
НОВОСТИ NOVOSTI

Гриннелльцы всех стран, соединяйтесь!

Весна 2011 № 2 ~ Spring 2011 № 2

Novosti is the occasional newsletter of the Grinnell College Russian Department and Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies Concentration. It is intended for students, faculty, and alumni, as well as for friends of the Russian Department and RCEES. It is available on the College website, and an electronic version is also sent out to majors and students in Russian and RCEES courses.

С праздником Масленицы 2011: прощаемся с зимой!

Students and faculty gathered together at Russian House to celebrate Maslenitsa, a Russian and folk holiday. **Olesya Valger**, our Russian Language Assistant, prepared блины, а



traditional dish of the holiday, a symbol of the sun, which, it is hoped, will make its appearance after the long, dark winter. An effigy of winter, Баба Зима, also played a role in the event—the чучело (scarecrow), was burned after some Russian parlor games. Было очень весело! Спасибо Олеся!



Students in Russia in Spring 2011

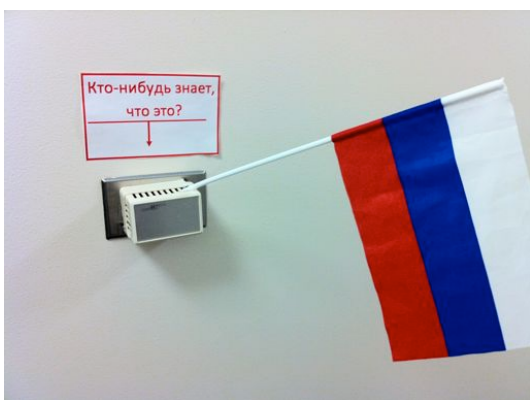
Alana Vogel '12 and **Kelly Iacobazzi '12** slide into Spring in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Kelly and Alana are currently on an American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) sponsored program.

Kristen Moreland '12 is currently in Irkutsk, on a Middlebury Schools Abroad program in this Siberian capital. Kristen writes about her own Maslenitsa experience:

Yesterday we went to Taltsy (a historical outdoor museum between here and Lake Baikal) to celebrate Масленица. It was lots of fun. There were crowds of people there, all enjoying the holiday. We brought some food and bought some food and had a small picnic, played some games (walking on stilts, knocking each other off a beam with pillows), watched the burning of Baba Zima, and rode on tubes pulled by a snow mobile on the iced-over Angara river. After that we went down the road to Listvyanka, on the shores of Lake Baikal. There we saw an exhibition of ice sculptures out on the lake, and walked around for a long time looking at the parts of the lake that weren't covered in snow. It was a great day.

Русское чаепитие ~ Russian Tea Time Russian House ~ Русский дом

Our Russian Language Assistant **Olesya Valger** has been hosting Russian Tea Time every Thursday, to speak Russian in an informal situation and enjoy some delicious exemplar of Russian cuisine. On March 3rd, Olesya hosted our Maslenitsa celebration (see above); on March 10th, Olesya treated students to a “krokodil” —a Russian-style savory pie with cabbage, shaped like a crocodile. I’m sure Olesya will have more interesting Russian traditions to share after break.



DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN RUSSIAN HOUSE?

ХОТИТЕ ЖИТЬ В РУССКОМ ДОМЕ?

Russian house is a great housing for students who want to live in an environment where Russian is spoken, and various Russian cultural events are organized by the Russian Language Assistant (who also lives in the house). Along with its fully equipped kitchen, and convenient location (across the street from ARH), Russian House may be right for you. Next year’s House Coordinator is **Kelly Iacobazzi** ’12; she is off-campus this semester, so please contact the Russian department ([[armstron](#)] or [[heroldk](#)]) or **Addie Anderson** ’13, who currently resides there, with questions.

РУССКИЙ СТОЛ: Давайте говорить по-русски!

Russian Table is held on Fridays during the lunch hour in the new Joe Rosenfield ’25 Center, in room 224C, which is one of the reserved dining spaces on the Mezz level of the dining hall (the furthest one from the top of the stairs; it overlooks the courtyard). We’ve enjoyed seeing Russian 102 students joining in of late. **Молодцы!** Speakers of Russian at every level are invited to join us for informal Russian conversation. Remember that individuals not on board are guests of the Russian Department.

One of our usual regulars at Russian Table is **Ben Saderholm** ’13, who is currently studying mathematics in Budapest, Hungary. But he hasn’t forgotten his Russian, and writes from the capitol of Magyarosszag:

Привет из Будапешта! Будапешт очень красивый город, но воздух немножко грязный, потому что ветра не было в прошлой неделе. Довольно холодно на улице: -3 - -7 днём! Брр! Люди симпатичные и еда очень вкусная (и недорогая! Замечательно!). Я живу в квартире (в одной половине дома среднего возраста пары) со студентом из William and Mary. Квартира маленькая, но хорошая. (Нет! Кухня большая!) Мои курсы начинаются в понедельник. У



нас есть три недели выбирать курсы; в то время мы просто ходим на другие занятия и решим нам нравятся ли эти занятия. Я думаю, что у меня будут три или четыре курса по математике, и может быть один другой курс, наверно венгерский язык. Венгерский язык абсолютно странный.

RCEES~CIS LECTURE

On March 10th, Pavel Černoch, Press Officer at the European Parliament, gave a well-attended lecture in JRC 101. His talk, *The European Union and Social Media in the 21st Century*, charted out many of the new developments in the way in which information is disseminated in the era of the Internet. For more about Pavel's lecture, which was sponsored by the Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies Concentration and the Center for International Studies, readers of *Novosti* should check out the S & B article in the March 13th issue of the student newspaper: <http://www.thesandb.com/news/qa-eu-journalist-former-prof-pavel-cernoch.html>.

Upcoming Events

Writers@Grinnell event of interest to Russian community.

On Thursday, April 7, 2011, Russian-born writers Ilya Kaminsky and Gary Shteyngart will give readings at Grinnell College, Kaminsky at 4:15, Shteyngart at 8 p.m.

Ilya Kaminsky was born in Odessa, former Soviet Union in 1977, and arrived to the United States in 1993, when his family was granted asylum by the American government.

Ilya is the author of *Dancing In Odessa* (Tupelo Press, 2004) which won the Whiting Writer's Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf Award, the Dorset Prize, the Ruth Lilly Fellowship given annually by *Poetry* magazine. *Dancing In Odessa* was also named Best Poetry Book of the Year 2004 by *ForeWord Magazine*. In 2008, Kaminsky was awarded Lannan Foundation's Literary Fellowship. In 2009, poems from his new manuscript, *Deaf Republic*, were awarded *Poetry* magazine's Levinson Prize. [from: <http://www.ilyakaminsky.com/>]

Gary Shteyngart was born in Leningrad in 1972, and came to the United States seven years later. He is the author of the novels *Absurdistan* and *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*. *Absurdistan* was chosen as one of the ten best books of the year by *The New York Times Book Review* and *Time* magazine, as well as a book of the year by the *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and many other publications. *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* won the Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction and the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and one of the best debuts of the year by *The Guardian (UK)*. His fiction and essays have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Granta*,

Esquire, *GQ*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and many other publications. ... His work has or will soon be published in seventeen countries. He received a degree in politics from Oberlin College and an MFA in creative writing from Hunter College where he has previously taught. He lives in New York. [adapted from: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/writing/faculty/gary-shteyngart.html>]

Slavic Coffeehouse to be held April 9th!

Mark your calendars for this year's annual Slavic Coffeehouse, and co-sponsored by the Russian Department and the Russian and Central and Eastern European Studies (RCEES), which will take place the weekend after Spring Break! Students will 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. We are pleased to announce that this year the Russian Department will host the Luther College Balalaika Ensemble as its musical entertainment.

Founded by Dr. L. Iudin-Nelson in 1992, the Luther College Balalaika Ensemble performs Russian and East European music on traditional instruments. The ensemble features instruments of the balalaika and domra families, as well as accordion, percussion, and vocal. The ensemble was . Since that time, the ensemble has played over 150 performances in schools, community centers, and concert halls throughout the Midwest.

The ensemble also has performed in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Kansas City, and Chicago. The ensemble has raised thousands of dollars for charitable causes in Russia, including aid to pensioners and refugees at the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy Food Sharing Ministry and medical aid in Petrozavodsk, Russia.



Luther College is the only college in the United States to host its own balalaika ensemble.

CHECK OUT THE POSTER FOR SLAVIC COFFEEHOUSE 2011 ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS ISSUE OF NOVOSTI!

REMINDERS: Funding for Russian Studies

Many students choose to supplement their study of Russian during the summer, as well as after graduation. There are a number of programs available, both in the U.S. and in Russia; several are listed below; there are many more. Many of them offer additional funding assistance. The Russian Department also is able to offer support with two awards:

Anne K. Hansen '86 award

Many students choose to supplement their study of Russian during the summer. There are a number of programs available, both in the U.S. and in Russia; several are listed below; there are many more. Many of them offer funding assistance. The Russian Department also is able to offer support for summer Russian study through the **Anne K. Hansen '86 award**, established in 1989 in memory of Anne K. Hansen '86 by her friends and family. Anne Hansen was a Russian Studies major who went on the Grinnell College Interim Tour of the USSR during her senior year. The Award is 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.

[<http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/russian/hansenaward>]

John Mohan Russian Studies Award

The purpose of the John Mohan 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 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.**



For more information, please see the departmental page for the John Mohan Study Award.

This year's John Mohan Study Award recipients are **Brooke Weber '10, and Steve Hoff '10.** Brooke will attend a Russian language program in St Petersburg, and Steve will study the Russian language intensively in the former Soviet satellite state of Kyrgyzstan, at the London School of Bishkek.

RUSSIAN DEPT on Facebook

The Russian Department has established a group-page on Facebook; at last count, there were **190 members**—faculty, students, alumni, colleagues, and other friends of the department! We welcome past and current students to join the group, and to take a look at the pictures and videos from Slavic Coffeehouse 2010, as well as pictures from the Fall 2010 Russian Picnic, as well as the 2011 Maslenitsa celebration. We invite alums to consider adding to the collection of photos, and we also will 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](#)

SUMMER RESEARCH IN RUSSIAN?

Two Summer MAPs (Mentored Advanced Projects) available this summer in the Russian Dept.

Are you interested in conducting an advanced research group project over the summer on the topic "Russian Literature and Intertextual/Intercultural Influences"? This



project is for advanced students of Russian culture, language, and literature and will examine points of intercultural contact and change and the results of this contact and change on Russian culture, subsequent Russian literature, and political thought. There are two spaces available on the four-student project. **Stipend and summer housing available.** Please see **Todd Armstrong** for more information and application details.

Славянское кафе! *Slavic Coffeehouse!*



Суббота 9-ое апреля
Saturday April 9th

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Joe Rosenfield Center 101

*A wide variety of delicious Slavic foods
prepared by
Russian Department faculty and students
will be available for a nominal cost.*

Proceeds benefit the Russian House (Русский дом).

Концерт! Concert!

*Slavic Coffeehouse is pleased to announce
a special performance by the*

LUTHER COLLEGE

BALALAIKA ENSEMBLE

