



DEPARTMENT OF
Slavic Languages and Literature
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department Newsletter

Vol. 15 (Summer 2014)

Letter from the Chair

Karen Evans-Romaine

This has been a year of tremendous change – for our department, for Van Hise foreign language departments, for the College of Letters and Sciences, and for the university. We have a new chancellor, Becky Blank, an economist specializing in the study of poverty, who was most recently acting Secretary of Commerce. We have a new dean, John Karl Scholz, from our own economics department. And, for better or for worse, we have a new department chair, dashing around the halls of Van Hise and various buildings on campus, keeping up as well as she can with the pace of change. We sorely miss our outgoing chair, Judith Kornblatt, who has embarked on a new career, studying at the UW-Madison School of Nursing, while visiting Van Hise periodically to march up and down its 18 floors of stairs and perk up our spirits with her encouraging words and infectious smile.

Van Hise departments have gathered regularly this year to discuss possibilities for change in our own building, starting the year with a symposium entitled “Change or Be Changed” and featuring the directors of variously titled schools of languages, literatures, and cultures from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Indiana University, and the University of Iowa. The dean’s office has appointed a task force on World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, on which I serve, to explore our

collective interests as foreign language departments, examine our administrative structures, and think about opportunities for collaboration among departments. Discussions will continue next academic year in a careful and deliberative process with no pre-established outcome. There have already been changes at the departmental level: a number of departments and programs in or associated with Van Hise, including Classics, Hebrew and Semitic Studies, Jewish Studies, Linguistics, and the now combined Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies or CLIFS, have merged or restructured, and discussions of other departmental reconfigurations or mergers are underway. Change can inspire productive discussions about our core mission and values, about what knowledge and skills we want our students to take with them when they graduate, and it has been fascinating and inspiring to



Karen Evans-Romaine (right) and Ewa Miernowska lead the Slavic department community in dancing the polonaise in the corridors of Van Hise Hall during the annual awards ceremony.

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learn from our colleagues and students, both within our department and among our peers in other language, literature, and culture departments. Changes are bound to continue next academic year. We'll keep you posted.

This has also been a year of awe-inspiring accomplishments by our faculty, staff, and students, and of exciting events. Next fall our department will welcome a new faculty member, Manon van de Water, who comes to us from the Department of Theatre and Drama, which has also been in the process of restructuring. We are delighted that a colleague with whom our undergraduate and graduate students have taken courses can now



Manon van de Water

participate more closely in our department's curriculum and bring new expertise in contemporary Russian theater and theater education and outreach, including staging productions. The College published a profile of Manon's outreach work, from Wisconsin to Rostov, in March.

Professor David Bethea and CREECA Associate Director and Slavic Department alumna Jennifer Tishler have won a \$90,000 grant from STARTALK, funded by the US Department of Education, to support the Pushkin Summer Institute, now about to start its third summer, this year with students from Pritzker College Prep and Noble Street College Prep in Chicago and West Anchorage High School in Alaska. Russian teachers will include our own graduate Teaching Assistants and ESL lecturer Anna Nesterchouk, a graduate of our School of Education's department of Curriculum & Instruction, founder of the Madison Community Russian School, and a specialist in working with school-age students. Their resident directors, watching over them in a UW dormitory and taking them on outings, include our own Russian majors and a Russian Flagship student headed to Petersburg next academic year. This program continues to inspire high school students from mainly minority backgrounds to study Russian through everyday Wisconsin life, from walks to Babcock Ice Cream to outings to Wisconsin Dells, to the far-from-everyday example of Pushkin's poetry. In addition to 20 hours/week of Russian-language instruction, PSI students take a weekly class on Pushkin's life and work, polish their academic writing in English under Professor Bethea's tutelage, engage with other high school students on UW-Madison summer programs, and become better prepared for college life through six weeks of living and studying on our beautiful campus.

Our outreach efforts on the Oakhill Project continue to grow, thanks to the grants Professor Emerita Judith Kornblatt received this time last year. You can read more about this unique project from graduate student Naomi

Olson, whose piece appears in this newsletter. This coming year Tomislav Longinović, who has already been working closely with Naomi, will take over faculty supervision of the project. Keep a look out for Mark Kornblatt's award-winning documentary film on the project, *Dostoevsky Behind Bars*, at film festivals where you live.

The outstanding teaching and outreach of our department has been recognized this year through several awards. Professor David Danaher, back from his year-long sabbatical, developed and taught for the first time an Honors course entitled "Language and Worldview" and received a Distinguished Honors Faculty Award for his outstanding teaching and mentoring of Honors students. L&S Honors students will have the opportunity to take his course again next spring. Senior Lecturer Ewa Miernowska received a College of Letters & Science Mid-Career Award for her innovative and inspiring teaching of Polish, both on the UW-Madison campus and by videoconference to students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; for her extraordinary outreach efforts to the community, including the Polish Film Festival and other events; and for her outstanding mentoring of students of Polish language and culture. Two of our graduate students won awards: Colleen Lucey received the L&S Teaching Assistant Award for Outstanding Service, in recognition for her extraordinary teaching and mentorship of UW-Madison students and her teaching Russian literature at the Oakhill Correctional Facility. Melissa Miller received the L&S Teaching Fellow Award, which recognizes outstanding teaching and potential for mentorship of other teachers. She will guide new TAs in a pre-service workshop during the week prior to the beginning of the Fall 2014 semester. In addition, Melissa Miller was elected to the UW-Madison Teaching Academy. Professor Andrew Reynolds and graduate Teaching Assistants Matthew McGarry and Nicholas Rampton received the UW Housing Honored Instructor Award, for which they were selected by student nomination. Professor Reynolds's 20th-Century Russian Literature survey course was recognized by survey respondents to the student newspaper, the *Daily Cardinal*, as a course that "will change your views" – something I think we all aspire to as teachers and members of the campus community.

Our faculty have been reaching out to the scholarly world as well. David Danaher's book, *Reading Václav Havel*, will be published this year by the University of Toronto Press and soon afterward in Czech translation. Professor Halina Filipowicz's book, *Taking Liberties: Gender, Transgressive Patriotism, and Polish Drama, 1786-1989*, will be published this year by Ohio University Press. Information on the book can be found at: <http://www.ohioswallow.com/book/Taking+Liberties>.

Professor Tomislav Longinović has been named a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, where he spent this past spring and will spend the next three springs, writing and participating in IRH seminars.

Faculty have worked together at a number of conferences and symposia this past year. Alexander Dolinin and Andrew Reynolds both presented, together with Mark Lipovetsky and Irina Prokhorova, at a conference at the University of Michigan in September 2013 in honor of the Ardis publishing house, which played such an important role in our scholarly lives (and which I fondly remember visiting as frequently as I could while a Michigan graduate student), and the legacy of its founders, Carl and Elendea Proffer. Articles from this conference appeared in issue 125 of the *New Literary Review* (*Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie*) in Moscow. Irina Shevelenko, organizer of last year's symposium in honor of Judith Kornblatt, organized yet another symposium in May, *Reframing Russian Modernism*, featuring presentations by three of our faculty and guests from coast to coast and from Russia and Finland. Professor Shevelenko will edit a collection of articles from this conference next year. You can read more about the symposium in this newsletter.

Our students continue to teach and amaze us. At this year's awards ceremony we celebrated the accomplishments of outstanding students of Polish: four undergraduates honored with Michael & Emily Lapinski Undergraduate Scholarships for students of Polish, one graduate student who won the Michael & Emily Lapinski Graduate Fellowship to support her study of Polish at Jagellonian University in Krakow this summer; two outstanding graduating students, previous Lapinski Scholarship recipients, who this year won the Edmund Zawacki Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Polish Language, Literature, and Culture, and one of whom won the Polanki Copernicus Award for an



Anna Tumarkin presents Flagship student Anthony Betts with the "bronze medal" award from the ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest.



In total, nine UW-Madison Russian students received recognition from ACTR for their entries in the essay contest.

outstanding student in the sciences. We also celebrated the many accomplishments of our Russian majors and Russian Flagship students: eight Russian Flagship students won highly competitive Boren Scholarships and two won Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarships to support study at St. Petersburg University next academic year. Five undergraduate students and one graduate student won FLAS scholarships to support study in Russia this coming summer. Another graduate student won a FLAS scholarship to support further Russian study at the graduate level at Middlebury College's Davis School of Russian this summer, where our two L&S award-winning graduate students, Colleen Lucey and Melissa Miller, will be teaching. Undergraduate Kyle Farrell, whose piece on his attendance at the National Flagship Student Conference in March, is featured in our newsletter, won both the J. Thomas Shaw Prize for



Students from the Fourth-Semester Polish Language course presented short scenes from Adam Mickiewicz's epic poem *Pan Tadeusz* with their original dialogues at the departmental awards ceremony.

Undergraduate Excellence and the American Council of Teachers of Russian Postsecondary Laureate Award. We celebrated national recognition of the essay-writing abilities of our undergraduate Russian students: this year forty UW-Madison students participated in the ACTR (American Council of Teachers of Russian) National Post-Secondary National Russian Essay Contest, in which student essays are judged by experts in Moscow. Two of our students won third place, and seven students received Honorable Mention in this highly competitive contest.

Our graduate students continue to be recognized for their excellence not only as teachers, but as scholars. Through the generosity of our donors, we were able to award travel funds to help five of our graduate students present their work at national conferences. We celebrated outstanding presentations on campus as well: graduate students Zachary Rewinski and Thomas Tabatowski received the J. Thomas Shaw award for outstanding presentations at this year's AATSEEL-Wisconsin in October, and Colleen Lucey, a previous award recipient, received honorable mention. Doctoral candidate Matthew McGarry won a Mellon Wisconsin Summer Fellowship to support the completion of his dissertation this summer. José Vergara, one of two graduate students who passed his doctoral prelims this year (along with Thomas Tabatowski), will have an article published this coming year in the *Slavic and East European Journal*. Molly Thomasy Blasing, who defended her dissertation in May, recently published a version of one of her chapters in the *Slavic Review*. She will move from Oberlin, Ohio, where she has been teaching at Oberlin College this year, to Lexington, Kentucky, to begin a tenure-track position at the University of Kentucky this coming fall. Lisa Woodson, who defended her dissertation in December 2013 and has been teaching this year at Swarthmore College, will move to Albuquerque this summer to take up a two-year Visiting Assistant Professor position at the University of New Mexico.

We are deeply grateful to you, our alumni and donors, who support our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students, and who make possible the recognition of their accomplishments through the special awards we celebrated this May. Please see information at the back of this newsletter, or on our website (just go to http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/new_web/ and click "Donate to Slavic"!), about how you can continue to help us provide student scholarships, give travel grants to help graduate students present their work at conferences or to conduct dissertation research, and support the many exciting projects that make our department unique. Thank you for your support, and read on!

Faculty Updates

David Bethea reports that he has had another busy year and wants to say hello to former students and friends.

Two pieces of good news involve recent Bethea dissertators: Molly Blasing has defended her dissertation (on "photo-poetics" in modern Russian poetry) and received a tenure-track position at the University of Kentucky and Lisa Woodson has been hired, with hopes of a longer-term appointment, at the University of New Mexico.

Otherwise, the Pushkin Summer Institute is about to start its third summer and is excited about welcoming a new contingent of 23-25 outstanding high school students from places as far away as Anchorage, Alaska. Recently the PSI was awarded a \$90,000 grant from STARTALK which we hope, together with funding from other sources, will allow us to solidify recent gains in the program and put us on a sounder financial footing going forward. The participating high schools in this year's program are Pritzker College Prep (Chicago), Noble Street College Prep (Chicago), West Anchorage High (Anchorage), with the possibility of additional partners from Beloit, Milwaukee, and Madison. Ben Jens continues with his steady hand to run the day-to-day activities of the PSI while Slavic TA's – this year Anna Borovskaya-Ellis, David Houston, and Zach Rewinski – do a superb job with the language teaching. Anna Nesterchouk of the School of Education is our outstanding lead Russian teacher.

On the scholarly side, David Bethea has recently published/submitted articles on "Revisiting Pushkin's Byronism" and Brodsky's "Kolybel'naia Treskovogo Mysa" and has signed a contract with Cambridge UP to co-edit a volume entitled Nabokov in Context. At the conference organized by Irina Shevelenko ("Reframing Russian Modernism," May 21-22 in Madison) he gave a paper entitled "Darwin and Symbolist Thinking."

David Danaher is co-editor of the volume *The Linguistic Worldview: Ethnolinguistics, Cognition, and Culture*, which was published in fall 2013 by Versita. His book *Reading Václav Havel* will be published in early 2015 by the University of Toronto Press and in Czech translation by Prague-based Argo Publishers. In spring 2014, he had the opportunity to teach a



new course, Language and Worldview (<http://ethnolinguisticscourse.tumblr.com>), for the UW Honors Program, and he hopes to offer it regularly in the future.

Karen Evans-Romaine spent most of 2013-14 admiring the accomplishments of past Slavic Department chairs and adjusting to the position. Besides gaping in awe at her predecessors' ability to balance many tasks, while trying to take juggling lessons of her own, Evans-Romaine managed to accomplish a few very modest tasks herself. In July 2013 she gave a talk at Middlebury College's Davis School of Russian in honor of the *Rite of Spring* centenary on the premiere and recent performances of that landmark work. On 1 November she presented a paper on "Pasternak, Heine, and the Cult of the Musician" at a University of Michigan Slavic Department symposium in memory of her doctoral advisor, Omry Ronen, who passed away on 1 November 2012. The symposium, entitled "Advancing Omry Ronen's Legacy in Russian Literary Studies" and co-organized by Evans-Romaine and Julie Hansen, Uppsala University, featured papers by Ronen's former students, also including Sara Feldman (University of Michigan), Olga Hasty and Michael Wachtel (Princeton University), Kelly Miller (UCLA), Nancy Pollak (Cornell University), Karen Rosenflanz (College of St. Scholastica), and Timothy Sergay (SUNY Albany), as well as Irena Ronen. Symposium participants are now preparing translations of selected articles by Ronen for a collection edited by Wachtel and symposium keynote speaker Barry Scherr (Dartmouth College).



The Russian Flagship Program continues to grow (see elsewhere in this newsletter) and is inspiring new research: Evans-Romaine and Flagship Associate Director Dianna Murphy are co-editing a volume on Flagship programs across the U.S., to be published in 2015 by Multilingual Matters. This spring Evans-Romaine helped prepare advanced Russian Flagship students for the ever-changing world of Russia and Russian press in her course devoted to developing listening and conversation skills. She also continued to direct the Russian floor in the International Learning Community, *Russkii dom*, and taught biweekly courses there: in the fall on Russian popular music, based in part on UW-Madison alumnus Stuart Goldberg's "Critical Language Song Project," and in the spring on classic Soviet film.

Halina Filipowicz's book, *Taking Liberties: Gender, Transgressive Patriotism, and Polish Drama, 1786-1989*, will appear from Ohio University Press in December. She is currently working on a new book, *Myth, Memory, and Rhetoric: Polish Drama and the Discourse of Polish-Jewish Relations, 1943-2013*. She has also guest-edited a special issue of *The Polish Review* (no. 1, 2014). Focused on new approaches to Polish literature, culture, and history through the methodologies of gender and women's studies, this special issue showcases latest research by scholars from Britain, Canada, Sweden, and the United States. Filipowicz's contribution to the special issue is the introductory article, "Am I That Name? Feminism, Feminist Criticism, and Gender Studies," that charts new directions in feminist scholarship on Polish literary and cultural history.

Irina Shevelenko had a productive year, and she now looks forward to her sabbatical leave in 2014-2015. Irina's long article "'Suzdal God-daubers,' 'Novgorodian *quattrocento*,' and the Russian Avant-Garde" was published in #124 of the journal *Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie* (Moscow). She completed substantial revisions for a new edition of her book on Tsvetaeva (originally published in 2002); publication of the revised edition is expected in Fall 2014.



In November 2013, Irina organized a roundtable discussion on "Reframing Russian Modernism" at the ASEES Convention (Boston). On May 21-22, 2014, an international workshop of the same name took place at UW-Madison (see a brief report on it elsewhere in this Newsletter). These are the first two steps of a project that will culminate in an edited volume of essays. Work on this volume is one of the projects Irina plans to engage in during her sabbatical year. Her other sabbatical project is a completion of a book manuscript *Modernism as Archaism: Nationalism and the Quest for a Modernist Aesthetic in Russia*, which is due to the publisher in January 2015.

International Workshop: *Reframing Russian Modernism*

Irina Shevelenko

On May 21-22, 2014, an international workshop on “Reframing Russian Modernism” took place at UW-Madison’s Pyle Center. This workshop was the second stage in a collective project that started off in November 2013 with a roundtable discussion at the annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in Boston. The ultimate goal of this project is a publication of an edited volume which would present a vision of how the study of Russian Modernism could be integrated into a larger framework of scholarship devoted to Modernism as an aesthetic, intellectual, and sociocultural phenomenon.

In the last two decades a growing number of in-depth studies on Russian Modernism shifted focus from Modernism’s institutional history, individual achievements of its representatives, and the overall evolution of its aesthetic ideology – to aspects of ideological and sociocultural engagement of Modernist art and literature (a trend often referred to as “cultural studies”). This new wave in scholarship significantly reshaped the field of Russian Modernism studies; yet there has been hitherto no attempt at reflecting on the scale and implications of the change. There also has been remarkably little dialogue lately between scholars engaged in Russian Modernism studies, and no collaborative projects common for an earlier period were initiated. Hence was my interest in bringing together scholars of Russian Modernism who belong to different generations and whose research represents a number of distinctly different tendencies in scholarship – and in engaging them in a conversation with one another. First, it was interesting to see



Michael Kunichika (NYU) and panel chair Mark Lipovetsky (U of Colorado)



Andrew Reynolds and panel chair Leonid Livak (U of Toronto)

whether the difference in approaches still leaves room for a shared vision of the field of Russian Modernism studies as an area of expertise. Second, it seemed appropriate to review the inventory of subject matters and analytical tools that have been in circulation lately.

Indeed, multiple “competing” frames that scholarly investigations of the recent period have created for once “familiar” material provide an ample opportunity to pose a series of theoretical questions pertaining to the function of “reframing” in humanities scholarship. Individual papers presented at the workshop explored such aspects of the Modernist legacy as ideas of social transformation and religious renewal; historical imagination and nationalism; aesthetic ideology and poetics; traditions inaugurated by Modernism and Modernism’s interaction with “alien” traditions; and Modernism’s boundaries – chronological, aesthetic, and ideological.

It was a fascinating and productive day-and-a-half of listening to and discussing papers and of navigating between different analytical frames that they explored. Diversity of approaches notwithstanding, a friendly atmosphere and lively conversations at the panels and during the breaks seem to have laid a solid foundation for continued collaboration. The next, and the final, stage of the project – preparation of an edited volume – is now upon us. ♦

Reframing Russian Modernism

Workshop Program

Irina Shevelenko (UW–Madison), Opening Remarks

Panel 1: Shifting Perspectives: Terminology, Chronology, Hierarchy

Leonid Livak (U of Toronto), “Naming the Field: The Russian Biography of the Term ‘Modernism’”

Gennadii Obatnin (U of Helsinki), “Towards the Study of ‘Lesser Poets’ in Russian Modernism”

Mark Lipovetsky (U of Colorado), “Dmitrii Prigov between Avant-Garde and Postmodernism: Towards a Definition of Russian Modernism’s Borders”

Panel 2: Crossing Cultures and Media: Issues in Modernist Poetics

Andrew Reynolds (UW–Madison), “Gathering Live Traditions from the Air: The Allusive Theories and Practice of T. S. Eliot and Osip Mandelstam”

Alexander Dolinin (UW–Madison), “Shakespeare and Mayakovsky in Boris Pasternak’s *Themes and Variations*”

Daria Khitrova (U of Chicago), “The Case of the *Dying Swan*: On the Cinematic Evolution of a Dance”

Panel 3: Society in Focus: Historical Imagination, Nationalism, Utopia

Arkadii Bliumbaum (European University, St. Petersburg), “Russian Modernism and the Topoi of Anti-Semitism: The Case of Alexander Blok”

Michael Kunichika (NYU), “Forest Factories, Flying Machines, and Bast Sandals: Boris Pil’niak’s ‘Russia in Flight’ and the Poetics of Non-synchrony”

Thomas Seifrid (U of Southern California), “Arranging the Absolute: On One of Russian Modernism’s Legacies in the Stalin Era”

Panel 4: Knowledge and Mind: Religion, Science, Spirituality

David Bethea (UW–Madison), “Darwin and Symbolist Thinking”

Martha Kelly (U of Missouri), “From Priests to Sinners: Religious Discourse in Turn-of-the-Century Russian Journals”

Alexander Ogden (U of South Carolina), “Embodied Transformation: Yoga in Russian Modernism”

AATSEEL-WI 2013 Conference

The Slavic Department hosted the annual conference of the Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages on October 18-19, 2013. We were honored to have Professor Michał Paweł Markowski (U of Illinois at Chicago) join us as keynote speaker, presenting a lecture titled “Study of the Object: Between Kazimir Malevich and Zbigniew Herbert.” Slavic Department PhD alumnus Professor Eric Laursen (U of Utah) returned to Madison to present his paper, “Evgeny Zamyatin and Thermodynamics.” Professor Laursen also joined Slavic graduate students for a pizza lunch, discussing life and work after the PhD defense. Professor David Danaher was this year’s faculty presenter, discussing the meaning of the Czech word

“duchovnost” and the problems presented by translating it using the English “spirituality.”

Ten UW graduate students presented at this year’s conference. We were especially pleased to be joined by two graduate students from the Department of Art History, Amy Hughes and Christy Wahl, as well as by Snezhana Zheltoukhova from the doctoral program in Second Language Acquisition. Participation by students outside of the Slavic Department helped to heighten the interdisciplinary feel of the conference suggested by the title of Professor Markowski’s keynote lecture.

Two Slavic Department graduate students, Zachary Rewinski and Thomas Tabatowski, shared the J. Thomas Shaw Prize for outstanding presentations.

To see the complete program from the 2013 conference (as well as the Call For Papers for 2014!), please visit the Slavic Department website and click on “AATSEEL-WI Conference” in the left-hand sidebar. ♦

Oakhill Prison Humanities Project

Naomi Olson

For the past five years, graduate students from the Slavic department have been volunteering their time as literature instructors at Oakhill Correctional Facility in Oregon, Wisconsin. The Slavic Department first became involved when Naomi Olson received a HEX (Humanities Exposed) grant to establish a Russian literature course in the prison. Soon after Colleen Lucey received a HEX grant the following year to continue the class, several other graduate students (Jesse Stavis, José Vergara, Zachary Rewinski, Sergey Karpukhin) became involved in the project, establishing and facilitating their own courses. Inspired by the outreach commitments of her graduate students, Judith Kornblatt applied for and secured continued funding for the projects from three different grants. Funding from The Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment, Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies, and the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia, made it possible to create the position of a faculty mentor and a project coordinator to organize the courses, facilitate communication between the prison administration and the instructors, recruit new volunteers, and increase awareness of the project among the greater community. With the help of these grants, OPHP has accomplished a great deal over the course of the 2013-2014 academic year. Here are a few of the highlights:

- This year, OPHP inaugurated a course. To complement our current offerings, Poetry Workshop, Fiction Workshop, African-American Studies, and Reading Group, we introduced a Spanish Pinto Poetry and Spoken Word course taught by Sergio Tapia and Jacob Raether. We are excited to increase the linguistic and thematic diversity of our courses.
- OPHP volunteers from the Slavic and other departments participated in a roundtable hosted by CREECA, as part of their weekly lecture series, in which volunteers discussed their experiences as prison instructors before an audience of scholars, students, and community members.
- Colleen Lucey and Michael McDaniel presented inmate work at a public reading and fundraiser hosted by the Undergraduate Society for English called “Unbound.”

- Marc Kornblatt’s documentary, *Dostoevsky Behind Bars*, about the experience of Slavic Department graduate students teaching Russian literature in the prison premiered to a sold-out house at the Wisconsin Film Festival, which recognized Mr. Kornblatt’s film with a Golden Badger Award.
- This year, two Slavic Department graduate students were interviewed for separate Wisconsin Public Radio programs. Jose Vergara was featured in a [news segment](#) about *Dostoevsky Behind Bars* and OPHP with Gilman Halsted, and Naomi Olson was featured in an episode of the WPR program, [To The Best of Our Knowledge](#), about the power of fiction to cultivate empathy in readers.
- Colleen Lucey, together with Comparative Literature graduate student Janelle Pulczynski, presented on “Education in a Time of Mass Incarceration” at an MLA Subconference in Chicago.
- OPHP participants presented their original works at the Spring Humanities Showcase hosted by Naomi Olson and Jack Rice at Oakhill Correctional Institution. Inmates from all OPHP classes presented poems, performed songs and spoken word pieces, and recited essays before an audience of peers and volunteers.

Perhaps most importantly for the sustainability and future growth of the program, Jennifer Tishler spearheaded a mission to create a UW Foundation account, which can be used to raise more funds for the use of Oakhill volunteers for years to come. OPHP would like to thank everyone in the Slavic Department for their continued support, and we would like to encourage you to contribute to this UW Foundation account to help ensure that this program continues to thrive. You can find information at the back of this newsletter. ♦

The Oakhill Prison Humanities Project is always in need of more volunteers. If you are interested in becoming part of the OPHP team, please contact Naomi Olson:
oakhillprisonhumanitiesproject@gmail.com

Russian Flagship Program Update

The Russian Flagship Program continues to grow and thrive. At this time we have 40 students in or just graduated from the Russian Flagship Program and 10 accepted applicants for next fall. Five Russian Flagship students just returned from the academic-year Russian Overseas Flagship Program at St. Petersburg University. All five students – Sarah Allen, Timothy Butler, Meagan Dunham, Brian Hoettels, and Anne Redmond – completed the program with ACTFL-certified Superior-level (ILR 2) spoken Russian, and we are enormously proud of them and their many accomplishments. Brian's work as an intern at the Russian Academy of Sciences Influenza Research Institute was featured in the most recent issue of the national Flagship newsletter *Discourse*. Students Sarah Allen and Meagan Dunham are publishing translations from Russian news articles at the Russian Media Center (russianmediacenter.org). See Sarah's recent translation at <http://www.russianmediacenter.org/?p=375>. Anne Redmond will return to UW-Madison in the fall to complete her Comparative Literature major; the other Flagship alumni will graduate this summer. In addition, Slavic Department doctoral student Jesse Stavis participated in the Russian Flagship Program during the fall semester and attained Superior-level Russian; Jesse is now continuing his dissertation research in St. Petersburg.

This coming academic year 12 students plan to participate in the Russian Overseas Flagship Program, and astonishing eight of them received highly competitive Boren Scholarships. See the College of Letters & Science news piece at <http://news.ls.wisc.edu/announcements/russian-flagship-program-receives-major-award-for-student-scholarships/> and the Division of International Studies' press releases, both on Flagship students' study abroad plans and on Boren recipients:

- <http://international.wisc.edu/blog/index.php/2014/04/30/boren-2014-15/>
- <http://international.wisc.edu/blog/index.php/2014/05/09/russian-flagship-scholarships/>.

Russian Flagship alumni continue to use their Russian in their work. UW-Madison alumnus Ryan Prinz, who majored in Russian Language & Civilization and completed the Russian Flagship Program and is now working at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, returned to UW-Madison in December 2013 to give a lecture, in Russian, to Russian Flagship students on LGBT issues in Russia today and to take part in a panel discussion sponsored by the LGBT Center,

mentioned in the Chair's letter. Ryan is featured in a recent piece on the value of a liberal arts education on the UW front page. See <http://parent.wisc.edu/newsletter-story/the-value-of-a-liberal-arts-degree/>. We look forward to hearing about our Russian Flagship alumni accomplishments and will post them at <http://russianflagship.wisc.edu/people/alumni>. ♦

Flagship Students Attend Conferences in California & Maryland

Russian Flagship students participated in two conferences this year: three students were selected to attend the national Language Flagship student conference at University of Maryland in March 2014, and two students were selected to attend the University of California Undergraduate Conference on Slavic and East/Central European Studies, held at UCLA in April 2014.

Below are some responses from the students on their impressions from these conferences. All five are Boren Scholarship recipients.

Julianna Jerosch

Russian, Economics, Political Science

Attending the UCLA conference was an incredible opportunity to hear the work of other students interested in Slavic languages. I enjoyed hearing about the research other students had done on a wide range of topics, from translating Shakespeare's sonnets to NATO expansion to Islam in Russia. I had the chance to get valuable feedback on my own presentation on the relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and the state. This was also my first time attending an academic conference. It was fun to spend time with some of UCLA's Russian Flagship students later in the day and to share stories about our experiences studying Russian.

Roy Ginsberg

Russian, Economics

Participating in the UCLA conference provided a fabulous opportunity to interact with fellow Flagship students, while refining our presentation skills and presenting our research on Slavic languages and cultures. At UCLA, I was able to interact with professors and stu-

dents who share a passion for the various languages of cultures of Eastern Europe and see research that may not be available at the University of Wisconsin. From presentations on Medieval Bulgarian treatises to Yugoslav street art, students at the conference discussed a great array of topics in Slavic languages and cultures. It was also an honor to meet many members of the UCLA faculty, including the famous Russian cinematographer, Marina Goldovskaya. Additionally, this conference provided the opportunity to meet some students with whom I will be studying abroad in St. Petersburg next year.

Kyle Ferrel

Russian, Economics, International Studies

On March 2nd, 2014 three UW-Madison Russian Flagship students traversed from the blistery, snow-covered lands of Wisconsin to the blistery, snow-covered lands of Washington, D.C. to attend a conference on using one's Flagship experience to transform into a global professional. Though the chill winds and heavy snowfall of "Winterstorm Titan" prevented many of the slated speakers from attending the conference, the gathering still left a resounding impact on all who arrived. In particular, in meeting with federal hiring managers, representatives enumerated the skills most sought after by various government Departments including critical thinking, oral and written communication, mobility, teamwork, inquisitiveness, moderate risk taking, community-mindedness, and the willingness to challenge pervading, yet ineffective policies. Furthermore, we engaged in a number of professional development activities including group impromptu presentations, mock interviews, and resume building. Our cultural horizons were broadened even further as we listened to presentations given in a whole host of "Flagship" languages and even enjoyed a Persian evening hosted by the University of Maryland's Persian Flagship, complete with wonderful food and Iranian dance lessons. However, the most memorable part of the conference was simply interacting with other talented, young individuals who are devoting a large portion of their time to studying the language and culture of critical need areas such as Turkey, Brazil, the Middle East, Eastern Africa and China. Interacting with these students whether by listening to their presentation on country-specific issues, discussing interesting (and embarrassing) travel stories, chatting it up at our "business lunches" or launching snowballs at each other in an after hours snowball fight was not only a supreme delight, but a tremendous honor. If nothing else, the conference certainly demonstrated that the Flagship cadre is a distinct group of fun, intelligent, determined and supportive students with an indescribable passion for multicultural exchange and a yearning to better the world in which they live.

Azeem Zaman

Economics, Math

The National Language Flagship Conference provided an opportunity to hear from high-ranking people within the Flagship Program. It was very encouraging to hear about the success of the program. The goal of the Flagship Program has remained the same since its inception in 2002: to create a pool of graduates with professional level competency in critical languages. The program was originally directed at graduate students, as it was believed that undergraduates simply could not reach the desired levels of competency. In 2006 the program switched to serving undergraduates exclusively. As a result of the switch, students from more diverse academic backgrounds began to join the program.

There are two important ways in which the Flagship Program has been successful. The first is purely in terms of proficiency gains. In 2013, 93% of participants completing the program (in all languages: Arabic, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, and Turkish) achieved level 2+ (ILR, roughly equivalent to ACTFL Advanced High) or better. Furthermore, 67% of the participants reached level 3 (ILR; ACTFL Superior) or better. These results are notable, as the languages emphasized by the Flagship Program are among the most difficult languages for English speakers to learn. The second important result is updating the way languages are taught at a university level. For many years, foreign language education was essentially grooming students for university positions; the students who took languages classes often went on to graduate school to study the language. The Flagship Program has expanded the types of students who are able to reach very high levels of proficiency in their languages.

The speakers at the conference also emphasized the incredible opportunities associated with the Boren award. In addition to a very generous monetary award, opportunities for Boren recipients to find work in the federal government abound. The award comes with a service requirement: award recipients are required to work in the federal government for one year in a position relating to national security. However, it is better to think of this as an opportunity to start a career in the federal government. Government agencies are now required to report the number of National Security Education Program (NSEP, the program responsible for the Boren) scholars that they hire. As a result, NSEP scholars (which includes Boren recipients) are highly sought after within the government. Besides the official requirements, word-of-mouth has created a positive image of recipients of awards like the Boren. Students with interest in federal service should very seriously consider applying for the Boren.

Devin Hess

Russian, History

The trip to University of Maryland for the National Flagship Conference was truly an incredible experience. In all there were about 40-50 students who attended the conference and all Flagship languages were represented. It was tremendous to make connections with these other students since it was evident all of us have a passion for languages. Each one I met had a unique aspect about their language and culture to share with me. Conversations then certainly never got boring; I learned all sorts of quirky, culturally relevant facts! For example, a student of Swahili enlightened me of the fact that character names in Lion King are all Swahili words! Even the songs have bits of Swahili in them! How had I lived so long in the dark?

I also found the student presentations to be both engaging and informative. On the first day students presented topics on the theme of Global Connections: Language, Media, and Cross-cultural Communication. The second day, presentations touched on issues of national security. All the presentations I found to be interesting, but what stood out for me in particular was Miriam Goldman's presentation. In it she discussed the alarming problem of drug use among the Slavic community in Portland, Oregon, and what methods should be put into use to help support them. It struck a chord with me since I am, like Miriam, a student of Russian. Before her presentation, I had not been aware of any large Russian-speaking communities within the United States. It was good to hear that my Russian can come into practical use in direct interactions with foreigners to and residents of the United States.

At that, if it were possible, I would say all Flagship students should attend this conference. For me, it reinforced why I ever began to seriously study Russian language. We live in a rapidly growing and diversifying world that is simultaneously becoming much more interconnected. Therefore, be it business or government, the United States is in need of professionals competent both culturally and linguistically in foreign languages. Sometimes in the midst of busy, seemingly endless semesters it's easy to forget why you ever started down a certain major. However, with an opportunity like this, which shows you the relevance of your study, it can be inspiring and comforting to know that your language skills will be highly valued once you reach the real world. ♦

For more information on the Russian Flagship Program and our students, please visit our website:

<http://russianflagship.wisc.edu>

Distinguished Polish Majors Graduate

Two students graduated with a B.A. in Polish this spring: Marta Studnicka and Sebastian Skarbek. Both of them were recipients of the Michael and Emily Lapinski Scholarship in the past. This year, they received the Edmund I. Zawacki Award for their outstanding progress in the study of the Polish language and literature. It is a pleasure to present their short bios and to congratulate them on their stellar achievements.

Marta Studnicka graduated with a double major in biochemistry and Polish. Throughout her four years at UW- Madison, she became involved in many student organizations. She was a member of the Greater University Tutoring Program (GUTS), Student Leadership Program, Big 10 Leadership Network, Emerging Leaders Program, as well as a starter on the first UW-Madison Women Soccer Club Team. Although these organizations kept her busy, she put most of her time into the Polish Student Association, through which she had the opportunity to help organize the annual Polish Film Festival. In addition, she worked as a research assistant in the lab of Professor Simon Gilroy (Botany Department) and served as a student representative on the Committee on Student Organizations. She also found time to volunteer as an intern at R.E.A.C.H. a Child (a nonprofit organization). During her senior year, Marta was selected to participate in the School of Leaders (Szkoła Liderów) funded by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2013-14, she also chaired a committee organizing an international conference in Madison (Quo Vadis 2014), took on a position of a tutor at the UW-Madison Athletic Department, and won an internship with a company called Global Busch Ventures.

Marta was awarded the Lapinski Scholarship for Excellence in Polish Studies in 2011, 2012, and 2013. In 2014, she received the Zawacki Award for Outstanding Achievement in Polish Studies from the UW-Madison Slavic Department and the Copernicus Award for an outstanding student in the sciences from the Polish Women's Cultural Club (Polanki) in Milwaukee.

Sebastian Skarbek graduated with a double major in Polish and French, although this wasn't his original plan when he first started college. Originally, he was planning to go to the medical school. Only after he had completed about two thirds of a biochemistry degree did he realize that his true passion was reserved for the humanities. His love of languages, literature, art, and philosophy has led him to where he is today. He was the only undergraduate

student in French taking a 900 level seminar on French literature. His grades have been stellar. Outside of class, he was heavily involved with the Polish Student Association, especially in organizing the Polish Film Festival. He also played in the UW-Madison Russian Folk Orchestra. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, windsurfing, sailing, reading, and writing. After he graduates, Sebastian will be working in France in order to figure out details for his future professional life. He said: "Hopefully one day I will be able to put my skills with languages and ideas to the service of people; needless to say, throughout my life's journey I will keep pursuing experiences that will shape, challenge, and inform my own fiction and poetry."

Sebastian was awarded the Lapinski Scholarship for Excellence in Polish Studies in 2011, 2012, and 2013; Zawacki Award for Outstanding Achievement in Polish Studies in 2014; Germaine Mercier Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in French Studies in 2013 and 2014; Germaine Mercier Essay Award for the Best Undergraduate Essay in French in 2013; Stanley F. and Helen Balcerzak Award from the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee in 2013; Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society in 2013; and Dobro Slovo Slavic Honors Society in 2012. ♦

Five Students Awarded Lapinski Scholarship

Many congratulations to the recipients of the 2014 Michael and Emily Lapinski Scholarship for Excellence in Polish Studies. The Lapinski Scholarship was awarded to Justyna Chojnowski, Natalia Chreptowicz, Sebastian Sochacki, and Zuzanna Sztul.

Slavic Department graduate student Ilona Sotnikova was awarded a Lapinski Fellowship for Polish study. Ilona will spend 6 weeks in Krakow participating in a summer program for foreigners who want to deepen their knowledge of the Polish language and culture. ♦

Twenty-fourth Annual Polish Film Festival

The Polish Film Festival, organized yearly by the Polish Student Association and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, promotes Polish movies in Madison. Over nearly twenty years, the Festival

has presented more than 120 films directed by Polish filmmakers, including Andrzej Wajda, Feliks Falk, Ryszard Bugajski, and Wojciech Smarzowski.

Every year, the Festival attracts students, faculty, and the Madison community. More than 400 people attended the Festival in November 2013. We hope to see you all at the 25th Polish Film Festival in November 2014. ♦

Alumni News

Laurie Iudin-Nelson (PhD, '97), Professor of Russian Studies at Luther College, was honored for her 25 years of service at Concordia Language Villages, a program of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. An internationally recognized program of language and culture immersion for youth ages 7-18, it enrolls more than 10,000 participants annually. At Concordia Language Villages, Iudin-Nelson, who specializes in the role of music in the foreign language and culture curriculum, served as the Dean of the Russian Village for 16 years, directed ethnic music programs, taught language and culture, and developed curriculum for all levels of the program. "Laurie has brought music, as well as language teaching methodology, front and center to the Russian Village and to all the Villages. Whether she skillfully directs a balalaika orchestra at the Russian Village or at Luther College, she knows full well the power of learning language through song, with lyrics that bring to life what is important to the Russian people, both historically and in contemporary society," said Christine Schulze, Vice President for Concordia Language Villages. In recognition of Iudin-Nelson's outstanding service, an endowed scholarship was established in her name. The Laurie Iudin-Nelson 25th Anniversary Endowed Fund will grant scholarships to students to attend the Russian Village. "For 25 years, first as a staff member, then as dean, and now as a trainer of teachers of Russian through the federally funded STARTALK program for critical languages, Laurie is the epitome of excellence: as an educator, a curriculum designer, and a teacher-mentor. But most importantly, she is dedicated to spreading her love of Russian culture to young people, ensuring that another generation is motivated and excited about learning the language and traveling to a vast country rich in tradition and alive with possibility for the future," said Schulze. Congratulations, Laurie, from all of us in the UW-Madison Slavic Department! ♦

Alumni!

We would love to know where you are now and what you're doing! Please send updates to:
slavic@slavic.wisc.edu

In Memoriam

ALEXANDER ROLICH (1923-2014)

Bibliographer for Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Studies, Memorial Library

Alexander Rolich passed away on March 23, 2014, in Madison. He was born to Belarusian and Ukrainian parents, Ivan and Anastasia (Nedza) Rolich on July 3, 1923, in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. He attended Teacher's College of Connecticut (now Central Connecticut State University) and later graduated from Columbia University with an undergraduate degree in Russian and Social Sciences, a certificate from the Russian (now Harriman) Institute, and Master's Degrees in Russian Literature and Library Science. He also earned an MA in Russian Language from Middlebury College in Vermont. During World War II, he served in the United States Navy as Quartermaster on an amphibious assault ship in the South Pacific before returning to the US for officer training.

Alex went on to teach Russian at Long Beach High School (Long Island) and Brooklyn College, and he used his Russian language skills as interpreter for touring artists such as the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra and violinist David Oistrakh. He also served as interpreter for the Moscow Circus that ended its US tour in Minneapolis with a performance that was taped for the Ed Sullivan Show. On his way back to New York, Alex stopped in Madison to visit a friend and applied for a new position being established at the UW-Madison Memorial Library. He thus spent the next 37 years building the Library's collections in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Studies and developing exchanges with libraries in Eastern Europe. He also assisted numerous students and scholars in their research, in addition to mentoring students from the School of Library Science who then went on to become librarians at other university libraries. Alex's generosity with his time and expertise has been acknowledged in many scholarly publications; for example, David Ost has paid a tribute to Alex's superb professional abilities and unselfish assistance in his book, *Solidarity and the Politics of Anti-Politics: Opposition and Reform since 1968*.

A high achiever throughout his life, Alex was a man of many interests. He was an early, strong advocate for civil rights and social justice. He loved reading, singing in various choruses, traveling throughout Europe, fishing from the Memorial Union piers, organic gardening in his back yard, and lunching with his B&B Club buddies. ♦

Submitted by James Bailey, Andrew Spencer, Karen Rosneck, and Lisa Baker.

LAWRENCE L. THOMAS (1924-2013)

Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literature

Larry Thomas passed away on February 21, 2013, in California. He was born on March 15, 1924, in Butte, North Dakota. From 1943 to 1946, he served in the United States Navy. After his naval service, he matriculated at the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned a BA in International Relations and subsequently both MA and PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature. He completed his doctorate in 1954 and remained at Berkeley, rising to the rank of Professor.

Larry spent the summer of 1955 as a Visiting Lecturer at UW-Madison and returned under the same title for the 1963-64 academic year. He joined the UW-Madison faculty in 1965 with the rank of Professor, and served as the Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature from 1968 to 1974. He retired from the University in 1988.

Larry's research interests were wide-ranging, from East Slavic linguistics (both historical and descriptive), comparative Slavic linguistics and literatures, and Polish linguistics and modern Polish literature. His monograph, *The Linguistic Theories of N. Ja. Marr*, remains the definitive work on the subject. He was a major contributor to *The Kosciuszko Foundation English-Polish and Polish-English Dictionary* and (with F. J. Whitfield) to the translation and condensation of V. V. Vinogradov's *Essays on the History of the Russian Literary Language of the Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries*. As a teacher, Larry was both extraordinarily demanding and extraordinarily rewarding. His students typically worked far harder and learned far more than they expected. He was known, for example, to cover the entirety of Polish grammar in the first ten weeks of his introductory Polish class, and to require his students to begin reading scholarly articles in the language in the eleventh week. In the classroom, he held himself to the same high standards of rigor as he did his students, and on the rare occasion when a student would find an imperfection in, say, his close phonetic transcription of some phrase in his course on modern Russian orthoepy, Larry would be grateful for the correction, and would share the student's pride – and astonishment – at the student's achievement.

Larry was a man whose gruff demeanor and unusually direct approach to communication were at times belied by a twinkle that escaped his eye. He was a meticulous scholar and a stern taskmaster who taught his students to be as sedulous as he was himself. It was a privilege to know him. ♦

Submitted by Bruno Browning and Gary Rosenshield.

The following two stories were written by the winners of the “Gogolian State Street Contest” in Jose Vergara’s discussion sections in Professor David Bethea’s nineteenth-century Russian literature course in Fall 2013.

This contest, which ran parallel with the Gogolian Mustache Contest, required students to write a short description of State Street in the style of Nikolai Gogol, using his “Nevsky Prospekt” as a model. There were no further specific guidelines. The winners received extra credit and a copy of Dead Souls, autographed by the “author.” Professor Andrew Reynolds selected the winning entries based on their use of Gogolian techniques, language play, humor, and other criteria.

Despite their masterful adaptations of “Nevsky Prospekt,” both winners, Richard Nelson (sophomore, Computer Science) and Alina Capanna (junior, Russian and Philosophy), prefer Gogol’s “Nose.”

State Street

Alina Capanna

Nowhere else in the Midwest will you find such a place as State Street. It has everything and everyone you could hope to see. You’re sure to meet the man you’ve been just missing, and surely you’ll run into the very man you’ve been hoping to avoid. That is, every man loves State Street, every man from Charlie Sheen to the aging hipster in Woody Allen glasses. And, oh, the ladies! They flit about our street like hungover little butterflies. Rarely in any other place will you see girls wear a uniform of Ugg boots and leggings and black NorthFace backpacks with such religious regularity and fervor.

You’ll never believe how State Street changes in the course of just one day. In the morning, there’s a parade. The sorority ladies form little troops of three by three. Their nasally, Coasty voices reach a distinct pitch. Lost looking humble-bumbles in gym shorts and yesterday’s socks stumble unwillingly to class. In their wake, State takes on such a stench: it’s the distinct masculine, fraternity marinade of stale PBR and sweat. Their noses hang out as they stare at the rhythmic jiggle of the legging parade.

“Всё обман,
всё мечта,
всё не то,
чем кажется!”

It’s possible you’ll see a few well-saturated souls, already drinking their eggs-and-ham around the 200 block. Soon after they’ll be riding the #4 to the end of the line until, at the latest hours, you might see them trudging eastbound. Their perfume cocktails must instill such lethargy that, once they finally stumble upon the capitol, they fall asleep on benches covering its circumference. But they are so barely visible from our street that—ah, the devil take it!

In the afternoon, people are scarce but the shops are open. A few mothers scurry their fat little children in and out of chocolate shops and library restrooms. But, for the most part, State Street at this hour becomes a high-speed expressway. The students and the businessmen buy their bagels, keep their heads down, and rush back to where they came from in efficient, single-file lines. Above all the bustling is the regular singsongy call of the Street Pulse vendors. They are perched like buzzards every quarter of a block on State Street so that any given State Street patron is bombarded with “DonatetoStreetPulse?Haveaniceday.” several times an hour.

At some point, the sun goes down and so does the liquor. That’s precisely when women, the gross little onions, begin to shed their layers. They leave their overcoats at home, no matter the weather, and lend a different, fleshy sort of sheen to the street. They hobble about on stilts, in screeching little packs with humble-bumbles never too far behind. Yes, by this time on State Street, noses abound.

At around four a.m., as the bars are closing, all that remains on our street are the disappointed and the too-drunk. At that time, there’s a different sort of parade. It’s more of a death march, really, and the crooked funeral processions stumble homeward on the trail of vodka tears and vomit. I don’t recommend State Street at such an hour. I don’t much recommend it at any hour, but especially not then. ♦

State Street

Richard Nelson

There is nothing like State Street in all of Wisconsin. Nestled snugly in the middle of our capital right near the tremendous capitol building, the marvel of State Street is unparalleled to any other. The shops, the restaurants, the things to see! All men, all women, all ages young and old can enjoy the enchantment this stately street has to offer everyone. From the stores full of gorgeous clothing, to the strange hippie shops filled with questionable goods, to the eateries pouring out enticing smells, and to the mighty liquor stores, it is possible for any to find true joy on State Street. The people there — the inquisitive university students, the seasoned professors and scholars, the visiting families and tourists, the heart wrenching homeless — every person who walks this street radiates a distinct and interesting persona. Every day on State Street provides a new and exciting story, for the wonder and joy does not cease.

State Street is calm when you look at it Monday to Thursday. The morning is quiet and serene. Occasionally, you will see a person stumble home from a bar, having been out far too late the previous eve. But the morning is when the bustle begins. Students groggily emerge from their apartments and flats nestled above the shops and wonders on State Street. With sleep still in their eyes, they walk down the peaceful street to their day full of exciting classes and work. The shops that dot State Street begin to open at this hour. Storeowners and employees go to their respective businesses to set up for the day, waiting with bated breath for whoever may browse their wares that day. Coffee shops and breakfast establishments open their doors to feed the hungry people who walk the street at this hour.

When noon and the evening roll around, the traffic on State Street picks up. Students, professors, workers, and any sort of person come to State Street to relax on their break or when their day has rolled to its end. At these hours, lunch and dinner are served to the tuckered out visitors and denizens of State Street. With their bellies full, they go home or there remain on State Street, sometimes stopping to shop for food, snacks, clothes, or a gift for a dear loved one. Some stay late at night and get a drink at a bar before heading home. These hours of these days, State Street is serene and calm, and its dwellers and visitors retire after visiting the street to come back the next day.

But when the week comes to its joyous end, State Street erupts into a new and exciting bustling world. The eve of a Friday brings many new visitors and faces to the street, and it the liveliness increases to new levels. With

their week behind them, the young and the seasoned crowd to State Street to have an enjoyable and carefree evening. The restaurants fill with people, and laughter and conversation pours out of every door as people enjoy a marvelous dinner with their loved ones and those they hold dear. Irresistible smells of food fills every inch of the street. The rowdy bustling of bars and taverns grows to levels unseen during the week, with patrons pouring in and out of every establishment to have more alcohol poured for them. The most colorful and interesting characters can be seen these evenings, and many stories and memories are forged here. The following morning, some of these people finally stumble home as the bustling increases when the nearby farmer's market opens up, filling the streets with young and old buying an assortment of produce before coming back again. The excitement continues again into Saturday evening, with more people going out for food, drinks, concerts, and fun. The party goes on and on for hours, until Sunday rolls around and those who skulk the street return to relaxing on their Sunday, and State Street sits serenely for the week until the party lights are lit up the following weekend. ♦



Participants in the Gogolian Mustache Challenge were asked to grow and/or create a mustache worthy of Gogol. The mustache could be natural or fake (drawn, constructed, etc.). At the judging ceremony, participants had to briefly answer judges' questions about the Gogolian-ness of their 'staches. Judges included graduate students from the Slavic Department, as well as Gogol himself... or at least the department's resident Gogol impersonator.

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