

SLAVIC NEWS

WINTER 1999

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

LETTER FROM CHAIR JACK HANEY

Autumn term saw the faculty meeting larger numbers of students with a small faculty. Professors Kramer, Coats and Crnkovic were on leave. Not having a faculty member to back up Professor Crnkovic is particularly trying, and we had to cancel second year Croato-Serbian classes. Disrupting the momentum in the languages classes often means building the clientele from the ground up.

Professor Karl D. Kramer will retire from the faculty and the University of Washington effective the end of winter quarter, 1999. A well-known specialist in the work of Anton Chekhov, Karl received his doctorate from the University of Washington in Comparative Literature. He then went to Northwestern University, where he and I were colleagues together. We both left Northwestern in 1965, I to come to Seattle and Karl to go to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was associate professor. Subsequently, he and his wife Doreen returned to Seattle where he has been a valuable member of our faculty. He served as department chairman for ten years (1988-98), and has published two books, *The Chameleon and the Dream* and the plays of A. P. Chekhov. There are also lots of articles and reviews. Karl and Doreen enjoy London and the south of England, taking in the latest on the English stage. The entire department faculty, staff, and students join me in wishing the Kramers a long and interesting retirement.

In January the faculty will take up the restructuring of the language program, examining a report drawn up by Dr. Eloise Boyle and Zoya Polack. Like our review of the graduate programs of two years ago this report will make recommendations on restructuring the language program that will carry us into the twenty-first century. For more information on this issue please contact Shosh Westen in the department offices.

This next term we will also begin the study and restructuring of our undergraduate degree programs. Discussions have already begun and the general consensus is that there is a need to alter the focus of undergraduate offerings from primarily literature to include other aspects of Slavic culture. We would welcome input from students, former students and friends of the department.

This summer we will be offering Czech, four levels of Russian, and tentatively Ukrainian. Come and join us for a refresher course or something new! You can even spend a nostalgic summer living in the Russian House, which we will be using again this summer.

EVENTS

AUTUMN 1998

October 23 **HOMECOMING** - see *Alumni and Friends Corner*

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7 All are cordially invited to attend our annual **Масленица** celebration which will be held at the Ethnic Cultural Center, near the UW campus at 3931 Brooklyn Avenue NE. Festivities begin at 2:00 p.m. and include a performance by **Хоровод**, the popular Seattle-based Russian women's choir. Call 206-543-6848 for more details.

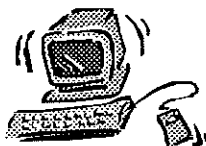
April 30-May 2 **ACTR OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN/
HIGH SCHOOL RUSSIAN STUDENT RETREAT**
This year the Slavic Department will combine the Olympiada with a retreat, to be held at Camp Brotherhood near Mt. Vernon. Donations are sought to help defray the costs so that students from low-income families can attend. Your gift of \$66 will provide a full scholarship for one student.

May 22 Keep an eye out for the biannual flyer from the Association of Alumni and Friends of the Slavic Department giving the details on how you can participate in the annual **SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DAY** celebration, which will once again be held at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church.



FIFTH ANNUAL REGIONAL REECAS CONFERENCE

The REECAS (Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies) Center is sponsoring its fifth annual conference, to be held at the University of Washington, Bothell campus, Bothell, Washington, on Saturday, April 10, 1999. The goal of the conference is to establish a regional community of scholars, educators (elementary school through university level), and others who are interested in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The conference will consist of formal and informal paper presentations, round table discussions, research updates, and other REECAS-related sessions on such topics as economic transformation, international relations, environmental degradation, and teaching methodology. For more information, phone 206-543-4852.



KEEP ABREAST OF SLAVIC DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

The Slavic Department's web page is the source of the latest, most up-to-date news on the department's doings, including upcoming events. Check it out at <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~slavweb>. Another way to keep is by subscribing to the department's listproc. Simply send an email message to listproc@u.washington.edu with nothing more than the following message: `subscribe slavic-uw (your name), i.e., subscribe slavic-uw Jane Doe`.

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome to **Jaroslava Soldanova**, who is teaching two levels of Czech. Ms. Soldanova comes to the UW with sixteen years' teaching experience at middle school and high school in the Czech Republic. She has her B.A. and M.A. in Education from the Pedagogical Faculty of Palacky University, Olomouc where she specialized in Czech and Russian languages.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS - Welcome to the following new graduate students for 1998-99.

Dmitriy Danchev received an M.A. in Linguistics from the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk University. While pursuing his M.A. he would like to focus on the problems of modern Russian literature and perspectives of its development in the new society.

Jennifer Olson received a B.A. Honours in Russian and Slavic Studies with a minor in History from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. While pursuing her M.A. she would like to focus on narrative theory and nationalism.

Kathryn Smith received her first B.A. in Liberal Arts from The Evergreen State College in 1995. She returned to school in 1996 and completed her second B.A., in Russian Language and Literature, at the University of Washington in 1998. This autumn she began work on her M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures. She has not yet decided on an area of emphasis for her M.A., thus leaving herself open to new experiences in this field of study.

Eve Sun earned B.A.s in English Literature and Russian Language and Literature from the University of Washington in 1995. She has since spent several months as an exchange student in Khabarovsk, Russia. She has recently returned from travels in Thailand and Nepal and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Grae Waters received a B.A. in Russian and a B.A. in Russian Studies from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky. Upon graduating, he received the honor of Outstanding Student of Russian. He is interested in studying computer-aided language pedagogy while pursuing an M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures.

After earning B.A.s in English Literature and Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Washington, **Oliver Wei** served a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Peace Corps in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, as a secondary school English teacher. En route to an M.A., he would like to find a tangible linguistic connection between Russian and Chinese.

Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz and **Lynne Walker** both braved the elements this past September to attend the AAASS National Convention in Boca Raton, Florida. Amarilis presented a paper on "The Violence of Rhetoric in Babel's *Odessa Tales*" and Lynne presented a paper on "Constructing the Feminine: The Prostitute in Petrushevskaja's 'Takaia devochka'."

On December 7 **Charles Mills** gave a "technical report" to the scientific board of the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Charles University, called "K rozmístění příklonek v cestine", or ... "On the distribution of clitics in Czech". Then on December 12-13 he attended the CSLI Syntax in Optimality Theory Workshop at Stanford University. He's added to his fantastic collection of old Czech marionettes and will be expanding his local amateur profile with regular Saturday children's performances at Pearl's Coffee Shop on the Ave in the U-District.

A DECADE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The Vadim Pahn Scholarship was established in memory of Vadim Ottovich Pahn by an initial gift from Golda Christoffers to encourage and promote knowledge of the Russian language and culture, and to increase understanding of Russia and the Russian people. More gifts from her, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students have maintained and increased the scholarship fund over the years. The Slavic Department uses the fund to give a full tuition scholarship to the UW's summer quarter intensive Russian language program to a continuing student of Russian. We have awarded the scholarship each year since 1988. We mark the tenth anniversary and honor the individual who inspired the creation of this scholarship with the following article and with letters from several of the students who have benefited from the Vadim Pahn Scholarship.

VADIM OTTOVICH PAHN

by Professor Emeritus L. Reid Micklesen

It is altogether appropriate that we should pay tribute to Vadim Ottovich Pahn with a few remarks about the man and his position in the Slavic Department. These remarks could be made by few people in the department these days, namely, Nora Holdsworth, Jack Haney and myself. Since I knew him the longest, it would seem fitting that I do the honors, and I consider it a privilege to do so.

Let us first place Mr. Pahn in the history of the department. Russian and Russian studies have been offered under many administrative titles at the University of Washington. Russian language was first offered in the 1915-1916 academic year by a German professor, Hans Jacob Hoff. The next year, supported by Samuel Hill, a native Russian speaker, Elvine Simeon, was hired to teach Russian language, literature, reading and grammar as part of the Oriental History, Literature and Languages Department. Her courses were listed in the catalog for two years, then there seems to have been a fifteen-year break.

The administrative units leading to the present department were: (1) The Department of Oriental Studies (1933-1942), (2) The Far Eastern Department (1942-1949), (3) The Department of Far Eastern and Slavic Languages and Literatures (1949-1968), and (4) The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (1968 to the present). Russian was first introduced in administrative stage (1) in 1933 by Professor Ivar Spector, then an instructor in Oriental Studies. All through the 30s and early 40s Spector expanded the offerings in

Russian literature, history, and culture. A signal event for the future of the department occurred in 1939 when George Taylor came to the university as assistant professor of Oriental Studies and acting executive officer of the department. He became executive officer of the department in 1940. From that time on he labored diligently to create a first-class department with the addition of promising scholars in many areas. With the onset of WWII more Russian instructors were required, and in 1943 Noah David Gershevsky joined the Far Eastern Department. Gershevsky was given charge of Russian language instruction, a position he occupied until 1963.

After the war two more Russian instructors were needed, and Vadim Otto Pahn (1946) and Elias Feodor Novikov (1947) were added to the roster of the Russian section of the Far Eastern Department. These three men, Gershevsky, Pahn, and Novikov, formed the triumvirate that taught all the Russian language courses until the latter 50s and continued to partake in such instruction until their retirement. The third administrative stage was attained in 1949 after Professor Victor Erlich came aboard as assistant professor of Slavic languages and literature. I came on the scene in 1953 and assumed most of the courses in Slavic linguistics so that Erlich could expand the offerings in Russian literature.

So it was that I became acquainted in 1953 with all the Russian instructors, including Vadim Pahn. I got to know Vadim especially through the bull

sessions usually held in Gershevsky's office and attended by the other two Russian instructors and quite often by Professor Nikolay Poppe. These sessions were a great learning experience for me as a neophyte assistant professor. Even though I did not teach Russian language courses in those days, I found Vadim Pahn to be a very valuable informant. Equally at home in both English and Russian and with excellent pronunciation in both languages, Vadim kept his Russian fresh by using it at home with his first wife, who was also Russian, and frequently with his friends and acquaintances in the Russian community.

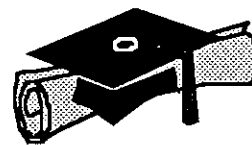
Vadim was born in the city of Kazan on February 16, 1907. His father was a doctor in the city, and Vadim used to ride along with his father on his sick calls. He told me how the people in town would hail his father respectfully as they passed by in their buggy or sleigh. During the Russian Revolution he and his family moved across Siberia. I do not know the details, but, as many Russians in those times, they ended up in Harbin, Manchuria. There Vadim attended a Russian gymnasium and graduated in 1925. I must confess that I never did piece together all the facts of his life even though we had many discussions. He seemed somewhat reticent about the details of his personal life. I am not at all sure, therefore, how and when he and his family came to this part of the world. It would seem that they came to the West Coast. I know only that he had two sisters and a brother living in the States. At any rate Vadim went to Canada in 1929, where he enrolled in the University of British Columbia. He earned a B.A. in 1935 and a B.S. in agriculture in 1938. Apparently he moved to the U.S. in 1940. After a series of jobs he put his knowledge of Russian to good use and joined the Far Eastern Department in 1946 as an acting instructor. He became an instructor in 1948. In 1953 he was appointed lecturer in the Department of Far Eastern and Slavic Languages and Literature, a title he maintained for the rest of his career.

Vadim taught all levels of Russian along with Gershevsky and Novikov. From 1956 to 1959 Vadim was an important member of the team constructing a dictionary for Russian-English machine translation. His kind of knowledge of the languages was very useful for this work. In the days before computers with vast storage capacity, we

produced over 500,000 entries on IBM cards. In 1964, when a well-integrated, four-year Russian language program was set up similar to what we have today, Vadim became primarily concerned with third-year Russian. He eventually shared this course with Nora Holdsworth. When Professor Gershevsky retired in 1967, Vadim also acquired his courses in scientific Russian. He worked with these courses until he retired in 1977, when he was awarded the title of Lecturer Emeritus.

Vadim was a very good teacher, well liked by all his students. He was patient and sympathetic. He understood their trials with the Russian language, and, as a result, he was almost a bit too lenient in assessing their accomplishments. With his absolute command of both Russian and English he could have become a highly visible and motivating force in our department, but he preferred to maintain a low profile. He occupied a significant niche in the program, however, and is warmly remembered by us all. Vadim passed away on October 19, 1985. We are indeed grateful to him for what he contributed to us in his life and for what he contributes to us through the scholarship his widow, Golda Christoffers, established in his name.

One last note about Vadim. In his retirement he managed a long-cherished trip to the Soviet Union. He wanted most of all to return to Kazan, but it was a closed city then. The trip did not fulfill its promise for him. He fell ill there and languished in his hotel room for some days. He had always staunchly defended the Russian people in discussions, but he was disillusioned by what he saw in the Soviet Union and by how he was treated by the clerks in the stores.



October 24, 1998

Dear Shosh,

Thanks for your letter, which my mother just forwarded to me, as I'm currently living in Malmoe, Sweden. My summer of intensive Russian, funded by the Vadim Pahn Scholarship, was very valuable for me and I'll be happy to tell you about how I've put it to use.

The Vadim Pahn Scholarship prepared me for my semester in Leningrad in 1991, after which I made the decision to pursue an academic career in Russian literature. After I graduated from the UW in 1992, I went on to graduate studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I'm currently writing my doctoral dissertation on the theme of madness in Russian Symbolism. Incidentally, James West, who advised my undergraduate honors thesis at the UW, is an honorary member of my dissertation committee at the University of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Julie Hansen

October 26, 1998

Dear Shosh,

Much to Zoya Mikhailovna's dismay, I had to work two jobs to pay for my tuition. Both she and Nora constantly reminded me that Russian is more than a full-time job. The Vadim Pahn Scholarship allowed me to cut back on work and concentrate on intensive fourth-year Russian. Without it, I seriously doubt that I would have gotten as far as I did in the two years that followed.

One year after I was awarded the scholarship, I was selected to participate in the ACC study abroad program. This program was unique in that it was not group, but individually oriented. I traveled to Nizhny Novgorod, where I studied Russian history, literature, and folklore in regular university classes with Russian freshmen and sophomores. I learned a lot about the Russian culture, and I learned quite a bit about myself. The ability to converse, relate, and empathize with the local population helped me to secure a job in the Russian field upon my return.

My first (and only) job in the Russian field was at Jewish Family Service. For a little over a year, I was employed as a caseworker for the refugee resettlement program. I met with families from the former Soviet Union days after their arrival in the U.S. and helped them adjust to daily life in a world that was completely new to them. It was an extremely rewarding yet demanding job.

Currently, I work in the info/tech field. I am a contractor for the State Department and have been installing new computer systems at embassies around the world. My last post was Kazakhstan. Being able to use my Russian again, coupled with the people and food, made me feel as if I were home. The love for Russia is something I will never lose, and I have the wonderful professors in the Slavic and History departments to thank for opening my eyes to something so amazing.

Sincerely,

Amy Canon

December 10, 1998

Dear Ms. Westen,

The Vadim Pahn Scholarship provided me much needed financial help after my first year of study at the University of Washington. I entered the university as an out-of-state student, and the expenses I incurred that first year were well beyond my humble means. The scholarship's primary value, however, was that it encouraged me to work even harder. The rewards of Russian scholarship are neither visible nor material, and any young person "foolish" enough to choose this path needs all the support, moral and otherwise, that he can find. Since the scholarship is awarded by the faculty of the Slavic Department, I took my winning the scholarship as a sign that I had, after all, done something right during my first year. (By way of explanation, I should mention that I started out in Russian 201, having completed first-year Russian at Portland State University.) It is likewise important for the student of Russian to study the language without significant interruption or distraction for some good period of time (summer breaks can be fatal), and for many hours every day--hence the value of programs like Russian 350. I know that this might sound a bit fanatical, but otherwise there is simply no point in studying Russian (or any other language) at all.

I don't know whether the Vadim Pahn Scholarship is threatened, but if it is, I would encourage whoever is responsible for its survival to keep it alive. Given the current crisis in Russia, I'm sure that the appeal of Russian language and literature for new undergraduates has suffered a further blow. The promise of perestroika proved more complicated than anyone could imagine, and if it was ever true that you could come here and make a fast buck with a middling knowledge of Russian, it's no longer true today. In any case, the value of learning a foreign language is that it gives you the chance to see the world from a different point of view, thus increasing the number of moral and esthetic options you have to choose from. The English language is an organism of incredible power and endowed with an amazing capacity to absorb new experience, but it does have its limits. Yes, the whole world speaks English (or one or another of its pidgins) these days, and the American abroad feels more at ease than ever before. Whatever the merits of English as an international language, however, the collective refusal to take the languages and literatures of other countries seriously amounts to an act of mild aggression. Any young person who is willing to move beyond this chauvinism and strike out into the wilds of Russian (or Farsi, or Norwegian) should be given at the least the minimum of support offered by programs such as the Vadim Pahn Scholarship.

I have lived in St. Petersburg since 1994, when I came as one of the UW's representatives to the American Collegiate Consortium exchange. After completing a year of study at the Herzen Institute, I decided to stay for some period of time. That stay has stretched on for longer than I expected, though I will most likely be returning to the States in the coming year. Since completing my studies and finishing my honors thesis, I have been working as a freelance editor and translator, and as a teacher of English (at the Institute of Foreign Languages). I have also worked on a number of exhibitions of contemporary art as an interpreter and organizer. I've even managed to write several articles in Russian (mostly on art and literature) and have them published in local journals, and in November I became a special correspondent for the local weekly newspaper *Kariera-Kapital*.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Campbell

ALUMNI NEWS

Hildegard Arnesen (Ph.D. 1976) is a teacher, lecturer, and practitioner of Christian Science. Upon special invitation she moved her professional activities to St. Petersburg for six months each year, from September through March.

After graduating, **Amar Das** (formerly **Shannon Gularte**, B.A. 1994) worked as an interpreter in Alaska. For the past two years she has worked as a massage therapist and is currently studying Chinese medicine to be a licensed acupuncturist.

Zheng-min Dong (Ph.D. 1990) has had two papers published recently. His paper, "On Teaching Russian Complex Sentences," was published in *Slavica Occitania* (No. 6, 1998) at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail, France. "The Functions of the Verbal Prefix Pro- in Russian" was published in *Linguistic Analysis* (Volume 27, No. 1-2, 1997).

Patricia Enslow (B.A. 1980) lives in Shelton, Washington, the "Christmas tree capital of the world," and works part-time for Catholic Community Services as a home care assistant for the chronically ill. She recently finished a book entitled *Human Development in Christ*. She enjoys reading Pushkin and Lermontov, misses her days at the UW, and is happy that her son will soon be a student at the UW.

Masha Reichert (B.A. 1979, M.A. 1983-REECAS) will be appearing on the New Year's edition of the Russian TV program, *Доброе утро*, where she will speak about "the awesome peasants" and sing a song or two.

Suzanne Shield (B.A. 1976) is married and the mother of two children. She has been living in Salt Lake City since 1976 and is currently a free-lance genealogical consultant and an active volunteer at her children's school.

Kelly Stevens writes that several years ago she finally bit the bullet - she got married, got a real job (she works as a case manager with a Russian-speaking caseload) and had a baby. She currently lives in Seattle with her husband and two-year-old daughter Anastasia.

NEWS OF FRIENDS

This past September **Nancy Novak** started a three-year master's program in adult education which meets one weekend a month at various locations in Oregon. She also has a new, very full-time job teaching ESL to refugees and organizing/teaching volunteers to teach refugees at the International Refugee Center of Oregon.

ASSOCIATION OF ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE SLAVIC DEPARTMENT

REPORT ON HOMECOMING '98



On the evening of October 23 alumni and friends joined Slavic Department faculty and staff for the annual homecoming celebration. Held at the Center for Urban Horticulture, the event was hosted by the AAFSD (also known as the Slavic Club) under the auspices of the UW Alumni Association. AAFSD president Pam Hafey welcomed attendees and introduced Ray Waldmann, Vice President of International Relations for The Boeing Company, who gave the keynote address. His address was followed by remarks from Professor Jack Haney and alum Paul Kriloff, business manager for the Foundation for Russian-American Economic Cooperation. The evening concluded with socializing, music (by Hank Bradley and Cathie Whitesides), merriment and tasty selections of Slavic and Balkan cuisine provided by the inimitable Cheryl Spasojevic.

GIFTS

The Department has always very much appreciated gifts. As we build and develop our new programs, they are particularly welcome. A list of some of the more important funds follows. In addition, we would like to recognize the generosity of individuals and companies who have made donations in the past six months.

•The *Friends of Slavic Languages and Literature* fund is made up of gifts to be expended at the discretion of the Department Chair. Gifts to this fund are invaluable, allowing the department to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest. A special subset of this fund is used for outreach efforts to the public schools and the community at large.

Valerie Arvon	Sue Gosline	Olga Penrose
John Buske	Jack V. Haney	Jaroslava Soldanova
Carol Cannon	Laura McCormick	Carmen Votaw
Christy Clerf	Bruce McKinney	Susanna J. Westen
M. Lucinda Craig		

•Each summer since 1989 the *Vadim Pahn Scholarship Fund* has been used to pay tuition for one student to attend the intensive Russian Language program. Last year's recipient was **Kelley Kilanski**.

Katarzyna Dziwirek	Bruce McKinney	Susanna J. Westen
Gordon L. McDaniel	David Nemerever	

•In 1981 the *Russian House Fund* was established to provide general support for the Russian House.

Eleanor Bache	Donald O. Coffman
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•In 1996 a special subset of the Institutional Allowance was used to create the *Nora Holdsworth Scholarship*. Last year a full scholarship to attend the Department's summer quarter intensive Russian language program was provided to **Brian McDonald**, winner of the 1997 Olympiada.

Gray Carpenter	Greg Pianalto	Margo Waid & A. Dubonosov
James Felak		

•The *Lew R. Micklesen Graduate Fund* was established to support graduate student programs in the Slavic Department. In recent years it has been used to support graduate student travel to present papers at conferences.

Anonymous	Jack V. Haney	Susanna J. Westen
Katarzyna Dziwirek	Lew Micklesen	

•The *E. Harold Swayze Graduate Fellowship Fund* was established to provide financial support for graduate students

Katarzyna Dziwirek	Marian Swayze Erdelyi	Susanna J. Westen
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All gifts are appreciated. If you wish to make a contribution, give us a call at 206-543-6848 or mail your check made out to University of Washington, specifying the fund you wish to support.

NEWS ABOUT YOU

We would like to keep in touch with you, as we hope to share news of our alumni in next July's newsletter. Please fill out the form below, clip and send to us: Slavic Department, Box 353580, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3580. At the same time, please make any needed changes on your label below. Thank you.

Name: _____

Current occupation: _____

E-mail address: _____

Personal news: _____

I would ____/would not ____ be willing to be a reference for Slavic Department students seeking employment.

Business phone and address: _____

"Slavic News" is published by the University of Washington Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.
We welcome your comments.
Editor: Shosh Westen

Special thanks are due Professor Emeritus L. Reid Micklesen for his article on Vadim Ottovich Pahn,
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