

## Letter from the Incoming Chair

As Associate Chair of the Slavic Department for the past three semesters, it



by **Ben Rifkin**

has been my privilege and honor to work with Professor Dolinin, chair of our department, to further the interests of Slavic languages and literatures at UW-Madison. Professors Bethea, Dolinin, and I will share the responsibilities of chairing the department in the coming year. Professor Bethea will serve as summer chair. I will return from my last summer as director of the Middlebury Russian School to be the chair for the fall 2003 semester, while Professor Dolinin is on leave. I will be on leave in the spring 2004 semester, and Professor Dolinin will serve as chair during that semester. While the three of us rotate in and out of this position, I assure you that we will be working together to protect and further the interests of Slavic languages and literatures throughout the coming year.

In the spring, working with Professor Dolinin, I helped compile some statistics about the productivity of Slavic Department faculty. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the more interesting of those numbers with you:

The 11 tenured or tenure-track Slavic Department faculty have, in the past ten years, published 14 books (with 10 more in press), 236 book chapters and articles in refereed journals (with 19 more in press), 10 edited volumes (with 3 more in press), 2 novels, 1 book of literary essays, and 3 short stories. We have published in approximately 100 different refereed journals, not only in the United States, but also in Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Romania (countries we study) as well as in Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Holland, Estonia, Finland, South Africa, and India. We have been invited to give lectures at approximately 70 other universities in the US and abroad, including universities in the

Slavic world (Russia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Bosnia-Herzegovina) and beyond (Estonia, Israel, Japan, Hungary, Holland, India, Italy, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Argentina). Slavic Department faculty regularly attend and participate in conferences of approximately 25 different professional associations and we hold (or have held) elected office in both AATSEEL and the MLA. Our department boasts four presidents of AATSEEL (including the

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## Professor Kornblatt Offers New Interdisciplinary Course

In Spring 2003, the department added a new course to its regular offerings, “Russian Orthodoxy and Eastern Christianity in a Global Context,” which was cross-listed as Slavic 325 and Religious Studies 325. Many students from both programs, including undergraduates and graduates, signed up for the course, which despite its high enrollment remained an active discussion rather than a lecture. It offered Russian majors a chance simultaneously to deepen their understanding of Orthodox themes in Russian literature and to see connections between the culture they study and other cultures. Professor Kornblatt had her students read the Church Fathers, versions of the Orthodox Liturgy, and the anonymous account *The Way of a Pilgrim* in

addition to contemporary Orthodox commentators and past Russian religious thinkers such as

Khomiakov, *Professor Judith Kornblatt* Florensky, and Sergei Bulgakov; course materials also included online galleries of icons and historical maps of Europe. In addition to student presentations on various national churches and other topics, the course featured guest lectures by Father Joseph Tsourgos, a local Orthodox priest; Professor Leonid Beliaev from Moscow, who compared Western and Eastern Christian architecture; and Professor Paul Valliere of Butler University in Indianapolis, who used an icon by Andrei Rublev to illustrate differences in emphasis in the Orthodox and Western Churches’ doctrines of the Trinity. Professor Kornblatt not only used technology to bring some of the sensory experience of the religion to the classroom, but also brought the class to St. Savva’s Serbian Orthodox Church in Milwaukee for a service conducted in Old Church Slavic. The course covered an ambitious range of material – more than a thousand years of history and doctrine – and succeeded in challenging and broadening every student’s ideas about Orthodox Christianity.

To find out more about the class, check out its website at <http://imp.lss.wisc.edu/~kornblatt/>!



“The Holy Trinity,” by the 15th-century Russian icon painter Andrei Rublev.

# Professor Rosenshield to Retire

The word is out: Gary Rosenshield will be retiring from the Department at the end of the 2003-2004 academic year. Of course, this is big news for Gary, but it's big news for the Department as well, and the Newsletter will spread "coverage" of the event over two editions. In the current Newsletter, we have invited Professor Victor Terras, Henry L. Goddard University Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature at Brown University as well as Gary's mentor in grad school at UW-

Madison, to reflect on Gary's contributions to scholarship over the course of his long career (the scholarship is ongoing!) and David Bethea to write about Gary's contributions to the Department. Professor Terras's reflections begin on this page, and Professor Bethea's can be found on page 13. Now is not quite yet the time to wish Gary a happy retirement – he has one more year to go – but check out next year's Newsletter for more.

## Gary Rosenshield

by Victor Terras

"God is in the detail" is a misleading translation of the art historian Aby Warburg's dictum "Gott steckt im Detail." Gary Rosenshield is well aware of the difference and has made a point of following Warburg's German words religiously in their correct meaning, which is "Find God in the details." Gary's whole career has been marked by an extraordinarily successful search for the details that may be decisive for establishing the truth content of some great works of literature. Gary's goal is to find God's truth. No wonder Gary has devoted much of his time and talent to Fiodor Dostoevsky, an author whose search for the truth of God appears in countless details of his work. In a series of articles, all refereed and accepted as flawless by the severest academic critics, Gary develops the truth value of crucially important details in Dostoevsky's fiction, discovering, in the process, that the truth inevitably involves an antimony. Most interesting are those

instances in which Dostoevsky is shown to be unaware of a contradiction which he himself planted in his text. In an article "Varen'ka Dobroselova: The Desentimentalization of the Sentimental Heroine in Dostoevskij's *Poor Folk*" (1986) attention is drawn to the changes in Varen'ka's behavior once she is to become, against her expectations, the spouse of Mr. Bykov, a landowner, who had previously seduced and abandoned her. Dostoevsky seems to have forgotten these unfortunate details, true to life as they are, and remembers only the lonely and unhappy sentimental heroine when referring to her in later years.

To take another example, Gary's article "Isai Fomich Bumshtein: The Representation of the Jew in Dostoevsky's Major Fiction" (1984)

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## Graduate Student News

**Amanda Baldwin**, a second-year graduate student, was awarded the Anastasia Feodorova Pressman Memorial Scholarship, which was founded by the Middlebury Russian School Alumni Association in honor of one of the first teachers in the Russian School. The scholarship is awarded to a student working on a graduate degree at Middlebury, preferably a future teacher of Russian.

Dissertator **Shannon Donnally** received the College of Letters and Science Teaching Fellow Award. She and first-year graduate student **Dimitar Spasov** recently announced their engagement and will be married on July 19, 2003, in Columbus, Ohio.

**Erik McDonald** (né Brynolfson), a third-year grad student, and **Tami McDonald** were married in Roseville,

Minnesota, on October 5, 2002.

Dissertator **David Polet** will be married this July in Spring Green, Wisconsin, to **Paige Hawkins**.

Second-year graduate student **Christopher Syrnyk** is the recipient of the Berthe Normano Scholarship Fund for the 2003 Middlebury College Language Schools. He was also Guest Assistant Editor for the forum "Mickiewicz: 'East' and 'West,'" which appeared in the *Slavic and East European Journal* in Spring 2002. Dissertator **Anke Ziolkowska** presented a paper called "Post-Exiles Return to Their Post-Homes: Literary Return Journeys to Russia and Poland after Communism" in November 2002 at the Yale University Graduate Student Symposium, "European Émigré Writers and National Boundaries in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century."

## Awards

Congratulations to the two UW-Madison students who tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in level 2 for the National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest, **Alexander Alexandrov** and **Richard Antaramian**.

Russian major and graduating senior **Allison Arlt** won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the annual study abroad essay contest for her essay about her experiences in Moscow on and shortly after September 11, 2001. Arlt also won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in one of the categories for the annual study abroad photo contest. She was selected for the Stanford US-Russia Leadership Summit.

Arlt and **George Jungbluth** both were



*Professor Emeritus Thomas Shaw with Sarah Garding, a winner of the Shaw Award for Excellence in Russian at the Undergraduate Level*

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awarded the Slavic Department Prize for Outstanding Progress in Russian, receiving \$100 each for the honor.

**Laura Brandt** won an NSEP award for study abroad in Russia, while **Theresa Crossfield**, **Jocelyn Rafferty**, and **Maya Bringe** were named NSEP alternates.

There were a total of 5 NSEP awards to UW-Madison students and 3 UW-Madison students were named alternates for this competitive and prestigious award; the Slavic Department had four individuals recognized, more than any other department on campus.

The Shaw Prize for Excellence in the Study of Russian Language and Literature at the Undergraduate Level, which carries a \$150 award, went to **Mackenzie Doyle** and **Sarah Garding**.

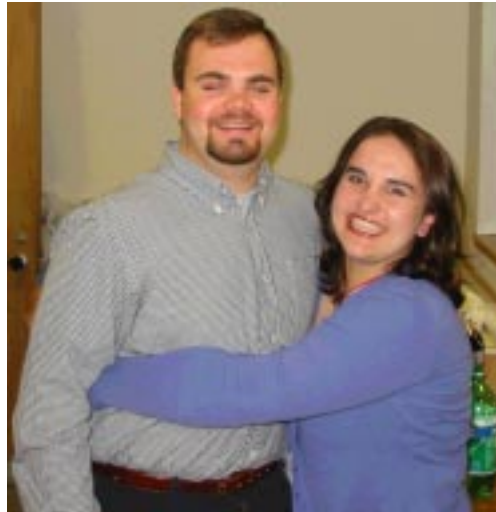
**Peter Fiala** and **Regina Sojka** earned \$50 awards for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Czech, a new departmental honor sponsored by the November Fund.

The Department congratulates **Julie Hon** and **Kyle Anderson**, who have joined the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

**Alisha Kirchoff** was honored at the awards ceremony for Outstanding Service to the Slavic Department, in addition to winning the Slavic Department Citizenship Prize.

Polish majors **Timothy McKinnon** and **Barbara Kiernoziak**, Russian major **Maren Solberg**, and graduate student **Andrew Prochnow** were inducted into Dobro Slovo, the National Slavic Honor Society, on April 29 at the Department's awards ceremony.

Congratulations to Russian Major **Kevin**



*Undergraduates Kevin Murphy and Alisha Kirchoff*

**Murphy**, who was awarded a Trewartha Undergraduate Honors Research Grant (a College of Letters and Science Thesis Grant) for his senior thesis, "Nabokov As an Anachronous Modernist: The Development and Application of Modernist Stylistic Techniques in the Works of Vladimir V. Nabokov," written under the direction of Professor **Alexander Dolinin**. He also won a UW-Madison Student Leadership Award for his work for the Russian Table and Slavic Club, as well as the Slavic Department Citizenship Prize. Murphy was also selected for induction into the Iron Cross Society and for participation in the Stanford US-Russia Leadership Summit.

**Monika Wieckowski** and **Timothy McKinnon**, both of whom major in Polish, won the Polanki Award for Excellence in Polish Studies. The award is sponsored by the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee. The Department honored the following

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hardworking teachers of Russian language classes and literature discussion sections with the Teaching Assistant Award: **Anna Tumarkin, Ben Jens, David Polet, David Vernikov, Emily Shaw, Gideon Stanton, Kat Scollins, Matt Walker, Molly Peeney, Shannon Donnally, and Vika Thorstensson.**

From among the many talented (and often hilarious) performers at this year's Slavic Majors' Party, the Department honored three groups with its own "Oscars." First-year Polish students **Monika Rutlowski, Nicole Russel, John Hagen, Jacob Kocorowski, Kristen Kurek, and Katie Klescewski** won in the "Best Dramatic Performance" category, while advanced Polish students **Sylwia Mataczynski, Marianna Waters, Jacek Kawecki, Mateusz Tkaczyk, Lucja Flis, Paulina Michalewicz, Timothy McKinnon, Barbara Kiernoziak, and Mateusz Bojda** earned an award for "Best Group Comic Performance." The Department's own **Jean Hennessey** and **Judith Kornblatt** were honored for their magnificent performance of a scene from Nikolai

Gogol's *The Inspector General*, which among other things featured (to the surprise of Professor Kornblatt, who expected the translation they had rehearsed!) Jean's Russian-language acting debut.

### **Xenia Gasiorowska Fellowship**

Graduate student **Viktoriya Ivleva** has received the Xenia Gasiorowska Fellowship for 2003-04. The fellowship was established by the first woman professor in the Slavic Department at the UW-Madison. Professor Xenia Gasiorowska received a Ph.D. from the University of California in Berkeley in 1949. She taught at the UW-Madison from 1949 until her retirement in 1981. In 1958-59, she was a visiting professor at Wellesley College. She died in 1989.

### **Edmund Zawacki Award**

Thanks to the generous support of Mrs. Helen Zawacki, we were able to honor three students in the field of Polish studies. The winners of the Edmund Zawacki Award for outstanding achievement in the study of Polish language and literature are **Paula Wild** and **Timothy McKinnon** at the undergraduate level, and **Erik McDonald** at the graduate level. This prestigious award was established by Mrs. Zawacki in 1995 in memory of the late Professor Edmund Zawacki who taught in the Slavic Department at the UW-Madison from 1939 to 1978 and served as department chairman from 1939 to 1960. The Zawacki Award carries two \$500 cash prizes at the undergraduate level and a \$1000 cash prize at the graduate level.

Check out our new and improved website coming this summer!

You can find information on our courses, faculty, and events, including pictures, at

<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/slavic/>

# Faculty and Staff News

**Margaret Beissinger** is currently working on her book project, *Culture and Performance among Romanian Gypsy Musicians*, and will be doing fieldwork in southern Romania in July, interviewing traditional Romani musicians and attending weddings and other festivities where they regularly perform. She also hopes to obtain archival materials on Romani culture and music in the pre-communist and communist periods in Romania.

**David Bethea** was on sabbatical this year and will return to teaching in fall 2003.

**David Danaher's** book on habitual verbs in Czech will be published in 2003 by Lincom Europa. He has two forthcoming articles on metaphor in Tolstoy's "Ivan Il'ich," one in the volume of American contributions to the upcoming International Congress of Slavists in Ljubljana and the other in *Poetics Today*. This year David has also taken on the management of the Department's November Fund (see



Mrs. Helen Zawacki with the undergraduate winners of the Zawacki Award, Paula Wild and Tim McKinnon

an announcement of the fund in this issue of the Newsletter!). He comes up for tenure in the fall.

**Alexander Dolinin** published three articles in Russian this year; two of them are on Pushkin (in *Tymianovskie chteniia* 10 and in "Istoriia i istoriosofia v literaturnom prelomlenii: Studia Russica Helsingiensie et Tartuensia VIII" (Tartu, 2002). The latter is available on the Internet at <<http://ruthenia.ru/document/523084.html>>. The third article, on Nabokov's novel *The Gift*, was published in *Indiana Slavic Studies*. A short article in English on Nabokov's *Lolita* was accepted by *The Nabokovian* (forthcoming); another one, on Nabokov's short story "Signs and Symbols" ("The Signs and the Symbols in Nabokov's 'Signs and Symbols'") will be published as a book chapter later. In March he was invited as a guest lecturer and doctoral dissertation defense Opponent to the University of Helsinki; in May he read a paper on Tjutchev's poem "29 January 1837" at the International Tjutchev Symposium at the University of Chicago. This summer he will teach a class on *Lolita* at the St. Petersburg Nabokov Museum. **Halina Filipowicz** co-edited, with Michael Cherlin and Richard L. Rudolph, *The Great Tradition and Its Legacy: The Evolution of Dramatic and Musical Theater in Austria and Central Europe*, which is forthcoming from Berghahn Books later this year. She also published an essay in Polish in *Poznanskie Studia Polonistyczne*, as well as two chapters in English in collections

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## Slavic Languages Announces Launching of Fund to Support Czech

The November Fund (Listopadový Fond) was launched in December 2002 with a gift from an anonymous donor. The Fund's name honors the Velvet Revolution, which brought 40 years of totalitarianism to an end in Czechoslovakia in November 1989. The Fund's mission is to support the teaching of Czech language, literature, and culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It was created as an open fund with the understanding that active efforts to increase the initial donation would be undertaken by the faculty in Czech at UW-Madison.

In this spirit, the initial donor has agreed that anyone contributing \$200 to the fund by September 1, 2003 will be listed among the Founding Members of the fund.

In keeping with T. G. Masaryk's notion of "small-scale work," the fund also welcomes contributions of any amount. All contributors will be

## Alumni News

**Alyssa Dinega's** study of Tsvetaeva (University of Wisconsin Press) was published in the fall of 2002 and won the CHOICE award for an outstanding scholarly book.

**Ann Komaromi's** article, "Wyspianski's *Wesele*: Poised on the Border," was featured as the cover story in *Theatre Journal* 54.2 (2002): 187-202.

**Megan Dixon** and **Stuart Goldberg** contributed articles to the forum "Mickiewicz: 'East' and 'West,'" which also featured an introductory article by

gratefully acknowledged as Supporters of the Fund.

The Fund has already sponsored prizes for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Czech and is co-sponsoring, along with UW's Cinematheque, a Chytilová film festival in Madison this July and August.

Further information regarding the fund's mission, a listing of current founding members, and news about UW's Czech program (including specifics on the film festival) are available via the Fund's website: <<http://www.novemberfund.org/>>.

\*All donations to the November Fund are tax-deductible!



*Advanced Czech students Matt Walker, Regina Sojka, and Brian Minier*

Professor Halina Filipowicz and the appearance of current graduate student **Christopher Syrynk** as Assistant Guest Editor. Dixon's article is entitled "How the Poet Sympathizes with Exotic Lands in Adam Mickiewicz's *Crimean Sonnets* and the *Digression from Forefathers' Eve, Part III*" (*Slavic and East European Journal* 45.4 [2002]: 679-94), and Goldberg's "Konrad and Jacob: A Hypothetical Kabbalistic Subtext in Adam Mickiewicz's *Forefathers' Eve, Part III*" (*Slavic and East European Journal* 45.4 [2002]: 695-715).

ROSENSHIELD BY TERRAS (continued from page 3) shows how, what to Dostoevsky and many of his readers appeared as a friendly and certainly harmless character-sketch, is in fact in line with Dostoevsky's anti-Semitic orientation. The proof is simple: How would the same readers consider this character if his name were typically Russian, rather than the Jewish Bumshtein?

Repeatedly, Gary can show us Dostoevsky's consummate skill in developing antithetic traits in his plots and characters. Several articles devoted to *Notes from Underground* recognize the merits of this work, particularly in the essay "Artistic Consistency in *Notes from Underground*" (1983). The antinomial nature of Dostoevsky's art is identified time and again in such articles as "Rationalism, Motivation and Time in *Notes from Underground*" (1982) or "Chaos, Apocalypse, The Laws of Nature: Autonomy and 'Unity' in Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*" (1991).

In addition to the many topics of general interest, Gary has become an expert on certain aspects of Dostoevsky that require special background studies. A case in point is his analysis of Dostoevsky's intercession in certain legal cases and echoes of this in his fiction. Gary's articles, such as "Death and Resurrection at the Russian Bar: Dostoevsky and the Kornilova Case" (1997) have grown into a major work: *Dostoevsky: The Jury Trial and the Law*, to be published in 2003 or 2004. Another special topic of interest to Gary may be considered as having emerged from Gary's treatment of Dostoevsky's female characters. A major programmatic essay, "The Problem of

Gender Criticism or, What is to be Done about Dostoevsky?" (1995) is a last step forward



Professor Gary Rosenshield to a book: *Dostoevsky's Women: The Poetics of Victimization* (in progress).

Perhaps Dostoevsky is also responsible for Gary's turning to the theme of madness when concentrating on Pushkin. Or is it once more the antinomial nature of reality that makes Gary, a paragon of clarity and good sense, choose the dark side of Pushkin's luminous genius for intensive study? Several articles, such as "The Poetics of Madness: Pushkin's 'God Grant that I Go Not Mad'" (1994), "Choosing the Right Card: Madness, Gambling and Imagination in Pushkin's 'The Queen of Spades'" (1994), lead on to "*The Bronze Horseman* and *The Double*: The Depoetization of the Myth of Petersburg in the Young Dostoevsky" (1996), an article that is important for the interpretation of both authors. As to Dostoevsky, it offers by far the best interpretation of Dostoevsky's statement to the effect that in *The Double* he had failed to express "an excellent idea," – which he never identified. Gary concludes that this idea amounted to a putdown of Peter the Great's grandiose plan to make the new capital a "window to Europe." The actual result, as shown in *The Double*, is a soulless bureaucracy. Mr. Goliadkin and his double are hideous travesties of

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GARY ROSENSHIELD BY VICTOR TERRAS (continued from page 9)

Pushkin's noble and sensitive hero, though he is, like Goliadkin, only a minor clerk. His revolt against the great Tsar is, however, just as meaningless as Goliadkin's ravings: What is wrong with Petersburg is not the choice of its location on a river with disastrous floods, but the very fact that Petersburg is a "thought-up city," Peter's brain-child. This is why Petersburg is populated by crowds of boring madmen – like Goliadkin. This and several other important hypotheses are developed in Gary's book *Pushkin and the Genres of Madness: The Masterpieces of 1833*.

Gary's list of papers published and/or read covers many valuable interpretations of a number of Russian authors, with occasional sorties into non-Russian literatures. Lermontov, Gogol, Turgenev, Chernyshevsky, Chekhov, Zamiatin, Babel, Bulgakov, and Rybakov are found on the title page of at least one article each. In each and every case Gary lets the details of fact speak for themselves. He is invariably guided by honest good sense and never lets his analysis be tainted by emotions.

It is once again Dostoevsky who

was the starting point of Gary's major interest that has accompanied him through his entire career. It is that of what is called broadly "the Jewish question" in general and with the image of the Jew and Judaism in Russian literature in particular. Here are some titles of Gary's papers in this category: "Jews and Judaism in Dostoevsky's Fiction" (1980), "The Jew as Artist in Russian Literature and Film" (1994), "The Enigma of Jewish Identity: The Case of Isaac Babel and Philip Roth" (1995), "The Jewish Question in Dostoevsky and Chekhov: Dostoevsky's 'The Funeral of the Universal Man' and Chekhov's 'Rothschild's Fiddle'" (1995), "Shylock and his Russian Progeny: The Reworkings of *The Merchant of Venice* in Pushkin and Dostoevsky" (1997), "Socialist Realism and the Holocaust: Jewish Life and Death in Anatolii Rybakov's *Heavy Sand*" (1996).

It is to be wished devoutly that Gary's major project, *Reimagining the Jew in Russian Literature: A Study in the Literary and Cultural Transformation of the Other* will be finished soon and clear the air forever, at least as far as the study of Russian literature is concerned.

The 2002 AATSEEL-WI Conference was held in Madison on October 4 and 5. Olga Matich from UC-Berkeley gave the keynote paper, which was entitled "Blok's Femme Fatale: History as Palimpsest." The Department was also pleased to have two past PhD's reading papers: Hana Pichova, now at UT-Austin, who read a paper entitled "The Lineup for Meat: The Stalin Memorial in Prague," and Adam Weiner, now at Wellesley College, whose presentation was titled "'There was no Alexander Ivanovich': The Real Hero of Nabokov's 'Defense.'" The J. Thomas Shaw Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper was awarded to Rufus Johnson for his "The Wilhelmine Representation of Homosexuality and Yasha Chernyshevski in Vladimir Nabokov's *The Gift*." See <http://palimpsest.lss.wisc.edu/~danaher/aatseel-wi/> for recent AATSEEL-WI conference programs.

The Department invites abstracts on any aspect of Slavic literatures and cultures (including film) and on issues in the learning and teaching of Slavic languages and literatures for its 2003 conference, which will take place on October 24 and 25. Abstracts can be sent via e-mail to Halina Filipowicz at [hfilipow@wisc.edu](mailto:hfilipow@wisc.edu); the deadline for submission is August 18. Alumni presenters this year include Angela Brintlinger of Ohio State University and Rebecca Matveyev of Lawrence University. Steve Cassidy from the University of California at San Diego will be giving the keynote address.

current president of AATSEEL), one of the current Vice Presidents of the International Association of Teachers of Czech as well as three members of the editorial board of the *Slavic and East European Journal*; no Slavic Department in the United States is so well represented in the most important professional organs of the Slavic field. We serve on the board of directors of the American Council of Teachers of Russian and on numerous editorial boards for other journals in literary and cultural studies. Slavic Department faculty have won numerous internal and external awards and grants including the PMLA Award for Best Article in the year, Ford Foundation Grant, Canada Council Grant, American Philosophical Society Award, Cambridge University Fellowships (2), GAAN Grant, NEH Fellowship, ACLS Award, SOROS Grant, Grant of the British Academy, Grant of the University of Glasgow, Polish Ministry of Education Grant, Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Vilas Associate Awards, Vilas Research Professor, Halls-Bascom Professor; two faculty have won the coveted AATSEEL Best Book Award for the best book of the year in their categories (literature and pedagogy, respectively). Under our mentorship, our graduate students have published prolifically, as well. (See a list of graduate students' publications posted to our department website.)

Our department has been extraordinarily productive the area of teaching, too, as demonstrated by increasing numbers of majors in Russian and Polish. In January 2000, there were 18 students majoring in Russian and none in Polish. In May 2002,

we had 46 students majoring in Russian and 5 in Polish. In May 2003, just before commencement, we had 63 students majoring in Russian and 8 majoring in Polish. These numbers are unprecedented: students are "voting with their feet" by taking our courses in large numbers and electing to come back for more courses (and the major.) This, of course, is very gratifying. With all these students, we just have to tell some "to go away" – on study abroad! The number of students participating in study abroad in Russia has also increased significantly from fall 2002 to fall 2003. The ACTR program we sponsor (with UW-Madison Office of International Studies and Programs) has opened up a new option for our students in Vladimir, a city of about 400,000 3 hours east of Moscow, in addition to existing ACTR programs in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Polish and Czech enrollments continue to flourish, and Serbo-Croatian is also doing well. Our teaching success is also evidenced by two awards for Slavic Department graduate students: Shannon Donnally

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*Russian majors enjoy themselves at the annual Slavic Majors party*

is a Letters & Science Teaching Fellow for 2003 and Kathleen “Kat” Scollins won the UW-Madison Award for Early Excellence in Teaching this year. Two teaching awards in one year for a department of our size is really quite something to celebrate. It’s not surprising that the Gourman Report on Undergraduate Education listed the UW-Madison Russian program as one of the top ten Russian programs in the United States. Of course, our Polish program is the oldest Polish bachelor’s degree program in the United States, and it is widely considered one of the very best. We don’t have majors in Czech or Serbo-Croatian (yet), but teacher evaluations in these languages show that students appreciate the teaching in those classes as much as they do in Polish and Russian.

The success of our teaching is evidenced also by the awards won by our undergraduates. Last year one of our graduates won a Fulbright Award (for a year in Irkutsk). This year a student of Russian won a National Security Education Program Fellowship and three other students of Russian were named alternates for this program. Three UW-Madison students were



DJ Nikolai Isayev at the Slavic Majors Party

selected as fellows for a Stanford US-Russia Leadership Summit, including two of our majors. (UW-Madison was the best represented institution at the summit!) Several UW-Madison students won awards for outstanding language performance at the Middlebury Russian School last summer, attaining highest scores on language tests administered there to students from institutions all over the United States and abroad. Of course, I must also mention the awards we have given to our students, undergraduate and graduate, to recognize their achievements in the study of Slavic languages and literatures. These awards (including the prestigious Shaw and Zawacki Prizes) are listed elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

We celebrated the many successes of our community in our second annual majors party this year, held on April 1, 2003, at Union South. The room accommodated 50, and we had at least that many in attendance. The performances that evening were evidence of the tremendous spirit of our department: a skit by 1<sup>st</sup> year Polish students, a poetry recitation by advanced Polish students, a comic performance by Professor Kornblatt and Department Administrator Jean Hennessey (from Gogol’s *Inspector General*, in honor of Gogol’s birthday that day), vocal performance by Amanda Baldwin, a performance on handbells by Shannon Donnally, and a poetry recitation by Christopher Syrnyk were all received with enthusiastic applause. Pictures from the party will be posted to our department’s website by the end of June 2003.

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The successes of the past year would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our department's administrative team: Jean Hennessey and Lori Hubbard. These two ladies give of themselves tirelessly to further the cause of our department: as incoming chair, I am especially grateful for their support.

The past year has been an extraordinary one for our department. Budgetary problems for the state, the UW-System, the UW-Madison campus, and the College of Letters & Science loom larger than they ever have in recent memory. More than ever, we in the Slavic Languages Department realize the importance of contributions, big and small, to help sustain our teaching and research missions at a time when state support of higher

education is shrinking. We were honored to have received a very generous gift in recognition of the outstanding achievement of our Polish language and literature program: we are very grateful to Leona Leute, who contributed \$60,000 to be used toward graduate fellowships in the Department's Polish program. We have received several other contributions this past year as well and sponsor many causes worthy of your support. Please consider giving to the Slavic Department this year: no matter how small your gift, it will be very appreciated!

Ben Rifkin  
Incoming Chair  
June 2003

## Gary Rosenshield's Contributions to the Department

by David Bethea

How can one put in a few words the essence of an admired colleague? In the more than twenty years I have known and worked with Gary Rosenshield I can think of many instances where Gary displayed his true colors, who he really was when it counts, but I cannot recall a single episode where his interests, ideas, and beliefs were not in harmony with the present and future direction of the department. The Yiddish word I think is *mensch*. Not a pushover and not automatically self-sacrificing (who is?), Gary was there when we needed him – a “grown up” in every sense of the word in a realm (academia) not known for its pale egos and shrinking violets. Not only did he serve as departmental and REES (as CREECA was then called) chair at times of significant pro-

gram development, writing major grants, rethinking outdated policy, and helping to hire valuable new colleagues, he pitched in at every possible level of need and support.

I recall a time early in my career in Madison when he came dressed as Santa Claus to our annual holiday party. When someone experienced family tragedy or came down with an incapacitating medical problem Gary and Jill were always among the first to arrive at the scene to offer their help. On occasions when colleagues or students acted in ways that seemed difficult or self-serving, Gary never took it personally and always tried to find a solution that was both practical and yet not

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unmindful of the department's standards and mission. As chair he did his share of difficult, deadline-driven tasks, but he also delegated and taught the rest of us to participate and "take ownership." Tenure documents, letters of recommendation (how many?), reports to the dean, requests for TA budgets, Title VI proposals, deliberations on admissions and fellowship committees, joint efforts to modernize undergraduate and graduate programs, etc., etc. – he did it all with utter competence and integrity. The most rigorous and probing of questioners at our prelims, Gary is still liked and respected by all. People understand that there is not a scintilla of self-promotion in Gary; he simply wants to get at the "truth" (or "truths") and investigate all the options and roads not taken. Some of the finest dissertations (now published books) in the history of our department have likewise emerged from under his supervision: works that show an impeccable knowledge of primary and secondary sources (especially relating to Dostoevsky), but that also are exquisitely thought through and argued.

As a teacher Gary has been a true polymath, someone with endless curiosity and the ability to apply his same logical acumen to a multitude of areas and disciplines: Dostoevsky, Pushkin, eighteenth century, narratology, Freudian and Lacanian theory, Jewish studies, legal studies, feminist criticism, language teaching. He not only recognizes good students, he challenges and brings out the best in them. Again, I can recall numerous

instances where papers first written in Gary's graduate courses became impressive articles in leading Slavic journals. It is a cliché, but sometimes clichés tell necessary truths:



*Undergraduate Kevin Murphy with Professors Andrew Reynolds and David Danaher*

Gary Rosenshield *lives* the life of the mind in ways that students and colleagues appreciate and benefit from. He serves the ideas rather than forcing the ideas to serve him. He goes to new material without knowing what he may come up with, so that the aura of discovery (formulating the not yet formulated) is always around him, whether he is talking about the competing versions of justice in the trial scene of *The Brothers Karamazov* or the poor linebacking on the Green Bay Packers (the Pack being one of our favorite topics).

Personally, I will miss Gary greatly. Although we will stay in touch and continue to have our lunches (mostly at Chinese restaurants) and discuss our and others' work, I will miss his wise, decent, always intelligent counsel and enlightened presence in the department. Hopefully we can lure him back to teach on an occasional basis. As Tom Shaw, perhaps the closest thing our department has to a patriarch, has remarked, "no one is replaceable." This is, for me and I'm sure for other colleagues in the department and at the university, more true of Gary than is normally the case. Life goes on. But what Gary Rosenshield has accomplished over the past three decades will not be soon forgotten.

## Czech Fulbright Scholar Coming to Madison!

Daniel Vojtech, a Fulbright Scholar from Prague, will be in residency in the Slavic Department for fall semester 2003. Daniel will be teaching two courses: an undergraduate survey course entitled "Modern Czech Literature/Modern Literature in the Czech Lands" and a graduate course entitled "Early Modernism in Czech Literature." Daniel is currently a research fellow at the Institute for Czech Literature and teaches regularly at the CIEE Study Abroad Center in Prague. Preliminary syllabi for the courses are available at <<http://www.novemberfund.org/vojtechundergrad.html>> and <<http://www.novemberfund.org/vojtechgrad.html>>.

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on gender transgression and cultural mythology. Over the past two years, Professor Filipowicz collaborated with former and current graduate students – Megan Dixon, Stuart Goldberg, and Christopher Syrnyk – on a forum on Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855), Poland's touchstone poet. The forum has just been published in *Slavic and East European Journal*. Entitled "Mickiewicz: 'East' and 'West,'" it develops new methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives in Mickiewicz studies. Professor Filipowicz is writing a new book, to be called *Democracy at the Theatre: Drama, Transgression, and Polish Cultural Mythology, 1786-1989*. She incorporated some of her interdisciplinary research in her course, Polish Culture and Literature, which attracted more than 30 students in the spring semester 2003. In the fall semester 2003, she will teach another popular course, Taboo Topics in Polish Literature and Culture. For the national convention of AAASS in November 2003, she has organized a roundtable entitled "Beyond Jedwabne, Poland: Historical and Comparative Perspectives on the Jew in the East European Imagination."

**Jean Hennessey** spent part of the year helping plan the wedding of her daughter,

recently a Hennessey but now Erin Altenberger. Erin married Jason Altenberger on May 31, 2003. In her spare time, she wrote a winning entry (together with Jane Roberts from the African Languages and Literature department) in a contest to find the biggest fans of Post-It Notes in the nation, winning a large supply of the sticky pieces of paper from 3M.

**Lori Hubbard**, the other half of the department's wonderful administrative staff, spent her year doing all the work Jean didn't want to do. She also saw more innings of baseball and softball than anyone else alive: her husband and son are both umpires, while her son and daughter both play.

**Judith Deutsch Kornblatt's** new book, *Doubly Chosen: Jewish Identity, the Soviet Intelligentsia, and the Russian Orthodox Church*, is due out in late 2003 from the University of Wisconsin Press. As a follow-up to the book, she returns to Moscow in the summer of 2003 to interview acquaintances of the late Father Alexandr Men', a liberal priest who was murdered in the early 1990s, some say by antisemitic factions within

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the Church itself. While in Moscow, she will check the archives of Vladimir Solov'ev for her project on Sophia. In the past year, she also returned to her interest in the author Isaac Babel, and completed an article on the Polish characters in his short story cycle *Red Cavalry*.

**Galina Lapina** had her translations of two books, *Nabokov: Russian Years* by B. Boyd and *The Jews* by H. Fast, published in Russia. Her translation of M. Balzer's book *Tenacity of Ethnicity* is forthcoming.

**Tomislav Longinovic** was invited to give lectures at SUNY-Albany and UCLA and published several articles, including "Yugoslavism and Its Discontents: A Cultural Post-Mortem" in London.

**Andrew Reynolds** is currently working on his book project, *Osip Mandelstam and the Poetics of Influence*, and a number of articles. It is hoped that Penguin will publish his translation of Victor Erofeyev's *Life with an Idiot* this year or early next year. He has been awarded a place in a Summer Institute in Literary Studies at the National Humanities Center, studying Yeats with Helen Vendler. He participated as discussant and chair at the 34th AAASS convention in Pittsburgh in November 2002. He particularly enjoyed teaching a graduate class on Pushkin this spring; among the many excellent byproducts of the class, Christopher Syrnyk's 51 Onegin stanzas (in English) on Pushkin's life and work, Pushkin scholarship, and the class itself deserves special mention!

**Benjamin Rifkin** published articles this year on the acquisition of narration

by learners of Russian (*Slavic and East European Journal* in press), contemporary Russian film (*Ab Imperio*), technology in foreign language learning (*ADFL Bulletin*), and guidelines for the design of foreign language lessons (*Foreign Language Annals*, in press). He is now finishing up work on a major technology initiative at UW-Madison and is also finishing up his final year as director of the Middlebury Russian School (Summer 2003). He began serving as President of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in January 2003; that same month he presented a co-authored paper at a conference on language learning in higher education at Duke University on the topic of teaching to the advanced and superior levels. In the Spring 2003 semester he consulted with the Defense Language Institute's development of listening and reading tests at the advanced and superior levels in Russian. Ben will serve as Slavic Department Chair in the Fall 2003 semester.

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Ben Rifkin and Galina Lapina during a lighter moment at the departmental awards ceremony in April

## Rifkin Receives Major Federal Curricular Development Grant

The Department of Education recently announced funding support for Ben Rifkin's project to develop technology materials for the teaching of listening comprehension at the advanced level of Russian instruction. The project, entitled the Russian Advanced Interactive Listening Series project (RAILS), will develop a year-long listening comprehension curriculum of 24 web-based lessons for students already at the intermediate level of Russian. One or more authentic video clips taken from Russian feature films or documentaries will form the basis for each lesson in Russian. Ben worked with UW-Madison Slavic Department graduate students Alice Harris and Wendy Johnson, Spanish & Portuguese graduate student Xenia Bonch-Bruevich, project manager Dianna Murphy, and a team of specialists in DoIT, to create three pilot lessons in Russian as part of the T<sup>4</sup> ("Transforming Teaching through Technology") Foreign Language Project during 2000-2003. Other teams working under Ben's leadership created lessons in ESL and Spanish at the same time. The Department of Education grant is for three years, and funding for the first year of the project is \$167,000. Congratulations, Ben!

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**Gary Rosenshield's** *Pushkin and the Genres of Madness: The Masterpieces of 1833* is scheduled to be published by the University of Wisconsin Press in October of this year. He has submitted another manuscript, entitled *Dostoevsky, the Law, and the Jury Trial*, which is now under review. He is currently working on a book on the image of the Jew in nineteenth-century Russian literature. Last year he presented a paper on *The Brothers Karamazov* at the AAASS conference in Pittsburgh and a paper on Turgenev's story "The Jew" at the AATSEEL conference in New York. This September he will be reading a paper on Turgenev at the Klutznick-Harris Symposium in Nebraska and a paper on Adolf Rudnicki's famous Holocaust novella *The Living and the Dead Sea* (*Zywe i martwe morze*) at AAASS in November. He will be delivering a lecture on Russian literature and the law at the University of Toronto Law School in February, 2004.

**Yuri Shcheglov's** book *An Essay on [Ovid's] Metamorphoses* (280 pp., in Russian) was published by Hyperion, Sankt-Peterburg, in September 2002. The same publishers are now starting work on his

new book *Antiokh Kantemir and the Formal Verse Satire* (ca. 600 pp.), which he has been extensively editing and revising over the last 18 months. He gave a paper on Nabokov's commentaries to *Evgenii Onegin* at the Second E. G. Etkind memorial conference in Sankt-Peterburg in June, and spoke as a discussant in the panel on Soviet parody at the 34<sup>th</sup> AAASS convention in Pittsburgh in November 2002. In April 2003 he interviewed the Russian writer Vasiliu Aksyonov in Fairfax, VA for his commentary to Aksyonov's classic "Surplussed Barrelware." This work will be finished within three months, and a joint book, containing the text of "Barrelware," Professor Shcheglov's commentary, and Aksyonov's preface, has been agreed upon. In the fall of 2003, Professor Shcheglov will talk at the AAASS convention in Toronto on a panel on Aksyonov and a roundtable on Il'f and Petrov. His plans for his sabbatical leave in the fall of 2003 include editing a collection of his articles on Soviet literature for Hyperion.

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