

Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



Dear Friends of the Slavic Department,

Academic year 2015/16 has again brought changes to the department. After 56 (yes, fifty-six!) years of service to the department, Professor Jim Augerot has retired. The department celebrated Professor Augerot's long and distinguished career with a symposium in his honor, which took place on March 1, 2016. We do not have to miss Jim, though, as he still comes to his office every day!

Shosh Westen's retirement at the end of this academic year is yet another big change. Shosh has been with the department for 21 years (15 of them as the administrator), and she has been a wonderful colleague, problem solver extraordinaire, and a tireless champion of the department and all things Slavic. We are going to miss Shosh

very much as her future plans include travelling to Korea and possibly living there for a while. As a tribute to all that Shosh has done for us, I enclose the letter I wrote in 2001 nominating her for the Distinguished Staff Award (which she won!).

Shosh's successor and the new Slavic Department administrator is Christian Dawson-Ripley. Chris has a BA in History and Political Science from UW and has worked at UW in the departments of Physics, Neurology and Psychiatry. He started with us on June 7th.

In other news, Dr. Valentina Zaitseva has been promoted to Senior Lecturer, effective September 16, 2016. We couldn't be more happy and proud! Congratulations to Valentina for this very deserved recognition of her efforts on behalf of the department and our students.

Graduate student Veronica Muskheli, who last year won the Alvord Endowed Fellowship in the Humanities, has this year been chosen as one of the six 2016-2017 Joff Hanauer for Excellence in Western Civilization Graduate Fellows. As a Hanauer Fellow she will participate in a bi-monthly seminar led by Professor Galya Diment, Joff Hanauer Distinguished Professor for Western Civilization. The goals of this program are to foster creative and critical work in

the Western cultural tradition and to help prepare teachers from different disciplines who have well-reasoned convictions about the place of Western civilization in the curriculum of an American liberal arts institution. Congratulations, Veronica!

I hope everyone reading this has a relaxing and restful summer. As always, please stay in touch with us.

Kat Dziwirek

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Seattle, February 6th 2001

University of Washington
Distinguished Staff Awards
Box 353700

Dear Committee,

I am writing to nominate Shosh Westen, the Slavic Department's Program Coordinator, for the 2001 Distinguished Staff Award. Though you will no doubt receive many worthy nominations, I very sincerely urge you to give Shosh your most serious consideration. I am joined in this by all my colleagues, who without exception, express the highest praise and appreciation for Shosh.

Before outlining her specific contributions, let me begin on a personal note. How to describe Shosh? It is not easy, as she is both a very complicated and a very single-minded person. I believe that at the core of her being is a dedication to service. Service to others, to the department, to the university, and to the world at large. This sense of purpose is palpable and pervades all her actions. If she can be of help to anyone, she will be, no matter the cost to herself, whether it is giving up her bed to a visiting student, scholar, or faculty member, or staying up to cook and bake in order to make sure that all the holidays and birthdays are celebrated and that there is always food for the hungry in our department office. Shosh does it almost instinctively. She is one of these truly amazing people who think of others before they think of themselves. Yet, I do not want you to think that she is just a "mother" figure. She is that, but she is also a highly intelligent, very driven

individual, whose one focus right now happens to be the Slavic Department, its present and future, and the various individuals comprising it. Shosh does not just do her job, she sees it as her mission.

Shosh works tirelessly to provide a positive, stress-free environment for all of us in the Slavic department, students and faculty alike. She excels in performing the mundane job duties and responsibilities: copying, ordering books, supplies, etc., and the smooth running of the office depends to a huge degree on her presence and organizational skills. But this is just the beginning. Shosh's energy seems boundless. In addition to her everyday duties she single-handedly organizes numerous outreach activities, such as the Russian Language Olympiada, the annual retreat for area high-school students of Russian, the end of winter Maslenitsa celebration for the department, alumni, and assorted guests. She is the department's permanent representative to our alumni organization and does the lion's share of the work involved in putting on events sponsored by them (Homecoming and Cyril and Methodius Day celebrations). In addition, Shosh organizes the department's Summer Intensive Language Program, doing everything from getting the books ordered to finding rooms for students from out of state.

Shosh is a very creative person. She suggests ways of advertising our courses, helps design the course flyers, the departmental brochure, etc. In that and her other contributions, she does indeed "exemplify a team player and contributes to a supportive, team-oriented

workplace." One of the outlets for Shosh's creativity is the myriad ways she dreams up for the students to feel connected to the department, to feel like it is their home away from home. She maintains departmental website and makes creative suggestions as to their content and look. Thanks to her our departmental office is a very welcoming place. There is food for the hungry, flowers (from her garden) for the esthetically minded, and smiles all around in Smith M253. Just walking in, you can sense a real commitment to the students and the department. She does indeed "interact with everyone in a friendly, enthusiastic manner", and she does "maintain a sense of humor." Very often one can hear laughter emanating from M253 and people all over the M floor are drawn to the office to share the joke or the funny story.

Our "clients" are our students, whom Shosh helps and nurtures in all kinds of ways already mentioned. She also co-maintains our undergraduate, graduate, and alumni e-mail lists, and creates the departmental newsletter, our life-line to the alumni. She certainly "has earned the reputation as the one to ask in the department because of the accuracy of the answers and the positive manner in which they are delivered."

Our other "clients" are the general public, who call or e-mail the department at the rate of tens a day. In addition to all her other duties, Shosh is unfailingly courteous and helpful to them, by translating bits and pieces (did I mention that she is fluent in several languages?), maintaining a translator and tutor list, and in general helping the citizens of our state and country with all kinds of Slavic problems or questions. Her satisfied "clients" include the Woodland Park ZOO, the

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Seattle Police Department, SAM, various performing arts groups, as well as countless ordinary citizens who just happen to have a query about something Slavic. In her responses to the public Shosh truly “demonstrates initiative and skills to assist clients beyond the scope of the job description”.

What I have written above shows that Shosh contributes enormously to the positive atmosphere in our department and that she has very high standards. She does indeed take the initiative to seek out additional assignments. During the summer quarter Shosh tirelessly organizes countless events, evenings, and treats for our students. She hosts parties, organizes sing-along evenings, film shows, slide shows, lectures, poetry nights, trips, etc. As to bringing out the best in others I, for one, know that I am a better person for knowing Shosh. Her energy and altruism continue to inspire me every day. One example, from a realm I have not mentioned before, is that she consistently gives money to the university, both to various Slavic Department Funds and to the UW as such. If you consult the list of contributors to the university you will find her name listed year after year.

There is no other way to put it: Shosh shines and we can only hope that her glow reflects on all of us. She is most deserving of the UW-wide recognition that comes with your award. I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues should you have further questions in your consideration of Shosh’s nomination.

Sincerely,

Kat Dziwirek, Associate Professor,
Slavic L & L

Affiliate Professor and Slavic Librarian Michael Biggins has had two book-length English translations from Slovene published in the past six months. Drago Jančar's novel *I Saw Her That Night* (Dalkey Archive Press) was awarded a starred review in *Kirkus Reviews*. Lojze Kovačič’s novel *Newcomers*, book one of which was just released this month (May) by Archipelago Books in New York. *Newcomers* is highly regarded in Europe in German and French translations and has been referred to as the great Slovene novel of the 20th century. Archipelago will release books two and three of the novel in his English translation in 2017 and 2018. In August and September Michael will be spending his annual leave in Slovenia, continuing his research in archives and private collections on the literary biography of Slovene novelist Vladimir Bartol (1903-1967), which he began last year.

Professor Gordana Crnković's article, “Mothers of Invention: Milcho Manchevski’s Delightful Icons.” In Maria Hristova, guest ed., *KinoKultura*, Special Issue 15: Macedonian Cinema (August 2015), at <http://www.kinokultura.com/specials/15/crnkovic.shtml>. “Reclaiming Charisma, Resetting the Senses: Vladimir Arsenijević’s <In the Hold>” appeared in *Serbian Studies Research*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2015, pp. 151-165.

Professor Galya Diment's article, "Katherine Mansfield and Her Russian Healers," appeared in *Katherine Mansfield's French Lives*, eds. Claire Davison Pegon and Gerri Kimber, Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2016, pp. 40-57.

FIUTS Cultural Fest 2016



SLAVIC DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES 2016 GRADUATES AND AWARD WINNERS - Eloise Boyle

This year's recognition of graduates and award winners took place in the Allen Auditorium of the Allen Library on Friday, June 3.

The chair's welcome was followed by introduction of our attending graduates, **Brian Jacoby-McCurdy** and **Aleksandra Petrovic**, after which came presentation of the following awards. The award for Best 1st-Year Russian Student went to **Ana-Maria Georgieva**, who is also the recipient of this year's Vadim Pahn Scholarship. Our Best 2nd-Year Russian Student is **Jake Hansen**. **Alexander King** and **Alison Knight** shared the Best Polish Student Prize awarded by the Polish Ladies Auxiliary. The Undergraduate Slavic Excellence Prize was shared by **Peter Berge**, and **Allegra Bozorth**, while the Graduate Slavic Excellence Prizes went to **Veronica Muskheli** and **Brent Woo**. Our 2016 Outstanding Undergraduate Student is **Alexis McClimans**. **Alison Knight** was named our Outstanding Graduate Student for 2016.

Class of 2016, the Slavic Department congratulates you on your remarkable achievements and wishes you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

2016 Doctor of Philosophy

Aleksandra Petrović

2016 Slavic Department Bachelors of Arts

Kelby Hawthorne

Brian Jacoby-McCurdy

Tsudoi Wada

Slavic Excellence Prize Titles

Peter Berge: "Womanish Fiddle-Fiddle: 'Vasilisa the Priest's Daughter' As a Model for Gender Discussion in Folklore"

Allegra Bozorth: "After the Ball"

Brent Woo: "Speech and Song: Phonetics of Russian Art Song"

Veronica Muskheli: "Reflection, Erection, Resurrection: A Close Reading of the Chapter III Opening Paragraph in Gogol's 'The Nose'"



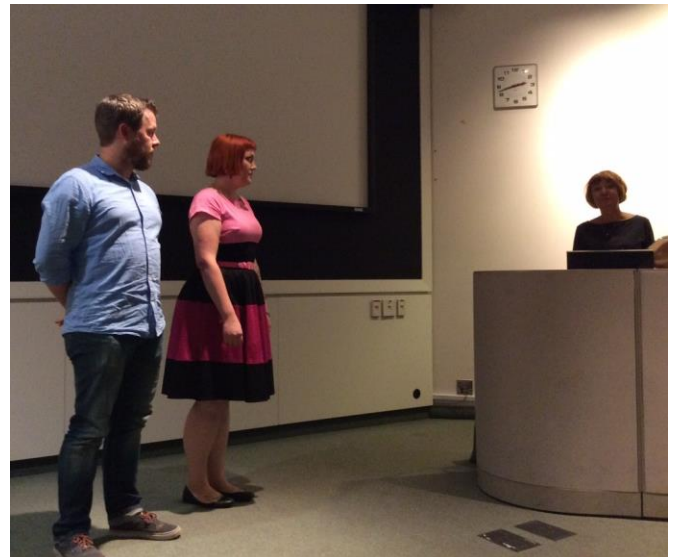
Alexandra Petrović, PhD, and Kat Dziwirek



Brian Jacoby-McCurdy, BA, and Valentina Zaitseva



Kat Dziwirek awards Jake Hansen with the Best 2nd-Year Russian Prize

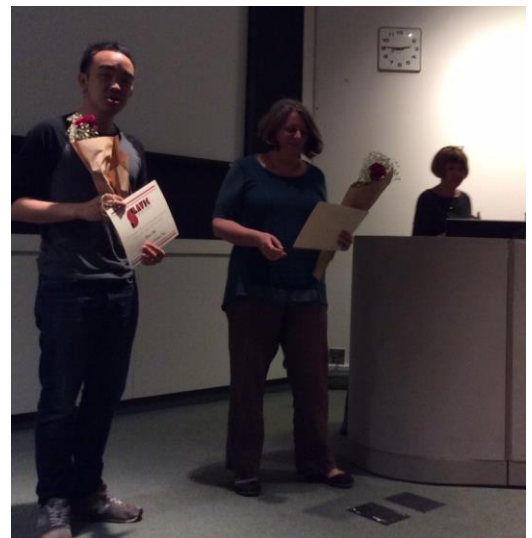


Alex King, Alison Knight, winners of Best Polish Student Prize, are acknowledged by Kat Dziwirek



Allegra Bozorth – recipient of Undergraduate Slavic Excellence Prize

Brent Woo and Veronica Muskheli – recipients Graduate Slavic Excellence Prize



SLAVIC GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM SERIES

- Lee Scheingold

The Friday afternoon colloquium series, run by the Slavic graduate students and organized this year by Nathan Marks, included a number of stimulating presentations.

On October 9, 2015 Veronica Muskheli presented a talk titled "Her Horse: A Proto-Feminist Wonder Tale Type Unknown in the West." This talk featured an examination of a subset of folk tales of an armored and often cross-dressed female knight and her magical horse. These are tales of a strong woman successfully resisting patriarchal attempts to dominate her. The tales are of the type until now not recognized by the International Type Index of Folktales--a standard tale taxonomy tool of folkloristics. The talk at the Colloquium was for Veronica to practice her presentation at the American Folklore Society (AFS) annual meeting, which later took place in October 2016 in Long Beach, CA. There it elicited considerable interest not only because Veronica described an unknown type of folktale but because it sparked a discussion on the sexist nature of the research terminology practiced in the field. Based on her presentation at the AFS, Veronica received an offer to submit an article dealing with those topics from the editor of a premier folktale and fairy-tale academic journal.

At the November 6, 2015 meeting, the colloquium hosted UW Slavic librarian and affiliate faculty member Michael Biggins, who spoke about significant finds he made in Slovene archives recently while doing research in preparation for writing a life and works biography of Slovene novelist Vladimir Bartol (1903-1967), author of the novel *Alamut* (1938). For reasons more personal and political than aesthetic, Slovene critics withheld praise from Bartol during his lifetime and as a result the work lapsed into oblivion until its revival beginning in the late 1980s. Biggins sees a biography of the unconventional Bartol, spanning his childhood in Trieste under Austrian rule, his young adulthood in Slovenia under the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and his mature years during World War II and communist Yugoslavia, as providing an ideal vehicle to familiarize readers with the intellectual and literary life of this otherwise overlooked culture over the tumultuous half century from 1910 to 1960.

Nathan Marks' talk on January 8, 2016 – "Unexpected alternations in some Hard (Labial) open full-stems" – examined alternations in the conjugational patterns of the verbs Колебать(ся) 'rock', Трепать 'dishevel, upset', Сыпать 'scatter, strew', Дремать 'doze' in the non-past tense. Among Russian native speakers there can be found alternate forms for the non-past tense forms of the verbs listed above. There are two types of alternations that Nathan found among the verbs; the first being a shift in the softening process from substitutive softening to bare softening, *sypa--: sypl'--i-š --> syp'--i-š* and the second being a shift in stem from open-full to narrowly closed full-stem, *tr'epa--: tr'epl'--i-t --> tr'epaj--i-t*.

On February 26, 2016 Ms. Maryna Ajaja, a programmer for Slavic films in the Seattle International Film Festival, whose four grandparents all came from the Soviet Union, spoke about her work in a talk titled "Heavy as Potatoes."

Professor Peter Schmelz, a musicologist from Arizona State University, in a talk titled "Valentin Silverstrov and Quiet Protest Song during Euromaidan," spoke on April 15, 2016 about the genre of music being composed as a response to immediate political and social events, particularly in the Ukraine. His primary area of expertise is twentieth-century music (and especially music after 1945), with a focus on the music produced in Russia, Ukraine, and the Soviet Union. This final event of the academic year was made more festive by a wine and piroshky reception afterward.

UW POLISH STUDIES

- Krystyna Untersteiner

It was sunset when people started arriving at the University of Washington Club, and the dining room looked spectacular against the view of the mountains and the calm waters of Lake Washington. The evening began with cocktails, live music by



David Hahn, and a silent auction: tables with gorgeous jewelry, beautiful

Boleslawiec pottery, baskets of wines, glass art, a variety of gift certificates.... During a sit-down dinner

attendees enjoyed a presentation on Polish cinema given by **Ms. Magdalena Sroka**, general Director of the Polish Film Institute,

who honored us by being our keynote speaker. The evening also included speeches by current Polish language students, Alison Knight and Kevin Aslett, followed by Marcin



Paçzkowski, doctoral candidate at DXARTS, performing his composition "... where odd things are kept." The event, which took place on February 20, 2016, turned out to be a delightful and successful evening. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the UW PSEC funds were enriched by close to \$9,000. Thank you! *Dziękujemy!*

Two student-led events took

place on campus in February and early March. The Polish Students Society hosted a booth at the annual **FIUTS CultureFest**. As always, the booth welcomed many visitors, mostly Seattle area school students, who were eager to learn about Poland and to try Polish candy! On March 3, there was a **Polish Food and Culture Night** hosted by FIUTS at McMahon Hall. Guests were not only delighted to try Polish food but also enjoyed listening to a beautiful performance by Polish choir *Vivat Musica!*, learned about Poland, met new friends, and made "palemki" (Easter decorations).



Spring brought some cinematographic events. During the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, there was a screening of *Raising the Roof*, the fascinating story about the rebuilding of the 18th-century Gwoździec synagogue roof, now on display in the newly opened POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. In April many attended screenings of *Karski and The Lords of Humanity* at Congregation Ezra Bessaroth and *Santa Rosa*:



Odyssey in the Rhythm of Mariachi on the UW campus and had the pleasure of meeting Sławomir Grünberg, the director of both documentaries. All events were supported by the UWPSEC.

The annual **UW PSEC Student Scholarships** were awarded in April. The recipients of 2016 scholarships are **Anna Wahler and Nathan Marks**. Anna will spend a semester at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, and Nathan will spend six weeks at John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin. We wish our students a wonderful encounter with Poland!

We are also pleased to announce that this year's recipients of the **Best Student of Polish Awards**, presented annually by the Polish Women's Club/Koło Pań, are **Alison Knight and Alexander King**. Congratulations to all the students for their achievements!

We look forward to the first event of the AY 2016/17. On October 25, at 7:00PM at Thomson Hall 101, the UW PSEC will host an evening with **Agata Zubel**, Polish composer and singer. Ms. Zubel will be in Seattle at the invitation of the **Seattle Symphony**. She will perform at the Benaroya Hall on October, 27, 28 and 29, 2016. More information to come on our website: www.polishstudiesuw.org and in our newsletter.

Thank you for supporting our endeavors, attending our events, and for your financial contributions! Have a beautiful summer!

Krystyna Untersteiner, UWPSEC Chair

To connect:

Agata Zubel <http://www.zubel.pl/index.php/en/>

Seattle Symphony

<http://www.seattlesymphony.org/about/watch%20and%20listen/beyondthestage/threecomposers>

NEWS FROM YOU

In retirement **Richard Balthazar** (MA 1966) has “been focusing on writing and drawing for my website www.richardbalthazar.com Last fall I completed a memoir of my two years of master’s work at UW (1964-66), which were most memorable for reasons other than academic. Entitled *THERE WAS A SHIP*, the memoir is available online as a **free** digital file at <https://richardbalthazar.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/there-was-a-ship-3.pdf> . Browse the site for my other writings and art and check out my esoteric blog.

“In addition, I’ve been working on drawings for a coloring book called *YE GODS!* A series of icons of Aztec deities to knock your eyes out, it’s also being published for **free** on my website, serially as the drawings get done, at <https://richardbalthazar.com/art/coloring-book/>. Presently I’m finishing #10 out of a projected 26.”

Ian Barrere (BA 2013) writes, “I’ve been at the University of Helsinki for the past few years doing an MA in Altaic Studies (weirdly named department considering its opposition to the Altaic hypothesis). I can actually trace my path here back to my first year at the UW, in my BCS class with Bojan. I remember going into the EELLC program for lack of a better option, essentially, because I didn’t really know what I wanted to study and it seemed interesting enough. The case system in BCS is really what blew me away. I was so amazed that another Indo-European

language could behave so differently from English, and that’s when I started really getting into linguistics. I ended up double majoring in linguistics as well (years later), and I’ve been interested in morphologically complex languages ever since that first BCS class.

“Finnish became one of my primary interests and I studied it as my non-Indo-European language requirement for the linguistics major. After I graduated I ended up moving here to study it more, and found that the easiest way to stay here indefinitely was to study at the university. I looked for a program that suited me, and I was surprised to learn that Juha Janhunen, whose research I relied on a lot for my Finnish studies back at the UW, was the head of the Altaic Studies department here. It’s not quite in my primary field of interest, which I suppose is still Uralic languages, but I’ve actually gained quite an affinity for Mongolic in my time here as well, so it’s definitely been fun.

“What a long journey though. I started studying at Seattle Central all the way back in 2005, who knew I’d end up here at the University of Helsinki?”

“I recently completed my thesis, which is an argument for palatovelar vowel harmony in Proto-Mongolic, a reconstruction which was historically dominant but which has come under recent scrutiny. Juha Janhunen (now my advisor) and I will be presenting this topic at the upcoming International Congress of Mongolists in Ulan Batar in

August. After that I’ll be doing some field work in Mongolia to collect further data and (hopefully) create an even more compelling case.

“After that I’ll be taking a few years off to travel the world. During which time I’ll be jointly authoring a paper on the subject of my thesis with Juha for publishing. Hopefully this will offer some contemporary support for what we view as the correct reconstruction for Proto-Mongolic.”

Gray Carpenter Church (BA 1977) started a new job at Opto 22 as a senior technical writer. Her new employer and job are so much fun, she’s not sure if or when she’ll want to retire. And even better, her commute to work has gone from 1 hour, 15 minutes each way to a whopping 7 minutes each way. Wow! Another wow: Gray and husband Al have bought a new home on top of a hill, with 2.5 acres of commercially farmed citrus trees. They move in July, and Gray can hardly wait!

The Association for Jewish Studies just awarded **Sarah Garibova** (nee **Cunningham**, BA 2009) their Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the 2016-2017 year. “After finishing up my fellowship residency at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum this August, I look forward to returning to Ann Arbor for a final year of research and writing.”

“2015-16 was my (**Veronika Egorova**, PhD 2013) second year at Harvard and a very fruitful one in terms of both my professional

and family life. Besides teaching a new course – Advanced Russian for Professional and Academic Purposes – I presented at AATSEEL 2016 Conference on Russian Heritage Instruction. I was awarded a Certificate of Teaching Excellence at Harvard and, together with a colleague, received an internal Harvard FLAG Development Grant to develop Intermediate Russian Materials for the Harvard Study Abroad Program. In spring I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Vera Lily, and received a federal grant from NSA to set up a short-term intensive summer program for high school Russian heritage students – STARTALK (Bridges to Russia: Culture and Social Studies).”

“Many of the readers of this newsletter know Prof. James Augerot from your time spent as students. You may also know that Prof. Augerot – Jim or Big Jim to many of us – retired from teaching his one remaining class at the end of winter quarter. This is probably a bittersweet time for Jim, but the sweet side of the equation deserves celebration, and one way Jim and wife, Ileana Marin, are celebrating is by allowing several former students to talk them into a river cruise down the Danube. On June 8th Jim and Ileana, **Kit** (MA 1976) and **Asja Adams, John** (MA 1975) and **Bernie Mitchell**, and my wife, Lily, and I (**Robert Ewen**, PhD 1979) are embarking from Bucharest on an 11-day cruise down the Danube to Bucharest. We pass through Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania. Among the eight of us we have all four of those languages well covered -- maybe they will hire us as tour

guides!”

David Graber (PhD, 1996) writes that in January he started a position as full-time lecturer at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, teaching Russian, German, and English as a Second Language. The position grew out of his efforts to be all things to all potential employers, and has institutionalized his professional split-personality disorder. David will be spending 7 weeks in Europe this summer engaging in multiple language immersion settings, conducting 'informal' research, and recruiting international students in Latvia, Estonia, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Spain.

Solomon Ioffe (PhD 1985) shared the following: Что касается меня, то я по-прежнему занят большой и интересной темой: искусство вообще и русское искусство в частности как тайнопись, основанная на игре слов, а не буквальное прочтение текста. Например, последний и маленький пример: На западе запрещена продажа русской водки, но широко популяризируются смеси чего угодно спиртного с водкой, а недавно мой глаз заметил шведский спиртой напиток шведка, под ним более мелким шрифтом латинское водка, из сранения этих двух слов ясно, что они анаграмматичны, В и В, Д и Д, К и К, А и А.

After graduating with a degree in Russian literature in the '90s I (**John Johnson**, BA 1997)) have spent most of my career in the Foreign Service nibbling around the edge of the Slavic world or

servicing about as far as one can get from it. Currently I am the spokesman at our Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia but the siren song of 8 month winters beckons and I am working to finally secure a job in Moscow almost exactly 20 years after I left the UW. Over the past decade I have also had the opportunity to serve in Bulgaria, Serbia and Cambodia, and have found opportunities to use my (quite rusty) Russian skills at each stop along the way. In Phnom Penh my family and I lived a block from the only Russian restaurant in town, in Serbia we often drank vodka at the Russian club and Bulgarian has so much in common with Russian that I was able to speak it passably in half the time that is normally required. All were connections and experiences I wouldn't have been able to have without my time in the Slavic department at the UW!

After three years in the non-profit sector, **Corey Krzan** (BA 2012) decided to return to school to pursue a JD. “I’ve just finished up my first year at Georgetown Law in DC. This summer I’ll be working (as a civilian) with military judges at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio through an externship with the US Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Corps.”

“My only news is that I (**Neil Makin**, MA 1972) left the Fulbright Commission here in Quito last autumn and since then have been teaching Academic English to Ecuadorian students part-time at the University of San Francisco de Quito. This is the only A-rated university in

Ecuador. In a few weeks I will know whether I shall be teaching full-time or not. Otherwise, nothing else has changed except for being a little older!!!" "P.S. A registered MA is now needed to teach in an institution of higher education here. We are catching up with the rest of the world!"

Sarah Peyton (BA 1984) has a book coming out from Norton Publishers in 2017 called *The Resonant Self: Brain-Based Meditations for Connection, Understanding and Healthy Well-Being*. She is a Certified Trainer of Nonviolent Communication and integrates communication skills with neuroscience education. She recently completed teaching a Skype course on this material to a Russian audience, a celebration since both her translators disappeared, and she had to teach entirely in Russian, which was a mind-blowing return to the field after 20 years away from her previous simultaneous interpreting career. www.empathybrain.com

Andrew Schirmer (BA 2010) and **Alsu Shakirova** (PhC 2009) are married--three years now – “how time flies—and working in technology in Seattle. We recently travelled to Paris and Avignon and enjoyed speaking French and learning some Provençal.”

“Not much new on my end these days,” writes **Anthony Schlumpf** (BA 2011). I've been back in the States almost two years after having played baseball in the Russian premier league and with their national team. Now I'm working for the Mariners and Seahawks and do some private work for the Seahawks at corporate

during the day. Other than that, I've switched my main sport and focus to snowboarding and had a blast this winter. I've been getting into photography and videography as I get more inclined with my new GoPro. Making fun pictures even got me sponsored by a new up and coming goggles company called "Freedom Goggles." So it's been a fun and adventurous year and loving being back in the States after that long 3+-year stay in Moscow.”

Kristine Shmakov (MA 1993) has had quite an eventful year: This last year has been quite an ordeal, but I'm happy to say things are better now. Last May 23, 2015, an unlicensed teenage driver ran a red light and hit the driver's side of my car at 45 mph. I was trapped in the car and it took firefighters 15 minutes to cut me out using the jaws of life. My pelvis was broken in 8 places, my hip was dislocated, and I suffered a severe concussion. I spent the next 8 days in ICU and the trauma unit where I underwent surgery to rebuild my pelvis. Then I was in a rehabilitation center for 2 weeks before returning home on June 13th in a wheelchair. I spent the entire summer in that wheelchair doing physical therapy, working out at the gym, reading more books that I ever thought possible and being taken care of by my wonderful husband Sergei and my son Sasha. By mid-August I graduated to walking with a walker and by mid-September I was walking with a cane. Because I'm so darn stubborn, I returned to teaching full-time in

September, despite the pain I was in. It was really tough, but my students were so supportive and helped me through. I'm happy to say that almost a year later, I'm walking well and just so thankful to be alive! I'm very much looking forward to having a fun and uneventful summer this year! And I've got lots of berry picking to do to make up for missing last season.”

“The most exciting news in my family is that my younger son, Marko, and his wife, Lorelee, are expecting their first child, a son, in early September - making me (**Cheryl Spasojević**, BA 1967) a third time grandmother. Marko has also received an appointment as a tenure track assistant professor at UC Riverside starting summer quarter. And Lorelee also will be starting a tenure track position in 2017, after the baby is a bit bigger. One of my major projects this past winter was the editing of a manuscript about the religious interpretation of the Neolithic inhabitants of the Lepenski Vir site along the Danube in Serbia, written by Professor Nikola Bogdanović, for whom I translated a major portion of a monograph about other Neolithic Serbian habitats a few years back. My newest project is working with the Serbian choreographer Miroslav "Bata" Marcetić in the write-ups of Serbian folk dances that he will be teaching. I continue to serve on the board at the local Serbian Orthodox Church and to work with the Center for Social Work in Kragujevac, Serbia. A small group meets at my house once a week for Balkan folk singing. And I still work a couple of days a week at the

Fremont PCC in the deli. And finally, am still in the process of getting everything back in order after a major computer failure this last winter!!”

“I’ve just relocated back to the U.S.,” writes **Clara Summers** (BA 2014). “These past nine months I had a Fulbright grant to teach English in Indonesia. It was a great experience, particularly since I lived there as a child, and this was an opportunity to go back and gain an adult perspective.”

“I am far from retiring,” writes **Charlotte Wallace** (former Slavic undergraduate adviser). “This will be my eighth year teaching in the intensive summer program in legal English (reading case law, writing briefs, etc.) for international lawyers about to enter the Master’s in Law program (LL.M.) at Washington University, in St. Louis. This past year the program expanded through the entire academic year (making a two-year LL.M. program for our participants, with legal English support). Along with teaching the legal genres, my course dovetailed with a traditional Socratic method Property course one semester, and with a pragmatic, hands-on U.S. law course second semester where my students entered a moot court competition, where one of them won! Three made it to the final round out of 140. Yes!

“This past year my students were predominantly Saudi and Chinese - the two cultures I have been most eager to learn about! This summer the intensive program will quadruple in numbers, creating jobs for new instructors whom I am busy training. In addition, I am

completing a Master’s in Teaching English as a Second Language to give me the proper credentials to do what I do anywhere.

“Just returned from a marvelous trip ‘back East’ to see my little two-year-old grandson Felix in Brooklyn NY, then up to Boston to visit my good friend Alex Beam (son of the ambassador to Moscow during Nixon) and his lovely wife. We traveled to her family estate near Wolfboro, NH - a true vacation! Rowing and canoeing early on the lake, splashing in its invigorating cold, clear water, preparing meals together and sitting on the broad porch sharing family lore until the sun set and the laughing loons called out across the water. I last heard those loons when I stayed with Nila Magidova (NYU Slavic chair’s widow) on Squam Lake (“Golden Pond”) and we visited Prof. Rzhevksy (NYU) who made wonderful cold borsch, as the poet Elagin recited his most recent work, ‘Perezd’ before cheating everyone at poker! See my Canadian Studies publication. I always called it my most Russian experience.”

“All is well here - I (**Dana Weintraub**, MA 1992) love my job at Make-A-Wish San Diego, with its many opportunities to learn leadership and management and stretch my fundraising skills. It’s incredibly fulfilling to go to work every day knowing that I am helping to make lives -- lots of lives -- truly better, with sometimes the small act of just saying, ‘We know you’re going through a tough time and we want to bring you some hope, strength

and joy.’ At home, my husband and I are about to become empty-nesters. My youngest stepkids are graduating high school in June, heading out of town to college in the fall, and so Jeff and I expect to downsize our home at least a little bit, and to move to a more walkable neighborhood somewhere in San Diego. And, we’ll start taking a lot of little trips to visit the kids at school, in Tucson, San Luis Obispo, and Atlanta.”

Kasa Zipfel (BA 2007) shared the following exciting news: “As part of the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Centennial Vision to promote evidence-based practice and research they are hosting the first annual Summer Institute for Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy in May. The faculty in my graduate program at Pacific University nominated me, and although more than 60 students applied from around the country, I was one of 20 selected to participate in the Institute. Selection for this means that I received a full ride scholarship to attend the Institute at University of Pittsburgh, where I will be matched with researchers who will mentor me in the process of beginning a career in health science research. Additionally, I am excited to say that I will be graduating this coming August with my Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree.”

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