

Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures

Autumn/2015-2016



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Letter From the Chair



Recently, two friends of mine on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean shared their opinions about the state of Russia's politics and, more important, what will come after Putin. In her fascinating account titled *Putin's Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?*, Karen Dawisha, the Walter E. Havighurst Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science at Miami University, details the ascendance of Vladimir Putin as an unchallenged and highly popular President of the Russian Federation and the establishment of his circle of comrades composed of KGB officers and businessmen. After her delivery of the keynote address of the Midwest Slavic Conference at The Ohio State University this past

March, Karen was asked, "What will happen when Putin is gone?" She responded that Putin's kleptocratic system supported by his associates will endure the change, and power will remain in the hands of his friends. Also sharing his thoughts about the future of Russia without Putin was Ivan Krastev, chairman of the Center for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna and a contributing opinion writer at *The New York Times*. On August 13, 2015, he published "What the West Gets Wrong about Russia," a piece that became the 8th most shared text of *The New York Times* on social media that day. In it, he argues that Western scholars are misreading the current political regime in Russia. "The Kremlin is populated not by mere survivors of the post-Soviet transition but by survivalists, people who think in terms of worst-case scenarios, who believe that the next disaster is just around the corner, who thrive on crises, who are addicted to extraordinary situations and no-rules politics. That complex and unpredictable context, rather than the vagaries of Mr. Putin's mind alone, is the key to understanding contemporary Russian politics." The conclusion emerging from this unintentional dialogue between two scholars is that the diversity of opinions about Russia and the challenges Russia presents to the United States' foreign policy demand increased political attention and new quality education on Russian language, literature, culture, history and politics.

At the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, we are proud to say that we have taken several steps to strengthen our programs and improve their quality, from revising our curriculum and creating new courses, to providing a variety of professional opportunities for our students. As a result, our enrollment numbers are steadily growing (30% over the last three years), our faculty is expanding (one new assistant professor this fall), and our undergraduate and graduate students are becoming highly successful in their pursuits, receiving prestigious awards and finding employment in a wide range of fields. For more on our accomplishments both in and outside academia, please read the following pages.

With your contribution, we can achieve even more! Students can improve their language abilities through study abroad programs, they can expand their professional skills with unpaid internships, and we can create many more opportunities for their growth. I urge you to [give today](#) and support our students and programs!

With best wishes,
Yana Hashamova, Chair

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Welcome/ Добро пожаловать!

As we kick off our 2015-2016 school year we'd like to welcome new faculty and staff members, as well as our incoming graduate students.

Dr. Ines Garcia de la Puente is joining us as an assistant professor and translation studies expert. She previously worked as a research associate and instructor at University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, where she worked as a research associate and instructor. Her fields of research include Self-Translation (Spanish, Russian, English), Transculturality (pre-modern Russia-Ukraine, contemporary USA), Comparative Literature, and Communication Roads in Medieval Slavic Eastern Europe. She received her Ph.D. with Doctor Europaeus Mention in Slavic Philology and Indo-European Linguistics from Complutense University, Spain in 2006.

This autumn we welcome two new students to our graduate program: **Anastasiia Gordiienko** comes to us from Jagiellonian University in Krakow Poland, and **Katherine Lane** graduated with a B.A from Temple University.

We have also added two new staff Members to our Fiscal and HR Team: Manager **Katie Kotol**, and Fiscal Associate **Kyle Schechter**.

We are incredibly excited to have all of them join our Department!

Congratulations to our recent graduates!

Lauren Ressue, Ph.D. 2015 in Slavic Linguistics- Dissertation "Reciprocity in Russian: an Investigation of the Syntactic, Semantic and Pragmatic Interfaces" (Co-Advisors: Judith Tonhauser and Andrea Sims)

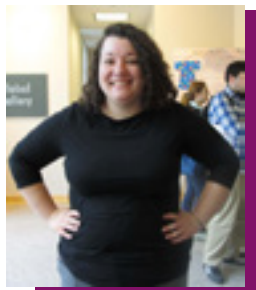
Helen Myers, Ph.D. 2015 in Slavic Literature, Culture and Film- Dissertation "A Semiotic Revaluation of Russian Prose Fiction in Modern Russian Film Adaptations" (Co-Advisors: Brian Joseph and Alexander Burry)

Alicia (Kate) White, Ph.D. 2015 in Slavic Linguistics- Dissertation "Second Language Vocabulary Acquisition in Context" (Advisor: Ludmila Isurin)

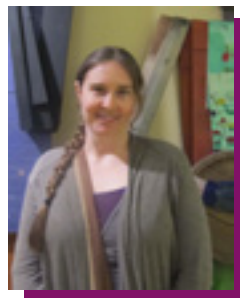
Justin (Dusty) Wilmes, Ph.D. 2015 in Slavic Literature, Culture and Film- Dissertaion "Projecting Social Concerns: Auteur Cinema in the Putin Era" (Advisor: Yana Hashamova)



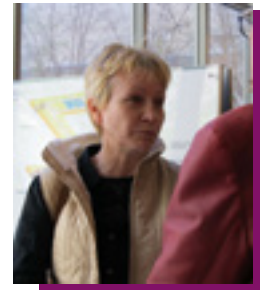
Dusty, Photo courtesy of OPIC



Kate, Photo by J. Jones



Lauren, Photo by M.A. Johnson



Helen, Photo by J. Jones

Midwest Slavic Conference

By Derek Peterson

The annual Midwest Slavic Conference, sponsored by the Midwest Slavic Association and the OSU Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES), was held March 13-15, 2015 at The Ohio State University in Columbus. The conference began on Friday evening with a keynote address



Karen Dawisha, George Kalbous and Yana Hashamova, Photo by CSEES

from Karen Dawisha, the Walter E. Havighurst Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio). Dr. Dawisha's talk focused on the corruption surrounding Russia's president Vladimir Putin, which is the subject of her recently published book *Putin's Kelpocracy: Who Owns Russia?*

The faculty and students of the OSU Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures were actively involved in the conference, with 11 faculty members and 10 graduate students taking



Karen Dawisha, Photo by CSEES

part in panels and roundtables over the course of the weekend. Conference participants were not limited to OSU, or even Ohio, as many traveled to Columbus from across the country and abroad! The conference consisted of two days of panels on a variety of topics including contemporary Russian politics, language ideology, and Dostoevksy. On Saturday, March 14th, participants were invited to an open house to view a selection of rare and unique Slavic and East European items from the Special Collections in Thompson Library. OSU's collection of East European and Slavic Studies materials totals over one million items! This extensive library collection is one of many reasons that The Ohio State University is one the premier institutions for Slavic Studies in the country.

The 2015 Midwest Slavic Conference was a tremendous success, as the CSEES staff once again put on a great event. Everyone is already looking forward to the 2016 conference!



Mila Nazyrova's class performance, Photo by D. Peterson

Kapustnik

By Derek Peterson

On April 16th, students from Russian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, and Polish classes gathered to perform and show off the various skills they gained in their language classes during the year while enjoying Slavic food (some prepared by our own faculty and students!). Highlights included Dr. Angela Brintlinger delivering a fantastic singing performance, Mila Nazyrova's 5102 class giving the classic "Kalinka" a Hawaiian twist, a wonderful duet by SEELC graduate student Katya Rouzina and Russian 1102

student Rowan Crowell, and the entire SEELC graduate student cohort performing their rendition of Chaif's "17 Years" (Чайф - 17 лет). The Spring Kapustnik was a resounding success and we look forward to more performances at the Fall Kapustnik!

Honoring Our Achievements

FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANT POSITIONS

Ryan Hedrick (B.A. Spring 2015) graduated with a Slavic Minor and has received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) position in Dimitrovgrad, Bulgaria.

Jared Palazza (B.S./B.A. Spring 2015) graduated with majors in Russian and Zoology and a minor in Microbiology, and has received a Fulbright ETA position at Siberian State Medical University in Tomsk, Russia.

In an interview, he states, "I have always been interested in science and I am particularly fascinated by biology, so I declared a major in zoology with an emphasis on genetics and evolution. In high school I discovered I had a knack for languages, so I started taking Japanese and Russian classes at a local college, in addition to taking Latin and French. I decided to pursue Russian as my second major because of my passion for the Russian language and the fact that the Slavic Department offered so many resources and opportunities to study Russian."

Daniel Petrick (B.A. Spring 2015) graduated with a Slavic Minor and has received a Fulbright ETA position in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He writes, "During the 2015-2016 academic year I will be posted at the University of Tuzla. I studied Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS) for three years at OSU and am excited to have the opportunity to use my language abilities in a practical setting and I hope to improve my BCS to some near-fluent level over the next year. Without guidance and advice from Slavic Department faculty and funding from the Center for Slavic and East European Studies' Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship and the Holbrook Research Abroad Fellowship, which funded language study and research in Croatia and Bosnia in summers '13 and '14, I never would have been able to put together a solid Fulbright application. I feel lucky to have this year to continue pursuing my interest in the Balkans."

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Fourth year graduate student **Katya Rouzina** received the George and Emily Severinghaus Beck Scholarship for her studies in Yiddish at the 2015 Vilnius Summer Institute. She was also awarded Miriam G. Schwartz Grant for her outstanding service to the Slavic Department. Katya consistently takes the lead in organizing events for students both within the department and the Jewish community.

Five undergraduate students were also awarded with Miriam G. Schwartz Awards for their outstanding academic performance:

Townshend Cooper, a junior, will use the award this autumn to support further his academic year studies in Russian and for study abroad in St. Petersburg.

Jon Harris (B.A. 2015), will use the award to help pay for materials related to his translation project and graduate school work. This fall he enters the Center for Slavic and East European Studies M.A. program.

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Caleb Hermann is a Russian and Music Theory major who strives for an interdisciplinary academic approach. He has taken Russian 1101, 1102, 3460 and 2250 and will study second year Russian at the Russian School at Middlebury College this summer.

Megan Kupka, a junior Russian major, has completed all Russian language courses through 5102 as well as a variety of literature and culture courses. She is the president of the Russian Club and will study abroad this summer; she is using her award for her studies this fall. **Robin Smith** will support her studies in Russia this academic school year. She has completed her Russian major and will continue to take courses in the department while writing a thesis on cultural diplomacy between the Soviet Union and Cuba.



DSEELC undergraduate awardees. Back row: Christian Brymer, Noah Nguyen, Jon Harris, Jared Palazza, and Tyler (Lukasz) Tomaszewski Front row: Megan Kupka, DeAnna Miller, Robin Smith. Photo by J. Jones

Melanie and Philippe Radley Awards provide merit-based scholarship support to outstanding undergraduate students who major in Russian. The following students received the Radley Award:

Noah Nguyen will use the award to supplement summer study in Nizhny Novgorod with the Critical Language Scholarship program. **DeAnna Miller**, a double major in Russian and Security and Intelligence, will support her thesis research on relations between Russia and Georgia.

The Francis M. Buzek Award was given to **Christian Brymer**, a Midshipman in the Naval ROTC program who is planning a trip to Kyrgyzstan in summer 2016. The Buzek award goes to an undergraduate majoring in Russian or Slavic Studies, with preference for ROTC cadets. The award was initiated by Associate Professor Emeritus George Kalbous in memory of one of his favorite students during his tenure in the Slavic Department at Ohio State.

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 his/her academic pursuits, thus honoring the memory of Kenneth Naylor, Professor of South Slavic languages and linguistics in the Department from 1966 until his untimely death in 1992.

This year's recipient of the Naylor Prize was **Daniel Petrick**, a Political Science major and Slavic Studies minor. In summer 2014 he conducted in-country research on the implementation of post-conflict educational policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

HIGH POINTS - Jobs

Dusty Wilmes (Ph.D. 2015) accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Russian Studies at East Carolina University.

Kate White (Ph.D. 2015) will be starting her new position as Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication at Rice University this fall.

Anastasia Smirnova (M.A. 2005) was hired as Assistant Professor of Linguistics at San Francisco State University.

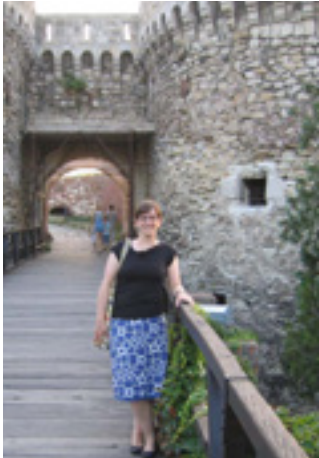
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Catching Up with Our Scholars

At the end of the summer Dr. **Yana Hashamova** stepped down as Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES), and Dr. **Joseph Brandesky**, Martha W. Farmer Endowed Professor in the Department of Theatre at Ohio State Lima, succeeded her in the position beginning September 1st. Dr. Hashamova's seven years of service at CSEES culminated in two successful Title VI grant applications that won \$4,072,720 in funding, the establishment of the Polish Studies and Slovene Research Initiatives and receiving the Center's first endowment from the Research Center of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts. We wish Dr. Brandesky success!

This past spring Dr. Hashamova and Dr. **Jennifer Suchland** received a two-year collaborative grant from the Slovenian International Integration Agency and the European Science Foundation for their project entitled "Gendered migrations and human trafficking: comparative study of the experiences in the USA and Slovenia".



Andrea Sims in Kalemegdan Park in Belgrade. Photo courtesy of A. Sims

Dr. Hashamova also published "Looking for the Balkan (Br)other: Representations of Bulgarians in Russian Film." *The Russian Review* 74 (April 2015): 211–29.

Dr. Suchland, was awarded an Arts & Humanities Larger Grant for her research project "Domesticating Trafficking: Re-signifying Violence in the United States." The project looks at local anti-trafficking strategies for how they open-up and foreclose opportunities for the recognition and redress of violence. She was also awarded a Coca Cola Critical Difference grant for the project "Intimate Democracy: Feminist Cultural Activism in the Context of Political Homophobia."

Dr. **Andrea Sims** published *O čem je morfologie* (Karolinum Press 2015), The book is a Czech translation of *Understanding Morphology* (Oxford University Press 2010) she co-authored with Martin Haspelmath. She also published an article, "Morphosyntactic agreement in Croatian: Thoughts on the space between 'errors' and 'conventionalized grammar'." *Balkanistica* 28: 519-546 and another with Ph.D. candidate Jeff Parker, "Lexical processing and affix ordering: Cross-linguistic predictions," *Morphology* 25(2): 143-182.

Dr. **Helena Goscilo** received the following grants: Polish Initiative Fellowship to research Polish Movie Magazines in Łódź, Poland; Resident Fellowship at Aleksanteri Institute in Helsinki, Finland, to work on her monograph, *Graphic Ideology: The Poster from Stalin to Yeltsin*; and a Resident Fellowship at the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies in Uppsala, Sweden, to work on *Graphic Ideology*. She also published several articles and books: "Complicity in the Illicit? Liube's Rock Band Bond with the Criminal Zona," *Punishment as Crime?* Eds. Julie Hansen and Andrei Rogatchevski. Uppsala: Uppsala Universitet, 2014:111-33; "The Affluent Global Provincial: American Reception of Polish Cinema" *Beyond the Border: Polish Cinema in a Transnational Context*, eds. Ewa Mazierska and Michael Goddard. New York: U of Rochester P, 2014. 56-76; *Fade from Red: The Cold War Ex-Enemy in Russian and American Film 1990-2005* (Washington DC: New Academic Publishing 2014) (co-written with Margaret B. Goscilo).

Dr. **Ludmila Isurin** published "Traces of memory for a lost childhood language: The savings paradigm expanded." *Language Learning Journal* (on-line version preceding the hard copy publication was published in August, 2015)

Dr. **Jessie Labov** was awarded the 2015 Helen Tatar First Book Subvention Prize by the *American Comparative Literature Association*

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Dan Pratt with his wife Kristy Ironside, standing on a balcony of Visegrad castle in Hungary. Photo courtesy of D. Pratt

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and published her article “Cold Days in the Cold War on the Hungarian–Serbian border” in *Studies in Eastern European Cinema* (Volume 6, Issue 2, 2015).

Dr. **Daniel Pratt**’s article “Narrative and Form: Gombrowicz and the Narrative Conception of Personal Identity” came out in *The Polish Review* Vol 60, no. 2 (pp. 7-20), and his article “Freddy Durkee and Ferdydurke: A Gombrowiczian Reading of Babbitt” will be appearing this year in *Comparative Literature Studies* (Vol 52., No.3 pp. 114-136).

DSEELC Community Impact



(Top row) Robin Smith, Nikita Segalchik, Arona Mostov, Alex Angle (Bottom Row) Michael Snider, Anthony Adame, Caroline DeSantis, Katya Rouzina, Eric Shtivelberg Photo by CSEES

Undergraduate Olympiada

On February 28th, ten Ohio State undergraduates made the early morning voyage from Ohio State to Kent State University for the 2015 Undergraduate Russian Olympiada. Fifty students from six universities in Ohio attended. The competition included an oral interview, a poem recital, and a presentation on a random topic. Students were divided into their respective levels of Russian language. In all but one category OSU students ranked in the top 3!

K-12 Russian Olympiada

High school students from Toledo and Cincinnati visited The Ohio State University on March 21st to compete in the annual K-12 Russian Olympiada hosted by DSEELC and CSEES.

Students were tested in three phases: poem recital, oral interview, and map comprehension. During the event, students had some fun eating pizza, Russian candy, and cookies while watching the Russian version of the TV show, *The Voice*.

Upcoming Events:

October

10/09/2015 - 1:45pm to 3:00pm- “The Polish Movie Magazine FILM: Soviet Oversight vs. Western Alliance” Featuring Dr. Helena Goscilo

10/24/2015 - 9:00am- 13th Graduate Colloquium on Slavic Linguistics Keynote: Dr. Johanna Nichols (UC Berkely)

10/30/2015- 5:00pm- Oulanoff Lecture, Keynote speaker: Dr. Jenny Kaminer (UC Davis)

November

11/23/2015 - 2:30pm to 4:00pm- “The Catholic Church in Post-Communist Poland: Polarization, Privatization, and Decline in Influence” featuring Dr. Sabrina Ramet (Norwegian University)

Check out our website for updated event locations and details! - slavic.osu.edu

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