

ГОТ СЛАВ?

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SLAVIC DEPARTMENT STUDENT PUBLICATION

FEATURED ARTICLES

- Nina Boe: Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia
- Christina Sherry: Croatia
- Sochi, Russia Expedition
- Rebecca Ramshaw: Sochi, Russia
- Alsu Shakirova, PhD student, TA of the year
- Diana Aitova: Outstanding 2009 BA graduate
- Professor Dziwirek

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What a Summer! Study abroad	2-7
2009 Graduating Class	8
Featured Students & Honors	9-11
What's New?	12
Meet the Students	13
Featured Professor & Student Showcase	14-15
Community and Events	16-18
Deadlines	19
Get connected	20

SUMMER RUSSIAN INTENSIVE

Ever consider taking intensive Russian? Here are just a few reasons why you should: you will develop extraordinary bonds with your classmates and professors, there is a daily language table, as well as poetry, films, cooking parties, singing, and ceremonies celebrating the summer journey in intensive Russian language and culture study.

Admittedly, it's not all fun and games; after all, it is called intensive for a reason – a full year of Russian in just nine weeks – it's demanding! However, with no other disciplines to interrupt your brain, the ability to focus and learn the language is tremendous!

First-, second-, and third-level Russian focus on a strong foundation of grammar and linguistics, and 2nd year (what I experienced) is conducted with lecture and a lot of student



Seattle Center's FESTÁL, celebrates the history and heritage of many different cultures of the Pacific Northwest.

The organization facilitates the opportunity for members of the

participation. While a lot of information is being thrown at you (in all three levels), and there is seemingly less time for "practical conversation" opposed to a full year of study, you will speak like a true Russian. Second- and third-year students engage in serious discussions about literature, film, and other topics in Russian.



Valentina Alekseevna Zaitseva and some of her students

There are opening and closing ceremonies for the students and professors to join together to meet one another, learn about the program, and enjoy fresh snacks. The highlight of the two is, of course, the closing ceremony. This is the time that everyone gets to

show off their language skills through exciting or funny skits, poetry recital, song or dance. Some students write their own material, and many recite the Russian classics. Because no party is a party without food, delicious homemade treats and goodies help say, "congratulations for your hard work and doing such a great job."



Ambitious students also get a chance to showcase their work in "Kolokol", a magazine produced by Shosh Westen (Slavic Administrator/ Graduate Advisor) as a treat only for the summer session. Students submit their own works of poetry, photography, crossword puzzles, short stories and more; and everyone at the closing ceremony receives a copy of the magazine as a souvenir! It is neat way to apply and share our learning in a personal and meaningful way. ~Jirova

CROATIA FEST OCTOBER 3 & 4, 2009

community to learn about other cultures, and Croatia Fest is an honored event hosted annually in October.

The NW Croatian-American community showcases the beautiful treasures of Croatia, where you have the unique experience of

learning about the contributions of Croatian-Americans here in the US, and discovering Croatia through history, art, music, customs and cuisine!

(see next issue for a story)

www.croatiafest.org

Photo belongs to www.croatiafest.org

MY STUDY ABROAD IN
BOSNIA, CROATIA, SERBIA BY NINA BOE

While I had long entrusted my Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS) language learning to the Slavic Department at UW under the wonderful instruction of Bojan Belić and Gordana Crnković, I applied for the University of Pittsburgh's Summer Language Institute in Russian & East European Languages, for which our very own Bojan taught their course for Advanced/Mastery BCS: 2 weeks in Serbia, 2 weeks in Bosnia, 2 weeks in Croatia, June 22nd to July 31st, a program comprised of lectures, everyday work in a small group setting, and conducting research for an academic-level paper in BCS.



Serbia

Our group met for the first time in Serbia and it was there in Belgrade that we began our work, & it hit me just how much history I was exposed to. Upon our tour to the Academy of Arts and Sciences, we had the privilege of seeing numerous works of literature that were signed & written in by well known names in the international sphere (Salvador Dali & Jean-Paul Sartre) & the Balkans alike (authors Danilo Kiš; Miroslav Krleža; & Serbian language reformer Vuk Stefanović Karadžić).

In Belgrade I narrowed down my research topic from Balkan identities to that of Serbian Identity, Religion, & Vidovdan (St. Vitus' Day, the commemoration of the Battle of Kosovo in 1389). Analyzing the relationships present, I learned about the importance & influence in history of perceptions of the battle, which many view as the fall of Serbia to the Ottoman Turkish conquest of the Balkans.

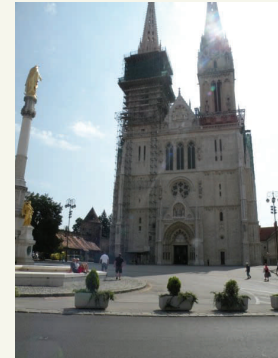
I had been once before to Sarajevo, Bosnia & loved being back and able to speak the language this time around. It was like Seattle with its abundance of hills and mountains, coffeeshops and rain—adding to the mix a lot more history & mosques (leftovers from aforementioned Ottoman Turkish influence). It was my first time in Croatia, however, our time in Zagreb was limited to writing our papers & meeting with Bojan to go over them. The writing experience was both challenging & rewarding, plus hearing the language everyday, everywhere, only increased the practice I received.

I ended up staying in the Balkans after the program, traveling around—small villages on the Croatian coast, the famous bridge in Mostar (Bosnia), catching a few films at the renowned Sarajevo Film Festival. My ability to speak the language served me well beyond the familiarity of the program, & being able to conduct everyday life in a different country only boosted my confidence. Studying abroad is something I cannot recommend more highly!

Sretno! Срећно! Good luck!
-Nina Boe



Mostar (above) Museum in Croatia (below)



Croatia



Bosnia



Sarajavo

MY STUDY ABROAD IN TROGIR, CROATIA BY CHRISTINA SHERRY



In Summer 2009, I participated in an unaffiliated Study Abroad program through the University of Washington at the University of Split in Split, Croatia. The program was for further instruction in the Croatian language and was taught through the Summer School for Croatian Language and Culture.

I began my first year at the University of Washington by taking a number of physics, physiology and calculus courses and, upon seeing that language courses in Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian (BCS) were offered, thought it would be a nice break from the science curriculum.

A little background for all of this; before moving to the U.S., my grandfather was born and grew up in the town of Trogir, located about 17 miles from the city of Split. At about the time I enrolled in BCS classes, I got in touch with one of my grandfather's cousins through e-mail and began speaking with the family still residing in his hometown. I was soon corresponding with other family members through Facebook and by Fall quarter was looking into possible study abroad programs in Dalmatia, the southern part of Croatia. I did a general search on Google and found the Summer School for Croatian Language and Culture in the city of Split. I took the information available to me from the school's website and through the school contact and took it to the Office of International Programs and Exchanges. I spoke with advisors there about the process of getting an unaffiliated program approved for study as well as what scholarships might be available to help fund the trip. I applied for the Go! Scholarship, which funds from \$2-5,000 for a study abroad program, and was awarded one. Everything was set in motion. I would be in classes over the summer for just three weeks but would be able to stay in Croatia for two months. I would stay with family in Trogir and take the bus to Split every morning. The classes moved slower than I would have liked but they had to accommodate for a number of students, all at different levels. The instructors were more than willing to help and explain anything of question and were often available after class for additional help.

My stay in Croatia was amazing. I had much more family there than I had ever expected. I was soon overwhelmed at the number of aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends wanting to meet me and reminisce about my grandfather. My family made sure I saw other cities within Croatia too, such as Zadar, Dubrovnik, Šibenik, and Zagreb. I also met and made friends with a number of people my age, with whom I am still in contact and who took me to a number of music festivals. I went swimming somewhere different everyday and even attended a motorcycle party! Four days before returning to the U.S., my uncle took me on a last-minute trip to Bosnia to show me Sarajevo and Mostar. I had one full-day in Sarajevo where I wandered through the streets in the center of the city. That afternoon, I unexpectedly ran into a fellow classmate from UW who was also on a study abroad program through the University of Pittsburgh! What are the odds of that happening? That night, she joined my family and me for coffee and dinner.

Overall, the whole trip was amazing, I learned so much about my family, about myself and about another culture that could never have been granted without traveling to Croatia. I was able to see the places which my grandfather speaks so much about, meet the people that he grew up with, get to know the family closest to his heart and of course, practice my language skills through formal and informal instruction! ~Christina Sherry <http://www.christina-in-croatia.com/#bio>



EXPLORATION SEMINAR: SOCHI, RUSSIA WITH VALENTINA ZAITSEVA



Balcony of hotel with our Sochi partners

The Sochi Expedition Seminar was created and fully organized by Dr. Valentina Alekseevna Zaitseva, who is a native of Sochi. The seminar took place this past September, lasting three weeks. Valentina Alekseevna literally departed for Sochi the day after her summer second-year Russian intensive course finished to engage in this exciting project.

Eight students from the University of Washington participated in the program and studied Interpersonal and cross-cultural communication.

For more information about the program you can go to the website:

http://faculty.washington.edu/vaz2/Exploration_Seminar.php

Photos submitted by Veronika Egorova and VZ



Sochi seaport (Black Sea)



**We had Russian class on the balcony of our hotel.
Amanda came early!**



New friends: Kelly with Sochi partners



At the seaport with Sochi partners

EXPLORATION SEMINAR: SOCHI, RUSSIA
WITH VALENTINA ZAITSEVA



Party with our Sochi partners and supporters



Local market place



Amy and Kelley, downtown Sochi



Visiting the kindergarten



Health Sanatorium "Metallurg," in the neighborhood, we are on the way to the sea



Brittany at the kindergarten



We at in the Krasnaia Poliana
Caucasian mountains



Professor Andrei Kizilov shows us
his private archeological collec-
tion & tells us what happened
here 4 thousand years ago...



Eric gets to try on national hats
and pose with a sword



In the Black Sea!



MY STUDY ABROAD IN SOCHI, RUSSIA BY REBECCA RAMSHAW

My experience in Sochi, Russia was largely rewarding. Located in the southernmost part of Russia, Sochi maintains a comfortable climate (relative to its more northerly counterparts). I enjoyed the trips down to the Black Sea, as well as the walks to the market. Because of its short distance to the Georgian border, Sochi shares several of the country's cuisines, and we sampled more than a few of them.

The hotel we stayed at was very accommodating, and although there were a few bumps in the road in regards to cross cultural communications, we managed to have a very successful trip overall. Hotel Mashuk's owners were incredibly hospitable (one of the most profound traits of Russian culture that I will never forget is their hospitality) and we were able to talk with them on various occasions, letting us get to know them quite well.

During our day-to-day routines, we were able to connect with many Sochi natives; people took an immense interest in us, not only because we were foreigners, but because we were Americans. This is a phenomenon I personally have never experienced, being a young traveler and having only seen North America and a handful of other Russian cities/towns. As a group, we had multiple encounters with the locals, most of whom were very interested in us and



were more than willing to help us practice our Russian. Of course, we also communicated in English, because the people who live in Sochi don't have many opportunities to speak with native English speakers, and are always very eager to try it out.

We also toured a few schools and met many young people who were so interesting! They were all so interested in finding out why and how we had come to Sochi. To them, their city is their home; many of them are proud of it and are satisfied living there. However, from what I gathered, Sochi is a place that not many Americans visit. I had a blast meeting the toddlers, children, young adults, and teenagers in the schools; their lives are quite different from what I experienced in my youth, and yet we were fully capable of engaging in discussion (with topics ranging from Obama to Lady Gaga).

Someday I would like to go back to Sochi, the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics (something the locals are not too thrilled about!). In the meantime, I try to keep up with the Russian friends I made, as well as the fellow Americans who accompanied me on the trip. ~Rebecca Ramshaw



The girls waiting for the bus. We were going out to celebrate a few peoples' birthdays, including mine. It was such a fun night!

If you went on this expedition, we would love to hear about your experience!

Please share anything that would be informative and inspiring for other students!

Submissions are accepted at anytime. Please send to jirova@hotmail.com

REED COLLEGE PAIDEIA RUSSIAN TOUR
4-17 JANUARY 2010

This is our sixth Paideia East-European tour (the Greek term has traditionally meant the cultivation of intellectual and moral capacities in combination with maximum cultural development, but here it denotes the interval between semesters at Reed reserved for independent or applied study), and it is sponsored, as usual, by the Russian department, with the support of the alumni office.

The goals of the tour are many, ultimately as many as there may be participants, since we believe that travel of this kind should be as responsive to individual needs and inter-

ests as possible, but our main purpose is to provide a broad, practical, yet expert introduction to Russian culture and history from its beginnings through the modern era.

We will in that spirit visit Russia's two largest cities, the present capital, Moscow, and the former one, St. Petersburg, as well as its oldest settlement, Novgorod the Great.

(excerpt taken from program flyer)

Questions about procedures, schedules, bookings, the tour itinerary, or any other matter of interest to you should be directed to the organizer:

Judson Rosengrant
6532 SW Firlock Way, No. 8
Portland, OR 97223

503.880.9521 mobile
jrosengrant@earthlink.net

The Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards—workshops and information sessions this fall

<http://www.washington.edu/students/ugrad/scholar/workshops>.

As usual, we will offer general introductory sessions for undergraduate students getting started in the search for scholarships (Freshman Scholarship 101 & Continuing Student Scholarship 201), information sessions providing details on how to apply for specific scholarships (Merage, Goldwater, DOD SMART, Truman, Udall, Boren, Critical Language, Beinecke), and Personal Statement & CV Writing workshops.

New this year are our Brown Bag Group Advising sessions. Each Monday, undergraduate students are welcome to bring their lunch to 120 MGH at 12:30pm and join an informal conversation about scholarship opportunities in certain areas:

* Oct. 19 Study Abroad, Language scholarships

Hey—we want to hear from you if you traveled abroad!

There are several interesting study abroad programs that are run not only through University of Washington led by our very own professors, but also through other schools.

Please submit your story for the next issue and tell us about the application process, tips for scholarships, how the program went, any interesting extra-curricular activities, whatever you want to share, we want to hear about!

This is to help other students find a study program that fits, and there is no better place to hear about the details than from someone who has been there!

Also, please feel free to write in with programs of study you have found that you would like to share with others that may not be advertised in our university!

jirova@hotmail.com to submit your articles and pictures

2009 CONVOCATION CEREMONY



Kyle Walker, BA graduate



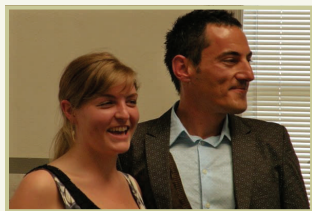
Graduates (left to right): Kamil Pawłowski, Kyle Walker, Gwendolyn Mitchell, Christine Lindell, Erin Horvath, Alexandra Ghetie, Diana Aitova, Sarah Cunningham, Tim Wellman, Cameron Rule



Tim Wellman, MA graduate in Slavic Linguistics, TA Russian language, with Jim Augerot, Professor of Bulgarian, Russian, Romanian, Old Church Slavonic, Slavic Linguistics, Director of REECAS



Diana Aitova, BA graduate, UW and Departmental Honors, winner of the Asante Award for Outstanding paper with Dr. Valentina Alekseevna Zaitseva, lecturer of first and second year Russian, Sochi Expedition Seminar



Christine Lindell, BA graduate with Dr. Bojan Belic, instructor of BCS, Slavic Linguistics, and Russian, Director of the first year Russian program

DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Bachelor of Arts

Diana Aitova
Sarah Cunningham
Alexandra Ghetie
Erin Horvath
Christine Lindell
Gwendolyn Mitchell
Kamil Pawłowski
Cameron Rule
Kyle Walker

Master of Arts

Tim Wellman

AWARDS AND RECIPIENTS

Asante Outstanding Paper Prize: Diana Aitova

American Councils Russian Scholar Laureate Award: Cameron Rule

Outstanding Undergraduate Award: Diana Aitova

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award: Alsu Shakirova

Best Polish Student of 2009 Award: Olga Gulchuck



TA OF THE YEAR: ALSU SHAKIROVA

"It's a great honor for me to get this award because all the other teaching assistants in our department are equally worthy of it. It's also a great responsibility and motivation to work even harder to keep the high level of education and instruction in the Slavic Department!"

Meet Alsu Shakirova: Not only is she a supportive teacher, but as a classmate she extends her gift to other students. I met Alsu in a Slavic linguistics course my first matriculated quarter here at UW, and admittedly was very intimidated sitting next to a PhD student – a specialist in the field. But soon my intimidation turned to realization that she is there learning just as we are; but she had something special about her. (At this time, I had no idea she was a teacher)

She had (and still does have) such a welcoming and friendly attitude and honest interest in the growth of students around her regardless of their level or experience in Slavic studies, and was very gracious with her time and efforts. She had so much to contribute to the class, and yet did so in a positive and constructive manner, not trying to prove her superiority over the undergraduates, and being patient in group discussions.

Spring quarter of last year, I had the pleasure of being a student in her first year Russian language class. It was one of the toughest quarters (be aware first year students!) because of the remaining cases and tricky grammar that needed to be taught to complete the foundation. I went to her on a few occasions with my concerns and frustrations and she was always willing to take time, listen, and try to work out a solution that would help me succeed. I thank her for that, because there were times when I wanted to give up. But, she truly has a gift for teaching and dealing with people, recognizing and understanding individual positions and keeping students with her, working toward success. She also understands her abilities and weaknesses and makes strong efforts to learn how she can improve as a teacher and isn't afraid to admit that things are difficult, even for her. In my opinion, there is nothing more admirable, and it has been a privilege to have gotten to know Alsu in so many aspects of her character – on a personal and professional level.

For those of you who haven't had the honor to meet her, I thought I would share a bit about her – after all, this is one of our fellow students who won a very prestigious award, The Teaching Assistant of the Year! Some of you may even be curious about becoming a TA, so hopefully her story will be an inspiration to you.

Alsu is currently working on a PhD in literature, primarily Russian literature. She earned

her BA degree at university in Russia in teaching English and Turkish as second languages, and earned her Master's degree in English Rhetoric and Composition from Eastern Illinois University.

Because she had spent most of her life in academia and has a strong belief that teaching and research are her elements, she decided she wanted to be a professor at a university. In order to do this, a Doctor of Philosophy degree is required. The University of Washington's Slavic department is one of the strong leaders in the nation for literatures and languages studies, so she became interested in pursuing her degree here. Because she is a top scholar and leader, the faculty was very interested in welcoming her to study her at UW – and this warm welcome toward her as a scholar was one the crucial factors that convinced her to study at UW.

Alsu started her first TA-ship in the summer of 2008, teaching Russian 150 (Intensive first-year Russian). Over the last year she has also taught first-year Russian (regular pace) as well as conducted a quiz section for the Russian literature course, Russian 322, and she is continuing to teach this year. She decided to apply for a TA-ship after Shosh Westen told her about the possibility, and was excited, as this would be an excellent opportunity to get experience teaching first-year Russian, which she had never done before.

The application procedure was straightforward and consisted of an application, a resume listing prior teaching experience and academic degrees, and a statement of purpose explaining her desire for the position; the decision is made based on these documents and the academic progress of the candidate. Upon acceptance, she took a course on the pedagogy of language teaching in the Slavic Department and attended a two-day orientation for the first year Russian instructors before the start of the academic year.

In the beginning of her TA-ship, she started with a load of ten credits as a student, which was the right amount because teaching alone takes around four hours a day to prepare for class. Preparation involves preparing lectures, grading, holding office hours and the teaching sessions themselves. However, she said there is a tremendous amount of support from the faculty in providing extra teaching materials, coordinating the collaboration on writing and grading tests, and helping with organizing extracurricular language activities for stu-

dents throughout the year. (Alsu advises not taking a full load of courses in the beginning, especially if you have never taught before).

Teaching definitely comes with its own set of challenges, and Alsu said the most challenging point for her is the ability to sustain the positive attitude and motivation of her students in mastering the Russian language (because of their frustration with the aspects of the language that is so different from English). In addition, she said explaining grammatical concepts such as case, conjugation, and declension can be challenging because students are not familiar with them in their native language. She shared that as a native speaker of Russian, it is sometimes difficult for her to understand the difficulties that her students go through since she did not learn Russian from the same perspective.

With the challenges comes much reward. For Alsu, the most rewarding aspects of teaching are the smiles of her students, their success, and their words of gratitude. The TA-ship has been more exciting than she had imagined it to be because she has gained more confidence as an instructor, has a better command over the classroom, explains language concepts better, and feels more effective in terms of providing the learning tools for her students. Through this experience, she said she has definitely become more appreciative of what instructors do in the classroom and how much preparation goes into teaching. This has helped her grow as a student and become more responsible for the material she learns in the classroom. ~Jirova

"I feel fortunate to have had Alsu Shakirova for 3 courses at the University of Washington. Her competency is such that she is commanding and dynamic, but yet creates a natural fluidity and ease in the classroom. She places a premium value on involvement and is careful to include everyone, allowing students to use newly acquired skills and work out trouble areas in an encouraging environment. During a particularly challenging time when I was doubting my own progress, it was Alsu that reassured me that my feelings were entirely natural and that although the practice of language was consistent, the utilization comes in "leaps and bounds." Not only is she a gifted linguist, but a gifted teacher who understands that learning is a personal experience. I am uncertain if her future plans include teaching, but if so, there will be many students who will benefit from that choice."

Thanks! Jennie Wojtusik

FEATURED 2009 GRADUATE: DIANA AITOVA



Diana Aitova and Professor West

When I tell people I majored in Russian, I always get one question in return: "You're Russian, so don't you already know it?" To answer that question, let me tell you that if there is anything, any one thing that a Russian person should "know," it is Pushkin, who in Russian culture is "second only to God," to quote Professor West. Now I will be honest, I had read Pushkin, I had memorized Pushkin, I even appreciated Pushkin, but I did not understand Pushkin until I studied him with Professor West. So I guess, if there was anything my department had taught me, it was to recognize the fallibility of the concept of "already know".

Having grown up in Russia, I moved to the United States at the age of thirteen, and after graduating from high school, I decided to continue my education here. However, as enjoyable as it was to live and study in the United States, I inevitably felt that I had been torn away from a culture I considered my own, and there was some unbridgeable gap between the life I led before and the life I was leading now. In hopes of enriching and "globalizing" my understanding of the world, I made a transition so drastic and so abrupt that it left me no points of connection, no hope for universality; there was only the before and the after, Russia and America, and no link, save for the memories...and books. This is why when I discovered the Russian department, where my culture was understood, discussed, and shared, I instantly realized I had found the link I had been trying to uncover for so long.

At that, I don't mean to come off as the polar bear at the zoo. Outside of his natural surroundings, he is thankful for the pool of ice-cold water that reminds him of home, all the while wishing regretfully that he could go back to the North Pole. Mine turned out to be a very different story, for I would prefer to study Russian literature at UW over any Russian institution. The level of expertise of the professors with whom I have had the honor to interact not only covered but transcended any basic cultural understanding that a strictly Russian scholar could have. Instead, the cultural understandings I have gained were truly global, a dream come true. From Soviet to British and Spanish literary criticism, from the social interaction in Japan to the life of prisoners in the Sakhalin island, from European influences in iconography to learning more than I had ever hoped to learn about shamanism and puffs, my Russian major taught me much more than Russian.

One thing I have clearly failed to learn, however, is how to transition well between completely random topics all the while conserving valuable space, so without any more segue than this, allow me to go on a total digression and mention that besides providing me with a global education for the real world, the Russian department has also prepared me for the confusing and dangerous world of graduate school. For exam-

ple, one excellent opportunity to practice presenting and defending an academic paper (as well as to observe grad students in action and learn many fascinating things) is through participation in the annual REECAS conference. I presented a paper that had been previously written for a linguistics course, where I explored spitting metaphors in Russian emotional expression. I actually did not happen to find out about the conference date until the night before, so my preparatory efforts were below average, but regardless of that, the REECAS conference asks for no busy work, and even minimal preparation yields tremendous benefits. Econ majors can do the math.

The second excellent opportunity (yet another elementary school transition) rolls around towards the end of your senior year, under the name of an "honors thesis." For me, the project was ridiculously fun. I loved it for three reasons: a) the freedom, b) the original research, and c) the sense of closure. All students write on any topic of interest. Literally. *Any* topic. I wrote about duels and balls as instruments of social criticism in Russian literature. My friend and fellow Honors student Marina wrote about the supposedly disappeared city of Kitezh and even introduced geology into her work. The departmental faculty teaches courses on such a wide variety of topics that any student interest is bound to fall under the area of somebody's expertise. There are no significant time or space restrictions either. You get expert guidance from a mentor, but the project is all yours. This is where the original research comes in. You choose your topic. You read about it. You say whatever you want. In a typical research paper, there are guidelines, required texts, space limits, in which to cover both other researchers' and your own findings. This paper has near endless space reserved for you (which makes you feel like you are a Ph.D. and know what you are talking about, which, in turn, is excellent preparation for graduate school.) And because one's work in graduate school culminates in a thesis, the Bachelor's thesis likewise provides an unparalleled sense of accomplishment and closure to an otherwise abruptly ending degree. Doubtlessly, I owe endless praise and apologies to Professor West, who tolerated my "fun" thesis writing and ensured that all of the above was true. And finally, during the final presentation, everybody was so understanding and supportive, that it was not a stressful hour to get drilled about your topic, but rather a privilege to present and discuss your findings with the most patient and helpful audience imaginable.

So now that the degree is behind me, I am proud to say that I am a Russian who majored in something I "already knew" and learned every second of it. Phoebe can help anybody customize the degree to cover exactly what one wants to study and turn a degree in Russian into much more than that. Looking back on it, I think my Russian major was the most fulfilling course of study I could have chosen, and I would be excited to do it again, because there are still so many topics that I have left unexplored. —*Diana Aitova*

2009 HONOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



Cameron R. Rule

Thesis: under Prof. Dziwirek
Morphological Integration of
Foreign Elements in Russian:

A comparison of Russian Speakers in
Lithuania and Estonia

Presented spring quarter and at the REECAS
15th Annual Northwest Conference.

[http://www.jsis.washington.edu/ellison//file/
REECAS%20NW%202009/
AATSEEL_for_REECAS_conference.pdf](http://www.jsis.washington.edu/ellison//file/REECAS%20NW%202009/AATSEEL_for_REECAS_conference.pdf)



Diana Aitova

Thesis: under Prof. West
"Цари на каждом бранном
поле-и на балу!" On the

significance of etiquette in Russian
literature of the XIX century: the case
of duels and balls

Presented spring quarter



Marina Michalchenko

Thesis: under Prof. West
Kitez: The Geological, Liter-

ary and Ethnographic Search After the
Russian Atlantis

Presented spring quarter

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS PROGRAM

How do I apply for admittance to Departmental Honors in the Slavic Department?

BY INVITATION: In the autumn quarter, Slavic Department faculty review the files of all eligible majors.

BY PETITION: Majors may petition for permission to enter the Departmental Honors Program. Please see the Slavic Department Undergraduate Adviser for a Petition for Admission to Departmental Honors.

If accepted, all students will receive written invitations from the Chair.

In order to fulfill the honors, students must write a 30–50 page thesis exploring a topic of interest and give a 20 minute presentation and Q&A to faculty and guests. Upon completion, you will graduate with Distinction.

This is an excellent opportunity for those who would like to pursue graduate school and research, because it gives you a glimpse of what conducting a serious piece of work and presenting it to peers demands.

<http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/ugrad-progs/honors.htm>

ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM ALSU SKAKIROVA, PHD STUDENT:

What was the one thing (or things) that kept you going through times of frustration as a student?

"The encouragement of my instructors and advisors, word of advice from the department administrator, and support of my fellow students have helped me get through the tough times in the program!"

To the students considering seeking higher degrees in the Slavic department:

"Don't lose sight of the reason why you've chosen this particular department for your studies, keep at it, be disciplined and persistent, and don't forget to have fun!"

We all seem to hit a wall at some point, whether it be in language class, reading materials and literature, writing or researching, in which can make one feel alone and frustrated.

This is a section to submit thoughts and advice to encourage each other, and to reach those who may be afraid to ask for help.

Do you have an experience that can be uplifting for others? Do you have advice to help other students succeed in their studies? We would love to hear from you!

Please send your submissions to
jirova@hotmail.com

VISITING FULBRIGHT LECTURER: PRZEMYSŁAW CHOJNOWSKI, PHD

Courses that will be taught by our visiting Lecturer this winter and spring:

- Shoah in Polish Documentary Film

- Masterpieces of Contemporary Polish Prose and Poetry in English Translation

The lecture aims to discuss the most significant Polish authors of the period after World War II. The main emphasis will be on writers of the so-called Columbus Generation, whose literary output has shaped the image of modern Polish literature. Poems and short prose works of authors such as Tadeusz Różewicz, Zbigniew Herbert, Wisława Szymborska, Czesław Miłosz will be discussed. The course will provide a survey of major literary works from 1945 to 1990, emphasizing their dialogue with national and European tradition and history. It will deal with essential motives, poetics, and stylistic trends. The students will develop a systematic understanding of the crucial concepts of Polish postwar literature. Some of the class content will also refer to emigrant experience and Polish-American writers whose texts were originally written in English such (e.g., Eva Hoffman and Jerzy Kosinski).

The course objective is to reveal the little known chapters of Polish history referring to the Holocaust. The class will view documentaries featuring witnesses of the genocide as well as survivors and heroes of the Second World War. The class will also discuss the perspectives and testimonies of people from three different groups. The first group includes people such as Marek Edelman, who lived in the Warsaw Ghetto and participated in the April 1943 Jewish Uprising. The second group comprises members of Żegota, the only organization founded specifically to rescue the Jews during the Nazi rule in Europe. One of the last living representatives of Żegota (Council for Aid to the Jews) is Władysław Bartoszewski. Another noteworthy perspective belongs to Irena Sendler, also Żegota member and leader of 10 woman team who rescued 2500 Jewish children. The third group encompasses Poles (e.g., Jan Karski) who tried to stop the Holocaust by reporting Nazi atrocities to the Allies. Similar testimony reveals the heroics of Witold Pilecki, who volunteered to be imprisoned at Auschwitz in order to organize a resistance movement within the camp with the ultimate goal of liberation.



WHAT'S NEW?



RUSS 120: 5cr,
Jose Alaniz

Science Fiction in Russia

What is science fiction? What are the genre's associations with utopian and revolutionary politics in Russian culture? What was the relationship to Socialist Realism? What distinguished Russo-Soviet sci-fi from its Western counterpart? How did the genre differ from other types of literature? What sort of readership did it attract? What has been the role of popular culture in Russia through the centuries?



SLAV 501: 2cr,
Barbara Henry

Using Slavic Resources

Introduction to graduate studies in Slavic languages, literatures, and cultures. Discusses field of study and research materials and techniques employed.

- Open to advanced undergraduate majors who contemplate doing graduate work in the field and Honors Thesis students



RUSS 313: 5cr,
Lyubov Penkova

Business Russian

Development of reading and translation skills in Russian needed to understand Russian-language business documents within the context of the business culture in the Russian-speaking areas of the former Soviet Union. Practical issues, concepts and applications of conducting cultural, political, and economic analysis for business decisions will be a central part of the course.

Winter quarter!

OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Next issue will include the student roster for our department—our undergraduate majors/minors and graduate students—so we can know who we are!

Grad students, if you have information other than, or differing from what the Slav department website has about you, please email got slav? to update your information.

Thank you!

got slav? Is powered by you, the students, and your participation and submissions are necessary and greatly appreciated!

Just for fun:

What made you decide to study Slavic languages, literatures, and culture?

Please submit your answers to
jirova@hotmail.com
To be posted in the next issue
(your posting can be anonymous or claimed
and as long as you wish to write)

PROSPECTIVE 2010 GRADUATING CLASS

OUR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

STUDENTS EARNING A MINOR

Hey fellow undergraduates—I want to post a roster of who our student body is, but need your consent!

Anyone who wants to be listed in the newsletter as a Major or Minor in our department, please send me your information:

1. Name
2. Major and/or minor (if you are a double major, you can list both)
3. Honors/Honor society membership
4. Research or focus of study
5. Prospective year of graduation (especially 2010 graduates)



**F E A T U R E D P R O F E S S O R :
D R . K A T A R Z Y N A D Z I W I R E K**

Katarzyna Dziwirek is an Associate Professor here at UW teaching Polish language and Slavic linguistics. Her specialties are syntax, morphology, typology, corpus linguistics, cross-cultural semantics, pragmatics and bilingualism. She offers a course series—Ways of Meaning and Ways of Feeling—that explores social and cultural conditioning of language use and universal and cultural aspects of linguistic expression of emotion.

However, this year she is on sabbatical—this is when a professor takes leave for a period of time for research, further education or visiting other universities, or rest usually granted every seven years. We will definitely miss her teaching this year, but she is engaged in quite an outstanding project right here in Seattle! So, you may be fortunate to see her out and about on campus, or even working with her on one of her projects with UW PSEC, (Polish Studies Endowment Committee) such as an upcoming event, “Freedom on the Fence.”

Aside from her involvement with UW PSEC, she said she is taking the time to work on her book, *Complex Emotions and Grammatical Mismatches: A Contrastive Corpus-Based Study of Polish and English*, which is she is looking forward to finally being published next year; completing what she calls, “the long saga”. She briefly explained her research as follows and hopes to get to it soon:

“Broadly speaking, the theme of my research and teaching has for the past few years been linguistic universals and linguistic variation, especially in the fields of semantics and pragmatics. The correlation I want to investigate in my next book is the relationship between the underlying cultural values and linguistic devices available to a language and its speaking styles and speech practices. With regard to linguistic devices, I want to argue that because English has limited morphological resources at its disposal, it relies heavily, and much more frequently than Polish, on metaphor, simile, and metonymy.”

Congratulations, Kat, on your book and research for your next book! We will miss you this year, but look forward to your published work and return to the classroom next year. We wish your sabbatical to be most enjoyable and for you to succeed in your endeavors! ~Jirova



Dr. Katarzyna Dziwirek (right)
with Alsu Shakirova, Diana Aitova

FREEDOM ON THE FENCE

Presentation and screening by producer/director
Prof. Andrea Marks, Oregon State University
Thursday, December 3, 2009, 7pm
Kane Hall, Room 110, UW campus—Admission free reception to follow

A documentary project about the history of Polish posters and their significance to the social, political and cultural life of Poland. Examining the period from WWII through the fall of Communism, *Freedom on the Fence* captures the paradox of how this unique art form flourished within a Communist regime. The documentary contains interviews with older and younger generations of poster artists, examples of past and current poster work, historic and current film footage of where and how posters are viewed, and commentaries from both American and Polish scholars and artists on the significance of the Polish poster as a cultural icon.

The event will be accompanied by an exhibition of Polish posters from local collections. The Freedom of Expression exhibition containing about 50 posters will be on display at the UW Allen Library North from November 30, 2009 through January 15, 2010.



The Polish Student Association is one of the newest student organizations on campus. Our purpose is to unite students of Polish origin, heritage, and interest as we celebrate all things Polish.

Congratulations to undergraduate Corey Krzan, for being a leader and putting this together!

Stay up to date with our meeting and event information posted at polishstudentassociationuw.blogspot.com



STUDENT SHOWCASE

Students!

Showcase your work here in the newsletter!

Submit your any of your written work that is Slavic related—poetry, short stories, abstracts, links to your full paper, etc.

This is an opportunity to publicize your hard work and share your writing with peers, colleagues and professors who you think would enjoy reading it...you deserve to be in the spotlight!

Please submit your works to:

jirova@hotmail.com

(the next issue will be distributed the beginning of winter qtr.)



FRIDAY NIGHT RUSSIAN FILMS

Every Friday evening the curtain goes up in Denny Hall, room 123. Hosted by Valentina Alekseevna is an incredible evening of Russian cinema! Immediately following the show, there is a discussion where the audience can express their thoughts and impressions about the film.

This is a great way to learn about Russian culture and history through the beauty of the screen, with its honesty, humor, tragedy, and mystery. Additionally, this is a fabulous way to hear fluent spoken language, and be exposed to various dialects which can really enhance language learning.

Films shown have English subtitles and discussions are also in English (unless all participants are fluent speakers) thereby allowing everyone, no matter what level of language learning, to understand and participate. It is a great time and a very enriching experience that no one should miss!

I must mention, movies are FREE!

Movies shown are by the most impressive Russian Directors and filmmakers!

Film time is 5:00 pm. You are welcome to bring snacks and guests interested in Russian language and culture.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Russian Chamber music concert: October 30 Benaroya Hall
www.russianchambermusic.org
- Polish Bazaar: Nov 7 & 8
- Polish Poster display: Nov 30, 2009–Jan 15, 2010
- Freedom on the Fence: December 3, 2009
- Polish Lecture Series: December



Friday night Balkan Music and Dance

Seattle Balkan Dancers Club

www.ratchenitza.com

News for the October 2009 Issue, submitted by Steve Bard and Ginger Marel (via seattle-bg@yahoo.com)

Please check our website or contact Steve Bard by phone (425-883-0332) or e-mail (dance@compuwiseconsulting.com) for updated information.
(Flyers and music clips with full details for all of these are available on the website listed above)

October 23: live music Balkan dance party from 8:30-11:30 with Pangeo playing for your dancing pleasure

They are a four-member group drawn together by a passion for Greek music and the Balkans. They are composed of Christos Govetas, Ruth Hunter, Will Dowd, and Kane Mathis. With a taste for old-style dance music, Pangeo is equally at home playing ballads from the mountains of Epiros in Greece or lively tunes from the former Yugoslavian and Albanian border areas. The instrumentation includes clarinet, accordion, guitar, percussion, and bouzouki. The vocals by Christos and Ruth add an additional, wonderful element. See their web site for more info: www.kyklosmusic.com/pangeo/pangeomain.html. Please join us and help support live Balkan music and dancing with this great band.

November 13: a special evening of live music and dancing that will benefit our own Northwest Folklife Festival

All proceeds will go to the Folklife Festival. RTW and Balkanarama will play for dancing. Members of the Dunava women's choir will sing, and there will be a dance performance by the Radost Folk Ensemble. A raffle for many interesting items will be held throughout the night, and of course there will be good food as well.

Make sure to attend and support Folklife.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY



Image and information belongs to CCEC

Center for Czech Education and Culture

3115 NE 65th Street
 Seattle, WA 98115 USA
 e. info@ccec-seattle.org

www.ccec-seattle.org



POLISH HOME ASSOCIATION
 FOUNDED IN 1918



Image and logo belong to the Polish Home Association

The Polish Hall and Restaurant opens at 6:00 pm every Friday! Find Polish community events by going to the website.

1714 18th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122
www.polishhome.org

L A N G U A G E T A B L E S

Language tables are a great way to practice language skills and meet others.

206-543-6848 for more info

Continental Restaurant

BCS "Naš klub": with Bojan Belić
 Fridays 4:00–6:00pm

Czech: with Jaroslava Soldanova
 Every other Tuesday 4:30–6:30



BCS "Naš klub" at the Continental Friday, October 2, 2009

On campus

Russian: with Valentina Zaitseva
 Wednesdays 12:30–2:00, HUB

Advanced Russian: with Zoya Polack
 Thursdays 12:30–1:30, M261 (Slavic Reading Room)

This is a great time, and you will enjoy learning the language and about the culture through conversation on your favorite topics and engaging in activities such as playing games to stimulate vocabulary, and more. Tables on campus are "brown bag" so you won't go hungry!



On campus

Ukrainian: by Ukrainian Students United,
 Fridays 12:30, HUB North Husky Den
usu@u.washington.edu

For more information about your table or languages not listed, contact your professor or the Slavic department.

RUSSIAN BAZAAR SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2009

The Russian Bazaar is a wonderful weekend event hosted annually at the Russian Community Center on Capitol Hill in Seattle. If you walk anywhere near the hall, you will smell the aromas of fresh Russian foods being prepared, and won't be able to help being drawn in.

The bazaar is free to get in, and for a small fee you can enjoy a delicious homemade meal of a scrumptious bowl of Borsht and a side of 2 meat piroshky (or a side of pelmeni) and a cup of tea or coffee. The service is wonderful, the food is brought to your table with smiles, and they even offer to get your coffee or tea for you (it is otherwise self-serve). Food comes quickly and is prepared fresh. If you aren't in the mood for a full meal, then enjoy a dessert, or two, or an entire box full with a cup of coffee or tea. All foods are available for purchase to take home as well, which is great because those of you who don't have time but want to support our local community as well as enjoy the delicious food have no excuse to miss it next year!



Kamil Pawłowski and friends drawn into Community Center by enticing aromas.



There were two vendor tables selling beautiful goods, both American and Russian. One table featured many handmade crafts ranging from beautifully painted Christmas tree ornaments, to children's aprons, jewelry, pillow ornaments, and other seasonal decorations. The other table featured traditional Russian souvenirs such as the beautifully crafted ladles and bowls, folk costumes and matrioshki (nesting dolls).

In the two years I have gone there has been only a boom box playing Russian music in the background (no live music). It is pleasant because it is loud enough to create a nice ambiance, but not too loud to disrupt conversation and a relaxing atmosphere. I should mention that my family gets down there about an hour before closing, and it is fairly empty. This is a great time to go if you have small children, as there is room for them to run a bit (if need be), and the babies can be comfortable to nap in their strollers. I imagine at peak lunch times it is hopping with people and quite an experience for those of you who really love the social buzz. ~Jirova

The Russian Community Center hosts several events throughout the year for the Slavic communities, please check their calendar if you want to participate!



The Russian Center
704 19th Avenue East, Seattle
206-323-3877
www.russiancc.org

CELEBRATING BALKAN STYLE!

Last year, students of the first and second year BCS classes organized and hosted end of the quarter festivities, which was a fantastic way to practice speaking and to find oneself drenched in the culture.

The scrumptious cuisine was explored and students had an opportunity to learn how to prepare authentic, delicious foods by those who know what they are doing.



...and of course everyone devoured everything with pleasure.

Each gathering boasted an amazing mix of Balkan beats and melodies that got everyone up on their feet and dancing!

Students hope to carry on the tradition this year, because it was such a fantastic way to end each quarter, meet new friends, and get a taste of life in the Balkans.

These events were special, as not only current BCS students went, but also natives and others from our department and community. ~Jirova



Hajde!
Dancing horo, traditional folk dances

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

- **Vladimir Gross Undergraduate Scholarship—Applications due February 2010**

One award of up to \$1000 will be offered toward airfare or lodging for a student studying abroad between June 2010 and May 2011.

- **UW Polish Studies Scholarship—Applications due March 2010**

Awards of up to \$1500 will be offered toward airfare, lodging and/or tuition for students enrolled in an accredited program in Poland.

- **Asante Outstanding Paper Prize—Applications are due April 16, 2010 by 5:00 pm.**

The prize will be awarded during the Slavic Department's Convocation Ceremony.

- **Vadim Pahn Scholarship—Applications are due April 5, 2010**

Prize is full Summer tuition for intensive 2nd or 3rd year Russian language for the recipient

GOT SLAV? DEADLINES

The next issue will be assembled during the winter break. All submissions will need to be in by the last official day of class before finals week.

Submissions are otherwise accepted at any time. Please write "got slav newsletter" in the email memo.

Abstracts and papers, stories, poems and other creative or academic works will not be edited by got slav? as it is assumed you would like to publish your work as you intend. However, articles you submit about opportunities, travel abroad programs, events, etc., will be scanned for minor editing (spelling errors, punctuation). Major editing will be at your consent in which you must agree to the suggested changes by our editors, and you have the option of refusing changes and having your work published as you have written.

Questions, comments, etc. please contact Leah Jirova at jirova@hotmail.com

ГОТ СЛАВ?

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SLAVIC DEPARTMENT STUDENT PUBLICATION

ГОТ СЛАВ? Is a newsletter that I intend to be run by students for the students of the Slavic Department here at the University of Washington. The purpose is to learn about other students and their accomplishments, to showcase professors, courses, and your own work that may otherwise not get the deserved spotlight.

I decided to start this newsletter because I felt it is important to know who is with us, and what is going on in our communities (in and out of school), because we can find a lot encouragement and help perpetuate each other's goals and dreams, and broaden our experience here within our department.

I hope the newsletter will be useful in that events past and future can be shared, opening up and stimulating interest in other areas of our department aside from individual focus on degree tracks. I also hope this newsletter will be a starting place for students to look for mentorship and comradery.

Please keep in mind—my studies come first, and therefore, issues will be assembled on quarter breaks reflecting back on that quarter's accomplishments and events, and promoting what is to come the following quarter. Eventually, if the newsletter content is bountiful and demand for more frequent publications emerges, then I will make all efforts possible to meet that demand.

Thank you!
Leah Jirova

ГОТ СЛАВ?

Created and produced by Leah Jirova,
For the students of the Slavic Department

- Articles, Photographs, Interviews submitted by you, the students, faculty, staff, and got slav? .
- Submissions are accepted throughout the quarter and issues will be assembled on quarter breaks and distributed near, at, or shortly after the quarter begins.

Publications will be distributed via email, and a hard copy will be left in the office —which is also good for the environment!

Please let me know of any technical difficulties, such as things not reading properly on your computer.

got slav? Thanks, Phoebe Ambrosia and Shosh Westen, for their support for the newsletter.

GET CONNECTED

Tutors:

If you tutor and would like to advertise here, please send your contact information and the languages you tutor.

Please let me know of your favorite Slavic related businesses, organizations and events that you like to advertise and support!

Food and Drink:

Balkan Market, www.balkanmarketltd.com
146 SW 153rd St., Burien, WA
18904 Highway 99 #M, Lynnwood, WA

European Foods, www.eurofoodseattle.com
13520 Aurora Ave N, Seattle, WA

Pomegranate, Russian restaurant
9711 Firdale Ave, Edmonds, WA

From Russia with Love
1424 156th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA

Piroshky Piroshky, www.piroshkybakery.com
1908 Pike Place, Seattle, WA 98101

Piroshky Russian Bakery
4311 University Way, Seattle, WA 98105

Night Life:

Twilight Martini Lounge, www.twilightmartini.com
2125 Western Ave, Seattle, WA
Bulgarian food and Chalga Sunday nights!

Contour, www.clubcontour.com
807 1st Ave, Seattle, WA
Features Russian events and DJs

Amante's Pizza and Pasta
4730 196th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA
Venue for Bulgarian pop music concert events

Greenlake VFW Folkdancers
Russian Cultural Center, Capital Hill and
VFW hall, 7220 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA
Balkan line dancing and concerts Friday nights

got slav? please share!

Please submit articles, photos, and ideas to
jirova@u.washington.edu

All submissions for the next edition must be in by the last week of each quarter. Each issue is produced over quarter breaks.