

DOSLAL

Alumni Newsletter

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Fall 2002

REEI honors Slavic alumni

Professor **Howard Aronson** (emeritus, University of Chicago) and **William Hopkins** (former translator, U.S. Department of State) were presented with Distinguished Alumni Awards by the Russian and East European Institute on April 16 and June 24, respectively. The award recognizes exceptional contributions to the field of Russian and East European studies by graduates of Indiana University. Aronson and Hopkins are the fifth and sixth recipients of the award.

Aronson received a BA in French from the University of Illinois in 1956, before coming to IU to complete his MA (1958) and PhD (1961) in Slavic linguistics. He accepted a position at the University of



Howard Aronson

Wisconsin–Madison for one year before beginning his career at the University of Chicago. He has since published numerous books and articles, most recently *Georgian Language and Culture: A Continuing Course* (Slavica Publishers, 1999) with **Dodona Kiziria**. His other works have covered the Bulgarian, Yiddish, and Russian languages. Aronson was nominated for the award by **Henry Cooper**, **Bozena Shallcross**, and **George Fowler**.

Hopkins received a BA (1965), MA (1967), and PhD (1977) from the IU Department of Slavic

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Feldstein, Holdeman new appointees in Slavic department

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor **Ronald Feldstein** as department chair. Feldstein previously held this position during the 1980s and mid-1990s, and he resumes the position as the previous chair, Professor **Henry Cooper**, goes on a well-deserved sabbatical. In addition to his duties as chair, Feldstein will continue to teach courses on Slavic linguistics and Russian.



Ronald Feldstein

Jeffrey Holdeman joins the department as the new Slavic language coordinator this fall. Holdeman recently completed his PhD in Slavic linguistics at The Ohio State University with his dissertation, titled "Language Maintenance and Shift Among the Russian Old Believers of Erie, Pennsylvania."

As language coordinator, Holdeman oversees the language instructional program and the training of graduate assistants. He is also teaching two sections of first-year Russian in the fall. In coming semesters, he will be leading more specialized courses.

While at Ohio State, Holdeman worked



Jeffrey Holdeman

in the Office of Faculty and TA Development, organizing workshops and orientation programs for teachers, as well as teaching courses in both Russian and Czech language and culture. Additionally,

he has both taught in and supervised the Russian Individualized Instruction Program at Ohio State.

Holdeman has traveled extensively in both Russia and the Czech Republic, as well as in Poland, Romania, and Ukraine. These trips include a year in the International Student Exchange Program with the St. Petersburg Mining Institute and four summers at the Summer School for Slavonic Studies in Olomouc, Czech Republic, serving there for three years as resident director of a study abroad program for CIC students that he established.

In addition to his dissertation interests, Holdeman specializes in comparative Slavic linguistics, phonetics and sociolinguistics, and Russian and Czech pedagogy. He has also done course work in Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Slovak, and Old Church Slavonic.

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Russian interpreter shares insights at ceremony

The following speech was given by William Hopkins in June upon accepting a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Russian and East European Institute.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the Distinguished Alumni Award that is being presented to me today. I am deeply humbled by this honor, not because it validates what have been described as my “achievements,” but because of my profound respect for the significance of the Russian and East European Institute and the importance of what it represents. Given all the outstanding and accomplished students who have studied in the institute and in the various related departments at IU, it is an honor even to have one’s professional endeavors come to the attention of such an institution, let alone to be given such an award.

As a person who has not had a career in the academic world per se, I think it is particularly important for me to make a few comments about some other aspects of the fact that this award is being given to me — and at this time.

I pursued a career in the field of language support in the private sector and for the U.S. government, and, as an interpreter, I achieved a considerable amount of visibility and, thus, credibility in the field.

When I consulted with a colleague as to what sort of “hook” to take in accepting the award, it was jocularly suggested that I take an “ah, shucks,” “what, me, an Iowa farm kid that became a Russian interpreter for the U.S. president” approach.

As I thought about it, joking aside, that seemed to me perhaps to be rather an appropriate note to strike — because while I recognize and celebrate the multiregional and international makeup of IU and the student body, in some respects, an award like this in recognition of professional achievements in the area where knowledge of the Russian language was the central job requirement, celebrates the opportunities afforded by IU — even some 40 years ago — to Midwesterners like myself who had a particular interest in language and area study. IU was where we came. Today that opportunity is still offered to all who want to take advantage of it through the institute, the Slavic department, and the summer workshop.

And it isn’t the “ah, shucks” aspect that I want to focus on so much as the fact that, thanks to my academic experience here, surrounded by a distinguished faculty and teachers, presented with excellent course offerings, and given the opportunity to receive world-class Russian language



William Hopkins

training, a Midwestern, Irish-American kid was given the necessary foundation to pursue a career that required a broad and solid knowledge of all aspects of a complicated, complex foreign culture.

At this time, when questions of protecting our national security are so much in the forefront, and when the need for those with expertise in other cultures and languages is so apparent, there can be justified satisfaction here that IU and the REEI have so long appreciated that need and responded to it.

Indiana University, the Russian and East European Institute, and the Slavic department have always played an exceptionally important role in preparing specialists to work in all areas concerning the U.S.S.R. and the CIS. Throughout the years, I have met few successful professionals in government specializing in that area who have not spent at least some time at IU.

I have long been an advocate of area studies and foreign language acquisition, particularly in the context of developing national security resources, and I intend to continue to promote that cause in every way possible, especially through encouraging foreign language study. Clearly, many in our country are now coming to appreciate more profoundly some things this community has long understood.

In that connection, I think it is also important to recognize a group of people who were deeply involved with the university and who made a tremendous contribution to the success of individual students like myself and to our national efforts — by providing excellent language instruction and, through that, in helping to promote the national security.

I am talking about a group of Russian émigrés, who, as Russian language teachers, were affiliated with the Slavic department throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and in some instances into the 1980s.

Among others I am referring to: Borovkova, Anna Ivanovna; Chetverikova, Aleksandra Sergeevna; Martianov, Aleksandr Dmitrievich; Usenko, Vera Grigorievna; Sklanchenko, Tatiana Yakovlevna; Slavtinskaya, Lidia Prokofievna; Soudakoff, Stepan Petrovich; Zardetskaya, Elena Florianovna; and Fedulova, Margarita Petrovna. The workshop is honored today to be graced still with the presence of one individual who was a part of that group throughout that entire period here at IU — Galina Aleksandrovna McLaws, my first Russian teacher here in 1962.

Through the untiring efforts of those selfless, dedicated educators, generations of us who studied here at IU were afforded the best language education that was available in the United States. They gave us the most fundamental tool necessary to be competent in any work related to the U.S.S.R. or the CIS: a solid foundation in the language.

I would like to take advantage of your presence here today to put forth an idea that I hope will find support among you. I have already spoken to Professor Kolodziej about this, and the idea was enthusiastically received.

Wouldn’t it be a fitting idea to recognize the efforts of those individuals and immortalize them by installing a memorial plaque in an appropriate place here on campus? With the help of the REEI and the Slavic workshop, we could contact the legions of former IU students who learned Russian through the efforts of this singular group of dedicated people, and I am certain with their support such a project could be successfully implemented.

Thanks in large measure to the efforts of that group of Russian émigrés, that farm kid from Iowa whom I mentioned was given a foundation in the language that made it possible to build a professional life in an area of true personal interest, to gain advancement and recognition in that field, and, on the most practical level, to keep bread on the table for 30-some years. No forum could appreciate the importance of what those teachers gave us all more than those of you affiliated with the REEI, the workshop, and the university.

When the Russian and East European Institute decides to recognize me as an outstanding alumnus, I am honored, moved, and humbled. However, I can only say that I am willing to accept the award and the recognition it implies not on my own behalf, but on behalf of all those dedicated Russian émigré language teachers who gave so much of themselves to help their adopted country and American students like me in shaping a career. Thank you very much.

Faculty news

Ronald Feldstein published "On the Classification of Ukrainian Nominal Stress Paradigms" in *Indiana Slavic Studies* (festschrift for Charles Townsend). He was a co-editor, along with Laura Janda and **Steven Franks**, on the same collection. He also published "Roman Jakobson's East Slavic Zones as Presented in Remarques sur l'évolution phonologique du russe" in *Indiana Slavic Studies* (festschrift for Vadim Liapunov). Feldstein also has a forthcoming article called "The Unified Monophthongization Rule of Common Slavic" in the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*. In addition, Feldstein delivered a paper titled "A Russian Stress System Using Basic Forms and Shift to End-Stress" at Duke University's conference "Internationalizing the Curriculum" in April. He has been published online, submitting "A Binary Feature Approach to Russian Nominal Declension" to the online publication *Glossos*, which can be found at seelrc.org/glossos/issues/2/feldstein.pdf.

Steven Franks, together with **Ronald Feldstein**, submitted a book manuscript on Polish to the series Lincom Europe's *Languages of the World*. Franks and Feldstein (with Laura Janda) co-edited *Where One's Tongue Rules Well: A Festschrift for Charles E. Townsend* (Slavica Publishers 2002). An article by Franks is also included in this volume. Franks and co-author Željko Bošković published an article titled "Phonology-Syntax Interactions in South Slavic" in *Balkanistica* 15 (2002). Franks was a guest professor in the English department of Warsaw University in May and June 2002, under the auspices of the IU-Warsaw University exchange. During his time there, he taught a course on syntax and made a variety of presentations, including "What's *that?*" in May at the Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft in Berlin, Warsaw University, Poznań

University, and Wrocław University; and "NP-Internal Clitics in Slavic" in May at Potsdam University. He continues as chair of the IU Department of Linguistics and as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*.

Christina Illias received a Trustees' Teaching Award from the university. The award comes on the recommendation of her colleagues in the department.

Vadim Liapunov, associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, retired in 2000 after 24 years with IU.

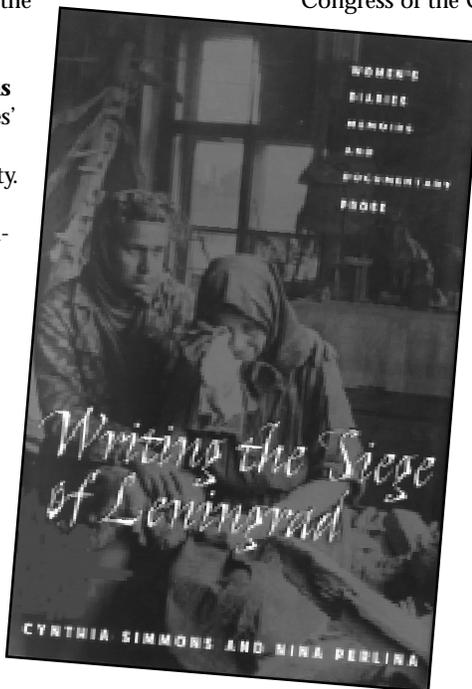
Nina Perlina published *Writing the Siege of Leningrad: Women's Diaries, Memoirs, and Documentary Prose* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2002) with co-author Cynthia Simmons of Boston College. Her book gives a voice to the women who survived the Siege of Leningrad between 1941 and 1944, as she draws from their own writing and stories. Perlina also published an article on Dostoevsky and Vico in the most recent issue of the *Slavic and East European Journal*.

Laurence Richter published *Mussorgsky's Complete Song Texts: Russian Texts of the Complete Songs of Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky with Phonetic Transcriptions, Literal and Idiomatic English Translations*

(Leyerle Publications, 2002).

Bronislava Volkova organized and chaired a panel titled "Czech Literature: 20th-Century Issues" at the 21st World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, held at the University of Western Bohemia in Plzeň, Czech Republic, in June 2002. She also presented a paper titled "Vanek and Palaverer: Two Sons of the Same Father, or Protagonist as a Semiotic Device" at the same panel. Volkova has been invited to read her poetry on a panel featuring the new bilingual anthology of Czech and Slovak exile poetry under the title *Chut' ztraceného domova* [*The Taste of a Lost Homeland*], just published by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. She has also been invited to publish her

poetry in *Vespers: Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary American Poetry* (forthcoming, University of Iowa Press, 2003) and in *Metamorphoses*, a journal on literary translation appearing at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



REEI honors alumni

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Languages and Literatures. After completing his studies, Hopkins took a position teaching Russian language and literature at Middlebury College. One year later, he became a diplomatic interpreter with the U.S. Department of State. In his time there, he served as a branch chief, as well as an interpreter for numerous governmental meetings and summits. He acted as an interpreter for the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission in 1996 and the Clinton-Yeltsin Summit in 1994. Most recently, Hopkins has been assisting in an FBI interpreter training workshop at the University of Delaware.

David Ransel of the Russian and East European Institute and **Jerzy Kolodziej** of the Slavic department nominated Hopkins for the Distinguished Alumni Award. Kolodziej presented the award in June at a ceremony in his honor (see page 2 for Hopkins's acceptance speech).

Slavica at IU

Slavica Publishers was acquired by Indiana University in August 1997 from its founder and longtime publisher, Charles E. Gribble (professor of Slavic linguistics at Ohio State University). In addition to

producing and distributing past publications, Slavica at IU has concentrated a special effort on attracting submissions on Slavic language textbooks, reference books, research monographs, and language pedagogy. Information on Slavica Publishers and its offerings can be found on its Web site, www.slavica.com.



Student notes

Milan Bohacek, a third-year graduate student of Slavic and general linguistics, is working with **Jennifer Sanders** on a project called "Characteristics of Sonorants in Slavic Languages," in which they analyze the phonetic and phonemic properties of sonorant consonants in Czech, Russian, and Serbo-Croatian.

Jennifer Day defended her dissertation "Memory as Space: The Created Petersburg of Vladimir Nabokov and Joseph Brodskij" in August 2001. Vadim Liapunov chaired her committee.

Nancy Eyl received a 2002-03 Fulbright award to study contemporary literature in Kyiv and Lviv.

Chris Howard was awarded a FLAS Summer Grant to study at the Szkoła Letnia Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego in Kraków, Poland, and was named a CIC Traveling Scholar to Ohio State University's Czech summer study abroad course in

Olomouc. He received a CIBER Grant from the IU Kelley School of Business and a Graduate Studies Grant from the Kosciuszko Foundation for the 2002-03 academic year. He also will be a representative of Polish at the Roundtable for Curricular Development of Less Commonly Taught Slavic and East European Languages at the AATSEEL National Conference in New York, Dec. 27-30.

Stu Mackenzie taught first-year Russian this past summer for SWSEEL. He is preparing for the admissions exams for Slavic languages and literatures.

Elena Monastireva-Andsell defended her dissertation "From Blooming Garden to Charred Forest: Images of the Revolution and the Civil War in Soviet Cinema and Prose" in October 2002. Dodona Kiziria chaired her committee. Monastireva-Andsell is currently a visiting lecturer at Oberlin College (Ohio).

Donald Reindl is conducting doctoral research in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and is teaching English language courses at the University of Ljubljana. He awaits the publication of his article "Markedness as a Criterion for Establishing German Influence in Slovene Compound Number Constituency" in *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung*, which he co-edited with J. Oresnik (forthcoming 2003). He presented "Borrowings from German into the Grammatical System of Slovene" at the conference Deutsch-slawischer Sprachkontakt, Entlehnungen und sprachliche Identität, sponsored by the Sorbisches Institut in Cottbus, Germany. His presentation will be included in a volume of the conference proceedings, to be edited by G. Spieß and G. Hentschel (forthcoming 2003). Reindl has been writing for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, contributing to the weekly *Balkan Report*, which can be

found at <http://rferl.org/balkan-report/>.

Jennifer Sanders, a PhD student in Slavic linguistics, traveled to the former Yugoslavia this past summer, spending time in Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia before ending her travels in Ohrid, Macedonia. There she attended the three-week seminar on the Macedonian language, literature, and culture. During the seminar she gave a paper titled "Poslednicite na sekvencata na sonornost vrz konsonanskite grupi po gubenjeto erovite" (The Effects of Sonority Sequencing on Consonant Clusters After Jer-fall), focusing on data from Russian, Czech, and Serbian/Croatian in comparison to Macedonian. The paper will appear in a collection of works from the conference, published by the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. To help defray travel expenses, Sanders was awarded a scholarship by the IU College of Arts and Sciences. Sanders, who currently teaches first-year Serbian/Croatian, attended a similar program for the Croatian language in Dubrovnik, Croatia, last summer. In December, she will present and discuss new materials available for the teaching of Serbian and Croatian as part of a roundtable on less commonly taught Slavic and East European languages at the AATSEEL National Conference in New York.

Saera Yoon attended a summer institute, "Slavic and East European Languages: Acquisition, Techniques, and Technologies," at the University of North Carolina and Duke University, July 8-17. She also was awarded an IU Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship and will be teaching Russian at DePauw University during the spring 2003 semester. She will present a paper titled "Gogol's Self-Canonization: Between the Two Taras Bul'bas" at the AATSEEL conference in December.

Slavic Languages & Literatures

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Alumni notebook



Before 1960

Victoria Moessner, BA'59, a professor of German and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, writes to say that she fondly remembers Felix Oinas, Tatiana Sklanchinko, and other professors. She has been working on an unpublished diary (1793–1815) of a Russian naval officer, Herman Ludwig von Loewenstern, which includes the first Russian voyage around the world. The diary is written in colloquial Baltic German with mixtures of Russian, Dutch, French, English, Italian, and Pidgin English. Moessner has completed a full English translation, which will soon be published, and has delivered many lectures on the diary since completing the translation.

1960s

Alexandra Baker, MA'63, retired in June 2000 after 33 years of teaching at Middlebury College in the Russian Department and the Russian Summer School. She lives in Middlebury, Vt.

Lt. Gen. **Thomas M. Montgomery**, BA'63, entered the U.S. Army from ROTC upon graduation and was assigned to Armor Branch (tanks and cavalry). Although intending to remain in the Army for only two or three years and then to move into the Foreign Service, his leadership abilities led him to extend his service. After a first tour in Vietnam, he decided to make the Army his career. Montgomery retired in December 1997 as a lieutenant general, after serving his last assignment as the U.S. military representative to NATO in Brussels, Belgium. Last year he led a team to Moscow to conduct a seminar for senior military and defense officials on "Military Education and Careers." He writes, "The Russians have a problem with accessions and training for

officers. They have no system similar to our ROTC program and can no longer afford so many military academies. They were very forthright and open about their problems and expressed their admiration of our system and the professionalism of our officer corps. ... By the way, I opened our seminar by reciting a poem by Lermantov from memory I learned so many years ago at IU."

Howard L. Simmons, MAT'65, writes, "I was recently appointed as professor and coordinator of the new PhD in higher education program in the School of Education and Urban Studies at Morgan State University. I continue also as professor emeritus of educational leadership and policy studies at Arizona State University." He lives in Baltimore.

Ronald W. Thornton, MA'67, PhD'79, has an article forthcoming in *Mother Tongue VII* (December 2002) on "Basque Correspondences to Greenberg's Grammatical Evidence for Euroasiatic." Through research on the Basque language, Thornton builds and expands on Joseph Greenberg's work on the Euroasiatic family (or macrofamily) hypothesis. Currently, he is teaching English in Japan.

1970s

Lynne Bauer Campbell, BA'73, has been employed with the Glastonbury (Conn.) School System for the past 28 years. As a teacher, she has taken advantage of many of the international programs offered by the district. Most recently, she attended a conference in Zvenigorod, Russia, titled, "Teaching Russian History and Culture Through the Internet."

Jerald J. Jordan, BA'73, is in his 30th year working for the

Department of Defense. He lives in Queenstown, Md., with his wife and 4-year-old son.

Robbie Clipper Sethi, BA'73, is chair of the Department of English at Rider University. After taking a double major in Slavic languages and literatures (Russian) and English at IU, she received a PhD in comparative literature from UC-Berkeley. She published part of her dissertation about the influence of drama on the development of the novel in France, England, and Russia in Russian literature, and then switched fields. Sethi joined Rider as their creative writer, and since has published short stories, poems, essays, and a novel, *The Bride Wore Red*, with another forthcoming, *Fifty-Fifty* (Silicon Press, November 2002). She also has taught Russian literature at Rider, crossing departments to do so. She received a distinguished teaching award from Rider University in May 2002. She lives in Skillman, N.J.

Janet Tucker, PhD'73, was promoted to professor of Russian at the University of Arkansas. She authored three recent essays: "Plot Rhyme in Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*" in *New Zealand Slavonic Studies*, "Skaz and Oral Usage as Satirical Devices in Isaac Babel's *Red Cavalry*" in *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, and "The Religious Significance of Clothing in Dostoevsky's *Crime*

and Punishment" in *Slavic and East European Journal*. Tucker also acted as editor for *Against the Grain: Parody, Satire, and Intertextuality in Russian Literature*, currently in press with Slavica Publishers.

John Bickle, BA'74, entered the Conventual Franciscan Order and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1984. While at St. Francis Hospital in Trenton in the 1980s, he was called upon several times to act as translator for several Russian-speaking patients from a nearby village. After completing a master's degree in health administration at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia, Bickle assumed the position of director of spiritual care at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan in 1996. He left the order in 2000 and is now living in Philadelphia, where he works as a specialist in the Employee Assistance Program for an insurance company.

Leon Petelle, BA'74, attended the MBA program at the University of Chicago after graduating from IU. He worked for two years for Price Waterhouse in their audit practice in New York, then joined the Bristol-Myers Co. After numerous domestic and international business positions in the United States and Canada, Petelle found his way into Bristol-Myers's nascent Central and Eastern Europe division, where he has worked for three and a half years as the region's finance director. Petelle is now director of international treasury for the company.

Allan Grafman, BA'75, is president of All Media Ventures based in New York City.

Frank J. Miller, PhD'76, is a
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Alumni news

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professor of Slavic languages at Columbia University. He has published numerous Russian textbooks and reference books and received the AATSEEL Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Postsecondary Level in 1996.

Lennell R. Nussbaum, BA'77, was selected to receive the 2000 William O. Douglas Award presented by the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. It is given in recognition of extraordinary courage and commitment in the practice of criminal law. She lives and practices in Seattle, Wash.

Mark von Hagen, MA'78, is finishing his sabbatical leave after six years as director of the Harriman Institute. He is writing a book titled *Between Empire and Union: The Origins of Modern Ukraine and Total War, 1914-1923*, and was elected president of the International Association of Ukrainianists in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. He will be participat-

ing in a round table on the transformation of area studies at the November meeting of AAASS in Pittsburgh. He is also serving as vice chair of the Columbia University history department this year.

Steinar E. Kottum, PhD'79, is an associate professor of Russian at the Norwegian Defence Intelligence and Security School, where he trains language specialists for the Armed Forces. In 1992, Kottum joined a team of Russian and Norwegian linguists who started work on a comprehensive Norwegian-Russian dictionary (forthcoming Kunnskapsforlaget, Oslo, 2003). Kottum has been in charge of selecting, editing, and proof-reading Norwegian entries in the dictionary, as well as checking the accuracy of the Russian translations.

1980s

James H. Cox, MA'81, currently is serving as the chief U.S. arms control delegate to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He represents the United States in

negotiations on the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, and in the OSCE's Forum for Security Cooperation. Prior to that, Cox served as a U.S. foreign area officer in the U.S. Army.

Edna Andrews, PhD'84, is director of the Slavic and East European Language Resource Center at the University of North Carolina and Duke University. She also is chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at Duke University.

Lynn A. Berry, MA'84, became the editor of the *Moscow Times* in January 2001. Prior to that she was a top editor at the paper and had worked closely with the previous editor. After IU, she did graduate studies in Warsaw from 1984 to 1986 and later wrote a biography of Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski after interviewing him in 1988.

Sibelan E. Forrester, MA'85, PhD'90, is associate professor of Russian and head of the Russian section in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Swarthmore College. Her

current research interests include completing a monograph on body, language, and gender in the works of Marina Tsvetaeva, investigating fortunetelling and folk healing in northwest Russia, and translating short prose by Serbian writer Isidora Sekulić. She lives in Swarthmore, Pa.

Robert E. Flynn, MA'86, was named associate director of information systems technology for the Systems and Accounting Graduate Programs office at the IU Kelley School of Business in September 2000. He worked as an education specialist, Cisco networking instructor, and NETg coordinator for IU's University Information Technology Services Education Program (now IT Training) the two years before his current position. He and his wife, Yvonne Wittmann, BA'89, MA'91, live in Bloomington. They have two children, Mara, 4, and Tess, 1. He also takes care of the Slavic department's Web site, among others, and serves on the board at Bloomington Montessori School.

Peter Holquist, BA'86, has been teaching Russian and Soviet history at Cornell University since 1996 and was promoted this past summer from assistant to associate professor. His book on Russia in the period of the First World War, Revolution, and Civil War, called *Making War: Forging Revolution: Russia's Continuum of Crisis, 1914-1921*, will be published by Harvard University Press in November. Holquist has begun a new project on international law in late imperial Russia. He is also co-founder and co-editor of *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, now in its third year.

1990s

Michael H. Oppenheim, BA'91, graduated from the Defense Language Institute (Mandarin Chinese) and from the Naval Postgraduate School (MA in national security affairs, with an emphasis in China area studies) in June 2000. He

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Homage to JMU professor Elizabeth J. Neatrour

The student ambassador who had led my campus tour at James Madison University on a blustery day in January spoke enthusiastically about her Russian classes, reigniting the interest I already had in the culture. When I enrolled in first-year Russian as a freshman at JMU, I had only planned to use the language to meet the requirement for my BA.



Elizabeth J. Neatrour

Then I met Betty Neatrour. She is the reason for my fascination with Russian language and culture.

I remember a woman whose eyes blazed with vitality when she entered the classroom, drawing us in with Russian greetings that we would soon be able to say ourselves. Throughout the semester, she would occasionally perch on the back of a desk, lowering her voice to tell us stories about Anna Akhmatova, the purges, and *Rekviem* on one day, about voting for Gorbachev on another. Like so many other students who preceded and followed me, I listened intently, and I joined the program because I wanted to learn more.

So many students blossomed under her care. Through Neatrour's efforts, we were

given opportunities to work with visiting professors from across the Soviet Union, and we had the chance to meet college students like us who came to JMU from the Herzen Institute. Through this type of contact our lessons came alive.

Neatrour's impact on my life certainly has been great. She gave me the opportunity to teach Russian language and literature with an amazing team of teachers and staff in the Governor's Russian Studies Academy, which she initiated in Virginia. She encouraged me to work in Moscow, and it was she who suggested to me that graduate studies in comparative literature would be a good fit for my academic background.

Neatrour leaves a legacy at

Editor's note — *We were saddened to learn of the passing of IU alumna Elizabeth (Betty Jo) Baylor Neatrour, 67, professor of Russian at James Madison University. Neatrour received a PhD from the IU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1973. She died Monday, Jan. 7, 2002, at her home in Harrisonburg, Va.*

Neatrour leaves behind a legacy of almost four decades of academic excellence and dedication to promoting the richness of Russian culture. Her tireless work in promoting high standards of teaching, scholarship, and leadership here and in Russia was recognized in April 1998, with the award of the prestigious Pushkin Medal by ACTR.

The ACTR award cited her efforts to cultivate "goodwill in American-Russian relations through academic study and collaboration" and was given further weight by the Russian government's hosting of a reception in her honor at its newly opened embassy in Washington, D.C. Her organizational leadership was evidenced by the many presidencies to which she was elected, including the JMU Women's Club, ACTR, the Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Virginia (IOTA State), the JMU Faculty Women's Caucus, and the Foreign Language Association of Virginia.

Neatrour is survived by her husband, Charles, JMU professor emeritus in mathematics education; their son, Peyton, an ophthalmologist in Virginia Beach; his wife, Leslie; and their three children, Kristin, Kaitlin, and Gregory. She also is survived by her mother, Amalia.

Charles Neatrour recently endowed a Neatrour-Edgerton Fellowship in the department to honor the memory of his wife and, at her request, to honor her mentor at IU, William B. Edgerton.

JMU, but more important, she leaves a family of former students whom she supported and encouraged with warmth and enthusiasm long after we had left her classroom. She gave us the Russian language skills

that many of us still use, and she also taught us how to live with integrity.

— Lara Gose
PhD student,
comparative literature

Alumni news

(continued from page 6)

attended the Capital Normal University in Beijing, China, from September 2000 to June 2001. His e-mail address is m_h_oppenheim@yahoo.com.

Kendra Cartwright, BA'92, worked for four years in Russia after leaving Indiana. She then went on to receive a master's in Russian language and literature at Florida State University, before beginning a PhD at Ohio State University. Cartwright left Ohio to pursue an international MBA at

Thunderbird in Arizona. She then spent a year working with a small recruiting company in London, headhunting for Western and Russian firms located in Russia. She has since left to join the training and development department at Barclays Capital in London. She lives in London and regularly meets with the IU alumni club of London.

Kasia Jarski Firlej, BA'92, spent two and a half years in Russia teaching English before moving into the business sector. Upon returning to the United States, Firlej worked in sales for

a Chicago-based company. She then went on to receive an MBA. She now is teaching marketing, international marketing, and international business and is doing research on comparative macroeconomic factors between the top contenders aspiring to become part of the European Union.

Deborah Zaccaro Hoffman, BA'93, AC REE'93, of Cleveland writes, "My husband and I recently hosted two women small-business owners from Russia who were here studying economic development as part of the

Russian Leadership Program sponsored by the Library of Congress. I plan to change my current career concentration to something more international as soon as possible. I would love to hear from any fellow alumni at dzaccaro@hotmail.com." She graduated from law school in 1999 and is currently working in insurance.

Andrew M. Drozd, PhD'95, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is on sabbatical from the University of Alabama and living in Brno, Czech Republic. He is doing research for a book on Czech-

(continued on back cover)

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Alumni news

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Russian literary interrelations.

Amy Steiger, BA'95, studied law at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, where she received her JD in 1999. She is now an assistant prosecuting attorney for Morrow County, Ohio. Although not using Russian on an everyday basis, she has found it useful in her cases involving Russian clients.

Sue Brown, PhD'96, was awarded the Best Book in Linguistics from the AATSEEL 2001 Association and Book Award for her monograph, *The Syntax of Negation in Russian* (Stanford, Calif., Center for the Study of Language and Information, 1999). Her book is a discussion of negation and related issues in Russian. In presenting its award to Brown, AATSEEL noted that the book's "clear introduction to minimalism, its thorough survey of other approaches, and its analytical strength has led to a renewed interest in the genitive of negation in Russian and in other Slavic languages."

Charles Byrd, PhD'96, teaches in the Germanic and Slavic languages department at the University of Georgia.

Stephen Dickey, PhD'97, received an Individual Advanced Research Opportunity grant from IREX in support of his research project "The Evolution of Slavic Aspect."

2000s

Jennifer Day, PhD'01, accepted a yearlong position at Hamilton College, New York, after spending a year at the College of Wooster, Ohio, as an assistant professor of Russian studies.

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