

НОВОСТИ

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Grinnell College Russian Department

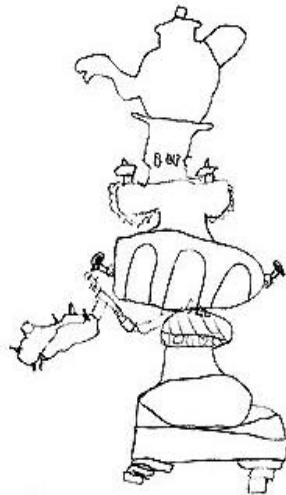
Congratulations!

The Russian Department is pleased to announce that **Raquel Greene** has accepted a tenure-track position with the department. Raquel has been with the college since 1998, when she began a two-year term as a CSMP scholar. This year, Raquel has replaced **Anatoly Vishevsky**, who is currently on sabbatical. We wish Raquel the very best, and also wish her a safe journey as she travels to Moscow this week to deliver a paper at a scholarly conference.

Slavic Coffeehouse

This year's Slavic Coffeehouse is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 21.

This event lasts a good part of the day: students and faculty gather on campus, in Russian House and in faculty homes to bake a variety of exotic treats from the Slavic kitchen, which are then sold to the campus community from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the Forum Coffeehouse. This event is sponsored by the Russian Department and the Russian and East European Studies Concentration. More details on this event will be available after break.



(Drawing of Samovar by Alex Armstrong)

Russian Department Puzzle Prize on the Web

КТО ХОЧЕТ БЫТЬ МИЛЛИОНЕРОМ?

As many of you know, we have recently redesigned the Russian Department's website. We encourage students to visit us there (www.grinnell.edu/russian) to find archives of NOVOSTI (including this issue), as well as comprehensive information about our program, a list of alumni activities, lectures and events from the last decade, links to faculty pages, etc. We would also like to direct students to the puzzle that can be found by following the link "About the Design" on the front page of the department's website. Those who correctly identify the sources of the various pictures in the design can enter a drawing for fabulous prizes, to be awarded at the Slavic Coffeehouse.

Russian Lab



A new development in the Russian Department in the last weeks is the new Russian Lab. Created at the initiative of Anna Samoilova, our Russian Language Assistant, the lab is intended for conversation, grammar questions, etc. The lab is held every Thursday evening from 7:00-8:30 in ARH 227, the Russian Seminar Room. All students from all levels are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Russian Table

Russian Table is held Fridays during the lunch hour in Cowles PDR. 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.



Visit by Vice Rector of Herzen State Pedagogical University

Mr. Sergei Aleksandrovich Goncharov, Vice Rector for the Humanities at the Herzen State Pedagogical University will visit Grinnell College on April 9th and 10th. Mr. Goncharov will visit classes, have lunch with students, and tour our campus. The Russian Department has strong ties with the Herzen; during the first years of the ACTR exchange program, Russian students coming to Grinnell were from this fine institution.

Spring 2001 Student Educational Policy Committee (SEPC)

Each department at Grinnell has a Student Educational Policy Committee (SEPC), a group usually made up of Russian majors, that assists and participates in a number of departmental activities, including faculty reviews; faculty hiring and promotion; extracurricular events; and faculty-student communication. This semester's SEPC includes **Richele Brafford '01, Marion Butzen '01, Aimee Hutton '02, Caleb Lindley '02, and Marissa Payne '01**. This semester the SEPC will participate in the organization of Slavic Coffeehouse and other Spring events.

Notes from Russia

As NOVOSTI readers know, several Grinnellians are currently immersing themselves in the culture and language of Russia in study abroad programs. **Erin Schmidt '02, Hilary Bown '02 and Kimberly Smith '02** are currently in an ACTR program in Moscow,

while **Vanessa Pierce, '02** is spending the semester in the Venice of the North, St. Petersburg. The editors of NOVOSTI have been receiving updates and news from these intrepid students, and we would like to share them here. Many of you will already have seen the picture of the Moscow meeting with Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev, which was sent by Erin, and which is featured on the department's web page (under NEWS); the photo of the meeting was also on the college's front page. We would like to share excerpts from the missives received from Erin, Hilary, Kim and Vanessa (aka Natasha, Galya, Sonya and Veronika); several from their initial weeks in Russia are included below:

Kimberly writes:

Gorbachev came to the school today, and gave a speech, along with about a million other political people. ... After the speeches, the ACTR group got a picture made with Gorbachev. I inadvertently ended up standing next to him in the picture, but then the photographer told me to move somewhere else for some reason, so then Gorbachev, like, shook my hand and told me that I could stay there. He said something else really odd, which Hilary swears was, "We can stand together like cabbage" but I really don't think that's what it was. The resident director is going to email us a copy of the picture so Hilary figured that we can send it to you, and then you can cut out the part with me next to Gorbachev and put it right there on the front of Novosti [see note above].

Otherwise, things in Moscow are going pretty well. I'm still alive, anyway.

Hilary's perspective on the meeting with Gorbachev:

Last week, our university hosted speeches by a number of VIPs, including Mikhail Gorbachev and the American Ambassador. To hear the former, we sat through three hours of speeches on Communism and perestroika; to hear the latter was disheartening and aggravating! Gorbachev will celebrate his 70th birthday at the beginning of March (his wife, Raisa, died last year), and this was a sort of get-together for his cronies (two of whom are the founder and rector of the university) -- we even had our picture taken together. The American ambassador spoke about U.S.-Russia relations, and viewed Russia more as a market than as a political ally; his economically-focused speech drew criticism from the members of our group, and he replied more than impolitely to our pointed questions.

Hilary's first impressions of life and study in Moscow:

It's been almost two weeks that I've been on this wild and crazy Russian adventure. We're situated in Moscow, and

have been living with our families for a week. I'm living with Liudmila and Yuri. They're in their late fifties-early sixties. Yuri is a nuclear physicist (who speaks a little English), and Liudmila works twice a week at a "famous Swiss firm" (I don't know what that means). Our apartment is right on the garden ring, near the center of the city. I'm relatively close to two metro stops, and am five stops from the metro closest to the university. Getting to school takes about an hour, with walking, trolleybuses, and metro (nothing like that comfortable three-minute stroll from dorm to class at Grinnell!).

My room is huge! I really lucked out. I've got my own tv (with good reception), a table and chairs, and two armchairs. It was Liudmila's mother's before she passed away two years ago. So far I have not tired of the cabbage, potato, and carrot diet . . . and I'm getting more variety than last time I was here (ugh -- Russian dorm food). Most every morning I have kasha (hot cereal) and tea for breakfast, and for dinner we have different salaty and something hot (usually cabbage), again with tea. We're still trying to match up what I like with what they eat -- never an easy task.

We're studying at the Moscow International University (MMY). I'm in class five hours every day (six including lunch) and spend most evenings with my family, watching tv. (HORRIBLE dubbing) and doing homework. We have 8 or 9 subjects, including literature, phonetics, geography, music, speaking, and grammar. I tested into the highest of the three groups, which is both a blessing and a curse. It's definitely challenging (there are graduate students in my group) and there are so many words I don't know. I understand most everything that's going on, but have trouble coming up with replies . . . I wish our school day weren't as long as it is, because everything you do here (shopping, talking with family, going to the theater) is studying of a sort, whether or not you're getting credit. I get so tired just trying to function!

The weather was around 0F/-20C when we arrived, which was difficult for the thin-skinned Southerners in the group. For the past couple of days it's been around 32F/0C, which is almost uncomfortable when bustling around town in winter duds (and definitely uncomfortable in the metro!). We've had two or three days of snow and only one day of sun so far -- but the days are getting lighter, which helps.

Vanessa writes from St. Petersburg:

I am still living with Ina, a wonderful older woman who cooks amazing food and is very patient with my fumbling Russian, and with Nastia. Nastia is about 18 or so. She's from St. Pete originally, but her family moved to Bulgaria when she was little, so she's more Bulgarian than Russian. She's studying at the university here and is essentially a boarder with Ina ... well, maybe more like extended family. They seem pretty close. Overall, I'm loving my home stay experience. I live about 45 minutes away from school,

including the walk to the metro, the metro ride, and the walk to classes. I probably walk a mile or two every day.

Classes are going well. I've got classes in grammar, conversational Russian, literature (poetry), a weekly lecture on politics, and phonetics (oy, yzhas!). Phonetika makes me feel totally retarded ... If you remember that scene from "My Fair Lady" when the British doctor guy tries to instruct the street urchin woman on how to properly speak the English language ... well, that's essentially us. Except we don't have to put marbles in our mouths. Russians use turnips.

On Wed. we get to go on excursions around the city, but for the most part, we have to take our own initiative to see the sites that are near to us. I think that my tutor and I will go to museums together every week (yes, every one of us has our own individual tutor).

What else about life here? Oh yes, I've been ice skating here in Russia... well, they refer to it as walking, but considering that its actually been up to about 2 degrees C, all the snow and ice have started melting. Of course, at night, all that water freezes up again, and walking around either at night or first thing in the morning, EVERYTHING is iced over. I'm amazed to say that I've never seen someone fall.

While I still haven't purchased that furry Russian hat that so many of you are excited about, I have engaged in another very Russian purchase. Ice cream. Yes, despite the fact that I ate it outside, and that it was about - 11 C, I still bought ice cream, and I enjoyed every bit of it. (Literally, I think that there is an ice cream vendor about every 10 yards on most busy streets).

Last night I went to the theater. That was very exciting. In the first half of the concert the orchestra played Beethoven, and for the second half, they played Shostakovich. Any how, I loved it! The chandeliers and decorations in the Filarmonia are just beautiful.

Russian Study Awards, 2001



**Application Due Date
extended to April 2**

To find more information about the Russian Study Award and to find downloadable applications, please go to the Information page of the Russian Website (www.grinnell.edu/russian).

Preserving the Environment in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union

Co-sponsored by:
Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs,
International Relations and Human Rights,
Nations and the Global Environment,
Russian and East European Studies Concentration

Tuesday, April 3

- 4:15 p.m. Natalia Vladimirovna Belenko (Manager, Eco-site, Olkhon Island, Lake Baikal) *“Building an Eco-Village in Modern Russia”*
- 8:00 p.m. D.J. Peterson (Analyst, Rand Corporation) *“Russia’s Environment in the Post-Soviet Transition: A Photographic Tour”*

Wednesday, April 4

- 4:15 p.m. Michal Krejza (First Secretary, European Commission Delegation to Estonia) *“The Pollution Legacy of the Soviet Era in the Baltic Region and the Impact of European Aid Programs”*
- 8:00 p.m. David Stulik (Editor-in-Chief, *Integrace*) *“European versus American Environmental Policies in Eastern Europe”*

Thursday, April 5

- 11:00 a.m. Dmitri Litvinov (Greenpeace Nordic; Member, Board of Directors, Greenpeace Russia) *Scholar’s Convocation: “The Environmental Movement’s Role in the Democratization of Russia”*
- 4:15 p.m. Rafal Serafin (Director, Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation, Kraków, Poland) *“The Role of Grassroots Environmental Action in a Globalizing World: the View from Poland”*
- 8:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: *“The Future of the Environment in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union”* Symposium Participants: Stephanie Hitztaler ’96

NB: A Detailed Schedule will be published in the April 3rd Campus Memo.

