

Letter from Chair Katarzyna Dziwirek



As we approach the end of each academic year, I invariably realize how much has happened in the department. In personnel news, we have lost our beloved undergraduate advisor Eloise Boyle, who left us for the greener pastures of the Drama School (i.e. a full time job). All reports indicate that she is very happy in her new position. Gina Gould has taken on Eloise’s advising duties and Greg Pflaumer is manning the front office, designing course flyers, and doing countless other tasks. We are very lucky to have them both.

In faculty news, Associate Professor José Alaniz was promoted to the rank of Professor. Congratulations! Professor James West is retiring at the end of this academic year

after 46 years in the department! He will not be gone, however, as he will continue to teach translation sections and courses for the next five years. We wish Professor West a very happy retirement and thank him for his long and exceptional service to the department.

In the fall we will be joined by two new instructors. Our next Polish Studies Fulbright lecturer is Dr. Marcin Jauksz. Dr. Jauksz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Polish and Classical Philology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. He will be with us during fall and winter quarters of AY 2018/19. In the fall he will teach *Reconstructing the Nineteenth Century in Film* and in the winter his class will be *Boyhoods and Girlhoods: The Images of Growing up in Contemporary European and American Cinema*. Please help spread the word about these exciting courses! Next year’s Ukrainian Foreign Language Teaching Assistant is Lidiya Oryshchuk. Lydia lives in Petropavlivska Borshchahivka and has a Master’s degree from LCC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania. She will be

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teaching second year Ukrainian. Again, please let interested students know that these courses will be offered, I believe, for the

first time in the department's history!

And speaking of history, this year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the department! The event on May 11th featured a fascinating lecture on Rasputin, good food (non-Slavic, though) and wine. Thank you to all who attended and made it such a memorable occasion. If you missed it, there are plenty of photos on the department's website, courtesy of Piotr Horoszowski. Thank you, Piotr!

Also, this year the department underwent its mandatory decennial review. Thank you to all who met with the review committee. We received a very positive report with many constructive suggestions, which we will work on during the next academic year.

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

Kat Dziwirek

STUDENT NEWS

Undergraduate student, **Jake Hansen**, who graduated this spring, is having quite an eventful year. His translation of "The Bus" (Rus: Автобус) was accepted for publication in the Spring 2018 issue of "The Birch" (an undergraduate

Slavic & Eastern European Studies journal put out by Columbia University). "The Bus" was written by contemporary prose writer Olga Isayeva. Prior to this, Isayeva's work has never been published in English translation.

In the autumn he will be traveling to Omsk, Russia on a Fulbright ETA Grant to teach English language and American "area studies" (страноведение) at Omsk State University (Омский государственный университет) from September 2018 through June 2019. In addition, he will be engaging in other forms of "cultural outreach" including translation work and participation in various clubs and organizations in Omsk and at ОмГУ.

SLAVIC CONVOCATION 2018



Bachelors of Arts

Allegra Bozorth
Jake Hansen
James Love
Alexis McClimans
Cecilianna Wahler-Edwards
Alexander Campana

Russian Language Minor

Olesya Shulipa

Masters of Arts

Alex King
Will Zuercher

The annual Slavic Department Convocation ceremony took place in the Smith Room of Suzallo Library on Friday, June 8, where we celebrated the members of our Class of 2018. Prof. Katarzyna Dziwirek, opened the event and introduced our keynote speaker, Doctor **B. Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz** (Ph.D. 2001). She reflected on her time at the department and how learning Russian changed her way of thinking about life and learning. She urged the students to enjoy their time in college, especially the local flavor that Seattle has to offer such as a late night run to Dicks Drive In.



She urged the students to be flexible in their studies and open to new ideas and opportunities.

She ended the address with the

FACULTY NEWS

wonderful advice to “Stay in Touch” which is something we try to do with this newsletter.

The keynote address was followed by a presentation of departmental awards. The award for Outstanding 1st-Year Russian Student was presented to **Heather Frizell**. Our Outstanding 2nd-Year Russian Student was **Levi Sy** who also received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. **Huanhong “Aleksey” Wang** was presented with a certificate for being chosen as a 2018 Russian Scholar Laureate by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR). A distinguished honor to be sure!

Irene Cruz Talavera wrote this year’s best Undergraduate paper entitled “Mother-Daughter Relationships in Ulysses and Lolita”. Professor Dziwirek announced that **Chutong Liu** won this year’s Vadim Pahn Scholarship. The Outstanding Graduate Student award was presented to **Alex King**.

The members of the graduating class were then introduced by faculty members who had worked closely with each of them. The ceremony was concluded and followed by a reception. The department wishes the best of luck to our graduating class of 2018. We

know you will go on to great things and make us proud!

Prof. José Alaniz J will participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, "Global Histories of Disability," at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. He is also taking part in a multi-year research project at Soderton University in Stockholm, Sweden, devoted to Women's Comics of the Baltic Region, and is presenting his paper, "'Trans*Siberia' and Queer Comics in Russia," at the 13th Annual Conference of the German Society for Comics Studies (ComFor) in Cologne, Germany.

Prof. Galya Diment will be finishing editing a volume for Anthem Press, called "H. G. Wells and All Things Russian." Contributors include scholars from US, UK, Canada, Russia, and Poland, as well as some UW people: Prof. Jose Alaniz and Richard Boyechko (ABD, Comp Lit) are contributing an article on Wells and Soviet Science Fiction, and Veronica Muskheli (ABD, Slavic) has translated materials from Russian into English. The volume will be dedicated to the memory of Catherine Stoye, H. G. Wells's granddaughter, whom she befriended during her work on the biography of Samuel Kotliansky, a Russian-Jewish translator in England who was very close to the Wells

family. She was also selected as a peer review committee member for the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Affiliate Professor, Dr. Eugene E. Lemcio (Лемцю) presented a paper at the REECAS Conference on April 28, 2018: "Religious Orientation and Public Policy in Modern Ukraine."

UW POLISH STUDIES

-Krystyna Untersteiner

On a beautiful spring afternoon on March 17, around seventy guests gathered at the UW Faculty Club. The event started with cocktails and small silent auction accompanied by David Hahn playing guitar.



Shortly after 7:00, dinner was served, and the official part of the evening began. After welcome by Krystyna Untersteiner, Fulbright Scholar's remarks by Dr. Justyna Budzik and the introduction of the keynote

speaker by Prof. Kat Dziwirek, a fascinating presentation entitled "Paderewski and World's Politics" was given by Prof. Marek Zebrowski.



The evening turned out to be not only a great occasion to socialize, to win some attractive auction items, but also to learn about Ignacy Paderewski and people and events leading to Poland's regaining its independence in 1918. In addition, the event enriched the UWPSEC fund by over \$8000. Thank you!

In April, it was the time to say goodbye to Dr. Justyna Budzik, our 2017/18 Fulbright Lecturer, and her husband Bartek. We are extremely grateful to Justyna for sharing her knowledge, enthusiasm and time with our students and community. In May, UWPSEC hosted Alex Storozyński and Olek Krupa who presented a documentary *Kosciuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time*. Mr. Storozyński, former president of the

Kosciuszko Foundation and a Pulitzer Prize - winning journalist, is the author of well received book *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution*.



More recently, he directed the above-mentioned documentary. Olek Krupa is a Polish actor, playing in many American film and television productions, most recently in *Hidden Figures*. In *Kosciuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time* he gave the voice to Kosciuszko.



Misters Storozyński's and Krupa's visit was a great opportunity to acquaint our community with life and accomplishments of Kosciuszko, a Polish-American revolutionary hero, one of George Washington's most important military strategists and engineers. The next day, a private reception gave yet another occasion to socialize, to have conversations with our guests, to learn more about Kosciuszko and the Kosciuszko Foundation.

This fall, we look forward to hosting Fulbright Lecturer Dr. Marcin Jauksz from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan who will teach a course titled *Reconstructing the Nineteenth Century in Film*. Students will have an opportunity to discover great period films and adaptations of literary texts, experience nineteenth century passions and fears, discover prominent contemporary European and American filmmakers, Central European cultural heritage, and embrace some of the strangest excursions through time and space in the history of filmmaking.

On a larger scale, Polish community in Seattle is celebrating centenaries of the Polish Home Association in Seattle and of Poland's Independence. The culmination of the celebrations will take place at a Gala dinner on November 10 at Polish Cultural Center (www.polishhome.org). Before that, plan to visit the Seattle Polish Film Festival (19-28 October at SIFF Uptown Cinema) which will feature a great choice of movies (www.polishfilms.org).

**UW UKRAINIAN
STUDIES**
-LAADA BILANIUK

On Thursday February 8, 2018,
UW Ukrainian Studies

presented an Expo Booth on Ukraine at the FIUTS University of Washington CulturalFest at the HUB, sharing information with visitors about Ukrainian language, culture, and politics. Thanks to all the volunteers from the university and community who helped staff the booth and engage the visitors!



On Friday March 2, 2018, UW Ukrainian Studies hosted Dr. Serhii Plokhii, Mykhailo Hrushevs'kyi Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University and Director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.



Dr. Plokyh presented a fascinating talk on his recent book, “Lost Kingdom: Ukraine and the Search for Russian Borders,” which delves into the historical roots of Russian nationalism and empire-building efforts.



A discussion on “Civil Society vs. War and Politics in Ukraine” was held at the UW Law on March 9, 2018. Presenters Yurko Didula, founder of Building Ukraine Together, and Maryana Kashchak, Executive Director of the Lviv Education Foundation, explained the various efforts their organizations are undertaking, bringing together volunteers to rebuild houses in the war-torn regions and to carry out improvements to public spaces.



Ukrainian language instruction at UW will continue in the 2018-2019 academic year. During the 2017-2018 year, Fulbright scholar Oksana

Zubchenko taught first-year Ukrainian language. We will miss her! We are very lucky to be able to offer continued Ukrainian language instruction this coming year, which will be taught by Lidiya Didkivska, the new Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant from Ukraine. Thank you to the Fulbright Program for supporting Ukrainian Studies at UW!

**UKRAINIAN
FULBRIGHT
OKSANA
ZUBCHENKO
REFLECTS ON HER
YEAR AT THE UW**

In 2017-18 **Oksana Zubchenko** taught first year Ukrainian for the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. As a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, she visited the University of Washington during the fall, winter and spring quarters of 2017-2018. Apart from the regular classes, Oksana also conducted a weekly conversation club where students and visitors would discuss a variety of interesting topics, polish their language skills and learn more about the Ukrainian culture.

During her stay at the UW, she had also been doing research that resulted in the presentation of two reports, one at the Praxis Conference and another at the Slavic dept. graduate student colloquium. Both of the reports were about the translation of American novels in Ukraine in the 1960-80s.

One of Oksana's passions is interpreting and translation. This year, she attended several meetings of the NOTIS (North West Translators and Interpreters Societies) and joined the court interpreting mentorship program at the Seattle Municipal Court. She also translated the book 'The power is within you' by Louise L. Hay, which was published and presented at the book fair in Kyiv, Ukraine in May 2018.



Another bit of wonderful news is that her translation of Mary Shelly's 'Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus' is now available in the e-version and the paperback version will soon reach shelves of the Ukrainian bookstores.

Oksana Zubchenko promoted Ukrainian language and culture outside the Slavic Department as well. For example, she volunteered at the FIUTS

CulturalFest International Expo, Seattle Children's Festival, FIUTS



Global Ambassador Day at one of the American schools and FIUTS Pen Pal program. She also organized Pysanka workshop where the Fulbrighter together with two other members of the Ukrainian community explained the tradition of decorating the Easter eggs and taught all those present how to do that.



It was extremely interesting for her to attend classes of the UW professors and get insight into the American system of education and to promote Ukrainian language and culture in the USA. She has put the first brick into the relationships between her host and home institution (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv) and hopes that they will continue and develop. Oksana Zubchenko: "It was an honor and a great pleasure to

teach my native language, share my culture and see the sparkling eyes of my students eager to learn more and more!



I have been surrounded by so many wonderful people and I am extremely grateful to everyone for contributing to this amazing year, in particular, to members of the Slavic Department, my students and people from the Ukrainian community! This has been a truly fantastic and enriching year for me! Thank you!"



**POLISH
FULBRIGHT
LECTURER
JUSTYNA BUDZIK
BIDS A FOND
FAREWELL**



The time I spent at the UW as a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer was definitely one of my

biggest lifetime adventures and one of the founding experiences in my professional life. I came to teach, but it turned out I have learnt a lot myself as well. This was primarily thanks to my brilliant students who were very eager to explore the complexities of the Polish language as well as different aspects of hauntings in contemporary Polish film and photography. Together we had inspiring and often philosophical discussions on the way images transfer the notions of identity, memory, ethics or emotions. From the pedagogical point of view, giving classes in the US was also an important practice and research at the same time, as the teaching

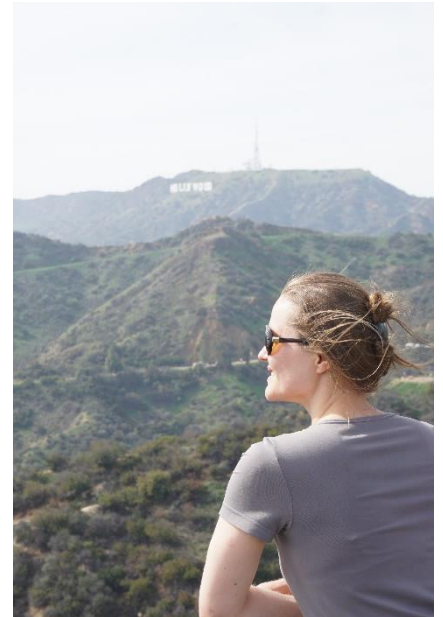
environment and university organization and mission is, in general, a little bit different than what I was used to before. Also the faculty and staff made my stay fabulous! I appreciate a lot the how kind and helpful was prof. Katarzyna Dziwirek, the chair of the Slavic Department, as well as all colleagues and staff. Thanks to that I had the feeling of belonging to the department and I hope I was able to contribute to its activities as well.



Justyna and Krystyna Untersteiner

Outside of the department, I took part in different workshops and conferences which broaden my research horizons and expanded my view on teaching in a multicultural environment. These 6 months in Seattle were very intense and full of various events because of my involvement in the activities in the Polish community. Seattle Polish Film Festivals, The Polish Home Cultural Organization, Polish School in Bellevue – in all these places I've met wonderful people who greeted us with hospitality and openness and they were willing to engage in my ideas of meetings, workshops of classes, for which I am very grateful.

Last but not least, Seattle was a perfect “base camp” for discovering the overwhelming nature and beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Throughout our travels across the Washington, Oregon and California state, for the first time we encountered what philosophers call the sublime.



I cannot fully describe the meaning and importance of the Fulbright experience both for my academic career and private life. I very much hope to be back one day at the UW and to maintain friendship tied during this time.

ON THE GRADIENT FROM THE SLAVIC TO THE ROMANCE WORLD

–Michael Biggins

At the invitation of the University of Nova Gorica in Slovenia, in spring 2018 I conducted a seminar on the work of Slovenian prose writer Vladimir Bartol for students in their humanities doctoral program. Surely it seems odd for a Slovene university to invite an American to offer a graduate course on a Slovene author – but from the time he began publishing in 1927 to this very day, Bartol has perennially been the object of controversy in his homeland, particularly among readers and critics who tend to confuse narrators with authors. I'm convinced that Bartol fits into a larger European-wide tradition of post-World War I writers who were fascinated with the pervasive and unprecedented psychological and social impacts of the war and the collapse of Europe's autocracies.

The seminar, which consisted of 10 contact hours over the course of one week in May, plus a two-hour public lecture, gave me an opportunity to develop some of

my theories for making better sense of Bartol, most of which are based on reading his unpublished diaries, notebooks and correspondence. My transcriptions of relevant sequences from this unpublished Bartoliana figured among the required readings for the seminar and gave the students an opportunity to be among the first to discover authorial perspectives on key issues that have been obscured until now.



The Gorica Hills

The location of the seminar – scarcely more than a hundred paces from Slovenia's now nominal border with Italy – gave me an opportunity to get to know a fascinating part of the country that I'd only passed through before. Since Slovenia joined the Schengen zone in 2004, the former border checkpoint has been absorbed into the university's campus. Yet in addition to the language difference, Nova Gorica on the Slovenian side and Gorizia on the Italian side still maintain distinct personalities: while the core of "Old" Gorica is clearly a creation of the 18th and 19th centuries, the mostly ponderous, communist-era architecture of "New" Gorica reflects its

origins in protest against the post-1945 demarcation by the Allies that awarded most of the historic city to Italy. The ethnically mixed Slovene-Italian transitional zone, known on the Italian side as Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, with its regional capital of Trieste, is actually trilingual and includes enclaves of speakers of Friulian, a distinct Romance language with over a half million speakers. The ethnic patchwork that the region comprises, where hilltop Slovene towns alternate with lowland Friulian ones less than a kilometer away, which in turn give way to further Slovene towns on the next ridge over, not to mention the less numerous, but larger, mostly Italian-speaking urban centers – all of which are home to vibrant cultural institutions advancing each of the three languages and cultures – is a source of immense beauty, diversity and fascination that I wholeheartedly recommend.



Prof. Biggins at the Medana Gradnik Museum

**50 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

On Friday May 11th faculty, alumni, staff and friends gathered in Kane Hall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UW Slavic department. Although the Russian language has been taught at the University of Washington for nearly 100 years, the department of Slavic Languages and Literatures was not formed until 1968.



The evening began with an introduction by department chair Katarzyna Dziwirek who reflected on the history of the department. Next the crowd enjoyed a talk by departmental major Alexis McClimans



who talked about the importance of learning another language and how the study of Slavic

language and literature has influenced her and changed the way she thinks about the world. Then UW history Professor James Felak



introduced the keynote speaker, renowned historian Douglas Smith, author of 5 books on Russian history.



Smith captivated the audience with a talk about the subject of his latest book “Rasputin: Faith, Power and the Twilight of the Romanovs”. While the legend of the “Mad Monk” is certainly well known, Smith focused on separating fact from fiction and the stories of his travels and adventures researching the book

were just as interesting as Rasputin himself.



After the lecture had concluded the crowd moved across the hall to the beautiful Walker Ames room.



Folks enjoyed delicious food and drink, caught up with old friends, and made some new ones.



The event was a wonderful way to celebrate the first 50 years of the department and to look forward to the next half century.

NEWS FROM YOU

Bud Bard (BA 1955, MA 1966) writes with news about UW Grad David Aikman. “When I was a Director of the Foundation for International understanding Through Students (FIUTS) at the UW, and prior to that a Foreign Student Advisor at the UW during the years from 1966-1972 a very frequent visitor to our office in the Communications Building was David Aikman, a foreign student from England. He was a very likable person and also one of the very few students at the university from that part of the world. David was liked by all staff members in the International Student’s Office, and also took an active role in the International Show that was a FIUTS event and produced by UW International students. David went on to receive his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He studied Russian language during his time at the UW but did not receive his degree in this field. Aikman started his career as a correspondent for TIME Magazine in 1971 after graduating from the UW. His career at TIME spanned 23 years as a senior correspondent for TIME, as well as Bureau Chief in Berlin, Jerusalem and Beijing, David was conversant

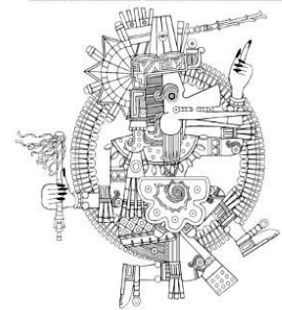
in a number of languages, Russian, Chinese, French and German. He published nine books, and during his journalism career and traveled to five continents visiting 55 countries. Recently I came across one of his books, “Great Souls”, that David wrote in 2002 and gave to me when we met in early 2000 on a visit to Seattle. The book told about his interviews with some prominent people whom he had the privilege of interviewing over the years; among them Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, and Billy Graham, whom he interviewed twice.

Not long after his stint at TIME Magazine David was hired as a Professor of History at Patrick Henry College for 10 years. He also served as a Senior Fellow and a regular Moderator for the Trinity Forum. In addition, he is the founding chairman and a board member of Geographa, a global fellowship of journalists. Recently he was a Senior Fellow at the Ethnic and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. In addition to all of those recent responsibilities David was a regular commentator and host on the Voice of America and has been a commentator on NBC, ABC, CNN, Fox News, and the BBC. Recently David moved from his home in Warrenton, Virginia to Vicar of Blair, a county in Ireland to be closer to his family.

Not long ago I had the opportunity of having lunch with Era Schrepfer, Executive Director of FIUTS at the UW. She well knows how many incredible people representing countries from around the world that have graced the FIUTS offices and that have participated in their community programs over the many years that she has been in that position. Fortunately during my time on campus I remember a few, who like David Aikman went on to become a “great soul”. I am donating David Aikman’s autographed book, “Great Souls” to FIUTS at the University of Washington in honor of his being there and sharing his presence with FIUTS and the UW .”

Richard Bathazar. (MA 1967) has an exciting announcement.

YE GODS! Icons of Aztec Deities
by Richard Bathazar
El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe
555 Camino de la Familia
June 1 – July 29, 2018
Opening Reception: Friday, June 1, 5 – 7 pm



Black & white icons designed for a coloring book are presented on large-scale vinyl banners. Prints will be available for coloring and/or framing, and lectures will accompany the show.

Contact rbalthazar@msn.com or www.richardbalthazar.com.

“I am totally thrilled to announce that I’ll be having an exhibition of my icons of Aztec deities! The show opened on

June 1 at El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe and will run through July 29th. To accompany the show, I'll be giving a series of lectures on Aztec art, history, and their codices (picture-books). In all, it will be a crash course on Aztec mythology and culture.

Nina Boe graduated from the Slavic Department in 2010 with a BA in Eastern European Literatures, Languages & Cultures and a focus on Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. While professional international experiences led her to picking up Portuguese after two years in Brazil, she came back to Seattle to return to UW and take on a master's degree. This June she graduated from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance with a Master's in Public Administration, focusing on nonprofit management and international development. Her capstone project team won the school's International Development Research Prize for their client-based policy paper "Understanding Syria's Minorities: Practical and Policy Implications." She is eager to head back to the Balkans in fall 2018 and spend two years in Macedonia with the Peace Corps as a community development volunteer.

Scott Brauer (BA 2005) has new addition to his family! "My wife, Heidi Wickersham, and I just had a baby. She was born on April 23rd in

Cambridge, MA and her name is Zoë Simone Wickersham-Brauer. All are happy and healthy. We just took Zoë on her first visit to a national park, camping for a couple days in Acadia National Park in Maine. We've lived in the Boston area for the past 6 years. After her maternity leave, Heidi will return to her job as Program Manager for the Women's center at Harvard University. I'm now in my 11th or 12th year as a freelance photojournalist, working recently for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Business week, Stern, Time, ProPublica, Le Monde, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and other magazines and newsletters. In 2016, I got a few chances to use my Russian and explore other parts of Eastern Europe while exhibiting my project on the American presidential election in Lithuania, Bulgaria, and Croatia. Last year, the project was shown as part of festivals in Germany and Brazil, too.

Gray Carpenter Church (B.A. '77) reports that she has nothing to report. However, she thinks it would be nice if everyone reading this News from You article would make time to post a photo or two from your U-Dub days to the Facebook University of Washington Slavic Languages and Literatures webpage.

Sarah Garibova (BA 2009) Will begin a new job as

Assistant Teaching Professor in the Jewish Studies Program at Pennsylvania State University

Solomon Ioffe (Ph.D. 1985) received recognition in a book by Irina L'vovna Galinskaya, «Наследие Михаила Булгакова в современных толкованиях» [*The Legacy of Mikhail Bulgakov in Modern Interpretations*]. Her book can be viewed online, and the eight paragraphs about Solomon Ioffe's work are in the chapter that is on the web page <https://lit.wikireading.ru/44592>. She refers seven times to S.I.'s 1987 article in *Novyy Zhurnal* (*The New Review*) and once to his 1988 article "Art as Memoir" in *Slovo-Word*. Amid summaries of ideas of various critics and scholars, she said this (translation and abridgment courtesy of Henry Christoffers):

The Bulgakov scholar S. Ioffe, who lives in the U.S.A., in an article about the cryptographic nature of M. A. Bulgakov's novel *Heart of a Dog*, asserts that with the symbolic name *Chugunkin* ["cast iron"...] the writer "camouflaged a satire on Stalin"; Professor Preobrazhensky is a "camouflaged" Lenin, and his assistant Dr. Bormental' is Trotsky. And Stalin not only is the underlying model for the tavern balalaika player Chugunkin, parts of whose body were, following his death, transplanted by Preobrazhensky into the dog Sharik, but also is the model for the dog Sharik himself.

S.I. poses anew the question about the content of all Mikhail Afanas'yevich Bulgakov's works. He concludes his article with the following pronouncement: "Historians and scholars and critics of literature ought to realize that we have before us not merely artistic fictional works by Bulgakov but an entire memoir-and-satire cycle, with any exceptions being newspaper feuilletons. The fundamental task now is to give every cryptographic work of Bulgakov an initial deciphering."

This call by S. Ioffe was sounded on the pages of the American journal *The New Review* in 1987, but Bulgakov scholars in our [Russian] homeland responded to it only over ten years later.

Mary Kruger (B.A.1970) will be teaching a course on public diplomacy to Ukrainian diplomats in Kyiv this summer. Even though retired from my career in the U.S. Foreign Service, I still keep up with events and friends in Ukraine and Russia through occasional visits, election observation and special projects like this one.

In the 2017-2018 academic year **Don Livingston** (Ph.D. 1998) is serving as Interim Director of The Critical Languages Institute (CLI) in The Melikian Center at Arizona State University. The Critical Languages Institute specializes in teaching 7-, 8-, 11- and 12-week intensive languages over the summer, this

year encompassing 11 languages in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Oceania. UW Grad Tony Qualin is serving as resident director in CLI's Bishkek-based Russian language courses. Don is looking forward to circumaviating the planet this summer while inspecting CLI's programs abroad in Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Albania and Bosnia

Rebecca Manring (M.A. 1974) says "This year I've published several articles. One treats a mysterious Sanskrit text I've been working on, off and on, for over two decades (the anonymous Radhatantra); one concerns an intriguing episode of apparent cannibalism in the Middle Bengali epic (Dharmamangala) I'm currently translating; and one, collaborative with a colleague, treats the matter of spontaneous sex change among Buddhist monastics in Buddhist commentarial literature from the 5th-12th centuries. Meanwhile I've just hooded another brand new PhD, who even has a tenure-track job starting this fall! As I write I'm preparing for 6 weeks in India. The first month will be for my twice-yearly rounds of the American Institute of Indian Studies' language programs around the country. Following that I'm heading up to the hills for the third annual Middle Bengali Reading Retreat, which I've helped organize. It's an elite

bunch simply because there aren't many of us working on these texts, but the intellectual stimulation and collegiality amongst these international scholars has really been a gift. My best wishes to all of you!"

Bob Powers (B.A. 1978) Has a lot of news to share. "While living with my Ukrainian wife Olga in Ohrid, Macedonia, 2013-2015, we completed and published on Amazon our "Ukrainian Phrasebook, Dictionary, Menu Guide & Interactive Factbook" (1912 Kindle pages). The ebook won the gold medal for nonfiction-reference at the Poynter Global Ebooks Awards competition in 2016. While all that was going on, a Macedonian lexicographer and I started a "Macedonian Phrasebook & Dictionary" (1517 Kindle pages), which I just released last week on May 17th. A month prior to that, I published a "Macedonian Food & Menu Guide", also an ebook. And finally in a Slavic vein, we have a second Ukrainian phrasebook-dictionary (more than 1500 Kindle pages) coming out next week, together with a Ukrainian Food & Menu Guide, and then two Russian phrasebooks coming out in August. Details about all these and others can be found on our website phrase-books.com. For those who might be curious about the Macedonian language, you can think of it as "Russian Lite". The common-sense

Macedonians tossed out all that Russian grammatical baggage, so that there are hardly any word changes. One speed bump to mastering Macedonian, tho, is that the stress of a word of 3 or more syllables always falls on the 3rd syllable from the end. So, if you add a plural ending - Presto!, your stress is on a different syllable. Calls for a versatile larynx.

Definitely put Macedonia on your list of places to visit. It's a beautiful country and the people are wonderful. My wife's mother, who came to visit us for 3 months from Sumy, Ukraine, was befriended by an elderly Macedonian woman. Neither spoke the other's language, but they spent days together, communicating splendidly. I guess that's the beauty of Slavic languages: if you speak one, you've got a foot in the door to another."

Cheryl Carrier Spasojevic (B.A. 1967) writes "I finally retired in November 2017 from working at PCC for 26

years. Since then much of my time has been taken up by my activities with the local Serbian Church, St. Sava. I am on the board, serving as Treasurer. After taking on this position we transferred the bookkeeping from a software version of QuickBooks to the on-line version - the transition was less than smooth, as many transactions were duplicated. I spent from November to April tracking all this down and sorting it out for the auditors. In March we began organizing for our first Serbian Children's Cultural Festival, which was held on June 3rd at the Langston Hughes Cultural Center. This event was a huge success with a program that included an original play, skits, songs, dances, and choral and instrumental numbers, all performed by the children of the local Serbian community, and all in the Serbian language. The second part of the evening moved downstairs where there was an exhibit by the children highlighting the Cyrillic alphabet, a sampling of Serbian

cuisine and participatory dancing to the tamburica music of our local group "Svirci". I was the "official" editor and translator for all of the written materials. This event was made possible in part by grants from the City of Seattle and the Serbian Ministry that supports cultural activities of the diaspora. I made a short trip to Serbia from May 3 - 13, accompanied by my older son, primarily to take care of bank business. While there I did meet with the director of the local branch of the Red Cross to explore possible projects to continue aspects of the work I have been involved with there for 14 years. We are now gearing up for our annual Serbian Days, July 28 & 29 out at St. Sava church in Issaquah. Join us for a fun filled time with live music, dancing, feasting on spit-roasted lamb and pig, čevapčići, cheese pita. Free admission and parking. Children's activities and more.

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