

NEWSLETTER
of
The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Toronto

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Faculty Profiles

Kate Holland

Not Grimsby, Ontario, but Grimsby, UK, which is located in North East Lincolnshire on the North Sea, is the hometown of Kate Holland. Grimsby, she recalls, was an important center of commercial fishing in the 19th century, but in the succeeding century its significance waned because of overfishing and the later development of the oil reserves in the northern North Sea , including, according to Wikipedia, “areas such as the Norwegian Sea and the UK ‘Atlantic Margin’ (west of Shetland) that are not geographically part of the North Sea.”

Kate was born into a family of schoolteachers; one parent taught French and the other history. They of course played and, now that they are retired, continue to play a role in developing their daughter's interest in education in general and in languages and literature in particular. But also significant was the opportunity to start learning Russian in her first year at secondary school. In the course of her second year of Russian—she was 15 at the time—she was selected for a two week school exchange trip to Russia. The visit to Moscow and Pyatigorsk, in addition to the usual sights, sounds, smells and tastes that intrigue tourists, gave her some insights into the decline of Russia following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Planning to major in Russian and Czech, Kate was admitted to one of the elite British colleges, King's College, University of Cambridge. It was there, because of lectures by and tutorials with Aileen Kelly and also a lecture course offered by Simon Franklin, a Slavic medievalist, that she was drawn even more to Russian literature. But the real turning point for her, which fired her commitment to the study of one author and the myriad of issues connected with his creative work, was a course on Dostoevsky, which she prepared for in the summer, before the course began, by extensive reading in the prose of this writer. After her second year at King's, she took a year off to live and work—she taught English in an elementary school—in Saint Petersburg, to travel in Russia, and to read as much as possible of Russian literature in Russian. When she returned to Cambridge for her final year of undergraduate study, Aileen Kelly advised Kate to apply to Yale University for graduate work, where she could work on Dostoevsky under the wing of one of America's foremost Dostoevsky critics and scholars, Robert L. Jackson.

Thanks to a Henry Fellowship, which supported exchanges between Oxford and Cambridge on one side of the ocean and Harvard and Yale on the other, Kate enrolled at Yale where she did indeed work with Jackson and where she earned both her Master's degree and her doctorate. For her dissertation, "The Novel in the Age of Disintegration: A Genre Study of Dostoevsky's Works 1873-1881," she spent five months doing research in Russia and was also awarded a Whitney Dissertation Fellowship, one of a number of prizes and research awards she garnered at Yale. She also taught at Yale for four years,

and her courses ranged from undergraduate seminars on “Criminality in the Novel” and “The Family in the Novel” to an undergraduate lecture class on Dostoevsky. She moved easily between basic “Great Books” courses and specialized graduate seminars on “Dostoevsky and the Theory of the Novel,” “Russian Journalism of the 1860s and 1870s,” and “Russian Literary Culture in the Age of Reform.”

Though satisfied with her position at Yale and with stimulating relationships with colleagues, some of them visitors, Kate felt that it was time to move on, to look for a position elsewhere. When our offer to her came with the possibility of an appointment for her partner, Ivan Fernández-Pelaéz, who was teaching Spanish at Rhodes College in Tennessee, she accepted quickly, even though she was still in the running for a job at another prestigious university. And she has fit nicely into the Toronto faculty and the Russian program, contributing to the congenial and the collegial ambiance of the Slavic Dept. She teaches her favorite Russian writer but also has volunteered to offer important courses that have not been taught for some years, and is involved in language courses. At informal lunches in the departmental lounge, she expresses her pleasure with her Toronto students, whom she considers bright, lively and articulate, frankly displays her political passions, appreciates the comedy of Jon Stewart, and flashes her own wit. Equally impressive is the intense curiosity and abundant energy of Kate and her husband, their delight in exploring Toronto and Ontario so striking to colleagues who have lived here longer but have not seen as much of the city and province.

Energy also characterizes her professional activity. In addition to invited lectures at Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and George Washington University, and many papers and panel discussions at scholarly conferences and symposia, she has published the following articles in refereed journals: "Literary Contexts of Triangular Desire: Natalie and Alexander Herzen as Readers of George Sand," *Russian Literature* 61, Nos. 1-2 (January-February 2007): 175-205, and "Novelizing Religious Experience: The Generic Landscape of *The Brothers Karamazov*," *Slavic Review* 66, No. 1 (Spring 2007): 63-81. Moreover, two book chapters should be noted: "The Legend of the Ladonka and the Trial of the Novel," in *A New Word on The Brothers Karamazov*, ed. R.L. Jackson, Northwestern University Press, 2004, 192-199 and "The Beginning of *Anna Karenina*",

in *MLA Approaches to Teaching Anna Karenina*, ed. Knapp, L. and Mandelker, A., MLA, 2003, 144-149.

In her first year at U of T Kate accepted an invitation to participate in the 2009 New York University Slavic Colloquium, at which she spoke on “Dostoevsky as Editor: Conflicting Visions of Russian Modernity in *The Citizen*,” and read a paper, “Inventing the Decline of the Russian Novel: Literary Criticism and Journalistic Politics in the 1870s,” at the November 2009 convention of AAASS. In 2010 she not only was pleased to greet and to teach the largest number of students we have ever had in a course on Russian short fiction, but also submitted an article, “Genre and the Temptation of Narrative Desire in *The Kreutzer Sonata*,” to *Russian Review*. She then took part in the University of Toronto Slavic Colloquium organized in March by graduate students in Slavic and in Comparative Literature. In April she attended the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association and gave the paper “Nikolai Danilevsky and the Symbolic History of Russian Westernism in *Demons*.” In her spare time Kate is finishing her book manuscript, *The Novel in the Age of Disintegration: Dostoevsky and Genre in the 1870s* and planning her second book, *Literary Tradition, Print Culture, and the Evolution of the Russian Family Novel in the 1870s*, which she expects to finish in 2014.

DRAGANA OBRADOVIĆ

Dragana was born on 2 November 1983 in Sarajevo. Her mother was an economist and her father a civil engineer. Throughout her childhood Dragana’s father worked abroad, and the family left Bosnia in 1993 and lived for many years in the East, namely, in Hong Kong and Thailand. Dragana’s mother, because of the many moves, gave up her work to devote time and effort to the upbringing and home schooling of Dragana and her sister. In Hong Kong and Thailand the girls attended international

schools, and it was there that they learned English. When it came time to enter university, Dragana chose to attend the University of Nottingham in England and to major in English Studies. She graduated with prizes for excellent examination results in her second and last years, a Gay Clifford award given to outstanding women students, and a BA (Hons.) degree, First Class. Her sister also studied in the UK. And with their children away, Dragana's parents reunited their family when they followed their daughters to England in 2002 and settled in a small village near Nottingham, where they still live.

For graduate work Dragana enrolled in University College, London, of which she notes with pride that the school was founded in 1826 as the first secular university in Britain, and that it was the first English university to admit women. In 2005 she received her Master's degree in Comparative Literature, and her dissertation, which was considered one of distinction, was on the French influences on the American writer Paul Auster. She also taught for the Department of Comparative Literature classes on literary theory, Eastern European cinema, and classes introducing East European literatures in translation.

For her doctorate work, however, she shifted her focus and, with a UCL Graduate Scholarship for three years, concentrated her attention on South Slavic language, literature, and culture courses in the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in University College. For one year, 2006-7, she served as Executive Editor of *Slovo*, a fully-refereed post-graduate led academic journal of East European, Russian and Eurasian studies. A year later, she was named a Teacher Fellow in Serbian and Croatian Literature and Culture, and taught Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian Literature at all undergraduate levels. At the end of the same year, 2008, she completed her doctoral dissertation, *Writing in War, Writing on War: The Dissolution of Yugoslavia in Literary Discourse*. Her study, as she summarizes it, examines "the literary production during the civil war of the 1990s of five writers from the former Yugoslavia, Semezdin Mehmedinović, Slobodan Selenić, Vladimir Arsenijević, Dubravka Ugrešić and David Albahari. The central concern is to analyse the engagement of their literary narratives in

relation to the actual and symbolic waging of war as these works respond, in equal measure, to the destruction of land and homeland, people and population, as well as the discursive dissemination of national import.”

Dragana began teaching at U of T in the fall of 2009, when she was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She well knows that, following the retirement of her predecessor in the area of South Slavic studies, Professor Ralph Bogert, she has big boots to fill and the responsibility of a successful program of courses to maintain. There is no doubt in her mind that the traditions and standards of the recent past must be preserved. But she also feels the need to expand somewhat the areas covered and to satisfy the desires of both her students and her own pedagogical impulses and interests by building or offering new courses, more immediately relevant, perhaps, to the interests and concerns of today’s students. Some courses that Dragana would like to develop on either the undergraduate or graduate level include a study of the literature of and about exile, and a course on Post World War II fiction and, to be added somewhat later, poetry. And there are some extra-curricular activities and events, including a series of film nights, she is planning for her students in various South Slavic areas.

Of her Toronto students, Dragana has nothing but the best to say. When asked to compare them to the students she taught in England, she consistently praises the diversity of her students here, the variety of not only their backgrounds and life experiences but also their concerns, the seriousness of their commitment to their studies, and their work ethic. The students, in these respects, reflect the city and country in which they live, the cultural differences which nurture them, and yet the manageable, pragmatic parameters of interests—i.e., not too large and diffuse—that propel them. To her new colleagues Dragana has responded with great warmth and cheerfulness, sharing with them the films and books that delight her and the amusing people and incidents she encounters at the university or in the streets and shops of Toronto.

Of her new country, Canada, Dragana notes the amount of snow, which reduces her opportunities to run half-marathons year round. Perhaps after a few more Toronto winters she'll admit the weather here is only a minor inconvenience or she'll take up snowshoe racing.

Of course, for many years Dragana has published a number of papers and given many talks. A select number of her most recent research activities are:

"Fiction in the Museum: Dubravka Ugrešić in Berlin," CERES Faculty Speakers' Series U of T, 4 March 2010.

"The *flaneuse* in Berlin: Dubravka Ugrešić's *Museum of Unconditional Surrender*," and Participation in Roundtable discussion on Representation of Violence in Balkan Literature, AAASS, Boston, 13-15 November 2009.

"The Narrator's Secret: Slobodan Selenić's *Timor mortis*," AAASS, Philadelphia, 27-30 November 2008.

Recent publications include:

"Minor Languages and World Literature: The Case of Dubravka Ugrešić," in *World Literature, World Culture*, ed. by Karen-Margrethe Simonsen and Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen (Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2008), 135-148.

"Stalingrad: Hermes in Aarhus 2007," in *World Literature, World Culture*, ed. by Karen-Margrethe Simonsen and Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen (Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2008), 275-279.

Also, a manuscript, of which Dragana is co-editor, should be mentioned here, since it is now under review for publication:

Comparative Literary Understanding and the Vicissitudes of Form. Co-edited by Dragana Obradović, Gesche Ipsen and Professor Timothy Mathews (UCL).

Faculty News

Veronika Ambros just returned from Ottawa, where she gave a talk on “Golems and Robots. Modern Metamorphoses on Stage and Screen” for the Theatre Department at the University of Ottawa. She has been indeed busy attending and giving papers at a number of conferences this past year. Her paper “Intertextualita jako osvojení nebo přisvojení uměleckého díla aneb soudy nad golemy a roboty” [“Intertextuality as Appropriation or Adaptation of a Work of Art and the Verdicts about Golems and Robots”] was presented at the *Fourth International Congress of Bohemian Studies* (Prague, 29 June 2010). In August, 2010, at the *Double Dialogue Conference on the Hunger Artist: Food and the Arts* organized by Australian colleagues and the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto, Veronika was invited to give the keynote lecture. Her paper was titled “The Fortunes of Stolen Breakfast, Slaughtered Pig, Onion, and Potato in the World War.”

At an interdisciplinary conference *Neither Strange Nor Familiar--Contemporary Approaches to Hybridity*, held at the University of Toronto (23 October 2010), she read her paper, “Hybrid Creatures in Hybrid Worlds.” And in January of 2011, she gave two papers: “Comedia in Bohemia: Its Transformations and Their Functions” for *Staging the Outlandish and Clowning the Lyrical: Legacy and Transformation of the Commedia dell’Arte*. U of T Drama Centre and “Prezentace či reprezentace fiktivní představy nebo fikční postavy? Model Golem, [“Presentation or Re-Presentation of a fictive idea or fictional character? The Golem as Model”],” for a conference whose focus was *Modely Repräsentací v Literatuře [Models of Representation in Literature]* Filozofická fakulta Jihočeské univerzity v Českých Budějovicích, (28 January 2011).

Christopher Barnes has translated, edited, and introduced *The Russian Piano School: Russian Pianists and Moscow Conservatoire Professors on the Art of the Piano* published in London, UK, by Kahn & Averill. This book should be required reading for all admirers of Sviatoslav Richter and other Russian giants of the keyboard.

The Chair of our Department, **Christina Kramer**, has been as busy as always. She has many departmental committees, including promotion hearings, to organize, search committees for new appointments to oversee, numerous meetings with her fellow chairs, with deans, and with other administrators running the university to attend and to defend the interests of her Department, and lunches and dinners to digest with both

academic visitors and prospective donors to our programs. She has also served on the Governing Council of the University of Toronto from 2009 to the present day.

She has, at the same time, been active professionally. Some of her conference presentations during the last two years are as follows:

“Representations of Violence in Balkan Literature”, round table participant, AAASS, Boston, 2009

“Riddles from the Archives,” 7th Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies, University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2009.

“The ‘Complementary Distribution’ of Morphological Complexity in English and Russian (or, Why English-Speaking Students Find Russian So Difficult),” [written with Daniel Humphries] presented, to the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Toronto, 2009.

“A Brief History of the Jews in Macedonia,” Macedonian Historical Society, North York, 24 January 2010.

“Where Are We Going and How Do We Get There? Mixed FL/HL Course Design for Less and Least Commonly Taught Languages,” with Elena Petroska, First International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages, NHLRC, UCLA, Feb. 2010.

“Exploiting Stereotypes in Konstantinov’s *Bai Ganyo: vir balcanicus, mulier balcanica*,” 17th Balkan and South Slavic Conference, OSU, April 2010.

“Preservation of the Macedonian Identity and Language in Today’s Global Community”, United Macedonia Diaspora Conference, Toronto, 4 June 2010.

“Why Are Some Languages So Difficult to Learn?” Critical Languages Institute. Arizona State University. June 2010.

“Team-work for Proficiency in Large Language Classes,” Workshop: Harvard Russian program, 22 October 2010.

Christina has also been involved in some interesting translation projects. In 2009 she translated from Macedonian *My Father’s Books* by Luan Starova, which will be published this year by the University of Wisconsin Press. A section from her translation of *My Father’s Books*, appeared in *Words without Borders: The Online Magazine for International Literature* (<http://www.wordswithoutborders.org>) “Memory and Lies” edition in July 2009. In the following year she, together with Victor Friedman, Grace Fiedler, and Catherine Rudin, translated Aleko Konstantinov’s *Bai Ganyo: Incredible Tales of a Modern Bulgarian*, ed. Victor A. Friedman, University of Wisconsin Press,

2010. The translation of this novel, a Bulgarian comic classic written at the end of the nineteenth century, was awarded the 2010 John D. Bell Book Prize by the Bulgarian Studies Association.

Next come the articles and books she has worked on recently. November 2010 saw the publication of her *Minority Language Rights in Primary Education: A Century of Change in the Balkans*, Naylor Memorial Lecture Monograph Series Beech Stave Press (53 pages). Next year her entry on Macedonian poets and poetry will appear in *Poetry and Poetics* to be published by Princeton University Press. Her *Macedonian: A Course for Elementary and Intermediate Students*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press, will appear in a revised and expanded third edition. A second work by Luan Starova, *The Time of the Goats*, will be published next year by the University of Wisconsin Press. She is also under contract with Penguin Books to translate *Sigmund Freud's Sister* by Goce Smilevski].

One final note on her activity must highlight the 2010 grant Christina was given to develop, together with Dragana Obradović, the International Course Modules for our students of Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian. A fuller report on this module and of the experience of our students appears later in this newsletter.

Leonid Livak was promoted on July 1, 2010 to the rank of Professor. During the past year he received a 3-year standard research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to research and write a biography of the French-Russian-Jewish modernist poet, critic and translator Ludmila Savitzky. And two books of his appeared: *Russian Émigrés in the Intellectual and Literary Life of Interwar France: A Bibliographical Essay*, published in June 2010 by McGill-Queen's University Press and *The Jewish Persona in the European Imagination: A Case of Russian Literature*, published in August 2010 by Stanford University Press.

Julia Mikhailova has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. She is an admired teacher of Russian and is indefatigable in her promotion of extra-curricular activities for students. She is the driving force behind the annual talent show; she organizes the event and participates in it as both a performer and the m.c. See more about the show a little later in this newsletter.

Much of the work of **Donna Orwin** during the past year was centered on Lev Tolstoy, since it was the 100th anniversary of his death, and there were many celebrations of this milestone. In the fall of 2010 she finished editing for Cambridge University Press *Anniversary Essays on Tolstoy*. To this volume, which has just appeared, she contributed the essay "Leo Tolstoy: Pacifist, Patriot, and *Molodets*." A few months before, in April, she and Colonel Rickie McPeak of the United States Military Academy organized a conference on *War and Peace* at West Point. They are presently editing a book for Cornell University Press, *War and Peace Across the Disciplines*, which will emerge from the papers and discussions at West Point. Worthy of note is that Donna took some of our

students to the Tolstoy conference to give them a taste of what lies before them in their professional careers.

At U of T Donna continued to organize four talks a year for the CERES Slavic Faculty Series, producing a stimulating mix of language, literature, and history talks and leading the discussion of the papers afterwards. She has also been introducing, on both the graduate and undergraduate levels, some new courses. She is especially looking forward to offering a course with Alison Smith of the U of T's Department of History.

And, last but not least, Donna was awarded another SSHRC grant to continue her research project on war and literature in Russia.

Joseph Schallert, in addition to commenting on his wife's paper in the first session of the Graduate Studies Colloquium (see the full schedule of this conference in the section devoted to our graduate students), gave a talk on "The Linguistic Geography of the Accentuation of Masculine Nouns in Balkan Slavic" at the CERES Slavic Faculty series in November 2008. He also presented a paper, "Segmental Sonority and the Distribution of Stress in the Definite Singular of Masculine Nouns in Balkan Slavic Dialects," which he gave at the 5th IWoBA, International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology, which was held at Silesian University, Opava, Czech Republic, on July 4-7, 2009. Last May, at Silesian University in Opava he read a paper, "Sotak Prosody Reconsidered," at a conference on the Dialectology of Eastern Europe.

Two of his articles have been accepted for publication:

1) "Syntax and Semantics of Non-Concordant Neuter L-Participles in South Slavic", 48 pp., to appear in *Balkanistica*, 2010, Selected Proceedings of the 16th Biennial Conference on Balkan Linguistics, Literatures, and Folklore, Banff, May 1-4, 2008.

2) "Segmental Sonority and the Distribution of Stress in the Definite Singular of Masculine Nouns in Balkan Slavic Dialects", 20 pp., to appear in 2010/2011 in *Selected Proceedings of the 5th IWoBA, International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology*.

3) "The Historical Prosody of Sotak Dialects" (20 Pages) will be published in *Slavic Centralia*, Ljubljana, April 2011. The first issue of this new journal will be devoted to issues of dialect in border regions, such as that of Sotak in eastern Slovakia/western Ukraine.

His long book review (15 pages) of *The Konikovo Gospel* will appear in the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, 2010.

He has also been invited by Marcin Grygiel, Ph.D., of the Department of Comparative Slavic Linguistics, University of Rzeszów, Poland, to submit an article for review in a planned forthcoming collection with the working title *Nominal Systems in South Slavic* (co-editor Steven Franks, Univ. of Indiana). His submission will be titled

"Southwest Bulgarian accentual features in the Fakija dialect of southeast Bulgaria."

Affiliated Faculty

In the past year **Ann Komaromi** helped facilitate the acquisition and initial processing of the Igor Belousovitch uncensored press collection for the University of Toronto libraries. The Belousovitch Collection has been described by Ksenya Kiebusinski, Slavic Resources Coordinator at Robarts Library, as "68 boxes . . . donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, by Igor Belousovitch and his daughter Anna in September 2009. . . . The Belousovitch Collection of Samizdat and the independent press is composed of various periodicals, manuscripts, and miscellaneous documents ranging from the 1960s to the early 90s from the Soviet Union."

Ann is also working on an electronic database of Soviet Samizdat periodicals to be mounted at the U of T Libraries. Other works in progress include an article on Samizdat Periodicals and the History of Unofficial Culture in the late Soviet Union, and an article on Venedikt Erofeev for *Voprosy Literaturny*. Ann has been invited to participate in a conference on "Non-conformism and Dissent in the Soviet Bloc: Guiding Legacy or Passing Memory?" sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, March 30-April 1, 2011. She will be on a panel devoted to "Documenting and Researching the Dissident Movements."

T. Allan Smith, Associate Professor, USMC, and Fellow and Registrar, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, taught SLA 400H, Mediaeval Russian Writers, and SLA 1210 H, Studies in Mediaeval Russian Literature. He published two books: *The Volokolamsk Paterikon: A Window on a Muscovite Monastery*, Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2008, and Sergius Bulgakov, *The Burning Bush: On the Orthodox Veneration of the Mother of God*. Translated, annotated and with an introduction by Thomas Allan Smith. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009. He is currently preparing an annotated translation of and introduction to Sergius Bulgakov, *The Unfading Light*. Finally, he is the advisor for a Licence in Mediaeval Studies paper, "The Typology of the *Uspensky* Compendium: To the Question of Genre, Origin and Genesis."

Talent Show

For the past few years, the Slavic Department has sponsored an annual talent show, in which students, both undergrads and grads, and their teachers have taken part. The shows featured dances, songs, poetry recitations, and skits in many Slavic languages. Some presentations were professional: two years ago one of our instructors performed a belly dance with a fellow student of the art, and last year a student, who is a trained singer, gave an achingly beautiful performance of a Serbian song. Students and staff may also recall a clarinet duet performed by the Chair of the Department and a colleague from the Department of History. But most are good-spirited performances by amateur—in the

best sense of the word—players, whose gusto and enthusiasm are received in kind. Before, during, and after the show both audience and performers are invited to enjoy the potluck supper prepared by the performers and other volunteers.

This year's show took place on March 11th, with encores by past performers, both solos and duets, together with such novelties as Serbo-Croatian rap poetry and playlets created by the undergraduate students of Russian and Macedonian as well as comedy skits featuring graduate students.

Language Study Abroad

Study Abroad

The following is a report by Christina Kramer and Dragana Obradović on the International Course Modules sponsored by the Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, for our students of Serbian and Macedonian, which presented the students an opportunity to travel in and experience, from the inside, the life and culture of these countries:

Teaching language is a complex enterprise. Not only do we strive to advance students' active and passive production of listening, speaking, and writing the language, but, through language, we teach history, literature, and culture. A well-taught language course is intrinsically multi-disciplinary. While on-line sources have boosted our ability to show film and scenes of everyday life and to expose students to the voices of native speakers, true immersion is the *sine qua non* of exposure to real-life situations and language. One of the ideal moments for this full immersion is after two full years of study. By this point students have sufficiently mastered the fundamentals of grammar and they have sufficient vocabulary to enable them to function in the target language without the local population switching to their –often much better – English. This year's Macedonian and Serbian classes provided an opportunity to take students with sufficient proficiency overseas. The purpose of this trip was to enhance the cultural and language component of the intermediate Macedonian and Serbian language courses.

All activities described below – lectures, tours, restaurant visits, church services, meetings with local students – were conducted in Macedonian and Serbian respectively. The students were required to maintain daily journals in both English and in the target

language of the day's activities and personal responses and reflections on the events. We had the incredible opportunity to engage at the educational, political, artistic, historical, religious, and out-door recreational levels. The combined groups covered more than 1500km and experienced the life of the capital city, and village life – the lakes, the mountains, and major cultural sites taking in more than 2500 years of history, from the city of Heraclea found by Philip in the 4th century CE to contemporary sites and echoes of the wars of separation of the 1990s.

Both Dragana Obradović and I were extremely impressed that our students were able to comprehend a wide range of spoken language, from rural speakers, to the language of highly educated professors, librarians, religious figures, and politicians. The students asked questions, made notes, and gave clear evidence of advanced language skills. Several of the heritage speakers in the classes, who were worried about being laughed at or unable to engage with the standard, affirmed that the courses at the University of Toronto had prepared them for this trip.

Although some of the students had been to these countries before, they had never experienced them in this way. Imagine a Canadian student living abroad visiting Canada every other summer – getting picked up at the airport in Toronto and then spending the summer with family in Markham. That was roughly the experience of these students. They knew little of the history, politics, architecture, nightlife, theatre, natural beauty, etc of these countries. As one student remarked: I have been to many museum exhibits and have learned about many cultures, but this was the first time I learned and saw my own history, my own culture. These students were too young to have known Yugoslavia nor did they themselves experience the war years of the 1990s. However, recent history has had a tremendous impact on these countries, and in discussions with professors, politicians, and their student peers, the students had to learn the ramifications of civil war, disunity, aspirations of developing countries, and life outside of EU integration. Many of the students felt that the trip helped them to understand the causes of immigration to Canada. They reflected on their lives as first generation Canadians. Since both countries are in political transition and economically distressed, the students had to consider the causes for emigration, while, at the same time, recognizing the incredible

wealth of historical sites, archeological richness, and the living culture of these countries. The students on the whole were glad to live in Canada, but experienced torn loyalties and nostalgia for a lost homeland.

Everyone with whom we have spoken about our trip and the places visited thinks we truly gave the students an experience of a lifetime. Most of the citizens of the countries have not had the opportunities these students have had to experience such a broad range of historical and cultural sites. The lectures given voluntarily by the local experts made a deep impression on the students and forced them to advance their comprehension skills. The students are deeply grateful to the University of Toronto and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for this truly unique, life-changing opportunity. The term *life-changing* is a cliché, but there is no other way to describe the knowledge gained, the exposure to other religions and people that the students had feared, meetings with their peers, experiencing the tough economic conditions, and coming to terms with Canadian life and education. Please let us know if you would like further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Kramer and Dragana Obradović

Itinerary

	MACEDONIA	SERBIA
April 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •lecture on Balkan language contact , Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences; Academy's archives of Macedonia's leading linguist and poet – Blaže Koneski. •University of Kiril and Metodij: tour of classroom and library facilities. •tour of the Parliament Building arranged through the Ministry of Education. •Vodno – the Mountain over-looking the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival. • U of Belgrade students conduct “alternative tour” of city: street art, underground tunnels, artist studios from warehouses.
April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •walking tour of Turkish architecture in the Market region; students had to overcome fears to visit this largely-Muslim district. Art gallery in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day trip to Trsić, birthplace of father of Serbian and Croatian languages, Vuk

	<p>Turkish bath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •lectures on famous oak-carved iconostasis of the Church of the Holy Salvation and on revolutionary hero Goce Delčev buried in the church yard. •archeology dig taking place on the Fortress above the Turkish quarter •meeting with Mr. Erwan Fouéré the European Ambassador to Macedonia in the EU headquarters. Opportunity to discuss the controversial name issue and Macedonia's potential future membership in the EU. •Evening out in Turkish quarter with group of Macedonian students. Stone Bridge; Mother Teresa monument 	<p>Karadžić, now a cultural centre. Study of life in 19th century rural Serbia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monastery Tronosha where Karadžić was educated. • Lecture on history of Monastery. • Belgrade at night: rakija bar with young Serbian students.
April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum of Macedonia –ancient Byzantine archeology, Macedonian folk clothing, weaving, farming tools and techniques, contrasting housing styles from different villages, Turkish architecture, icons – some of the richest in the region, and political documents from the early 20th century. • Matka, a renowned natural park outside of the city, visit to 14th century church • Vrelo cave, one of the world's deepest caves. Here students were told of the natural phenomena of cave formation, the life cycle of the bats that flew around while we were inside, and the depth of the two cave lakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students join Serbian students on 8 km circuit training around Belgrade lake. • Museum of Nobel Prize author Ivo Andrić, Vuk Karadžić museum, and Museum of Dositej Obradović monk who left church because of enlightenment ideas. First who brought Western influences to Balkans. • Nikola Tesla [world renowned Serbian physicist and engineer] museum.
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursion to Bitola. En route house-museum of Blaže Koneski, Mac. Linguist and poet, in the village of Nebregovo • View of tobacco drying stands – world centre for tobacco • significant revolutionary sites in Kruševo • New monastery begun by renowned pop singer Toše Proevski. who died three years ago at age 26. • Visit to Proevski gravesite • Bitola, city of Embassies • Tour of European architecture of early 20th century. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursion to Novi Sad on inter-city bus. • Matica Srpska (first in Budapest) oldest library in country. • Viewing of Byzantine manuscripts • Lecture on history of medieval manuscript making. • 2 galleries - Matica Srpska art –largest Yugoslav art collection from S. Slav from 16th through mid-20th. Lots of church art.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tour of Novi Sad, Serbia's most multicultural urban area. • Catholic church and synagogue – multiethnic multicultural urban area. • lunch of local specialty skimbici (pigs intestines). • Belgrade nightlife: Serb pop music
April 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit and lecture tour of Heraklea, founded in 4th century BC, Philip of Macedon, later Roman trading centre • Walking tour of Turkish quarter and market • Mountain climbing on Pelister National Park • Mountaineering rest station with monument to first Macedonian alpinist to reach Mt. Everest summit • Dinner at National foods restaurant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat'l library of Serbia. • Meeting with book conservator • Lecture on Byzantine book bindings • Atelier for binding. • St. Sava Cathedral, largest practicing Orthodox establishment in world. • Museum of Orthodox Church w/robes and materials from 13-14th century Tsars • Lecture and guided tour on religious codes and hierarchies – gateway to politics and culture. • Friday night theatre: post-ww2 play on everyday struggle of life under communism • Dinner in Skardalija – Bohemian quarter of Belgrade
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursion to Ohrid, historical site recognized as UN site. • En route, across terrain of mixed Albanian, Turkish, Macedonian villages with view of churches and mosques • Apple growing orchards • Across Galičica mountain, views of Albanian cities at southern end of lake • Visit to Sv. Naum monastery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursion to region with highest per centage of Serbs displaced in war. • Frushka gora national park • Monastir Krushedol w/ burial ground of tsars and kings (Medieval period). • At gravesite

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohrid Lake 	<p>witnessed families marking anniversary of Croatian attacks in Krajna – very contemporary living history</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local fair • Visit to family-run winery and meadery. Lecture on local production of wine and honey and history of bee keeping in Serbia • Sremski karlovci – cultural centre of Serbian education. Hosts oldest schools and gymnasia. • Petrovardin Fortress. During 20th century all bridges connecting city bombed (including 1999 bombing by NATO), so bridge-building is sign of resistance. Some have not been rebuilt. Some left as commemoratives • Evening out with Serbian students to warehouse converted to gallery space for opening by young Serb artist.
May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free day, required visits to Ohrid cites including: Samuil Fortress, Churches of Sofija, Jovan Kaneo, Kliment, Georgij; Ancient Theatre; excavation cites of mosaics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning free. • Zemun Quay • Gardosh: Austro-Hungarian part of Belgrade centre for craft makers. • Home-cooked meal at grandmother's house of one of students. • Walk of Kalamegdon – fortress in evening.
May 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional day Excursion • Struga, Albanian Macedonian mixed city; home of Poetry festival; • Vevčani: mountain village with waterfalls, unique architecture. Lecture by local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional day excursion • Mokra gora , southwest Serbia close to Bosnian border, • unparalleled scenery –

	<p>journalist; 2 century old working corn mill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's monastery • Cave churches • St. Jovan Bigorski –most renowned monastery. Tour with Father Josif. Stayed for service • Tetovo – Albanian dominant city, visit to Painted Mosque and tea discussion with leading Dervish at the centre for Bektashi-sect teke. 	<p>mountainous area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steam engine train • Area of eco-tourism • Hosted by railways of Serbia • Traditional Serbian meal of veal pod sačom. • On visit to biggest producer of cured and smoked meats in Serbia. 75-yr self-made man discussed work. • Homecooked meal in hostel for all students
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Perhaps it is fitting to close this report with a few pictures, two from Serbia and two from Macedonia, taken during the trip:





Information about Russian language study in Siberia will be added later.

Student Scholarships, Prizes, and Awards

Nancy Park Book Prize and Travel Scholarship to Russia

For many years the Department has celebrated the memory of Nancy Park, one of our finest undergraduates who died suddenly and much too young. Together with her family, who wanted to endow a book prize and a travel grant in order to honor their daughter and sister and with us to keep alive the memory of such a bright and vivacious student, the Russian section of our Department each year awards the book prize to a third- or fourth-year student of Russian, who has demonstrated academic achievement. In May 2010 Deborah Perkins-Leitman was the recipient of the book prize.

The Nancy Park Travel Scholarship is awarded to a graduate or advanced undergraduate whose program includes at least one joint graduate/undergraduate course. Applicants must have completed or be currently enrolled in a third-year Russian language course or equivalent, and be registered in one of the following disciplines: Russian language and literature, history, law, music, women's studies, art or art history. Applicants should also include a detailed statement of intentions to engage in humanitarian activities in Russia—past winners worked in orphanages, engaged in environmental activities, and participated in HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns; two letters of reference, including one from a recent Russian language professor; a commitment both to give an oral presentation of the results of the trip to the University community within four months of the return to Canada and to write a short report on her or his practical activities in Russia for the benefit of future scholarship winners. The most recent winner of the Nancy Park Travel Scholarship is Corinne Bredin.

Graduate Student News

Amanda Greber was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship for study abroad in 2009-10. She spent her year in Macedonia, where she collected material and did research for her PhD dissertation.

Two graduate students, **Amber Aulen** and **Olha Tytarenko**, recently passed the general part of their comprehensive examinations. They will tackle next their special field exams, which are linked to the subjects of their dissertations. Amber

is interested in representations in Chekhov of art and artists and Olha will study Russian religious thought of the nineteenth century.

The major event of the year for the graduate students was the colloquium that they organized in March, 2009. Students from our Department together with their colleagues in the Comparative Literature Programme designed and carefully structured the panels of the two day event, volunteered to give most of the papers, invited a number of faculty members to participate as commentators—some also contributed papers—and arranged for two keynote addresses. The sessions were well attended, the papers well delivered and informative, and the discussion generated by the talks and the commentaries lively. Some idea of the scope and depth of the colloquium may be gauged from the following program of the event:

Sunday, March 7 – Monday, March 8, 2010
University of Toronto
SLAVIC STUDIES COLLOQUIUM

Father Madden Hall (Carr Hall), St. Michael's College

SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH

9:55 – 10:00 Opening remarks

10:00 – 10:30 PRESENTATION:

Entailment, Implicature, and Rising Intonations in Russian
Jan Schallert

Discussant: **Joe Schallert**

10:45 – 12:15 PANEL: Narratives in Search of Unity: Language and Identity in Polish

Panel Chair: **Dmitri Zheltovski** Discussant: **Tamara Trojanowska**

Speech as a Metaphysical Organ: Bruno Schulz's Philosophy of Language
Lukasz Sicinski

The Monist Sacred: Edward Stachura's *Fabula Rasa*
Jeannine Pitas

Trauma Narrative in Oksana Zabuzhko's *Field Studies in Ukrainian Sex*
Victoria Lyasota

12:15 – 1:45 Lunch

1:45 – 3:00 KEYNOTE: Robert Romanchuk

Four Ways to Write a Perverse Symptom: Stratagems and Strategies of Gogol's *Mirgorod*

3:00 – 3:30 Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00 PANEL: The Jouissance of Revolution: The Convertible Currency of (Dis)(U)topian Narratives

Panel Chair: **Lukasz Sicinski**

Discussant: **Taras Koznarsky**

Pleasure, Reality, and the (Limited) Space Beyond: Re-orienting Utopia in Some Films under Stalin

Ryan Culpepper

Russian Symbolists' Utopian Romance with Reality: The Case of Fedor Sologub's *The Created Legend*

Lukasz Wodzynski

The X Factor Revisited: Toward a Psychoanalytic Reading of Zamyatin's *We*

Dmitri Zheltovski

MONDAY, MARCH 8TH

8:30 – 10:00 PANEL: Contemporary Research Methodology in Literature and Linguistics

Panel Chair: **Lukasz Wodzynski**

Discussant: **Donna Orwin**

From Cognitive Grammar to Trilingual Twins

Pia Paivio

The (Re-)Invention of the Russian Realist Novel, 1875-1880

Kate Holland

Writing on Contemporary War: The Case of Yugoslavia

Dragana Obradovic

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – NOON PANEL: The Czech Stage: Expanding Theatrical Traditions

Panel Chair and Discussant: **Veronika Ambros**

Liberated Word, Image, Performance: Nezval's *Dispatch on Wheels*

Eva Slaisova

Modernism Taken to Practice: Karel Čapek's *The Mother*

Andrés Pérez-Simón

The King's New Haircut: Milan Uhde's *Král Vávra* as an Example of the

Widening of the Czech Theatrical Tradition of the 1960s
Adam Grunzke

NOON – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 2:45 KEYNOTE: Leonid Livak
 Russian Émigrés in The Intellectual and Literary Life of Interwar France

2:45 – 3:30 Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00 PANEL: Religion, History, Text: From Petrus Magnus to Petra Scandali

Panel Chair: **Amber Aulen**

Discussant: **Kate Holland**

Peter the Great and Napoleon in Russian Apocalyptic Imagination.
Olha Tytarenko

A Combination of Paganism and Christianity: The Imagery of Rivers in
Zadonshchina
Joseph Schlegel

The Catholic Temptation of Piotr Chaadaev and Sergei Bulgakov
Janick Roy

6:00 RECEPTION

Alumni News

Mark Conliffe was recently appointed Book Review Editor (Literature and Art) for *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. His article, "Valentin Kataev's Later Writing and 'Uzhe napisan Verter': Time, Memory, and a Critical Dream." Has been published in *Scando-Slavica* 56.1 (2010): 7-26. And, last June, he spent a month in Poltava, doing work in archives and museums that relates to his Korolenko project.

Elisabeth Elliott is the Coordinator of Slavic languages and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the [Slavic Department](#) at Northwestern University. She teaches language and linguistic courses in both the Slavic Department and the Department of Linguistics.

Roma Franko has retired from her position as a professor and Former Head of the Department of Slavic Studies and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan. She is a prolific translator and founder of [Language Lantern Publications](#), where she has published almost 20 volumes of Ukrainian literature in translation.

Jane Frances Hacking is currently serving as Chair of the [Department of Languages and Literature](#) at the University of Utah.

Rolf Hellebust is an Associate Professor at the [Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies](#) at the University of Nottingham

Halyna Hryn is Editor of the Journal [Harvard Ukrainian Studies](#).

Catherine Niestroj is teaching English at the [Language Centre](#) of Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.

Maria Rewakowicz is currently a Fulbright Scholar in the [Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures](#) at the University of Washington.

Galina Rylkova is an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Advisor for Russian at the [Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures](#) at the University of Florida.

In 2010 **Myroslav Shkandrij** was named Faculty of Arts Professor of the Year at the University of Manitoba. He published two articles in refereed journals: “The Shifting Object of Desire: The Poetry of Oleksandr Irvanets.” *Canadian-*

American Slavic Studies 44.1-2(2010): 59-72, and “Omer Bartov's *Erased*.” [Part of Book Symposium.] *Nationalities Papers* 38.2 (2010): 298-302. One other major publication, a chapter in a book, should be noted: “Politics of the Ukrainian Avant-Garde,” in *Modernism in Kyiv: Jubilant Experimentation*. Edited by Irena R. Makaryk and Virlana Tkacz. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010, 219-41. Myroslav also delivered much more than a handful of conference papers and public lectures. And there were other forms of communication between him and his audience that he utilized and considered worthy of noting:

Wrote the subtitles to *Red Elvis*, video of play by Serhiy Zhadan, directed by Svitlana Oleshko

Wrote the subtitles to *Stone Mill (Zhorna, Zherova)*, a documentary film on the Famine of 1932-33 directed by Anna Gin.

Organized screening of documentary film *A Kingdom Reborn* at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and chaired meeting with the film-maker Dani Stodilka following the screening. The event was jointly sponsored with the WAG and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Translated into English three short plays by the contemporary Ukrainian author Serhiy Zhadan (to be published in the Lodz journal *Dekadenzya*) and the novel *Depeche Mode* (to be published in the Toronto journal *Ukrainian Literature*).

Megan Swift has been awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Victoria. She was recently elected President of the Canadian Association of Slavists for the term 2010-12 and is at work on a book about Soviet illustrated children's literature under Lenin and Stalin, from 1917-1953. She and her husband Jay have two beautiful daughters named Bella and Lola.