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Letter from the Chair,
Judith Deutsch Kornblatt

Dear current students, alumni, colleagues, and friends of the department:

It is a pleasure to address all of you, even if from afar, and to thank you for the contributions — intellectual, social, and financial — that you have made to the Department of Slavic Languages andLiterature over the years.

As I step down from the chairpersonship this Summer, I will break with tradition, and will not use this forum to recap the numerous accomplishments of the Department over the past year. The many awards, projects, and promotions/graduations of our students, staff, and faculty are amply documented elsewhere in this newsletter. I am very proud of all of us. Instead of repeating accolades that are now behind us (and fearing I might inadvertently leave someone out...), I will instead take this opportunity to look to the future of the Department.

Times are changing, as times are wont to do, and the Department is having to adjust to personnel and fiscal changes at a seemingly increasing pace. We have survived the loss of our nationally acclaimed SLA specialist and Departmental Language Coordinator, Ben Rifkin, and find ourselves more than lucky over the next five years to be in the able hands of our very own Anna Tamarin. We were happy to welcome Ewa Miemowska back from a two-year leave, and are ever grateful for her role, together with Halina Filipowicz, in promoting the Polish program. On the other hand, we suffered the significant loss of Margaret Beissinger from the Serbo-Croatian program, although we were able to temporarily fill in with a TA for lower-level language instruction to help Toma Lonjnovic in that area of our multi-faceted mission. But we have yet to get over the retirement several years ago of Gary Rosenfeld, and find ourselves scrambling to cover the many diverse areas to which he had contributed over his long career. As for me, this winter I assumed the position of Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education in the Graduate School, and will be able to teach only 25% in the department in the future. David Bethea, who will take over fully as chairperson in the Fall, will make adjustments in his international obligations, but still cannot be ever available to supplement the work of Yuri Shcheglov, Sasha Dolinin, David Danaher, Andrew Reynolds and the rest of our team mentioned above. Thankfully, we have been granted permission to search for a new faculty member in the Fall, and continue to lobby for many (!) more replacement positions in the future.

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Support Graduate Student Conference Travel!

A generous gift from John G. Hans of Fairborn, Ohio 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 to support the teaching of Russian, Polish, Czech, or Serbo-Croatian languages and literature. (See the back page of the newsletter for a contribution form.)

Jean Retires!

by David Danaher

Jean Hennessey served as head administrator for the Slavic Department for almost 18 years from March 1989 to September 2006. She came to us from UW Extension, where she started working in August 1978, and she left Slavic for a brief stint in the Letters & Sciences Dean’s office (September 2006 to March 2007) before her retirement.

I recently sat down with Jean at Cafe Zona on Madison’s near east side for a chat about her time in Slavic and her retirement.

David: Why did you leave UW-Extension in 1989?

Jean: At UW-Extension I worked in information systems for nearly 12 years and was burnt out with all the everyday computer issues the machines had to offer. I decided to explore other employment options on campus and ended up getting hired in the Slavic Department as the department administrator. Working in an academic department is so totally different from being a data processing operator. I love working with people, which is one of many things the Slavic department had to offer.

Dr. When you left the department in September 2006, why did you go to LSU for such a short time? Why not retire right away?

Jean: I left Slavic because my desk was just too cluttered and I couldn’t catch up, so I thought that it was time to leave. Seriously, I thought that I just needed a change from Slavic, and the job I took in South Hall was a promotion. I think I really just wanted to retire, but my heart was... I don’t think my heart would have let me retire from Slavic directly. I felt such loyalty to that department, to everyone in it, that I guess I thought by just making a change I wouldn’t be leaving it (odd how one’s mind works). It took me a long time to get to that point where I could actually accept the fact that I would be leaving the department, and not see all my friends everyday. However, I did leave with a heart full of fond memories and treasured friendships. It doesn’t get much better than that!

Jean Retires! con’t next page
Jean Retiere's cont'd

D: You must have seen a lot of changes in the department over the years. J: I saw so many students admitted to the program, people hired, retire or leave. It was amazing how things also changed in my job over time: students used to have to wait in line to register in person and now it's all computerized. Grades are entered electronically by professors and teaching assistants. The timetable, budget, and payroll are all processed on line as well. My responsibilities on the technical side increased and changed so much over the years while I was there, and I had the opportunity to learn so many new computer programs/applications. So in a way, I guess I ended up back in information systems. (Jean pauses for a moment.) There were so many happy moments and special occasions I shared with so many. We also had our share of tragedies and sadness. But we managed to live through those with the support of each other.

D: You weren't exactly a typical departmental administrator. You went to Russia with some of the professors, traveled to conferences, acted in Russian-language skits at the annual awards ceremony. J: I still can't believe I let Judith talk me into doing those skits. I never laughed so hard at myself, and I don't think David Bethia has ever laughed harder in his life as he did that day! They were a hoot! In addition to my performance, other skits were done, and quite professionally, by some undergraduate students. Their talents and dedication are a reflection of the instructors we have in the department. When David Bethia was planning a trip to Russia in 1991, I said to him: "David, I want to go to Russia and see what it's like." And he said, "You would be able to go to the place that we all study and live so much." He made it possible. I was there for a week, and it was my first trip with the faculty (Clare Cavanaugh and David). Since then I've been to AAS, AAA, and AATSEEL in Chicago, Washington, Toronto, and Boston. I'm tagging along with Judith to New Orleans this November (hope to see a lot of you). I don't deliver any papers, but I sure surprise a lot of people who don't know I'm going to be there. Going to conferences is like a homecoming, a homecoming away from home, where I can re-group with former and current students.

D: What other unusual memories jump out at you when you think about your time in Slavic? J: There are a couple things I'll never forget. First, when I left the Slavic Department the

Jean Retiere's cont'd next page

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SLAVIC DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Faculty News

David Bethia

David Bethia has enjoyed (well, mostly) juggling lots of balls over this past academic year. Interacting with undergrads and grad students is still the most rewarding part of his job. In the fall his regular Pushkin course for gradd was well attended and more than usually stimulating (at least for the professor!). These past twelve months also saw two important publications appear for Mr. Bethia: the Pushkin Handbook, which he edited and which was ten years in the making, and the first volume of Sochinenia Pushkina, Poems and Prose, for which he served as general editor. Most of Mr. Bethia’s free time these days goes to his ongoing “creative biography” of the poet, which is still in the early stages of researching and writing. This summer (2007) Mr. Bethia is organizing a seminar at Oxford University (Wadham College) to introduce the editing/annotating principles of the new Sochinenia Pushkina to a group of younger scholars who will, it is hoped, participate in the project in due course. A special hello goes out to former grad students and dissertators of Mr. Bethia (please stay in touch!). Last but not least, everyone should be pleased to know that Clive Walker has received a well-earned appointment as tenure-track assistant professor at University of Montana.

Toma Longinovic

Toma Longinovic has given invited lectures at Florida State University and participated in AAA and AGLA conferences during this academic year. His popular course “The Vampire in Literature and Film” has drawn more than a hundred students during the Spring 2007 semester and his article “Post-Oriental Avatras” has appeared in a collection published by Cambridge Scholar’s Press.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Halina Filipowicz

Halina Filipowicz continued to serve as the graduate advisor in the Slavic Department, the chair of the Michael and Emily Lapidus Awards Committee, and the chair of the Humanities Subcommittee for University Book Store Awards. Her recent publications include an article entitled “What Good Are Polish Literary Studies in the United States?”, which appeared in 2006 in a special issue of Slavic and East European Journal commemorating the 50th anniversary of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. She also contributed an article to Poles Apart: Women in Modern Polish Culture (a special issue of Indiana Slavic Studies). In Poland, she published essays in Nauka (a journal of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences) and in the volume Gombrowicz emigrantów (Torun: Universytet Mikolaja Kopernika, 2006). She is currently completing a book entitled Democracy at the Theatre: Patriotism, Transgression, and Polish Drama, 1766-1899, and working on a book-length study of Holocaust plays by Polish and Polish Jewish dramatists whose work remains virtually unknown outside of Poland.

David Danaher

David is at work on a book with the provisional title Reading Havel. He will be spending the summer in Cambridge, Massachusetts (in anticipation of a permanent move there in summer 2008) and in Prague.
Alumni News

Michael Baumann (B.A. Russian 2005) writes: “This past year can be summed up as ‘Journey into the Unknown.’ Having finished a year in St. Petersburg on the Russian Flagship Program and a stint as Bilingual Assistant at the Middlebury College Russian School, I stood before a great time of ‘unknown.’ With a plane ticket and Russian visa in hand I set off for Moscow, having only the foggiest of ideas where I was going to live and how I was going to support myself. Thanks to friends and good contacts I was soon gainfully employed, working at Prime-Tass, an economic news agency, editing articles for their English-language wire. A month later I moved off of the air mattress on my friend’s floor into a modest but enduring apartment of my own. After six months at Prime-Tass I landed an internship at the Moscow Bureau of the Associated Press, where I’ll be spending my last few weeks before I return to the Middlebury Russian School in June, this year as a tutor for beginning and intermediate students.” Misha can be reached at: mishabaumann@gmail.com.

Alisha Kirchoff (B.A. Russian 2006) is currently a Master of Arts Candidate at the University of Toronto pursuing a degree in European, Russian and Eurasian Studies and is working under the guidance of Dr. Peter H. Solomon, Jr. In the past year she served as the head coordinator for the 2007 graduate student conference at the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies. In May Alisha will be presenting at a conference in Tivat, Montenegro on organized crime in the Western Balkans. Alisha will be spending the 2007 fall semester on exchange at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Rujuta Parikh (B.A. Russian 2006) is living and working in Moscow. She can be reached at: ytku_raskol@yahoo.com.

John Hagen (B.A. Polish 2006) writes: “I’m studying at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow in order to receive my MA in Central and Eastern European Studies. The program is given by the Center for Eastern and European Studies which is a program for English speakers. All of the classes are taught in English and focus mainly on history and culture of Central Europe as well as the European Union. We are required to take a certain number of classes per semester as well as one language. I have chosen to continue with my Polish, hoping to improve it even more so. In addition to this, we must write a final thesis pertaining to something within the area of Central Europe. I have chosen to write on the problems with rehabilitation of people with disabilities in the competitive work force in Poland. The title is ‘The Inefficiency of Sheltered Work Programs: Integrating People with Disabilities into the Mainstream Workforce in Krakow.’” The classes are very intense and fast-paced, yet at the same time they are manageable if you organize your time. I feel there are many benefits in studying in Poland for a year because it gives you a true insight into what Polish life is like. I have a better understanding of the Polish way of life, both the positive and negative aspects. Plus, my Polish has improved greatly in just a short time. Here, I’ve had the opportunity to make lifelong friends from all over the world. Krakow truly is an international city full of charm and a rich culture.

Contact us with news: 1432 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706 USA Phone: (608) 262-3498 Fax: (608) 262-2614 Email: slavic@slavic.wisc.edu See our website: http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu

Grad students purchased a “special inscribed brick” from the Olbrich Garden Society. The brick was engraved with “We ❤️ Jean H. – Slavic Grad” and was set in the Herb Garden pathway on May 18, 2007. All the students and my family gathered at the gardens that evening in celebration of the brick setting. I explained to the students that the celebration was not for me, it was their generosity and selflessness we were celebrating. No matter how far away from Madison the students move, a part of them will always stay here, in those beautiful gardens. There is no gift that could have touched my heart more. Spasibo! The other fond memory I have of the department is the First Annual (which didn’t go beyond the Second Annual) canoe trip on the Kickapoo River. I know Gary Rosenthal will never forget that day either. If you ever talk to him, be sure to ask him about that unforgettable, table-rememberable day!

D: You won a Classified Staff Excellence Award in 2004. 
J: It was because the department had nominated me twice before for that award when it didn’t come with any monetary prize. I didn’t get it either time. Then the first year that they offered it with money, I got it! I thought it was nice of L&S to hold off selecting me until there was more than just a plaque to hang on the wall.

J: What do you miss about working in the department?
D: I miss the everyday camaraderie with the students, undergrads and grads. You know, it was always such a joy to get my morning coffee and wonder which student would be the first one in the office each morning to greet me (I think Janneke van de Stadt gets that award!). That was a time to catch up on what was going on in their/our lives, to listen to them fret over their dissertations, prelims and/or papers that they needed to write. The people you spend time with every day at work can really make your job pleasurable. I always felt so close to everyone, personally and professionally. I knew my job was so rewarding because of the relationship I had with the entire faculty and students, undergrads included. I always felt there was mutual respect between them and me.

D: What don’t you miss?
J: (Jean laughs at the question.) Let’s see, what don’t I miss. (She laughs again.) I don’t miss taking minutes at the Departmental Meetings, I don’t miss the drive into work each day and I certainly don’t miss having to set an alarm clock. But my heart is still there, in the department. I think about it almost every day, and I’m always Jean Retires! cont’d next page.
thinking about the students. Most of them were young enough to be my children; they were born in the 60’s or 70’s when I had my kids. One student (I won’t say her name to keep from embarrassing her) would say to me: “Jean, I tell you so many things that I would never tell my mother.” And I would say back: “And I tell you so many things that I would never tell my daughter.”

D: What are your plans for retirement?
J: OK, here goes. Well I have my “gardens of retirement” (Keith, I’ll always remember you for that phrase) so I’ll be hanging out in Cottage Grove all summer to enjoy those. I’ve also signed up to volunteer for Schools of Hope to help elementary school children with math and reading. I hope to brush up on my math and reading skills as I tutor those kids. And I’m going to be making quilts and work on being a self-taught piano player (hope that goes better than my Russian lessons). I’d like to eventually go back part-time to the UW as a highly-sought-after LTE (limited-term employee). (She laughs.)

D: Would you like to say something to the Slavic alums that are reading this newsletter?
J: I want to thank each of you, undergrad and grad students for everything you did for and with me during my time at the Slavic department. I admire all the students who have worked so hard year after year to accomplish their goals. Even the students who decided to not complete the program accomplished so much. Up to the point when they decide to leave, they are required to work as hard as any one and be as dedicated. I would often times think to myself, how could they do this, be under all that stress, get paid so little and work so hard. The new grad students that always amazed me were the ones that would just show up in Madison the first week of the semester without having visited Madison before that day. They are great examples of people who don’t fear the unknown. For every student that has entered the program there is something special that I remember about each and every one of them. (Jean pauses for a moment and gets a big smile on her face.) And every generation of students just loved to have a good time. They really know how to throw great parties. I never felt like I was too old to hang out with them. (Jean briefly pauses again.) And whoever came up with the idea for that office-supply party should get a prize. Steve had a very difficult time dragging me away from the “3-hole punch” that night!

Do nidiaia for now…….and thank you David Danauer for the interview.
Jean would love to hear from you, and one of the perks of retiring from the UW system is that she gets to keep her email: jibenes@wisc.edu

Jean Heeney thanks Brian “Nefar” Johnson for inviting St. Brendan to her retirement party. Peko Evans chats with Ameet Ayangar in the background as Lori Hettick looks on.

AATSEEL-WISCONSIN News

2006 Conference Report

The annual AATSEEL-WI conference was held this year on October 20-21 and featured a keynote lecture by Professor Michal Wachtel of Princeton University, entitled “Pushkin, Byron and the Fates of European Romanticism.” In addition to four current graduate students from our department (Matthew McGarry, Emily Shaw, Molly Thomasy and Victoria Thorstensson), former graduate students Ann Komaromi and Leo Livak of the University of Toronto delivered papers as well. Special thanks goes to Matthew McGarry who chaired this year’s conference, as well as the rest of the organizing committee. This year’s co-winners of the J. Thomas Shaw Prize for best graduate student paper at the AATSEEL-WI conference were Emily Shaw for her paper “Tolstoy’s Prince Nicholas and Schopenhauer: A Failed Marriage” and Molly Thomasy for her paper “Writing the Plastic Arts: Ekphrasis in the Poetry of A. A. Fet.”

For a full listing of the conference program, please see: http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/programs/aatseel2006.html

2007 Call for Papers

Abstracts for 20-minute papers or any aspect of Slavic languages, literatures and cultures (including pedagogy, film and drama) are invited for the annual conference of the Wisconsin chapter of AATSEEL (The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Literatures). Comparative topics and interdisciplinary approaches are welcome. The conference will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Saturday, 20 October 2007.

Recent conference programs and guidelines for preparing abstracts are posted on the AATSEEL-Wisconsin website at http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/programs/conference.html

To present a paper at the AATSEEL-Wisconsin conference, please submit an abstract by 31 August 2007. The complete proposal should include:

1. Author’s contact information (name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone, and email)
2. Paper title
3. 300-500 word abstract
4. Equipment request (if necessary)

You may include the above information as an attachment (in MS Word) or paste the proposal into the body of your message.

Send proposals by email to: Molly Thomasy (thomasy@wisc.edu)

The UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Slavic Department Awards

Russian Awards

Peter Friedricks was awarded the Slavic Department Prize for Outstanding Progress in Advanced Russian Courses and Matthew Regner was awarded the Slavic Department Prize for Outstanding Progress in Beginning and Intermediate Russian Courses. Rachel Sawyer was awarded the J. Thomas Shaw Prize for Undergraduate Excellence. Also receiving commendation for his academic effort in Russian was Geoffrey Tonn, who was recognized for Best Achievement in Russian among Non-Majors as well as a Complete Unofficial Russian Major.

Congratulations to this year’s winners in the ACTR Annual Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. Matthew Regner took first place in the Non-heritage Speaker Level 1 category, our department’s first ever first-place non-heritage winner. Geoff Bakken received an honorable mention in the same category. Cecilia Leegers also received an honorable mention in the Non-heritage Speaker Level 2 category.

Inducted into the Dobro Slovo National Honor Society at this year’s ceremony were Michael Albrecth, Patrick Peccerski, and Yolanda Stypula.

Czech Awards

Colin Kimbrell received the Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Czech Prize which is sponsored by the November Fund.

Polish Awards

Edmund I. Zawacki Awards
With the generous support of Mrs. Helen Zawacki, we were able to honor two students with the Edmund I. Zawacki Award for outstanding achievement in the study of the Polish language: Patrick Peccerski, an undergraduate major in Polish, and Molly Thomasy, a Ph.D. student in Slavic.

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 and supporting the Polish program.

Michael and Emily Lapinski Awards
The 2007 recipients of the Michael and Emily Lapinski Graduate Fellowships are Viktoria Kononova and Elana Poland. The Michael and Emily Lapinski Undergraduate Scholarships were awarded to Peter Burzynski and Patrick Peccerski.

These awards are made possible by the extraordinary generosity of the late Leona Lapinski Leute. In 2002, she established the Michael and Emily Lapinski Endowment to improve the knowledge of the Polish language, literature and culture among students at UW-Madison. The gift honors her parents, Michael and Emily Lapinski, and memorializes their quest for knowledge and their Polish heritage.

A Slavic Department Collaboration

by Naomi Bethel

Professor Judith Kornblatt, UW Slavic PhD graduate Stuart Goldberg, and current graduate student Naomi Bethel, have together contributed a chapter entitled “Divine and Human: Injustice: The City Hall in Gogol’s Dead Souls” to a memorial volume in honor of Robert Maguire, which will be published this coming year.

Professor Judith Deutsch Kornblatt was invited to participate in the volume, a tribute to her dissertation advisor from Columbia University, the eminent Russian literature scholar Robert Maguire (June 21, 1930–July 8, 2005). The volume is based on a topic that Maguire had touched upon in his previous work and was interested in further exploring: the city in Russian literature, especially in the works of Nikolai Gogol and Andrey Bely.

Professor Kornblatt, also a Gogol scholar, extended this honorable invitation to two collaborators – both students of hers. A UW Slavic PhD graduate of 2001, Professor Goldberg, is currently working as an Associate Professor of Russian at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia. I am currently pursuing a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature at UW-Madison. Both Professor Goldberg and I have examined Gogol’s depiction of justice in his fiction under Professor Kornblatt. Professor Goldberg has examined the structural and thematic function of the 7th chapter in Dead Souls, which helps to reveal the nature of judgment in Gogol’s novel. My work focuses on the relationship between judgment in the rural villages and justice as portrayed in the urban centers of Gogol’s short stories.

Professor Kornblatt’s research examines the relationship between justice and injustice as defined by the author and portrayed in his work. Professor Kornblatt saw the potential for a collaborative project in our individual research and she initiated the project. Each of us contributed content that was critical to the development of our argument, as well as thoughtful feedback that strengthened the thesis we formulated together. We exchanged drafts, attempting with each revision to select the most relevant features of our individual research and coordinate them into a unified work. This proved to be challenging, as it is often easier to expand upon a topic one has thoroughly researched on one’s own than it is to selectively condense research in order to support a new thesis. After a few revisions, however, the article began to flow smoothly and gradually began to unify our three authorial voices. To polish the article, we offered each other criticism on each version until all parties were satisfied.

I learned how viewpoints are different, but not conflicting, can strengthen an argument. As a graduate student, it was exciting for me to be able to share my ideas on an interesting topic with experienced colleagues and to have those ideas and my own writing included in a publication. I think that the expertise and original hypotheses of experienced scholars joined with the fresh perspective of a novice can be a really beneficial combination.

I know that Professor Kornblatt has particularly enjoyed the chance to continue the legacy of her former professor, Robert Maguire, by inspiring and encouraging subsequent generations of scholars in their studies. Professor Goldberg is successfully carrying on the tradition at Georgia Tech. I certainly feel honored to have been included, and I look forward to future projects. Look for our chapter, “Divine and Human: Injustice: The City Hall in Gogol’s Dead Souls” soon!

Image of Gogol taken from the internet.
Undergraduate Student News

Graduates

Congratulations to all our graduating majors!

Graduating with a B.A. in Russian are:

Graduating with a B.A. in Polish is Barbara Luberdzka.

Graduating with a B.S. in Polish is David Dynerman.

Honors and Awards

Many students received departmental awards (see page 9) as well as the following scholarships and grants.

Zachary Kelly received a Trewartha Honors Undergraduate Research Grant. He was also a nominee for the ACTR Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate Award.

Tyler Henderson received a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship and will study in St. Petersburg this summer.

Both Anna Korzhenevich and Megan Hauer received a U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Scholarship for study abroad. They studied in Moscow in Spring of 2007.

Michael Albrecht received the Mortsen Scholarship in Russian History.

Peter Friedrichs received the Alice V. Almy Scholarship from the L&S Undergraduate Scholarship Office.

Advanced Russian Workshop Marches On

UW-Madison’s Advanced Russian Workshop was started in 2006 by Anna Tumarkin and Jennifer Tishler in order to give graduate students an opportunity to practice and improve their Russian language skills. The workshop, funded by generous support from CREECA, was led by Vika Thorstenson in 2006. This spring, first-year graduate student Lisa Woodson took over as facilitator of the workshop. Workshop sessions include lively conversation on a variety of topics ranging from environmental protection to the atest in “tail-baking,” exercises and activities devoted to vocabulary expansion, and situated practice on difficult aspects of Russian grammar. Dissertators Molly Peeney and Emily Shaw gave presentations on their dissertation.

Pushkin Center Receives Donated Books, Face Lift

We were most grateful to receive a gift of books from one of our alumni, Mr. Larry Becklin, including the collected works of Tolstoy (20 volumes) and Pushkin (10 volumes), which have been placed in the Pushkin Center.

Thanks to the efforts of graduate students David Houston, Matthew McGarry and Professor Andrew Reynolds, the Pushkin Center has become a study space accessible to both faculty and graduate students in the department. Matt, David and Andrew spent countless hours moving and arranging hundreds of new books generously donated to the Pushkin Center by Emeritus Professor J. Thomas Shaw. Thanks to them for all of their efforts!

We are at present equipping the Pushkin Center as a Graduate reading room, and are hoping to raise some funds to supplement and update the already valuable book collection we have there. If you would like to make a contribution, however small, to this project, we would be most grateful. Please contact Andrew Reynolds at areymonds@facstaff.wisc.edu if you would like to donate to the library.

Graduate Student News

Degrees Conferred

A hearty round of cheers and applause is in order for Shannon Spasova who successfully defended her dissertation and received her Ph.D. degree in May. Her dissertation is entitled Caught in the Web: Insects and the Revolution of Modernity in Twentieth Century Russian Literature.

Anna Guigauri, Paul Richards, and Jane Pickell completed their M.A. course work this past year.

Honors and Awards

Emily Shaw and Molly Thomasy are the 2006 co-winners of the J. Thomas Shaw Prize for best graduate student paper at the AATSEEL-WI conference.

Laura Little was awarded a Dissertator Fellowship for 07-08.

Naomi Bethel and Stephanie Richards each received FLSF grants for the summer.

Molly Thomasy was honored with a UW-Madison Early Excellence in Teaching Award and also won the Janet Dzidzialewicz Branden Memorial Award sponsored by the Polish Women’s Club of Milwaukee.

Nina Faminlif successfully passed her Ph.D. preliminary examinations.

Anna Tumarkin was re-certified as an ACTFL Oral Proficiency Tester.

Our students get jobs!

Laura Little relocates to sunny California this summer to begin a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor in the Russian Department at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. Moloder, Laura!

Shannon Spasova (Ph.D, 2007) plans to start teaching this fall at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her responsibilities will include teaching various levels of Russian language and developing a multimedia curriculum for the classes there. Way to go, Shannon!

Clint Walker (Ph.D, 2006) landed a tenure track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures at the University of Montana. Congratulations, Clint!

Summer Work and Study

As usual, our presence will be felt at the Middlebury Summer Language Program. Shannon Spasova is lead teacher for level 2 and Brian Johnson is lead teacher for level 1. Stephanie Richards and Melissa Miller will be attending Middlebury as students.

Emily Shaw will attend ACTR’s Teacher Training Program in Moscow this summer, continuing another UW-Madison tradition.