

The Slavic Scene

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

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An image of Kaddish, a sculpture by Ales Vesely, from the cover of Cross Currents vol. 1

The Slavic Scene

Letter From the Chair

Dear Friends



Our Slavic Department continues to forge ahead with new initiatives. Our new Polish concentration will, I hope, have received final approval from the President's Council by the time this newsletter reaches you. Our thriving Polish program is the crowning achievement of Professor Carpenter's long and distinguished career at Michigan, an evolving initiative to which our lecturers Ewa Malachowska-Pasek and Piotr Westwalewicz have made crucial and enduring contributions (see page 5 for more!).

Our Russian concentration added two new tracks this year, thanks to the thoughtful insights and sustained efforts of Professor Michael Makin, who this summer took the lead in presenting our proposals to the College's Curriculum Committee, which approved them early this fall (see page 5 for more!).

We are also in the process of adding another track to our Graduate Program. Our current Ph.D. curriculum places the greatest emphasis on the study of Russian literature, augmented by some courses in Russian linguistics, language pedagogy, and a second Slavic language and literature. The new track will allow students to focus primarily on a Slavic language and literature other than Russian if they wish. It will comprise three components: the primary Slavic language and literature; a second Slavic language and literature; and a focus on Slavic literatures and cultures in the context of another discipline (e.g., Comparative Literature, History, Philosophy, Anthropology, Sociology, Cinema Studies). Our aim is to produce graduates with interdisciplinary research interests which deal with Slavic literatures in juxtaposition. We expect that the training in literary studies and another discipline will enable

our graduates to do work that is both innovative and rigorous. We see a need for such scholars and teachers in the future, as both research universities and small liberal arts colleges address the cultures of formerly Communist East and Central Europe, as those emerging democracies come to play a more visible role economically and politically. Professors Aleksic and Paloff will be key contributors to this curricular innovation, increasing our strength in the literatures they specialize in (BCS and Polish, respectively) and also providing intellectual models for our students, in as much as their own research is markedly interdisciplinary.

This is an ambitious plan and one which we approach with optimism and excitement. I am pleased that University President Mary Sue Coleman has announced a new initiative to help fund graduate students. For every contribution made to support graduate study in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (as well as in other departments), President Coleman will place an additional 50% of the funds donated into the Department's Graduate Fellowship Endowment. We hope to attract more graduate students, both in our present Russian literature track and in the new track described above, but we will have to rely on the generosity of the Department's friends to increase the number of graduate fellowships we can offer. Because of President Coleman's matching challenge (in place until the end of 2008), contributions to the Department's Graduate Fellowship funds will be especially appreciated during the next year.

I wish you all a happy and healthy year and we look forward to hearing from you.

Herbert (Herb) Eagle
hjeagle@umich.edu

The Slavic Scene

Feature

Professor Carpenter: On Schedule for a Lifetime of Achievement, Including Retirement



"I have never been in such a brilliant interview," stated then Chair and Professor Ben Stolz after the rigorous 1.5 hour interview. Having been grilled by 12 faculty members for nearly 2 hours, Bogdana Carpenter knew, should the job be offered, she had certainly earned it. And offered it was—the department warmly welcomed Bogdana in the Fall of 1983.

Bogdana's 25 years in the department have proved rewarding for both her and the department. By the time she became senior faculty and Chair in 1991, she felt a deep loyalty and gratitude to the department. Until this day, she continues to identify with the department, its challenges, goals, and hopes.

Colleagues Deming Brown and Latislav Matejka became two of her greatest friends. Both she and Matejka were from Central Europe, and it was he that persuaded her to assemble and edit a critical anthology of Polish poetry. The result was Monumenta Polonica: the First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry, published by Michigan Slavic Publications in 1989. It was awarded first prize by the American Council for Polish Culture Clubs in 1991.

Bogdana's love of poetry was nurtured by two of the 20th Century's greatest poets: Zbigniew Herbert and Czeslaw Milosz. Milosz was Bogdana's professor when she was a doctoral student at

continued on page 4

Achievements from 1958 through 2008

1958–1963
Warsaw University,
Romance Philology, M.A.

1971–73
Acting Assistant Professor,
Comparative Lit., UC
Berkeley

1966–74
Ph.D., UC Berkeley,
Comparative Lit.
(French, Polish, Russian)

1976–1977
IREX and Fulbright-Hays
Grants for Faculty

1973–74
Lecturer in Slavic and
Comparative Lit., UC Berkeley

1974–83
Assistant Professor in
the Slavic Dept., Univ. of
Washington, Seattle

1986
IREX grant for
senior scholars

1989
Published Monumenta Polonica:
The First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry.
The book won the 1st prize from American
Council for Polish Culture Clubs

1983
Began teaching at
U-M as Assistant Professor

1985
Promoted to
Associate
Professor

1987–1988
NEH Grant
to prepare
Monumenta
Polonica

1985–1990
Member of Academic Advisory Council
at Woodrow Wilson Center, East
European Program

1983
Published The Poetic
Avante-Garde in Poland,
1918–1939

continued

continued on page 4

Achievements from 1958 through 2008 (continued)

1990–1991
American Council of Learned Societies
Fellowship for the book Zbigniew
Herbert: Poetry and Ethics
(forthcoming)

1991
Promoted to Professor

1991–1995
Director of the Copernicus
Foundation

1991–1995
Slavic Department Chair

1999
Receives Golden Cross of
Merit, conferred by the
President of Poland

1998–1999
Slavic Department Chair

1977–2000
Translated (with John Carpenter), and published seven volumes of
Zbigniew Herbert's poetry and prose, for which they received Witter Bynner Poetry
Translation Prize, given by the Poetry Society of America (1977), Islands and Continents
second prize (1979), Columbia University Translation Center Merit Award (1992)

2004
Member of the Jury for
Neustadt International Prize
for Literature. Her nominee,
Polish poet Adam Zagajewski,
wins the prize.

2006
Slavic Department Chair

2006–07
Received NEA Grant to translate
Julia Hartwig's poetry

2008
Forthcoming Translation of
Julia Hartwig's In Praise of the
Unfinished

2008
Retirement,
University of Michigan

Professor Carpenter, continued from page 3

University of California, Berkeley. It was through his mentoring and subsequent friendship that Bogdana continues her captivation with Polish poetry. "What I love about Polish Poetry is its involvement in history and collectivity. The history reaches back to the Renaissance, giving it a long tradition to build upon." She met Zbigniew Herbert when he visited Berkeley in 1968, as a guest of the Department of State. Together, with her husband John, they became translators of Herbert's poetry into English, winning several awards.

Having published articles and books for the past 40 years, I am curious how Bogdana remains motivated. "You have to love what you do. For me, I love the

research, I love the teaching. I am interested in those two things. Motivation is something inside that pushes you—it's not an external push."

Twenty five years after Ben Stolz' declaration, Bogdana's luster continues to be reflected in her classroom and her commitment to the department. As we prepare to see her retire from the University, we are saddened, but comforted to have known such brilliance.

Bogdana Carpenter's plans after retirement are to continue writing and traveling. Her retirement furlough begins in January, and she will fully retire in June 2008.

The Slavic Scene

Highlights

by Amanda Apostol

Slavic Department Announces New Polish Concentration

In response to a steadily increasing demand by students to further their Polish studies, the Slavic Department is pleased to announce a new Polish Concentration program (pending approval by the President's Council of the State Universities of Michigan), effective Fall 2008. Thanks to the vision and exhaustive efforts of Professor Bogdana Carpenter, the concentration passed its final hurdle in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts this past summer. The department aims to build on the Polish minor program by offering students more in-depth scholarship in the literature, history, and culture of Poland.

As the only American university to offer four years of Polish each academic year, the department has been heralded for its unprecedented Polish program. People of Polish heritage currently form the fourth largest ethnic group in the state of Michigan, and with only a handful of other colleges and universities around the country offering concentrations in Polish studies, the department is poised to become a leader in the field.

Assistant Professor Benjamin Paloff will bring his expertise in Polish literature to the Slavic Department. Ewa Malachowska-Pasek and Piotr Westwalewicz will continue leading the Polish

language program, which consistently attracts a growing number of students each year. Those students who declare a concentration will also have opportunities to take courses taught by other faculty from around the University in subjects ranging from the arts to folklore, history, and Jewish culture. With an additional requirement of two semesters in another Slavic language, this program promises to give students a comprehensive understanding of Poland and the broader historical and political systems under which it operates.

Though retiring, Professor Carpenter hopes that her vision for the new concentration is realized and that it will fulfill a need in the academic community. "It is my hope that this new Polish Concentration will satisfy what seems to be a growing demand. At the same time, I hope it re-enforces the Polish program, which has been growing and expanding in the last 10 years." She concludes, "A concentration just seemed like the next logical step, based on what has been happening recently in Polish studies."

by Amanda Apostol

Two New tracks for Russian Majors: Russian Culture and Heritage Speakers

In an effort to diversify and strengthen the current Russian Concentration, the Slavic Department submitted a proposal for two new tracks, "Culture" and "Heritage," which were subsequently approved by the College this past September. Led by the efforts of Professor Michael Makin, the new tracks follow the current trends in Russian academics at our peer institutions.

According to recent data, an average of 25 heritage students per year place out of Russian 202 and later enroll in many of our upper-level literature courses. The Heritage track has been specifically designed

to give these students a comprehensive knowledge of both the Russian language and culture and the necessary skills to utilize Russian fluently in both academic and professional settings.

The Culture track reflects the department's new direction towards providing students with a broader, more culture-oriented education. While still attaining the same level of language proficiency as the existing concentration, students will be able to focus on courses that offer more intellectual variety in subjects such as Russian culture and national identity, cinema, Jewish studies, and modern political issues.

For more information
please visit www.lsa.umich.edu/slavic

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Classroom Spotlight

by Mikhail Krutikov

Jews in Eastern Europe: Past and Present



Professor Krutikov teaches for the Slavic Department and Judaic Studies. He can be reached by email at krutikov@umich.edu.

The nature of my research in East European Jewish culture is interdisciplinary, with the focus on the ways of interaction between imagination and reality, and I am keen to bring this perspective to class.

My first year seminars on the shtetl (Jewish town in Eastern Europe) and Yiddish stories concentrate on close reading of fiction with special attention to the artistic representation of historic and social details and their use as literary devices. The aim of the survey course "Contact and Conflict: Jewish Experience in Eastern and Central Europe" [Slavic 270] is to introduce students to the broad variety of forms of Jewish life in that region from the Middle Ages to our days, using historical studies, fiction, visual art, and films. The dramatic relationships between Jews and Modernity in Europe is the theme that I explore as part of the large lecture course "Jews in the Modern World: Texts, Images, Ideas" [Slavic 281] which is co-taught jointly by the Slavic Department with the Departments of Near Eastern Studies and English. This course was first offered in the Winter of 2007 and attracted a large number of students from different fields.

At a more advanced level, I offer a course on the cultural history of Russian Jews in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which familiarizes the students with the contemporary state of the historical

research as well as with major works of literature and art. This dual perspective enables us to see how Russian-Jewish experience was conceptualized by (predominantly foreign) scholars and expressed by Russian Jews themselves. This coming Winter term I am planning to offer an advanced seminar on the shtetl which will combine historical and literary sources with anthropological ones, making use of the field materials that have been gathered by an international team of scholars in Ukraine over the past few years. This research demonstrates that the shtetl culture is far from being extinct, especially in the areas where significant numbers of Jews had survived the Holocaust during World War II. Using the shtetl as a case study, this seminar will address broader theoretical problems related to the process of the transformation of human experience into a text which is the theme of my current research project. I will have a good opportunity to discuss this project at length with my colleagues at the Global Ethnic Literatures Seminar, for which I received a Fellowship for the Fall semester. I plan to develop future courses that will explore some of the most complicated and contradictory problems of the past and present centuries, in which East European Jews have been closely involved: communism and revolution, migrations and globalization, empires and minority cultures.

See you in class!



Slavic Student Welcome Party

Early this semester the Slavic Department and the Intensive Russian Program at the Residential College (RC) hosted a welcome party for students in the courtyard of the RC. By the end of the afternoon, about 60 students had come to delight in the samovar, apple cake, and warm welcome.

by Andrew Herscher

Violence Taking Place: The Architecture of the Kosovo Conflict

In *Violence Taking Place*, a book manuscript in progress, I apply the tools of architectural history and cultural theory to the destruction of architecture during political violence in modern and contemporary Kosovo.

This destruction has been a prominent dimension of political violence in Kosovo. While Serb forces inflicted catastrophic damage on mosques, Islamic religious schools, Sufi lodges, and other buildings associated with Kosovar Albanians during their 1998-99 counter-insurgency against the Kosovo Liberation Army, Kosovar Albanians have vandalized, damaged, and destroyed over one hundred Serbian Orthodox churches, monasteries, and cemeteries in the subsequent years of political and social instability. Destruction, in Kosovo and elsewhere, is usually regarded as an epiphenomenon of

supposedly “deeper” social, political, or ideological dynamics. In contrast, in *Violence Taking Place* I pose such dynamics as profoundly cultural and thus enmeshed with the anticipation, infliction, narration, and remembrance of violence against architecture.

Violence Taking Place provides a new view of the cultural formation of political violence and of political agency, identity, and power—the concepts by which this violence is usually analyzed.

Andrew is a Hunting Family Faculty Fellow at the Institute for the Humanities in 2007-08, during which time he will complete the manuscript described above.



Andrew Herscher received a Humanities Institute Fellowship for 2007-08. He is Assistant Professor of Architecture and Slavic Languages and Literatures and Hunting Family Professor

Supporting Slavic Studies



U-M President Mary Sue Coleman

www.giving.umich.edu/where/presidents_challenge.htm

We have been presented with an exciting fundraising opportunity that we hope you will consider! President Mary Sue Coleman has just announced a challenge that responds to the great departmental need Herb Eagle described in his Letter from the Chair — graduate student funding. We know that such funding is a key factor in helping graduate students decide where to pursue their studies, and we know that attracting these students is critical to the vibrancy of our department. In other words, the success of our program is largely dependent on the graduate students that we can attract! To address this need, President Coleman will match 50% of all gift and pledges made by December 31, 2008, including pledges which extend up to five years. For instance, a gift of \$1000 will be matched with \$500; and a pledge of \$5000 over five years will yield \$7500. With this kind of match in place, even small donations can make a significant impact on our department and the experience we strive to give our students. All such gifts should be designated to the Graduate Fellowship Fund, and will be combined to create annual support packages for our graduate students. Our goal is to establish a graduate fellowship endowment of \$50,000; slightly over \$33,000 raised through alumni and friends of the Department. We hope that you will consider making a gift or bequest!

The Slavic Scene

Staying Connected

by Vera Andrushkiw

Vera Andrushkiw—Fostering Change in Ukraine

During the dynamic last decade of the 20th Century, Ukraine became independent providing

facilitating democratic development; encouraging free market reforms; and enhancing human rights.



many new challenges and opportunities. While teaching Ukrainian language at Wayne State University and U-M, one such opportunity appeared: the Lviv Institute of Management (LIM) wanted to arrange an MBA internship program in the U.S., and needed a coordinator. I decided to take this task on as well. I quickly gained an alternate perspective to the literary academia that I had been

I marveled at the commitment and dedication of the American partners. Many of them said that working on Ukraine democratization was truly exciting and challenging. Mayors, city managers, various department heads, and other experts, traveled to their partnership cities in Ukraine, and vice versa. Each had the opportunity to observe meetings of the city council, utilities, waste management, economic development, neighborhood associations, and more. The two-week internship provided local Ukrainian officials with basic democratic framework from which they were able to see themselves as public servants, enabling a sense of community through volunteerism and assistance.

Vera Andrushkiw ('93) credits the Slavic Faculty for their excellence, and gratefully acknowledges Professors Ben Stolz, John Merserau, Roman Szporluk (Harvard), and her mentor, Professor Assya Humesky for preparing her for many exciting and unique endeavors.

She is currently VP for External Relations, Director of Community Partnerships Project, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. Reach her via email at vandrushkiw@usukraine.org

accustomed to. The coordination of this program resulted in the development of business curricula at Ukrainian institutions, and also provided American professors the opportunity to acquaint themselves with Ukraine.

There were many success stories from the USAID-funded project. The cities of Kamianets Podilsky, Komsomolsk, Cherkasy, and Berdiansk have become mentors for other cities, sharing their best practices and achievements. However, there is still much more to be done.

In 1997, the University of Iowa received a grant to inform faculty on changes occurring in the Newly Independent States, in particular Russia and Ukraine. I had the honor of participating in the research and reporting on the changes. Because of my ongoing business experience, I was invited to be Director of the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute. My objective was to develop a course in Advanced Ukrainian for Business. The subsequent three summers were truly memorable: the research facilities, the notable lecturers, literary evenings, and the atmosphere of Cambridge were unforgettable.

Over the years, I have traveled extensively throughout Ukraine, been an official election observer in Symferopil, Bakhchysaray, Kirovske, and Yenakievo. I have heard former members of Congress and European Parliamentarians declare "This is truly Europe!" upon their first visit to Ukraine. I have had the opportunity to meet many interesting people, observe various organizations, attend lectures and briefings by world leaders, and witness historical moments. I attended President Yushchenko's inauguration, and emceed a banquet in his honor before his speech to Congress—these have all been truly exhilarating moments! I believe that the spirit of the Orange Revolution has changed Ukrainians forever, in spite of the political crisis embroiling them now. I continue to assist where I can with Ukrainian and U.S. businesses and governments. And for the time being, I am pleased to be back in Michigan, enjoying my family—particularly my 15-month old twin-grandsons.

In 1999, I went to work for the US-Ukraine Foundation (USUF), as Director of the USAID-funded Community Partnerships Project (CPP). This involved working with small- and medium-sized Ukrainian and U.S. cities to promote sustainable and replicable innovations in municipal administrations, and to create a network of progressive local officials. The Foundation has been working in Ukraine since 1991,

Greetings from St. Petersburg!

Greetings from St. Petersburg! Most of my correspondence with people I haven't been in contact for a while starts like that. I received my Ph.D. from the Slavic Department in 1992 and happily set off on a very nice career as Assistant Professor at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

That was a great job. My colleagues were wonderful, the university was very supportive, and Oakland's department of Modern Languages and Literatures was an excellent place for me.

Until I got tenure.

Actually, Oakland didn't change, at least not for the worse.

This is what happened: In 1997/98 I went through the academic wringer that is the process of getting tenure, and at the same time applied for a Fulbright in the event I should get tenure and a sabbatical. Somehow I managed to hit the jackpot. I got tenure, was awarded the Fulbright, and as a bonus, a year's leave of absence to take advantage of the Fulbright, with the sabbatical year postponed to 1999/2000.

That meant that in August 1998 we packed our bags and headed to Petersburg. "We" was me, my wife Mila (Ludmila Vergunova, also a U-M Slavic Ph.D., but she'll write her own story later), and two of our kids, Simon (17 at the time), and Peter (4 at the time). To make things even better, Mila had been offered a job as resident director of the Council on International Educational Exchange's (CIEE) St. Petersburg program.

What a time to arrive in Russia. You might recall that in August 1998 Russia defaulted on some

debt and there was lots of gloom about the economic situation. Stores emptied, and lots of people lost lots of money. Fortunately, we were sheltered from that. At the end of 2000, I was scheduled to head back to Michigan, but not before CIEE asked if I'd like to join their team in St. Petersburg.

I must confess that it took a while to get my brain around the idea that I might actually walk away from the career that the Ann Arbor Slavic Department had polished me for, but I decided to take the leap. In 2001, I repaid my sabbatical "debt", resigned from Oakland, and headed back to "Piter". Every once in a while I have a pang of nostalgia, but I really haven't looked back.

Russia has been a tremendous place to live this last decade. Not that all is wonderful, but the learning is non-stop. We have a very nice place down the street from the Summer Garden, and we get a few U-M undergrads in our program every year. You might say that in the fifteen years since I got my degree in Ann Arbor, I've had two very happy careers. I wonder what'll be next?



Nathan ('92) and Mia ('92) Longan near the "Spas na Krovi" cathedral in St. Petersburg

Do you have a memory from the department that you'd like to share?
Please drop us a line at slavic@umich.edu.

Reach Nathan via email at nathanlongan@gmail.com

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In Print

Recent Faculty Books and Articles



Professor Ronen's eighteen literary, historical, and biographical essays titled *Shram. Vtoraia kniga iz goroda Enn* [The Scar. The second book from the city of Enn], appeared in July, St. Petersburg: Zvezda Publ., 2007.

- *Cherti Nabokova* [Nabokov's Devils], *Zvezda* 4 (2006). [With Irena Ronen].
- *Opravdanie Peterburga u akmeistov* [The Acmeist Justification of St. Petersburg], *Ètkindovskie chteniia II-III: Sbornik statei po materialam Chtenii pamiati E.G. Ètkinda*, St. Petersburg: Izd-vo Evropeiskogo universiteta v Sankt-Peterburge. 2006.
- *Iz grudy pisem* [Out of a Mound of Letters], *Stikh, yazyk, poeziya. Pamiati Mikhaila Leonovicha Gasparova* [Verse, Language, Poetry. In Memory of Mikhail Gasparov]. Moscow: RGGU, 2006.
- *Two Acmeist Images of Unintelligible Poetry*, *Philologica: Bilingual Journal of Russian and Theoretical Philology*, 2003/2005, Vol. 8, # 19/20 (Moscow, 2006).
- *Napravlenie Prusta v opisatel'nom iskusstve Nabokova* [Proust's Way in Nabokov's Descriptive Art], *ibid.*
- *Ritorika "Vekh"* [The Rhetoric of The Signposts], *Sbornik "Vekhi" v kontekste russkoj kul'tury* [The Signposts Collection in the Context of Russian Culture]. Moscow: Nauka, 2007.
- Five essays in the column "Iz goroda Enn", *Zvezda*, 2007.
- Interviewee [TV Film], *Location Guide, and Historical Consultant: 1956 – Seredina veka* [1956 – The Midcentury], a 12-part documentary serial produced by "The Live History" program of The St. Petersburg Broadcasting Company ("Channel 5"), Part 11, filmed on location in Budapest in March 2006, broadcast in Russia in September 2007.



Olga Mairova's research focuses on Russian literature of the second half of the 19th century. Her 2006–2007 articles include:

- "Searching for a New Language of Collective Self: The Symbolism of Russian National Belonging During and After the Crimean War," in *Ab Imperio: Studies of New Imperial History and Nationalism in the Post-Soviet Space*.
- "Eurasianism," in *Europe 1789–1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of Industry and Empire*, (John Merriman and Jay Winter, eds.).
- "Genèse et poétique de la chronique de Leskov "Le Clergé de la collégiale," in Nikolai Leskov, "Les Dossiers H." editions L'Age d'Homme.
- "Die Schlüsselrolle der "deutschen Frage" in der russischen patriotischen Presse der 1860er Jahre," *West-östliche Spiegelungen. Deutsche und Deutschland aus russischer Sicht*, (Mechthild Kellér, Maria Klassen, and Karl-Heinz Korn, eds.).
- "Eisen, Krieg und Glaubenstoleranz: Das deutsche Thema bei Nikolaj Leskov," *West-östliche Spiegelungen. Deutsche und Deutschland aus russischer Sicht*, (Mechthild Kellér, Maria Klassen, and Karl-Heinz Korn, eds.).



Professor Michael Makin's research focuses on Russian poetry and culture since 1900. His 2006–2007 articles include:

- "Nikolai Kyuev i Mel'nikov-Pecherskii: zagadki i predpolozheniia", In *Memoriam: Edward Bronislavovich Meksh*, (F. Fjodorovs and J. Szokalski eds.).
- "Whose Kliuev, Who is Kliuev? Polemics of Identity and Poetry", *Slavonic and East European Review*.



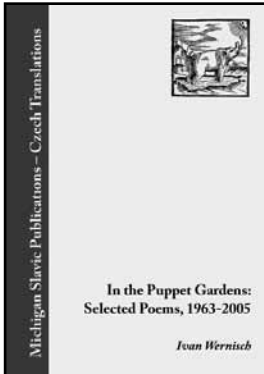
Focusing on 20th century Russian and East European film and literature, and the semiotics of art and culture, Professor and Chair Herb Eagle, in 2006–2007, published:

- "Power and the Visual Semantics of Polanski's Films," in *The Cinema of Roman Polanski: Dark Spaces of the World* (Elzbieta Ostrowska and John Orr, eds.).
- "Bipolar Asymmetry, Indeterminacy, and Creativity in Cinema," in *Lotman and Cultural Studies: Encounters and Extensions* (Andreas Schonle, ed.).

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Michigan Slavic Publications

In the Puppet Gardens: Selected Poems, 1963–2005 Ivan Wernisch, translated by Jonathan Bolton



In the Puppet Gardens is available from MSP, online at www.lsa.umich.edu/slavic/msp or call 734-763-4496

Ivan Wernisch (b. 1942), author of some forty collections of poetry, is one of the greatest Czech poets of the postwar era. In the Puppet Gardens: Selected Poems, 1963–2005 is the first extensive collection of Wernisch's verse to appear in English, drawing together over a hundred poems from the whole course of Wernisch's career. From imagist haikus to long dramatic monologues, from nonsense verse to metaphysical meditation, from political grotesque to post-modern experiment, from folk songs to war poetry, Wernisch's work illustrates the poet's wide-ranging imagination, his erudite melancholy and absurdist skepticism, and his fascination with both high and low culture from many different poetic traditions.

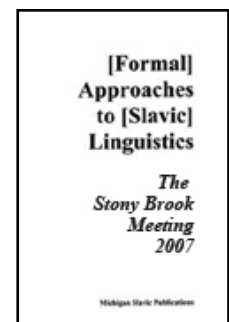
The collection is edited and translated by Jonathan Bolton ('91), Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages

and Literatures at Harvard University. Bolton's afterword places Wernisch's poetry in its Czech context, exploring and explaining the genres and themes that mark Wernisch's work.

"One of the basic experiences of reading Wernisch is feeling one's own imagination begin to overflow the boundaries of an individual poem, even poems that one has read many times before, such that any particular work begins to feel like a fragment of a larger whole—a piece torn from a map, a page torn out of a bestiary, or a folk tale from an otherwise unknown people. And even as the poems encourage us to reach beyond them, they seem to warn us about how destabilizing and disconcerting this reaching can be." –from the Afterword

Coming in April 2008! From MSP

[Formal] Approaches to [Slavic] Linguistics, The FASL conference series was conceived and initiated in 1992 at the University of Michigan. There are 15 volumes to date, the most recent being FASL 15: The Toronto Meeting. Each volume consists of revised and edited versions of all of the papers presented at the annual meeting of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics, which was held most recently at Stony Brook University in May, 2007. FASL 16: The Stony Brook Meeting includes work by invited speakers David Pesetsky and Masha Polinsky and papers from the General Session as well as a special session on language development, acquisition, and attrition. The volume is edited by Andrei Antonenko, John F. Bailyn, and Christina Y. Bethin.



Pre-order [Formal] Approaches to [Slavic] Linguistics and receive a 30% discount.

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Evgenia Cohen (left) in a traditional Russian folk costume, and a Russian samovar (right) engaged students at the Slavic Student Welcome Party on September 11.

Czech Workshop

The 2008 Czech Workshop will be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. The scheduled dates are Friday through Sunday, April 25–27, 2008. Please email Benjamin Frommer at b-frommer@northwestern.edu, for more information.

Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival

Nov. 10-11, 2007

Michigan Theater
603 E. Liberty St.
Ann Arbor, MI



Saturday, November 10, 2007

4:00 PM *Liliput Sisters and Their Passions* (documentary)
6:00 PM *Saviour Square* (drama)
8:15 PM *Breaking the Wall* (doc)
9:15 PM *Testosterone* (comedy)

Sunday, November 11, 2007

2:00 PM *The 52 Percent* (documentary)
2:30 PM *What the Sun Has Seen* (drama)
5:00 PM *Immensity of Justice* (drama)

Festival Guest: *dir. Wieslaw Saniewski*

Program may change without notice. All movies are shown with English subtitles.

www.annarborpolonia.org/filmfestival/