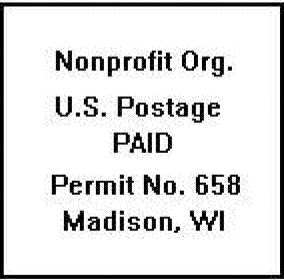


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UW-Madison



Slavic Languages and Literatures

Department
Newsletter

Volume 8

Summer 2007

Letter from the Chair, Judith Deutsch Kornblatt

Dear current students, alums, 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 and Literature 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 Tumarkin. We were happy to

welcome Ewa Miernowska 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 Longinovic in that area of our multi-faceted mission. But we have yet to get over the retirement several years ago of Gary Rosenshield, 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.



Prof. Judith Deutsch Kornblatt

In the area of administration, we are delighted to have Jane Roberts, together with the ever-cheerful Lori Hubbard, in the departmental

Letter from the chair cont'd on p. 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Alumni News.....	11
Awards.....	9
Faculty News.....	12
Graduate Student News.....	8
Letter from Judith Kornblatt	1
AATSEEL-WI News.....	10
Jean Retires!	2

SUPPORT SLAVIC STUDIES AT UW-MADISON!

The Department is grateful to those who have made donations to support its activities in the past. Your donations help us to produce this newsletter and finance many of the events that we tell you about. We appreciate gifts to support fellowships, conference travel, and summer study for graduate students; visiting speakers and adjunct lecturers for mini-courses; undergraduate prizes for progress in language and literature and special events. Visit us at <http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu>

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or to the department at:

Slavic Languages & Literatures, 1432 Van Hise Hall, UW-Madison, Madison, WI 53706

You may choose to support one of the following Slavic Department activities:

- ☐ Russian Language and Literature Fund
- ☐ Polish Language and Literature
- ☐ November Fund for Czech Language, Literature & Culture (novemberfund.org)
- ☐ Serbo-Croatian Language and Literature
- ☐ Fund in support of graduate student conference travel
- ☐ **NEW!** Jean's Fund for the Slavic Community

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☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$_____

Please make your check payable to the UW Foundation. Your gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Contributions can also be made by credit card via the UW Foundation website at www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu. Click on the “Make a Gift” or “Give On-Line” buttons on the left side of the page.

Judith
Deutsch
Kornblatt



Judith Deutsch Kornblatt has completed a manuscript on Solovyov and the Divine Sophia, including translations of all of Solovyov’s major “sophianic” texts in poetry and prose. She has also co-authored an article on Gogol for a volume in memory of her own dissertation advisor, the late Robert A. Maguire. To commemorate his legacy, she invited a former graduate student, Stuart Goldberg, and a current graduate student, Naomi Bethel, to collaborate on a joint work. The experience was wonderful. In addition to her teaching and research over the past year, Professor Kornblatt has been appointed the Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education, and will be spending 75% of her time in the Graduate School. She hopes this can indirectly help the department as well.

Jennifer
Tishler



In November 2006, Jennifer Ryan Tishler presented a paper “The Image of Mariia Volkonskaia in the Poetry and Lyric Dramas of Nelly Sachs” at AAASS in Washington, D. C. She contributed fourteen entries for the 2006 *Routledge Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture*, from “Liia Akhedzhakova” to “Tatianin den’.” She also published a review of Amy Nelson’s *Music for the Revolution: Musicians and Power in Early Soviet Russia* in the Winter 2006 issue of *Slavic and East European Journal*. She continues to enjoy her work as Associate Director of CREECA, especially since it allows her to be involved in so many interesting projects that intersect with her teaching, such as the spring 2007 exhibition on Soviet propaganda posters at the Memorial Union. Jennifer’s students in the spring course “Russia: An Interdisciplinary Survey” had a guided tour of the exhibition and incorporated their observations into class assignments.

Andrew
Reynolds



Andrew Reynolds gave a paper “ ‘The Last Creative Act’: Mandelstam, Brodsky and the death of the poet,” at the Oregon Brodsky Symposium, October 2006, a conference organized by our former graduate student, Professor Jenifer Presto. He has had three articles (one on Brodsky, two on Mandelstam) accepted for publication in *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Russian Review* and *Pushkin Review*. He was a member of the inaugural Faculty Development Seminar in the Humanities, “Ovidianism,” University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2007, and participated in the 2006 AAASS conference in Washington DC. He particularly enjoyed teaching graduate classes on “Pushkin in the 20th-century” and “Post-1945 Russian and Soviet Literature.”

Support Graduate
Student Conference
Travel!

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.)

13

2

Letter from the Chair cont’d from p. 1

administrator seat, but at the same time mourn the retirement of our administrator of many years, Jean Hennessey. These vicissitudes of staffing have unfortunately coincided with financial constraints on the College and the University, resulting in an overall loss in our budget for short-term staffing and teaching assistantships. (Hurray, however, for our current and incoming team of fellows, teaching and project assistants. They keep us all on our toes.)

With all of these changes already in place (and more in the pipeline), we are busying ourselves with a transition to a new future, a future that requires input from all of us on multiple levels. As I began this chair’s letter with thanks for past contributions to support the Department, I will now put my own money where my mouth is by pledging a significant contribution this coming year. I will be contributing in the name of Jean Hennessey, who served for so many years as the cement that bound all of us together (see the interview with Jean on this page of the newsletter). While the fund in honor of Jean that I hereby launch will be unrestricted, my hope is that the money will be used largely for community-building activities within the Department. One tradition that I’d like to begin is a twice-monthly lunch gathering for students, staff, and faculty. Although money from Jean’s Fund would not be limited to this, some of it could certainly be used to promote these valuable extracurricular interactions. In our overly busy schedules, we do not often find the time for informal contacts like these and for the free exchange of ideas outside of our own teaching and research. I look forward to sitting down with whoever is free for an hour of food, discussion, and friendship. Maybe we could even convince Jean to join us every now and then?

I hope all of you will join me in supporting the Department in the upcoming year as we transition to a new future. And a special thank you to all of our graduates this year: our newly-minted BAs in Russian and in Polish, as well as our new MAs and PhDs in Slavic Languages and Literature. You’re the reason we are all here. Please keep in touch, and remember us here in Van Hise.

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 Zoma 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.

D: When you left the department in September 2006, why did you go to L&S for such a short time? Why not retire right away?

J: 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! cont’d next page



Jean Hennessy in her office with Judith Deutsch Kornblatt.

Jean Retires! 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 survive 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 Bethea 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 Bethea 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 should be able to go to the place that we all study and love so much." He made it possible. I was there for a week, and it was my first trip with the faculty (Clare Cavanagh and David). Since then I've been to AAASS 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 Retires! cont'd next page

3

12

Faculty News

**David
Bethea**



David Bethea has enjoyed (well, mostly) juggling lots of balls over this past academic year. Interacting with undergrads and grads is still the most rewarding part of his job. In the fall his regular Pushkin course for grads 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. Bethea: the *Pushkin Handbook*, which he edited and which was ten years in the making, and the first volume of *Sochineniia Pushkina, Poemy i povesti*, for which he served as general editor. Most of Mr. Bethea'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. Bethea is organizing a seminar at Oxford University (Wadham College) to introduce the editing/annotating principles of the new *Sochineniia 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 grads and dissertators of Mr. Bethea (please stay in touch!). Last but not least, everyone should be pleased to know that Clint Walker has received a well-earned appointment as tenure-track assistant professor at University of Montana.

**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.

**Halina
Filipowicz**

Halina Filipowicz continued to serve as the graduate advisor in the Slavic Department, the chair of the Michael and Emily Lapinski 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 emigrantow* (Torun: Uniwersytete Mikolaja Kopernika, 2006). She is currently completing a book entitled *Democracy at the Theatre: Patriotism, Transgression, and Polish Drama, 1786-1989*, and working on a book-length study of Holocaust plays by Polish and Polish Jewish dramatists whose work remains virtually unknown outside of Poland.

**Toma
Longinovic**



Toma Longinovic has given invited lectures at Florida State University and participated in AAASS and ALCA 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 *Avliya*" has appeared in a collection published by Cambridge Scholar's Press.

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 endearing 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.”

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See our website:

<http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/>

11

4



Jean Hennessy at her surprise retirement party with Molly Peeney, Shannon Spasova and Anna Tumarkin.

Jean Retires! cont'd

grad students purchased a “special inscribed brick” from the Olbrich Garden Society. The brick was engraved with “We ♥ Jean H ~ Slavic Grads” 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 Rosenshield will never forget that day either. If you ever talk to him, be sure to ask him about that unforgettable-memorable day!

D: You won a Classified Staff Excellence Award in 2004.

J: It was cute 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.

D: What do you miss about working in the department?

J: 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 dissertation, 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 know 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

Jean Retires! cont'd

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 kidlets. 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 accom-

plish 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 oftentimes 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 svidaniia for now.....and thank you David Danaher 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: jlhennes@wisc.edu



Jean Hennessy thanks Brian "Rufus" Johnson for inviting St. Brendan to her retirement party. Petko Ivanov chats with Ameet Aiyangar in the background as Lori Hubbard looks on.

5

10

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 Michael 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 Nekliudov 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 on 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>

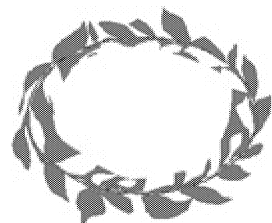
To present a paper at the AATSEEL-Wisconsin conference, please submit an abstract by 31 August 2007. The complete proposal should include:

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)

Slavic Department Awards



Russian Awards

Peter Friedrichs 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 **Geoffry 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 Leugers** 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 Albrecht, Patrick Peczerski, 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 Peczerski**, 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 **Ellen Polglaze**. The Michael and Emily Lapinski Undergraduate Scholarships were awarded to **Peter Burzynski** and **Patrick Peczerski**.

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 hertiage.

9

6

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 (In)justice: 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 partake 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 Literatures 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 that 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 (In)justice: 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: **Timothy Finnegan, Daniel Geiger, Charles Hardes, Kyle Hayes, Michelle Jordan, Zachary Kelly, Tony Lopata, Barbara Luberadzka, Kathleen Nosal, Michael Retzlaff, Michelle Jordan, Rachel Sawyer, and Erica Sim.** Graduating with a B.A. in Polish is **Barbara Luberadzka.** 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 Hauser** 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 Mortensen Scholarship in Russian History. **Peter Friedrichs** received the Alice V. Almasz 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 Thorstensson 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

Workshop cont’d

ranging from environmental protection to the latest in “laif-haking,” 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.



Advanced Russian Workshop participants Molly Thomasy, Lisa Woodson, Molly Peeney and Emily Shaw.

Pushkin Center Receives Donated Books, Face Lift

We were most grateful to receive a gift of books from one of our alumni, Mr. Larry Bucklin, 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 awreynolds@facstaff.wisc.edu if you would like to donate to the library.

7

8

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 Richard, 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 FLAS grants for the summer. **Molly Thomasy** was honored with a UW-Madison Early Excellence in Teaching Award and also won the Janet Dziadulewicz Branden Memorial Award sponsored by the Polish Women’s Club of Milwaukee. **Nina Familiant** successfully passed her Ph.D. preliminary examinations. **Anna Turmakin** was re-certified as an ACTFL Oral Proficiency Tester.



Emily Shaw and Molly Thomasy, co-winners of the WI-AATSEEL J. Thomas Shaw Prize for 2006.

Weddings and Engagements

Love is in the air! This past year witnessed three weddings and three engagements. **Marina Antic, Betsy Mulet** and **Vika Kononova** are all new brides, and **Naomi Bethel, Anna Guigauri, Stephanie Richards** and **Emily Shaw** are brides-to-be.

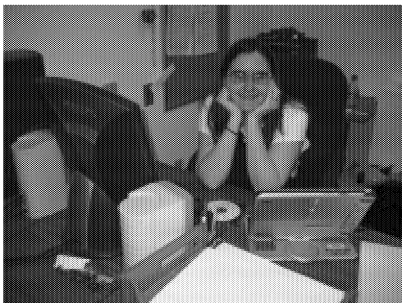
Our students get jobs!

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. *Molodets, Laura!*



Laura Little hard at work grading papers.

Shannon Spasova (PhD, 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!



Shannon Spasova daydreaming about Canada.

Clint Walker (PhD, 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.