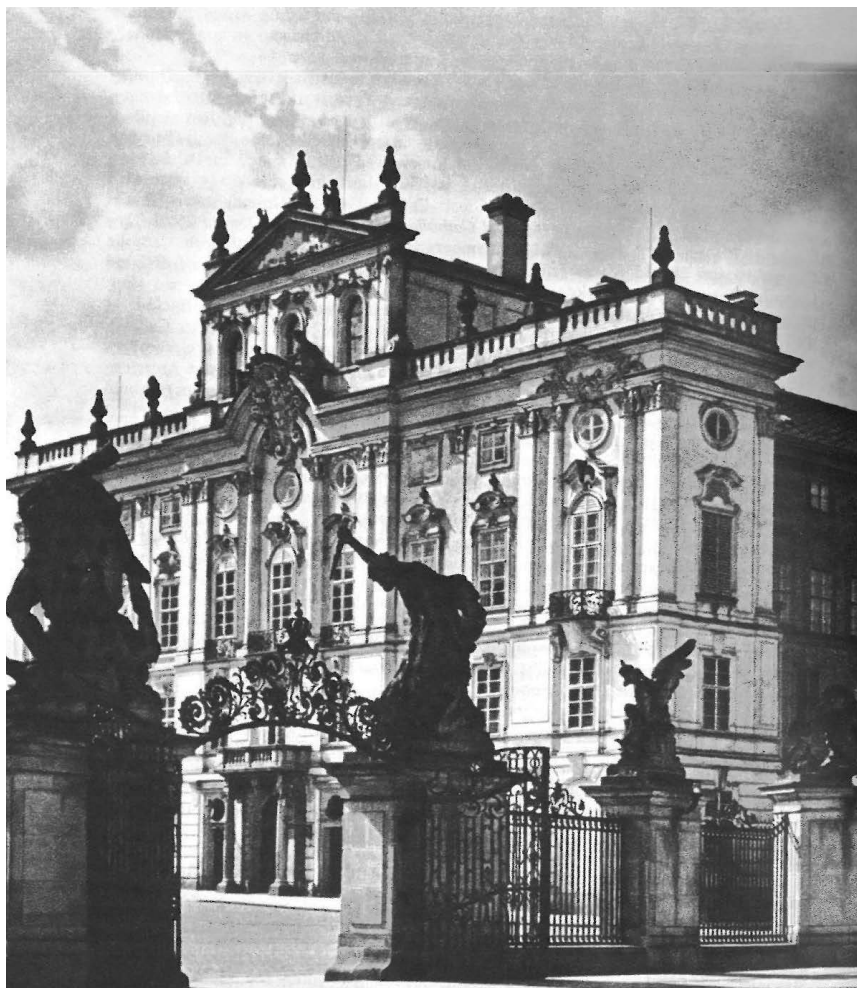


The Slavic Scene

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

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Letter From the Chair

Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to an intellectually stimulating and inspiring fall semester, with several significant events. Most importantly, we will be commemorating the lives of two of our former colleagues who made signal contributions to Russian culture and to the study of Russian literature. Professor Carl Proffer would have turned seventy-five in September and Professor Omry Ronen died suddenly at the age of seventy-five last November. We will be holding symposia to honor each of them, sponsored in conjunction with the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) and the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies.



On September 20-21, we will host a symposium on the Ardis Publishing House, which Professor Proffer founded together with his wife Ellendea in 1971. Through its publication of key works long ignored in the former Soviet Union and of poets and prose writers who were being denied publication in their home country, Ardis was to have a significant impact on Russian-American relations, on the perception of Russian culture in the West, and on the

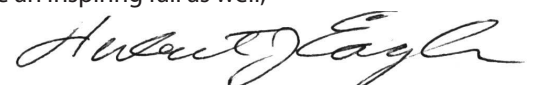
shape of Russian literature itself in the 20th century. The symposium will feature panels addressing each of the above topics and will include, among others, Ellendea Proffer Teasley, Robert G. Kaiser (former Moscow bureau chief of *The Washington Post*) and Irina Prokhorova, literary critic, historian and head of the respected *New Literary Observer* journal and publishing house in Moscow, as well as many of the American scholars and Russian writers who assisted Ardis in its work throughout the years.

On November 1-2, we will hold a symposium on Professor Omry Ronen's vast and influential scholarly legacy, focusing on his contributions to the study of the poetry of Russia's Silver Age, to poetics and the semantics of verse, to the function of intertextuality in literature, and to research on Osip Mandelstam and Vladimir Nabokov, in particular. Professor Barry Scherr of Dartmouth College will deliver the keynote address on Professor Ronen's critical and scholarly legacy and papers will be presented on the topics noted above, by many of his now-distinguished former students, who currently serve as professors at Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, (to name just a few). The two-day symposium will conclude with an evening of reminiscences from many of his former students and friends and discussion of plans for publication of the papers presented as a critical anthology.

Between these two symposia, we, along with the Weiser Center, will be hosting former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and his wife. President Yushchenko will speak on October 3 on "Shades of Orange: A Decade of Ukrainian Democracy." Svitlana Rogovyk has been discussing with President and Mrs. Yushchenko the possibility of student internships with the Ukraine 3000 organization they founded in Kiev.

Let me also note here that three very impressive new graduate students joined us in September: Bradley Goerne, with interests in Russian and Central European 20th century prose; Haley Laurila, who is pursuing the study of Russian and Central Asian literatures and cultures, in relation to environmental issues; and Joanna Mazurkiewicz, who specializes in Polish and Yiddish drama.

It will be an exciting fall for us and we hope that you will have an inspiring fall as well,



Herbert (Herb) Eagle hjeagle@umich.edu

The Slavic Scene

Congratulations Graduates



Polish Graduates, Language Award Winner and Faculty



Russian Graduates and Faculty

Slavic Graduates

Emily Fontenot

Bachelor of Arts,
Russian

Jeremy Gendron*

Bachelor of Arts,
Russian

William Lamping

Bachelor of Arts,
Russian

Matthew Pinos

Bachelor of Arts,
Russian

Carl Veshka III

Bachelor of Arts,
Russian

Leon Averbukh

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Kelly Jolly**

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Euna Klein

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Juliana Ley

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Autumn Neuharth

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Nana Osipova

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Yana Osipova

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

John Stewart

Minor in Russian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Amy Jozwiak

Bachelor of Arts, Polish

Jeffrey Lemanski*

Bachelor of Arts, Polish

Malgorzata Palka

Bachelor of Arts, Polish

Gabriella Szewczyk

Bachelor of Arts, Polish

Michelle Szewczyk

Bachelor of Arts, Polish

Ashley Henk

Minor in Polish
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Emily Sajewski

Minor in Polish
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Todor Gadjev

Minor in Culture &
Literature of Eastern
Europe

Samantha Horsell

Minor in Culture &
Literature of Eastern
Europe

Liliya Gerasymchuk

Minor in Ukrainian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Anya Nona

Minor in Ukrainian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

Tetyana Rogovyk

Minor in Ukrainian
Language, Literature, &
Culture

*Denotes December 2012 Graduate

**Denotes August 2013 Graduate

Aleksandar Bošković,
PhD, Slavic Languages and Literatures

Dissertation: Photopoetry and the Bioscopic Book:
Russian and Czech Avant-Garde Experiments of the
1920s

Aleksandar has accepted a teaching position at Columbia
University beginning September 2013. Congratulations!



Slavic 2013 Award Winners

Polish Language Award: Natalie Jaszcz
Ukrainian Language Award: Zoya Erdevig
BCS Language Award: Louis Saravolatz

**Slavic Essay Award - Slavic Language
Learned at UM:** Matthew Pinos

**Slavic Essay Award - Student's Native
Language:** Pablo Leon-Luna

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Graduate Student Focus

Let's Talk About Russia!

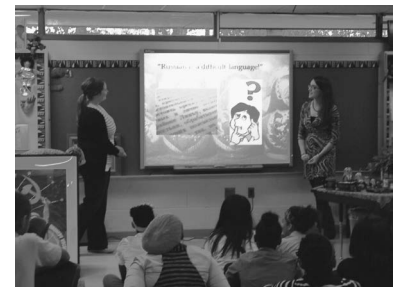
By Amanda Getty & Sarah Sutter

Graduate students Sarah Sutter and Amanda Getty have developed a project called *Let's Talk About Russia* that connects local K-12 History, Geography and Social Studies educators with University of Michigan graduate students. The concept for the project stems from outreach work that Sutter and Getty have done in elementary and middle school classrooms over the past few years, supported largely by U of M's Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. Outreach work has included multimedia classroom presentations on Russian language, culture and history, as well as games and discussions with K-12 students. A major goal of the classroom visits has been to present and discuss popular stereotypes about Russia and encourage young scholars to think critically about media representations of Russian culture. The *Let's Talk About Russia* project will move beyond the traditional outreach model towards a more dynamic, collaborative one. Graduate students will work together with local partner-teachers to develop a series of interactive teaching modules on Russia for a wide range of student age groups and learning styles. These teaching materials will be made electronically available to teachers and will ideally be used to supplement Ann Arbor and Detroit metro schools' Social Studies programs. All materials will be grounded in Michigan Department of Education's Standards and Content Expectations for World History and Geography. The project will combine the academic expertise of Slavic Studies graduate students and the professional experience of local teachers.

From their experience as instructors of intro-level classes at the University of Michigan, Sutter and Getty have learned that students leave high school with varying levels of knowledge about Russia and its role in world history. Questions concerning the nature of that knowledge are at the foundation of the project: What engages and inspires students at the elementary, middle and high school levels in their study of the world? What drives student interest in the histories, geographies, languages

and cultural traditions of people and places outside the borders of the United States? What motivates the cultivation of global interests in K-12 students, and how might teachers support awareness and critical thinking about what it means to be a responsible American citizen in a global community? How might the pursuit of these lines of inquiry inform teaching practices for a diverse range of students?

Let's Talk About Russia is additionally motivated by the desire to expand the professional development of University of Michigan graduate students. The reality of today's challenging job market for humanities scholars means that many Ph.D.s are compelled to explore career paths that are quite divergent from those traditionally associated with their level of academic training. The hands-on experience with K-12 pedagogy that graduate students will obtain through *Let's Talk About Russia* will help broaden their preparedness to work outside of a university environment. Sutter and Getty are working with the University of Michigan's *Arts of Citizenship* program, an institution that encourages public scholarship and supports collaborative projects between faculty and students and community organizations to address real-world challenges and enhance students' professional development. They will participate in the *Arts of Citizenship Institute for Social Change* in August and will apply for an *Arts of Citizenship* grant next year to support their project. Sutter and Getty are currently continuing work on the project's development, with several classroom visits and teacher consultations already scheduled for the fall in Ann Arbor, Hartland, and Southfield. They hope that *Let's Talk About Russia* will be an example and inspiration for other graduate students in area studies programs at the University of Michigan who seek to work more closely with the community and learn how to talk with students of all ages about other countries and cultures.



Amanda and Sarah talk about Russian language with 7th-graders at MacArthur K-8 University Academy in Southfield, MI.

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Staying Connected

Joel Stern, BA ('70) - MA ('75)

I am a University of Michigan graduate with a B.A. in Russian Literature (1970) and an M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures (1975). Among my professors were Dewey, Titunik, Matejka, Stoltz, Mersereau, Humesky, and Welsh. During my studies at the U. of M. I did occasional freelance work for Ardis Publishers (run by the late Carl Proffer and his wife Ellendea); in 1983 Ardis brought out my translation of Mikhail Zoshchenko's novella "Youth Restored," which unfortunately has gone out of print. In 1981 I also translated a collection of 9 short stories by the renowned Polish SF writer Stanislaw Lem, which was published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich under the title "Memoirs of a Space Traveler" and is still available in paperback. After

rather knockabout employment as a medical proofreader, indexer, and freelance translator in the early 1980s, I ended up taking a position as a staff reviewer/translator in the Office of Language Services at the U.S. State Department in Washington. I currently work from Russian, Polish, and Ukrainian into English, but in my younger, more ambitious days I also handled material from other Slavic tongues as well as German and Rumanian.



Graduate Student Focus (continued)

Avant-Garde Interest Group welcomes Patrizia McBride, Cornell University

By Meghan Forbes

Patrizia McBride, the chair of the German Department at Cornell University, visited the University of Michigan on April 18th and 19th to give a series of talks about her continuing work on montage and mimesis in Weimar Germany. As per our usual format, Professor McBride spoke in a lecture format on Thursday evening, and at a more intimate roundtable Friday afternoon. On Thursday, she shared her work on the photomontages of Hannah Höch, a topic on which she has published several articles. The title of this talk was "Montage and Storytelling in Weimar Germany." Friday was an opportunity for her to speak about her more recent and continuing work on the texts of Walter Benjamin, in a talk called "Mimesis and Literary Activism: Benjamin's *One Way Street*."

Both events were widely advertised across the University, and as such were well attended by students (both graduate and undergraduate)

and faculty in many departments, namely Slavic, German, History and Comparative Literature.

Professor McBride was a most generous guest, sharing her innovative work and disciplinary perspective with a group of engaged scholars both during her scheduled talks, and at more informal discussions with students and faculty over a set of meals. Professor McBride also seems to have taken a lot away from her visit, which is of course a goal of these workshops. Upon her return to Ithaca, she wrote to myself and Hannah McMurray (the event coordinators) that her visit to Michigan was "immensely rewarding" and "hands down one of the best experiences I've had of this kind, and this was due primarily to the intellectual energy and generosity you and your colleagues demonstrated."

We thank the Humanities Institute for their support of this highly successful event.

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In The Classroom

UM Students Attend Production of *Marriage by Nikola Gogol'*

By Michael Makin

Last Winter Term, with the support of an Arts at Michigan grant, twenty-eight undergraduate and graduate students attended a performance of the 1842 play *Marriage by Nikolai Gogol'* at Wayne State's Hilberry Theater in Detroit. The students, who attended the matinee performance on April 6, were accompanied by faculty members Alina and Michael Makin and graduate student instructor Natalie McCauley.

Three days earlier, the Slavic Department's Professor Sof'ya Khagi, who teaches an upper-level course on Nikolai Gogol', had given a seminar on the play, offering those planning to see the Hilberry production some cultural and historical preparation ahead of their theatre visit. In her discussion of *Marriage*, Professor Khagi highlighted the ways in which the play departed from the formulaic patterns characteristic of dramatic comedy in the first half of the nineteenth century; she also provided her student audience with a cultural context within which to place the institution of matchmaking and the preoccupations with class on which the play draws for its humor.

At the Hilberry, James Thomas' production brought touches of Motown and even, perhaps, Bollywood to the play, with extravagant sets and musical numbers providing ironic and witty commentary on the hesitant efforts of protagonist Podkolesin (Brent Griffith) to secure the hand of the somewhat superannuated but prosperous merchant spinster Agaf'ya (Annie Keris), aided and

abetted by rapacious matchmaker Fekla (Sarah Hawkins Moan) and Podkolesin's manipulative friend Kochkarev (Ty Mitchell). Readers will recall that, in the end, Kochkarev manages to drive away the other suitors – a grotesque gallery of Gogolian types, only for Podkolesin to decide that marriage is not for him, abandoning the distraught bride with indecent haste at the end of the play.

The UM contingent enthusiastically greeted the energetic and expansive work of the ensemble, with Joshua Blake Rippey's Arina (Agaf'ya's ageing aunt) certainly winning the most laughs and the greatest praise for his very large version of matronly control. Opinions on the lip-synced opening (Bobby Darin's "Dream Lover"), interludes and conclusion, however, were divided, with some of the UM party feeling that the director might have gone a little too far in his effort to add hybrid, ironic commentary to the action. As might be expected, the undergraduate Russianists paid particular attention to issues of pronunciation (did those Russian names always sound right?), and were quick to catch the cast out in matters of detail, such as making the sign of the cross as Roman Catholic, instead of Orthodox Christians. Overall, however, the production received an enthusiastic "thumbs up", with lots of interest expressed in the traditions and interests of the Russian theatre and a number of students asking when the Department would next offer Professor Khagi's course on Gogol'.

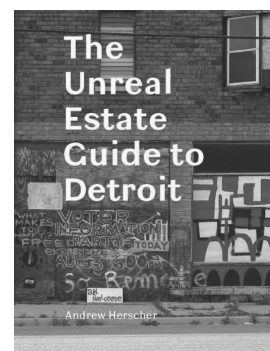
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In Print

Andrew Herscher - *The Unreal Estate Guide to Detroit*

What if Detroit has not only fallen apart, emptied out, disappeared and/or shrunk, but has also transformed, becoming a novel urban formation that offers potentials as well as challenges? In recent years, this proposition has sponsored a growing number of responses, from small-scale ephemeral interventions to longer-term place-based activism, all availing themselves of Detroit's vast repository of devalued,

abandoned or vacant urban property. Posing these diverse responses as aspects of a condition rather than solutions to a problem, *The Unreal Estate Guide to Detroit* tells a new story of the city in a time of conjoined precarity and possibility—a story of urban decline yielding conditions favorable for urban experimentation, invention and, perhaps, change.



Andrew Herscher is an Associate Professor of Architecture, Slavic Languages & Literatures and History of Art. His most recent book was published in Fall 2012.

New! From Michigan Slavic Publications

[Formal] Approaches to [Slavic] Linguistics

The FASL conference series was conceived and initiated in 1992 at the University of Michigan. There are 20 published volumes to date, the most recent being FASL 21: The Third Indiana Meeting (2013). Each volume consists of revised and edited versions of all of the papers presented at the annual meeting of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics.

The anticipated publication for FASL 20: The Second MIT meeting is Fall 2013.

Find all of the Michigan Slavic Publications titles on Amazon.com or order directly at:

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Advancing Omry Ronen's Legacy in Russian Literary Studies

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Keynote Address: Barry Scherr, Dartmouth College

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