work a few hours a month at the Fremont PCC deli. Have been working really hard at trying to get my yard whipped into shape after being in Serbia all summer for 10 years. And, of course, I enjoy very much spending time with my grandsons, little Mirko who is 6 and Alexandar who is

4. They live right next door, which is great.”

Jordan Swarthout (BA 2011) received his Masters in Security Studies from Georgetown this May. “I plan to remain in the other Washington and will begin work soon in the Bureau of Human Rights, Democracy, and Labor at the State Department.”

During this past year **Dana Weintraub** (MA 1992) took a new position as the VP of Development at Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego. “It's a big change for me in terms of level of responsibility, and I am learning so much about leadership as well as an entirely different type of non-profit. Other than that, my husband and I are excited to be celebrating the high school graduation of my stepdaughter, Tavia, and her upcoming departure for the University of Arizona.”

“My world is changing dramatically!” writes **Jared West** (MA 2003). “I will be getting married on June 21st on Cape Cod, MA. Then my husband and I will be moving to Dallas, Texas to work at American Airlines headquarters there. Lots of changes - but we are looking forward to a new adventure!”

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