

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Autumn/2016-2017

Letter from the Chair Yana Hashamova

Seasons Greetings!

Dear Alumni and Friends of Slavic:

You are well aware how valuable it is to know Russian and East European languages and cultures but in recent months the general public has realized this as well. Russia is in the news daily, if not in relation to the Syrian crisis, then in connection to the US elections. The Balkans and Hungary fell into the media spotlight as they faced the impact of migrants and refugees. Poland also attracted attention with new controversial legislation.

Our department consistently strives for excellence in its teaching and research missions in order to provide high quality and meaningful knowledge to our students, knowledge that will serve them and this country well. As I reported last time, we are working hard to create new courses that complement and diversify our current offerings, to improve the value of our teaching by closely supervising graduate students and setting higher assessment outcomes, and to advance our research at national and international levels. I am proud to report that the hard work is paying off: this fall our majors increased by 45% compared to last year. For details on our work and accomplishments, please read the following pages of this newsletter.

As always, I plead for your contribution, which can help us achieve even more! We need your support especially in the areas of study abroad grant opportunities, unpaid internships, and graduate student funding for professional certificates. I urge you to give today and support our students and programs!

With best wishes for a magical holiday season,

Yana Hashamova, Chair
Professor of Slavic



"A degree in Slavic Studies is great because of the many ways it can be used. As long as you are passionate about the field, your studies will be an investment that will improve your success in future endeavors."

- Jeff Parker, Ph.D.

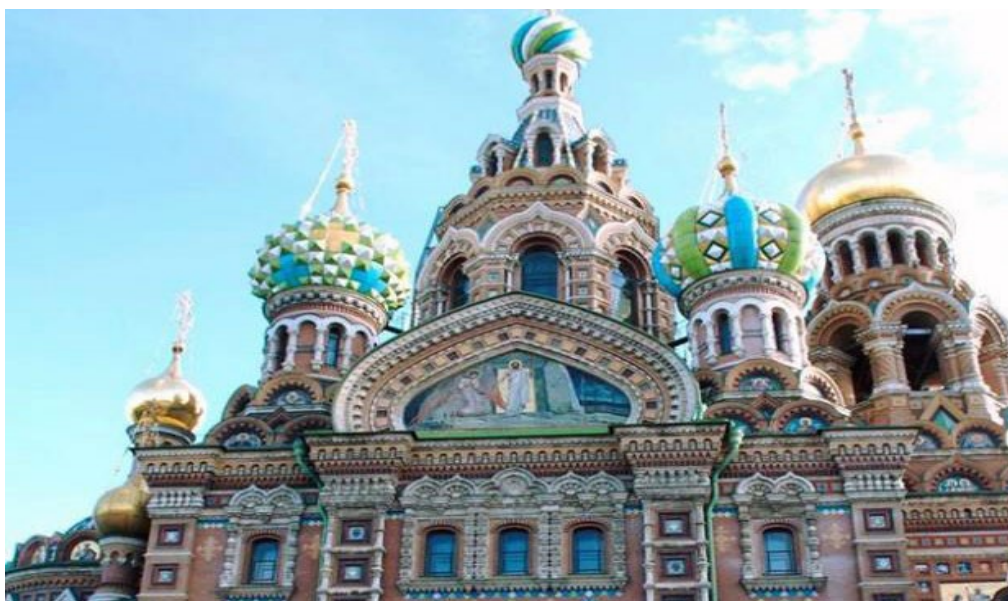


Photo by DSEELC Alumna A. Hamza

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Welcome to DSEELC



This year we welcomed Assistant Professor Dr. **Alisa Ballard** to our faculty. She researches 19th- and 20th-century Russian theater, literature, and philosophy, with special attention to theory and philosophy of performance. Her monograph in progress investigates how artists and intellectuals in 1900s-1930s Russia conceived of the physical, psychological, and philosophical relationships between actor and audience and between actor and role in the theater. Her additional research interests include Russian film and visual culture, consciousness and cognition in the theater, authorship, realism, emotion and affect, Soviet subjectivity, Polish literature and performance, and the intersection of philosophy with literary forms. Alisa received her Ph.D. and M.A. from Princeton University in Slavic Languages and her A.B. from Brown University in Slavic Studies and Comparative Literature.

We are excited to have her join us and look forward to her contributions to our Department!



Dr. **David McVey** – Lecturer of Russian Language and Slavic Studies

David came to us after a two year visiting professorship at University of Kansas, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. He received his Ph.D. in 2013 from DSEELC. His research interests include questions of Russian geography, space, and cultural contact with Finland and the Baltics, as well as regimes of masculinity in Russian literature and cinema.

Joseph Schlegel – Lecturer of Russian Language and Slavic Studies

Joseph is a Ph.D. candidate at University of Toronto Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. His interests include Russian poetic tradition, Russian literary history, and Early Russian Modernism. His dissertation topic is “New Models of Authorship in Early Russian Modernism.”



Anna Cesnjevar – Lecturer of Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian Language

Anna received her M.A. from Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg and has worked the past two years as an adjunct professor for Columbus State Community College. She also currently has a dual appointment in the Department of French and Italian. Anna loves having the opportunity to teach her native language and to talk about her homeland and its culture.

Honoring our Undergrad Achievements

Miriam G. Schwartz Awards for outstanding academic performance:

Noah Nguyen, a Russian major who notices the minutest nuances of language use and tries to incorporate as much new knowledge in his speech as he can - all the time.

Arona Mostov, a Russian major, who, at the 2016 Russian Olympiada, was one of the strongest speakers from any school in the presentation and oral interview categories.

Wesley Swanson, a sophomore double majoring in International Studies and Russian and minoring in French. He was a recipient of the prestigious Morrill Distinction Scholarship and spent the 2016 summer interning at the Washington D.C. headquarters of the Department of Justice, using his Russian skills in the office that handles cases related to Eurasian organized crime.

Melanie and Philippe Radley Awards

Caleb Herrmann had the honor of being chosen an alternate for the prestigious Critical Language Scholarship competition. His instructors identify him as highly motivated and very enthusiastic, a true pleasure to work with!

Amelia Smith received a Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarship and spent 8 weeks in the summer studying Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Elizabeth Davidson has always been exceptionally well-prepared for class and remains on top of all of her assignments. Her instructors have praised her ability to show a consistently high quality of work while meeting the demands of the rigorous schedule of a student athlete.

Andrew Elliott has been characterized by one of his professors as "bright and intellectually curious, with an unwavering commitment to his studies and all things Russian." He is currently a US Army ROTC cadet with interests in international security.

The **Francis M. Buzek Award** was given to **Garrett Grove**, an Air Force ROTC student who used the award for a study abroad trip this past summer. Garrett spent 8 weeks studying in St. Petersburg, Russia where he lived with a Russian host-mother and host-brother.

Pushkin Awards - recognize students' contributions to the Russian Club and other Slavic-related extracurricular activities at Ohio State. The 2016 recipients were **Robin Smith, Joanna (Zhanna) Kaganovich, and Zachary Nelson**.

The **Kenneth E. Naylor Prize** is a new annual prize that recognizes a student who demonstrates a deep and abiding interest in South Slavic and/or Balkan studies and excellence in their academic pursuits, thus honoring the memory of Kenneth Naylor, Professor of South Slavic languages and linguistics in the Slavic Department from 1966 until his untimely death in 1992. The 2016 recipients of the Naylor Prize were **Lindsey Korte** (graduate award) and **Monica Davidovic** (undergraduate award).

The **Talvi Award** for excellence in Russian studies was awarded to **Thomas Feerick** for his dedication to learning Russian, his hard work, talent, and great attitude in the language classroom as well as for his interest and success in Russian literary studies. His instructors emphasize that he is attentive to detail, inquisitive, and insightful.

The **Luczkowski-Habash fund** was established on August 28, 2015, with gifts from Jean Luczkowski and Stephen Habash to support undergraduate and graduate students through scholarships and study abroad awards in the field of Polish Studies. The inaugural **Luczkowski-Habash Award for Polish Studies** was given to **Jared Dye** for his excellence in the Polish language and his dedication to all things Polish.

The **Uprka-Laga-Schweitzer Award for Czech Studies** was given to **Richard Celestina** for his genuine interest in Czech culture and literature.

The **2016 Dobro Slovo National Honor Society** inductees are: **Rebekah Abel, Maryam Bainazar, Matthew Ellis, Thomas Feerick, Caleb Herrmann, and Taylor Sirch**.

Congratulations to our 2016 Ph.D. Graduates!



Jeff Parker and his wife Amy, on a research trip to St. Petersburg, Russia in 2015

On May 26th, Dr. **Jeff Parker** successfully defended his dissertation, *Inflectional complexity and cognitive processing: An experimental and corpus-based investigation of Russian nouns*. His dissertation committee consisted of Dr. Andrea Sims (Advisor), Dr. Brian Joseph, Dr. Mark Pitt (Psychology), and Dr. Greg Stump (U. of Kentucky). Jeff is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics and English at Brigham Young University.



Chen Zhang

Advised by Dr. Alexander Burry (Advisor) and committee members Dr. Angela Brintlinger and Dr. Daniel Collins, Dr. **Chen Zhang** successfully defended her dissertation "*Russian Writers Confront the Myth: The Absence of the People's Brotherhood in Realist Literature*" in April. Chen currently works and resides in Japan.



Michael Furman in St. Petersburg

On July 15th, Dr. **Michael Furman**, too, successfully defended his dissertation "*Playing with the punks: St. Petersburg and the DIY ethos*". His committee included Dr. Jennifer Suchland (Advisor), Dr. Gabriella Modan (co-advisor, Department of English), Dr. Yana Hashamova, and Dr. Galina Bolen (Rutgers University). At the Slavic Spring Tea Michael received a Miriam G. Schwartz Award for his outstanding service over the years to the Slavic Department. Michael has been awarded the Ohio 5 Mellon post-doc fellowship at Wooster College.

Catching Up with our Faculty

- Dr. **Ludmila Isurin** received the Language Learning Board of Director's annual award for "the most outstanding article of the year" for her piece co-authored with Dr. Christy Seidel, "Traces of memory for a lost childhood language: The savings paradigm expanded" (2015).
- Dr. **Jennifer Suchland** returned from a year's sabbatical during which she gave several lectures in Sweden, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, and the Netherlands. She has also received funding to pilot a Human Rights in Transit (HRIT) research hub. The first two years of the pilot project will emphasize the idea that human rights claims are in transit. There are five core faculty in the project on which Jenny serves as project coordinator: Simone Drake (African-American and African Studies), Wendy Hesford (English), Amy Shuman (English), and Maurice Stevens (Comparative Studies). Additional faculty from across the OSU campus will engage to activate intellectual connections through the HRIT hub.
- Dr. **Helena Goscilo** co-edited with Vlad Strukov *Russian Aviation, Space Flight, and Visual Culture*, which included her article "Deineka's heavenly bodies: ascent in space, sports, and the sacred," (London: Routledge UP, 2016). She also published "Indivisibility and the Threads that Bind", the introduction to *Ludmila Ulitskaya and the Art of Tolerance*, authored by Benjamin Sutcliffe and Elizabeth Skomp, and wrote several articles, including "Narrating Trauma: Modes and Patterns of Repression, Reprisal, Reiteration," in *Russian Literature since 1991*, Eds. Evgeny Dobrenko and Mark Lipovetsky, (Cambridge UP, 2015/6); "The Body Breached: Post-Soviet Masculinity on Screen," in *Cinemas of the Body: Politics, Aesthetics and Eroticism in Eastern European Film*, Eds. Ewa Mazierska, Matilda Mroz, Elzbieta Ostrowska, (Edinburgh UP, 2016); "Teper' on ne letaet so sterkhami: Pochemu voznik i kak menialsia kul't Vladimira Putina?", *Radio Svoboda*, an interview with director Dmitrii Volchek (2016), at <http://www.svoboda.org/articleprintview/27871477.html>.
- Dr. **Andrea Sims**' new monograph, *Inflectional Defectiveness*, was published in November 2015 by Cambridge University Press. Her previous book, *Understanding Morphology*, Haspelmath and Sims (2010), also appeared in Czech and Korean translations in 2015. Andrea and Adam Ussishkin (University of Arizona) were awarded a National Science Foundation grant (\$29,088) to organize a two-day workshop entitled "Morphological Typology and Linguistic Cognition" at the Linguistic Society of America's 2017 Linguistic Summer Institute at the University of Kentucky. The workshop will feature a number of invited speakers and a poster session. The workshop organizing committee also includes Jeff Parker (SEELC) and Samantha Wray (University of Arizona). In September, Andrea Sims gave a plenary address, entitled "Inflectional systems and the dynamical organization of the lexicon", at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistic Society, in Toronto. Andrea has also started a blog for her research group, the Slavic Linguistics Lab (<http://u.osu.edu/slaviclinguisticslab/>).
- Dr. **Yana Hashamova** and her colleagues Dr. Vera Brunner-Sung (Theatre), Dr. Jeffrey Cohen (Anthropology), Dr. Theodora Dragostinova (History), and Dr. Robin Judd (History) received a Humanities and Arts Discovery Theme Grant from OSU. They will address the study of migration to investigate how local cultural factors and decision-making inform global dynamics. Their proposal integrates the insights of the humanities (history, literary and film/media studies) and arts (moving image production) with the social sciences (anthropology) to facilitate a conversation on how to advance the study of global mobility at the largest public institution in the United States. Yana also co-edited, with Dr. Theodora Dragostinova, *Beyond Mosque Church and State: Alternative Narratives of the Nation in the Balkans*, (CEU Press, 2016) and *Transgressive Women in Modern Russian and East European Cultures: From the Bad to the Blasphemous*, (Routledge, 2016) with Beth Holmgren and Mark Lipovetsky. In June 2016, Yana participated in a seminar at the Institute for the Individual & Society (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) and also presented a paper "New Bulgarian Women's Cinema: Breaking Gender Boundaries" at Beyond the Borders, 10th Joint Meeting of Bulgarian and North American Scholars in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Dr. **Angela Brintlinger** published a Milestones piece in the OSU on-line magazine ORIGINS, on the 150th anniversary of Crime and Punishment; "Crime and Punishment, 150 Years Later," for Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective (<https://origins.osu.edu/milestones>) (2016).



Anti-facist graffiti in Ljubljana (Photo by J. Suchland)

2016 Outreach and Engagement

- Dr. Michael Furman gave a lecture to 25 students at Lakeland Community College.
- Derek Peterson gave a lecture to 20 students at Howard University.

- 8 students from Columbus International High School visited our Russian 1101 course.
- Dr. Goscilo lectured 35 students at Walnut Hills High School.

Our 2015 Medieval Slavic Summer Institute hosted 16 graduate students from around the world!*

This Fall:

We launched a collaboration with the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and Columbus International High School to provide them with Russian language instruction!

WE SUPPORTED 12 VISITING SCHOLARS' RESEARCH/LECTURES*

Engelina Smirnova

Fr. Alexander Rentel

Jennifer B. Spock

Marta Pena Escudero

Tatiana I Afans'eva

Maria Ivanova

Daria Germanova-Safronova

Kristina Nikolovska

Kiril Marinov

Janek Wolski

Anna Kuzovenkova

*Sponsored by the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and the Hilandar Research Library

Photo Journal



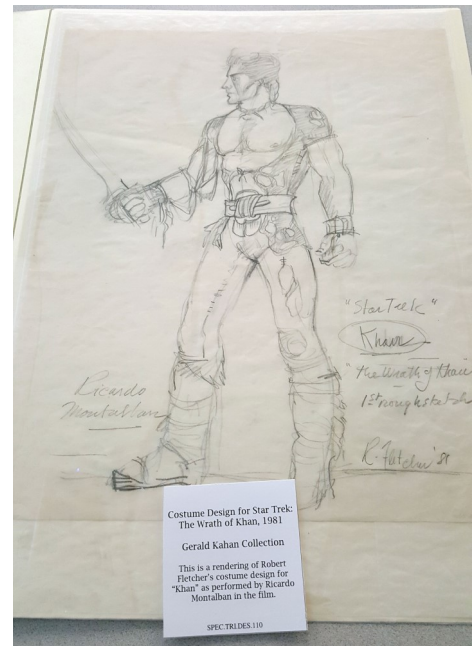
First day, Dr. Dan Collin's class: Slavic 2230: Vampires, Monstrosity, and Evil



Brutus Buckeye visits Derek Peterson (Academic Program Coordinator) for Campus Campaign 2016



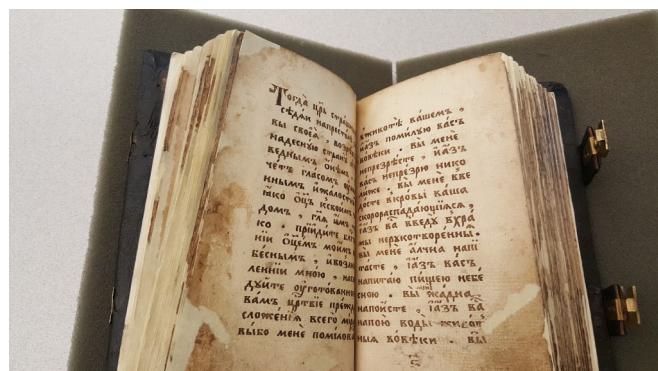
Dr. John Leafgren speaking at the 2016 Naylor Lecture.



A visual from the display for the 2016 k-12 workshop hosted by CSEES courtesy the Hilandar Research Library



Panels from Hagerty Gallery Exhibit: "The Many Faces of Vladimir Putin" by Dr. Helena Goscilo



A manuscript display for visiting scholars through the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies

Where Are They Now?

Spotlight: Ayesha Hamza

Alumna Ayesha Hamza graduated in 2015 with a dual degree in International Studies and Russian. She started graduate school at University of Denver Korbel School of International Studies in the fall of 2015. We had the chance to catch up with her and pick her brain a little bit about why she chose a Russian major and what she plans to do with it in the future.

What was most beneficial to your education and degree pursuit during your time in the Slavic department?

Perhaps most beneficial to me throughout my undergraduate career was the accessibility of classmates and professors. For example, in each of my Russian language courses, we all had a different level of language knowledge but we all helped each other, peer-tutored each other, and spread word of various language learning resources such as Trivia Crack in Russian, Wiktionary, and where to find Russian TV shows and movies. It was through a classmate that I first found out about the Foreign Service, a career path I plan on pursuing following my graduate studies.

What was the best part of your undergraduate college experience?

Perhaps my most memorable undergraduate experience was the Spring 2014 Kapustnik, held by the Slavic Department. My class made a parody of David Letterman's "Top Ten Reasons" by making our own absurd list of the top 5 reasons of why Crimea might be better off with Russia. It was fun, quirky, and entertaining, and was an excellent way to explore different perspectives of Russian culture.

After I graduated, I took the summer off to celebrate my achievements and also worked to save up for graduate school. At the end of the summer, I moved out to Denver, CO to attend graduate school at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies. I am pursuing a Master's degree in International Studies, specializing in International Security and Russian Regional Studies.

What are your future career goals and how do you plan to achieve them?

My long-term goal is to join the US Foreign Service as a Foreign Service Officer. Utilizing the Ohio State and Korbel School alumni networks will help me find opportunities both within the government and abroad, and I hope to use them to the best of my ability.

What advice do you have for someone just beginning their undergraduate education experience?

Be active and don't be afraid to speak up. Speak up in class even if you might be wrong, ask questions when important speakers come around and encourage healthy debate. You never know who's listening – something you say may very well land you a job you never thought you'd have the opportunity to have. Take the time to go to events, listen to speakers on topics that interest or don't interest you, and join a club. I went on two Buck-i-Serv trips that helped develop my leadership skills. You'll find at the end of your undergraduate career that networking is everything, so take every opportunity to do so.



Ayesha, giving a presentation at a university in Russia

2016-2017 Graduate Students



**Seogyoung Gu, Ekaterina Kibler, Randall Rowe,
Michael O'Brien, and Yuliya Buquoi**

"The most important thing that I've learned studying Slavic languages is to listen and let the data take you where it may, whether that be to topics previously never considered or to people you've never met.

- Michael Furman, Ph.D.

Contact Us

Questions? Comments?
Give us a call or email us!

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IN MEMORIAM: DR. CHARLES E. GRIBBLE

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the loss of our colleague and friend Charles Edward Gribble, Professor Emeritus of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, who passed away on June 3, 2016 after a long illness. Charles (Chuck) had a distinguished career of teaching, research, and service in the field, which spanned nearly 60 years, 35 of which he spent at The Ohio State University. He is survived by his wife, Lyubomira Parpulova Gribble, and his daughter, Elizabeth Gribble.



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