

НОВОСТИ NOVOSTI

Гриннелльцы всех стран, соединяйтесь!

Весна 2011 № 3 ~ Spring 2011 № 3

SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

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.

Прощания ~ Farewells

Congratulations and farewells to Russian majors and RCEES concentrators of the **class of 2011!**



Russian Majors

- ❖ **Annie Brothers**
Russian/Political Science
- ❖ **Juan Яша Garcia**
Russian
- ❖ **Melissa Lenoir**
Russian
- ❖ **Andrew Mullins**
Russian/Chemistry
- ❖ **Patrick Stuchlik**
Russian

Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies Concentration

- ❖ **Shuming Chen**
RCEES/Chemistry
- ❖ **Dmitriy Glumov**
RCEES/Economics
- ❖ **Claire Reeder**
RCEES/French/History

AWARDS НАГРАДЫ

Russian Major **Juan Яша Garcia '11**



was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Orenburg, Russia. Juan is the first Washington Posse Scholar in the history of that program to receive a Fulbright. We know he's excited (and a little nervous) to return to Russia after

studying there last spring. We wish him well as he embarks on this new adventure!



John Mohan Study Award

This year's John Mohan Study Award recipients are **Juan Яша Garcia**

'11, and **Catie Scott '11**. 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](#).

Farewell to our Fulbright Russian Language Assistant, Olesya Valger!



Olesya with Jared Dye '12, Jacob Guild '12, Stephanie Porter '14, Addie Anderson '13, Sharon Tan '14, Corina Varlan '14, Kyle Walters '12 (NB: Kyle is a German major, but a regular attendee of Russian House events. –Novosti Editorial Staff)

Olesya Valger, from Novosibirsk, finishes up her year at Grinnell College this semester. We will miss Olesya, who has been invaluable in so many ways, from her teaching in our first-year Russian courses to her work in Russian Conversation class and Russian Lab. All of us, especially students, have also appreciated her weekly gatherings for tea (чаепития!) in Russian House; highlights included a rousing Maslenitsa Celebration, as well as a Skype session with students from her home university in Novosibirsk (see the final page of Novosti for a letter from students there to the students of Grinnell). We should also add that everyone has enjoyed her wonderful cooking, from her черепаха cake at our fall picnic, to her блины and компот and other wonderful Russian dishes!



Professor Kelly Herold presents Olesya with farewell gifts at Russian major dinner in Grinnell House. Cyrus Smith '12, Jared Dye '12, Addie Anderson '13, Melissa Lenoir '11, and Professor Ed Cohn look on.

СПАСИБО, ОЛЕСЯ!



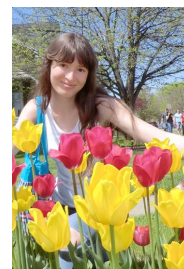
Olesya (here enjoying the view in Chicago), writes (in Russian, for all her students!):

До свидания, друзья!

Спасибо за всё, что было в этом году! Мне очень понравилось в Гриннелле, и мне очень понравилось жить в Русском Доме. Это был прекрасный год!

После конца семестра я поеду путешествовать - сначала в Чикаго, потом в Аризону и Калифорнию. В конце июня я уеду домой, в Новосибирск, и буду работать в университете. Я буду преподавать английский язык!

Я надеюсь, что мы снова увидимся, и мои русские студенты будут такими же замечательными, как американские! До встречи!



С любовью,
Олеся

Farewell to Tatiana Golikova '11

The Russian Department wishes **Tatiana (Tanya) Golikova '11**, of Voronezh, Russia, all the best as she pursues future studies. Graduating with a double major in Economics and Art (both with honors), Tanya also served as our departmental secretary, and assisted in various ways during her four years at Grinnell. She was also a frequent attendee of Russian Table and other Russian Department events. We will miss Tanya! Желаем удачи и счастья в будущем!

Natalia Petrova, a former Russian Language Assistant in 2007, visited Grinnell for graduation of the class of 2011, and visited with faculty and students. It was wonderful to see her in Grinnell, and we wish her well as she continues to pursue her teaching career in Moscow.

Welcome to our new Russian Language Assistant, **Julia Fedoseeva**, who will be coming to us from Tolyatti, Russia. We look forward to welcoming Julia to campus and working with her in 2011-2012. *Novosti* has been in touch with Julia, who writes from Russia:

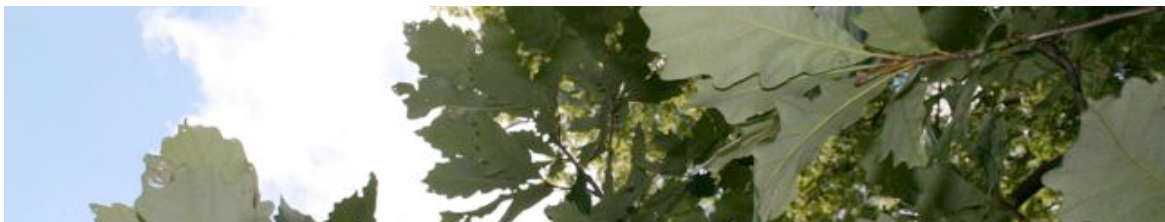
Всем привет! Меня зовут Юля Федосеева. Мне 24 года, я родилась и живу в молодёжном динамичном городе [Тольятти](#), который находится на берегу красивейшей реки Волги.

Тольятти нередко называют автомобильной столицей России. Уже несколько лет я преподаю русский как иностранный и я очень рада, что у меня появилась замечательная возможность поделиться русским языком и культурой. Мне очень повезло, потому что моя работа - это моё любимое хобби. Я также люблю заниматься спортом, встречаться с новыми людьми и общаться-общаться-общаться. С нетерпением жду встречи с вами!



До скорой встречи, Юля!

Hi everyone! My name is Julia Fedoseeva. I am 24 years old, and I was born and live in the young, dynamic city of [Tolyatti](#), which is located on the banks of that most beautiful of rivers, the Volga. Tolyatti is quite often called the automobile capital of Russia. I've already been teaching Russian as a foreign language for several years, and I am very glad to have this remarkable opportunity to share the Russian language and culture. I'm very fortunate that my work is also my favorite hobby. I also like to do sports, meet new people, and converse-converse-converse. I can't wait to meet you!



Other Award News

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 recipient this year is **Corina Varlan '14**. Corina will attend a summer Russian language program at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, Indiana.

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

Off-Campus Study

We want to wish safe travels and returns home to students who have been studying in Russia and Central and Eastern Europe during the Spring 2011 semester. **Kelly Jacobazzi '12** and **Alana Vogel '12** have been studying in St. Petersburg on an [American Council of Teachers of Russian \(ACTR\)](#) program, while **Kristen Moreland '12** has been studying in Irkutsk (in Siberia), at the [Middlebury College C.V. Starr School in Russia](#). **Ben Saderholm '12** will return from a semester studying mathematics in Budapest, Hungary, and **Claire Griffith '12** will return from a semester on an SIT program, [Serbia, Bosnia, and Kosovo: Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans](#).

We also wish safe journeys to our students heading off to Russia and Central Europe next fall. **Addie Anderson '13** will be in Saint Petersburg at the [Bard-Smolny program in St. Petersburg](#). Good luck to three students who will travel to Prague, Czech Republic to attend [CET programs](#): **Amanda Borson '13** (Jewish Studies), **Laurel Tuggle '13**, and **Leah Yacknin-Dawson '13** (Central European Studies). **Doug Dobrzynski '13** will travel to Warsaw, Poland, where he will study on the [CIEE program](#) there.

Счастливого пути!

Hezký výlet!

Pzyjemnej podróży!

Spring 2011 Events and News

Slavic Coffeehouse 2011

On **Saturday April 9th**, Russian Department faculty and students hosted our annual coffeehouse. 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 (**Русский дом**).

Slavic Coffeehouse also featured a concert by the **Luther College Balalaika Ensemble**, directed by Luther College professor of Russian Laurie Iudin-Nelson. It was a fabulous performance,

and we hope to invite them back in the future.

Professor Iudin-Nelson has worked with Grinnell

College students (most recently **Avraam Lyon '06**) in the past at the Concordia Russian Language School.



Speaking of balalaikas, **Sue Drake '56** and

George Drake '56, professor emeritus of history and former president of Grinnell College, recently bequeathed to the Russian department a fine



balalaika, pictured here. Спасибо, Sue and George!

Grinnell College Russian Department on Facebook!

The Russian Department has established a group-page on Facebook; at last count, there were **189 members**.

We welcome past and current students to join the group. Visit our Facebook site at [Grinnell College Russian Department](#). Help us reach 200 members!



Faculty~Student Research News

SUMMER 2011 MAPs (Mentored Advanced Projects)

Todd Armstrong will direct four MAPs this summer in a group MAP project, “Russian Literature and Intertextual and Intercultural Influences” This group MAP project will examine more closely the rich intertextual and intercultural connections between Russian literature and other world literatures and cultures.

Addie Anderson '13 will study Russian and Western Romanticism in the context of Lermontov's *A Hero of Our Time*; **Grant Dissette '12** will explore the influence the writings of Dostoevsky had on those of J. D. Salinger; **Kristen Moreland '12** will examine the role of Italy in Russian literature of the 19th century; and **Austin Redman '12** will consider Dostoevsky and Nietzsche and the relationship between philosophy and literature.

Anatoly Vishevsky will work with **Cary Speck '12** on a project entitled “20th C Public and Private Perceptions of Masculinity and Male Homosexuality in the Czech Lands,” in Prague, Czech Republic.

Bob Grey will work with **Jared Dye '12**, **Charity Porotesano '12** and **Tom Van Heeke '12** on “Russian Public Opinion on Democracy.” Students will work with recent public opinion data from Russia citizens and surrounding countries compiled by Professor Stephen White of the University of Glasgow. Readers of *Novosti* will remember that Professor White was here during the fall semester teaching a short course on Russian politics.

Faculty News

In February, 2011, **Raquel Greene** presented “Blackness in Russian and Soviet Children's Literature” at the “African-American Perspectives on Russian and Slavic Studies” symposium at the University of Pittsburgh. She also participated in the creation of a new organization in the

profession, and will serve as its Vice President. The new *Association for Students and Teachers of Color in Slavic Studies*, according to its mission statement, is dedicated to better connecting and expanding the network of minority scholars working in the profession; to improving general understanding of the unique challenges faced by students and educators of color studying, teaching, and conducting research in and about the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; and serving as a platform for discussions of race and ethnicity in the region.

Raquel also recently presented "Multiculturalism in contemporary Russian children's literature" in Moscow, and will return this summer to Russia with a project that examines Russian children's reading habits and their awareness of issues of diversity and multiculturalism.

We look forward to welcoming Raquel back after her sabbatical!

Kelly Herold

recently created a blog as part of the recently formed Working Group for the Study of



Russian Children's Literature and Culture, a scholarly non-profit organization dedicated to fostering closer communication among scholars interested in Russian children's literature, history of childhood, theater, cinema, popular media, education, and other aspects of children's culture. Check out the [WGRCLC Blog](#).

Todd Armstrong has organized a series of three panels, “Cultural Responses to the Holocaust in Poland and Central Europe,” for the upcoming ASEES convention in Washington D.C., and in that connection will be working this summer on a paper on Polish writer Hanna Krall's most recent book, *Różowe strusie pióra* (*Pink Ostrich Feathers*).

Anatoly Vishevsky recently completed work on a monograph on contemporary Russian detective stories (Akunin and Yuzefovich), and this summer will start a new collaborative project with Galina



Tolya receives a copy of Master and Margaria (in Russian) from Andrew Mullens '11 at Russian/RCEES final dinner.

Aksenova and Boris Briker, a book on Soviet Comedy.

Ed Cohn will be working on two main research projects: First, he hopes to finish a draft of his book on expulsion from the USSR's postwar Communist party. Second, he will travel to the Hoover Institution at Stanford for a month to begin a new research project about the KGB in Lithuania.

What can you do to keep up your **Russian** this summer? Хороший вопрос!

There are a number of excellent resources on-line to help you keep in touch with Russian wherever you may be this summer. Many of them are new resources on-line. One in particular is the recent launch of [Mosfilm On-line Cinema](#), which



features hundreds of Russian classic films available for free viewing, over 100 of which have English subtitles. Or check out [OpenSpace.ru](#) or [afisha.ru](#), both extensive websites dedicated to Russian and world society and culture. You can also check out the “Fun Russian Links” button on the [Russian Department website](#) for more resources (NB: this site, originally designed by **Coco Downey '04**, will be updated in the coming weeks.) And if you're really feeling inspired, dig out your Russian textbooks, or check out the Nachalo films on-line. And read Russian whenever you can. **Remember...**



...повторение—мать учения!

Arthur Richardson '14 at review session for Russian 102 final (with Todd Armstrong dorking out on Russian grammar.)

Fall 2011 News

RUSSIAN POLITICS IN FILM

Danielle Lussier, who will start her position in the department of Political Science this fall, plans to organize a film series in connection with her course on Russian Politics. Look to future issues of Novosti for more details about Russian and RCEES films in Fall 2011.

We look forward to welcoming Danielle to campus, and to working with her in the coming academic year!

Three Tutorials in Russian Department

Three professors will offer first-year tutorials in the Russian department this fall. **Raquel Greene** will teach “African-American Literary Ties to Russian Intellectual Thought,” **Kelly Herold** will offer “Art for Life’s Sake: Reading *War and Peace* in the 21st century,” and **Todd Armstrong** plans to teach “After the Future: New Russian Literature.”

Russian Department Visiting
Artist-in-Residence
Spring 2012

Vladimir Сорокин ~
Владимир Sorokin



The Russian Department has been pleased to host a number of distinguished writers and artists over the past years, both for short visits, and for longer periods of time through the International Visiting Fellows program, which is administered by the **Center for International Studies**. Guests in the past have included Vasily Aksenov, Tatyana Tolstaya, Vladimir Voinovich, Victor Pivovarov, Veniamin Smekhov, Galina Aksenova, and Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Next year, we will have the honor of hosting Vladimir Sorokin, one of Russia's most important writers. Described by Keith Gessen (in *The New York Review of Books*) as the "only real prose writer, and resident genius" of late-Soviet fiction, he was recently interviewed in the *New York Times* (see "[From a Novelist, Shock](#)

[Treatment for Mother Russia](#)"). He will participate in our departmental senior seminar on Russian Post-Modern Poetry and Prose, which will be taught by Anatoly Vishevsky in Spring '12.

We encourage students to consider reading some of Sorokin's works this summer (see the bibliography below). Check out as well his official website: <http://www.srkn.ru/>.

Novels:

- *Ochered'* (The Queue) [1983]. Paris: Syntaxe, 1985. (Translated into English, 1988)
- *Norma* (The Norm) [1979-1983]. Moscow: Tri Kita in cooperation with Obscuri Viri, 1994.
- *Roman* (A Novel) [1985-1989]. Moscow: Tri Kita in cooperation with Obscuri Viri, 1994.
- *Tridsataia liubov' Mariny* (Marina's Thirtieth Love) [1982-1984]. Moscow: Izdanie R. Elinina, 1995.
- *Serdtsa chetyryokh* (Four Stout Hearts) [1991]. Moscow: Literary Miscellany Konets Veka, 1994.
- *Pervy Subbotnik* (The First Saturday Workday) [1979-1984]. In *Collected Works in Two Volumes*. Moscow: Ad Marginem, 1998.
- *Goluboe Salo* (Blue Bacon) [1999]. Moscow: Ad Marginem, 1999.
- *Pir* (The Feast) [2000]. Moscow: Ad Marginem, 2000.
- *Lyod* (Ice) [2002]. Moscow: Ad Marginem, 2002. (Translated into English by Jamey Gambrell, 2007)
- *Put' Bro* (Bro's way) [2004]. Moscow: Zakharov Books, 2004.
- *23000* [2005] in *Trilogy* (Trilogiya). Moscow: Zakharov Books, 2005.
- *Den' oprichnika* (Oprichnik's Day) [2006]. Moscow: Zakharov Books, 2006. (Translated into English by Jamey Gambrell, 2010)
- *Zaplyv* (Swimming in). Moscow: AST, 2008.
- *Saharniy Kreml* (Kremlin Made Of Sugar) [2008]. Moscow: AST, 2008.
- *Metel'* (Tempest) [2010]. Moscow: AST, 2010.

Plays:

- *Pelmeni* (1984-1987)
- *Zemlyanka* (The Hut, or Earth-house 1985)
- *Russkaya Babushka* (Russian Grandmother) (1988)
- *Doverie* (Confidence) (1989)
- *Dismorphomania* (1990)
- *Yubiley* (Anniversary) (1993)
- *Hochzeitreise* (The Post-Nuptial Journey) (1994-1995)
- *Shchi* (Cabbage Soup) (1995-1996)
- *Dostoevsky-Trip* (1997)
- *S Novym Godom* (Happy New Year) (1998)

Dear Grinnell College students,
Hello from the Students of Novosibirsk State Teachers' Training University.

We've already been in touch with you through Skype. We hope you remember us. =)

We'd like to tell you about our university, faculty and our students' life in general.

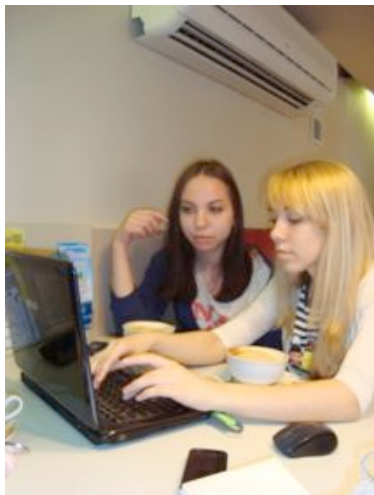
Our university specializes in training teaching staff. Our university is one of the largest universities in Siberia and one of the largest pedagogical universities in the Russian Federation.

We're freshmen of the Faculty of Foreign Languages (that's how the Faculties of Modern Languages is called in Russian universities). Right after entering the university all the students are divided into several groups of 10-15 students in each. These groups remain unchanged until the very graduation. The timetable is established for each group and we attend all the subjects together. It's really great because it makes people feel as one big family where everyone is always ready to help each other in terms of studying and spending free time.



We've been only studying for one year, but we've already had a lot of bright moments together. For instance, in September we had Freshmen's Day. Each group including ours had to prepare a small performance to introduce themselves. We were supposed to show our creativity so we decided to make a small piece of video which actually turned to be a lot of fun. The video was followed by the song "We are the Champions" that we performed together live from the stage.

Besides there were a lot of other events held by the faculty such as Halloween, St. Valentine's Day, and the one we enjoyed most of all, "Christmas is Coming". Again we were to make an outstanding performance where our task was to use the knowledge we got during the first term in Phonetics, Grammar and English Speech Practice. In addition to it there were several smaller contests like presenting a



tongue-twister, dramatizing a dialog and so on. As "We are the Champions" we've got the first place! =)

Among other kinds of extra-curriculum activities there are some dealt with studying that we also enjoy. For example, several times a term we take part in book discussions held by the American Corner of Novosibirsk State Regional Library. We've already discussed such works of American literature as "Fahrenheit 451", "A Farewell to Arms" and "The Awakening".



By the way, our group is good at sports too. In spite of the fact that we go in for sports for not long we have some success. Recently we took part in sport competition and our faculty was the second among all the other faculties! Besides, we have the third place in basketball.

Now we're preparing for the competition "Not Freshers Anymore". This time we've made up our mind to combine knowledge of language with Ancient history in order to present our group. We will also dub a piece of video. We are sure it will be entertaining.

Hope we'll stay in touch=)



Best regards from
group 121

P.S. Students from Novosibirsk State Teachers' Training University had a video session with Grinnell students of the Russian Department on March, 16, 2011