

# DOSLAL

## Alumni Newsletter

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Summer 2011

### *From the department chair*

## Reinvigorated, department sees much growth

During the past year the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures has continued to evolve to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The retirements of dear friends Henry Cooper and Ronald Feldstein (see page 5) will be somewhat mitigated in the fall by the arrivals of Jacob Emery, a versatile young literary scholar, and Craig Cravens, a leading figure in the teaching of Czech language and culture (see page 3). Emery's tenure-track position is shared with the Department of Comparative Literature, a very welcome arrangement, while Cravens is hired as a visiting senior lecturer in the hope of eventual conversion, given our longstanding reputation in Czech. Moreover, two visiting lines, those of Lecturer Ariann Stern-Gottschalk and Assistant Professor Sara Stefani, have been converted to regular positions. We also welcome Chopin specialist and Jacobs School of Music Associate Professor Halina Goldberg as an adjunct in our department.

Nurturing strong connections with other units is extremely valuable, and can only help Slavic to prosper and flourish. It is my expectation that future joint hires may be the norm, rather than the exception. Previous to Emery's, mine — with the Department of Linguistics — was the only such position (and I came to IU in 1987!). Our health, in my view, rests on our interdisciplinarity and versatility, and I can anticipate possible positions shared not just with the departments of Comparative Literature and Linguistics, but with departments such as Folklore, Anthropology, Religious Studies, and Communication and Culture, to name but a few. And while at the moment this issue of DOSLAL goes to press no hiring authorizations have been announced, over the next few years I expect a steady stream of new hires in Slavic, beginning in the fall with a much-needed search for a senior faculty member.



*Students, friends,  
and faculty at  
the Spring Tea*

Both our undergraduate and graduate programs are experiencing growth not seen since the days of the Cold War. We have among others Jeff Holdeman and Justyna Beinek to thank for their leadership in these areas. You can read about our student achievements and activities in the relevant columns. I also want to congratulate Miriam Shrager on receiving the IU Trustees Teaching Award. This award, intended by the Board of Trustees to recognize extraordinary classroom teaching, is highly competitive for lecturers and clinical faculty, of which only five nominees are selected. Also noteworthy is the increased student interest in Polish and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. For this we have especially to thank our dedicated (but visiting, alas) teachers, Iwona Dembowska-Wosik and Jagoda Malbaša, respectively. Indeed, although Jagoda is returning in the fall, we sadly bid Iwona farewell. She will be replaced by Barbara Morcinek (see page 3), from Uniwersytet Śląski in Katowice.

In these pages you will read of the many activities sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures over the past year. These include not only regular events such as language tables, talent shows, and the Spring Tea, but also various

language film series, a spring *Maslenitsa* celebration, and a Ukrainian Easter egg (*pysanky*) workshop run by adjunct **Monika Kindraka-Jensen** (who teaches U223 Ukrainian Culture). This spring's Slavic and East European Career Night featured IU alumnus **Paul Richardson**, publisher of *Russian Life* magazine. There were also numerous lectures by faculty and visitors, with titles as diverse as "Acquisition of Contrastive Focus in English and Russian" (Lydia Grebenyova, Baylor University); "Mapping the Polish Diaspora: Kultura and the Geography of Literary Life during the Cold War?" (Jessie Labov, Ohio State University); "A Holocaust Object and the Story of Its Production" (Bożena Shallcross, University of Chicago); and "Back in the USSR — the Story of Rock in Russia" (Artemii Troitskii, Russian rock critic), not to mention a host of job (and other) talks on various aspects of Russian literature. We also began a series of talks in Russian, by faculty, emeriti, and visitors. (To listen to a meeting with Troitskii held during his visit to campus and conducted entirely in Russian, visit [www.iu.edu/~celtie/Lessons/Russian/troitskiy/troitskiy.html](http://www.iu.edu/~celtie/Lessons/Russian/troitskiy/troitskiy.html).)

Overall, the future is looking much more

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# Environmental field experience ... in Siberia

by Elizabeth Trammell & Olena Chernishenko

*This past summer, a group of IUB students took six-week courses in Russian language and environmental science as preparation for their study-abroad trip to southwest Siberia. Two faculty members, Olena Chernishenko (Slavic) and Vicky Meretsky (SPEA), led the group of students on their trip to Russia for the first summer exchange of the U.S.–Russia Global Environmental Issues/Language Learning Course Study Program. This a partnership between Indiana University and two universities in Tyumen', Russia (Tyumen' State Agricultural Academy and Tyumen' State University).*

On Aug. 3, we arrived in a smog-filled Moscow — a fitting backdrop to the beginning of our environmental journey. The thick cloud of smog in Domodedovo demonstrated the urgency of environmental threats in Russia. From the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to Russia's forest fires, summer 2010 has shown the necessity of collaboration between the United States and Russia to find solutions for our shared environmental problems. The goals and mission of our new partnership could not have been more fitting.

We left the Moscow smoke for Tyumen', our home base for the next two weeks. Our hosts in Tyumen' welcomed us into their university laboratories, sharing their research on diverse environmental issues — from monitoring oil spills with satellite imagery to conducting large-scale

experiments on the growth of various food crops. We traveled near and far, from a limnological biostation on nearby Lake Kuchak to an oil- and gas-extraction site near Khanty-Mansiysk (an oil boom town over 400 miles to the north). Donning hunter-green rubber boots and encephalitis suits, we hiked through forests, floodplains, and bogs. Our guides, Russian professors in Tyumen', tamed the Siberian wild by sharing their knowledge of the ecosystem, biodiversity, and local environmental challenges. We learned that Americans are not

the only ones with up-to-date technological equipment, and we also discovered that, despite these technological advances, environmental problems persist.

In addition to learning about the environment, we were also exposed to Russian and indigenous cultures of southwestern Siberia. We visited an ethnographical museum to learn about the history of the Khanty and Mansi, the two main indigenous groups in Tyumen' Oblast. Along our northern route to Khanty-Mansiysk

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*Tyumen' study-abroad program participants at forestry site in southwest Siberia. From back left: Thea Roy, Danielle Henckel, Polina Kostylev, Katherine Pruess, Olena Chernishenko (program director, SLAV), Sarah Wilensky, Elizabeth Trammell, Crystal Chadwick, Vicky Meretsky (associate professor, SPEA), and Marat Salavatulin (state forest ranger).*

## From the chair

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promising for the department today than it did one year ago. We have to thank for this reinvigoration the very strong support of the College of Arts and Sciences and university administration, and especially that of interim Dean David Zaret. The College recognizes and supports our need for reorganization, and I have every reason to believe this will continue under the new dean, Larry Singell, who assumes his duties on July 1, 2011.

In closing, however, I want to emphasize our continued need for funding. While we have been successful in obtaining grants — with notable successes by SWSEEL director Ariann Stern-Gottschalk in securing major funding from the Institute of International Education and from the U.S. Department of State's Title VIII program and by REEI director Maria Bucur in being awarded record Title VI funding — now more than

ever the department needs your help not only to implement new initiatives but also to carry out regular activities. (To mention just one small example, in the past layout for issues of DOSLAL, including this one, has been prepared by IU Alumni Association staff, but in the future this will need to be funded through alumni donations.) There are various funds to which you might direct your contributions. In addition to the Slavica Fund and the Neatroun-Edgerton Fellowship, the department maintains a general Slavic Studies Fund and a Slavic Linguistics Enrichment Fund. We are also in the process of creating a SWSEEL fund, for all you SWSEEL alumni out there, as well as a SWSEEL alumni group, so if you want your donation to support SWSEEL please just let us know. All these funds are maintained by the IU Foundation and contributions are fully tax-deductible; for Indiana residents this amount can even be doubled on state returns. They are used for a wide variety of activities, such as sup-

porting departmental social events, alumni events, student and faculty recruitment, and special research projects. If you would like to contribute to any of these funds, please contact Shelley Scott at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Indiana University, Ballantine Hall 502, 1020 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405-7103; phone (812) 855-9906; or e-mail [sscott@indiana.edu](mailto:sscott@indiana.edu). Checks should be made payable to the Indiana University Foundation. If you would like information about how your contribution can be used to support specific ventures, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [franks@indiana.edu](mailto:franks@indiana.edu).

I hope that you — our valued alumni and students, donors, and friends — will stay in touch and let us know about whatever has been going on in your lives. I invite you to contact me with your news, be it personal or professional, as well as to visit the department whenever you happen to be in Bloomington. I wish you all the best.

— Steven Franks

## ‘Making War, Making Peace’

### Online discussion group open to public this fall

During the fall 2011 semester, **Sara Stefani** will be conducting an online discussion group of Tolstoy’s great novel *War and Peace*. The discussion group is a co-curricular event that is part of IU’s Themester series. This fall’s Themester topic is “Making War, Making Peace” — made to order for Tolstoy’s book! The discussion group is co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the REEL. It is open to alumni, members of the Bloomington community, and anyone interested in great literature. So, if you didn’t have a chance to read *War and Peace* while at IU, or if you haven’t read it in a while, or if you just feel like reading it again and discussing it with others, consider participating in the group. It is free and open to everyone. Discussions will start in September; more information will be posted throughout the summer at the group’s website: [www.indiana.edu/~warpeace/](http://www.indiana.edu/~warpeace/).

## Two receive Neatrour-Edgerton Award

The Neatrour-Edgerton Fellowship Endowment was established in 2003 thanks to the generosity of Charles Neatrour, EdD’68. His intent was to create a scholarship for graduate students concentrating in Russian, in honor both of his late wife Elizabeth (“Betty Joy”) Neatrour and our late colleague, teacher, and friend Bill Edgerton. These funds were enough, however, that in 2005 the department began making annual awards to our best graduate students. In 2011, due to Neatrour’s continued generosity, we were in the fortunate position of being able to make an award to excellent students in both literature

and linguistics: **Magdalena Mullek** and **Melissa Witcombe**. Both entered our program in 2007. Mullek is concentrating in Slavic literatures and translation, while Witcombe is concentrating in Slavic linguistics and pursuing a joint degree with general linguistics. We congratulate them both and thank Neatrour for his support of Slavic scholarship.



Steven Franks, Magdalena Mullek, and Melissa Witcombe

## IU to host FASL meeting in 2012

May 9–12, 2012, the department will be hosting the 21st annual meeting of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics. FASL is the foremost annual meeting of Slavists and linguists working within formal models of language description and analysis, and this is the third time that FASL will meet in Indiana (the two previous IU-sponsored meetings were in 1996 and 2000). **Steven Franks**, who has been closely involved with FASL since its inception, will be organizing the 2012 meeting and can be contacted for specifics as they become available. In addition to invited lectures by *Željko Bošković* (University of Connecticut) and *Tania Ionin* (University of Illinois), this meeting will include special workshops on computational applications in Slavic linguistics.

## Welcome

### New faculty

**Jacob Emery** (PhD, Harvard University, 2006) was born in Moscow—the small town in northern Idaho, not the large city in Russia — and comes to Indiana by way of the University of Iowa and Harvard University, where he has lectured in the comparative literature department since receiving his PhD in Slavic. Emery’s dissertation, “Stock Exchanges: Heredity, Identity, and Metaphor in Modernist Slavic Literature,” treats the role of kinship metaphor in Russian and South Slavic fiction; he has published articles on topics ranging from the Scandinavian theme in Konstantin Batiushkov to the postmodern novels of Thomas Pynchon, from the language of exile in Nabokov and Ugresić to milk kinship in the Soviet 1920s. Emery is broadly interested in rhetoric and figure; science fiction and the fantastic; critical theory and materialist aesthetics; metafiction and questions of genre; and he is eager to discover new fields of inquiry at Indiana.



Emery

**Craig Cravens** (PhD, Princeton University, 1998) taught Czech language and culture at the University of Texas at Austin before coming to Indiana. His



Cravens

interests are the Czech literary and musical underground during Communism and Russian and Czech literary relations. In the fall, in addition to Czech language, Cravens will be teaching an introductory course on Czech culture, C223 Robots and Beer Pubs: Czech Culture from 863 to 1989.

**Barbara Morcinek** (PhD, University of Silesia, 2005) comes to us from the School of Polish Language and Culture in the University of Silesia, where she has been teaching since 2000. She also

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## Faculty notes

**Justyna Beinek** published two articles in 2010: “Making Literature in Albums: Authorship in Pushkin’s Day” in *Toronto Slavic Quarterly* and “Inscribing, Engraving, Cutting: The Polish Romantic Album as Palimpsest” in *The Effect of Palimpsest*. She received a Senior Fellowship grant from Harvard University’s Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies for her second book project, “Catch Up and Get Ahead: The Idea of ‘The West’ in Russian and Polish Cultures,” for 2011–12. Beinek also delivered lectures at the Warsaw East European Conference; the Third International Conference in Polish Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES, formerly AAASS) in Los Angeles. A volume of essays, co-edited by Beinek with Piotr Kosicki (Princeton University), titled *Re-mapping Polish-German Historical Memory: Physical, Political, and Literary Spaces since World War II*, will be published this fall in the Indiana Slavic Studies series.

**Olena Chernishenko** designed and taught several new courses, including Ukrainian Through Russian, and two Russian language courses focused on environmental issues. She has also been working with **Markus Dickinson** (Department of Linguistics) in designing new online interactive language exercises to be integrated into language course curricula. She organized and led a new IU student summer study-abroad program in southwest Siberia, Russia, as part of her work on a three-year partnership grant with Tyumen’ State University and Tyumen’ State Agricultural Academy, funded by the U.S. Department of Education (see article, page 2).

**Ronald Feldstein** published “On Mobile Vowel Stress in Russian, as Influenced by Stem-final Consonants” in *Baltische und slavische Prosodie*; a review of Zaliznjak’s *Drevnerusskie enklitiki* in *Acta Slavica Iaponica*; and “Nominal Prosodic Paradigms and Their Synchronic Reflexes in West Slavic” in *Studies in Slavic and General Linguistics*. In addition, Feldstein was named to the executive committee of the newly funded Language Resource Center at Duke.

**George Fowler**’s paper “Latinizacija rossijskoj reklamy, ili isključitel’naja populjarnost’ anglijskogo jazyka” [The Latinization of Russian Advertising, or the Exceptional Popularity of English], co-authored by Liudmila Amiti of Southern Federal

University, Rostov-on-Don, will appear in *Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress of Russian Language Researchers*. Fowler has been supervising undergraduate student **David Scofield**, who received a \$750 grant from the Hutton Honors College to conduct research into Russian advertising, and Scofield plans to continue the research while in St. Petersburg this fall. Finally, Fowler continues to direct *Slavica Publishers*.

**Steven Franks** presented: “Spell-Out as Interface Optimization” for the IU Linguistics Club in February; “Individuation, Orphans, and Case” at the 17th Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Culture Conference in Columbus, Ohio, in April; “Against Copies: An Autosegmental Call-by-Reference Syntax” (with linguistics graduate student **Josh Herring**) at the SyntaxFest Workshop in June; “Copy Puzzles: Clitics vs. Intermediate WH and Heads vs. Phrases” at the fifth meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society in Chicago in October; and (also with Herring) “Against Copies: A Computational Model of Chain Formation and Spell-Out” at the Linguistic Society of America in Pittsburgh. Franks edited the online journal *Glossos 10* (summer 2010: “Contemporary Issues in Slavic Linguistics”). The issue includes his paper “Clitics in Slavic” (see [www.seelrc.org/glossos/issues/10/](http://www.seelrc.org/glossos/issues/10/)); he also published a book review in *Slavic and East European Journal* 54.3. Franks organized SyntaxFest 2010 in June and continues to serve as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*.

**Jeff Holdeman** spent two summer months conducting fieldwork on Russian Old Believers in Poland, Lithuania, and (for the first time) Latvia. While there, he gave a paper titled “Amerikanskije staroobradčeskie sviazi s Latviej” [American Old Believer Connections with Latvia] at a conference held in Daugavpils celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Old Belief in Latvia. Holdeman was the invited guest speaker at the 100th anniversary of the Russian Old Believer congregation in Marianna, Pa., and, in October, he read a joint paper on forging partnerships in college residential living-learning centers at the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International conference in Charlotte, N.C. In January 2011, Holdeman gave a paper titled “The Fate of a Unique Russian Dialect in Western Pennsylvania” at the Linguistic Society of America annual meeting in Pittsburgh.

**Christina Illias**, along with co-authors Adam Sorkin and Liviu Bleoca, published a translation of the poetry of Marta Petreu titled *The Book of Anger*. Another of her books, *Two Outstanding Romanian Educators in the First Half of the 20th Century: Neculai and Elisa Bancea, a Case Study* (in Romanian), will also be published this year with Maria Bancea-Ilioiaia. Illias was guest speaker on the occasion of Mihai Eminescu’s 160th anniversary in Vienna, Austria. There she presented “The Man in the Letters,” a study of Eminescu’s previously unknown correspondence.

**Maria Shardakova** recently published “How to Be Funny in a Second Language: Pragmatics of L2 Humor” in *Studies on Language and Culture in the Russophone World: A Collection of Papers Presented to Dan E. Davidson by his Students and Colleagues*. Her paper “Cross-Cultural Analysis of the Use of Humor by Russian and American English Speakers” has been accepted for publication. Shardakova presented additional work on her research into L2 humor at the annual meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in Atlanta and at the annual meeting of the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu.

**Miriam Shrager** developed two new courses: Russian Folk Tales and Russian for Heritage Speakers. Her paper “Accentuation of Masculine Monosyllabic Nouns of Susak Speakers in New Jersey” has been accepted for publication. She has also presented her work on the Susak speakers of New Jersey at meetings of the International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the Slavic Linguistics Society.

**Sara Stefani**’s article “The Unified State and the Unified Mind: Social and Moral Utopia in Zamiatin’s *We* and Plato’s *Republic*” will be forthcoming in a special issue of *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*. She presented “From the Other Shore: The English Theme and National and Historical Identity in *War and Peace*” at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies annual convention this year. She also received the Graduate Student Mentor of the Year award for the 2009–10 academic year.

**Ariann Stern-Gottschalk** directed the 2010 Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages (SWSEEL). She also moderated the semi-annual Pedagogy Workshop for

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## Henry Cooper

by George Fowler

The nature of daily life in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures has been permanently altered by Henry Cooper's retirement in September 2010. He has been one of the most prominent members of our family, both nationally and internationally, earning respect in academic and government circles alike. Henry Cooper is a man of many talents. Although at IU he is best known as a South Slavic specialist (covering Slovene, Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian language and culture, with an occasional foray into Bulgarian and Macedonian), in his first academic position at Northwestern University, he primarily taught Polish literature. Few of us can do serious research and teaching across such a broad spectrum.

After receiving his BA in Russian literature *Summa cum laude* at the City College of New York, Cooper went to Columbia University for an MA in Russian literature. Then he enlisted in the U.S. Army, whereupon the Army took note of the new recruit's language abilities and assigned him to counterintelligence duties. After his service, he returned to Columbia, receiving his PhD in October 1974. First teaching at Northwestern University, he joined our department in 1981, was tenured in 1984, and received promotion to full professor in 1991.

Cooper has participated tirelessly in administrative work at IU. He directed the Summer Workshop in Slavic and East European Languages twice in the 1980s; served as director of the Russian and East European Institute from 1986 to 1991; and then served as acting dean of International Programs in 1991–92. He was chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures from 1991 to 2002. He guided us through a difficult readjustment in the immediate post-Soviet period, when the *raison d'être* for studying Slavic languages lost some of its Cold War strategic orientation. He was instrumental in engineering the unique acquisition of Slavica Publishers, originally a private corporation, in 1997. In recent years Cooper has headed the university's Retiring Faculty Committee, from 2004 until his own retirement this past fall.

Even though Cooper's list of publications would stretch halfway to Martinsville, he never skimped on teaching. One alumna wrote: "In a quiet way, he offered unparalleled professional mentoring. In an era before graduate students regularly published research, he would point to places to publish a particularly good course paper as an article, or to place a translation." Another noted: "He gave me excellent advice about job interviews, a professional CV, and taught me how to make a serious impression on new acquaintances in the field." A third mentioned Cooper's remarkable knack for speaking in complete, round, impeccably edited sentences.

Henry, all of your colleagues will miss you. As you travel about the world, do not forget about Bloomington, IU, and the Slavic Department. "Mnogie leta!"



## Ronald Feldstein

by Steven Franks

Growing up in Newark, N.J., Ronald Feldstein was a linguistic prodigy. He started Rutgers University in 1964 but never received his BA, having been recruited to graduate school at Princeton University after two years in college. Feldstein completed his PhD in 1973, writing on *The Prosodic System of Common Slavic*. Since then he has published more than 50 works on several linguistic topics, in various journals and other outlets, in multiple languages (Russian, Polish, Romanian, and Slovak), and about diverse languages (including Bulgarian, Common Slavic, Old Church Slavonic, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovene, and Ukrainian). Feldstein's unique intellectual gift lies in seeing patterns in the sound structures of

words where others have just seen chaos. This ability, coupled with his love of learning languages and his knack for remembering everything about them, has made him into a stellar teacher and scholar.

After Princeton, Feldstein started his first tenure-track assistant professorship at SUNY-Binghamton in 1973. Since first joining the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at IU Bloomington in 1976 and being promoted to full professor in 1986,



Henry Cooper, left,  
and Ronald Feldstein

Feldstein has tutored generations of students in the subtleties of Slavic languages. He has taught everything from Russian and Polish language to introductory general linguistics courses to graduate seminars, and he has served on the committees of virtually every graduate student pursuing a degree in Slavic linguistics over the past 35 years. Feldstein's excitement about teaching and scholarship is both inspiring and contagious. His most recent innovation is a Hutton Honors College course called *The Life and Times of a Russian Genius*, which concerns the unusual contributions of the mysteriously murdered historian William Pokhlebkin to Russian culture and cuisine.

Feldstein has also been an exemplary departmental citizen — from directing the Summer Workshop in Slavic and East European languages during his first years at IU to spending days preparing treats from Russian and Polish cookbooks for the receptions he ran at his home when he was chair. Since 1983, Feldstein has served as chair or acting chair of the department for a total of 15 years. Time and again the department and the administration have turned to him to lead the department through periods of turmoil. His judicious hires, his creative solutions, his evenhanded temperament, and his talent for seeing everyone's side brought many years of stability and harmony to the department.

Feldstein will be sorely missed on the fifth floor of Ballantine Hall. His energy, and the relentless enthusiasm with which he still approaches all that he does, have kept us buoyant for many years. We wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

# Student News

*From the director of undergraduate studies*

## Opportunities abound

The 2010–11 academic year has been a banner year for the undergraduate program. As of this spring we have 40 majors and 23 minors. In the summer of 2010 three double majors graduated (**Alexandra Hall, Michaelene Hanley, and Jim Kalwara**); in the fall four more graduated (**Jaclyn Brooks, Polina Kostylev, Rose Tryon, and Michael Watson**); and this spring eight more finished their degrees (**Nikita Allgire, Becky Baumgartner, Chris Cashel-Cordo, Fred Hendricks, Megan Kregel, Elizabeth Olson, Matthew Orr, and Ian Priser**).

Participation in study abroad remains strong, with more than 90 percent of majors completing at least a semester of study abroad. In the summer of 2010, five students studied abroad — in four different cities! Four students spent fall 2010 in Petersburg and another four in spring 2011, while two students (**Alexandra Clark and Chris Flynn**) are completing academic years in Petersburg. Nine more students have been accepted for study programs in Russia and the Czech Republic for the fall of 2011. In February, we were honored to have the incoming president of the Council on International Educational Exchange, Jim Pellow, and CIEE's Executive Vice President, Martin Hogan, attend our departmental study abroad information session.

Among our majors are two Phi Beta Kappans (**Becky Baumgartner and Alexandra Clark**), 14 Dean's List students, and 14 Founders Scholars. In May 2011 four undergraduate students were inducted into the Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society (**Michael Gabe, Ingrid Nelson, Thomas Parmer, and Amanda Plavko**). Incoming freshman **Chelsea McShurley** was awarded the Armstrong Scholarship, and graduating senior **Becky Baumgartner** is our first full four-year Armstrong recipient. We also had 17 students participate in the National Russian Post-Secondary Essay Contest.

The last decade has seen a great increase in learning opportunities for our students outside the classroom. One of these is the World Language Festival, which this year included six Slavic presentations. Another is IU's Global Village Living-Learning Center, directed by yours truly and home to 170 students, about 20 of whom are studying Russian and other departmental languages. Most active among them is the Russian Cluster — a group of 15 students studying Russian. They gather for Russian-themed events, such as a Russian language hike in the fall, Russian Criminal Tattoo Night, a traditional Russian breakfast as part of our "Breakfasts Around the World" series, French-Russian Cross-cultural Night, a Samovar-side Chat with Paul Richardson, and fieldtrips to Slavica Publishers and Bloomington's Euro Deli.

— Jeffrey Holdeman

## Faculty notes

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the Norwegian Teacher's Association of North America and participated in several other conferences, including the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages and the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages. She also developed a new course on Jewish culture and history in Poland from the 12th to 21st centuries called Jewish Culture in Poland. Finally, Stern-Gottschalk was awarded the Graduate Student Mentor of the Year award for 2010–11.

## Emeriti news

In October 2010, **Andrew Durkin** took part in the "Tolstoi: Alive in Seoul" conference sponsored by the Korean Association of Russists. He received an Overseas Conference Grant from the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs in order to present his work on "All the Problems Are Stated Correctly: Chekhov's Response to Tolstoi's *Anna Karenina*." In Seoul, Durkin also met with alumnae **Sae-Ra Yoon, PhD'04, and Bo-Ra Chung, MA'05, PhD'09**.

Since his retirement at the end of September, **Henry Cooper** has finished and sent to press *An Anthology of Croatian*

*Literature in English Translation* (the fourth of five fascicles of *An Anthology of South Slavic Literatures*). He also wrote festschrift articles on "Humanism in Muscovy" and "Serbian Bible Translations After Vuk," as well as a commissioned entry for *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism* on the Serbian Enlightenment writer Dositej Obradović. More important, Cooper reports that "retirement rocks."

**Howard Keller** retired in May 2005 and has been quite busy since then. In June 2005 he switched his research interests from teaching Russian as a foreign language to developing teaching methods for high-level reading in Latin American literature. His main activity has been spending two months each year in Buenos Aires keeping up to date with developments in language pedagogy in South America. Buenos Aires has also provided a base for his consultation visits to universities in Peru, Chile, and Colombia. The six retirement years also saw some family delights: the birth of two grandchildren, Nicholas Keller Rucinski in October 2006 and Alexandra Keller Rucinski in February 2010. These, and many other delights, were saddened by the sudden and tragic death of Keller's wife of 41 years, Helga. She died in January 2011, of a very rare complication of open-heart surgery. Helga was a dear friend of the department, a devoted wife, and loving

mother and grandmother. Her loss diminishes us all.

In March 2011, **Nina Perlina** was invited to Moscow to take part in a conference on "Andrey Sinyavsky in the Context of the 1960s–70s." There she presented a paper on Sinyavsky's tale "Little Tsores." She also spoke on "From Historical Poetics to the History of the Poet's Psyche" at a conference at the University of Chicago in May.

**Bronislava Volkova** published a new book of poetry, an English twin to the 2010 Czech edition: *A pit budem ze studni lahodných... / And Drink We Will from Delectable Wells...* She gave a poetry reading in the Czech Republic in Poděbrady Castle from the Czech version last June and from the English version this year in Bloomington's Rachael's Café. In August 2010, Volkova presented a lecture on "The Greats of Czech Popular Culture (1900–2000): Roots, Character, and Genres" to SWSEEL students, and she has been invited this summer to read at a Slavic Poetry Festival in Varna — her poetry has been recently translated into Bulgarian — and in the PEN Club in Prague. Even after official retirement, Volkova continues to teach and organize Czech activities; this year she offered a new course on The Wandering Jew: Jewish Writers from Central Europe and Exile, presented the Czech Film Series, and advised the Czech Club.



## Streamlined programs aid graduate student recruitment

This year we've had nine graduate students in the Slavic literatures program and seven in linguistics. Moreover, the revised and streamlined graduate programs introduced last year are making us even more competitive in recruiting exceptional students: in the fall we will be adding no fewer than seven new graduate students! This is a recent record. Newcomers in 2011–12 include: **Kate Pickering** and **Stanley Migala**, who will be studying Russian and Polish literatures, respectively, as well as **Muamera Begović**, **Elena Doludenko**, **Coady Kleinert**, **Tyler Madsen**, and **Rose Prince**, all in Slavic linguistics. This fall we are pairing each new student with a continuing student mentor to make their adjustments to graduate school and Bloomington easier. We are thrilled to welcome our new Russian literature specialist, Professor **Jacob Emery**, who in the fall will teach a graduate literature seminar, "Questioning Genre from Schlegel to Bakhtin." Last fall we strengthened our bonds with the Department of Comparative Literature when for the first time our incoming students took Professor **Eyal Peretz's** Proseminar together with new students in comparative literature. The experiment was very successful and we expect that such pooling of resources will enrich both programs in the future.

**Sara Stefani**, who has been with us as a visiting assistant professor for the last two years, will start her tenure-track position and will be taking over as director

of graduate studies for literature and area studies (tracks 1 and 3) in the fall. On the linguistics side (track 2), **George Fowler** is assuming that role in the fall.

Graduate students in literature have been making good progress toward their degrees: first- and second-year students have been busy with coursework and two of them — **Natalie Misteravich** and **Alex Hunter** — have also started teaching for the first time, with great success! In April, Misteravich also presented her first conference paper, at the Midwest Slavic Conference in Columbus. **Brian Oches** has taken his PhD admissions exam, and **Magdalena Mullek** is in the process of taking her qualifying exams and taught first-year Czech in 2010–11. **Bethany Braley** is finalizing her dissertation proposal and is planning to carry out dissertation research at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland, next year, having won a fellowship through the IU–JU graduate student exchange program. Summer plans for some include travel in Russia/Eastern Europe, while others will study or teach in SWSEEL.

Among linguistics students, **Heather Rice** is living in Chicago, dissertating and being otherwise "procreative," while **Brigid Henry** and **Melissa Witcombe** prepare for qualifying exams and **Veronika Trotter** prepares for her PhD admission exam. Witcombe also spoke on "Slavic Loanword Adaptation of Front Round Vowels" at the Midwest Slavic Conference. **Ksenia Zanon** spent the spring semester in Zagreb and

will study Macedonian this summer. Both Brigid and new graduate student **Ala Simonczyk** taught Russian for the first time in our program this past semester.

Finally, we have been working on re-vamping our graduate program tracks and requirements. For example, we completely rewrote track 3 (language and area studies) to our master's programs in Russian literature and linguistics. This flexible, interdisciplinary track is designed to allow students to focus on Russian, Polish, Czech, South Slavic, or other Slavic languages and regions. And stay tuned, because more new tracks are in the works for next year. All in all, it's been a busy and productive year. Our programs are growing, with new students and faculty joining us in the fall, new graduate courses offered, new inter-departmental connections forged, and new "user-friendly" changes to our degrees.

— *Justyna Beinek (literature) and Steven Franks (linguistics)*

### Grad student news

**Bethany Braley**, a PhD student of Russian and Polish literature, taught two second-eight-weeks courses: Literature of Dissent, and Fools and Misfits in Russian Literature. These short courses introduce undergraduate students to the basics of literary analysis and to a wide array of literary genres in the Russian tradition. Braley recently submitted her dissertation proposal and plans to spend the coming academic year abroad in Poland and Russia for research purposes. She is also working on a translation project that will be included in a forthcoming collection of scholarly articles on holy foolishness in the Russian context.

**Timothy "Clint" Casteel** spent the spring semester studying in Zagreb, Croatia, and completed his MA degree in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language and area studies.

**Rosemarie Connolly** presented a paper

at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University in April 2010. She was awarded a Title VIII Fellowship to study Macedonian in SWSEEL during the summer of 2010. She also continues in her position as managing editor of the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, as well as editing additional books for Slavica Publishers.

Congratulations to Christian Hilchey and **Heather Rice**, who gave birth to Nathan Michael Hilchey on May 7!

**Natalie Misteravich** just completed her MA (Polish language and area studies) and is preparing for her PhD admissions exams in the fall. This spring Misteravich presented a paper titled "From Hopelessness to Hope: Polish Cinema and Communist Reality" at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University. In the summer she will travel throughout Poland and attend an intensive Polish language course at

### New grad students

• **Alexandra Hunter** grew up in Iowa and received her BA at the University of Northern Iowa. She studies and is interested in both Polish and Russian literature, though she still has not decided what her specific concentration will be. Hunter enjoys being a part of IU's Slavic department.

• **Christopher Price** was born in Portland, Ore., and from time to time was raised there. He has also lived in various places in Eastern Europe and the American South. He graduated in 2009 from Portland State University with a BA in Russian literature and language. Price is primarily interested in Russian literature, particularly of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

• **Ala Simonchik** is a doctoral student in Slavic linguistics. She came to Indiana University after receiving her MA in 2010 from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. There she wrote a thesis on the phonological analysis of Belarusian-accented English. Before moving to Bloomington, Simonchik taught English for eight years; now she works as an associate instructor teaching Russian. Her research interests include interlingual phonology and accented speech.

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# Alumni Notebook

## 1960s

**Brent M. Froberg**, BA'64, MA'65, writes, "I have just completed my 10th year as a member of Baylor University's Department of Classics where I have taught courses primarily in Greek and in classical mythology. Early in 2012, I shall celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of my induction into IU's Theta Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national honorary collegiate society for students of Latin and/or Greek. **Gregory J. Nagy**, BA'62, also an IU alumnus and then president of the Theta Chapter, inducted me along with other classmates. I serve Eta Sigma Phi as an honorary trustee and as manager of the Eta Sigma Phi Endowment Fund. I continue to take a keen interest in the Classical Studies program at IU. In 1941, my late mother, **Ruth Lindner Froberg**, BA'41, MA'65, took an A.B. degree in Latin, *summa cum laude*, at IU where she studied with Lillian Gay Berry, Verne Schuman, and Selatie Stout. She later completed an M.A. degree, and wrote, under the direction of James Halporn, a thesis on women's roles in the plays of Plautus. Both my mother and I felt fortunate to have studied in a department with Norman T. Pratt as its chairman." Froberg lives in Waco, Texas.

## 1970s

**Maria Carlson**, MA'74, PhD'82, was inducted in 2009 into the Women's Hall of Fame at the University of Kansas, where she teaches in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She was invited to IU in September for a reception in honor of emeriti faculty Andrew Durkin and Bronislava Volkova, and spoke on "The New Russian Paganism: Lessons from the *Book of Vêles*." Among other service activities, she currently serves as the executive committee chair and chair of the board of the National Council for East European and Eurasian Research. This year she received a Hall Humanities Center Fellow-

ship (for spring 2012) to work on her study of East Slavic and Carpathian corporeal revenants (better known as "vampires").

**Karl M. Petruso**, MA'75, PhD'78, is professor of anthropology and dean of the Honors College at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he has taught since 1990. Since receiving his PhD in classical archaeology in 1978, he has excavated and done archaeological field research in Greece, Egypt, Portugal, Cyprus, and most recently, Albania. Petruso's wife, Nancy (Sanneman), BA'72, MA'77, whom he met at IU, is associate vice chancellor at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. The couple lives in Arlington, and their two daughters, Stephanie and Alexis, live nearby.

**Barbara McGrath Hayes**, BA'76, MSW'81, MS'01, is co-editor (with William Aspray) of two recent books published by the MIT Press. In *Health Informatics: A Patient-Centered Approach to Diabetes*, published in October 2010, experts in technology and medicine use diabetes to illustrate how the tools of information technology can improve patient care. *Everyday Information: The Evolution of Information Seeking in America*, published in February 2011, provides an intimate, everyday perspective on information-seeking behavior, reaching into the social context of American history and American homes. Hayes is associate dean for administration and planning at the IU School of Informatics at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. She lives in Zionsville, Ind.

## 1980s

**Edna Andrews**, MA'81, PhD'84, writes us from Duke University, where she is professor of linguistics and cultural anthropology and director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEES). In April a ceremony was held to award Andrews the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Professorship (or chair) in Slavic and Eurasian Studies, effective Sept 1. Congratulations!

culture with us through a cooking class after our meal. Of course, in between our excursions, we spent our time with Russian students and professors, absorbing as much Russian culture and history as the two-week program would allow.

*Elizabeth Trammell is an REEI MA student. For more information on the program and its participants visit: [www.iub.edu/~iuslavic/USRussiaEIPProgram.shtml](http://www.iub.edu/~iuslavic/USRussiaEIPProgram.shtml)*

## 1990s

**Stephen Blackwell**, MA'91, PhD'95, writes from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he directs the Russian program. He will be associate general editor of *Nabokov Complete Works*, currently in negotiations at Oxford. In 2012-13 he will be president of the Vladimir Nabokov Society. He is also working on the philosophy of aesthetics in Russian literature.

**Alix Miczulski Lopez**, BA'97, writes, "I have been married for 10 years to Tarsis Lopez, BAJ'96, and I am now a stay-at-home mom with a 1-year-old and a 6-month-old, Dylan."

**Donald F. Reindl**, MA'97, PhD'05, teaches at the University of Ljubljana,

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## Welcome

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taught Polish at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies from 2006 to 2009. She has experience teaching Polish as a foreign language at all levels, as well as literature and culture courses for Socrates-Erasmus students. In addition to authoring scholarly articles and presenting on problems of teaching Polish to foreigners, Morcinek is the co-author of a textbook for upper-intermediate students, *Polski mniej obcy*. She enjoys meeting new people, broadening her horizons, and developing new teaching strategies. "That is why," she writes, "I am really looking forward to meeting my new American colleagues and students."

## New staff

Welcome to our new student services and summer workshop program assistant, **Erin Biebuyck**, MA'09. She joins us after completing MAs in REEI and history. Her research focused on gender and sexuality in Romania, and now she is looking forward to gaining valuable experience working with SWSEEL and the Slavic department while she prepares to pursue her academic interests in the public sphere. Biebuyck is replacing **Adam Julian**, BA'08 (history), who leaves us not only to pursue graduate degrees in REEI and SPEA, but also to spend a Fulbright year in Moldova.

## Siberia

*(continued from page 2)*

(named for these two groups), we stopped in Tobolsk. There, at the Tobolsk Kremlin, we feasted on traditional Tatar cuisine. (Russia is home to the majority of ethnic Tatars, with a population of over 5 million living within its borders.) The owners of the restaurant shared their history and



## Alumni notebook

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Slovenia, where he also runs the translation company DEKS d.o.o. He published the following papers: “Mycological Terminology in Maks Pleteršnik’s *Slovenian-German Dictionary*”; “English, Englishes, and English English: Reflections on English in Slovenia”; and “Carniola *oživljena*: Changing Practice in Citing Slovenian Regions in English Text.” Reindl made presentations on “Slavic Postpositions: Synchrony, Diachrony, and Language Contact” and “Language Contact and Slavic Languages,” both at the University of Bern, Switzerland, in May, and “Bad Caves and Good Mountains: The Typology of Slovenian Toponyms” at a conference in Regensburg, Germany, in October.

## 2000s

**Sue Friedrich White**, BA’02, JD’05, is a self-employed attorney in Covington, Ind., and the program director of the Fountain County (Ind.) Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, an organization that recruits, screens, and trains volunteer child advocates to work in the court system in collaboration with other key agencies, community resources, and legal counsel to represent the best interests of children in juvenile court proceedings. In summer 2010, White attended a contemporary art class in London hosted by Christie’s Auction House. She lives in Covington.

**Noah L. Gambill**, BA’04, writes, “I attended Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated in May 2008. My wife and I moved to my hometown, Terre Haute, Ind., for the purpose of practicing law. We have a 2-year-old daughter who keeps us busy. In May 2010, I was

sworn in as a licensed attorney in the state of Indiana and in the U.S. Southern District of Indiana.” Gambill is an associate with Wagner Crawford & Gambill in Terre Haute.

**Sarah Gilchrist**, BA’04, is currently pursuing a master of library science degree from the IU School of Library and Information Science in Indianapolis. She is a graduate assistant for the library science department, conducting research on digital cataloging of educational resources and on open-access repositories. This summer she will be at IU East in Richmond, Ind., working as a library instruction intern.

**Amy Zerebnick Lewis**, BA’04, completed an MA in international development at the University of Pittsburgh in 2008, then worked at the World Bank in operational policy and country services. Since July 2010, she has been working as a research fellow at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C., where she lives with her husband of two years, Dave Lewis.

**Colin Nisbet**, BA’04, graduated from law school at Case Western Reserve University and completed six months of training. At the end of 2010, he moved to Daegu, South Korea, to start his career as an attorney in the U.S. Army as chief of client services.

**Sae-Ra Yoon**, PhD’04, is an assistant professor at the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, Korea, where she teaches literature. She was on the “Tolstoi: Alive in Seoul” conference committee and served as a discussant for a panel on “Tolstoi and the Interpretation of Interpretation.” This April Yoon traveled to Novgorod, Russia, to conduct research on a grant funded by Korea’s National Research Foundation. Her Korean translation of *Anna Karenina* is forthcoming.

**Joey Baird**, BA’05, completed an MBA

in marketing at IU in the spring of 2010. He still lives in Bloomington with his wife and four children. After graduating from IU the second time, he started a company, called Third Rail, building mobile applications that are primarily but not limited to learning games for young children. Third Rail’s first release is pushing 100,000 downloads on the App Store and has a few more coming down the pipe.

**Bo-Ra Chung**, MA’05, PhD’09, is now teaching at Yonsei and Chungbuk Universities in Korea. While she mostly teaches Russian language at various levels, this semester she is also teaching a literature class, 20th-century Russian prose, and is enjoying it greatly. Last year, she gave a paper on “Tolstoi and Modernity: The Question of Existence” at the “Tolstoi: Alive in Seoul” conference sponsored by the Korean Association of Russists.

**John Alexander Ippoliti**, BA’05, completed an MA in strategic intelligence from the American Military University in May.

**Tim Kenlan**, BA’08, is completing a JD at the University of Maine School of Law.

In 2010, **Konstantin Tchernueiko**, BA’08, completed a master’s degree in regional studies at Columbia University, focusing Russia and Eastern Europe. He lives in New York City.

**Jeff Truelock**, BA’09, just completed a master of arts in teaching (MAT) in secondary mathematics education at Marian University and has been teaching math at Harshman Magnet Middle School in Indianapolis since August 2009.

**Bo Ra Kim**, PhD’10, is teaching Russian and Russian syntax at Yonsei and Kyeongsang Universities in Korea.

**Anne Rathell**, BA’10, is working as a paralegal at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Washington, D.C.

## Graduate student news

(continued from page 7)

the Jagiellonian University in Cracow.

In April 2010 **Magdalena Mulek** participated in translation workshops, including a workshop of her translation of Pavol Rankov’s short story “What Could Dr. Thompson Be Dreaming About?” at the fourth Biannual Graduate Student Translation Conference in Ann Arbor, Mich. She received REEI Mellon support both for this trip and to attend the American Literary Translators Association 2010 Conference in Philadelphia, as well as a Title VIII Portable Fellowship in the summer of 2010 for advanced study of Polish at Jagiellonian University in Cracow. At ALTA, Mulek read an excerpt of her translation from Rankov’s novel *Stalo sa prvého septembra* (*alebo*

*inokedy*) and presented on a panel “Everyday Worlds, Everyday Words: Translating the Quotidian in 20th-Century Prose.” An excerpt from her translation of Rankov’s novel was published in *The Dirty Goat 24*.

**Melissa Witcombe**, a PhD student in both the Slavic and Linguistics departments, presented papers at the Midwest Slavic Conferences in both April 2010 and April 2011. She received a FLAS Fellowship to study Serbian for the 2010–11 academic year. She also received a Title VIII Portable Fellowship to attend the Summer School of Serbian Language in Belgrade, Serbia, in June 2010 and the Summer School of Serbian Language and Culture in Valjevo, Serbia, in August. She was awarded a Karl Ocepek Fellowship in Slovenian Studies, which she used to attend

the Summer School of Slovene Language in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in July 2010. Witcombe also received a fellowship through the American Councils Title VIII Southeast European Language Training Program for the summer of 2011, which she will use to study Serbian in Belgrade.

**Ksenia Zanon** presented a paper at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University in April 2010. She also received a Karl Ocepek Fellowship in Slovenian Studies, which she used to attend the Summer School of Slovene Language in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in July 2010. She spent the spring semester conducting research in Zagreb, Croatia, and plans to study Macedonian in June and July at the 44th International Seminar on Macedonian Language, Literature, and Culture in Ohrid, Macedonia.

**DOSLAL**  
Alumni Newsletter

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures and the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University.

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