

SL@VA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

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year we had in the Slavic Department in 2015-2016.

While David Herman, our regular Chair, was on leave (thankfully he has returned to the position), I oversaw our department's many activities.

One major endeavor was a rigorous review of the Department conducted by three professors from other universities (Princeton; Wisconsin; and University of California, Berkeley). I am pleased to report that the committee concluded that we are running a productive and vital program. In their words, "The UVA Slavic Department boasts an excellent and devoted faculty who bring out the best in their students"; "The quality of Slavic instruction that graduate students receive at the University of Virginia is second to none"; and students "expressed strong satisfaction with the quality of teaching and advising, and with the level of faculty engagement."



Julian Connolly

Hello from the Danube! As I write this, I am on a small ship on the Danube somewhere between Belgrade and Budapest. I've been serving as a Faculty Lecturer on a two week UVA alumni trip from Bucharest to Vienna. It's been a wonderful experience connecting with UVA alumni and visiting historic sites in the Balkans and Southeastern Europe. As the fall foliage floats by, I have a chance to reflect on the very exciting

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Dariusz Tolezyk, Ms. Sandy Kendrick (administrative assistant), Anna Maxwell (editorial assistant)

I am also happy to report that our graduate students have been receiving recognition for their preparedness and dedication to their craft. Jill Martiniuk, who received her doctorate in 2015 and who worked for the Slavic Department as an instructor this year, has just accepted a two-year position as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Houston beginning in the fall of 2016.

Several of our graduate students won significant awards in 2015-2016. Michael Marsh-Soloway received the All-University Graduate Teaching Award in Arts and Humanities from the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs and then went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in August. Abby Hohn received a grant from the American Councils for International Education to study in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2016. Tierre Sanford received a Critical Language Scholarship (from the U.S. State Department) to study advanced Russian in Russia in 2016. Sarah McEleney won a Praxis Program award from the Scholars' Lab at the University of Virginia Library to participate in the Praxis Program in 2016-2017.

The undergraduate programs of the Slavic Department also flourished this year. Seventeen of our students graduated with a major in Russian Language and Literature and/or Russian and East European Studies. Four of our majors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa (Rebecca Kientz, Benjamin Moody, Adam Sykes, and Anne Weidhaas). Kay Khozbuyar and Adam Sykes won

Critical Language Scholarships for study in Russia during the 2016 summer. Sykes also won a Harrison Undergraduate Research Award. Two third-year students won Project GO (Global Officer) Scholarships to further their study of Russian.

And our faculty continues to be distinguished for their achievements in research and teaching. Julian Connolly was awarded the Richard Stites Senior Scholar Award by the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies at their annual meeting in March 2016.

Dariusz Tolczyk received an award from the National Program for the Advancement of the Humanities from the Republic of Poland Ministry of Science and Higher Education for his book *Gulag w oczach Zachodu* [The Gulag Under Western Eyes].

Katia Dianina received several awards and grants from the University of Virginia: a Mead Reoccurring Dream grant to take 10 students to see a production of Chekhov's play *The Seagull* in Richmond; a 2016 Summer Stipend to support her research on her new book project on the restoration of Russia's art treasures dispersed in the Soviet era; a research grant for the Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation for the same book project; and a grant from the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies to match the CGII grant just listed.

On a sadder note, Lilia Travisano retired from the Department, and we will sorely miss her incredible devotion to our students and our programs. In the coming year, we will be conducting a search for a full-

time replacement to teach several levels of Russian and train our Graduate Teaching Assistants. We are now past the mid-point of the fall semester, and we are looking forward to other rewarding events and activities. We welcome you to stop by our offices on the second floor of New Cabell Hall and see for yourselves all that is going on.

With warm wishes,
Julian Connolly



Julian Connolly visited Dracula's Castle in Transylvania. The Slavic Department has been offering a course on Dracula ever since Jan Perkowski, Professor Emeritus and noted vampirologist, introduced it decades ago. Today, ***Dracula* (SLAV 2360)** is taught by Dr. Stan Stepanic who earned his Ph.D. at UVA's Slavic Department in 2015. With steady enrollments reaching 250 students, Dracula enjoys record-breaking popularity.

Getting to Know You: A One-on-One Interview with Professor Edith Clowes



Prof. Edith Clowes (center) with her co-editor of *Area Studies in the Global Age: Community, Place, Identity* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2016), Shelly Jarett Bromberg, and the book editorial assistant, Kat Thompson (PhD 2015).

Many students have gotten to know and love Professor Edith Clowes over her short four years in the UVA classroom and mentoring BA, MA, and PhD theses at UVA. Her colleagues know her well through her leadership in research on Russian literature, intellectual history, and literary cartography. In this number SLL@VA offers an in-depth interview with Professor Clowes.

SLL@VA: Tell us a little about where you grew up and what your greatest passions were as you grew up.

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio (where, yes, in the 1950s the Cuyahoga River spontaneously burst into flame; and the air always smelled like rotten eggs). Before I knew it, I was a horse-

crazy girl who collected horse figurines, read every horse-related story or novel I could find, sketched and painted horses, dreamed of being a horse instead of a little girl, and then later thought only about riding. My mother was also a lover of horses, so it wasn't long before she found an excuse for me to take lessons and eventually join a stable. It was really so she could have someone to ride with, I'm sure. Most of my tween and early teen years were spent at any available stable riding, showing, and eventually hunting. Even today I consider myself a connoisseur of equine statues and will give you a thorough critique of the horse statues in Charlottesville, London, or Moscow. I also loved running—I was proud of beating my older

brother in a footrace when we were around 11 or 12. In high school I was the fastest runner in my class. Hard to believe now... I played lacrosse in high school and college—which I adored, predictably, because of the constant running. Ice cream has always held a special attraction for me—and in high school my parents got me an old-time, hand crank ice cream bucket. I became the ice cream maker for all family holidays and many times in between. When my brothers were home, I'd make about a gallon and a half of chocolate mocha, which the three of us would polish off in an afternoon (leaving a few spoons for my parents). In earlier years I loved to sail and race small boats on Cape Cod. I was reasonably good at it, coming in second one summer in

the Junior Series. Our family raced and cruised every summer. Something I'm glad I did in my 20s, that I never would do now—I've sailed across the Atlantic Ocean three times. The first time was a crossing from Bremerhaven to New York on the *Mikhail Lermontov* after a year of post-BA study at the University of Munich—lots of seasickness there and bad Soviet food (canned peas and the like). Then two more times with my parents.

SLL@VA: How do you spend your time when you are not teaching and pursuing literary research?

When there is some free time, I love to travel, visit friends and family, go the movies, attend operas and concerts, and play tennis or table tennis. I also love hiking and skiing. Museums are always a draw, as are those zoos where the animals are happy, not bored, and have lots of room. (Although my favorite one is the San Diego Zoo, the Indianapolis and Köln Zoos aren't far behind.) Our family is pretty game-oriented. When we get a crowd, we play probably too much charades, mafia, and board games. My favorites are Scrabble (English or Russian), Boggle, and backgammon.

SLL@VA: What is your favorite:

Food: Comfort food (which I don't eat that often) is roast chicken, rice or couscous, and fresh peas. I like almost any grilled food and like Czech

pastry more than is good for my health—palačinky and kolače. And most Mediterranean food.

Color: aqua, turquoise

Plant: sugar maple and lilac

Work of literature: Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*

Work of art: Ribera, *Aristotle*

Place in the world: Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Experience: I loved living with my family in Bonn in fall 1998 and Heidelberg summer 2004. The boys went to school—the second time, to a German school. We had a grand time traveling, hiking, visiting zoos, and just living.

The funniest thing that has ever happened to you:

There are too many. If you go for “cute”: it would be our cat Popcorn, who as a younger cat, loved to play catch and fetch with a cotton ball. The boys and I counted once that she fetched 30 times in a row.

If you go for “outlandish-funny”: once many decades ago at the circus in Köln they offered one person from the audience the chance to try riding a circus horse. I wanted to volunteer soooo badly. Before I got my courage together, a young man raised his hand. They strapped him into a safety harness and hoisted him up on the horse, at which point his pants split. The horse started going, and he tried valiantly to stand up on the horse and was soon swimming through the air in his safety harness—and with basically no functional pants. ...with that in mind, I guess it was a situation of “better him than me...”

Most touching thing that has ever happened to you: probably

every time I get a note from a student thanking me for a class they took with me, and keeping in contact with my students. It's wonderful even 30 years later to hear from a former student.

SLL@VA: Do you have a favorite saying?

Stop and smell the roses!
Better a witty fool than a foolish wit! Пили, но знай меру!
(always a good reminder ;-)

SLL@VA: What do you love best about Charlottesville?

Charlottesville is such a beautiful, livable and hike-able city. It's a city where people care about the arts. I love looking out my study window and seeing the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

SLL@VA: UVA?

Many of the Jeffersonian quotations around Grounds really resonate. Four times a week, when I go to the gym, I see that wonderful admonition to “Practice Civility.” These are words for our time. And even more so, I often stop and reread the words over the entry on the east end of New Cabell Hall: “Here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it.” These words urge me on to think and talk with my students at a time when Americans are having a difficult time agreeing on what constitutes “truth,” and even what a “fact” is. What I love the most about

UVA are the students, both undergraduate and graduate. I am grateful on a daily basis for their energy, brightness, and curiosity. It is an honor to teach at a university that attracts such fine people.

SLL@VA: You are enjoying a successful career as an internationally known Russian literary and intellectual historian. You have taught at many different colleges and universities. What have been the high points of your career so far?

Frankly, getting that first job—the first were an offer of a one-year replacement at Amherst, an offer to teach Russian at the Defense Language Institute, and a tenure-track job at Knox College in Illinois. What a wonderful feeling! There have been so many high points that have made my life as a Slavist really fun and at times unbelievably uplifting. The NEH conference that historians Jay West and Sam Kassow and I staged at Purdue in 1987 on “Russian *Obshchestvennost*”: The Problem of Middle Class Consciousness in Late Imperial Russia” was a gathering that opened up the suppressed history of middling pre-revolutionary Russian society—the people who modernized Russia, developed the arts and literature, and fostered a higher standard of living in Moscow and elsewhere,

but were crushed in the revolution. In the late 1980s we felt exhilarated; we were on the crest of the rediscovery of real “usable history.” Our book from that conference, *Between Tsar and People*, is still used across the country in history and culture classes.

SLL@VA: What achievements make you most proud?

There are many things to be proud of, but here are a few: As a Slavist, I’m proud to participate in and make real contributions to a world-wide conversation about Russian literature and culture. I’m proud that people—and not just academics—read my books, get something from them, and want to talk about them. In our family: Along with the constant foreign-language, history, and literature conversations, our family talks a lot about math stuff, so one of my jokey boasts is this: I’m proud that I won the math prize in my junior year of high school. Another trivial thing, but that I’m proud of—in Lawrence, Kansas, which we left to come to UVA, we used to play 3.5-level World Team Tennis. One of my proud moments was beating someone half my age in women’s singles at the very end of the season—which my team also won.

How do you see the next 5 years? What activities do you anticipate undertaking or

continuing?

Well, I guess I’ll retire sometime in the 5-10 years. That being said, I can’t see giving up research, teaching, and service, at least, on some level. No matter what else I might be doing, I’ll always be thinking about my students and my next research challenge.



What advice would you give UVA students?

Explore, explore, explore—open your worlds, accept new challenges, try out new ideas and viewpoints, even—and perhaps, especially—when they are uncomfortable. Travel as much as you can. Meet people who weren’t part of your community before you came to college.

Celebrating the Career of Lilia Travisano

In May of Spring 2016, the Department bid farewell to Lilia Travisano, who, as Lilia Burganova, came to us from the University of Kazan fifteen years ago, first as a visitor, and eventually as a colleague in the capacity of Russian Language Pedagogue. Lilia taught all levels of Russian, served as our Oral Proficiency Interview administrator and director of our language curriculum, and organized Russian Tea as well as Russian House activities. Lilia contributed countless hours of independent study, and was available to students at all levels at all times. The door was always open, and she never said no. In teaching First-Year Russian, she introduced scores of eager students to the pleasures of the language, and helped others at more advanced levels to develop their communicative skills. It is difficult to imagine departmental life without her, and we will miss her, but we wish her the very best in her retirement and we hope to see her periodically at departmental functions.

Mark Elson

"Dorogaia Lilia Safianovna" -- that is how every email I have ever sent to Lilia Travisano begins, after the appropriate Russian greeting, of course. And

how dear she is! I have long marveled at her tireless dedication to teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students as they learn, teach, and learn to teach Russian at all levels of mastery. Her teaching was characterized by patience, compassion, humor, warmth, and high expectations; she took genuine pleasure in her students' successes, and was the first to offer help when they encountered any sort of trouble, either inside or outside of the classroom. Never one to settle, or to let her students settle, Lilia was constantly improving her pedagogical craft, and pushing her students to explore opportunities within UVA and beyond. And, of course, Russian Tea and Conversation would not have been the same without her. I have many fond memories of her, but I think the moments I've treasured most were the simple chats in her office, discussing life and language and anything else over some tea and (it goes without saying) chocolates, perusing her incredible photography and book collections. Anyone who has worked with Lilia, or even spent



five minutes in her company, can agree that her retirement will leave a near-unfillable void both in the Slavic department and at UVA in general. She has definitely earned it, though! All the best to you, Lilia Safianovna, and may your retirement be "do skorogo" and not "do svidaniia".

Kat Thompson (Ph.D. 2015)

During nearly two decades of dedicated service to the University of Virginia, Lilia Saf'ianovna Travisano imparted her deep passion and knowledge of Slavic languages and cultures to hundreds of students. A devoted instructor, mentor, colleague, and friend, Lilia Saf'ianovna worked tirelessly to share insights and opportunities,

broaden imaginations, and advance diverse initiatives related to Russian-language acquisition, multicultural dialogue, and pedagogical excellence. She had a vested interest in the learning styles and research activities of every student. I have learned much from Lilia Saf'ianovna, and I have benefited from her encouragement, wisdom, and support.

In her capacity as the language coordinator of the Russian House, she made everyone feel welcome and encouraged to participate in group discussions and collaborative projects. Her

pisanki and *blini* were yearly favorites on Easter and Maslenitsa. A skilled photographer, she documented conferences, concerts, and cultural events. She diligently coordinated oral proficiency interviews, placement evaluations, and small study groups. To help students prepare for their exams, furthermore, she provided individual consultations to ensure that they adequately grasped concepts of Russian grammar, syntax, and semantics. Aside from supporting and overseeing Russian learning activities and questions of curricular design, Lilia

Saf'ianovna offered Tatar-language instruction to those with the curiosity and drive to pursue independent intellectual interests. I owe much to Lilia Saf'ianovna, and I have grown as a scholar and human being under her guidance and tutelage. She is the paradigm of intelligence, selflessness, and patience, and we are all fortunate to have worked beside her.

Michael Marsh-Soloway
(Ph.D. 2016)



Congratulations on your retirement!

See who came to visit

In **April 2016**, the Slavic Department hosted **Igor Fedyukin**, former Vice-Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (June 2012 – May 2013), Associate Professor and Director of the Center for History Sources at the National Research University – Higher School of Economics (Moscow), and Visiting Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Washington, DC). On April Prof. Fedukin spoke on “*Prozhektery: ‘Administrative Entrepreneurs’ and Modernization of Education in Russia from Peter the Great to Putin*” and conducted a seminar, “*Sex in the City that Peter Built: Libertinage and the Public Sphere.*”



Igor Fedyukin

In **October, 2016**, our Department and the Department of Classics hosted **Dr. Zara M. Torlone**, Professor of Classics at Havighurst Center for Russian and Post Soviet Studies, Miami University, Ohio. Prof. Torlone gave a talk, “*The Joy of Exile: Ovid in Pushkin’s, Mandelstam’s and Brodsky’s Poetry*” and conducted a *Professionalization workshop: “Teaching Literature.”*



Zara M. Torlone

In **November, 2016**, **Adrienne M. Harris** presented a talk, *Fighting the Fascists through Film: Soviet War Myths and Ukrainian Land on Post-Soviet Russian Screens*, and conducted a **Slavic Graduate Student Workshop “What You Can Do with Your Second Slavic Language.”** Adrienne Harris is Associate Professor of Russian at Baylor University. She publishes on Soviet collective memory of World War II, gender, heroism, soldiers’ memoirs, war poetry, and Czech film. She is currently drafting a monograph entitled *Martyr, Myth, and Memory: The Dynamic Image of Zoia Kosmodemianskaia, a Soviet Saint*. She was recently elected to the board of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies and she serves as the Vice President of SEEFA, the Slavic, East European and Eurasian Folklore Association.

Slavic Colloquium



Michael Marsh-Soloway

In the spring of 2015, we launched the Slavic Colloquium, a new forum for academic presentation and debate enhancing the spirit of intellectual community in the Slavic Department. Our faculty, graduate students (especially those working on their dissertations), as well as our graduate alumni, present their recent research projects and open them for general discussion, thus raising our awareness of and interest in the work of our colleagues and co-workers.

On February 19, 2016, **Michael Marsh-Soloway** talked at the Slavic Colloquium about *“The Development and Legacy of the Mathematical Imagination of F.M. Dostoevsky: Reconstructing the Education of the Novelist at the Main Engineering School, 1838-43.”* Soon thereafter, Michael defended his Ph.D. dissertation on Dostoevsky's uses of mathematics.

On March 23, 2016, **Dr. Kathleen Thompson** (our 2015 Ph.D.) presented a talk, *“Reader as Writer: Authorial Instruction in Margarita Meklina’s Short-Story Fiction.”*

Dr. Jill Martiniuk (our 2015 Ph.D.) and **Sarah McEleney** (formerly known as Sarah Bumpus, and currently working on her Ph.D. dissertation) talked, on April 22, 2016, about *“Using Digital Lesson Plans in the Russian Language Classroom.”*

On October 20th, 2016, **Reed Johnson** talked about the fiction of Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky (1887-1950), a Russian writer whose strange and phantasmagorical works were repressed and almost entirely unknown until the fall of the Soviet Union. In his talk for the Slavic Colloquium, *“Future Imperfect: Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky and the Time-Travel Narrative,”* Reed focused on one of these works, the science fiction novella *Memories of the Future*, discussing the work's historical and literary contexts.



Prof. Mark Elson and Dr. Maria Ivanova

On November 10, 2016, **Professor Mark Elson and Dr. Maria Ivanova** gave a presentation for the Slavic Colloquium, entitled *“An Analysis of the Meaning of the Conjunction a in Russian with Attention to Its Implications for Second Language Acquisition and Russian Language Pedagogy.”*

Polish Lecture Series



Piotr Kosicki

This series of public lectures and events is organized by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) and sponsored by the American Institute of Polish Culture. The events are also co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Corcoran Department of History and, occasionally, other institutions and departments. The speakers have, thus far, included, among others, former U.S. Ambassadors to Poland, Nicholas Rey and John Davis; former Polish Ambassador to the U.S. Przemysław Grudziński; eminent scholars, such as Piotr Wandycz, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Bogdana and John Carpenter, Ewa Thompson, John Micgiel, Timothy Snyder, Marci Shore, Clare Cavanagh, Beth Holmgren; writers, such as Adam Zagajewski, Krzysztof Koehler, Piotr Sommer, and Andrzej Stasiuk.

On April 7, 2016, the **Polish Lectures Series** hosted a screening of a documentary film **Kosciuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time**, followed by a Q&A session with the film's writer and director, **Alex Storozynski**. **Thaddeus Kosciuszko** fought for American independence and was decorated by George Washington with an Order of Cincinnati. Later, he led a Polish uprising against the Russian Empire. Thomas Jefferson called Kosciuszko "as pure a son of liberty, as I have ever known." Kosciuszko bequeathed his property for the emancipation and education of African-American slaves and named Jefferson the executor. After Kosciuszko's death, Jefferson walked away from this obligation. Kosciuszko's will was never enacted. This film, based on the book by Alex Storozynski, *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution* (St. Martin's Press, 2010), was

originally featured on PBS in October 2015.

Alex Storozynski is a former president and executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Also a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, he was an editorial board member at the *New York Daily News*, the founding editor of *amNewYork*, and a former city editor and contributing editor to the *The New York Sun*. Currently, he is Polish Chair of the Central European Institute at Quinnipiac University.



Alex Storozynski with Monika Grabowska – the author of a high-school paper on Kosciuszko and Jefferson, which won the 2015 Virginia History Day competition

2016 Graduation

This year our graduate students in **Slavic Languages and Literatures** and in **Contemporary Russian Studies** have done a great deal of fine work in which we take tremendous pride. We have a new PhD and three MAs.



Michael Marsh-Soloway and UVA President Teresa A. Sullivan

Michael Marsh-Soloway: PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures

Congratulations to Michael who defended his PhD dissertation during summer 2016! The title of his work is "The Mathematical Genius of F.M. Dostoevsky: Imaginary Numbers, Statistics, Non-Euclidean Geometry, and Infinity." Michael won the UVA Arts & Sciences Graduate Teaching Award as the best graduate student teacher in the humanities. Currently he is working instructional technology in the School of Arts and Sciences, while he goes on the job market. We wish Michael

the very best of good fortune as he presses forward in his career as Slavist!

Yining Sun: MA in



Yining Sun

Contemporary Russian Studies

Yining Sun has her BA from Renmin University in Beijing with a double specialization in Russian and International Economics and Trade. At the spring 2016 graduate student conference, "Into the Darkness," she delivered a talk, entitled "Doubly Guilty: Stalin, the Ukrainian Peasantry and the Great Famine of 1932-1933." In April she defended her MA thesis on "Russian Foreign Policy in Central Asia from 1991 to the Present." In the summer of 2016, Yining was an intern at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC.

Abigail Hohn: MA in Slavic

Languages and Literatures

Abigail has her BA in Russian and world literature from the University of West Virginia. Abby helped to produce last fall's super-successful Russian play, "The Crocodile." She is an avid conversationalist in Russian with anyone who wants to talk. Abby has the distinction of being one of a very few students to earn a high pass on her MA literature exam. Another highlight of Abby's year was her participation at this year's graduate student conference where she gave a talk on "Osip Mandel'stam's Bodies in Stone: The Dialectic of the Ephemeral and Permanence." This summer she had an American Councils grant to study Russian in St. Petersburg, where she also used a Slavic Languages and Literatures summer grant to start research on her Ph.D. dissertation.

Tierre Sanford: MA in Slavic Languages and Literatures

Tierre has her BA in Russian from Brigham Young. In the fall she acted in the Russian play, "The Crocodile." A co-organizer of this spring's collaborative grad student conference, Tierre gave a talk on "Women, Children, Humanity: Gender and Dehumanization in Tadeusz Borowski's 'This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen'." Tierre has been preparing for a dissertation on women's voices in the Holocaust as it played out on Soviet soil, spending the last year studying Yiddish and Polish. During the summer of 2016, Tierre had the

honor of being the first graduate in five years to win the very competitive State Department Critical Language Scholarship to study Russian in Nizhnii Novgorod. She also won a Slavic Languages and Literatures summer grant to start Ph.D. dissertation research while in Russia.

Graduation in Pictures



Kellianne Tomlinson



Laura Leddy



Thomas Fafara and Prof. Katia Dianina



Kellianne's hat



Others' hats



Upper row, from left to right: Prof. Mark Elson, Prof. Katia Dianina, Prof. Dariusz Tolczyk, Prof. Edith Clowes, Prof. Julian Connolly, Thomas Fafara, Benjamin Moody, Adam Sykes. Lower row, from left to right: Samantha Guthrie, Maria Bakatkina, Elsa Schieffelin, Laura Leddy, Malia Uehara, Maya David, Kellianne Tomlinson.

Congratulations

to the graduating class of 2016!

Maria Bakatkina
Brandon Bennett
Joseph Chong
Maya David
Thomas Fafara
Samantha Guthrie
Rebecca Kientz
Laura Leddy
Michael McConnell

Benjamin Moody
Elsa Schieffelin
Olivia Staff
Adam Sykes
Kellianne Tomlinson
Malia Uyehara
David Vorona
Anne Weidhaas

More to Celebrate

PHI BETA KAPPA

Our graduating majors, Rebecca Kientz, Benjamin Moody, Adam Sykes, and Anne Weidhaas were elected to the Beta Chapter of Virginia of Phi Beta Kappa. Congratulations!

As the oldest and most distinguished honor society in the country, Phi Beta Kappa offers membership to less than one percent of all undergraduates. Many of the leading figures in American history and culture have begun their careers with election to the society, including seventeen presidents of the United States. As a result, membership is a remarkable accomplishment, both for the student who achieves it and the faculty and staff whose support and guidance has led to this milestone.

Carrie B. Douglass President, Phi Beta Kappa Beta Chapter of Virginia



PERTZOFF PRIZE

Each year at graduation, the Department, in conjunction with the Center for Russian and East European Studies, awards the Pertzoff Prize to the 4th year student who has achieved the highest level of excellence in Russian and East European Studies. The award is in memory of Vladimir A. Pertzoff, Professor of Russian History.

This year's Annual Pertzoff Prize for the best academic achievement in the field of Russian Studies went to Samantha Guthrie and Benjamin Moody. Congratulations!

Interview with the Residents of the Russian House



In August 2016, students began living in the newly opened Russian House. It is located in the Shea House and offers students an opportunity to be immersed in an atmosphere of Russian culture and language, and it is a perfect chance for students in the Slavic Department to improve their reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills and gain cultural knowledge. Students are engaged in dinner conversations, and the language assistant organizes weekly language events as well

as other cultural events. So far there are three residents and one language assistant: Diana Renelt (2nd year), Katherine Motsko (3rd year), Kimberly Daw (2nd year) and Maria Bakatkina (graduate student). SLL@VA offers a short interview with the residents who share their experience living in the Russian House during the fall of 2016.

Why did you apply to live in the Russian House?

KM: I applied because I wanted

to improve my Russian speaking skills, and I believed that the immersive environment a language house provides would be the most effective way to learn.

KD: I applied because I love the Russian language and because I wanted to continue to improve my speaking abilities.

DR: I applied because I wanted to have a chance to speak Russian more regularly and I believed that this was the best way to do it.

MB: I saw it as a perfect opportunity to gain experience in teaching Russian language.

Do you like to live in the Russian House? Why?

DR: Yes, it is a perfect experience. Russian House is very helpful and enriching, I definitely will reapply and live here again.

KM: Yes, absolutely, I attribute my improvement in speaking skills to living here.

KD: I certainly do like living here. I feel like I learn a lot and I also enjoy the people I live with.

What kinds of events does your language assistant arrange for you?

KM: All kinds! We have movie nights, game nights, and arts and crafts nights, all of which are entirely in Russian. We always go to Russian Tea, we've arranged some field trips to museums, and we've even had a couple guest speakers come by.

KD: We do all sorts of things! We recently learned a famous Russian card game and watched a movie in Russian. We also cook together and make Russian dishes.

DR: We have movie nights where we watch Russian movies in Russian, games where we practice words or learn more about Russian culture, and also guest speakers that lecture us on varying topics while speaking

Russian.

MB: As a Language Assistant I try to organize as many events as possible and involve the residents not only in practicing Russian language, but also I introduce them to Russian culture, traditions, and customs. So, we watch movies, play games, cook famous Russian dishes, and celebrate main holidays together. In November we went together to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to see the Faberge collection as a brief introduction to Russian art.

What was the most interesting event for you so far?

DR: I really liked to cook *bliny* all together and then eating them too. It was fun and very fulfilling.

KM: My favorite event was painting *matryoshki*, hands down. It was one of the first cultural events we had, so it set the bar high for the events to follow.

KD: I enjoyed playing *Durak* (whom I was several times) and cooking together. I look forward to the many cultural events to come.

How frequently do you interact with faculty of the Slavic Department?

KM: I'm enrolled in several classes in the Slavic Department as a double major in English and Russian Language and Literature, but outside of class, I mostly see professors at Russian Tea. Drs. Maria Ivanova and Lilia Trivisano also came to Shea to

give really fascinating guest lectures about Russian language and culture.

DR: Given that I am a Russian and Eastern European Studies major and currently take multiple classes within the Department, I see many faculty members on a regular basis and also at events like Russian tea.

KD: I interact with faculty from the Slavic Department almost everyday. I am a Russian and Eastern European Studies major, so I take several classes in the Slavic Department. I also make an effort to attend Russian Tea.

MB: I try to bring as many faculty members as possible to Shea House. So far we have invited Professors Clowes, Ivanova, and Trivisano to share dinners with us and give short presentations, which were very informative and amusing. Recently Valeria Provotorova (a graduate student in the Slavic Department) joined us for dinner and played cards and Taboo with us, and all of us had a great time. Of course, I will continue inviting our professors to take part in events and celebrate holidays with us.

Having a little fun!



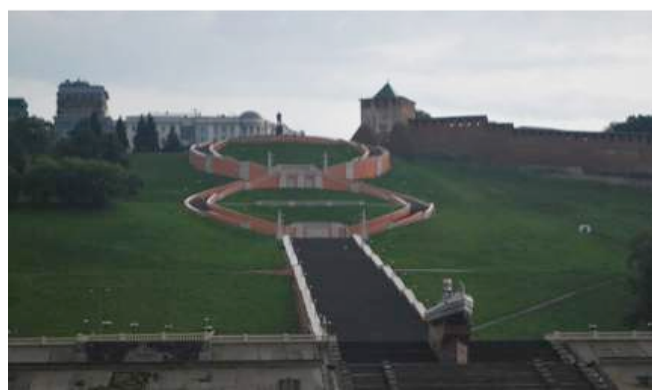
Undergraduate News

SUMMER IN RUSSIA: CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

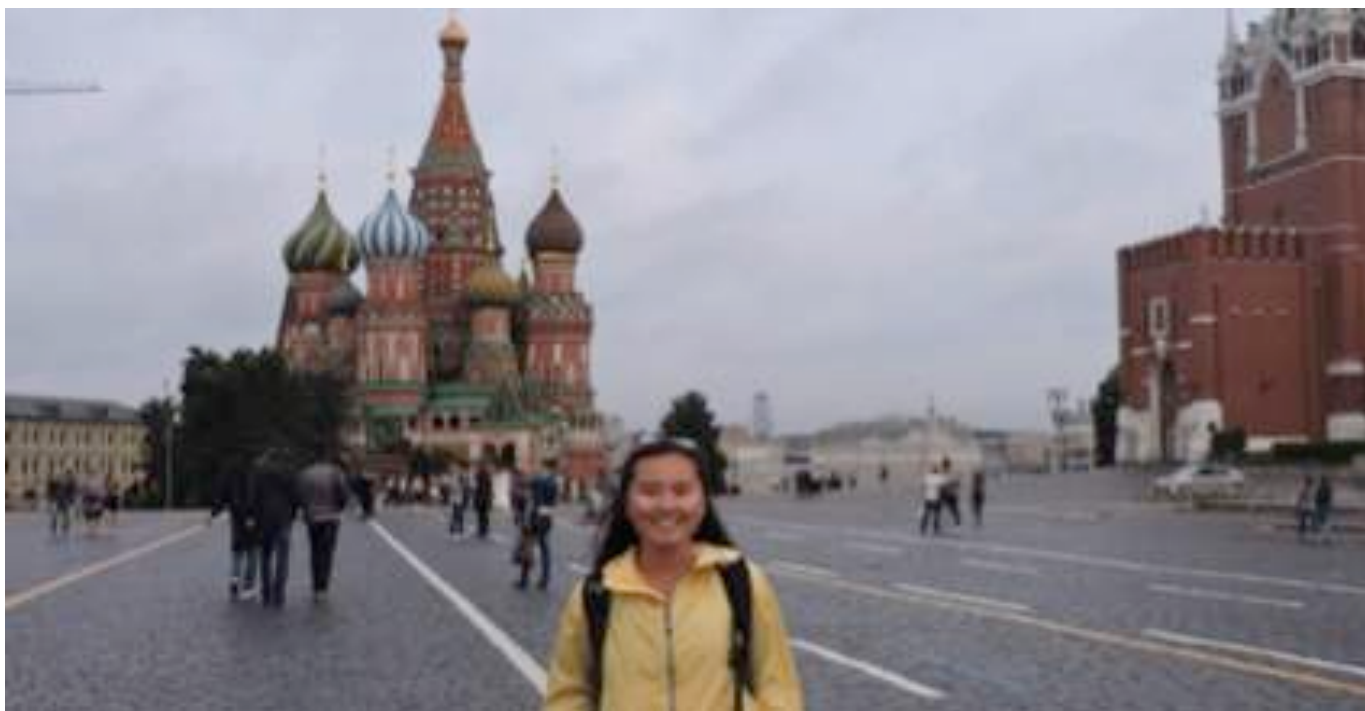
Tierre Sanford (graduate student in Slavic Languages and Literatures), and two of our undergraduate majors, **Kay Khosbayar** and **Adam Sykes**, won **Critical Language Scholarships** from the U.S. State Department to study Russian in Russia in the summer of 2016. Tierre earned an MA degree this summer and is now a PhD candidate in our Department. Kay is back in her third year of undergraduate studies. Adam graduated this year. He won a Harrison Undergraduate Research Award and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.



Tierre Sanford, Kay Khosbayar, and Adam Sykes in Kazan, Russia, summer 2016.



Nizhni Novgorod, overlooking the Volga River (photographed by Tierre Sanford)



Kay Khosbayar

My Very Russian Summer

by Kay Khosbayar

I first heard about the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) when Lilia Safianovna sent a mass e-mail to my Russian 1010 class. CLS is a fully funded summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. Fourteen languages deemed critical by the U.S. Department of State are offered through this program. To qualify for the Russian program, a student must have two years of prior classroom experience. I applied during the fall of my second year with the love and support of my family, friends, and professors in the Slavic Department. To be honest, I was very doubtful about my chances of getting the award, since it is known to be extremely competitive, and it was my first time applying. No UVA student from the Slavic department had received the award in the past few years, which did not alleviate my already-budding anxiety. Nevertheless, I clicked "submit" on the CLS website in November.

Then I waited. I patiently waited until I received an e-mail from CLS in late January that I was a semi-finalist. I couldn't believe it! Since I still had another round to go, I kept the excitement to myself. Then the waiting game started all over again. Finally, two days after my birthday in March as I was lying on the beach with my friends,

CLS gave me the ultimate present by accepting me into the program. I reread the same email over and over again just to make sure it was real. I was going to be in Russia for an entire summer!

In June, I arrived at Washington D.C. for a 2-day pre-departure orientation as a part of the requirement. There, for the first time, I met the 24 individuals who I'd spend the next 8 weeks with. The group was so diverse! We were a mix of undergraduates, graduate students, and Ph.D. candidates. We all came from different backgrounds and various corners of the country. It's also important to note that a total of four current and former UVA students were selected for the Russia 2016 program! Two had already graduated from UVA, the other is currently a Ph.D. candidate, and then there's me, the youngest of the UVA cohort. *Tierre Sanford*, the Ph.D. candidate, was actually my TA in my first Russian language class at UVA. I was extremely excited that we would be on this journey together.

The orientation consisted of alumni panels, guest speakers from the State Department, and blunt reminders of what we could and could not do in Russia as a foreigner. The one thing that scared me the most was that any one of us could be jailed or deported for volunteering during the duration of the program. It

got very real, very fast.

On the morning of our departure, there had been a mix up with the bus rental company. Instead of going to Dulles airport on a charter bus, we were escorted by a party bus with a mirror ball! I think this moment foreshadowed the mood for the next 8 weeks: fun, exciting, and definitely unpredictable.

After a 15-hour flight from Washington, D.C., I finally arrived to Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. This city is one of the largest in Russia and sits beautifully on the meeting point of the Oka and Volga Rivers. Although I was extremely jet-lagged, I was in Russia and nothing else mattered. Another bus (not a party bus much to my disappointment) took us to the university where our host families waited for our arrival. My host mom Tanya, a vibrant Russian woman, welcomed me into her arms as I stepped off the bus. I had a great first impression of her until she started speaking to me in Russian. She spoke so fast that I was terrified. I had barely learned how to form a proper sentence in my classroom in New Cabell Hall and suddenly I was expected to converse in Russian 24/7?! After the initial moment of panic, I reminded myself that this is what I signed up for and a lot of people believed in me to succeed. Tanya was a lively grandmother who lived with her 18-year-old,

black cat named Yasha. It was a one-bedroom apartment with a separate toilet and bath, a small kitchen, and no air conditioning. I slept in the living room on her couch-bed, which is very typical in Russia if you live in a small apartment. When I went to bed on my first night in Russia, I was completely unaware of how short the night was due to Russia's relatively northern location. That night, the sun set around 9 PM and rose at approximately 3 AM, precisely when I unexpectedly woke up from the glaring light through the windows. Every morning at 7:30 AM, Tanya and I ate breakfast, usually an open-faced sandwich (бутерброд as Russians like to call it) and tea. By 8:30 AM I was usually on a van-like minibus (маршрутка) on my way to class that started at 9 AM at Lobachevsky University. I had a wonderful Russian teacher, Marina, who taught my class about Russian grammar and syntax from 9-1:30 PM every day. After class, I went to the dining hall across the street for lunch. They served traditional Russian foods like red-beet soup (борщ) or Russian vegetable soup (щи) that I purchased every day for around 90 rubles (about \$1.20). Later in the afternoon were cultural excursions in the form of a lecture or trip to the local museum. My favorite excursion was our trip to the ornament factory where we learned how to make hand-made glass ornaments! In the evenings I would explore the city by visiting coffee shops, bars, and attend free concerts with a few friends or my language partner Alina. Alina is a recent graduate

from Lobachevsky University who was assigned as my language partner throughout the duration of the program. She had an important role in my overall experience in Russia. We'd meet three times a week so that I could practice my Russian with a native speaker as we visited the zoo or strolled down Bolshaya Pokrovskaya to people watch. When I'd come home for dinner, Tanya always had a hot meal and a pot full of chai ready on the table. Never in my life did I consume so much sour cream, dill, and tea like I did in Tanya's kitchen. Over dinner, Tanya and I would spend hours discussing life in Russia and America. She was appalled at the enormous price tag for university education in the U.S.! I, on the other hand, would sit in silence as she shared stories about her grandparents living under Stalin's regime. It was surreal to know that her stories were not examples in history books I was so used to reading for class. Tanya's stories gave me true insight on what it was like to live under terror and eventually how gruesome it was to abruptly adjust to the transition from socialism to capitalism in the 1990s. Her pain struck emotions as she spoke about her lived experiences were something I could never feel from lines out of a textbook. On the weekends, Tanya took me to the dacha where we relaxed in Russian banyas and enjoyed the company of her friends and family. It was usually a long night filled with songs and laughter with clinking shot glasses in the background. I learned that Russians highly value their down-time. My idea

of a weekend is to catch up on the work I didn't get to during the week. A Russian views the weekend as a time to leave the stress behind and spend irreplaceable time with their loved ones. As a result, I noticed that family relationships in Russia are a lot stronger than in the U.S.

In addition to classes and local excursions, CLS planned multiple-day trips to the city of Kazan and Moscow. We travelled to Kazan, the capital city of the Republic of Tatarstan, on a теплоход (motor ship) for three days on the Volga River. Kazan was a beautiful, historic city. Muscovy's journey to become the largest land empire started with the conquest of the Khanate of Kazan by Ivan IV in the 16th century. I tasted their famous dessert called chak-chak (чак-чак), a combination of deep-fried dough drenched in honey syrup. It was almost like biting into a Rice Krispy Treat but inexplicably better. We toured the kremlin of Kazan and went inside the Qolsarif Mosque, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (just like the Rotunda)! Strolling through the streets of Kazan made me realize that Russia truly has a multi-ethnic identity, and all the lectures from Professor Lynch and Yuri Urbanovich suddenly came to life before my eyes. In late July, we went on our trip to Moscow on a modern train. Although airplanes are much faster, Russians still continue to use the train if they can help it. I visited the Tretyakovskaya Gallery, Armory Chamber, and Red Square of course! When I saw St. Basil's Cathedral for the

first time, I was in awe. The heart of Moscow, architectural masterpiece, and symbol of the Russian nation towered over me in its greatness. Moscow itself is a very tourist-friendly city. The Moscow Metro definitely lived up to its name as the "palace of the people" and my dear old friend Starbucks was on every corner. My favorite place in Moscow was Victory Park (Парк Победы) where I found a monument of Russian, American, French, and British soldiers standing side-by-side after their victory over Hitler's Germany in WWII. I remembered that Professor Urbanovich showed my class a picture of this very monument to describe a period of friendly U.S.-Russian relations that no one likes to talk about. As I weaved through the park, I could feel Russia's pain of losing millions of its people against Napoleon and two world wars. A very heavy yet sobering moment

I will never forget.

There were definitely some rough times during my trip, which tested the boundaries of my strength. During my second week in Russia, my grandmother passed away after a long battle against cancer. I really wanted to give up, pack my bags, and fly home to America. However, I knew that my grandmother would be furious if I gave up on something I worked so hard to achieve. I decided to stay and finish what I started. My host mom, language partner, and friends from the program offered me support during this difficult time, which was more than what I could ever expect from people who I just met. To them I am forever thankful.

Looking back on this experience, I am happy I applied to CLS. Although I spent most of time sitting in a classroom, I learned the most from interacting with my host mom, other

students, and exploring Russia on my own. My Russian language naturally got better each day and I adopted Russian norms pretty easily. Russia is a rich country with a unique history and hospitable culture. My host mom called me her "American daughter" and opened her home to me unconditionally. The Russians I met throughout my trip were genuinely interested in learning about America and most of them dream of living and working in the States one day. Studying abroad has improved my academic experience here at UVA. When I sit in class and learn about Russian history, culture, and language, I have my own experiences to complement the material. I highly recommend anyone to apply to CLS or study abroad, because holistic learning is not limited to the classroom.

Meeting the President of Poland in Washington, D.C. by Kasia Nielsen

In March 2016, a few months before the Warsaw NATO Summit, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend, with twenty nine other American college students and young professionals, a Youth Dialogue with President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, in Washington D.C. The focus of the meeting was to expand communication with young Polonia (Polish diaspora), and encourage us to cultivate our background and educate our peers in Polish history and Polish-American relations.

As the student representative from the University of Virginia, I gave President Duda a token of appreciation for his visit to the U.S. – my UVA 2016 graduation cap decorated with the name of our own Thomas Jefferson and his Polish friend, Tadeusz Kościuszko, representing the continuation of a strong relationship between the United States and Poland.

Kasia Nielsen graduated in May 2016 with a BA in Foreign Affairs and Russian and Eastern European Studies from the University of Virginia



Graduate News

The Society of Slavic Graduate Students

by Sarah McEleney, President of the Society of Slavic Graduate Students



SSGS apple-picking event. From left to right: Elizabeth Austin, Tierre Sanford, Madelyn Stuart, Sarah McEleney, Mark Wayne, Sharisa Aidukaitis, and her husband, Bryce Aidukaitis.

During the 2015-2016 academic year the Society of Slavic Graduate Students (SSGS) participated in numerous activities. The main achievement of SSGS during the spring semester was the participation in the Pan-European Language Conference, held in conjunction with other academic departments at UVA in April of 2016. SSGS also engaged in extra-curricular

activities, such as dinners at various restaurants, and the October event of apple picking at Carter's Mountain Orchard (pictured). Apple picking was so enjoyed that there was talk of making it an annual event. Additionally, in November SSGS participated in an online, multimedia event hosted by the North American Dostoevsky Society called #TheDoubleEvent,

in which numerous universities screened Richard Ayoade's 2014 film adaptation of Dostoevsky's *The Double*. The 2015-2016 academic year was a good one for SSGS, and activities that were discussed but never came into being are already being planned for the current academic year.

New Graduate Students



Alexandra Shapiro joined the PhD program in Slavic Languages and Literatures as a Jefferson Fellow. Sasha received her BA from Dickinson College in Russian and cum laude in philosophy in spring 2015. Her interests include the intersection between literature and medical ethics. As an undergraduate she published a paper on Soviet psychiatric hospitals. During summer 2016 Sasha studied German in Berlin.



Samantha Guthrie, Maria Bakatkina, and Elsa Scheffelin graduated in Spring 2016 with BA degrees in Russian and East European Studies. They are back at UVA. Samantha studies at Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. Maria and Elsa are completing their 4+1 MA degrees in the Slavic Department.



Maria Bakatkina is a graduate student at the University of Virginia studying Slavic languages and literature (4+1 MA Program). She was born and raised in Kaluga, Russia. There she graduated from the Russian Law Academy of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation in 2009. She practiced civil law for three years and worked for Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Russian State Centre of Inventory and Registration of Real Estate -- the Federal Bureau of Technical Inventory." She received a Federal Work and Study Graduate Award and continues to gain experience as a research assistant in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Maria is the

Russian Language Assistant for the newly opened Russian House in Shea House. She also teaches Russian Intermediate Conversation at UVA, and recently organized an undergraduate and graduate student trip to Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to visit the Faberge collection. Moreover, she arranges biweekly events for the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, "Russian Tea and Conversation," and prepared a New Year performance of a play *Сильное Чувство* by Ilf and Petrov. For her MA thesis, she is concentrating on Russian iconography and Russian medieval art and literature.



Elsa Schieffelin is a student in the Slavic Department pursuing a masters in Russian literature. She is a recent graduate of the University of Virginia with a BA in Eastern European Studies. During her undergraduate career, she studied Russian and Polish, participated in several Russian plays, and wrote a thesis on Solovyov's theory of love in connection with Margarita Morozova and Evgeny Trubetskoy. She has also spent summers abroad studying Russian in St. Petersburg and in Bishkek.

More Graduate News



Abigail Hohn is in her third year in the doctoral program in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Virginia. In the spring, she completed coursework and exams for an MA. During the summer, Abigail joined about a dozen Russian language teachers at the high school and college levels in the American Councils Russian Language Teachers Program. They spent six weeks at the Herzen Pedagogical University in Saint Petersburg, where they refined their Russian skills, discussed language pedagogy, participated in cultural activities, and gathered materials and realia to incorporate in the Russian classroom.



Reed Johnson is working as a teaching assistant for 3rd year Russian with Professor Maria Ivanova, and is glad to be back in the department and Charlottesville. This past year he was a visiting writer at Salem College, teaching a special January-term course in fiction writing, and his novel-in-progress, set during the final months of the Soviet Union, was awarded second place out of more than six hundred manuscripts in the James Jones First Novel competition; he's currently revising the manuscript. This year he also worked on literary translation, including three full-length Russian screenplays commissioned by a Moscow-based production company (one script is by Vladimir Sorokin), and hopes to tackle a novel translation in the coming year. During the spring, he spent a total of nearly two months in writing residencies at the Hambidge Center in the mountains of Georgia and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA) in Amherst, Virginia. His dissertation topic is the fiction of Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky (1887-1950). In October, Reed was fortunate to

attend a symposium on Krzhizhanovsky held at the Indiana University in Bloomington, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on the author's fiction. He's looking forward to further developing his dissertation research with advisor Professor Julian Connolly and other members of his committee.



Sarah McEleney received a FLAS scholarship to attend the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute, where she took the language course Ukrainian for Reading Knowledge and also learned about Ukrainian culture and history.

More Graduate News



In May 2016, Tierre Sanford earned her Masters Degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures, and is currently working toward her PhD. Tierre—along with UVa’s Adam Sykes and Kay Khosbayar—received a Critical Language Scholarship for Russian and spent the summer of 2016 in Nizhny Novgorod. She lived with a host family in Russia and spent each morning at Lobachevsky University studying Russian. She and her language partner also spent hours at museums, the zoo, cafes, parks, and churches. Tierre was also able to travel to other Russian cities such as Vladimir, Suzdal’, Gorodets, Semenov (pictured above) and Moscow, and took a river cruise to Kozmademiansk, Cheboksary, and Kazan’. Tierre also received a Slavic Languages and Literatures Summer Research Grant and a Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies. She recently attended the 66th annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, where she presented a paper entitled, “Reclaiming the Monument: Soviet Poetic Pleas and Post-Soviet Sculptural Responses.” Tierre is excited to be back at UVA for the 2016-2017 school year and is currently working as a TA of second year Russian.

Graduate Students:

Sharisa Aidukaitis
Valeria Provotorova
Elizabeth Austin
Tierre Sanford
Maria Bakatkina
Elsa Schieffelin
Abigail Hohn

Alexandra Shapiro
Reed Johnson
Madelyn Stuart
Anna Maxwell
Viktoria Vutova
Sarah McEleney
Lisa Pisani

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Slavic Graduate Students at the Pan-European Conference “Into the Darkness”

This past spring, the Slavic Languages and Literatures graduate students in conjunction with graduate students in the German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Music Departments held a pan-European conference titled “Into the Darkness” at the University of Virginia from April 1-3, 2016.

This inter-disciplinary conference examined topics like the occult, the subconscious, mortality and illness, darkness in the natural world, and the abyss. The conference was well attended and included international graduate students, who came from Germany and the Czech Republic to present.

Among the presenters, “Into the Darkness” also included many graduate students from the Slavic department. Their names and papers are listed below:

Sarah Bumpus (McEleney), “The Depiction of Cultural Transition in Boleslaw Prus’ *The Doll* and Turgenev’s *Fathers and Sons*”

Sharisa Aidukaitis, “Poems of Grieving Parents: Kochanowski’s *Laments* and Akhmatova’s *Requiem*”

Abigail Hohn, “Osip Mandel’stam’s Bodies in Stone: The Dialectic of the Ephemeral and Permanence”

Mark R. Wayne, “Movement and Poetic Meter in the *Zhivago* Cycle of Boris Pasternak”

Valeria Provotorova, “Light in Darkness: the Battle of Humanity and Inhumanity in Tadeusz Borowski’s *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*”

Elizabeth Austin, “Vorkuta: A GULAG Town”

Yining Sun, “Double Guilty: Stalin, the Ukrainian Peasantry and the Great Famine 1932-1933”

Tierre Sanford, “Women, Children, Humanity: Gender and Dehumanization in Tadeusz Borowski’s *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*”

Samantha Guthrie, “South Ossetia’s Final Generation: The Fallout of Alliance with Russia”

Faculty and Staff News



Edith Clowes: 2016 was an interesting year for Professor Edith Clowes. She was gratified that a joint book project of 4 1/2 years' duration, *Area Studies in the Global Age: Community, Place, Identity*, finally appeared with Northern Illinois University Press. The editors, Shelly Jarrett Bromberg (Latin American Studies, Miami U.) and Professor Clowes, define the "global" not as a general model to be applied to all cultures but as a mosaic made of the local and regional. Combining authors from seven different disciplines and four world areas, they hope that this book will help students of both area and global studies see how to do "interdisciplinary" research, using various humanist and social science methodologies to answer urgent questions about various cultures of the world. This fall Professor Clowes led two roundtables and workshops on teaching the new area studies.

In July one of the publications from the 2015 Russia's Regions conference at UVA appeared. A special number of *Region*, titled "Centrifugal Forces? Russia's Regional Identities and Initiatives," contains five articles, two on Siberia, one each on Buriatia, the North Caucasus and Chechnya, and Crimea, together with an introduction by Professor Clowes.

Julian Connolly had several articles published in the 2015-2016 academic year. They include: "Fetching yet faithless: problematic mistresses in Nabokov's fiction," in *Women in Nabokov's Life and Art*, edited by Nailya Garipova and Juan José Torres Nuñez (Bern: Peter Lang, 2016), 123-40; "Good Writer, Bad Reader?: Nabokov's Lectures on Dostoevsky," in *Nabokov and the Question of Morality: Aesthetics, Metaphysics, and the Ethics of Fiction*, edited by Susan Elizabeth Sweeney and Michael Rodgers (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), 31-47; and "Nabokov's Biography," in *Critical Insights Lolita*, edited by Rachel Stauffer (Ipswich, MA: Grey House Publishing / Salem Press, 2016), 18-23.

He also gave presentations at two international conferences: "The 'Eyes Have It': The Pleasures and Problems of Scopophilia in Nabokov's Work" at the International Conference on Vladimir Nabokov, Biarritz, France, April 2016; and "'It was I who killed the old woman and her sister...': Modes of Confession in *Crime and Punishment*" at the XVI Symposium of the International Dostoevsky Society, Granada, Spain, June 2016.

Finally, Professor Connolly was awarded the Richard Stites Senior Scholar Award by the Southern

Conference on Slavic Studies at their annual meeting in March 2016.

Last fall, **Katia Dianina** was lucky to participate in an international conference on museums in Florence, Italy. As a result of this productive forum, she prepared for publication a new article, "The Ruin and Restoration of the Russian Art Empire," for *Collecting and Empires* volume, which is coming out later this year. In October, she gave a lecture at JMU, "Fabergé Lost and Found: The Return of Cultural Treasures in Post-Soviet Russia." In the spring, her article, "Фаберже – это наше все!" Риторика возрождения русского культурного наследия," is scheduled to appear in *NLO*. She hopes that, with the return of the VMFA Fabergé collection to Richmond this fall, this research would be of interest to many fans of Russian art. In the meantime, she continues working on her new project on the "holy island" Valaam. Teaching last year and this fall has been the most rewarding experience. Katia Dianina appreciates the intellectual vitality of our graduate students, which makes even a seminar on medieval literature a truly gratifying and enjoyable experience. Delving into the depths of Russian language and culture with our advanced language students is a wonderful opportunity, which she

always cherishes. Sincere thanks to our graduate and undergraduate students for their dedication, curiosity, and love of all things Russian!

These past two years have also presented Dianina with new “adventures” in Academia: she has served on the selection committee for the AATSEEL’s best book in literature and culture prize and as a reviewer for the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships. It is a wonderful privilege (and a lot of hard work!) to read both the innovative work in progress by some of the best students in our field and to admire the results of major scholarly pursuits in the form of completed publications.

Mark Elson gave a paper entitled “On the Origin of Columnar Stress in the Imperfect Subjunctive of Italian” at the Mar12016 Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, April 14, 2016, and a paper entitled “The Systemic Relationship Among the Conjunctions *no*, *a*, and *i* in Contemporary Standard Russian” at the 2016 Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, James Madison University, October 14, 2016. In addition, the Russian Summer Language Institute, directed by Professor Elson, was, as it has been for over thirty years, a success. The enrollment was 10, and 5 of the 10 entered RUSS 3010 this semester. Once again we proved that it really can be done (2 years of Russian from the beginning in 8.5 weeks). In fact, the Russian enrollments were second only to Spanish. It required a team effort: Anna Maxwell and Madelyn Stuart deserve much credit for helping to make the 2016 Institute a success.

David Herman was on leave during

the '15-'16 academic year, working on his book on love and the paradoxes of virtue in Tolstoy. The book is tentatively entitled *Love in Tolstoy: Innocence, Intimacy, Selflessness*, though the project has grown so large it may be split into several volumes.

His article on the Joe Wright-Keira Knightley film version of *Anna Karenina* (2012), came out in a special edition of *Tolstoy Studies Journal* organized around the theme “*Anna Karenina* from the 21st Century.” A loosely related shorter piece, “Wright's Wrongs: Filming and Failing *Anna Karenina*” appeared on “All the Russias” blog of the NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia.

Maria Ivanova presented her research at the ASEES Convention (Philadelphia), the American Historical Association Annual Meeting (Atlanta), the Medieval Slavic Workshop (Los Angeles), Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (Tuscaloosa), and Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting (Boston). Her publications are forthcoming with *The Slavic Review*, *The Catholic Historical Review*, and *The Polish Review*. In 2016, she joined the Research group in Early Modern Religious Dissents and Radicalism (EMoDiR) and was elected to the executive council of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies.

John Lyles and his wife Galina (not necessarily in this order) had a baby, as we all know: 9 lbs, 10 oz



boy named Jonathan Nikita (Nikita is after his grandfather, who fought

in WWII and who died a week before Jonathan's birth). He was born May 4th. “I think that's the biggest thing going on in our lives,” John says, and we all know what he means.

Dariusz Tolczyk is working on a book exploring Western responses to Stalin's crimes. His book in Polish, *Gulag w oczach Zachodu* (The Gulag Under Western Eyes) received an award in Poland from the National Program for the Advancement of the Humanities. Also in Poland, he was invited to collaborate with the newly-established Witold Pilecki Center for Totalitarian Studies. Currently, he is about to publish his article, “Відкриття Архіпелажу” (The Discovery of the Archipelago) in the Ukrainian journal, *Критука* (Krytyka). He continues to serve on the International Board of Reviewers of *Studia Polityczne* (journal of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences) and on the editorial board of *Gulag Studies*. This year at UVA, Professor Tolczyk served on the Jefferson Fellows Graduate Selection Committee and the Summer Faculty Research Grants Committee. He also helped to coordinate and moderate the Polish Speakers Series, and organized the Slavic Colloquium (please read more about both programs in this Newsletter).



Gina Hutton and her family added a new member to their

family in December. His name is Duke. He is a Black Chihuahua.

Alumni News

Samantha Guthrie



Interview:

<http://batten.virginia.edu/school/news/student-profile-samantha-guthrie>

Alexis Robertson



Alexis Robertson (now Myers), 2012 Russian Studies and Russian Literature graduate, was married in September 2016. She and her husband reside in

Arlington, VA. Alexis would love to catch up with anyone visiting Washington, DC. She can be contacted at alexandrafmyers13@gmail.com.

Jill Martiniuk

Jill Martiniuk (PhD 2015) is currently a Writing Fellow in the English Department at the University of Houston. She teaches First Year Writing I and II. Her current research focuses on interpretations of grief in 20th century Russian literature and visual arts.

Karolina Lovejoy (MA, Russian Literature 2012)

GREETINGS FROM THE GLOBAL VILLAGE



My name is Karolina Lovejoy and I am a former graduate student (MA) at the Slavic Department and a current

resident of two realities: real and virtual, European and American. I know that everyone shares that experience to a degree but for

me living on the border of two realities became my prime environment. I have lived in Poland for the last four years and have worked as a virtual foreign language teacher for three years now. Both academies that I have worked for are located in the state of Utah: Utah Military Academy and Athenian eAcademy. My workplace is in the living room in the tiny village of Zagnansk located by the Polish city Kielce. From there I teach four languages for the American academies, overcoming the huge geographical distance between me and my students thanks to the technology, and overcoming the 8-hour time difference thanks to

my determination because I love what I do.

This is how it works in practice. My weekdays are marked by different languages: Monday is Russian, Tuesday is Spanish, Wednesday is French and Thursday is German. It even feels more like “Russian” than like “Monday” to me. Time becomes relative when you work on crossing different time zones. Last year I was starting classes at 10.30 pm and that was not a bad schedule for a mom of two young daughters. They were already in a deep sleep when their mom was “entering” the Utah classroom to meet the 15 cadets eager to learn one of the “critical” languages and have a head start in their military career. It is not easy to teach Cyrillic alphabet, French spelling, German grammatical rigor or Spanish fluency over the Internet. But it is possible and it is empowering. At some point in my life I came to the conclusion that I am European and not American. I went from the United States back to Poland only to conclude after a while that I am both: Europe alone was not enough anymore. It is the fate of many people who leave the comfort of their homelands and immerse themselves in different cultures, different mindsets. If that immersion is long and deep enough there is no going back to the pure, original state. And so I started to look for places and arrangements that would allow me to reconcile both worlds – European and American. British Isles seemed to be a logical choice at first but it didn’t meet

that expectation after all and intensified my determination to find a better solution. It was when I was working near London that I applied for a job that involved teaching foreign languages to students in Utah. I got that job after only one phone call when the interviewer found out that I am qualified not only to teach four languages but also ESL and social studies. And this is how started my life adventure of being “in between”, being a bridge--a little bit here and a little bit there.

My day starts twice – I have two mornings: Polish mornings when my daughters wake up to go to school and American mornings when I switch to the other time zone and start following the developments, emails and questions from the Academy. For the most part it is exactly what I was looking for--the dream came true, didn’t it? The difficult moments occur when I realize that there is no place where I belong completely and unconditionally but that state might be unattainable nowadays anyways. So even though I sometimes feel like Underground (Wo)Man: somewhat isolated, questioning the customary logic of a traditional schedule and life adjusted to the rhythm of the nearest environment, I greatly enjoy the fact that I am able to linguistically educate a section of global village from my Polish village. I appreciate the fact that being in two worlds at the same taught me to function in the “In-Between World” that has its own unique characteristics.

Recently I am starting to discover

that being “in-between” is becoming my natural habitat where I learned to thrive and so I enrolled in a joint Polish-French PhD doctoral program where my dissertation is split between two advisers and I try to graciously reconcile two, often different approaches of my professors and create something more valuable than a simple sum of two parts. Recently one of my academies realized that being virtual expands opportunities and asked me to be their European Director responsible for developing the online program for the European students. And so here I am between my two bilingual daughters--a living proof that two worlds can generate something different than a traditional sum (you were right Underground Man!) and that the power of foreign languages should never be underestimated.

The author will be grateful for remarks and feedback:

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LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Slavic Team at University of Virginia Launches New “Russian Virginia” Website

In September a Slavic digital humanities team announced the official launch of “Russian Virginia,” a new website highlighting all things Russian in the state of Virginia. Maria Bakatkina, Professor Edith Clowes, and Dr. Kathleen Thompson have been working since winter 2016 to make this project a reality. “Russian Virginia” (www.russianvirginia.com) includes information on locations and Russian-related events such as high schools, colleges and universities, clubs, restaurants, food stores,

museums, Eastern Orthodox churches, and cultural sites. One of its special features is an interactive map marking all these locations.

The team hopes that this site will provide students, researchers, and the wider public with a deep and comprehensive knowledge not only of Russian culture but, more importantly, of the culture in their immediate and neighboring communities. On a broader note, we hope to inspire our colleagues and their students in other states across the U.S. to create, or build on, similar

digital initiatives to create a nationwide network of Russian cultural resources. This nationwide network—which would include a full interactive map with Russian events and sites in each state—would be a real celebration of the Russian contribution to life in the U.S. and would be a step toward visualizing exactly how richly multicultural our society is.

Currently Kat Thompson is the web manager for the site. She welcomes any and all comments and submissions.

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