

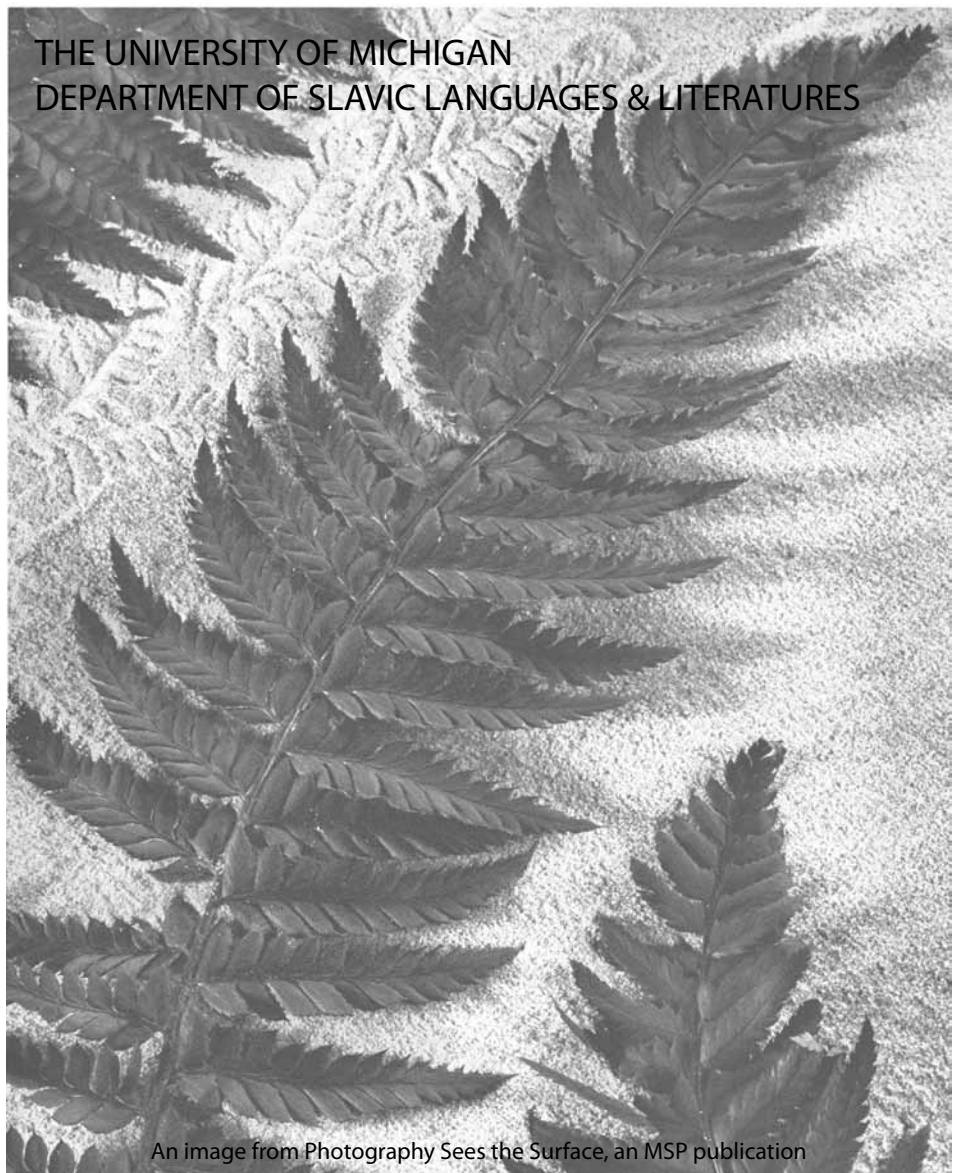
The Slavic Scene

Volume 15, Number 1
May 2007

Letter From The Chair	2
Feature	3
Classroom Spotlight	4
Congratulations Graduates	5
Staying Connected	6-7
Supporting Slavic Studies	6
Highlights	8-9
In Print	10-11

www.lsa.umich.edu/slavic

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES



An image from Photography Sees the Surface, an MSP publication

The Slavic Scene

Letter From the Chair

Dear Friends



Change is inevitable—and in this case, unexpected. Professor Bogdana Carpenter has resigned from the chair's position because of an unforeseen health issue. I want to assure all of you that she is fully recovered and is as vibrant as always. She taught her Polish literature courses with her characteristic energy, depth and warmth. Additionally, she and her husband and co-author, John Carpenter, completed their translation of Julia Hartwig's poetry entitled *In Praise of the Unfinished*, currently at press with Knopf. Two other books by our faculty are also at press: Professor Ronen's *Shram (Scar)*, a collection of his literary, critical, biographical and historical essays, published by Zvezda, and Professor Toman's *Photography, Photomontage and the Culture of Mechanical Reproduction: Czechoslovakia, 1900-1950*, to be published by KANT. Two faculty were given competitive research awards at the University: Professor Andrew Herscher will be a Fellow at the Institute for the Humanities for his work on political violence against cultural heritage in the former Yugoslavia, and Professor Mikhail Krutikov will be a member of the Comparative Literature Program's Global Ethnic Studies Seminar, for his work on the ethnography and literary image of the Jewish shtetl.

Professor Carpenter's tenure as chair, though brief, was not only eventful but very significant for the department's future. We embarked on a broad hiring initiative with multiple aims: to strengthen the curriculum across Slavic literatures, to increase collaboration with other programs within the University, and to add to our midst young scholars and teachers of evident accomplishment and promise. Two candidates: Tatjana Aleksič and Benjamin Paloff, came to the fore in a highly competitive national search and, happily, both have accepted offers to join our department, as joint appointees with the Program in Comparative Literature. Read more about these exciting young scholars on the facing page. Their efforts will add new comparative dimensions, augmenting the department's work on modernism by current faculty specializing in Russian, Polish, Czech, and Jewish literature, as well as complementing Professor Olga Maiorova's work on the creation of a national self-image in 19th century Russian literature and Professor Herscher's work on nationalism and cultural conflict in the Balkans.

On the curricular front, we proposed the addition of a Polish major because of high enrollments in Polish language courses, a result of the innovative language teaching of Ewa Malachowska-Pasek and Piotr Westwalewicz, and the considerable interest generated by Westwalewicz's courses on revolutions in the visual arts and music, and by Professor Carpenter's courses on literature and culture. In the Czech program, Martin Stary added a mini-course on culture and cinema. Marija Rosic and Professor Aleksič will be striving to emulate that growth in courses dealing with Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian language and culture. Thanks to Professor Michael Makin's sustained leadership and effort we have also proposed two new tracks for the Russian major. We are also working on some revisions to our graduate requirements to enable students with primary interests in Polish, Czech, or Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian literature to spend more time on those literatures; some new comparative Slavic literature courses on periods and genres will bring these students together with those whose major interests are in Russian literature. Natalia Kondrashova will be emphasizing comparative linguistic features in her courses on Old Church Slavic and on the structure of Russian.

All of these initiatives rely on the continued excellence of our language teaching programs. Fifteen talented lecturers and graduate student instructors in the department have worked hard and cheerfully to sustain our high level of instruction. Alina Makin's intensive Russian language courses in the Residential College and her seminars taught in Russian have encouraged even more rapid development of language skills for the most dedicated students. Thanks to the leadership and initiative of our language program coordinator Svitlana Rogovyk, we hosted a series of workshops on language pedagogy, with presentations from our own and visiting faculty (page 9).

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Slavic Scene, and ask you to consider sharing your memories of the department, or sending us an update on your own adventures. With warmest regards,

Herbert (Herb) Eagle
hjeagle@umich.edu

The Slavic Scene

Feature

Faculty Search Yields Exciting Scholars Tatjana Aleksič and Benjamin Paloff

Professor Tatjana Aleksič does interdisciplinary work in Balkan Studies; her dissertation is a comparative study of “mythistory” as it is constructed in various modern and post-modern literatures (Serbian, Greek, Albanian) and how it has shaped nationalistic discourse and cultural politics in the region. She is the editor of a recent ground-breaking collection of essays, *Mythistory and Narratives of Nation in the Balkans*. Professor Benjamin Paloff, who was also awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in the highly prestigious Michigan Society of Fellows, is a scholar of Polish, Russian and Czech literatures, an accomplished poet in and a translator among whose recent publications are novels by Marek Biencyk and Dorota Maslowska. He is at work on books on “in-between-ness” as a metaphor in interwar literature and on the ways freedom and ethics are redefined in works dealing with situations of “open confinement.” —Herb Eagle

Tatjana Aleksič will join the faculty of both Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature as an Assistant Professor this Fall. She is a trained Anglist and comparatist with an MA degree in Postcolonial literature from the University of Niš in Serbia, and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Rutgers University. In May she completed her dissertation on myth, history, and memory in postmodern Serbian and Greek fiction and film.



Assistant Professor Tatjana Aleksič's focus is on interdisciplinary work in Balkan Studies.

Thanks to Rutgers' Comparative Literature Program and her years-long experience as a teacher at the University of Niš, she has been able to teach courses of all difficulty levels, many of her own design. The course on myth and history in the Balkans that she developed for the Rutgers Comparative Literature Program was nominated for a teaching award. She will teach this course for the Slavic Department as a First-Year Seminar in the fall semester. She will also teach a course on the subject of representation and colonialism of the imagination in the context of Greece and the Balkans.

Aleksič is the editor of and contributor to the collection *Mythistory and Narratives of the Nation in the Balkans*, which will be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UK in June. Several articles based on her dissertation have already been published in journals and collections. Aleksič's next long-term project will concentrate on the implications of history and nationalism in the postmodern novel written by various authors originating from the former Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Albania. Her major research interests and specializations include postmodern fiction; history, memory, and myth; literary theory; postcolonial studies; Balkan studies; and nationalism.



Assistant Professor Benjamin Paloff is a scholar of Polish, Russian, and Czech literature, and a poet and translator.

Benjamin Paloff will hold the position of Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and of Comparative Literature, as well as postdoctoral fellow of the Michigan Society of Fellows. His research interests include comparative approaches to Polish, Russian, and Czech literatures, philosophy in literature, poetics, and translation in theory and practice. He plans to teach courses in Polish literature, critical theory in comparative contexts, and translation.

His current research projects include a cross-cultural study of how spaces of “open confinement”—concentration camps, gulags, and besieged cities—are represented in literary texts, with particular attention to how freedom and ethics are reconfigured under difficult circumstances. He is also completing a book on intermediacy, or in-between-ness, as a figure for metaphysical unfreedom in interwar literature. He regularly contributes articles, essays, and reviews on twentieth-century Eastern and Central European literatures to a wide variety of periodicals, including *Slavic and East European Journal*, *The Nation*, and *The Moscow Times*.

Paloff grew up in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and completed his undergraduate and doctoral degrees at Harvard. He also holds an MFA in creative writing from the U-M, where he taught writing workshops and received two Hopwood Awards. Since 2005 he has been a poetry editor at *Boston Review*, and his own poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, *A Public Space*, and elsewhere. He is also an active translator of works from Central and Eastern European literatures, most recently Dorota Maslowska's *Snow White and Russian Red* (Grove Press, 2005) and Marek Biencyk's *Tworki* (Northwestern University Press, 2007).

The Slavic Scene

Classroom Spotlight

By Piotr Westwalewicz

Farewell to Polish Artist Marek Grechuta



Marek Grechuta was born December 10, 1945 in Zamość. He studied architecture at the Polytechnic University in Kraków where he met composer Jan Kanty Pawluśkiewicz. They founded the band Anawa in 1967. Marek released nearly 20 albums from 1970—2003, receiving several awards. He died on October 9, 2006 in Kraków.

To view a video of his song "Kraków", go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKV3KATvI74

Piotr Westwalewicz' Fall mini-course, *Revolution in the Attic*, had 82 students—a record enrollment. However, this number was surpassed by his Winter mini-course, *Rock Kills Communism*, with 106 students.

The 20th century is gone. It is rapidly turning into a fuzzy and distant memory. With every death, the 1900's, and more precisely, the second half of the 1900's, fades away in a disturbing and tangible way: Czesław Miłosz—gone; Zbigniew Herbert—gone; Zygmunt Kaluzynski—gone; Michalina Wisłocka—gone; Kazimierz Górski—gone; Jacek Kuron—gone; Grzegorz Ciechowski—gone; Stanisław Lem—gone. And, in October of 2006, Marek Grechuta—gone.

Icons of Polish culture from the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's are leaving us faster and faster. People who influenced and shaped the daily lives, thoughts, and attitudes of a nation caught between resignation and hope; between courage and despair that was so typical of the political and military satellite of "the evil empire" are disappearing.

The news of Marek Grechuta's death coincided with a discussion about the history and role of Polish cabaret in the Polish language and culture course that I teach at the University of Michigan's Slavic Department. It was difficult and uncomfortable to listen to Grechuta's music and to read his poetry while preparations for his funeral were taking place in Poland. I felt like I was in the wrong place. And yet, simultaneously, it appeared extremely appropriate to discuss Grechuta's texts at that specific time with students whose age matched mine when I first discovered him. After all, it was Grechuta's philosophy to focus on the future, to not allow despair and nostalgia to overtake our lives:

We've had so many days
So many moments that left us breathless
When we regret the times that gave us nothing
We should remember that

Only the days that we do not know yet
Are important
Only the moments that we are still waiting for
Are important*

As Zbigniew Herbert would put it, Grechuta's was a rebellion of "good taste". Rejecting everything crude and crass, everything devoid of mystery and poetry, Grechuta repeatedly proclaimed his faith in human courage and hope. In a world of pseudo-philosophy, pseudo-progress, pseudo-freedom, pseudo-justice, and pseudo-community, Grechuta consistently demanded truth, honesty, beauty, and goodness. Yes, these are concepts that we have been indoctrinated with by post-modern thinkers to approach with a great deal of skepticism. We are instructed to ask: whose truth? honesty in the service of what ideas? beauty as defined by whom and for whose benefit? goodness by whose standards and for whose gain?

And it is precisely when, in our deconstructive drive, we ask these questions that we can appreciate the value and the appeal of Marek Grechuta and his poetry and music. Grechuta's unbending faith in the very existence of truth, honesty, beauty, and goodness, and his deep conviction about a profound human need for these "outdated" and "unfashionable" concepts makes him very valuable and attractive in our world.

During one of the most difficult and unpleasant periods in Polish history, Grechuta, Ciechowski, Herbert, Miłosz, Lem, Wisłocka, Kuron, all defended the human spirit from the mechanistic and materialistic determinism that explicitly and implicitly aimed to reshape people's minds so that they no longer craved truth, honesty, beauty and goodness. When looking at the list of the "departed" in the opening paragraph of this article, one can see that this is indeed what connects all the names.

This explains the reaction of my students to Grechuta's art. In large numbers they came to my office hours (as all teachers know this is a near miracle) to ask about Grechuta, about his life, and about his poetry. They even demanded that we listen to more songs and some of them copied them (I hope this did not break any laws) for their own use and pleasure.

*Excerpt from the song *Dni, których nie znamy* /The days that we do not know yet, off of the album *Korowód*/Procession (1971)

The Slavic Scene

Congratulations Graduates



Christopher Becker Ph.D.
in Linguistics and
Slavic Languages and
Literatures. The title of
his dissertation is Clausal
and Nominal Agreement in
Russian: A Unified Approach



Vadim Besprozvany Ph.D.
in Slavic Languages and
Literatures. The title of
his dissertation is Vladimir
Narbut's Alleluia: The Poetics
of Linguistic and Cultural
Bilingualism

Slavic Graduates

Kathlyn Marie Blanchard,
BA Russian (W07)

Caitlin Elizabeth Bumford,
BS Russian Lang, Lit, Cul Minor (W07)

Camille Elise Eslick,
BA Russian (W07)

William Daniel Hathaway,
BA Russian Lang, Lit, Cul Minor (W07)

Stephanie Barbara Ketchum,
BA Russian (W07)

Aubrey Lashaway,
BS Russian Lang, Lit, Cul Minor (W07)

Nicholas Jon Laughlin,
BA with Russian Studies Minor (S06)

Jori M. Lindley,
BA of Russian (W06)

Gabriel Lewis Mathless,
BA with Russian Studies Minor (W06)

Haig Garabed Nazarian,
BA of Russian (S06)

Yanina Romanovna Nersesova,
BS Russian Lang, Lit, Cul Minor (F06)

Marcin Rejniak,
BS Polish Lang, Lit, Cul Minor (W07)

Jaclyn Michelle Remick,
BA with Russian Studies Minor (W06)

Artem V. Shchukin,
BA with Russian Studies Minor (S06)

Matthew Joseph Sikora,
BS with Polish Minor (W06)

Alexandra Julia Sloan,
BA with Russian Studies Minor (W06)

Alexa Lauren Smith,
BA Russian Lang, Lit, Cul Minor (W07)

Daniel Michael Trump,
BA Russian Lang, Lit, Cul Minor (W07)

Jonathan Curthbert Wright,
BA Russian (S07)

John Kang Yi,
BA Russian (W07)



Anthony Fader,
BS Russian Lang,
Lit, Cul Minor
(W07)



Joseph Mathias,
BA Russian (W07)



Michelle O'Brien,
BA Russian Lang,
Lit, Cul Minor
(W07)

Undergraduate Award Winners

Jonathan Talbert,
Alfred G. Meyer Award

Angela Karr,
Prize for Best Paper Written in a Slavic Language

Matthew Vanderwerff,
Excellence in B/C/S Language Studies Award



Adam Kolkman,
Prize for Best Paper
Written in English



Rachel Enoch,
Excellence in Polish
Language Studies



Garrick Williams,
Alfred G. Meyer Award

The Slavic Scene

Staying Connected

Assya Humesky — Her Story



Since my retirement in 1998, I have continued to be busy writing papers, attending conferences, doing editorial work, etc. I belong to several Ukrainian scholarly organizations: Shevchenko Scientific Society, where I head the Philological Section; The Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the US, where I chair a similar section as well as serve as the First Vice President; and the Ukrainian American Association of University Professors, where I am also the First Vice President. We meet several times a year for conferences and discussions. I also have the duty of a copy editor for the Ukrainian Academy's yearly newsletter, not to mention editorial work on such Academy publications as the commemorative edition "Vetukhiv, the First President of the Academy" and the monograph about my sister who is now a member of the Academy "Mirtala—Sculptor and Poet." I am also on the editorial board of the magazine "Ukrains'kyj istoryk" and the Ukrainian women's magazine "Our Life". I contribute every year

Professor Emerita Assya Humesky taught all levels of Russian and Ukrainian, Russian Poetry, Russian Drama, Russian Historical Novel, Russian Stylistics, Soviet Poetry, Soviet Drama, Soviet Literature, Pushkin, Majakovsky, Chekhov, Ornamental Prose, Autobiographical Writing, Methodology, Ukrainian Baroque, Ukrainian Culture, Ukrainian Literature of the 1920s, Modern Ukrainian Literature, and Ukrainian Literature of the 18th and 19th Centuries.

to the educational journal "Ridnoshkil'nyk" which is being distributed throughout the Ukraine in high schools. And I also write articles and reviews.

Among the latest is a review of the book on the Ukrainian language in the XX century (a history of linguocide), ed. by Larysa Masenko (Kyiv, 2005) which appeared in SEEJ, Summer 2006. My article on the theme of withdrawal from the world in Ivan Franko's poetry is about to be published by The Ukrainian Quarterly. On occasion I consider publishing some of my earlier studies on Pushkin and Ivan Franko as well as Pushkin and Majakovsky. One of my papers on Lesja Ukrainka, which I wrote some time ago and never published, will now appear in the Academy's "Visti", while a paper I just presented in Philadelphia at the jubilee meeting of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations has been accepted for publication in the Ukrainian Catholic newspaper "Ameryka".

Thus, my message to those of you, dear colleagues, who are considering retirement, is simple: do not expect to sit idly. Your interests will stay with you, will haunt you, will not let you rest on your laurels or the sandy beaches of Florida.

But don't be afraid. Retirement will be a pleasure, for it will give you the opportunity to do what you want when you want it. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Assya

Supporting Slavic Studies

Recently you received a letter from us asking you to consider contributing to the Slavic Department's funds. As we greet incoming students with engaging and relevant courses, we are also excited and focused on our abilities as an interdisciplinary department. Our diverse faculty provides expertise and insight into architecture, literature, linguistics, art, design, culture, history, cinema, and much more.

Won't you consider helping to fund a program or creating an endowment?

www.giving.umich.edu

From Anarchists and Onion Domes to Zingerman's Deli

In 1974 Ari Weinzweig ('78) moved from Chicago to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan. Hearing the fascinating events of Soviet Dissidents, anarchists, and activists, he decided to major in Russian History. After graduating in 1978, he wanted time to consider law school, so he took a job doing dishes at Maude's—a (now gone) downtown restaurant known for its amaretto mousse. He quickly advanced from dishwasher, to line prep, line cook, and eventually, management; all the while learning the inherent qualities of good food, and developing his naturally keen sense of taste.

Although Ari wasn't sure about law school, he was certain Ann Arbor was where he wanted to stay. The city's cultural diversity, intellectual activity, and interest in sustainability outweighed its segregation, and chain stores and restaurants. He knew that he wanted to spend his energy making things happen within this community.

By 1980, Ari's friend and co-worker, Paul Saginaw, had left Maude's to open a fish market with Mike

Monahan. Two years later, Ari and Paul decided to buy the empty brick building across from the fish market, at the corner of Detroit and Kingsley. Their idea was simple: "to open a deli that served items made from the finest ingredients available". Starting with a tongue-tingling 'z' and ending with a single 'n', they decided to name the deli 'Zingerman's'.

Twenty-five years later, the duo still serves food made from the finest ingredients available, and their business has sprouted from a single corner deli into ZCoB, Zingerman's Community of Businesses—a testament of their commitment to our local community.

Zingerman's deli boasts informative, well-stocked shelves, world-class customer service, a menu of seminars, and a dozen books. It is the perfect blend of Ari's scholarly research and natural affinity for good food. His passion for understanding tradition, history, and food, is surpassed only by his desire to share it.



Ari Weinzweig, Russian History ('78) and co-founder of Zingerman's.

Find rare and subtle delights such as fresh Russian bread, Chernushka rye bread, liptauer cheese, pepper corn and mushroom cheese, bliny, kielbasa, bialys, meats, vetruski, numerous honeys, teas, fruit preserves, mushrooms, plums in chocolate, coleslaw, and much, much more.

Located at 422 Detroit Street, Zingerman's Deli is open from 7am–10pm. Or visit them online at www.zingermans.com

Would you like to share your memories and experiences? We are happy to accept your articles (and ideas!) for publication in our newsletter. Please send them to michsp@umich.edu, or call (734) 763-4496. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Slavic Scene

Highlights

Krzysztof Czyżewski presents at The Annual Copernicus Lecture

K r z y s z t o f Czyżewski is a social activist, poet, essayist, and publisher. After graduating from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań with a degree in Polish language and literature, he co-founded the Gardzienice Theater company in Lublin. From 1977 to 1983 this innovative troupe collected ethnographic materials from all over the world to create what they called an “ethno-oratorical song theater.” In



Krzysztof Czyżewski shows the audience the first volume of Czesław Miłosz’s poetry book; *Utwory Poetyckie*, published by Michigan Slavic Publications in 1976. Mr. Czyżewski presented on March 30 at Rackham Auditorium.

1990 Czyżewski established the “Borderlands Foundation of Arts, Cultures, and Nations” in the small town of Sejny, near the Polish border with Lithuania. This innovative institution fosters and coordinates a variety of projects related to the multicultural regions of Central and Eastern Europe, working to memorialize, rebuild, and sustain the rich cultural diversity that was nearly destroyed by the two world wars. The Borderlands Foundation includes a publishing house, a school, a cultural center, an archive, and a café, and its projects regularly cross the boundaries between social activism, theater, museum work, and education.

The Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment was established in 1973 by the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Polish American Congress and the University’s Polish-American community. The principal goal of this effort is to provide support for Polish programming, fellowships for students in Polish studies, and faculty appointments in Polish studies. Income from the endowment supports the Annual Copernicus Lectures and other public programming dedicated to advancing a deeper understanding of Poland, its people, and its culture. This year’s sponsors are The Copernicus Endowment; Center for Russian & East European Studies; College of Literature, Science and the Arts Citizenship Theme Year; and the MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Since 1993 C z y ż e w s k i has been the editor-in-chief of *Krasnogruda*, a publication devoted to Central and Eastern European cultures, art, and literature. In 2000 the Borderlands Foundation published *Neighbors*, the controversial book by Jan T. Gross that initiated Poland’s most important public debate on Polish-Jewish relationships during the Holocaust. Czyżewski’s own book/manifesto,

The Path of the Borderland, was published in 2001. In recent years he has traveled around the world promoting his distinctive and effective techniques of bridging cultural divides and cultivating harmony in heterogeneous communities, and he has received numerous awards and honors for his work.

A complete transcript of **Krzysztof Czyżewski’s 2007 Copernicus Lecture** will be published in the Fall/October issue of the **Michigan Quarterly Review**.

Call 764-9265 to order your copy.

8th Annual Czech Workshop

The 8th Annual Czech Workshop was held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign—its first meeting away from U-M. The workshop is a forum for junior scholars and advanced graduate students from a variety of disciplines to share and develop their research on any aspect of the Czech Republic (or Slovakia) and its history and culture.

The keynote speaker was Martin Votruba, Director of the Slovak Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh. His presentation was titled “The Czechs Without the Slovaks: Where the Past is Another Country and Nation”. Also presenting were our own Herb Eagle, Jindřich Toman, and Andrew Herscher. Their presentations were titled (respectively) “The Globalization of Genre: The Czech New Wave and Hollywood”, “Modernizing Modernity: The Invasion of Photography into Print Media”, and “The End(s) of Modernism: Ladislav Žák and Karel Hozík ca. 1947”.



Martin Votruba's favorite pastime is mountain climbing and hiking in lofty places. Here he is at an elevation of 12,195 ft (4001 m).

Slavic Pedagogy Workshop Welcomes Dr. Comer



Dr. Comer will be presenting at the Inter-Institutional Russian Pedagogy Workshop to be held at Middlebury College this summer.

The last meeting for the Slavic Pedagogy Workshop in the 2006–2007 academic year was enlightened by the presentation of the distinguished guest Dr. William J. Comer, Associate Professor, Language Coordinator, and Director of the Eral Garinger Academic Resource Center (EGARC) at the University of Kansas. He specializes in Russian language, culture, pedagogy, and literature.

His current research projects include development of materials for proficiency-oriented instruction in Russian and an investigation into the significance of religious sectarianism in the Symbolist literary culture.

“Using Tasks Effectively in Teaching Slavic Languages” was the topic of Professor Comer’s presentation for the Slavic Pedagogy Workshop.

Faculty and Graduate Students of the Slavic Department had a lively discussion of the terms, definitions, and concepts related to Task-based Teaching. They analyzed and examined samples of a task-based class and materials introduced by the speaker. Thoroughly prepared and well delivered, the workshop provided participants with an opportunity to practice these ideas, and apply them to the topics that they teach.

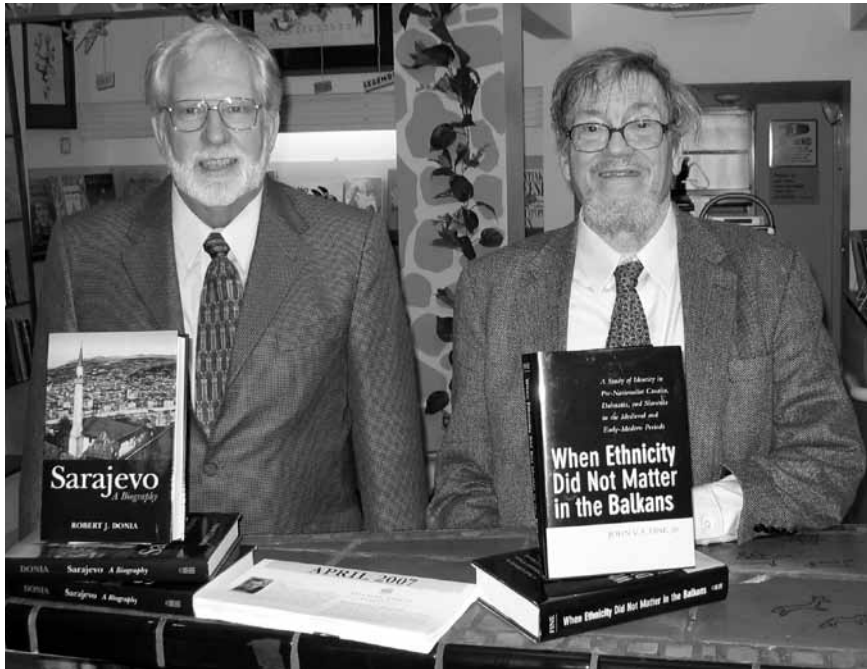
The Slavic Scene

In Print

Text from University of Michigan Press

Sarajevo: A Biography by Robert Donia

Sarajevo: A Biography is a work of erudition and compassion, nimbly capturing the spirit of one of the world's great cities as it survives one epoch, one political regime, one religious dynasty after another. Through the stories of individual Sarajevans— leaders and common folk alike—Donia illustrates his beloved city's significance as a site of great civilizational exchange, of political intrigue, cultural efflorescence, human tragedy, and eternal hope.



Robert Donia is a Research Associate at the University of Michigan's Center for Russian and East European Studies, Associate Professor of History at the University of Sarajevo, and former Visiting Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He is the author of "Islam under the Double Eagle: The Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1878-1914," and co-author with John Fine of *Bosnia and Herzegovina: A Tradition Betrayed*. He has served as a consultant and expert witness in the trial of Slobodan Milošević and other war crimes trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Robert Donia and John Fine with their latest works at Shaman Drum Bookshop in March, 2007.

When Ethnicity Did Not Matter in the Balkans by John V.A. Fine

In *When Ethnicity Did Not Matter in the Balkans*, Fine investigates the identity labels (and their meaning) employed by and about the medieval and early-modern population of the lands that make up present-day Croatia. Religion, local residence, and narrow family or broader clan all played important parts in past and present identities. Fine, however, concentrates chiefly on broader secular names that reflect attachment to a city, region, tribe or clan, a labeled people, or state.

The result is a magisterial analysis showing us the complexity of pre-

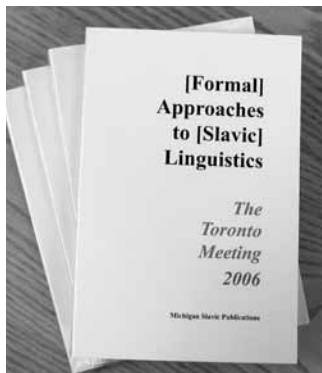
national identity in Croatia, Dalmatia, and Slavonia. There can be no question that the medieval and early-modern periods were pre-national times, but Fine has taken a further step by demonstrating that the medieval and early-modern eras in this region were also pre-ethnic so far as local identities are concerned. The back-projection of twentieth-century forms of identity into the pre-modern past by patriotic and nationalist historians has been brought to light. Though this back-projection is not always misleading, it can be; Fine is fully cognizant of the danger and has risen to the occasion to combat it while frequently remarking in the text that his findings for the Balkans have parallels elsewhere.

John V. A. Fine, Jr. is Professor of History at the University of Michigan.

The Slavic Scene

Michigan Slavic Publications

FASL 15, The Toronto Meeting, New from MSP



Michigan Slavic Publications is proud to announce the volume of proceedings from last year's FASL meeting at University of Toronto in May 2006. FASL, the most up-to-date publication on modern Slavic linguistics, is now looking back at more than fifteen years of history. The present volume consists of 25 studies on semantics, syntax, and phonology of Bulgarian, Croatian, Russian, Slovenian, and other Slavic languages.

The volume also includes presentations by last year's guest speakers Zeljko Boskovic (On the Clausal and NP Structure of Serbo-Croatian) and Catherine Rudin (Multiple Wh-Relatives in Slavic).

FASL 15 is available for purchase from Michigan Slavic Publications for \$35. Please email michsp@umich.edu, or telephone (734) 763-4496 to order your copy today. View the table of contents online at www.lsa.umich.edu/slavic/msp/

Michigan Slavic Publications has published more than 70 titles. For a complete listing, please visit www.lsa.umich.edu/slavic/msp, call (734) 763-4496, or email michsp@umich.edu

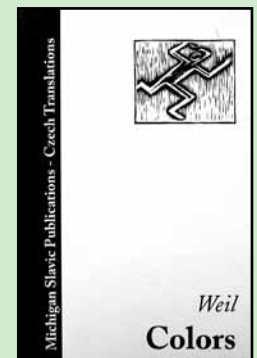
Photography Sees the Surface

This volume includes 14 full-page photographs by Funke, Josef Ehm, and their students at the progressively minded State Graphic School in Prague. The project was driven by pedagogical considerations, and as such it reveals the wide reach of photography in education, scholarship and culture. \$29.95

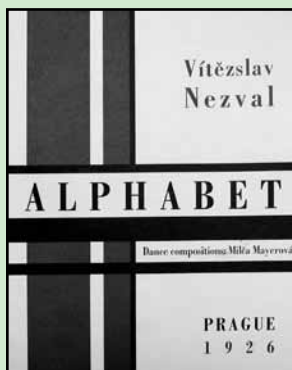


Colors

Jiří Weil (1900-1959). This edition is a translation of a little-known collection of short pieces originally published in 1946. Weil is preoccupied not only with the fate of Jews, but with the entire spectrum of wartime society. His unusual language combines archaic, even Biblical elements with a stream-of-consciousness modernism. \$16

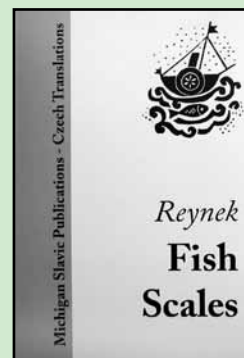


Alphabet



Vítězslav Nezval (1900-1959). This Czech contribution to European modernism is a unique distillation of the creative spirit of the 1920's. Published originally in 1926, it is a composite of experimental poetry, modern dance, and photomontage typography, by the poet Vítězslav Nezval, dancer Milča Mayerová, and typographer Karel Teige. \$32

Fish Scales



Bohuslav Reynek (1892-1971) was a remarkable Czech poet, translator, and artist. This edition is bilingual, and it incorporates graphics by the important Czech artist Josef Čapek. \$18

The Department of Slavic
Languages & Literatures
3040 Modern Lang. Bldg.
University of Michigan
812 E. Washington Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1275
(734) 764-5355

Chair and Editor:
Herbert J. Eagle

Assistant Editor & Layout:
Rachelle Grubb

The Regents of the
University of Michigan
Julia Donovan Darlow
Laurence B. Deitch
Olivia P. Maynard
Rebecca McGowan
Andrea Fischer Newman
Andrew C. Richner
S. Martin Taylor
Katherine E. White
Mary Sue Coleman (ex officio)



Ukrainian Pysanka Workshop



Revolution in the Attic
is packed with 82 students



Artistic Russian with Sasha Cherniak