

## The Newsletter of the Grinnell College Russian Department

### Greetings from the Russian Department and the Russian and Eastern European Studies Concentration

Novosti is a newsletter put out once or twice each semester with news about Russian Department and Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies (RCEES) activities. We wish you all a pleasant and successful spring semester. We have some exciting events planned; we hope you will join us for some or all of them! Watch for "e-novosti" throughout the semester for updates on events and breaking news.

### Welcome Back!

We extend special greetings to returning veterans of off-campus study programs. **Claire Wenngren '08** studied last semester on an American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) sponsored program in St. Petersburg, and **Wyatt Montague** participated in the ACTR fall semester program in Moscow. **Christine Boeckholt '08** studied in Olomouc, Czech Republic, in a program sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). **Quenna Lalonde '07** completed an ACTR program in Kiev (Kyiv), Ukraine. **Sidonie Straughn-Morse '08** spent the semester in Krakow, Poland, where she was studying at Jagiellonian University in a program sponsored by Lexia International.

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## Staffing News

Many of you are aware that **Anatoly Vishevsky** will be on sabbatical leave next year, and **Todd Armstrong** will be on leave during Spring 2008. **Helen Scott** will be moving to Senior Faculty Status. For this reason, the Russian department will be hiring a for a one-year replacement for next year. The SEPC may be in contact with you regarding meeting candidates for this position, and there may also be opportunities for hearing talks from visiting candidates. Novosti will keep you posted.

### Welcome to New Majors and Concentrators!

The Russian Department extends a warm welcome to our newest majors, **Claire Comstock-Gay '09** and **Emma Silverman '09**.

Some of you are in the process of declaring, so if we've forgotten anyone, let us know!

New RCEES Concentrators include **Jacob Schneider 07**.

### Good Luck!

We also wish the very best to **Morgan Wajda-Levie '08**, who has studied this past fall on an ACTR Moscow program, and who is taking a personal leave next semester, during which he will study in Kazan, as well as to **Sheahan Virgin '08**, who will also take a personal leave to study in Kazakhstan this semester.

### Russian Department SEPC ~ Spring 2007

The Russian Department SEPC members this year are **Alica Assini '07**, **Robyn Repko '07**, **Jacob Schneider '07** (chair) and **Leann Wilson '07**. (SEPC stands for Student Educational Policy Committee, and is a group of students who work with faculty members in the Russian department in organizing our co-curricular program, assisting in providing student input on reviews, and representing the majors in our department to SGA.) The SEPC is open to anyone who wishes to take part; please contact Helen Scott [scotth] if you are interested in joining.

## Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies at Grinnell

The staff of the Russian Department and colleagues in other departments work together in promoting the study of the languages, culture, and history of the former Soviet Union and the lands which are usually designated as Central and Eastern European. The Russian Department consists of the following members:

**Helen Scott**, chair ARH 217D [SCOTTH]

**Kelly Herold**, chair, ARH 232C [HEROLDK] (on leave)

**Raquel Greene** ARH 232A [GREENER]

**Anatoly Vishevsky**, ARH 232B [VISHEVSK]

**Todd Armstrong**, Mears 113 [ARMSTRON]

In addition to members of the Russian Department, faculty in other departments have specializations

in Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies, and are members of the RCEES committee:

**Robert Grey**, Pol. Science, CARN 205 [GREY]

**Daniel Kaiser**, History, Mears 216 [KAISER]

**John Rommereim**, Music, BCA 205 [ROMMER]

If you are interested in the Russian Central and East European Studies Concentration, please contact RCEES chair **Anatoly Vishevsky**.

## Russian Mentored-Advanced Project (MAP) News

During winter break, **Amanda Smith '07**, **Robin Repko '07**, **Lindsey Martin '07**, **Leann Wilson '07**, and **Julia Yansura '07** went to Russia to conduct two-week internship in various Moscow theaters: Mossovet Theater, Pushkin Theater, Youth Theater, Theater of Satire and Stanislavsky Theater. The students stayed at the Moscow Art Theater School Dorm, and spent two weeks at their respective theaters studying repertoire, directing and acting techniques, as well as the theater's place in the general scene of contemporary Moscow theaters; they completed research, conducted interviews with actors and directors, did technical work, and attended both rehearsals and productions of plays. The weather was amiable, the theater people warm and friendly, and except for a couple of students who screamed at night in the dorm corridors (those over-emotional Russian theater students!), the internship went very well! The students will use the research this semester on their MAP projects.

The students will present their work at the end of the spring semester; watch for announcements!

### РУССКИЙ СТОЛ

Russian Table is held on Fridays during the lunch hour in the JRC. Participants go through the line in the dining hall to get their meals. We invite speakers of Russian at every level to join us for informal Russian conversation. Individuals not on board are guests of the Russian Department—just sign the sheet at the entrance. ПРИГЛАШАЕМ ВСЕХ ЖЕЛАЮЩИХ!

## News from our Russian Language Assistant, Vera Bobkova

Monday, Wednesday 9-10 PM  
Thursday 12-1 pm  
and by appointment.  
Новости от ассистента Веры  
Бобковой

Я хочу рассказать вам о том,  
что интересного можно делать,  
если вы изучаете русский в  
Гриннелле:

1. Пятница. Русский  
Кулинарный Клуб.  
В этом семестре каждую пятницу  
мы будем готовить русскую  
еду. Мы уже готовили котлеты с  
картошкой и русским салатом,  
и торт, который я всегда делаю  
себе на день рождения.  
Приходите в Русский Дом и  
присоединяйтесь! Будет вкусно!

2. <http://360.yahoo.com>  
Это форум, где мы  
практикуемся с студентами,  
которые изучают разговорный  
русский (Conversational Russian).  
Мы говорим там по-русски! Мы  
обсуждаем русскую культуру,  
задаём друг другу вопросы.  
Присоединяйтесь!  
To join you should get an ac-  
count in 360.yahoo.com, add me  
as a friend (my user name there  
is Vera B) and comment on my  
blog in one of the discussions.  
Welcome!

3. Масленица!!! 12-18 февраля  
Масленица это языческий  
праздник - конец зимы. По  
традиции древние русские  
говорили зиме До свидания  
и жгли чучело. Еще они ели  
блины. Блин был символом  
Солнца.  
18 февраля, в воскресенье мы  
будем праздновать Масленицу!

Приходите!  
So? Maslenica is from the word  
'масло' (butter). It is the last week  
before the Lent. It's an old pagan  
tradition to say farewell to winter  
and to burn its scarecrow. One  
more great thing about this cel-  
ebration is pancakes! They were a  
symbol of the Sun which sym-  
bolysed prosperity and warmth,  
and coming spring. In Old Russia  
this celebration was very popular  
- the whole village celebrated it.  
They had tournaments, dances,  
lots of food. Young girls and guys  
tried to find a couple in those  
days and they had great chances,  
because lots of people came from  
smaller villages to bigger ones  
just for this reason ;-)

It's a tradition to celebrate  
Maslenica in the Russian Depart-  
ment, so watch the information in  
your e-mails about the exact date  
and time of the celebration!

4. link of the month:  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/eu-  
rope/6323611.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/eu-<br/>rope/6323611.stm)  
Студентка Ребекка прислала  
мне эту ссылку про оражевый  
снег в России в одном из  
городов Сибири.

Мне всегда очень приятно  
работать с вами. Приходите  
ко мне в офис, если нужна  
помощь!

Удачного второго семестра!

Vera



## Upcoming/Ongoing Russian Department ~ RCEES Events

### Russian Film Series

**Leann Wilson '07**, Russian Department Student Secretary continues her work with the weekly Russian Film Series. Screenings of Russian classics both old and new are held **every other Saturday** (watch for announcements) in the Cultural Education Center (a.k.a. the AV Center video lounge). All films are shown with subtitles; refreshments are ALWAYS offered, and everyone is welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

### TOMORROW!!

**Come and See Brilliantovaia ruka (The Diamond Arm) on Saturday at 1:00 PM in the AV Center's Cultural Education Center. This is one of those classic Soviet comedies that's the source of a number of cultural allusions, catchphrases, and jokes in Russia.**

Here's a little synopsis:

Semon Semonovich, a diligent Soviet economist, goes on a cruise where he unwittingly gets acquainted with the Mafia's right-hand man, Kozodoev, whose assignment is to pick up diamonds from his supplier and deliver the contraband back to Moscow hidden in a cast on his arm. During one of the last stops, Semon Semonovich gets mistaken for Kozodoev and ends up wearing the jewel-encrusted cast. When he returns to Moscow Semon contacts the police. Now he has to pose as bait and escape the traps elaborately planted by the Mafia. This beloved film, featuring an enchanting cascade of tricks, jokes, witty remarks, and cheesy, yet unforgettable musical performances, has remained a favorite among the Russian public for over a quarter of century.

Run time: 95 minutes

Even if you think it sounds stupid, you'll probably enjoy it anyway. At any rate, it's worth checking out as an important cultural phenomenon in Russia.

Hope to see you there!

## Upcoming/Ongoing Russian Department ~ RCEES Events (cont.)

### **Russian-themed Falconer Gallery Exhibit The Space of Freedom: Apartment Exhibitions in Leningrad (1965-1986)**

**March 9 - April 22, 2007**

Approximately 60 paintings, drawings, and prints from the collection of the Museum of NonConformist Art in St. Petersburg, Russia. Artwork in the exhibition will be displayed in a fabricated Soviet apartment interior (circa 1970) that will be assembled in Falconer Gallery. Organized by the University of Richmond Museums, Virginia, the exhibition and tour have been made possible with generous support from the Global Partners Project, which is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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### **Special Events in Connection with The Space of Freedom:**

#### **Guest Speaker:**

**Joseph Troncale**, curator of the exhibition and Associate Professor of Russian, Co-Director of the Russian Studies Program, University of Richmond

"Creating a Space of Freedom in Soviet Russia"

**Thursday, April 5, 8:00 pm**

Bucksbaum 152

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Slavic Coffeehouse**

**Saturday, April 7, 5:30-7:00 pm**

Bucksbaum Center for the Arts Rotunda

An annual Spring event in the Russian Department, the Slavic Coffeehouse is co-sponsored by Russian and Central and Eastern European Studies (RCEES). Students meet at kitchens on campus and in professors' homes, and prepare a variety of exotic treats from the Slavic kitchen, to be sold with coffee and tea that evening. Proceeds from the evening are used to fund an event for Russian House. This year the Slavic Coffeehouse will be held in conjunction with the Falconer Gallery exhibit. Watch for more announcements later this semester!

Musical entertainment is a frequent tradition of the Slavic Coffeehouse, and performers have ranged from Russian bards to classical musicians. This year we are pleased to announce

#### **Oleg Vitalyevich Timofeyev**

Guitar Music

Saturday, April 7, 7:00 pm (after Slavic Coffeehouse)

Falconer Gallery

For more information on Mr. Timofeyev, please see <http://www.iowaartscouncil.org/programs/folk-and-traditional-arts/iowa-roots/season-three/oleg-timofeyev.shtml>

## Funding Opportunities

### Mohan Russian Study Award

The purpose of the Russian Study Award is to provide students who have seriously pursued the study of Russian with an opportunity to develop their language skills in the Russian speaking world. The Award is intended to enable Grinnell College students to pursue a study program or a project of their own design after graduation. The study program or project must be initiated within the year following graduation. Projects which tend to immerse the student in a Russian language environment and develop Russian language skills are favored and these may include: structured study programs (such as an ACTR semester), volunteer-ships, or internships, which have cultural, political or social value. See the Alumni section of the Russian Department's web page for examples of the many types of creative projects funded in the past.

The Award is drawn from funds raised by three devoted friends of the Russian Department: **Diane Fisher Perkinson '82, Sharon McKee '82 and Emily Silliman '81.**

The deadline for applying is the Friday before Spring Break. More detailed information about the Mohan Russian Study Award, as well as the downloadable application form can be found at <http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/russian/award/>.

### Anne K. Hanson '86 Memorial Award

This endowed scholarship was established in 1989 in memory of **Anne K. Hanson '86** by her friends and family. Anne Hanson was a Russian Studies major who went on the Grinnell College Interim Tour of the USSR during her senior year. The Award will be used to partially fund at least 1 student who wishes to take a Russian Summer intensive language program. The program must be approved by the chair of the Russian department and be completed prior to graduation from Grinnell College.

Selection for the Anne K. Hanson Memorial Award is made by the Russian Department faculty. The scholarship will partially fund student(s) to attend a summer language intensive course in Russian. Funds will be available for the next year if in a given year students are not selected. If the Russian Department faculty deem only one student exceptional, the department will consider providing full funding for the language intensive program. The award is paid directly to the student recipient.

Students may apply after completing one year of Russian language. To be considered, applicants must complete an application form and write an essay. Interviews with department faculty may be required. The deadline for applying is the Friday before Spring Break. Please contact Todd Armstrong [armstron] for more information about applying for this award, and for an application (which will soon be available on-line).

### Russian Language Internship

**Stephanie Hitztaler '96** brings the following opportunity to the attention of Russian majors. Does the thought of exploring Russia's wilderness and experiencing life in its small, rural communities appeal to you? If you have a strong interest in Russia, nature conservation, and being in the outdoors, please read further!

We at the non-profit organization, American Association for the Support of Ecological Initiatives (AASEI), in conjunction with our Russian partner, Adonis, highly encourage you to apply to our summer internship program in northwest Russia. With an environmental and cultural focus, this program introduces students to Russia's unique system of protected areas, and to the people who work in them. Besides interacting with protected area staff, students work closely with Russian college students who share similar interests in ecology and environmental issues. For more detailed information, please read below!

## Program Overview

The first part of the internship will consist of an orientation, including field trips, in St. Petersburg. The rest of the program will then be divided between Nizhnesvirsky and Laplandsky Nature Reserves. Activities at both reserves include: an introduction to local flora, fauna, and natural history; nature hikes; meetings with the reserve directors; interaction with local people; and service projects. Both reserves are located in the vast boreal forests of northwest Russia. (For more information about each area, please consult AASEI's Web site: [www.wesleyan.edu/aasei/nature\\_reserves.htm](http://www.wesleyan.edu/aasei/nature_reserves.htm).) Total length of program: 4 weeks, June 28—July 27, 2007. Students will arrive in and depart from St. Petersburg, Russia.

## Requirements and Costs

This internship is intended for undergraduate students who will begin their junior or senior year in fall 2007; recent graduates are also encouraged to apply. Language proficiency is not required; however, we give strong preference to candidates who have completed at least two years of college-level Russian. AASEI and Adonis cover all program costs in Russia, and provide visa support. Students are responsible for Russian visa fees (approximately \$100) and airfare to and from Russia. (Summer airfares range from approximately \$1200-\$1600 for round-trip tickets depending on the airline, advance purchase, and place of departure in the US.) Students typically have been able to receive funding through the Russian/Slavic Department, or other programs, such as Russian and East European Studies, at their colleges or universities.

## Academic Credit

Although we are not able to offer academic credit, this internship serves as a solid foundation for future studies and other professional endeavors. Students can begin to identify potential thesis topics, including environmental education and policy, and natural resource management. They also have the invaluable opportunity to establish contacts with nature reserve staff, and with local specialists.

## Application

To download an application or for more information, please refer to our Website:

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/aasei/>, or contact Stephanie Hitztaler, AASEI acting director at [shitztal@umich.edu](mailto:shitztal@umich.edu) or Mr. William Wasch, AASEI secretary at [wkwasch@snet.net](mailto:wkwasch@snet.net)

Application Deadline: March 26, 2007

## What Past Participants Have to Say

"There were times that I had to pinch myself to make sure that I really was in northern Russia...I started to understand the vastness of the Russian wilderness and its indescribable beauty. I improved my Russian and was able to expand my limits by communicating to my new Russian friends and embracing their amazing culture." AASEI alumna, Summer 2006

## Opportunities

### **American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS announces the following scholarship opportunity for Summer 2007 study abroad in Russia and Eurasia:**

Scholarships for area studies program in Moscow: Financial aid is available for participants on the five-week summer program focusing on area studies, Contemporary Russia. This unique opportunity for study in Moscow offers courses in Russian economics, politics, and culture; all content-based classes are taught in English by faculty of the State University: Moscow Higher School of Economics, one of Russia's most prestigious centers for the study of social sciences. Program participants also receive six hours per week of elementary Russian language instruction. (Students with prior training in Russian are provided instruction at the appropriate level; we can accommodate students of all proficiency levels.) Other program features include room and board with Russian families; weekly cultural excursions; a full-time U.S. resident director; Russian peer tutors; eight semester-hours of academic credit through Bryn Mawr College; and pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C. Tentative program dates: June 27 - July 30, 2007. Application deadline: March 15.

For more information, please contact:

Outbound Programs, American Councils for International Education:

ACTR/ACCELS,

1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 833-7522

Email: [outbound@americancouncils.org](mailto:outbound@americancouncils.org)

Website: [www.acrussiaabroad.org](http://www.acrussiaabroad.org); [www.americancouncils.org](http://www.americancouncils.org).

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### **Language Exploration Grant**

The School of Russian and Asian Studies announces:

The Charles Braver

Language Exploration Grant

Next deadline: May 15, 2007

The Charles Braver Language Exploration Grant is now available for students who demonstrate clear goals for study abroad in the FSU. The grant is dedicated in memory of Charles Braver, an educator who worked for many years to promote and practice cross-cultural teaching, learning, and geographical and intellectual exploration.

Two grants of 500 USD each are currently available and may be used for study abroad in summer or fall of 2007. Students who have completed two semesters of Russian or Chinese language study may apply. For more information, please see [http://www.sras.org/sub\\_program.phtml?m=130](http://www.sras.org/sub_program.phtml?m=130) (www.sras.org > Programs > Funding > Study Abroad Grant Programs).

Questions about the program may be directed to:

Josh Wilson

Asst. Director

The School of Russian and Asian Studies

Editor-in-Chief

Vestnik, The Journal of Russian and Asian Studies

[www.sras.org](http://www.sras.org) [jwilson@sras.org](mailto:jwilson@sras.org)

<http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/russian/>