



Slavic Languages and Literatures

Department
Newsletter

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Letter from the Chair, David Bethea

This has been another exciting year for the Department of Slavic Languages at UW-Madison. We had 13 Russian majors graduate in May (Eric Leikin, Benjamin Dashevsky, Monica Basche, Valerie Karnauskas, Alisha Kirchoff, Edward Gutnik, Noah Buckley-Farlee, Scott Carter, Tatiana Dickey, Jason Kuhn, Benjamin Lawent, Cassie Strompolis, and Anastasia Vener), 3 in December (Jennifer Ede, Sarah Hickey, and Christine Klemens), and one planning on an August graduation (Rujuta Parikh). We also had 3 graduates in Polish in December (Katarzyna Borzecki, Monika Rutkowski, and Paulina Michalewicz), and one in May (John Hagen). Please, all of you, keep in touch! As these students leave us for bigger and better, we are pleased to be able to report that we now have a total of 58 Russian majors and 11 Polish majors, with 19 (16 in Russian, 3 in Polish) declaring just this year.

And you needn't be impressed by the numbers alone; we have plenty of awards to announce. Ten undergraduates are accepted into the ACTR program for study abroad, with Andrew Kushner (currently 3rd year) receiving a highly competitive national NSEP award to fund his study, and Garret Fitzpatrick (2nd year) as an NSEP alternate. We had two recipients of the Edmund I. Zawacki Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of the Polish Language, Literature, and

Culture: Katarzyna Borzecki and Margaret Rosen, and one of the new and generous Michael and Emily Lapinski Scholarship: Yolanda Stypula. Rujuta Parikh received the J. Thomas Shaw Prize for Undergraduate Excellence in Russian, and Zach Kelly won the Slavic Department Prize for Outstanding Progress in Russian. Zach Kelly along with his classmate in third-year Russian, Randall Klang, received honorable mention in the Seventh Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. Our Czech program is also growing in size and quality, with three winners this year of the November Fund Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Czech: Kristin Aiello, Justin Navratil, and Amanda Volbert. Congratulations to you all!

Turning to our graduate program, we welcomed in a robust class of seven new students in the Fall: Naomi Bethel (Grinnell), Anna Guigauri (University of Toronto), Viktoriya Kononova (Moscow State University), Matthew McGarry (University of Kansas), Betsy Mulet (University of Illinois, Chicago), Jane Pickell (Barnard College), and Paul Richard (Louisiana State University, Middlebury College). It has been a pleasure to have these new students in class and to see how well they have integrated themselves into the program. Of these students, Naomi, Jane and Paul were recipients of FLAS and Lapinski/Gasiorowska



fellowships respectively, while Anna, Vika, Matt, and Betsy held either TAs or PAs.

Our continuing graduate students have also not been inactive. Laura Little won a coveted Letters and Science Teaching Fellow award for 2006; Vika Thorstensson was the recipient of the J. Thomas Shaw Prize at our fall AATSEEL conference (October 14-15, 2005) for her outstanding paper on the

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parallels between Pushkin's "Journey to Arzrum" and Mandelstam's "Journey to Armenia"; John Holm was a FLAS fellowship holder for the current academic year; and Matt Walker and Erik McDonald received dissertation fellowships from the Graduate School in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 competitions, respectively. And just recently we learned that Marina Antic is the recipient of a Title VIII grant to pursue dissertation research next year in Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia, while Ben Jens will go on a Title VIII language grant to Belgrad to perfect his Serbian. Finally, Matt Walker will spend 10 months in Russia on a Fulbright.

On another front, our department continues to enjoy a strong tradition of teacher training and classroom performance. Continuing grads who taught first-year Russian included Ben Jens, Laura Little, Keith Meyer-Blasing, Emily Shaw, and Matt Walker, while second-year was taught by Laura Little, Amanda Murphy, and Molly Thomasy. Ben Jens, Brian Johnson, Molly Peeney, and Vika Thorstensson taught Comm B sections of our large nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature-in-translation survey courses. During the spring semester 2006 Vika Thorstensson also conducted an advanced language course for fellow grads under the auspices of CREECA. The RAILS project inaugurated by Ben Rifkin continued with the help of Nina Familiant and Shannon Spasova. Marina Antic taught Serbian and Croatian and Antonella Caloro taught Italian, while Kat Scollins was a project assistant supported by CREECA. Special kudos go to Anna Tumarkin, who was our faculty associate for the academic year: Anna did a superb job helping Judith Kornblatt with the running of the language program and also assisted as our undergraduate advisor.

We are especially pleased to announce that this past semester one of our senior grads, Clint Walker, successfully defended his dissertation on "Metaphors of Transformation" in Modern Russian literature, while two others, Amanda Murphy and Vika Thorstensson, passed with flying colors their prelims – *molodtsy*!

2005-2006 has also seen our faculty active and visible in a number of areas. Margaret

Beissinger published an article on "Romani Music-Making at Weddings in Post-Communist Romania" in *Folklorica: Journal of the Slavic and East European Folklore Association*. David Bethea was pleased beyond words to see the ten-year saga of the *Pushkin Handbook* finally concluded with its publication in March 2006. David Danaher, who has been one of our best teachers and departmental contributors, won a Fulbright grant to teach and do research in the Czech Republic in spring 2006 (he was also on a well-deserved sabbatical in fall 2005). David continues to publish in the areas of cognitive linguistics, metaphor studies, and the life and work of Vaclav Havel. Alexander Dolinin added once again to his record as internationally acclaimed Pushkinist and Nabokov scholar: his long study of Pushkin's *Andzhelo* (with the latter's roots in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*) appeared in a Festschrift for Caryl Emerson, while a piece he published in the *Times Literary Supplement* made a splash by identifying for the first time the real-life model for Nabokov's *Lolita*/Dolly Haze (Sally Horner). The roles of graduate advisor and Wisconsin AATSEEL faculty sponsor were again ably handled by Halina Filipowicz, who also added luster to our international academic reputation by co-editing (and contributing to) *Polonistyka po amerykansku: Badania nad literatura polska w Ameryce Polnocnej (1990-2005)*. As always, Halina has been especially generous to and supportive of our former graduate student Polonists, several of whose pieces appear in this same volume. As those of us who know her have come to expect, Judith Kornblatt managed to juggle numerous balls in the air without dropping any of them: she held a prestigious fellowship at the UW Institute for Research in the Humanities in spring 2005; delivered several scholarly papers in distinguished venues while continuing to publish articles and book chapters on Vladimir Solovyov and Babel; and, along with a dizzying array of other duties, served as Acting Language Program Director and Chair of the Department and Associate Dean for Humanities in the Graduate School. Whew! In addition to teaching her popular "Russian/Soviet Life and Culture" courses Galina Lapina has recently been working on (and now publishing) articles and

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Graduate Student News

Honors and Awards

Amanda Murphy and **Vika Thorstensson** successfully survived their prelims this year. **Antonella Caloro**, **Erik McDonald**, **Betsy Mulet** and **Jane Pickell** each received FLAS grants for the summer. **Molly Thomasy** received an Academic Year FLAS for next year. **Marina Antic** and **Ben Jens** each received a Title VIII Language Fellowship to research and study in the former Yugoslavia next year. **Laura Little** won the 2006 L&S Teaching Fellowship. **Matt Walker** received a Fulbright Fellowship for next year.

Conferences

Five graduate students presented papers at the AATSEEL-WI conference in October of 2005. **Nina Familiant** read "Soviet Literature and Soviet History in the Geneva Spirit: a Peaceful Coexistence?". **Matt McGarry** presented "The Quest to Understand the Act: Bakhtin and the Concept of Polyphony". **Amanda Murphy** gave "Compassion as Grace Incarnate: Sonia Marmeladova's Iconic Role in Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment". **Molly Thomasy** read "Pushkin and Chekhov: Exploring the Onegin Myth in Chekhov's Ionych". And **Vika Thorstensson** received the J. Thomas Shaw AATSEEL-Wisconsin Prize for her paper "Echoes of Pushkin's

Journey to Arzrum in Mandelshtam's Journey to Armenia".

Among others, the following students all presented papers at other national and regional conferences: **Marina Antic**, **Keith Meyer-Blasing**, **Nina Familiant**, **Brian Johnson**, **Laura Little**, **Matt McGarry**, **Molly Thomasy**, **Vika Thorstensson** and **Matt Walker**.

Summer Work and Study

This year, as every year, the UW-Madison's Slavic department's presence will be felt at the Middlebury Summer Language Program. **Shannon Spasova**, **Brian Johnson**, and **Laura Little** will be teaching there. **Jane Pickell**, **Naomi Bethel** and **Betsy Mulet** will be attending Middlebury as students. Naomi is also spending the first half of the summer improving her Serbo-Croatian language skills in Croatia. **Amanda Murphy** will be working as Resident Director for the ACTR Teacher Training Program at Moscow State and **Antonella Caloro** will be there as a student. **Matt McGarry** will be teaching Russian in the summer program at Beloit.

Corresponding Across Cultures

by **Molly Thomasy**

More than twenty-five students from UW's Russian 203 and 204 classes wrote letters to Russian pen pals this year as part of a project designed to give students an opportunity to use their Russian language skills for authentic communication. The project, begun last year by Slavic department graduate student Molly Thomasy, matched second-year Russian students from UW with Russian learners of English at the Delta InterContact language school in Tver', Russia. Both Russian and American learners wrote at least two letters per semester, sharing information about their native cities and cultures on a variety of topics ranging from student and family life, to politics, to favorite books, music and movie stars. Letters were written half in English, half in Russian, giving each learner an opportunity to practice both

reading and writing in the foreign language. This format challenged students to express themselves clearly in the foreign language while still allowing them to express more complex ideas in their native language. Participating UW students were asked to reflect on their experience at the end of the semester and all responded very positively to the project. Most students were thrilled to be able to use their Russian skills to communicate with a native Russian person living in Russia, and several felt that their Russian improved as a result of the correspondence. Sophomore Heidi Kaufman wrote, "Being able to talk to a real person who lives there made me realize we are not as different as I thought."

While the content of the letters was a great vehicle to learn about Russian culture,

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translations related to the experiences of the nineteenth-century American writer Bayard Taylor in Russia. Especially productive over the past year has been Toma Longinovic: not only did he serve on the time-consuming (and psychologically demanding) Humanities Divisional Committee and on the Steering Committee of the Visual Culture initiative, he published his book *Vampires Like Us: Writing Down 'the serbs'* as well as numerous articles and reviews, and he piloted a class on vampires (!) that filled up to the registration limit in only two days. The ever generous Andrew Reynolds did yeoman service on the departmental Admissions and Fellowships Committee and saw into print his superb article on Brodsky's poem "August" (*Slavic Review*, summer 2005); in addition, his celebrated translation of (and introduction and commentaries to) Victor Erofejev's *Life with an Idiot* (Penguin) was short-listed for the Independent Prize for International Fiction in Translation. Last but not least, Yuri Shcheglov has, with his great storehouse of knowledge, continued to compile and oversee the preliminary examinations for our pre-dissertators while publishing prolifically on topics as varied as Derzhavin, the art of scholarly commentary, Aksenov, Pushkin, Chekhov, Tiutchev, Zoshchenko, the legacy of M.L. Gasparov, Kantemir, and Il'f and Petrov.

In addition to our regular statutory faculty we have been blessed this past year with some excellent help from newcomers in temporary posts. Michal Okhlot filled in admirably in various Polish courses for the absent Ewa Miernowska, who was on leave in France and Poland. We thank Michal for a job well done as we welcome back Ewa in the fall. Likewise, Ludmila Rao took over smoothly our current Czech teaching duties from the peripatetic David Danaher. And as already mentioned, Marina Antic helped out with Serbian and Croatian in the absence of Margaret Beissinger. Our energetic former Ph.D. Jennifer Tishler, who is now the Associate Director of CREECA, continued to teach language courses (Third-Year Russian) for us this year; next year she will add the large interdisciplinary CREECA course (Russia: An Interdisciplinary Survey). We are all especially appreciative of the good work Jennifer does in insuring that the Slavic

Department is well integrated into CREECA activities. Finally, we would be remiss not to mention our beloved Departmental Administrators Jean Hennessey and Lori Hubbard; not only would it be difficult to imagine anything of substance getting done in the department without them – it would be just plain sad to think of the place in their absence. With their humor, kindness, and practical knowledge, they create a warm working environment for students, grads, and faculty alike. Thank you, Jean and Lori!

Like all universities and Slavic departments everywhere, our university and our Slavic department are experiencing a period of substantial change. Even though change can sometimes make us uncomfortable, we embrace it and try to make the most of it. As the sea captain once said, you can't change the wind but you can adjust your sails. We sense that our students and graduate students are generally pleased with our courses, our accessibility, our general knowledge base, and our outlook – "who we are." But we can do better and we are always committed to listening and trying. We thank alumni who have chosen to stay in touch and we urge those who have "disappeared" to reappear. We "old-timers" are aware of generational shifts in the field and the aches and pains of transition, but with regard to the department here in Madison there is always much more bringing us together than pulling us apart. We thank everyone for their support at the end of another busy academic year. *Vsego khoroshego*, and let us hear from you soon!

—David Bethea

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Graduate Russian Workshop

During the spring semester of 2006, CREECA sponsored the Graduate Russian Workshop for people with advanced Russian to help them get more practice speaking and to further improve their language skills. The workshop was open to graduate students in all fields and it was broadly advertised through CREECA.

For a long time, graduate students in the Slavic Department have been expressing a concern that there is no built-in structure in our program to help them maintain their language skills. Many grads were disappointed that, after years of hard undergraduate work and summers at Middlebury, their conversational Russian becomes only rustier. It was the joint efforts of Anna Tumarkin, Jennifer Tishler and Judith Kornblatt that, in spite of all the usual financial



Laura Little hard at work

problems, made this project possible. Among the highlights of the workshop were the dramatic reading of a scene from Mayakovsky's *The Bedbug* in the beginning, our "Odes to the View from the 1418 Van Hise" (filled with elaborate participle constructions), Emily Shaw's presentation on the evil spirits in Russia, Laura Little's presentation on the Russian radio programs, the viewing of a documentary program *Namedni: Our Era*, and the final tea party. We especially appreciated the dedication of CREECA's Noah Buckley, who, for a long time, remained our only

treasured male representative, and whose



Amanda and Emily concentrating during a workshop meeting

perfect Russian pronunciation surprised and inspired us all. Amanda Murphy deserves a special mention, as she attended the workshop in spite of her taking prelims this spring (Congratulations, Amanda!), and won a special Diploma for perfectly answering some thirty listening comprehension questions based on *Namedni*.

Of course, this semester was mostly trial and error, as we tried to find a time slot that would fit the most, and to decide what kind of content and structure to adopt for our classes. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a good time for our meetings that satisfied all. Also, it is challenging to accommodate different levels of language competency.

We hope that we will be able to offer the Graduate Russian Workshop in the Fall Semester of 2006 again, and we are looking forward to continuing working with CREECA. It goes without saying that a lot depends on your initiative and dedication. Please, take time to fill out the End of Semester Survey and watch for our updates. Please send your opinions and suggestions to Anna Tumarkin (atumarki@wisc.edu) or Vika Thorstensson (thorstensson@wisc.edu).



Amanda Murphy, Emily Shaw, Vika Thorstensson, and Molly Thomas

Slavic Department Awards

Polish Awards

Yolanda Stypula, a Polish major, is the winner of the Michael and Emily Lapinski Scholarship in Polish Studies. This scholarship will provide Yolanda with tuition support for the academic year 2006-2007 at UW-Madison. The Lapinski Endowment was made possible by the extraordinary generosity of Leona Lapinski Leute. The gift honors her parents, Michael and Emily Lapinski.

With the generous support of Mrs. Helen Zawacki, we were able to honor two students. The 2006 winners of the Edmund I. Zawacki Award for outstanding achievement in the study of the Polish language, literature, and culture are **Katarzyna Borzecki** and **Margaret Rosen**. This prestigious award was established by Mrs. Zawacki in 1995 in memory of the late Professor Edmund I. Zawacki who taught in the Slavic Department at UW-Madison from 1939 to 1978 and served as the department chair from 1939 to 1960. We extend our thanks to Mrs. Zawacki for sponsoring these awards.

Russian Awards

Russian major, **Zachary Kelly**, was honored several times at this year's ceremony. He received the Slavic Department Prize for Outstanding Progress, an honorable mention



Yolanda Stypula and Professor Kornblatt

in the ACTR Russian Essay Contest and he became a member of the Dobro Slovo National Honor Society. Also inducted into Dobro Slovo at this year's ceremony were **Kyle Hayes**, **Richard Maes**, **Kristin Wiseman** and **Randall Klang** who in addition also received an honorable mention in the ACTR Russian Essay Contest.

Monica Basche won the top \$5000.00 award from the Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship which she applied toward studying in St. Petersburg this past spring.

Rachel Sawyer, a fourth-year student and a Russian Language and Civilization major, was awarded the first annual Alice D. Mortenson

Undergraduate Scholarship in Russian History.

The J. Thomas Shaw Prize for Prize for Undergraduate Excellence went to **Rujuta Parikh**. **Michelle Jordan** received an IAP Undergraduate Merit Scholarship and a Pritzker Pucker Award for year-long study in Russia.

Matt McGarry may have started a new tradition this year by



Vika Thorstensson, Professor Emeritus J. Thomas Shaw and Rujuta Parikh

awarding two of his students, **Tyler Henderson** and **Cecilia Leugers**, with certificates for Outstanding Accomplishment in Russian 102.

The department honored the following hardworking teachers of Russian language classes and literature discussion sections with the Teaching Assistantship Award: **Marina Antic**, **Anna Guigauri**, **Ben Jens**, **Vika Kononova**, **Laura Little**, **Matt McGarry**, **Emily Shaw**, **Molly Thomasy**, **Vika Thorstensson**, **Keith Meyer-Blasing**, **Brian Johnson**, **Matt Walker**, **Amanda Murphy**, and **Molly Peeney**.

Czech Awards

Kristin Elizabeth Aiello, **Justin Fors Volbert** and **Yolanda Stypula** received November Fund Prizes for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Czech.

Serbo-Croatian Awards

Graduate students **Ben Jens** and **Marina Antic** both received Title VIII Language Fellowships to study in the former Yugoslavia next year.

Graduates

Congratulations to the following students who received Undergraduate Degrees in Slavic Languages and Literature in 2006: **Monica Basche**, **Katarzyna Borzecki**, **Noah Buckley-Farley**, **Scott Carter**, **Benjamin Dashevsky**, **Tatiana Dickey**, **Jennifer Ede**, **Edward Gutnik**, **John Hagen**, **Sarah Hickey**, **Valerie Karnauskas**,



Anna Guigauri and Naomi Bethel as Dobchinsky and Bobchinsky in a scene from Gogol's "Revizor".

Alisha Kirchoff, **Christine Klemens**, **Jason Kuhn**, **Benjamin Lawent**, **Eric Leikin**, **Paulina Michalewicz**, **Rujuta Parikh**, **Monica Rutkowski**, **Cassie Strompolis**, and **Anastasia Vener**.

The Department's only Ph.D. degree this year was conferred on **Clint Walker** in the spring.



Katarzyna Borzecki and Margaret Rosen

Zachary Kelly, **Naomi Bethel**, and **Anna Guigauri** provided live entertainment by acting out a scene from Nikolai Gogol's "Revizor".

Thomas Van Rooy and **Michael Albrecht** also amused the crowd with the screening of their hilarious short film "Roki".

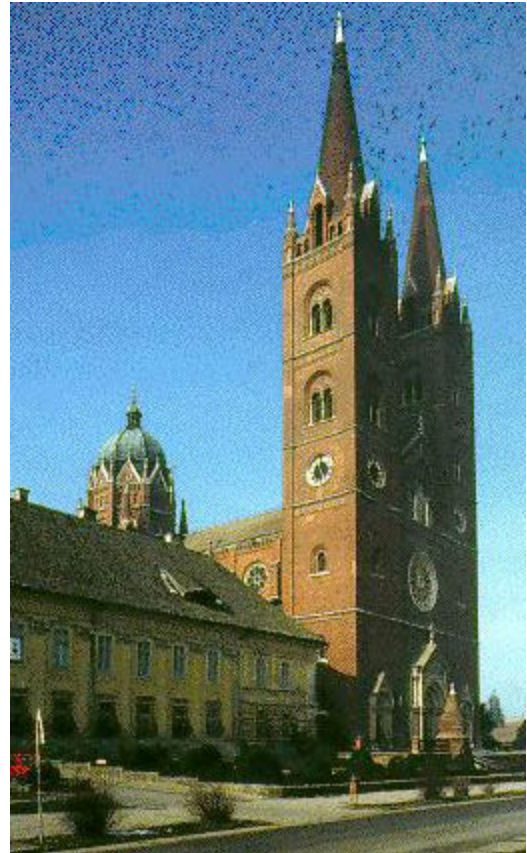
Life in the Emeritus (Slow) Lane

by Gary Rosenshield



I have been asked to write a few words about my activities as a retired person. As some of you know, I retired early to have more time to do the things I wanted, including doing more writing and research. I taught at the UW for thirty-four years. Nowadays I spend a lot more time working in the garden, riding my bike, playing music, and attending concerts. I am also finishing up my second year of classes in ancient Greek. In conjunction with a course I am now taking on Hellenistic poetry, I am writing a paper on "Acontius and Cydippe," a work of Callimachus, a prominent Alexandrian poet of the third century BCE. This summer I hope to visit Delos, the island on which the main action of Callimachus's poem takes place. How is that for an excuse to go to Greece? I still regularly attend conferences and give papers. My book on Dostoevsky and the law (*Western Law, Russian Justice: Dostoevsky, the Jury Trial, and the Law*) came out last July. And now I am finishing up a book on the uses and unintended artistic consequences of Jewish representation (the revenge of the stereotype, one might say) in Gogol, Turgenev, and Dostoevsky. It will be along the lines of an article I wrote on the subversive role of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. I still referee articles and books, and do book reviews. I have one dissertator. I am on the University of Wisconsin Press Board. I have an article coming out in *SEEJ* sometime this year on the representation of religion in Dostoevsky's *Notes from the House of the Dead*. I still wish I had more time each day, but I can't complain, life in the slow lane ain't bad.

Gary Rosenshield
Emeritus



Baroque architecture in Slavonija (Croatia)

Support graduate conference travel!

Last year, a generous gift from John G. Hanus of Fairborn, Ohio has allowed the Department to establish a fund in support of graduate student conference travel. The first grants were given for travel to conferences in fall 2005-06. We would like to be able to continue this support.

Please consider contributing to the Slavic Department to help us maintain this fund or to support the teaching of Russian, Polish, Czech, or Serbo-Croatian languages and literatures.
(See the back page of the newsletter for a contribution form.)

Notes From an Undergrad

by Zachary Kelly

I, like a good chunk of freshmen, came to UW-Madison with some clue of what I wanted to do, perhaps Business School would be nice, or Education – I could become a teacher... but what would I teach? When registering for classes at SOAR, I took a wide range of classes but the one that stuck out the most was first semester Russian. The main question was – why? My answer: I wanted to learn a language with a different alphabet and that's what I did. And in between choosing every L&S major possible, that is what I am still doing, and this is what I love.

My first-semester Russian class was not as easy as learning Spanish was in high school. I got down the idea of “ya” and “menya zovut...,” but when the TA said, “And here's the prepositional case,” I was thrown for a loop. What is a case? There're six?! We have to memorize them?! These were a few of the thoughts that came into my head and probably everyone else's around me. Then second semester was on its way and I wasn't sure what I was going to do. Do I continue with Russian? A kid from the Honors section told me to take second semester with some TA named Kat. I tossed the idea around, signed up, and at that point, Russian really took off.

I would say I owe the root of my inspiration to Kat Scollins. She had to be (and still is) one of the most sincere and truly captivating people I have ever met and had as a teacher at the same time. Her teaching style is impeccable and her commitment to her students is the reason why I stuck with Russian. That and when Russian Major Declaration Week came along I wanted to claim my hold on something that I truly enjoyed. Throughout the two semesters I had her as a TA, she played us songs, ingrained the genitive singular and plural into our heads, and made us enjoy the overall learning experience of Russian.

Having now completed all the lower level requirements of the Russian Language and Literature Major, I feel myself reaching farther and farther to challenge myself within the department and I have received only encouragement from the people who work there. The number one thing they always tell me is “Go to Russia,” and someday I will, but until that day comes I have to make do with what they offer. The classes that

appeal to me the most are the literature classes with Russian emphasis. The true satisfaction of those classes is when I can sit and read “The Overcoat” by Gogol, but the title is actually “Shinel” and the text is completely in Russian. Having started Russian on this campus at the age of 18 and being able to sit and read a great work of Russian Literature at 21 is, for me at least, comparable to doing triple integrals and actually understanding it.

At this point my goals are coming true – I am learning a second language, the language has a different alphabet, and the people I get to interact with I wouldn't trade for the world. I also found something I love – Russian Literature – and I cannot wait to pursue it further at the graduate level. Without the support of the UW-Madison Slavic Department this would not be able to come true. I'd still be a ten-year-old watching the Olympics and pretending to speak Russian with my friends, because the Russians were the best – no doubt about it.



Zach Kelly

AATSEEL- WISCONSIN News

2005 Conference Report

The 2005 AATSEEL-WI Conference was held in Madison on October 14 and 15. Professor Emeritus Daniel Weissbort presented the keynote lecture entitled "Ted Hughes Translating Pushkin's 'The Prophet.'" The department was pleased to have past PhD, Amy Singleton Adams, who is now at the College of the Holy Cross read her paper titled, "Not by Bread Alone: Sacramentality in the Work of Maksim Gor'kii." The J. Thomas Shaw Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper was awarded to Viktoria Thorstensson for her paper "Echoes of Pushkin's 'Journey to Arzum' in Mandelstam's 'Journey to Armenia'."

Call for papers for the 2006 AATSEEL-Wisconsin Conference

Abstracts for **twenty-minute papers** on any aspect of Slavic literatures and cultures (including film) and on issues in the learning and teaching of Slavic languages and literatures are invited for the annual conference of the Wisconsin chapter of AATSEEL (the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages). Comparative topics and interdisciplinary approaches are welcome. The conference will be held at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on Saturday, 21 October 2006.

Recent conference programs and guidelines for preparing abstracts are posted on the AATSEEL-WI website:

<http://palimpsest.lss.wisc.edu/~danaher/aatseel-wi/>

To present a paper at the AATSEEL-WI conference, please submit a proposal by **31 August 2006**. A complete proposal consists of:

1. the author's contact information (name, affiliation, postal address, telephone number, and e-mail)
2. paper title
3. 300-500 word abstract
4. equipment request (if necessary).

Send proposals by e-mail (no attachments, please) to:
Benjamin Jens, bcjens@wisc.edu

All submissions will be acknowledged.



Alumni News

Megan Dixon, Alyssa Dinega Gillespie, Stuart Goldberg, and Ann Komaromi have had their articles published in the volume *Polonistyka po amerykansku: Badania nad literatura polska w Ameryce Polnocnej, 1990-2005* (Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Instytutu Badan Literackich Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 2005), co-edited by Halina Filipowicz. These articles originated as term papers in Professor Filipowicz's courses in the history of Polish literature.

Letter from Alumna Mary Petrusiewicz

The good news for those who don't land a tenure-track teaching job right away — or ever: You can have a wonderful "alternative" academic career. I am employed at Stanford University as a contract editor and writer and could not be happier. In 2005, I worked with a professor of African-American literature on a biography of Ralph Ellison (for Alfred A. Knopf). This August, I began a one-volume condensation of Joseph Frank's five-volume biography of Dostoevsky (for Princeton University Press). In addition to writing and editing, I teach Russian literature courses in Stanford's Continuing Studies Program, which attracts the best and the brightest adult learners in Silicon Valley.

How did I get here? I began taking freelance copyediting work with Penn State Press. Two years later I landed a job at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where I developed and edited business case studies used in the MBA courses. With enough writing samples under my belt (and faculty references), I soon got the work at Stanford that I really wanted — developmental editor in the humanities and social sciences. The perks: great colleagues, library privileges, and enough free time to pursue independent writing projects and teach.

My advice to graduate students: Know yourself and don't ever give up on what you really love and want to do. For most of us, that involves research and writing in our field of expertise and interest. Think about how you can do this outside of a professorship. What kind of job will provide a meaningful alternative for you? Do not waste time worrying, doubting yourself, or doing work that you do not love. Map out a

realistic plan for getting the type of work you want. Consider moving to wherever it is you have always dreamed of living. Being there and able to work is half the secret for getting hired.

Mary Petrusiewicz
(Ph.D. 1996, Slavic Languages and Literatures)

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analyzing their pen pal's writing was a major part of the learning experience for many of the participants, as well. Several students commented that seeing their pen pal's mistakes in English shed light on the structure of the Russian language, as many of the errors resulted from native language transfer. Second-year student Beki Parham explained, "seeing the mistakes my pen pal made with sentence structure or word order helped me realize how sentences and phrases work in Russian." While students were comforted (and often humored) by the mistakes their pen pals made in their English, this also caused many of them to reflect on how their Russian skills are still at a fairly low level and that they have a long way to go in their studies. Sophomore Raymond Rosing wrote, "Being able to come close to expressing what I wanted to, but having instead to write about an easier topic really served to inspire me to continue my work with Russian."

At the end of the semester, students exchanged email addresses with their pen pals and many plan to continue writing over the summer. Several students who will study abroad in Russia next year hope to have the opportunity to meet their pen pal in person. Sophomore Russian major Dan Shippee—who writes to his pen pal every week—explains, "it helps knowing that I have at least one person I know in Russia. It allays just a little bit the fear of not being able to adapt to the new society."

This project owes much of its success to the energy and efforts of English teachers Nadya Morozova and Andrew Rosser, who facilitated the letter exchange on the Russian side. Given the very positive student response and enthusiasm for the project, we hope that the pen pal project will continue in the future.

Faculty News

Margaret Beissinger



I have spent the 2005-06 year in Berlin with my family (at the Wissenschaftskolleg), enjoying this wonderful city (as well as the European world around us) and writing my book on culture and performance among Romanian Gypsy (Romani) musicians. I was in the field in southern Romania in November and again with a National Council fellowship in March. This past year my article on Romani folklore came out in a comprehensive new *Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife*. I was elected and began to serve my term as a member of the Delegate Assembly of the MLA, representing the Section on Lesser Taught Languages, and was also voted Vice President of the *Southeast European Studies Association as well as of the Slavic and East European Folklore Association (AAASS)*. I continue to serve as the Vice President (President-Elect) of the Association for *Women in Slavic Studies (AAASS)*. In June I will be speaking on epic poets in the Balkans in a lecture series on minorities in the Middle Ages at the University of Bonn.

Margaret has accepted an offer from Princeton and will not be returning to UW. We're sorry to see her go.

David Bethea



This was another busy year for David Bethea. After ten long years and many editorial bumps in the road, *The Pushkin Handbook* finally appeared this spring. To those grads and former grads who had a part in its making, including Megan Dixon, Clint Walker, Don Loewen, Viktoria Ivleva, Keith Meyer-Blasing, Janneke van de Stadt, Molly Thomasy, and Betsy Mulet, Mr. Bethea wants to extend a special thanks. Other scholarly projects keeping Mr. Bethea busy are his "creative biography" of Pushkin (still very much in progress), the new *Sochineniia Pushkina* which he is editing with Russian and American

colleagues, and articles on various topics. In March 2006 Mr. Bethea gave the Heinz Bluhm Memorial Lecture in European Literature at Boston College ("Pushkin at the Imperial Lyceum: A Sentimental Education for an Unsentimental Upbringing"). And otherwise, he chaired the Department in the fall, chaired the Admissions and Fellowships Committee (with much help from Andrew Reynolds), and lectured at Oxford during the spring.

David Danaher



David spent the academic year on sabbatical leave in Prague. The fall semester was devoted mostly to his own research work (and some serious pub time), and during the spring semester he held a Fulbright Lecturing Grant in the Department of Czech Language and Theory of Communication at Charles University. For the Fulbright, he taught two courses on Cognitive Linguistics with an emphasis on application of the theory to Slavic-language data. The linguistically intrepid can view the syllabi (in English) and download the handouts (mostly in Czech) for both courses at www.novemberfund.org/cogling.htm.

Halina Filipowicz

In March, Halina Filipowicz welcomed the publication of *Polonistyka po amerykansku: Badania nad literatura polska w Ameryce Polnocnej, 1990-2005*, which she co-edited with Andrzej Karcz and Tamara Trojanowska. Published by the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, this volume brings together 18 articles that present diverse methodological approaches and thematic interests of North American scholars who work on Polish literature and culture. Professor Filipowicz has also published articles on Zbigniew Herbert, Adam Mickiewicz, and Anna Schugt Terlecka. She is particularly pleased with her essay on Jerzy Grotowski, which appeared in Italian translation in *Essere un uomo totale: Autori polacchi su Grotowski. L'ultimo decennio*, ed. Marina Fabbri et al. (Pisa: Titivillus

Edizioni, 2005). She has recently been invited to participate in an international interdisciplinary project, *Wartime Shakespeare in a Global Context, 1939-1951*, directed by Professor Irena Makaryk, Department of English, University of Ottawa, Canada. This research project brings together Shakespeareans, historians, theatre and drama scholars, trauma specialists, and political scientists.

**Judith
Deutsch
Kornblatt**



Professor Kornblatt had a busy year with administrative duties, directing the language program in the department, and teaching her Gogol class. She still found time to supervise three terrific dissertators, to participate on a defense in the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages (!), and to continue work on her book on the Divine Sophia. Two articles on Solovyov's visions and icons of Sophia appeared in collected volumes, and an article on Father Alexander Men' appeared in electronic format. Finally, she has joined the Board of Directors of AAASS, and later this summer will join the editorial board of the *Slavic Review*.

**Toma
Longinovic**



Toma Longinovic is in Croatia this summer teaching a course called "European Border Cultures: The Case of Istria." In the Spring he taught "Vampires in Literature in Film," which was a hit with the kids and filled up in only two days. In the past year he has given several lecture and conference papers and presented as an invited speaker in London and Istanbul.

**Michal
Oklot**

Michal Oklot taught all levels of Polish this past year as well as an interdisciplinary course for CREECA called "Survey of Eastern Europe." He also lectured as guest on Gogol's "Portret" in Judith Kornblatt's Gogol class. Mr. Oklot received his Ph.D. from Northwestern in Russian Literature in 2005. His dissertation "Phantasms of Matter in Gogol (and Gombrowicz)" will be published by Dalkey Archive Press.

**Ludmila
Rao**

Lidka Rao, a native of Czech, spent the past year in the department as a Lecturer of Czech. In addition to teaching first and second semester Czech, she also led the Czech Language Table which was a wonderful experience for her. She was happy to see the enthusiasm and hard work of her students and most importantly their progress. Lidka was amazed to see how the class gradually developed an exceptionally friendly and comfortable classroom environment which strengthened their motivation. This was one of Lidka's best teaching experiences and she hopes it was not the last.

**Jennifer
Tishler**



At the spring Slavic Faculty seminar on April 27, 2006, Jennifer Tishler presented her research on the image of Decembrist wife Mariia Volkonskaia in the poetry of Nelly Sachs. Several colleagues from the department attended and shared their responses and suggestions for further revision.

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