

НОВОСТИ

16 мая 2006

Grinnell College Russian Department

Greetings from the Russian Department and the Russian and Eastern European Studies Concentration! In this final issue, we are pleased to congratulate our graduating majors and concentrators, and wish those continuing a restful and productive summer, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Congratulations!

Heartiest congratulations on completing their studies at Grinnell go to the Russian majors and RCEES Concentrators of the **class of '06** who will receive their degrees next week:

Leigh Ahlgren (Russian/Political Science)

John Bowers (Russian/Math)

Adrienne Celt (Russian/Philosophy)

Brian Fritsch (Russian/Theatre)

Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky (Russian/Physics)

Renata Heberton (Russian/History)

Rebecca Horne (Russian)

Avram Lyon (Russian/Mathematics)

Sarah Moss (Russian/Political Science)

Meghan Redd (Russian)

C. Cain Elliott (RCEES/Religious Studies)

Anna McNulty (RCEES/Philosophy)

John Wepking (RCEES/Religious Studies)

Independent Major:

Zoe Fleer (The Visual Arts and Cultural identity)

John 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.

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**.

This year's Mohan Russian Study Awardees are: **Avram Lyon '06**, who will be studying for the academic year at Kazan State University, and **Anna Loers '06**, who will go on a CIEE academic year program in St. Petersburg.

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. This year, the Anne K. Hanson '86 Memorial Award goes to **Julia Yansura '07** and **Robyn Repko '07**, who are both going to ACTR summer programs in Saint Petersburg.

Other Awards

Sarah Moss '06 has been awarded a DACOR Bacon Graduate Fellowship for Study of International Relations. A prestigious and highly sought scholarship, DACOR each year invites up to nine schools from around the country to participate in the application process. The program encourages study of international relations.

The Final Step...and "The Future"

The editors of **Novosti** thought it might be interesting to share with the Russian/RCEES community the culminating work of our seniors—as well as an idea of future plans. Below, the class of '06 shares the titles of senior theses, seminar papers and MAP projects. They follow with word on what they'll be doing in "the Future"....

Brian Fritsch '06 ("Glass Houses: Naturalism at the Moscow Art Theatre")

"I will be teaching English in one of the following countries next year: Japan, Russia, Thailand or Poland, before returning to school for continued studies."

Meghan Redd '06 ("The Composition and Progress of Women's Groups in Russia's Developing Civil Society." Meghan presented this paper at the Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference; her work received a 2nd place award, out of 26 papers).

"I'm planning on working for an international non-profit that focuses on Eastern Europe for two years and then going to grad school in International Law or International Relations."

Leigh Alhgren '06 ("Vladimir Semyonovich Vysotsky: Voyna v mire, Bor'ba v dushe, i strast' v muzike")

"I will be moving to Portland with my fiancé, where we will get an apartment and two kittens. I'll also be attending Lewis and Clark's Northwestern School of Law."

C. Cain Elliott '06 ("Contemporary Polish Literature and the Holocaust: Redemption as Reckoning;" co-written and presented with **Todd Armstrong** at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University this semester)

"I'll be living in Warsaw, training in Lacanian Psychoanalysis and finishing a graduate program at the Polish Academy of Sciences, that leads to a PhD in Philosophy. But more important than my obscure intellectual interests—I'll be working on my Polish, and starting a family!"

Rebecca Horne '06 ("Shared Isolation")

"Over the next year I am planning a trip to China, followed by a boring, money-making job, followed by a trip to Prague in summer of '07. That's life."

Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky '06 (Molly's MAP was about how the Moscow theatre where she interned is still very Soviet, and her senior seminar paper was about how Shaov uses foreign cultural references to express irony in his songs.)

"I will be doing Americorps in Atlanta, working with a senior citizens organization."

Sarah Moss '06 ("Школа Современной Пьесы")

"I'll be studying at the Washington University in Saint Louis law school next year."

John Wepking '06 ("In Praise of Smallness: The Impossibly Possible Humanism of T.G. Masaryk and Karel Capek;" presented at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University this semester)

I will be attending the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee this fall to pursue a Master's Degree in Urban Planning with a focus in urban revitalization and education.

John Bowers '06 ("Современный театр находится в тупике! (Разве это новости?)")

Next year (and the year after that) I'll be teaching high school math with Teach for America in Los Angeles.

Avram Lyon '06 ("The Place of Bards' Music in Unofficial Art's Relationship with Power, 1970-1991")

This summer, I'll be working at Lesnoe Ozero, Concordia Language Villages' Russian Village, coordinating the non-credit program, then I'll be studying at Kazan State University all next year. After that, pozhivem -- uvidem.

Anna McNulty '06 ("Polyphony and the Political: Dostoevsky, Bakhtin, Kundera, and the Transformation of the Modern Novel;" presented at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University this semester)

I have decided to join Teach for America and have been assigned to teach high school English in St. Louis, Missouri for the next two years.

Adrienne Celt '06 ("The Political and the Divine: Hannah Arendt and Ibn Khaldûn's Intersection in the Body")

Next year I hope to be working in an editorial capacity somewhere, somehow, and also volunteering with Russian speakers in whatever location I end up.

Zoe Fleer '06

I was an Independent Major in The Visual Arts and Cultural Identity, it involved a combination of Art, Philosophy and Central European Studies. I spent a summer in Prague working on a MAP titled, Sculpture and Graffiti: Visual Expressions of Identity in Prague and my major culminated in a senior thesis titled, Reflecting, Shaping and Representing Trauma in Istvan Szabo's LoveFilm. As to what I plan to do after graduation? Well, it's all up in the air at this point. I am moving to Chicago for the summer and might end up teaching English in Spain next year. At some point I plan to go back and get a Masters, but for now I am content to see where life takes me, or where I take it.

Elisabeth Kruger '06

I'll be studying Siberian Folk Theatre and its history at the Irkutsk State Technical University in Irkutsk, Russia from September 2006 to June 2007.

My MAP project was "*The Pushkin Dramatic Theatre in Moscow: A History*," and my seminar doklad was "*Shaov in Concert: an Analysis of the Works of Timur Shaov*."

Welcome to New Majors and Concentrators!

The Russian Department extends a warm welcome to our newest majors:

Ashley Cunningham '08
Wyatt Montague '08
Morgan Wajda-Levie '08
Claire Wenngren '08

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

New RCEES Concentrators include:

Kate Francis '07
Esprit Eugster '08

THANKS to the Russian Department SEPC for Spring 2006:

Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky '06
Elisabeth Kruger '06
Avram Lyons '06, Sarah Moss '06,
Meghan Redd '06

Farewells

Maria Elova has been invaluable in many ways, from her teaching in our first-year Russian courses to her work in our Russian Conversation class and Russian Lab. We have all enjoyed having Maria in the department, and will miss her. We wish her every success in the future.

We would like to bid a fond farewell to our friends **Dinara Fattakhova** of Kazan and **Sergey Zyrin** of Ekaterinburg, who have completed their year of study at Grinnell under an exchange agreement previously sponsored by ACTR, and now by the International Research Exchange Board (IREX) and Grinnell College. Since academic year 1988-89, over 60 students from Russia have studied at Grinnell as part of this exchange.

Welcome

Vera Bobkova, a recent graduate with distinction from the Biysk Teacher Training State University in Altai Krai, will be our Russian Language Assistant next academic year. Vera is very excited about joining the Russian department and is looking forward to working with our students and in helping organize extra curricular events. After a year in the Russian department here, Vera intends to continue her studies and a career in the teaching of English.

Special Thanks

Goes to Russian Department Student Secretary **Morgan Wajda-Levie '08** for his unflagging efforts in organizing our **RUSSIAN FILM SERIES**. We hope an able student will follow in his footsteps next year! Congratulations as well to Morgan for his first-place award at Titular Head for his film "Bare-aspirations."

Grinnellians in Russia and Central and Eastern Europe

Several Grinnellians will head off to Russia and Central and Eastern Europe next year.

Claire Wenngren '08 will spend the fall semester in St. Petersburg on a program sponsored by ACTR. She also plans to attend the summer Russian program at Beloit College.

Wyatt Montague '08 will study on the ACTR-Moscow semester program.

Morgan Wajda-Levie '08 will spend the academic year in Moscow, also on an ACTR program.

Quenna Lalonde '07 will study next fall in an ACTR program in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Christine Boeckholt '08 will spend the fall semester studying in Olomouc, Czech Republic, in the Central European Studies Program, a program sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM).

Sidonie Straughn-Morse '08 will head to Krakow to study at Jagiellonian University in a program sponsored by Lexia International.

Good Luck to all of you!

Farewell to Russian and RCEES Guests

The Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies Concentration, together with the Department of Religious Studies wishes to thank and bid farewell to **Mr. Konstanty Gebert** of Warsaw, Poland. As the 2005-06 John R. Heath Professor, Mr. Gebert has been teaching two special topics courses, "Polish-Jewish Relations in the 20th Century" (Religious Studies) and "Media and Ethnic Conflict" (Russian, Central and

Eastern European Studies). He also participated in numerous on-campus events during the semester, including a Rosenfield Center for International Studies Symposium on Genocide,....

Dziękujemy!

Kostek writes of his immediate plans: *I will be teaching the same classes that I taught here – Media and Ethnic Conflict, and Polish-Jewish Relations in the 20th century – at UC Berkeley this fall. In the meantime I will be back in Poland for the summer, and will also catch up on my journalistic work in Siberia. A new book on essays on contemporary Polish Jewry, which I finished at Grinnell, should be out this summer, and in the fall I will continue working on a history of Zionism and Israel 1897-1967.*

The Russian Department wishes to thank and bid farewell to **Mr. Timur Shaov**, our **Russian Artist-in-Residence**. Mr. Shaov was in residence from April 3-May 12, and has been co-teaching with **Anatoly Vishevsky** in this semester's Russian senior seminar on the music and culture of the Russian bards. He will also give a concert in conjunction with Slavic Coffeehouse this semester, which was attended by students, faculty, and a number of Russian children who have been adopted by Iowa families (many thanks to **Elisabeth Kruger '06** for inviting these members of Iowa's growing Russian-speaking community!). Mr. Shaov has been working in the department under the auspices of the Center for International Studies International Fellow Program.

Спасибо!

What Are Russian/RCEES Faculty Doing This Summer/Next Year?

Kelly Herold

I plan on doing research on/transcribing Dashkova's "Mon Histoire" in London at the British Library this summer. Next academic year I plan to finish translating and preparing an academic version (with notes and introduction) of "Mon Histoire" for "The Other Voice Series" (University of Chicago)

Raquel Greene

I'll be spending 3 weeks in Moscow working in the Lenin Library and the archives of "Detskaia Literatura." My research project examines constructions of race in Soviet children's literature. In particular, I'm doing

research on N. Kal'ma and V. Liubimova, two well-known children's writers from the 50's and 60's who offer interesting depictions of the American Rights Movement and the plight of African-American children.

Helen Scott

I will be doing a workshop on Middle Eastern Studies here during commencement week, and most likely will be joining a Grinnell / Carleton / Macalester group visiting Egypt and Morocco (still very tentative) as part of a tri-college initiative to enhance middle eastern studies at our schools. I will be working on an article on literary theory and criticism and on course preparation for 2006-2007.

Anatoly Vishevsky

I will go to Moscow for a short trip to meet with Galina Aksenova and plan next semester's winter MAP internship trip to Moscow theaters, and also to meet with Timur Shaov and other contemporary bards as part of the work on my paper/article on "Timur Shaov and the Death of the Bard Song." I will spend the rest of the summer in Prague working on this project which I will present at the Grinnell Russian Department Symposium "The Politics of Russian Popular Culture" in the fall of next year.

Todd Armstrong

This summer I plan to stay close to home, apart from my annual July trek out to Montana with my two boys. I'll also be working on submitting for publication a paper I presented with **Cain Elliot '06**, as well as on a project involving Polish writer Hanna Krall that I hope to present at a conference in Ohrid, Macedonia. Next year I look forward to teaching Russian 101 in the fall (one of my favorite courses), and Dostoevsky in the spring. I'll also be working in the fall with **Sheahan Virgin '09** on an independent reading project on Poland's Solidarity. I'll continue for one more year as Director of the Center for International Studies, after which I'll look forward to returning full time (after a sabbatical) to the Russian Department.

Robert Grey

I'm supervising four MAPs on Russian Public Opinion (as well as one on AIDs in Africa), and revising for publication a paper I've delivered at a convention, "Bringing in the Experiences of Africa and the Postcommunist States: Notes for a Revision of Democratization Theory." Depending on what a journal now considering my piece decides, I may also be revising a second article previously presented, "The

Russian Public: Defender of Democracy?" I'll be working as well on a new convention paper, "The U.S. In Africa: Growing Militarization." In addition, I'll be working up a new tutorial, Religion and Politics Around the World. Nice relaxed summer.

Daniel Kaiser

Immediately after graduation I'm flying to Kyiv, so that I can spend a couple of days in the Zhytomyr Regional Archive, then on to Budapest where I will give a paper at a conference on "Regional Schools of Russian Historiography" at Eötvös Loránd University. Then it's back to Grinnell by June 1 to begin work with **Sophie Church '07, Lindsey Martin '07, Jake Schneider '07** and **Leann Wilson '07** on a summer MAP devoted to late eighteenth-century records of a parish in central Tula. I also hope to use the summer to complete drafting the text of a book devoted to family life in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Russia.

John Rommereim

This summer, I will participate in the Composers' Symposium at Lehigh University with composer Stephen Paulus. I will be taking a study leave during the fall semester, during which I plan to complete several commissions for choir, organ, and recorder. I will also participate in **Sarah Burghardt's** ('07) Georgian choral ensemble (a MAP project). Next spring, I will be preparing a concert with the Baroque Orchestra of Iowa, a period-instrument ensemble. It will be a somewhat less Slavic year than the current year, which included a performance of Rachmaninov's Divine Liturgy, and a Balkan choral tour.

Upcoming Events in 2006-07

Russian Department Symposium: "The Politics of Russian Popular Culture."

In the fall of 2006, the Department of Russian at Grinnell will be hosting a symposium co-sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the Rosenfield Program. Below is a list of the events currently scheduled.

Scholarly Panels

Scholars from Russia, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, and the United States will present research on the topic of the symposium. **Professor Catharine Nepomnyashchy**, Director, Harriman Institute at Columbia University, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Russian Literature and Chair, Slavic Department,

Barnard College, will give the keynote address, “Vovochka Meets Judo: Putin and Popular Culture.”

Concert

In addition to the academic component of this symposium, accompanying events will include a concert by Russian Bard **Timur Shaov**.

Exhibit

Another aspect of the symposium will be an exhibit of works and a presentation by Russian artist **Vitaly Komar**, one of the team of Komar and Melamid:

Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid were born in Moscow, Komar on September 11, 1943 and Melamid on July 14, 1945. Both artists attended the Moscow Art School from 1958 to 1960, and the Stroganov Institute of Art & Design, Moscow, from 1962 to 1967. Their collaborative work started in 1965, and in 1967, they initiated the

SOTS Art movement (the Soviet version of Western Pop Art). Their first international exhibition was at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, in 1976.

Since then, they have had numerous public commissions and exhibitions throughout the world. In 1978, Komar & Melamid became United States residents. In 1981, they were the first Russian artists to receive a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Notorious dissidents before they left the Soviet Union, the artists have since been called "exasperating expatriates" for their travesties of Socialist Realism.

[from <http://www.diacenter.org/km/artists.html>]

Mainstage Production

Renowned Russian director and long-time friend of the College **Veniamin Smekhov** will direct Bulgakov's “Master and Margarita.”



До свидания!

Желаем вам всем больших успехов!