

# SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES

## LETTER

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Spring 2017**

It is a privilege to be able to introduce this issue of the Society's newsletter from the soapbox of the Society's presidency, which I'll gratefully and, I hope, productively occupy for the coming three years. As a long-time Society member with no family roots in Slovenia, I take heart from the Society's tradition of a presidency that in the course of forty years has passed from incumbents born in Slovenia, to non-Slovenes, to North Americans of Slovene descent, and so on in various permutations to the present day. Our Society's very founding in 1973 was the joint project of dedicated Slovene and non-Slovene scholars – and I believe that our strength and potential for wide impact today come precisely from this ongoing alliance of devoted insiders and enthusiastic outsiders who, from different perspectives, see in Slovenia a source of human experience and creativity that is rich and instructive far beyond its small size.

Lately the Society has made strides to actively enable both younger and established U.S. scholars from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to adopt a Slovene research focus. Since its inception in 2014, the Slovene Research Initiative at the Ohio State University – a collaboration of the Society with OSU and the Scientific Research Institute of

the Slovene Academy (ZRC-SAZU) – has already engaged five American and four Slovene scholars in fruitful on-site collaborations with their trans-Atlantic colleagues in history, linguistics, classics, ethnomusicology, glaciology and other disciplines.

In the past year we have also provided modest but much-needed tuition stipends to graduate students at several universities, making it possible for them to enroll in advanced Slovene studies coursework. And at our business meeting last November, we voted to award conference travel stipends to graduate students whose original research on Slovene topics has been accepted for presentation at national conferences, such as the fall 2007 annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies.

Among our oldest and most prestigious incentives, the Society's Rado Lenček Graduate Research Award and Jože Velikonja Undergraduate Essay Award have recognized outstanding student work in Slovene studies since 2000 and 2005, respectively. This coming year we will reach out proactively to college-level international studies programs nationwide to incentivize new student research and submissions for both awards.

These strategic initiatives have been made

possible by all of us working together – through our membership in the Society, our annual dues payments, our generosity in contributing to the Society’s various endowment and special funds, our pooling of opportunities and discussion of ideas. The systemic challenges facing scholars - particularly young scholars - in the humanities, social sciences and fine arts are greater now than they’ve been in many decades. In coming issues of the newsletter I would like us to continue exploring how the Society can best maximize its impact in the months and years ahead. For that discussion, I invite your input and would be pleased to hear from you anytime at [mbiggins@uw.edu](mailto:mbiggins@uw.edu).

Michael Biggins  
President, 2017-2020

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**THE SOCIETY AT THE ASEEEES  
CONVENTION, CHICAGO, IL  
9-12 November 2017**

**Meetings, Slovene-Themed Panels & Select  
Yugoslav-Themed Panels of Interest**

*Slovenia, the Baltics and Beyond: Comparing  
Small State Foreign Policy in the EU*

Chair:

Carole Rogel, Ohio State University

Papers:

Mark Cichock, U. of Texas, Arlington, “The  
Baltic States and Small-State Alliance  
Behavior: Sovereignty Constrained or  
Boundaries that Don’t Chafe?”

James Gow, King’s College, London, “Small  
States in the Not-So-New Europe:  
Sovereignty and Security”

Peter Rožič, U. of Ljubljana, “A Home-  
Grown Culture of European Foreign Policy?  
Small States’ International Relations between  
the Demands (or Reality) of Domestic and EU  
Environments”

Discussant:

Charles Bukowski, Bradley University

*Slovene literature since 1990*  
(SSS Young Scholars Panel)

Chair:

Timothy Pogacar, Bowling Green SU

Presenters:

Kristina Reardon, College of the Holy Cross,  
“Flash Fiction in Contemporary Slovenia”

Olivia Hellewell, U. of Nottingham, “Images  
of Slovenia in Post-1991 Translated Fiction”

Cyrus Rodgers, U. of Washington, “Thy Own  
Private Leviathan: Sanctification of Space in  
Mate Dolenc with Reference to Hemingway”

Discussant:

Kaitlyn Tucker, U. of Chicago

**Society for Slovene Studies business meeting  
Saturday, November 11, 1:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.,  
Location TBA**

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**CALL FOR 2018 CONVENTION PAPERS**

**Young Scholars Panel at the 2018 ASEEEES  
Convention in Boston, MA**

For the past fifteen years the SSS has sponsored a panel featuring younger scholars in Slovene Studies. The sessions have been well received and provide an opportunity for the Society to learn about new researchers in the field. If you are currently doing graduate work or have recently completed a graduate degree, and wish to prepare a paper for the 2017 meeting, please contact Gregor Kranjc ([gkranjc@brocku.ca](mailto:gkranjc@brocku.ca)) by 15 December 2017.

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**Senior Scholars Panel in 2018**

Since the SSS celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, “Old Timers” panels are becoming a tradition. We hope to offer a panel in 2017, using R. Minnich’s guidelines (U of Bergen):

The underlying thought is to mobilize long-term perspectives on developments in the study of Slovenia and the Slovenes by members of the society. We ask older members to reflect over how, in the course of their professional careers, their *respective* disciplines have adapted (theoretically and substantially) to transformations in the world of the Slovenes.

Anyone interested in preparing such a paper for the 2018 convention should contact Carole Rogel ([rogel.1@osu.edu](mailto:rogel.1@osu.edu)) by 15 December.

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**FROM THE TREASURER**

**Contributions to SSS Funds**

The Society for Slovene Studies will acknowledge contributions to its special funds: Center Fund, Endowment Fund, Printing Fund, and Rado L. Lenček and Joseph Velikonja scholarship funds. The Printing Fund was established in the early 1980s with a bequest from the estate of Mary Molek. The Endowment Fund was enlarged in the early 1990s with a bequest from the estate of John Nielsen. Fund balances are reported in the 2015 treasurer's report and are available from the treasurer at any time. These funds enable the society to carry out its mission of dissemination of scholarly information about Slovenia and its people. Please remember that your contributions are tax deductible in the U.S. Our deepest thanks to all contributors.

**Dues Notices**

2016 dues notices will be mailed with volume 38 (2016) later this year. Any notices for dues 2015 or earlier are included with the current journal mailing. Members may pay on line at [www.slovenestudies.com](http://www.slovenestudies.com).

**Center Fund**

Veronica Aplenc	Terence Dragovan
Timothy Pogacar	Marjeta von Rabenau
Anthony S. Ravnik, M.D.	Barbara Roesmann
Karl Ryavec	

**Endowment Fund**

Paul Barbarich	Terence Dragovan
Jerry D. Lomshek	Marjeta von Rabenau
Anthony S. Ravnik, M.D.	Gojko Stare
James Stariha	Jernej Watson

**Rado Lencek Graduate Student Prize**

Maria Bernik	Michael Biggins
Wayles Brown	Ludmila Lazar
Anthony S. Ravnik, M.D.	

**Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Student Prize**

Maria Bernik	Michael Biggins
Karel Bonutti	Wayles Brown
Joseph Laposa	Jerry Lomshek
Anthony S. Ravnik, M.D.	Vladimir Rus

**Printing Fund**

Blase Chemazar	Michael Cummins
Charles Debevec	Terence Dragovan
Joseph Govednik	Darko Kajfez
Jerry D. Lomshek	Marjeta von Rabenau
Anthony S. Ravnik, M.D.	Denis Sankovic
Gojko B. Stare	Jernej Watson

**Deceased Members**

Maria B. Bernik	William J. Majerle
Rev. Blase W. Chemazar	

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**SCHOLARSHIPS/PRIZES**

**Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Prize**

The submission deadline for the \$1,000US 2017 Undergraduate Essay Prize is 30 September 2017. See the Society's website.

**The SSS Rado L. Lenček Graduate Prize**

The submission deadline for the 2017 Graduate Student Prize is 30 September 2017. The prize is \$1,000US. See the Society's website.

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**SLOVENE STUDIES: JOURNAL OF THE SSS**

Volume 37 no. 1–2 is being sent with this newsletter. Vol. 38 (2016) will be published this year. Back issues of the journal through vol. 32 (2010) are available on the University of Washington Libraries' ResearchWorks Journal Hosting website, linked to [www.slovenestudies.com](http://www.slovenestudies.com) (see publications).

Timothy Pogacar, editor
Gregor Kranjc, book review editor

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**MEMBER NEWS**

**Society for Slovene Studies in Washington DC, November 2016**

Society for Slovene Studies (SSS), a group member of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) participates every year with several activities at the ASEEES conventions. In 2016, the convention on the topic "Global Conversation" took place in Washington, DC, on November 17-20. The SSS

sponsored panel *After Civil War - Historiography in Divided Society* was chaired by Petra Svoljšak (Milko Kos, Historical Institute, Slovenia). Ulf Brunnbauer (Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Germany) discussed at the panel three interesting papers, presented by the SSS members: Gregor Kranjc from Brock University, Canada (The Detritus of Occupation: American Gottscheers and the Memories of World War II in Slovenia); Oto Luthar from the Scientific Research Center, Slovenia (Reading Post-Socialist Memorial landscape and Cultural Wars: Slovenian Anti-Monuments as Continuation of 1941-45 Civil War?) and Bojan Godeša from the Institute for Contemporary History, Ljubljana (Fight for the Truth - Post-Communist Interpretations of the Second World War in Slovenia and Comparison to Other Former Yugoslav Nations). A traditional roundtable on the Slovenian foreign policy has taken place at yearly ASEEEES conventions. In 2016, the roundtable *Slovenian Foreign Policy after 25 years: Past Accomplishments and Future Challenges*, was chaired by Carole Rogel (Ohio State University) and featured four participants: Charles Bukowski (Bradley University), Božo Cerar (Ambassador of the R Slovenia to the U.S.), James Gow (Kings College, UK) and Peter Rožič (University of Ljubljana).

In addition, several SSS members participated in various roles at other panels. Breda Luthar, University of Ljubljana, presented the paper *Jeans and Imagining West* (panel: the Popular Culture and Society in Russia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia), and Vesna Mikolič, University of Primorska, delivered the paper *National and Minority Languages vs. Global Language in the Cross-Border Area: the Case of Slovenian Istria* (panel: Assessing Heritage Language Vitality-South Slavic Languages in the Era of Globalization. Michael Biggins and Peter Rožič were the discussants, respectively, at the panels, *Memory of East Europe* and *Faith Communities Fostering Civil Society in Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia*; while Veronika Aplenc, University of Pennsylvania, served as the chair for the panel *Public Space and Public Memory*. During the convention, the SSS also had its annual meeting to discuss ongoing projects and the future candidates for the SSS executive

committee and the SSS president.

The Slovenian Embassy in Washington DC organized the 3rd Slovenian-American Science and Education Showcase, a forum aimed at strengthening cooperation in science and education between the U.S. and Slovenia on November 18, 2016. The VTIS Association (V tujini izobraženi Slovenci), the American-Slovenian Education Foundation and the Society for Slovene Studies as well as several Fulbright Scholars participated in the event. Four Slovene scientists doing research at a variety of American universities or research institutions presented their research: Matjaž Kuntner, Fulbright scholar at the Smithsonian Institutions; Ana Počivalšek, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Damjan Pfeifer, Federal Reserve Board; and Rok Tkavec, Uniformed Services University of Human Science. The Society for Slovene Studies, the oldest of the academic societies, was introduced by Timothy Pogačar. Several SSS members in Washington for the ASEEEES convention, also attended the event. A reception, hosted by the Slovenian ambassador to the U.S. rounded this very interesting and useful networking event.

Report by Lea Plut - Pregelj

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### **Yana Hashamova Named to Slovene Academy**

Yana Hashamova, professor and chair, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at Ohio State University, has been named associate researcher of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts ([Institute of Culture and Memory](#)). Established in 1938, the academy is the supreme national institution for science and the arts, housed in an 18th-century baroque palace in the historical center of Ljubljana, recognizing scientists and artists elected as members for outstanding achievements.

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### **UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

**The 36<sup>th</sup> Obdobja Symposium** will take place on 16–18 November 2017, devoted to “*Slovene Literary Manuscripts from the Middle Ages to the*

*Long Nineteenth Century*” Details about this, past, and future symposia are at [www.centerslo.si](http://www.centerslo.si).

**The 53<sup>rd</sup> Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture** entitled *Love in Slovene Language, Literature and Culture* will take place on 3-14 July 2017 in Ljubljana. Details and registration: <http://centerslo.si/en/seminar-sjlk/>.

The Centre for Slovene is also organizing its annual, now **36<sup>th</sup> Summer School of Slovene Language** with various courses for the period 3-14 July or 17-28 July 2017.

**The 2016 AATSEEL Conference** will be held on 1-4 February 2018 in Washington, DC. Visit: [www.aatseel.org/](http://www.aatseel.org/). The Society for Slovene Studies is an affiliate of AATSEEL.

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**The 2018 ASEEEES 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention** will take place in Boston, MA at Boston Marriott Copley Place, 6-9 December 2018.

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For more institutional & affiliate ASEEEES member news see [www.aseees.org/about/affiliate](http://www.aseees.org/about/affiliate)

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**IN MEMORIAM Rev. Blasé Chemazar, O.F.M., (1928-2017)**

Fr. Čemažar, provincial assistant of the Slovenian Franciscan Monastery in Lemont, IL, referred to as “Commissariat of the Holy Cross,” passed away on Apr. 12, 2017. Blasé was born on June 23, 1928 in Chicago, IL. Son of the late Peter and Lucija (née Demzar). The family was from Selca near Škofja Loka, Republic of Slovenia. In Aug 1946 he entered the Franciscan order; and made solemn vows in 1950. He studied theology at St. Mary Franciscan Seminary, Lemont, IL. He then continued his studies at DePaul University, Chicago. He was ordained as a priest by exiled Slovenian Bishop Gregorij Rožman on June 13 1953. He was Chaplain at St. George Parish from 1953-59; and for six months at St. Stephen Parish, both in Chicago. He continued his postgraduate studies at DePaul University in history. He served as Chaplain, St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Johnstown, PA. and also St. Anne's in Moxham from 1961-64. He was Guardian of the Slovenian Franciscan monastery in Lemont from 1964-67; and then he served as a Provincial Delegate and

Custos of the Holy Cross Custody until 1977. He was again assigned Custos from 1983 to 2000. In 1980 he was appointed as pastor, St. George Parish until 1982. Fr. Blasé was appointed pastor of St. Stephen Parish where he served from 1989-98 as the last pastor until his retirement. He then lived in the Franciscan Monastery in Lemont. He lay in state until time of Funeral Mass at the Chapel of St. Mary's Friary followed by interment at St. Mary Seminary Cemetery. Fr. Čemažar was a member and supporter of the SSS.

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**PHOTO CORNER**



SSS Business Meeting: the 2016 ASEEEES Convention: From left to right: Chuch Bukowski, Veronica Aplenc, Michael Biggins, Oto Luthar, Carole Rogel



SSS Business Meeting, from left to right: Lea Plut-Pregelj, Gregor Kranjc, Žarko Lazarović, Timothy Pogačar



SSS Executive meeting: Michael Biggins, Peter Rožič, Timothy Pogačar, Carole Rogel  
Photos by Peter Rožič SJ

**SSS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Officers**

President: Michael Biggins (U of Washington)  
Secretary: Kristina Reardon (C of the Holy Cross)  
Treasurer: Timothy Pogacar (Bowling Green SU)  
Conference Program Coordinator: Veronica E. Aplenc (U of Pennsylvania)  
Editor, *Slovene Studies*: Timothy Pogacar  
Book Review Editor, *Slovene Studies*, Gregor Kranjc (Brock U)  
Editor, *Letter*: Peter Rožič SJ (U of Ljubljana)

**Elected Members**

Charles Bukowski (Bradley U)  
Gregor Kranjc (Brock U)  
Žarko Lazarević (Institute for Contemporary History, Ljubljana)

For further information regarding the Society for Slovene Studies, membership applications, journal subscriptions, and other details, contact: Kristina Reardon, secretary, Society for Slovene Studies, 148 Russell Street #3, MA 01609, or at [kristina.reardon@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.reardon@gmail.com)

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