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# НОВОСТИ NOVOSTI

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Гриннельцы всех стран, соединяйтесь!

Весна, 2009 ~ Spring 2009

Note: **Novosti** is going **GREEN**. In an effort to contribute to local and global efforts to protect the environment, we will be publishing **Novosti** on-line only. We will be posting the newsletter on the departmental website.



Farewells! До свидания!

## **Julia Kulikova, Russian Language Assistant**

We will miss Julia, who 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. Her efforts in sponsoring Russian films on Friday nights in Russian House have also been appreciated, and all of campus has tuned into her Saturday morning radio show, Daywatch, on the campus radio station, KDIC. We have all enjoyed having Julia in the department, and will miss her. Teaching Russian in Grinnell helped Julia realize how much she liked teaching her native language. Next year Julia will continue doing assistantship in teaching Russian, as she was given a scholarship to do her Masters Degree in Teaching Russian as a Foreign Language at the University of Oregon. We wish her every success in the future. Good luck, Julia!

## Welcome to new Russian Language Assistant!

**Anastasia Selemeneva** will be coming to us from Stavropol, Russia. We look forward to welcoming Anastasia to campus and working with her in 2009-2010.

## **Congratulations and farewell to majors and fellow travelers!**

### **Emma Silvermann '09**

Emma is returning to her hometown of Silver Spring, Maryland, where she intends, ideally, to find a job whose description includes talking about Russian novels, using verbs of motion, and eating bliny.

During her senior year, Emma completed a MAP with Anatoly Vishevsky. The Russian title of her MAP was "Роман Мастер и Маргарита, его

инсценировки, и страсть Булгакова к театру." It centered around Bulgakov's background as a playwright, the theatrical elements of *Master and Margarita*, and the different ways in which it's been put on stage. Emma traveled to Moscow over winter break as part of her MAP and did biographical research on the author and watched several different productions of *Master and Margarita*.

### **Claire Comstock-Gay '09**

During her senior year, Claire also completed a MAP with Anatoly Vishevsky. She also traveled to Moscow over winter break as part of her MAP. Both Emma and Claire presented their projects in the final weeks of the semester.

### **Molly Sykes '09**

Next year, Molly Sykes will be going to Kursk, Russia as part of a Fulbright ETA scholarship. In addition to teaching English, she will be interviewing Russian World War II veterans and recording their experiences during the war. She hopes to compare these to experiences she has already recorded from American veterans in her home state of Kentucky. She's looking forward to her time in Russia, but she also says she's going to miss the Russian Department at Grinnell and all of their support over her four years at Grinnell College.

**Поздравляем!  
Желаем всего  
наилучшего!**



## AWARDS НАГРАДЫ



### **John Mohan 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.

This year's John Mohan Study Award recipients are **Rebecca Johnston '08.5**, and **Sarah Freeman '09**. Rebecca will pick up where she left off (on an ACTR program in Moscow), and continue her studies this summer at the Middlebury College Davis School of Russian. Sarah Freeman will travel to Moscow on an ACTR program next fall, to Vladimir, Russia. *For more information, please see the departmental page for the [John Mohan Study Award](#).*

### **Anne Hanson '86 Summer Study 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 Anne Hanson Award recipients this year are **Pippa Hoover '10**, and **Marissa Lenoir '11**. Pippa will attend an ACTR ([American Councils of Teachers of Russian](#)) program in Moscow this summer, and Marissa will utilize the scholarship to support her participation in the Middlebury College Davis School of Russian, and then for the [Middlebury School Abroad](#) in Yaroslavl (<http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/sa/russia/>) for the 2009-2010 academic year. We wish them both well as they travel to study in Russia!

For more information, please see the departmental page for the [Anne Hanson '86 Summer Study Award](#).

We also want to take this opportunity to wish Steve Hoff '10 safe travels as he journeys to

Moscow next fall to attend the ACTR program there.

To all our students and alums heading off to Russia: **Счастливого пути!**

## Spring 2009 Events and News

### **Slavic Coffeeshouse 2009**

On Saturday April 11th, Russian Department faculty and students hosted our annual coffeeshouse. A huge crowd gathered in Joe Rosenfield Center 101 to enjoy a wide variety of delicious Slavic foods prepared by faculty and students. Proceeds benefited the Russian House.

Slavic Coffeeshouse also saw the return of Dima Shklyarov, local guitar legend, who worked with the **Кружок русской песни** (Russian Song Circle). Dima played a number of Russian songs, and students joined him in singing a traditional Russian song, *Миленький ты мой*, and a contemporary classic by the group Сплин (Spleen), "Англо-русский словарь."

### **Кружок русской песни~Russian Song Circle**

In conjunction with our Special Topics Course, Russian Grammar in Context, the Russian

Department sponsored

Кружок русской песни (Russian Song Circle), a group that met every other week throughout most of the semester. Todd Armstrong, together with Dima Shklyarov, worked with Russian language students on singing a variety of Russian songs, ranging from classic folksongs to contemporary hits.



### **Visit by art historians, Liliana Milkova and Masha Kowell**

The Russian Department, in conjunction with Falconer Gallery and the Burling Print and Drawing Room, and with funding support of the Center for International Studies and Center for Humanities, began work on a project that will bring together selected works from Grinnell's collection of Soviet Socialist Realist graphic art (donated to the College by Eric Johnson '88

and Brenda Horrigan '88) with a collection owned by Monroe E. Price, Director, Center for Global Communications Studies, Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. This exhibit will take place at Penn in Spring 2010 (with the Grinnell pieces traveling there), and then the exhibit will be held in the **Grinnell College Burling Print and Drawing Room in Fall, 2010**. The Russian Department and RCEES are planning a series of curricular and co-curricular events around the exhibit for that semester, including a tutorial, our senior seminar, and invited lectures by specialists.



As a preliminary to that effort, we brought the two curators of the Price collection (Lilian Milkova and Masha Kowell) to Grinnell College this past semester to examine in detail the **Johnson-Horrigan collection**,

in order to determine the most appropriate pieces to be included in the joint exhibit. As part of their visit, Lili and Masha presented their research during our final Russian Table for the spring semester. (Pictured: a baby Lenin portrait from the collection!)

#### **Fall 2009 Russian/RCEES plans:**

The Russian Department and the Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies Concentration are currently working with other groups on campus on plans for events next fall to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Nikita Krushchev's famous visit to Iowa in 1959. The 20th anniversary of the fall Communism in Eastern Europe will also be the subject of campus programming. We will keep you posted!

#### **Grinnell College Russian Department on Facebook!**

The Russian Department has



established a group-page on Facebook; at last count, there were 87 members--mainly alumni. We welcome past and current students to join the group, and to take a look at the pictures and videos from Slavic Coffeehouse 2009, and some pictures posted recently by Luke Austin Rankin '08! We invite alums to consider adding to the collection of photos, and we also be posting some pictures from the past, as well as some discussions about employment opportunities in Russian and Slavic studies. Visit our Facebook site at [Grinnell College Russian Department](#)

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*Красота спасёт мир! (Ф. М. Достоевский)*

#### Alumni Gathering to honor **John Mohan**

Joan Mohan will host a gathering for alumni who knew and worked with our dear colleague John Mohan at **11 a.m. on May 30**, in the Mears Cottage living room.



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#### **Russian/RCEES Faculty News**

##### **Anatoly Vishevsky**

Tolya presented "Geroi-detektivy Borisa Akunina i Leonida Iuzefovicha" at the [Annual Meeting of the British Association of the Slavic and Eastern European Studies](#), Cambridge University, England, in March 2009. Tolya will spend his summer in Prague, where he will be working on a book on contemporary Russian detective stories and preparing a course on Russian Film for the Spring.

##### **Raquel Greene**

Raquel will travel to Moscow this summer to do research on her project "Rethinking Cultural Difference: Constructions of Otherness in Contemporary Russian Children's Literature."

##### **Kelly Herold**

Kelly, together with Raquel Greene, is developing a new Humanities course (HUM 295: Theoretical Approaches to Children's and Young Adult Literature). Raquel will teach the course in Spring 2010, and Kelly in Spring 2011. Also, Kelly plans on finishing up an article-in-progress, "[Baba Yaga](#) in Anglo-American Picture Books," and to travel to Scotland in June.

##### **Todd Armstrong**

Todd presented "Iconic Axes in Dostoevsky's Major Fiction" last April at the [Midwest Slavic Conference](#) at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He plans to travel to Warsaw and Krakow, Poland this summer to continue research on Polish-Jewish writer Hanna Krall. While there, he also looks forward to reconnecting with **Cain Elliott '05**, who is studying and living in Warsaw, and with past

Heath Professor and friend of the College,  
**Kostek Gebert.**

### **Ed Cohn**

Ed has a couple projects he's working on this summer. In July, [The Russian Review](#) will publish his article "Sex and the Married Communist: Marital Infidelity, Family Troubles, and Communist Party Discipline in the Postwar USSR, 1945-1964," and he'll be working on a second article on conflicts between prosecutors and local party organs over the prosecution of Communists under late Stalinism. (He hopes to do some travelling in Eastern Europe, too, but hasn't worked out the details.) In the fall, he'll be offering his "Ivan and Fritz go to War" class (on World War II's Eastern Front) and the Stalinism seminar.

### **John Rommereim**

John's translation of Pavel Chesnokov's *The Choir and How to Direct It* will be published by [Musica Russica](#) sometime this summer. In November, he will be giving an hour-long presentation on Chesnokov and his book to the National Collegiate Choral Conductors Organization at Yale University. "By the way, if you are a Russian student with an interest in choral music," Rommereim points out, "I could

point you toward a few topics that would make for excellent MAPS." In November, 2009, the [Grinnell Singers](#) will be singing a concert-length Russian choral work as part of the concert series at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines (either Rachmaninov's All-Night Vigil or Grechaninov's). Preliminary plans are underway (честно говоря, the idea has been broached in a dinner conversation) for a course on Russian choral music and cultural history team-taught by John Rommereim and Anatoly Vishevsky during the 2010-2011 academic year.

### **Dan Kaiser**

In mid-June Dan will participate in an [international conference](#) at the University of Illinois on "Russia's Role in Human Mobility, Historical and Contemporary." He will be commentator for a panel entitled "Forging Routes of Movement and Circulation," a theme connected to one of my current research projects on emigration from pre-revolutionary Ukraine. He plans to use the summer to continue that research and also to revise two recent papers he's given on domestic icon collections in early modern Russia and another on "How Illicit Sex Helped Muscovy See Like a State."

**Поздравляем с концом учебного года!**  
**Желаем хорошо провести летние каникулы!**  
**До встречи осенью!**



Fall Russian Picnic (above)



Russian Majors Dinner (left and below)

