



DEPARTMENT OF

Slavic Languages and Literature

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department Newsletter

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Volunteer-Run Prison Education Program Receives \$116,000 in Grant Support

On Friday evenings, Slavic Department graduate student Colleen Lucey leaves campus early to drive to Oregon, WI. After dropping off her belongings in a set of lockers, she passes through metal detectors, and walks through the grounds of the Oakhill Correctional Institute on her way to the school-house where she co-teaches a class to inmates at the prison with fellow grad student Janelle Pulczinski (Comparative Literature). Colleen is part of a larger Prison Education Program run primarily by UW-Madison graduate students from a handful of other humanities-based disciplines, as well as Madison community members. The project has recently received three grants that will support it in upcoming years.

The project, funded under the name “Dostoevsky Behind Bars,” has been run voluntarily at Oakhill Correctional Institute since 2005 and currently runs classes every weeknight. Volunteer humanities courses began at Oakhill in 2005 when English Department affiliates began a course meant to help inmates increase their writing skills. The course eventually became a Poetry Writing class, which continues to meet every Monday. Other courses taught at Oakhill include a Memoir class on Tuesday nights, an African-American History and Literature course on Wednesday nights, a Slavic Literature course on Thursday nights, and a World and Comparative Literature course on Friday nights. The volunteers working in the prison come

from humanities-based departments, including the Slavic Department, as well as members of the Madison area community through the Writers in Prisons Project (<http://www.writersinprisonsproject.org>). Slavic Department participation was spearheaded by graduate student Naomi Olson; she has been followed by Colleen Lucey, Jesse Stavis, Jose Vergara, Zach Rewinski, and other periodic volunteers. The courses have been partially funded since 2006 by grants from the Public Humanities Exchange (formerly Humanities Exposed, housed in the Center for Humanities at UW-Madison), which helped to supply texts and materials for the majority of the courses.

New funding has recently and generously been granted from three separate sources, to be used over the course of the next three years. The Center for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) has granted the project \$1,500 from its



Colleen Lucey, Oakhill volunteer

Research Award for use during the 2013–14 academic year. The project has also received \$19,500 for the next three academic years through the 2013 Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies Research Award, which is also part of the Interna-

tional Institute at UW-Madison. Finally, the Oakhill project has received \$95,000 for the next two academic years from the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment Grant, supported by UW-Madison Office of the Provost. Thus the total funding received from all three sources comes to \$116,000. The grant money will be used primarily to fund graduate student PA positions and faculty mentorship positions for the project. It will also support purchase of supplies, reimbursement for gas for travel to the prison, and stipends for the teachers.

The Thursday evening course associated with the Slavic department has traditionally been a hybrid, combining reading Slavic literature with creative writing. The course provides a collaborative atmosphere that draws students who are intrinsically interested in the course material. Because the students are also “volunteers”—in that they neither pay tuition nor receive educational credit for the course—the classroom does not have the same market pressures as a typical university setting. “Instead,” Lucey explains, “there’s an intellectual curiosity that runs deep and drives the discussion.”

While the teachers recognize the limited view they have into their students’ lives, they also appreciate the opportunity to use intellectual and creative pursuits to reinforce the fundamental humanity of their students despite the fact that they are in a prison. “These men have heard for so long (and continue to hear) that they have absolutely nothing to give anyone,” Lucey explains. “The classes at Oakhill are there to show them that no, that is not the case and in fact, they have much to give the world and each other.”

Letter from the Chair Judith Kornblatt

Dear friends,

I write to you now with bittersweet feelings, as I am preparing to retire this summer after over a quarter of a century. Having arrived as a “replacement” for Professor J. Thomas Shaw, but two years before his actual retirement, I soon discovered

that no one even expected that I could fill his shoes. Luckily, after countless lunches with Tom at the now defunct Ovens of Brittany on University Avenue, I was able to begin to understand the illustrious past of the department—first as a Polish Department, then as a broader Slavic one—and the hopes for its future. Much of that future has arrived, with a strong and internationally recognized faculty, vibrant undergraduate majors in both Russian and Polish, as well as language programs in Czech and BCS (Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian), literature and culture courses that attract students from around the university, and a graduate program that is ranked among the top two or three in the country. All of this, and a view of Lake Mendota and Picnic Point from our windows on the 14th floor of Van Hise Hall, as well!

My job now is to let you know about the accomplishments in the department this past year, but for that I would need much more space than I have been allotted. I can highlight them only, and you can read more about some of them in the following pages. At the annual awards ceremony at the beginning of May, we were able to celebrate three Michael & Emily Lapinski Undergraduate Scholarships for students of Polish, and to look forward to two Lapinski Graduate Fellows in the coming year. Two of our students also received the Edmund Zawacki Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Polish Language, Literature, and Culture, and one of our undergraduates was selected for the Stanley F. and Helen Balczerak Award awarded by the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee. Not to be outdone, three of our students received prizes for outstanding progress in



Photo: Jeff Miller © UW-Madison
University Communications



UW-Madison Slavic students rock out

Russian, including one who was awarded the J.T. Shaw Prize for Undergraduate Excellence. One student received a Wisconsin Hilldale Undergraduate Fellowship along with her faculty sponsor, and they will engage in research together over the next year. A number of students received substantial FLAS awards for studying in Russia for the summer, and a full six undergraduates and one graduate student were admitted to the Flagship Academic year Program in St. Petersburg for 2013–14, of whom one received a highly competitive Boren Scholarship, funded by the National Security Education Program in the Department of Defense, one received a prestigious Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the Department of State, and three of whom received a FLAS. Chancellor’s fellowships, Mellon fellowships, academic year FLAS fellowships from the Department of Education, and a prestigious Institute for Research in the Humanities Dissertation Award were also celebrated at our ceremony. Finally, in the statistics category, two of our students passed their prelims, two received their PhDs, two received master’s degrees, and fourteen received bachelor’s degrees. We awarded eight travel grants, thanks to the generosity of our donors, and recognized all of our students for their scholarship, their commitment, and their contributions to the department.

Our faculty and staff have also been busy.

Jennifer Tishler received an L&S Mid-Career Award for Academic Staff, and Toma Longinovic was the recipient of the Mihajlo Miša Đorđević Book Award for 2012. Toma, together with myself and a number of graduate students and other partners, received a \$95,000 grant from the Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment for a project we are calling “Dostoevsky Behind Bars,” in which graduate students (and undergraduates in the future) teach literature and writing classes to inmates at the Oakhill Correctional Institution in Oregon, WI. The same project also received funding from CREECA and from a special Mellon Foundation/UW International Institute initiative, the latter funding agency also providing significant funds for David Bethea and his highly successful Pushkin Summer Institute (see article in this issue). Halina Filipowicz, who stepped down this past year as graduate advisor in the department, received a local award for “advising across two decades.” And I received lots of presents (many of them chocolate, coffee, and scotch!!!) for my retirement. All in all, we are a much feted group.

You will find photos in the pages that follow of a wonderful symposium, professionally planned and executed by Irina Shevelenko, for which we invited back a dozen of our former PhDs to present papers, to reminisce, and to celebrate. A wonderful reception anchored the event, where I received more presents. For that alone, I recommend retirement. In addition, this year David Danaher completed what promises to be a groundbreaking manuscript on Havel while on sabbatical and Ewa Miernowska did her magic in a classroom that spanned two states, including students from the University of Illinois through the ether. Anna Tumarkin continued her excellent work with our TAs, with assessment of our

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language program, as our undergraduate advisor, and added on top of that her role as Assistant Director of the Russian Flagship Center and supervisor of the Flagship tutoring program. I'm not sure she ever has time to sleep. Xania Walter was promoted to permanent status, so that she can continue her teaching in the Flagship program, and Galina Lapina was increased to full time so that she can also continue to contribute to our language, literature, and culture programs in all the myriad ways she does. As should be obvious, our students are all very lucky to have them. Alexander Dolinin continued to teach his popular Nabokov and Dostoevsky courses, as well as publishing widely on a variety of literary topics, and Andrew Reynolds, among other things, helped facilitate visitors of many kinds (some brought by CREECA and other faculty as well). Visitors this year included Wolf Schmidt, Vladimir Alexandrov, Joe Peschio, Michael Kunichika, Joy Calico, Alexander Zholkovsky, Evgenii Bershtein, Danusha Goska, and a packed performance of the ensemble Zolotoi Plyos.

Finally, I am thrilled to be passing on the chairpersonship to the talented and energetic Karen Evans-Romaine. The department could not be in better hands.

Thanks to all of you—alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. You have made my time here a true joy. Please check out our updated website at http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/new_web/, and don't be shy about clicking on the "Donate to Slavic" button. We rely on you for undergraduate and graduate student fellowships and scholarships, travel funds, and support of many of the innovative programs that our faculty and students have undertaken, from the Pushkin Summer Institute to the Oakhill project to Russian, Czech, and Polish clubs and tables. Endowed funds, annual gifts, and one-time donations are all greatly appreciated. Thank you again, and please come visit.

UW-Madison Joins Initiative to Provide Language Instruction for ROTC Cadets

In spring 2012, Jennifer Tishler, associate director of CREECA and lecturer in Slavic, worked with colleagues in the Center for South Asia and Global Studies on an ultimately successful proposal to secure a grant from Project GO (Global Officers), which provides funding for instruction and scholarships in critical languages, including Russian. Below is a revised reprint of the official UW-Madison press release, which came out in September 2012. During the 2012–2013 academic year, the first year of Project GO on the UW-Madison campus, Jennifer continued to serve on the Project GO Working Group. This grant has provided additional summer teaching assistantships for our graduate students and scholarships for students. Moreover, ROTC students from UW-Madison and other campuses have received Project GO scholarships to study Russian at Madison and in Russia through American Councils. Anna Tumarkin has been an invaluable part of the success of Project GO, thanks to her willingness to advise the Project GO Working Group and to conduct Russian language assessments of scholarship recipients who are coming from other colleges and universities to study Russian at UW-Madison this summer.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has joined more than 25 other universities nationwide in an effort to help address the U.S. military's need for critical language specialists who understand foreign cultures and can communicate in regions of strategic and economic importance.

UW-Madison recently was awarded nearly \$490,000 through Aug. 31, 2013 for Project GO (Global Officers), an initiative to help cadets and midshipmen in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) learn critical languages and study abroad. Project GO is sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, an organization within the Department of Defense. The UW

(Project GO continues on page 9)



Students of the 2013 Pushkin Summer Institute

Pushkin Summer Institute Continues

As many of you know, over the past three years we've been busy conceiving and launching the Pushkin Summer Institute, a precollege program for underserved high school students that focuses on three areas: intensive language learning, critical thinking, and writing/reading skills. The program uses Pushkin's life and works, including his African heritage on his mother's side, as an organizing principle of the curriculum. The students come from high schools where Russian is already taught and they spend one summer on the Madison campus (a 6-week program between sophomore and junior years) and a second summer in Russia (a 6-week program between junior and senior years). (For more detailed information take a look at our website-in-progress <<http://pushkin.herkdev.com>>.) We've run the program for one summer (2012) with Pritzker College Prep (Chicago) as our initial partner school. During the summer our students saw their ACT reading scores rise almost 3 points (from 21.3 to 24.2) and their language scores on the ACTFL scale also make significant jumps. This summer (2013) we expanded to two high schools: Pritzker Prep and Noble Street Prep (also in Chicago). It is also our goal to help a portion of these pre-college students gain admission to UW-Madison and our national Flagship Program and to provide

mentoring services once they arrive on campus as undergrads.

These students gain an understanding of what to expect and how to approach the challenges of (in many cases) being first-generation college students. Our 2012 staff was outstanding, including Ben Jens as on-site director, Anna Borovskaya-Ellis and Anna Nesterchouk as TAs, Flagship students Ryan Prinz and Kristen Hendrickson as resident counselors and Kyle Farrell as tutor, and Zach Re-winski as assistant.

While we are always searching for additional funding sources, as the program—especially the planned in-country portion—is not inexpensive to run, we have been fortunate thus far to have received support from the College of Letters and Science, the Mellon Foundation, the Vilas Trust, the UW Pushkin Center, and the participating high schools.

Professor Lawrence Thomas

In memoriam

1924–2013

Please send us your memories of Professor Thomas, so we can publish them in the next newsletter.

Literature, Society, and Religion in Modern Russia: A Symposium to Honor Judith Kornblatt

On April 20–21, 2013, our Department held a symposium to recognize Professor Judith Deutsch Kornblatt's accomplishments as scholar and mentor of a new generation of Slavists. It was made possible by generous support from the Anonymous Fund, CREECA, the Alice D. Mortenson/Petrovic Chair in Russian History, and the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.

Professor Kornblatt started her career at UW-Madison in 1987, and she is retiring at the end of the academic year 2012–13, in order to pursue a new career outside Slavic studies. Along with a few other faculty members she represents a generation of professors who turned our department into one of the foremost PhD-granting programs in Slavic languages and literature in the U.S. Professor Kornblatt is the author of *The Cossack Hero in Russian Literature: A Study in Cultural Mythology* (1992), *Doubly Chosen: Jewish Identity, the Soviet Intelligentsia*, and *the Russian Orthodox Church* (2004),

and *Divine Sophia: The Wisdom Writings of Vladimir Solovyov* (2009); and co-editor of the seminal volume *Russian Religious Thought* (1996), which founded Russian religious studies as a discipline in the U.S. She has just completed work as co-editor of another volume, *Thinking Orthodox in Modern Russia*, which presents research that has largely grown out of the foundations laid by the previous collection; the volume is forthcoming from the University of Wisconsin Press.

Nationally, Professor Kornblatt's contribution to the field was acknowledged through prestigious grants and awards as well as by her election to several important posts. Most notably, since 2006 she has served on the editorial board of *Slavic Review*, a leading interdisciplinary journal in the field of Slavic and East European Studies in the US and internationally; and she was elected President of ASEES (the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) two years ago, with 2012 as her term of service as President, preceded by a year as President-Elect and followed by a year as Past President.

As Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities (1998–2007) and Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education (2007–2010) at the Graduate School, Professor Kornblatt played a key role in strengthening graduate education on the UW-Madison campus. Her expertise as a senior administrator translated at the departmental level into dedicated mentorship of Slavic graduate students, support of a culture conducive to successful graduate training in the department, and continuous support of the careers of our PhD alumni. As an out-





Participants in the symposium's "Celebrity Jeopardy"

standing scholar of Russian literature and culture, Professor Kornblatt also set standards of integrity and dedication to the future of the profession.

It is her legacy as scholar and mentor that we celebrated by organizing a symposium in her honor. Invited to speak at the symposium were our PhD alumni whose research and careers were affected by Professor Kornblatt. We were happy to welcome back to campus Amy Singleton Adams '95 (Holy Cross), Eliot Borenstein '94 (NYU), Angela Brintlinger '95 (Ohio State U), Megan Dixon '99 (College of Idaho), Alyssa Gillespie '99 (Notre Dame), Stuart Goldberg '02 (Georgia Tech), Benjamin Jens '12 (U of Arizona), Donald Loewen '02 (Binghamton U), Patrick Michelson '07 (Indiana U), Kathleen Scollins '10 (U of Vermont), Janneke van de Stadt '00 (Williams College), Clint Walker '06 (U of Montana), Matthew Walker '11 (Stanford U). For the complete program please see <http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/events/13april.html#kornblatt>. For all of those present—the department's faculty and staff, current graduate students, and our PhD alumni—it was an intense emotional and intellectual experience to gather in one room as colleagues, as friends, and as people who share a common debt of gratitude to Judith.

This event would not be possible without the enthusiastic support and significant time investment of our current graduate students. Thomas Tabatowski assisted with logistics and preparation of conference materials; several graduate students

chaired symposium panels; finally, at the reception, where over one hundred guests from across the UW-Madison campus joined us to celebrate Judith's retirement, our graduate students staged an amazing performance.

First, in "Celebrity Jeopardy," Leo Tolstoy (Jesse Stavis), Lazar the Holy Fool (Jose Vergara), and Nikolay Gogol (Thomas Tabatowski) answered questions of the show's hostess, the Divine Sophia (Colleen Lucey), both successfully and hilariously, judging by the applause and outbursts of laughter in the audience. Gogol won... to his own dissatisfaction. In the second performance, the title character (Matthew McGarry) from Gogol's "Ivan Fyodorovich Shpon'ka and His Auntie," Naomi Olson (Auntie), Melissa Miller (narrator) and several others, who embodied nightmarish incarnations of prospective wives of Ivan Shpon'ka, reminded us about the deep skepticism about the finality of anything (victory? marriage? interpretation? retirement?) that we so enjoy in Gogol.

And relieved and reassured we were, when, at the end of the spring semester, Judith asked our permission to keep her office in the department after retirement. We share this Gogolian skepticism of hers about the finality of things, and, yes, we wholeheartedly welcomed her to stay with us on the 14th floor of Van Hise.

Congratulations on your retirement, Judith!
—*Irina Shevelenko*

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/new_web/

PhD alums: We are putting together a list of dissertation titles and current locations. Please take a look to make sure your information is correct:

http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/new_web/?q=node/291.

BA/BS/MA alums: Let us know where you are now and what you are doing. We would love to put together a listing for you as well.

Interview with a Vampire-course Student

We recently talked with junior **Ellen Atterbury**, a History major with a certificate in European Studies, about her experience taking **Tomislav Longinovic's** "Vampires in Literature and Film" course. Ellen is spending the summer in Croatia in a UW study abroad course on Conflict in Croatia. She and Prof. Longinovic were also recently awarded a Hilldale fellowship to study conflict, vampires, and the Great European Witch Hunt. Below is a condensed version of our conversation.

—When did you take the vampire course?

I took that second semester freshman year. I couldn't believe there was a class about vampires here. It's something I've always loved. I'm like, "Oh my god there's a monster course here, I have to take it!"

—At that time were you interested in Slavic languages or Slavic culture?

Not really so much interested in Slavic languages; cultures—yes. I've always loved European history, and haven't known a lot about East European history because classes tend to divert to Western Civilization more than the East. So it was really fascinating to learn some history of that area as well.

—Did the vampire course meet with your expectations with what it was going to be about?

The films that we watched I was definitely expecting. We watched the classics like *Nosferatu*, Francis Ford Coppola's *Dracula*. What I wasn't expecting to learn in class was that there was a folklore element. The course was kind of divided into three parts: there's a folklore, a literature, and a film component. I learned a lot about vampires that I had no idea about, for example that they were basically like zombie-like, detestable creatures. I had always viewed them as this sexy, kind of romantic figure, and I had no idea that their roots were really in something kind of disgusting.

—Did taking the vampire course change any of your plans at UW or affect any of the courses you took subsequently?

It definitely did. For my history major I kind of took classes that were similar to origins of strange things.

I've taken a few classes pertaining to the Great European Witch Hunt that I thought were really interesting. I've taken a few more Eastern European history classes that before I wouldn't have had an interest in if I hadn't learned a little bit about that.

—What do you want to do after UW?

I'm thinking about going to graduate school to be a history professor. I really like the idea of teaching, I think it's really fun. I could just not go into primary or secondary school because I'd be really insulted if people weren't interested in my topic. I'd be like, "Guys, vampires are cool!" and then they're not paying attention.

—But don't you think a lot of high schoolers are really into vampires?

Here's my grief with that. I hate *Twilight*. I think it's terrible. I think the characters are awful. I feel like what most younger audiences, just knowing from my high school experience, are interested in that kind of sexy, sparkle figure. But that's not at the core what a vampire is; that's this glorified version—why would you not want to be a vampire if vampires are like this? When they're really like this cursed, disgusting thing. That's what a real vampire is.

—So has taking this course changed the way you look at vampires in popular culture?

Oh yeah, I loved taking that course. It was really interesting because we read a lot of literature. Just seeing the development of it a little bit through literature, for how they went to the zombies to have a Byronic anti-hero figure. And still even in fairly recent literature you still see that component of something to be feared and loathed. And it's really recent, I think Anne Rice is the turning point, where they really become a figure you want to be, as opposed to what you don't want to be.



My Two Years in Madison

On one of the first days after I had moved to Madison from New York in late August 2011, I remember walking into a sandwich shop on State Street to get some lunch. After taking my order, the server smiled and asked me, “So, how was your summer?” A bit baffled at first, it took me a few seconds to realize that no, I did not in fact know this person, and yes, people actually are that friendly in the Midwest. Needless to say, I felt that same friendly and welcoming atmosphere starting off as a graduate student in the Slavic Department.

Socrates famously said, “I only know that I know nothing.” I remember feeling as if I knew nothing a lot during the first weeks of classes, especially about Russian language. But over time, and with the support and patience of my professors, this feeling started to fade. I particularly enjoyed a course on advanced Russian speaking and listening because of its current events-centered focus. Contemporary Russian politics is something I’ve always been interested in; that, coupled with the fact that the course was conducted during the 2012 Russian presidential elections, gave me all the more motivation to reach a level of competency where I could discuss these issues freely and comfortably. And of course, I also had a wonderful time in the many non-language courses I had an opportunity to take, particularly those on Dostoevsky, the Russian Elegy, and Slavic Literary Theory.

On a more personal note, I want to thank all the faculty, staff, and graduate students in the department for their love and warmth when my father passed away this past December. The compassion and support the department extended was beyond touching, and words cannot do it justice. I have made wonderful friendships in Madison, and will always cherish my time at UW.

Желаю всем хорошего года. До свидания!

—*Nathaniel Brown*

(Project GO, continued from page 4)

is among the few U.S. universities that host Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC programs, which offer students opportunities to earn a commission as an officer in any of the three armed services.

The Project GO funding provides fellowships for ROTC cadets from all branches of service to enroll this academic year and next summer in domestic and study abroad programs in Arabic, Hindi-Urdu, Turkish, and Russian. The university offers each of these languages during the summer as an intensive course.

“The Department of Defense, along with ROTC, has embarked on a mission to make our officers more culturally diverse,” says Lt. Col. Todd Berge, commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 925. “This, of course, includes a focus on foreign languages. Project GO has been an integral part of this push for an increased proficiency of foreign language among the officer corps.

“I am very excited about the UW getting Project GO, as it will give our students here a chance to participate without having to go to a different university,” Berge adds. “It also allows other ROTC cadets to come here to see the great opportunities the UW has to offer.”

In addition to helping address a national need, ROTC cadets can earn incentive pay for gaining proficiency in a critical language.

Cadets who enroll in Project GO will join other students in existing programs and classes. “This will help create a broader, more diverse classroom,” says Laura Hammond, the program coordinator on campus.

In addition, UW-Madison has received funding to host the assessment coordinator for the entire Project GO program.

For more information, visit the Project GO at UW-Madison website, <http://rotcprojectgo.wisc.edu/>. Questions may be addressed to contact@rotcprojectgo.wisc.edu or (608) 261-1194.

Faculty Updates



David Danaher spent 2012–2013 on a sabbatical leave. Working with colleagues in Poland, he co-edited a forthcoming English-language volume on ethnolinguistics (*The Linguistic Worldview: Ethnolinguistics, Cognition, and Culture*), and finished the first book of a planned

two-book project on the legacy of the Czech writer and politician Václav Havel. He is very much looking forward to teaching a new course in spring 2014 on language and worldview, which will be offered through UW's Honors Program.



This year **Karen Evans-Romaine** completed the second volume, fifth edition, of her co-authored textbook, *Golosa*, together with first author Richard Robin and Galina Shatalina, George Washington

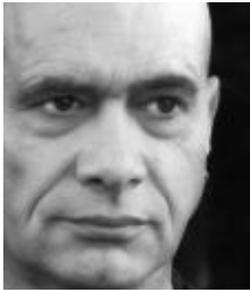
University. Both volumes of *Golosa*, fifth edition, are now published. Evans-Romaine and the Flagship administrative team—Dianna Murphy, Anna Tumarkin, and Wendy Johnson—have also been busy with the Russian Flagship Program, which is expanding rapidly every year since its establishment in March 2010. At this time, there are 39 students in the Russian Flagship Program, with six headed to St. Petersburg University for their capstone year abroad in 2013–14 and about seven more students joining the Flagship in the fall. In fall 2012 Evans-Romaine taught the new Capstone Seminar in Russian Literature and Culture to 14 students; we read and discussed Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita* in its entirety in Russian and watched portions of the 2006 mini-series based on the novel. Evans-Romaine also taught two courses at the Russian-language floor of the International Learning Community, *Russkii Dom*, as its faculty director: on Russian popular music (fall 2012), based on UW alumnus and Georgia Tech University associate

professor Stuart Goldberg's Critical Language Song Project, and on Moscow vs. St. Petersburg in film (spring 2013). Evans-Romaine gave two talks on teaching advanced-level listening and conversation, based on productive work with undergraduate and graduate students in Slavic 705 in spring 2012, at the ASEEEES annual meeting in New Orleans and at the US-Russia International Symposium on the Study and Teaching of Russian at American Councils for International Education in Washington. This coming summer will mark a return to study of Pasternak, Mandelstam, Tsvetaeva, and music—stay tuned!

Halina Filipowicz was delighted to accept invitations to join the Editorial Boards of *The Polish Review* in New York and *Ruch Literacki* in Kraków and to collaborate with colleagues in Europe on a joint research project. She is also pleased to report that her essay, "Binational Stardom," has been published in *Women's Review of Books* (September/October 2012).



Judith Deutsch Kornblatt has had a busy year as she prepares for retirement. Most recently, she has completed a collected volume called *Thinking Orthodox in Modern Russia: Culture, History, Context*, together with a former student and now professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University: Patrick Michelson. She has also delivered several invited lectures around the country on topics as diverse as ancient Russian icons and Soviet Russian writers. In addition, she is finishing up her last year on the Executive Committee of ASEEEES (although will remain on the Development Committee), and leaves her post as chair of the department. She is sad to see the conclusion of her teaching career, but is looking forward to trying something completely new: Nursing School! Thank you all to scores of students, colleagues, and friends in the field.



Tomislav Z. Longinović has had a very exciting and fruitful year. His book, *Vampire Nation* (Duke University Press, 2011) has been awarded the 2012 Mihajlo Miša Đorđević Award for the best book in South Slavic studies. He has

also won the UW Graduate School Summer Research Award and a collaborative Hilldale Undergraduate-Faculty Research Award, with his student Katherine Winiecki. His publications include “Old Men Singing: Epic Masculinity Among ‘the serbs,’ in *Balkan Epic: Song, History, Modernity* (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2012), pp. 225–261 and a forthcoming “Post-Yugoslav Emergence and the Creation of Difference,” in Radmila Gorup, ed., *After Yugoslavia: Cultural Spaces of a Vanished Land* (Stanford University Press, 2013), pp. 149–159. In May, he will travel to Belgrade for the launch of his book in Serbian, *Granična Kultura: Politika identiteta u četiri slovenska romana dvadesetog veka* (Beograd: Službeni glasnik). And recently, he has learned that the University of Wisconsin’s Institute for Research in the Humanities has appointed him a Senior Fellow for the next four years. Topping that with his popular *Vampire in Literature and Film* class, which has attracted 300 undergraduates, makes this past year a truly remarkable one.



Irina Shevelenko has been enjoying her first year as tenured professor and graduate advisor. It was a special experience for her this year to organize a symposium *Literature, Society, and Religion in Modern Russia* to honor the retirement of

Professor Judith Deutsch Kornblatt (see material on the symposium elsewhere in this issue). Irina’s article “Representing the Empire and the Nation: Russia at the 1900 Universal Exposition in Paris” has been published in the volume *Tam, vnutri: praktiki vnutrennei kolonizatsii v kul’turnoi istorii Rossii* (Over There, Within: Practices of Internal

Colonization in Russian Cultural History) which came out in Moscow in late 2012. Her other article, “Suzdal God-daubers,’ ‘Novgorodian quattrocento,’ and the Russian Avant-Garde” was submitted to and accepted for publication in the journal *Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie* (Moscow). She has been working on revising her 2002 book on Tsvetaeva; the new edition will hopefully appear in late 2013 or early 2014. She is still working on her book-length project *Modernism as Archaism: Nationalism and the Quest for a Modernist Aesthetic in Russia*, and she hopes to complete it in about a year.

In November 2013, Irina will organize a roundtable discussion on “Reframing Russian Modernism” at the ASEES Convention (Boston), and on May 21–22, 2014, an international workshop of the same name will take place at Madison. These are the first two steps of a project that will culminate in an edited volume of essays.

In May 2013 **Jennifer Tishler**, associate director of CREECA and associate faculty associate in the Slavic Department, received a Letters & Science Mid-Career Award. This award “recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding performance in their position, show substantial promise of future contributions, and demonstrate a high degree of professionalism.” In the spring 2013 semester Jennifer taught a course on Russian Folktales and Folklore (as Lit Trans 247 / Slavic 350), which allowed her to revisit some of her favorite tales about the Russian witch, Baba-Yaga.



Jennifer Tishler receiving her award from L&S

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