

НОВОСТИ

21 октября 2005

Grinnell College Russian Department

Russian Department Roberts Lecture

The Russian Department welcomes Professor Irene Masing-Delic of The Ohio State University to campus this Wednesday, October 26. A professor of 19th-century Russian Literature and Culture, Irene Masing-Delic will present a talk on "Chekhov and Gorky: A Revisable Friendship." The talk will be on **Wednesday, October 24** in **ARH 102** at **4:15 PM**. The lecture will be in English and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

РУССКИЙ СТОЛ

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

Russian Lab/Office Hours

Our Russian Language Assistant, Maria Elova, holds Russian office hours three times a week: Mondays from 8:00-9:30 a.m., Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Bring your questions, your homework, your reading! Maria is there to answer all (or most) of your questions about Russian.

Summer MAP Opportunity

Proposed Russian History Group MAP (Summer 2006 or Summer 2007): "Household, Family and God in an early modern Russian Town"

This document announces a summer Mentored Advanced Project that would engage students in research on original, unpublished documents that depict the domestic life of townsfolk in a central Russian town (Tula) in the late eighteenth century. The MAP would make use of documents that parish priests compiled and regularly forwarded to church authorities—for example, parish registers (*metricheskie knigi*) of marriages, births and deaths, and the annual confessional lists that confirmed which parishioners had attended

confession and taken the eucharist (*ispovednye vedomosti*). Normally these unpublished documents, the originals of which are housed in the State Archive of the Tula Region (Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Tul'skoi oblasti), would not be accessible in the United States. However, I recently learned that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has microfilmed many of these records, photocopies of which are now available from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. As a result, any US researcher (including students) will enjoy easy access to original Russian archival records, careful study of which will likely lead to presentation at a scholarly conference and possible subsequent publication.

Who would be eligible for the MAP? At a minimum, participants should have completed their second (preferably third) year at Grinnell. In addition, participants should have the ability to read Russian and be willing to learn to read pre-modern Russian handwriting. Inasmuch as most of these records constitute little more than lists of names, along with dates and ages, advanced Russian is not necessary in order to make use of the sources. But because some secondary literature is available only in Russian, advanced Russian would be an asset and significantly improve the scholarly product. Of course, participants would also benefit from having studied Russian history, either at Grinnell or elsewhere. Ideally participants would have completed a course on pre-revolutionary Russian history (such as HIS 241 or its equivalent), and perhaps an advanced history seminar as well. Russian-readers who have not studied any Russian history, but who have completed courses devoted to early modern history or history of the family (such as Mr. Spohnholz's spring 2006 special topics course on "History of the Family in Early Modern Europe") would also be welcome to apply.

How might the MAP operate? Depending upon the background of the MAP students, a group guided reading might occur during spring semester prior to the MAP experience. Whether via a guided reading or as an introduction to the summer MAP, participants would read and discuss selected articles and book chapters that describe and analyze early modern household organization, both in Russia and elsewhere. Common study would also include introductions to the sources available for study, along with practice in reading and interpreting the original documents. These discussions would isolate issues of historical interest and inform subsequent selection of projects that students might accomplish individually or in small teams over the ten-week summer MAP, which might occur in summer 2006 or summer 2007.

A list of possible projects might include (but not be limited to):

- naming practices (i.e., name frequencies and naming strategies [whether children received names of parents or grandparents, for example]);
- size and type of household organization, and how they compare to what has been reported for western European or later imperial Russian households;
- age-at-marriage or age difference between spouses;
- causes of death as reported by parish priests, and what this information tells us about the health environment of early modern Russia;
- levels of religious practice, as reported by parish priests;
- the poor and “homeless” in early modern Russia and their demographic profile.

Each student or team of students would select a project in consultation with me, and would meet with me periodically to report on research progress and discuss difficulties. The final product for each researcher or research team would be a substantial paper (roughly equivalent to a journal article) that reported and interpreted the research results.

What would it cost? Summer MAPs are eligible for student stipends intended to defray the costs of living in Grinnell over the summer. Formal notice of the awarding of a MAP stipend comes late spring semester, and will depend upon the approval of the Committee for the Support of Faculty Scholarship.

How to apply? Any student interested in the proposed MAP should prepare and submit to Daniel Kaiser, Mears Cottage, no later than **December 1, 2005** a **printed** preliminary application that includes the following information:

1. Full Name
2. Campus mail address, telephone number, and email address
3. Major and Year of anticipated graduation
4. Highest level of Russian completed by May 2006 and any experience living in Russia (in off-campus study, for example)
5. List of all Russian language courses (taken at Grinnell or elsewhere) and grades received
6. List of all history courses (at Grinnell or elsewhere) completed by May 2006 and grades received
7. Names of two recommenders, at least one of whom must be able to evaluate competence in Russian
8. Indicate whether available/interested for summer 2006 or summer 2007

When will the MAP happen? The answer to this question will depend upon student interest. If a qualified group of students is available and interested for summer 2006, I will file a MAP proposal in time to meet the early February 2006 deadline for summer 2006.

John M. Mohan Russian Study Award

Application Due Date: March 15

The Russian Study Awards are granted annually to seniors who have planned study and internship programs in Russophone countries after graduation. These awards are drawn from funds raised by three devoted friends of the Russian Department Diane Fisher Perkinson '82, Sharon McKee '82 and Emily Silliman '81

Guidelines:

- Award is intended for projects initiated within the year following graduation
- Projects may include structured study programs, volunteerships or internships that have cultural, political or social value. The award is need-based
- Students who have not had the opportunity to study in the region at the time they apply are favored. However, many past recipients have not met this criterion.
- Students who apply for this Award should have studied Russian in a serious way (at least two years of college-level Russian).

Any member of the Russian Department can furnish interested students with application forms as well as advising assistance. Awards are generally announced by April 30. This year there will be an interview component to the application. Please give your completed applications to Kelly Herold.