

The Society for Romanian Studies



# NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We were gratified to announce last month the inauguration of the Society for Romanian Studies Graduate Student Essay Prize, the winner of which will be announced at the fall annual meeting of American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies at the Marriott Copley Place in Boston, November 12-November 15, 2009. (See p. 3 below for more details on the prize). Margaret Beissinger (Princeton University) will be chairing the award committee. This is part of a series of initiatives to increase graduate student participation in the SRS which also includes free membership for full-time graduate students and the addition of a graduate student representative beginning in 2010.

The SRS nominating committee, chaired by Jim Augerot (University of Washington), is assiduously at work on preparing a slate for our fall elections. This will include the presidency and vice-presidency for 2010-2013, the four board positions, and the graduate student representative. If you have last minute recommendations or suggestions, please send them to Jim Augerot <bigjim@u.washington.edu>. The elections will be conducted entirely via eMail; remember that only paid up Voting and Life Members are allowed to participate.

We continue to solicit suggestions for the site of the next International Congress on Romanian studies to be held in 2012. Please send me any suggestion you may have.

The first Central European Studies groups networking reception in Philadelphia was a success and will be continued in Boston at the AAASS. The exact date is not yet set, but participation is by ticket only. However, the SRS will provide free tickets for members provided you notify us ahead of time (we have to commit ahead of the meeting for catering purposes). If you are interested in attending this reception, please contact Jim Augerot to make a reservation and get a ticket.

We will also have an SRS business/light program session at the AAASS convention. Details on this will be announced in the next *Newsletter*.

Lastly, the Boston AAASS convention will try something new, called "Unconference Sessions". For details, see [www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/convention/program.html#schedule](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/convention/program.html#schedule). The deadline for submissions is September 1.

I want to thank the members of the SRS board for their feedback and discussions in regard to various initiatives over the last year. I am always impressed by the shared wisdom of this group. I also want to thank Dan Pennell for his work in compiling the *Newsletter*. Please keep your news items flowing to him. The next *Newsletter* will be published in the fall prior to the AAASS convention.

Paul E. Michelson  
Huntington University IN  
President, the Society for Romanian Studies

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# SRS GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE ANNOUNCED

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce that it is inaugurating a Graduate Student Essay Prize competition for an outstanding unpublished essay or thesis chapter written in English by a graduate student in any social science or humanities discipline on a Romanian subject. The 2009 prize, consisting of \$300, will be announced at the AAASS Convention in Boston in November 2009.

The student must be enrolled at or graduating from an institution of higher learning in North America. The competition is open to current M.A. and doctoral students or to those who defended dissertations in 2008-2009. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2007 through 2009. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Essays/chapters should be between 25 and 50 pages double spaced, including reference matter. Expanded versions of conference papers are also acceptable if accompanied by a description of the panel and by the candidate's conference paper proposal.



Candidates must clearly indicate the format of the essay submitted. A current CV must be appended. Submissions should be sent in duplicate by July 1, 2009 to Paul E. Michelson, Society for Romanian Studies, Huntington University, Huntington IN 46750 or in electronic format (Word.doc or PDF) to pmichelson@huntington.edu.

# In Memoriam: Sherman David Spector

Dr. Sherman David Spector, age 80, of Branford, CT died March 16, 2008. He was the husband of Cynthia Crocco Spector and the late Beryl Stern Spector. He was a graduate of Portland Maine High School and served in the U. S. Navy active duty from 1945 to 1946 and again in 1952 to 1955 as a Lieutenant in Naval Intelligence.

Dr. Spector attended Bowdoin College from 1946 to 1949, graduating A.B. with high honors in history, degree cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. He attended Columbia University from 1949-1952 and 1955-1960 earning an M. A. in History, certificate of Russian Institute in 1952 and a PhD. in East European History in 1960. He retired as Professor of History, Russell Sage College for Women, Troy, NY after 32 years. (1960-1992). He was also employed at New York State College for Teachers in Albany (now SUNYA) from 1957 to 1960. In 1964 and 1970 he was Fulbright Hays visiting professor at the University of București, Romania, and visiting professor of Political Science at Colorado State University in the summer of 1968. He was the author of *Romania at the Paris Peace Conference 1919-1920* (1962), *A History of the Balkan Peoples* (1972), and *Relapse into Bondage* (1998).

He was the recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award by Bowdoin College in 1987. He is also survived by a son, two daughters and three granddaughters.

# News, Events, Announcements

## Research in Romania Newsletter

The purpose of the *Research in Romania Newsletter* is to build a community of scholars doing empirical research in, and about, Romania—especially in the fields of social sciences, education, and the humanities. It is published by the University of Nevada at Reno and edited by Bob Ives <rives@unr.edu> and Kathy Obenchain <kmo@unr.edu>. You can find the first issue of the *Research in Romania Newsletter* by following this link: <http://www.unr.edu/educ/eds/RIR/newsletters/I1Revised.pdf>

## Craiuțu Appointment

Romanian President Traian Băsescu has appointed Aurelian Craiuțu (Indiana University) to serve as Honorary Chair of the Presidential Committee for the Study of Romania's Political and Constitutional Regime. Craiuțu is spending the 2008-2009 academic year as a member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.



## Indiana University Romanian Studies Conference

The Romanian Studies Organization at Indiana University held the second annual interdisciplinary Romanian Studies Conference on February 27 and 28, 2009. The annual conference welcomes papers from graduate students and recent PhDs in the humanities and social sciences on any topic related to Romania, Moldova, or the Romanian diaspora in any discipline or methodology, including but not limited to history, political science, economics, international relations, anthropology, literature, sociology, musicology, and cultural studies. Holly Case, Associate Professor of History at Cornell University, delivered the keynote address entitled "A Powerful Example: Regional Networks around Romanian Problems."

## Wilson Center Events

Vladimir Tismăneanu discussed the final report of President Băsescu's Commission on the Communist Regime in Romania on the Wilson Center's weekly radio program "Dialog" in February.

Andrei Marga, rector of Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, presented "Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: Accomplishments and Open Questions" at the Center in February.

Radu Ioanid, Gheorghe Câmpeanu, and Mircea Răceanu participated in a roundtable discussion "The Securitate Files: Silviu Brucan and the Communist Regime in Romania in the 1980s" in March. The event was organized following the publication in Romania of a new book *The Brucan File: Documents from the 3rd Directorate of Counterespionage of the State Security Department (1987-1989)*.

Cristian Vasile, Wilson Center public policy scholar and Romanian short-term scholar, discussed his work in progress, *Communist Romania's Cultural Cold War, 1947-1960*, at the Center on May 14.

Each of these events has been archived at the Center's website: [www.wilsoncenter.org](http://www.wilsoncenter.org)



## **IREX Partnerships in Collaborative Research Program (PCR)**

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Partnerships in Collaborative Research (PCR) Travel Grants is a pilot program designed to support collaborative projects involving US scholars and their international colleagues. The program provides American scholars with the necessary funds to bring a foreign scholar to the United States for an academic purpose. Funding from PCR will cover round-trip international airfare, administrative costs for acquiring a B-visa, and Conference fees for the foreign scholar to co-present on a panel (if applicable).

### ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES OF RESEARCH FOCUS

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia,

Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

The deadline to apply for a 2009 IREX Partnership in Collaborative Research grant is June, 1, 2009. Application information for PCR as well as the rest of the US scholar opportunities is available at [http://www.irex.org/programs/us\\_scholars/uss\\_info.asp](http://www.irex.org/programs/us_scholars/uss_info.asp). For questions regarding the PCR program, email [pcr@irex.org](mailto:pcr@irex.org).



## **From the NY Romanian Cultural Institute**

### **1. Summer Courses in Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization (Brasov, Romania), 2009**

The Romanian Cultural Institute organizes yearly the Summer School in Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization, taking place in one of the most attractive traditional communities of Transylvania.

The intensive language courses, designed specifically for the beginners, intermediate and advanced levels, are combined with courses in Romanian culture and civilization and creative workshops. The 15th edition is planned for July 12 - August 2 in Brasov, Romania. Deadline for applications is June 30, 2009.

#### **Participation Fee: 1000 EUROS (990 EUROS + 10 EUROS registration fee)**

The participation fee covers the following expenses: registration, tuition, workshops, trips, other additional activities included in the programme and meals. The costs for accommodation at the hotel (single or double rooms) will be covered by the Romanian Cultural Institute.

The participation fee does not cover the international or internal transport, the entrance visa (if needed) or any other additional hotel services.

There are full grants (that cover the participation fee) and partial (that cover between 25% and 50% of the participation fee) available. A reference letter from a professor or from someone familiar with the students work is an advantage. The deadline for grant applicants is June 20, 2009.

## **2. Andrei Șerban Honored in the U.S.**

*The New York Post* and *The Boston Globe* announced on April 1 that Romanian theater director Andrei Șerban will receive the annual Robert Brustein Award with American Repertory Theatre senior actor Jeremy Geidt.

## **3. Romanian literature in translation: *Little Fingers* by Filip Florian**

During this year's PEN World Voices Festival in NYC, RCINY organized a special series of literary events introducing Romanian writer Filip Florian, presenting in NYC his upcoming English edition of the acclaimed debut novel *Little Fingers*, to be published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in July 2009 (translation by Alistair Blyth).

Florian conducted a reading from the book and led a dialog about contemporary Romanian literature, its translation and reception abroad at the RCINY on May 4 at 7:30 pm. The dialogue was moderated by Michael Scammell, professor of writing at Columbia University's School of the Arts, translator of Nabokov, among many others, and former President of PEN American Center and a Vice-President of International PEN. Also present to complement the dialogue, was Simona Kessler, founder and leader of the most active Romanian literary agency.

### **About "Little Fingers"**

In a little town in Romania, a mass grave is discovered near the excavations of a Roman fort. Are the dead the victims of a medieval plague or, perhaps, of a Communist firing squad? And why are finger bones disappearing from the pit each night? Petrus, a young archaeologist, decides to do some investigating of his own. Florian has packed real history, a religious pilgrimage, a criminal investigation, a recipe for roast pigeon, and a love story into two hundred truly remarkable pages.

## **4. Film News**

In the past three years, Romanian Cinema burst on the international scene and gotten wide recognition. The time has come to prove that the so-called New Wave wasn't a flash in the pan. This



year's Berlin Film Festival featured a strong Romanian presence (two feature film debuts and two short films) and there was a frantic buzz surrounding the new titles that opened in Cannes. Cristian Mungiu ("4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days") is back on track with an ambitious omnibus project that he wrote and co-directed, TALES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE. Corneliu Porumboiu ("12:08 East of București") returns with a far more radical second film. Razvan Rădulescu, the officially acknowledged screenwriter of the New Wave, directed his first feature that he co-wrote, FELICIA, FIRST OF ALL, while Bobby Păunescu, the producer of "The Death of Mr. Lazarescu", made his first steps as a director with FRANCESCA, produced by Cristi Puiu.

Following the great critical response to the Romanian films previously released in the US, the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York and its partners sponsored a presentation in Los Angeles on April 29. The film menu was complete with snippets from the above mentioned titles and several others, planned by Mihai Chirilov, film critic and director of Transilvania International Film Festival, and followed by a roundtable dedicated to the future of the Romanian New Wave, with the participation of Scott Foundas, film critic for LA Weekly and the Village Voice, and Vera Mijojlic, director of SEE Film Festival. Also in person: actress Monica Dean (FRANCESCA), and co-director Ioana Uricaru (TALES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE).

##### **5. Ileana Alexandra Orlich on Myth and Modernity in the Twentieth-Century Romanian Novel**

At RCINY on May 15 at 7:30 pm Ileana Alexandra Orlich presented her most recent book *Myth and Modernity in the Twentieth-Century Romanian Novel* (to be published at Columbia University Press in August 2009) and conducted a dialogue about modern and contemporary Romanian literature, its translation and reception abroad.

##### **6. POONARC**

Yoshiko Chuma and The School of Hard Knocks/ROOT CULTURE will perform *POONARC: A Page Out of Order: Not About Romanian Cinema* at Danspace Project for 6 performances in June 2009. With support from RCINY, four Romanian artists will take: director & playwright Theo Herghelegiu, dancers Andreea Duta and Istvan Teglas, and actor Sorin Calota. Performances will take place June 4-6 & 11-13 at 8:30 pm at DANCESPACE PROJECT at ST. MARK'S CHURCH 131 East 10th Street, NYC.

## **Warsaw East European Conference, Sixth Annual Session**

The Centre for East European Studies of the University of Warsaw is organizing the WARSAW EAST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, Sixth Annual Session, to be held in **Warsaw, July 15-18, 2009**.

The main subject of the Sixth Warsaw East European Conference is the road of the East Central Europe from totalitarian regimes to independence in the XXth century. The conference will focus on three essential dates in the history and contemporary situation in Europe: 1939-1989-2009. Changes in East-Central Europe will be discussed with focus on political, social, economic and cultural issues.

Additional information is available at: [www.studium.uw.edu.pl/weec](http://www.studium.uw.edu.pl/weec) and [conf.studium@uw.edu.pl](mailto:conf.studium@uw.edu.pl)

## **Romanian Conference at Columbia University 6<sup>th</sup> edition**

The annual Romanian student conference of the Romanian Student Club was held April 25, 2009, at Columbia University under the title "Romania—20 Years After". Among the presentations, following "Opening Remarks," by Columbia Romanian Club President, Angela Radulescu, were: "Romanian eCommerce—An Investor's Perspective," Cristina Bugnaru, Forrester Research; "Investing in Romania—Lessons from the Financial Crisis," Tal Ben-Zvi, Wesley J. Howe School of Technology Management, Stevens Institute of Technology; "Romanian Students and Global Citizenship," Andrei Dinu, Andra Mihali, Monica Nania, and Angela Radulescu, Columbia University; "Global Romanian Students and Young Professionals Society," Radu Tatu, FTI Consulting; "Remarks," by Andreea Berechet, Deputy Consul General of Romania in New York and Angela Radulescu, Romanian Club President, Columbia University; "Eugen Ionesco's Centennial," Valery Oisteanu, New York based writer and artist; "Putting Romanian Art on the NY Map," A dialogue with artists Saviana Stanescu, Matei Varga and Sanda Weigl, moderated by Corina Şuteu, the director of the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York; "Opportunities in Science for Young Romanian Researchers," Meredith Crosby, postdoctoral fellow, Yale School of Medicine; "20 Years After. Then and Now. Romanian Scientists in America: A Radio Romania Project," Corina Negrea, Radio Romania, Science Department; and an OPEN DEBATE (moderated by Tony Romani, Columbia University Alum on "20 Years after—where are we headed?"

## **7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Politics & International Affairs**

On 22-25 JUNE, 2009, Athens, Greece, the History and Politics Research Unit of the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) will sponsor a Contemporary History mini-Conference as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Politics & International Affairs.

The registration fee will be €250, covering access to all sessions, two lunches, coffee breaks and conference material. Special arrangements will be made with local hotels for a limited number of rooms at a special conference rate. In addition a number of special events will be organized: A Greek night of entertainment, a one-day cruise to picturesque Greek Islands and a half-day tour of archaeological and historical sites in Athens.

The aim of the mini-conference is to bring together scholars and students of historical studies of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Sessions will be formed around the topics of total war, diplomatic history, dictatorships and democracies, decolonization, the Cold War, regional unification and globalization, guerrilla wars, terrorism, "clash of civilizations", and economic crises, all from a historical perspective. Papers from these and other topics in contemporary history are welcome. Selected papers will be published in a Special Volume of the Mini-Conference Proceedings or in edited books as part of ATINER's history book series. For books and proceedings of previous conferences, you may visit [http://www.atiner.gr/docs/HISTORY\\_PUBLICATIONS.htm](http://www.atiner.gr/docs/HISTORY_PUBLICATIONS.htm) for titles, table of contents and order form.

## **The Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention**

was held at Columbia University, April 23-25, 2009, on the theme "Imagined Communities, Real Conflicts, and National Identities." The conference has become a major forum for the presentation of new research on Romanian studies, including numerous young researchers from Romania and Europe. The following is a list of papers and panels of interest to Romanianists listed in the 2009 program.

⊗ **Panel, "Ambiguous Nation-Building in Southeastern Europe (Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina)":** Paper by Gabriela Popa (European U Institute,

Italy) "Graves Without Crosses: The Dead and the Remembrance of the Second World War in post-Soviet Moldova";

⊗**Panel, "Troubled Pasts, Usable Histories, and Political Identities Mediators of Retroactive Justice in Contemporary Romania"**: Panelists included Irina Livezeanu, (U of Pittsburgh) Chair and Discussant; Ionut Biliutață (Central European U, Hungary) "Sanctifying, Judging, or Recovering the Past? Post -1990s Understandings of the Romanian Fascism in the Christian Orthodox Environments"; Valentin Sandulescu (Central European U, Hungary) "Visions of the Past, Present and Future – the Intellectuals Close to the Iron Guard and Their Subsequent Public Reception in Romania"; Anca Sincan (New Europe College, București, Romania) "Reclaiming the Past: Recuperating the history of the Greek Catholic Church after 1989"; Narcis Tulbure (New Europe College, București, Romania) "Unstable Histories, Fragmented Values: The Sequencing of Nationalized Property Restitution in Romania";

⊗**Panel, "Minorities and Politics in East-Central Europe: The Shadows of 20th Century"**: paper by Alessandro Vagnini (Sapienza U of Rome, Italy) "German-Italian Commissions in Transylvania 1940-1942: A Crucial Case Study";

⊗**Panel, "Ethnic and Multi-Ethnic Parties: Strategies of Political Recruitment"**: William Crowther, (UNC Greensboro, US), Chair and Discussant; Oleh Protsyk (EMCI, Germany) "Why Not Ethnic Minority Parties in Moldova and Ukraine?"; Marius Matichescu (U Montpellier III, France) "Party Strategies of Ethnic Recruitment in Romania"; Monica Caluser (Babeș-Bolyai U, Romania) "Recruitment for Minority Reserved Seats in Romania";

⊗**Panel, "Ethnic Governance in History and Politics: Some Experiences in East and Central Europe"**: paper by Giuseppe Motta (U Sapienza of Rome, Italy) "Transylvania is not only Dracula's Land: Cohabitation and Regionalism in the Romanian and Hungarian Experience";

⊗**Panel, "Identity Formation in Moldova"**: Matthew Ciscel (Central Connecticut State University), Chair; Irina Culic (U of Windsor, Canada) "The "Romanianness" of Moldovans: History, Practices, and Institutions"; Christian Haerpfer (U of Aberdeen, UK) "Structure and Dynamics of National Identities in Moldova"; Stela Suhan (SciencesPo, Paris, France) "The Communist Party of Moldova: Revival of Soviet Traditions and Consolidation of

"Moldovanism"; Dareg Zabarah (Ludwig Maximilians U, Munich, Germany) "Ideas on State and Nationhood in Moldova";

⊗ **Panel, "Roma and the Politics of Exclusion"**: a paper by Giovanni Picker (U Milano-Bicocca, Italy) "Nationalist Exclusion in Everyday Idioms: Constructing a Roma Neighborhood in a Transylvanian Town";

⊗ **Panel, "Language Policies and the Russian Language in Belarus, Estonia/the Baltics, Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia since 2000"**: Matthew Ciscel (Central Connecticut State U, US) "On Moldova";

⊗ **Panel, "Memory and Identity in the Borderlands of Europe"**: a paper by Anamaria Dutceac Segesten (U of Maryland, US) "Remembering Lost Battles: Myths of Victimhood, Persecution and Betrayal in Serbian and Romanian History Textbooks";

⊗ **Panel, "Romania from Parochial Nationalism to National Parochialization (19th Century to the Present)"**: Felicia Waldman (U of București, Romania), Chair; Adrian Cioflanca (A.D. Xenopol History Institute, Romania) "Political Debates before the Union of the Romanian Principalities (1859): Between Nationalism and Parochialism"; Mihai Chioveanu (U of București, Romania) "The Tapestry and Sophistry of Cleansing Nation Statism in Greater Romania"; Klaus-Jürgen Hermanik (U of Graz, Austria) "Ethno-Politics of the Hungarians, Szeklers and Saxons in Transylvania"; Michael Shafir (Babes-Bolyai U, Romania), Discussant;

⊗ **Book Panel on Zsuzsa Csergo's Talk of the Nation: Language and Conflict in Romania and Slovakia (Cornell, 2007)**: Participants: Daniel Chirot (U of Washington); Henry Chip Carey (Georgia State University); Zsuzsa Csergo (Queen's U, Canada);

⊗ **Panel, "Constructing Civic and Catholic Identities: Antisemitism in Romania and the Habsburg Empire in the Latter Part of the 19th Century"**: paper by Silvia Marton (U of București, Romania) "Designing Citizenship: The "Jewish Question" in the Debates of the Romanian Parliament, 1866-1877";

⊗ **Panel, "Central European Fascisms: Images, Perceptions, and Internal Dynamics"**: a paper by Roland Clark (U of Pittsburgh, US) "Mothers, Wives and Girlfriends: Female Sympathizers of Romanian Fascism".

# PUBLICATIONS

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## GOT NEWS?

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER will appear in fall of 2009. If you have published anything of interest to Romanian studies, please let the editor know. In addition, news items and other information relevant to Romanian studies are always welcomed. Send same to Dan Pennell <pennell.pitt.edu>. Thanks.

# The Society For Romanian Studies

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) is an inter-disciplinary academic organization, founded in 1973 to promote professional study, criticism, and research on all aspects of Romanian culture and civilization. It holds meetings to promote Romanian studies, publishes newsletters to keep its membership informed, and carries out other activities designed to foster advancement of the field of Romanian studies. The SRS Home Page is located at: [www.huntington.edu/SRS](http://www.huntington.edu/SRS).

The SRS is generally recognized as the premier professional organization for North American scholars concerned with Romania. It is affiliated with the South East European Studies Association (SEESA), the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), the American Historical Association (AHA), and the American Political Science Association (APSA).

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# SRS Membership

You are invited to renew your membership in the Society for Romanian Studies or to join today. There are three **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES** in the SRS: 1) Voting Memberships; 2) Free Non-Voting Graduate Student Memberships; and 3) Lifetime Voting memberships.

**VOTING MEMBERSHIPS** are \$15 on a calendar year basis. Voting members receive the calendar year issues of the newsletter, membership in the SRS eMail list, and can vote in SRS elections. Memberships are limited to persons with a North American mailing address.

**GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP** is free to all full-time graduate students with a North American mailing address. Graduate student members receive the same stuff as voting members but are not eligible to vote in SRS elections. (Individuals in the graduate student category who wish to be vote may do so by paying the regular \$15 membership above.) Though graduate student membership is free, you will need to confirm your graduate status by the end of January each year to remain on the lists. You will continue in this status to the end of the calendar year even if you graduate by summer or take a full time position. Please provide the same information below requested of voting members.

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Dues should be sent to: Jim Augerot, University of Washington  
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