

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Slavic News Winter 2019



Welcome to another year of Slavic News! Longtime readers will notice our new format which we hope you enjoy. Be sure to check out our newly revamped website as well and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)!

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR KATARZYNA DZIWIREK

Much has happened in the department since June. In the fall we welcomed two new instructors: Polish Studies Fulbright lecturer Dr. Marcin Jauksz and Ukrainian Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Lidiya Oryshchuk. Both are having a very busy and productive time at the UW. Lidiya is teaching second year Ukrainian and Marcin will teach *Boyhoods and Girlhoods: The Images of Growing up in Contemporary European and American Cinema* in the upcoming winter quarter.

I am very proud to let you know that our own Professor Gordana Crnković has been nominated for the third time for UW's Distinguished Teaching Award. Let's hope that third time is the charm and she receives this much deserved honor.

I am also very happy to report that in December our Polish Studies Distinguished Speakers' Fund received a \$25,000 donation from Maria „Isia” and Ryszard Kott. Maria has been a very active member of the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee from its inception until her recent illness. She has been involved in every aspect of the committee's activities: proposing and contacting candidates for the distinguished speaker series, co-organizing exhibits, auctions and other events, creating documentary albums of all activities, and, last but not least, donating beautiful Polish silver jewelry to the committee's auctions. Ryszard created and has been running the Seattle Polish News service making sure the community is well connected. He established the Seattle Polish Foundation and led fundraising efforts for the renovation and expansion of the Polish Home, now Polish Cultural Center. He

was also a co-founder of the Polish Festival at the Seattle Center. It is not an overstatement to say that the Polish community in Seattle would not be where it is today without the Kott family. We are truly honored that Maria and Ryszard decided to support the efforts of UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee in this very generous way.

In other happy news, our newest faculty member Prof. Sasha Senderovich and his partner Prof. Liora Halperin (Jackson School/History) welcomed Rami, a beautiful baby boy, to their family in August. We wish all three of them much happiness.

I want to close by wishing you all a very good New Year: much success in your professional endeavors and much joy and fulfillment in your private lives. I hope you will stay in touch with us in 2019.

Kat Dziwerek

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STAFF NEWS

Get to know
our new
Undergraduate
Adviser
Gina Gould!



Like many first-generation college students, I wasn't going to "waste" my opportunity to go to college on some "useless" major. My education was going to have a purpose. My education was going to lead me to a good job. I was going to make something of myself. I was going to be a high school history teacher!

There were a couple of challenges. I was having a much better time in political science classes than I was in history. I hate public speaking. If I had to be honest I'll admit I'm not particularly fond of kids. And, fortunately, although it felt very unfortunate at the time, no one was hiring teachers.

To pay the rent I took a front desk job at my alma mater. My boss encouraged me take advantage of the resources for career exploration I should have done when I was actually a student. I discovered I had the right field, education, but the wrong job. I went on to a MA degree program that focused on training people to work in student services in higher education.

This time I got it right. Still in education but working one-on-one with students to help them be successful in college. I've now been an undergraduate adviser at the University of Washington for over 25 years. For most of those years I've worked in the Philosophy Department. Because it's a part time position, I've been able to work for other programs on campus as needed. Mostly these have been in the sciences, so it is exciting to be involved in a language and literature program. It is delightful to be around people who are committed to

studying the power of words! So far, I've encountered students who are just as concerned about their futures as I was in college, but who discovered long before I did that your college major has more to do with who you are than with your professional success.

Outside of work, I'm a lifelong resident of Washington state. I share my rural Snohomish county home with seven horses, three goats, five chickens, two cats and one spouse. That's 62 feet on the ground! When I get a break from animal care and commuting, I love to read. I'm hoping to dig into *War and Peace* during the rest of the winter because it is the featured book in the department's "Russian's Big Books" class (RUSS 340) taught by Galya Diment this quarter. Sadly, I'm limited to reading it in English.

- Gina Gould

STUDENT NEWS

All about Ph.D. student Matt Ellett's 2018 in Europe



The summer FLAS scholarship afforded me the opportunity to travel to Kiev, where I conducted a 6-week intensive Russian and Ukrainian language course to improve my language skills and my understanding of the place occupied by Surzhyk in Kiev.

My language study focused on the history of Kiev and the Ukrainian language, and the influence that Russia and the Russian language have had on Ukraine, and how language attitudes since independence have impacted Russian-speaking Ukrainians.

This was my first opportunity to live and study in Kiev, and I immediately fell in love with the city. I was fortunate enough to find an apartment in the center, where I could walk to nearly any major landmark. I took the opportunity to immerse myself in the city beyond my studies by attending and working with a local church, regularly attending a local gym, watching movies in Ukrainian, and using the markets as much as possible. I learned so much about the city, and I was surprised to see how much the city's residents use both language mixing and code switching between Russian, Ukrainian, and even English to communicate.

I also used the opportunity to travel to L'viv, one of my favorite Eastern European cities, and become even more intimately acquainted with the city and culture, and to practice the more western variety of Ukrainian spoken there.

This fall I conducted a semester abroad at Daugavpils University, in Daugavpils, Latvia. Daugavpils is a fully Russian-speaking city, and I studied with the department of Russian philology. It was an excellent opportunity to conduct my studies entirely in Russian. While there, I took courses on Russian dialectology, with a focus on the differences between Russian and Ukrainian, Russian and Ukrainian conversational variations, and attitudes toward Surzhyk. I also took a course on 19th and 20th century drama, becoming familiar with several classic Russian and Soviet playwrights and their works. Finally, I took a course on conversational Russian, focusing on language used in the home and in very familiar settings – a deficiency in my own Russian which I discovered on a previous trip while living with a host family. Each of these courses greatly increased my Russian language



capacity as well as my understanding of Russian culture and the language issues dividing Russian and Ukrainian.

While in Daugavpils I also was able to conduct a survey on language attitudes and perspectives for the future of Russian in the city. It is the only Russian-speaking enclave left in the Baltics, aside from Riga, and is economically lagging behind the rest of the three Baltic nations. Language policy in Latvia is moving towards complete dominance of Latvian, and I wanted to see what local perceptions were on the future of Russian in the city.

Finally, I was able to travel throughout the Baltics to some of my favorite cities – Tallinn, Vilnius, Riga, and everywhere in between.

- Matt Ellett

Get to know our Honors Undergrad student Sean Kosick!



Sean Kosick came to the University of Washington thinking he might major in electrical engineering. He soon discovered that he excelled in the study of Russian and changed his direction. He will be graduating this Spring with a Law, Societies and Justice minor compliment to his Russian Literature, Language and Culture major.

Why did you become a Russian Language Literature and Culture major?

I'm studying Russian because I've always found the language fascinating, but also because I'm interested in Russian film and literature.

You are working with Professor Sasha Senderovich on an honors thesis. Could you tell us a little about what you are working on?

In my thesis, I'm going to look at the evolution of the "prisoner of the Caucasus" story, and look at why it has been changed in each iteration. In particular, I'll look at two films, Кавказский Пленник (Prisoner of

the Mountains) by Sergei Bodrov and Пленный (Captive) by Alexei Uchitel. I'll also be looking at three written versions, one by Tolstoy, another by Pushkin, and the final by Vladimir Makanin.

What are your plans after graduation?

I intend to apply to several local police departments in hopes of becoming an officer.

How do you see your studies in Russian helping in your career?

I think knowing Russian could be useful mostly for translating, but also knowing about and respecting a variety of cultures is important for police officers. Learning Russian has opened me up to several cultures, and I think that will be beneficial to me.

POLISH NEWS

During the second half of 2018, the Polish community focused on the centennial anniversaries of the Polish Home Association in Seattle and Poland regaining its independence. The celebrations started in July with the Polish Festival Seattle at Seattle Center, continuing with Seattle Polish Film Festival, the Anniversary Gala at the Polish Cultural Center, and ending with Janusz Olejniczak performing Chopin's masterpieces at Benaroya Hall.



Centennial Gala at the Polish Home (photo by Piotr Horoszowski)

During Autumn Quarter, our only event at the UW campus was a screening of *The Promised Land*, a masterpiece directed by Andrzej Wajda. The movie was introduced by Prof. Kat Dziwirek, a native of Łódź, where the action of the movie takes place. *The Promised Land* is based on a novel by Władysław Reymont, 1924 Nobel Prize laureate, and tells the story of a Pole, a German, and a Jew struggling to build a factory in the raw world of 19th century capitalism. The screening of the movie, originally released 43 years ago, delighted younger as well as older generations!

In September, we welcomed Dr. Marcin Jauksz, UW Polish Studies Fulbright Lecturer, from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. In Autumn Quarter, Dr. Jauksz offered a course titled *Reconstructing the Nineteenth Century in Film*. In Winter Quarter, he will be teaching *Boyhoods and Girlhoods: The Images of Growing up in Contemporary European and American Cinema*.

The year ended with a beautiful gift from Maria and Ryszard Kott who donated \$25,000 to the UWPSEC Distinguished Speakers Series. We are extremely grateful for Maria and Ryszard's generosity and we look forward to inviting thought-provoking and stimulating guests.

We are truly grateful to all our supporters whose donations allow us to bring lecturers and exhibits to the UW, to co-sponsor Fulbright scholars, to provide student scholarships, and to make our endowment grow. Thank you!

At the January meeting, we held UWPSEC Board elections. Here are the results: Krystyna Untersteiner, Chair; Ewa Sledziewski, Co-Chair; Kat Dziwirek, Secretary; Chris Dawson-Ripley, Treasurer.

On January 31, we hosted Basia and Leonard Myszynski, producers of a documentary titled *Bridging Urban America: The Story of Ralph Modjeski*. Modjeski was a Polish-born civil engineer who revolutionized bridge designing in the United States. The screening of the film was followed by an informative Q&A with the producers. Wishing you all the best in the New Year!

- Krystyna Untersteiner, UWPSEC Chair

UKRAINIAN NEWS



On November 4, author-activist Ruslan Gorovyi brought the audience gathered in Denny Hall to laughter and to tears with readings of short stories from his various books. His stories gave insight into the daily lives of people in Ukraine during the Soviet and post-Soviet period, using Ukrainian regional dialects to convey the richness and emotion of his characters. Ruslan also shared the story of Danylo Didik, who was killed at age 15 in a terrorist attack on the "March of Unity" in Kharkiv in 2015, raising awareness of his sacrifice.



November 25: It has been 85 years since the Holodomor, the famine engineered by the Soviet government in which millions perished in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Association of Washington state, along with the UW Ukrainian studies Initiative, organized a commemoration in the Walker-Ames Room in Kane Hall. The event included participation from the Seattle Plast scouting group, a moving song performance by Solomia Bishko, and a showing of the 2017 film *Bitter Harvest*, directed by George Mendeluk. At the end of the commemoration, community members came forward to share their families' tragic stories of the Holodomor. In commemorating we honor those who died, pass on their stories, and raise awareness so that such tragic events are not repeated.



Ukrainian folk musician and traditional instrument craftsman Jurij Fedynskyj presented a fascinating and moving concert and lecture in Thomson Hall on Friday November 30. Jurij, originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, has spent the past fifteen years in Ukraine researching ethnomusicology and learning the art of making instruments. Jurij both explained and embodied the traditions of Ukrainian bards as he recounted the history of traditional Ukrainian instruments and the cultural contexts in which they were played. He demonstrated three instruments made by his own hand, a traditional kobza, torban, and bandura, explaining their unique features and playing them to accompany his singing of traditional songs. He conveyed his philosophy of living in accordance with the principles you believe in.

- Laada Bilaniuk

SLOVENE NEWS

Slovene Studies at UW Turns Ten...

... and is doing so in style this academic year, beginning with the UW Department of Linguistics' recruitment of [Gašper Beguš](#) (PhD 2018, Harvard – BA 2012, Ljubljana) as its newest assistant professor, specializing in phonology as well as historical and computational linguistics. Although Prof. Beguš's linguistic interests span the globe, his current research program includes field work in Slovene and Croatian dialectology. In Seattle he is joined by his wife, [Nina Beguš](#), who is currently writing her PhD dissertation in Central European comparative literature, and their two sons Tomaž and Lev.

Both Gašper and Nina Beguš have enthusiastically joined in our efforts to establish an endowed program in Slovene studies at UW. At the moment we are planning a four-week, interdisciplinary UW Early Fall Start program in Slovenia in August-September 2020 that will be open to all UW students, and we are exploring prospects for creating a semester-long student exchange with the University of Ljubljana – both through the UW Office of Study Abroad.



The UW-U. of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange brought two distinguished visitors to UW for the month of October – [Prof. Marko Marinčič](#) to the UW Department of Classics at the invitation of his colleague Prof. Jim Clauss, and [Prof. Katarina Marinčič](#) to UW's Department of French and Italian. In November we sent a UW PhD student of choral music, Gerrit Scheepers, for a month-long residency and intensive collaboration with faculty at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. We hope that this

marks the beginning of a long and productive collaboration in choral music between UW and UL.

On October 19, 2018, members of the Seattle area Slovene American community joined with about 25 UW students and faculty with research interests involving Slovenia and over a dozen members of the Consular Association of Washington (including the honorary consuls for Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Turkey and others) to welcome Slovene Ambassador Stanislav Vidovič to Seattle and UW at an [evening reception](#) where he formally announced the opening of Slovenia's fifteenth and newest honorary consulate in the U.S. – for Washington State. The UW Choral Singers, conducted by Gerrit Scheepers, honored the ambassador and guests with the performance of a choral piece by 16th-century Slovene composer [Jacobus Gallus](#) (Jakob Petelin). As the first incumbent of this office, and with a five-year term through 2023, I am dedicated to garnering significant support for UW's Slovene studies program and endowment.



Finally, this year marks the tenth anniversary of Slovene studies at UW. UW offered its first formal courses in the language in 2009. Ten years later, students studying the language at UW come from programs as wide-ranging as computer science, choral music, international studies, atmospheric sciences and public health – in addition to Slavic languages and literatures. As the untapped wealth of Slovenia's creativity and research become more familiar at UW – thanks, among other things, to the presence of outstanding Slovenist colleagues on our faculty, and through regular student and faculty exchanges and Early Fall Start programs – we look forward to seeing this program continue to grow.

- Michael Biggins

FULBRIGHT NEWS

Polish Fulbrighter Dr. Marcin Jauksz

Tell us a little about yourself: where is home, what is your field of study/expertise, etc.

I was born, grew up and was educated – all the way up till my PhD in Poznań. I earned my degree at Adam Mickiewicz University, the place I have been working as an assistant professor for seven years now. Despite



studying Polish Literature, I majored in American one, writing my masters on Henry Miller and his associations with writings of Henry David Thoreau. It was mostly for the latter writer that I got seduced into nineteenth century literature and introduced to the works of a largely neglected Polish writer and critic Karol Irzykowski. With him I embarked on a five-year adventure of reading through his unique novel *Patuba (The Hag)* which I see as a discussion with the concepts of egotistical writing in the nineteenth century and cognitive philosophy of the era. My reading of nineteenth century fiction combined well with my ongoing interest in films and on the relation between the two I taught several courses concerned mainly with problems of adapting the nineteenth-century plots into language of the film.

Why did you choose to do a Fulbright in Seattle?

It was the weather, clearly. And actually that is a bit of a disappointment as I am experiencing (everybody's telling me) the most beautiful and sunny fall and winter in years. It was supposed to be raining and allow me a distractionless time in the library, with no temptations as to sightseeing. Well – this did not work out that well, obviously. But I do not regret. And the

other – just as important reasons for coming here – like a wonderful coherence of the topics needed to be taught with the lines of my teaching expertise and the ongoing research assured a beneficial time and proved the choice was an excellent one.

What will you be working on while you are here?

I call it “the *Boyhood* project”. It is a research which uses Richard Linklater’s masterpiece as a roadmap of contemporary culture and a chance to study comparatively various growing up and development plots from the both sides of Atlantic. American libraries offer so much better a chance of approaching the necessary secondary literature which allows me to connect the points I have selected in order to better grasp what the contemporary means and what is pop culture’s place in formation of a young mind.

How does UW compare to your home institution?

It is just as a friendly and well organized place, giving space to set one’s goals and realize them to the best of one’s skill. Still – there are differences – concerned mostly with the ways of financing the research and the fact that the higher education in U.S. is a matter not only of skill but also of securing significant financial means which on one hand help the university to buy the necessary equipment or any book deemed necessary for the library, on the other makes the students a bit more energetic and focused on their goals, I would say.

What do you miss most about home?

That would be my children, obviously. They are small still and although we use audiovisual means of communication on daily basis, the need of a hug and simply being close to them is a most profound need which cannot be satisfied. To my daughter (she’s two) I have become one with the machine and she says “daddy, daddy” every time she sees a laptop. That’s posthumanism in practice – if you ask me. But I am happy that we communicate and I will see them soon enough. The food (which some would believe should be my second answer) turned out not to be an issue. It turns out that I can cook every Polish meal I desire and it tastes accurately. The only problem is ketchup – which comes as a huge surprise, providing its

importance in American culture – there you have nothing to be proud of and I was not able to find any that would match Polish leading brands.

Can you recommend any Polish authors, films or artists that you find interesting and enjoyable?

Out of the classics of Polish cinema I always advise people to return to the films of Wojciech Jerzy Has and Wojciech Marzewski, I utterly love the stories they tell and the way they tell it. Has' choices of literary material to be adapted for the screen (Potocki, Prus, Schulz) would be also my recommendations for obligatory reading to anyone interested in Polish letters. But it is also contemporary Polish cinema that is worth noticing – out of which Marcin Krzyształowicz's and Agnieszka Smoczyńska's films alongside to Kuba Czekaj's stunning *Baby Bump* would be my personal highlights. I also enjoyed Łukasz Barczyk's *Influenza*, but it is a tricky recommendation as maybe only eleven Poles altogether liked it, so one should know the risks. These are the deepest waters here.

Would you like to travel while you're here? (or have you traveled since you've been here?)

Exploring the Northwestern region is a wonderful experience. I really love the climate and am happy for all the possibilities I had to explore the Olympic Peninsula and the whereabouts of the Mount Rainier. I still hope of getting to Roslin, WA where one of my favourite series of all time – *The Northern Exposure* – had been shot. And to Vancouver – I hope that could happen sometime in February or March. But already my own personal “exposure to the North” have proven to be excellent.

What's next for you?

A busy spring in the first place. I am coming back to Poland for the second semester and my Polish literature and film students. There will be hardly any time to rest as I also dream of making good use of all the books and notes I bring with me to finalize “the Boyhood book”. And my friends threaten to come with a vengeance for all the social activities I have missed while being here – so “time management and the curious art of stretching the hours *ad infinitum*”

would be a course to take while still here. Anyone teaching that on UW?

Ukrainian Fulbrighter Lidiya Oryshchuk



Tell us a little about yourself: where is home, what is your field of study/expertise, etc.

I am from Kyiv, Ukraine. Before coming to Seattle, I worked as a methodologist at Person Education (a publishing house). My academic background is in Applied Linguistics and TESOL.

Why did you choose to do a Fulbright in Seattle?

The way my program was set up did not allow me to choose a particular institution I will go to, so it was the UW that got to choose my application. I am very happy about this choice.

What will you be working on while you are here?

During my stay here I am teaching a 3-quarter sequence of Intermediate Ukrainian. I am also taking some professional development classes in linguistics.

How does UW compare to your home institution?

UW is much much bigger than any institution that I have attended or worked at. This comes with both benefits and challenges, but generally I am quite happy to be here.

What do you miss most about home?

As any other person being away from home for an extended period of time, I miss my family. Also as a true Ukrainian I sometimes miss borsch.

Can you recommend any Ukrainian authors, films or artists that you find interesting and enjoyable?

Last quarter we had a privilege to host a guest lecture by Ruslan Horovyi, a contemporary writer and film director. I enjoy his work a lot, because his honesty and unique insight on Ukrainian national identity in light of present-day military conflict with Russia.

Would you like to travel while you're here? (or have you traveled since you've been here?)

I have had a chance to explore Washington state and some major cities on the East Coast and hope to have some more time to travel during Spring break. I am absolutely mesmerized by the beauty of the Pacific North West and hope to enjoy more of it in warmer weather.

What's next for you?

I am organizing a team of Ukrainian students to represent Ukraine at FIUTS Culture Festival in February and working on my next quarter course outline. I also hope to do some research in the field of semantics.

NEWS FROM YOU

Nina Boe (BA, 2010) graduated from the Slavic Department with a degree in East European Languages, Literatures & Cultures, with a focus on Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. After undergrad she spent two years in Brazil, later returning to UW for a Master's in Public Administration from the Evans School in 2018. As of September, she has been in Macedonia with the Peace Corps, spending the first two months working on language acquisition and further technical training. Thanks to a healthy foundation of BCS and excellent instruction in country, she received an Advanced Low rating in Macedonian on her ACTFL Language Proficiency Interview. She recently swore in as a Community

Economic Development Volunteer on December 7th and a few days later, appeared alongside a Peace Corps Macedonia staff member on national television to share - in Macedonian - about her experiences so far! Nina will be spending the next two years in Shuto Orizari, Skopje, working with an exciting NGO called Roma Rock School, also supporting instructors and leadership at a primary school and kindergarten. She is eager to add Macedonian Romani to her growing list of languages in the next couple of years, and invites anyone in the area to stop on by!

Serge Gregory (Ph.D, 1977) contributed the chapter "Burned Letters: Reconstructing the Chekhov-Levitan Friendship" for the newly published *Chekhov's Letters: Biography, Context, Poetics*, available from Lexington Books. This is the first book in English or Russian to be devoted to a collection of articles on Chekhov's letters by Russian, British and North American scholars and writers. Serge was also asked by the editors to write a short essay on his favorite Chekhov letter. "A Prescription to Keep Love at Bay" describes a humorous letter that Chekhov wrote to Lidia Mizinova on 20 June 1891.

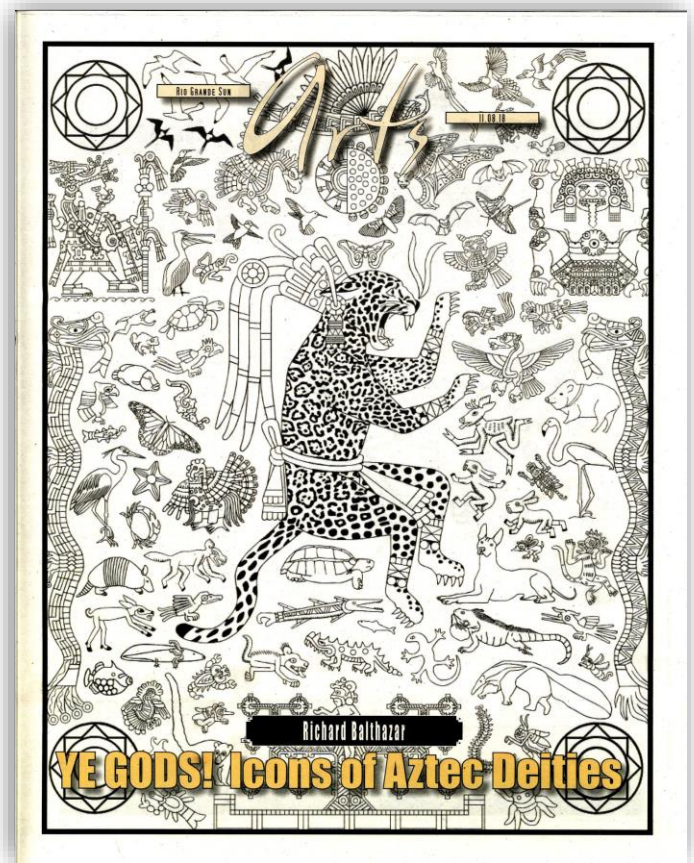
Cheryl Carrier Spasojević (BA, 1967) was a language consultant for a new book "Selected Serbian Comedies", Edited by Branko Mikasinovich, published by New Avenue Books. She is currently working on the commentaries for the Serbian content to accompany a photo publication by the ethnographer Martin Koenig for the Smithsonian. The book will also be published in Bulgaria. This past September, Cheryl made a solo 3,500-mile road trip, tent camping along the way, to visit some of the national parks in southern Utah - Cedar Breaks, Bryce Canyon and Zion. From there she continued down to Riverside CA where my younger son, Marko, his wife and their 2-year-old son live. Both Marko and Lorelee are on the faculty at UC Riverside in Ecology. Cheryl then went up to Burbank to attend the Tamburitza Extravaganza, a long weekend of S. Slavic music, and then back to Edmonds via the Redwoods. Cheryl also spent 10 days in Serbia this spring with her older son to take care of bank business and similar duties. She is still very busy being the Treasurer at her local St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, as well as being Secretary to the Northwest Folkdancers, Inc.

Bob Ewen (Ph.D, 1979) reports: "Retirement is tiring. In addition to sincere gardening, photography, and traveling, I sit on two non-profit Boards. One of the two, the Bulgarian Culture and Heritage Center in Seattle, just committed to helping Martin Koenig, nationally known teacher of Balkan dance, founder of the Balkan Arts Center (now named Center for Traditional Music and Dance) in New York City, and from 1966 to 1994 intrepid collector/recorder of ethnic music and dance throughout the Balkans, fundraise to complete a project to preserve Martin's Bulgarian recordings, photographs, and film. This project is in partnership with The Smithsonian, with help from the NEA, the Bulgarian Government, and private donors. The deliverables of the project, a large-format hardcover book, films, and recordings will be permanently housed at The Smithsonian and available to future generations. If any of you would like more information on this project, please contact me at robertewen@frontier.com "

Jared Blum (BA, 2000) says: "I took my family to the FIFA World Cup in Russia in June-July 2018. We were able to attend matches in Volgograd, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. The Russian government suspended all the normal visa requirements for all visitors holding match tickets, which convinced me to make the trip. Complimentary train transportation between host cities was provided by the Russian government. It was a marvelous experience to interact with soccer fans from all over the world and to show my children some of my favorite sights. It had been 20 years since I last visited Russia. Needless to say it is a very different place, and I regret not visiting more often. The only way the trip could have been better is if the USA had managed to send a team to compete. I am happy to report that I can still speak Russian well enough to get around."

Bob Powers (BA, 1978) and his Ukrainian helpers have just finished up the digital *Russian Phrasebook for Dating & Beyond* (790 Kindle pgs) which will be released May 1st on Amazon. Last year Bob also published *Macedonian Phrasebook and Dictionary*, *Macedonian Food & Menu Guide*, and *Ukrainian Food and Menu Guide* and so is happy to report he hasn't been neglecting his Slavic loyalties. He and his wife Olga now live in Colorado Springs, moving from Spokane in September.

Richard Balthazar's (MA, 1966) exhibition of drawings entitled "Ye Gods! Icons of Aztec Deities" showed for June and July at El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe and October and November at Northern New Mexico College in Espanola. Future venues for the show are also coming together. The New Orleans Opera has also decided to produce Richard's English translation of the Tchaikovsky opera "Joan of Arc (Maid of Orleans)" for February 2020. Richard originally did the translation 40 years ago for Canadian Opera Company and revised it significantly this past summer. He also hopes that other theatre companies may consider doing the production as we approach the 600th anniversary of her burning at the stake. He hopes this may lead to interest in having him translate other works as well, such as "The Enchantress", if he can find the time in the midst of drawing and writing.



GIFTS

The following is a list of gifts made to departmental funds since July 1, 2018. Many thanks to all donors for their generous support of Slavic Studies at the University of Washington!

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