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# НОВОСТИ NOVOSTI

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Гриннелльцы всех стран, соединяйтесь!

Весна 2011 ~ Spring 2011

*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.*

## Добро пожаловать! Welcome!

The faculty of the Russian Department and the Concentration in Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies welcomes all students back to campus. We hope your semester is off to a good start, and that you are enjoying your classes.

### Students in Russia in Spring 2011

**Bon Voyage! Счастливого пути!** to several students who are studying in Russia this semester: **Alana Vogel '12** and **Kelly Iacobazzi '12** are in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on an American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) sponsored program.; **Kristen Moreland '12** will travel to Irkutsk, on a Middlebury Schools Abroad program in this Siberian capital.



(Students and Alumni will recall that **Elizabeth Kruger '06 Elisabeth Kruger '06** for several years was director of the Irkutsk program.) We also wish **Ben Saderholm '12** as he studies on the Budapest Semester in Mathematics.

**Welcome Back! С приездом!** We extend special greetings to **Jared Dye '12**, who has returned from an American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) sponsored program in Vladimir. **Cary Speck '12** returns from the CIEE Prague Program. We'll look forward to hearing about their impressions this semester!

## РУССКИЙ СТОЛ

Russian Table will be held 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 invite speakers of Russian at every level to join us for informal Russian conversation. Individuals not on board are guests of the Russian Department.

### Русское чаепитие ~ Russian Tea Time in Russian House ~ Русский дом



Join our Russian Language Assistant **Olesya Valger** for Russian Tea Time every Thursday, 8 p.m., to speak Russian in an informal situation and enjoy some delicious exemplar of Russian cuisine. Although each evening is a thematic one, it requires no preparation - and it's always fun!

**10-ое февраля ~ February 10** - Day of Diplomacy Workers in Russia. Come and watch some really funny political cartoons - and what do you think about diplomacy, by the way?

**17-ое февраля ~ February 17** - Day of Kindness. Please be so kind to come! :)

**24-ое февраля ~ February 24** - Men's Day! Well, it's actually February 23, but never mind.

**3-ье марта ~ March 3** - Women's Day is coming! Come and learn how to make simple, but very beautiful paper flowers to send your family or friends. Materials provided.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup>!

**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). Students 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. Musical entertainment is a frequent tradition of the Slavic Coffeehouse, and performers have ranged from Russian bards to classical musicians. We are pleased to announce that this year Grinnell will host the Luther College Balalaika Ensemble.

The fully costumed 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 founded by Dr. L. Iudin-Nelson in 1992. 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.

## New Faculty Member in Political Science

Many readers of Novosti will remember **Danielle Lussier**'s talk last semester as a candidate for a position in the Department of Political Science. Entitled "Democratizing Citizens: Civil Society and Social Networks in Russia and Indonesia," her talk generated lively discussion and raised many questions from students and faculty. We were pleased to learn that she will be joining the faculty of Grinnell College next fall, and look forward to welcoming her to campus. Students should watch for her course on Russian Politics, which will be offered in next fall.

Danielle Lussier's research focuses on democratization, the political behavior of former authoritarian regimes, and leadership, with a particular emphasis on Eurasia and Indonesia. Lussier's dissertation, "Activating Democracy: Political Participation and the Fate of Regime Change in Russia and Indonesia" analyzes the relationship between mass political behavior and regime change in post-Soviet Russia and post-New Order Indonesia. She has also conducted research on leadership in post-communist Eastern Europe, communist legacies, Russian regional development, Russian voting behavior, and the relationship between religion and public opinion. Lussier received her BA in Russian and East European Studies from Wesleyan University. She previously worked as a researcher at the EastWest Institute and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

[[http://polisci.berkeley.edu/people/graduatestudents/person\\_detail.php?person=152](http://polisci.berkeley.edu/people/graduatestudents/person_detail.php?person=152)]

### 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

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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.

### Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (RLASP)

The American Councils of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) RLASP serves both graduate and undergraduate students. The academic program is designed to improve participants' oral, listening, reading, and writing proficiency in Russian language and to develop their knowledge of Russian history, politics, culture, and society. The ... summer programs provide approximately twenty hours per week of in-class instruction in Russian grammar, phonetics, conversation, and cultural studies at Moscow International University, the Russian State Pedagogical University (Gertsen Institute) in St. Petersburg, and the KORA Center for Russian Language in Vladimir."

[<http://www.americancouncils.org/program/20/RLASP/>]

## NEW ACTR SUMMER PROGRAM

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for summer study in Moscow, Russia. A five-week summer program, Contemporary Russia offers both graduate and undergraduate students as well as working professionals an opportunity to study abroad in Russia and to gain new knowledge and competency in Russian area studies and Russian language. Contemporary Russia is the first American Councils program designed to serve participants at all levels of Russian-language proficiency, including those with no prior training in the language. Contemporary Russia provides twenty-two hours per week of in-class instruction in Russian economics, Russian politics, Russian culture, and Russian language. All content-based courses are taught in English by faculty of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, one of Russia's most prestigious centers for the study of social sciences. Program participants receive Russian language instruction geared toward their skill level (participants with no prior training in Russian will be provided elementary instruction, while those who have completed previous language courses will attend more advanced classes). Participants are registered for academic credit at Bryn Mawr College. A full-time resident director oversees academic and cultural programs; assists participants in academic, administrative and personal matters; and coordinates activities with the host institution faculty. Participants live in university dormitories.

Program dates: June 21 to July 27, 2011  
Application Deadline: March 15, 2011. Applications are available at:  
<http://www.americancouncils.org/program/1g/CRU/>

For more information, please visit our website  
([www.acrussiaabroad.org](http://www.acrussiaabroad.org))

### Summer Intensive Russian at Beloit College

“The Russian program has proven to be the model for successful intensive language study through the Center for Language Studies since it was founded in 1983. We have consistently been able to offer four levels of Russian since the late 1980s, with one of the highlights being “Political Russian,” designed for advanced-level students. Language instruction forms the essence of the summer intensive Russian program. All four levels of Russian are taught by experienced instructors committed to the communicative approach, the use of technology, and the integration of language and culture in the classroom.”

[<http://www.summerlanguages.com/russian.html>]

### Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages at Indiana U

“Intensive language training has been offered at the Bloomington campus of Indiana University since

1950. The Summer Workshop provides up to 200 participants in Slavic, East European and Central Asian languages the opportunity to complete a full year of college language instruction during an eight-week summer session. Utilizing the resources of Indiana University's own specialists as well as native speakers from other universities and abroad, the Summer Workshop has developed and maintained a national program of the highest quality. Allowing all participants to pay in-state tuition fees, the program has as its goal the enhancement of speaking, reading, listening and writing skills through classroom instruction and a full range of extra-curricular activities. Fellowships and funding are available.”  
[<http://www.indiana.edu/~swseel/>]

### Davis School of Russian at Middlebury

“Recognized as one of the best Russian language programs in the world, Middlebury's School of Russian has been offering intensive immersion Russian language and culture instruction for 63 years. In the Davis School of Russian, you can choose from cocurricular activities that explore the range of historical and contemporary Russian culture, from the slings and arrows of slang to the finer points of fine art. And while you're interpreting Russian poetry, learning to play the balalaika, or discussing post-Soviet politics, your fluency and vocabulary are increasing by the minute. ... At Middlebury, the cornerstone of [their] educational philosophy and the key to your success is the [Language Pledge](#). Bound by a promise to speak only Russian, the members of the School of Russian form a community of learners in which intensive language study and expansive personal growth are not the exception, but the rule.”  
[<http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/ls/russian/>]

### RUSSIAN DEPT on Facebook

The Russian Department has established a group-page on Facebook; at last count, there were **153 members**—current students and alumni! 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. 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](#)

Looking ahead... Впереди...

## Russian Department Visiting Artist-in-Residence in Spring 2012

### Vladimir Sorokin ~ Владимир Сорокин

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.

Vladimir Sorokin was 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 will participate in our departmental senior seminar on Russian Post-Modern Poetry and Prose, which will be taught by Anatoly Vishevsky in Spring '12. In addition, Vladimir will do a reading of his stories for the wider college audience. The Russian Department is also planning a group MAP on translation where students will spend the first half of semester learning about translation theory and techniques and will apply what they learn in their translation of Sorokin’s short stories (in close consultation with the author) in the second half of semester; we hope to publish these stories in an appropriate venue. Below is a bibliography of a number of Sorokin’s works.



#### 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.
- *Tridtsataia 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)

## Looking back... Вспоминаем... News from Fall Semester 2010

The Russian Department and Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies hosted a vibrant co-curricular program this past semester, and we thank students, faculty and staff for all their work in supporting a vibrant international presence on the Grinnell College campus. Stephen White, hosted by Bob Grey, taught a special topics course in political science, Contemporary Russian Politics. RCEES, in conjunction with Peace Studies and the Center For International Studies, hosted Serbian activists Srdja Popović and Slobodan Djinović, former leaders of the Serbian student activist group OTPOR (the group that



was a key player in bringing down Slobodan Milosević) and founders of the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action And Strategies

(<http://www.canvasopedia.org/>), or CANVAS, an international network of trainers and consultants dedicated to training others in non-violent resistance to authoritarianism. They co-taught a course, “**Non-Violent Actions and Strategies,**” a hands-on, practical workshop experience which they have taught at numerous institutions around the world. Grinnellians were wonderful hosts, and in addition to producing impressive work in Srdja’s and Slobo’s courses, hosted a wonderful dinner in honor of the two guests. We include here pictures of that event; note the culinary renditions of the raised fist, the famous symbol of Otpor. (In the picture above, from left to right, Srdja, Brita Higgins ’12, Slobo, and Sara Kittleson ’12.)



The Russian Department, in conjunction with Faulconer Gallery and Burling Gallery, hosted an exhibit of Soviet posters, one comprised of selected works traveling to Grinnell from Penn, and Grinnell’s collection of Soviet Socialist Realist graphic art (on loan from **Eric Johnson’88** and **Brenda Horrigan ’88**). **Laughing Matters: Soviet Propaganda in Khrushchev's Thaw, 1956-1964** was organized by curators Liliana Milkova and Masha Kowell, who traveled to Grinnell to present a talk about and walkthrough of the exhibit in Burling Gallery.

## Music from the Republic of Georgia

We want to thank **Claire Griffith ’12** for all her work in bringing **Zedashe Ensemble**, a Georgian folk group (<http://www.zedashe.org>). Co-sponsored by the **Department of Music**, the **Rosenfield Program**, and **RCEES**, the event will appeal to students from across campus, and included a lecture “Breaking Loose: Georgia after Empire,” presented by Ron Suny, professor of social and political history at the University of Michigan.



## FALL 2010 ROSENFELD SYMPOSIUM



This fall the Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights hosted a symposium, “**Beyond the Cold War: The World Since 1989.**” Russian and RCEES students heard a number of lectures and presentations of interest during that event. Among the speakers was good friend of the college and former John R. Heath Professor, **Konstanty Gebert**, who presented “Better to Die Standing? Thinking about Violence in the Transition from Communism in Poland and Yugoslavia.”

*Symposium held, festschrift  
published in honor of Professor  
Dan Kaiser*

During the final week of October last semester, Russian historians from around the country and world converged on Grinnell to participate in a scholarly symposium organized in large part by **Marshall Poe '84**, one of Professor Kaiser's former students. Sponsors of the event included the Departments of History and Russian, the Center for International Studies, the Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies Concentration, and the Office of the President.

Colleagues, former students, alumni presented their scholarly work; many of their papers, along with others solicited from the field of Russian History, were published in a festschrift for Dan, *Everyday Life in Russian History: Quotidian Studies in Honor of Daniel Kaiser* (Gary Marker, Joan Neuberger, Marshall Poe, and Susan Rupp, Eds. Bloomington: Slavica, 2010.) We provide below for our readers a list of symposium panels and papers:

**Life and Manners at Court**

Marshall T. Poe, "The Public Face of Private Life: the Family-Presentation Ritual in Muscovite Russia."

Stephen L. Hoch, "The Editing Commission and the Politics of Imperfect Information."

**Sacred Spaces and Cloisters**

Isolde Thyret, "Economic Reconstruction or Corporate Raiding? The Borisoglebskii Monastery in Torzhok and the Ascription of Monasteries in the Seventeenth Century."

Gary Marker, "A Saint's Intimate Life: The *Diariusz* of Dimitrii Rostovskii."

**The Experience of War**

Charles J. Halperin, "Brothers-in-Arms: Kinship and Military Service during the Reign of Ivan IV."

**The Countryside, Real and Imagined**

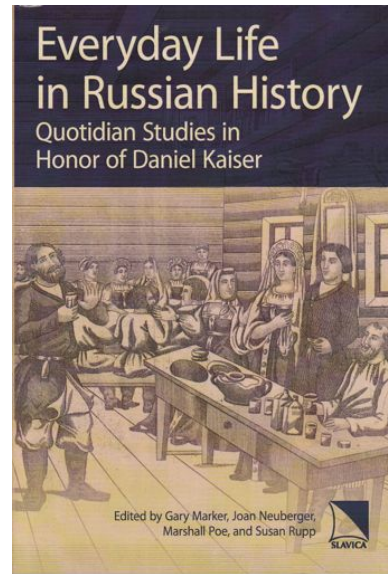
Anna Kushkova, "Female Social Control in the Late Soviet Village: Comrades' Courts as a Nexus of Official and Customary Justice."

Ann Kleimola, "Hunting Dogs in Seventeenth-Century Russia."

**Disciplining the Body and Mind**

Valerie Kivelson, "Torture, Truth, and Embodying the Intangible in Muscovite Witchcraft Trials."

David M. Goldfrank, "Appreciating *The Growth of Law in Medieval Russia*."



**Undergraduate Research Venue**

*We would like to direct the readers of Novosti to the following announcement:*

Columbia University's The Birch is the nation's first undergraduate journal of Eastern European and Eurasian culture, founded in 2004. In an effort to maintain the quality of our journal, we have elected to produce a larger, single issue that will be available for students in the spring instead of two, smaller issues typically distributed in the fall and spring. This decision was made primarily to allow contributors to have more time to develop their ideas and projects so that we can continue to produce a journal that students look forward to engaging with, cherish, and respect.

Our publication retains the same structure. It consists of three sections: Creative Writing (poetry, prose, non-fiction essays), Literary Criticism, and Culture & Affairs (including historical and political analysis). We also welcome original photography, translations, and political cartoons.

For this year's issue, we encourage undergraduate students to submit high-quality pieces of 1500-2000 words. We particularly seek writing on less-explored topics as well as articles on current affairs in the region; please keep in mind that our journal covers a wide territory including Central and Eastern European states and Central Asia. While most of our content is in English, we look forward to reading submissions written in Russian or other languages of the region and envision an issue that is less Russo-centric.

<http://www.thebirchjournal.blogspot.com/>.

Submissions are to be sent to [thebirchjournal@gmail.com](mailto:thebirchjournal@gmail.com) by February 14, 2010. Please note that all submissions should include the writer's name, e-mail address, and institution.