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Editors: Dariusz Tołczyk and Valeria Provotorova



SLL@VA

The Newsletter of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Virginia

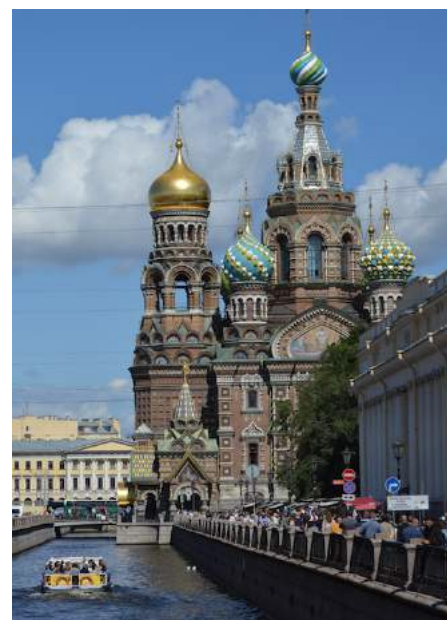
## Note from the Chair

Professor David Herman

It's been an eventful year. By almost any standards UVA Slavic is thriving.

The most exciting change has been the hiring of Anna Borovskaya-Ellis as our new language pedagogue, replacing our beloved Lilia Travisano, who is very happily retired and can be seen at departmental events with a huge relaxed smile on her face. Anna hit the ground running and is teaching first-, third-, and fifth-year Russian as well as training our graduate

students in language pedagogy. Her third-year course is bursting at the seams with 27 people - I believe the largest language class in a single section at UVA. Instructor Stan Stepanic's Dracula course has almost 1000 students a semester trying to take it. That's right, a thousand, though there is room for only 200 to 300 each fall and spring. Last I checked, Stan is also listed as one of UVA's top instructors by student vote on [Ratemyprofessors.com](http://Ratemyprofessors.com). Stan



(Continued)

uses innovative methods that make class something like a TED talk.

But a similar pattern can be seen in our courses as a whole. The department's enrollments are the strongest in the languages when measured per section and per teacher. Huge languages like Spanish of course have more students in total than we do but not as many per class or professor. Spanish, French, and Slavic between them have seven courses of over 25 people; six are in Slavic.

I myself am on leave this spring, working on my large, long-term Tolstoy books (which anyone who has taken literature with me in any form will have seen pieces of in class). The project looks at children's innocence, intimacy, and selfless Christian love in Tolstoy's fiction, and argues for tragic dimensions of his joyful work that are not really recognized. I gave two conference talks this year from the project. One was on the cold love and the heartbrokenness of Tolstoyan Christianity. The second was on Tolstoy's orphans and argued Tolstoy draws striking distinctions between characters who have mothers and those who do not, with all of the

standard Tolstoyan traits like moral questing, a thirst for God or higher meaning, and the rejection of social conventions belonging to the orphans alone.

We have just begun collecting our first donation-supported fund for students studying abroad. The idea is to offer undergrads small stipends to help defray the cost of their programs – the goal is to get more of them abroad, where they can have life-changing experiences. I myself studied in the Soviet Union when I was a junior in college in 1982, and though the classes were not always top-notch, I learned more than any semester in my education by far - about life, about alien cultures, about my own culture, about political systems, about myself, about hot water for showers, about what the word "crowded" really means, about publicly shared glasses for Russian kvas.

Our experience at UVa suggests that when students go, they consistently love it. But it remains a little hard to persuade people to take the plunge in the first place. We are hoping this fund, once it is up and running, will get some more of them over the hump. If you'd like to contribute, it's a truly



Professor David Herman

worthy cause - and may make a lasting difference in a young person's life, taking them out of their comfort zone and pushing them to confront the diversity of the wide world up close.

Best wishes for a great 2018 to all our alums and friends.

David Herman

Chair



## Getting to Know You:

### A One-on-One Interview with Professor Anna Borovskaya-Ellis

Prof. Borovskaya-Ellis received her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from the Philology Department at Herzen State Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg, Russia. After moving to the United States, she completed a MA at the University of Missouri and PhD in Slavic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During her graduate programs she gained extensive experience in teaching language, literature, history, and culture. Anna's language teaching is influenced by her work for the Russian Flagship Program at UW, her training as an ACTFL-certified Oral Proficiency Interview tester, and her long-standing interest in the scholarship of methodology and educational psychology. She has taught in multiple countries to people of various age groups, economic backgrounds and religions. She appreciates diversity in her classroom and maintains a welcoming atmosphere that allows all students to share their diverse

experiences. Anna will be teaching different levels of Russian and Methods of Teaching Slavic Languages.

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

I was born and grew up in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was Leningrad then. The majority of my family came from a town near Ladoga Lake, called Pasha. And it is believed that among my ancestors were Poles, Veps and Roma. All summers I spent in Pasha swimming in the river and berry picking. I loved the outdoors and would seize every opportunity to join my uncle on a walk through the forest or a fishing trip. My uncle had a beautiful voice and played the bayan. Folk music in general and Russian folk music in particular became one of my greatest passions. I learned how to play the bayan and for a short while played in the Russian Folk Orchestra in Madison, WI.

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**SLL@VA: How do you spend your time when you are not teaching?**

My other passion has always been travelling. I grew up listening to my cousin's stories about his international journeys and dreamt of my own adventures. When I was 21 years old I spent a semester in South Korea, studying Korean. After getting my MA in Education, I spent a year in India, working for a UNICEF affiliated NGO Women's Coalition for Peace and Development with Dignity. After that I spent a little bit over a year teaching in Manizales, Colombia. Afterwards I went to Suzhou, China, where I lived for about a year, until I came to the USA. So, whenever I have a chance I try to go somewhere in the US, Russia or other countries. When there is some free time, I love to go to the theater, attend ballets, operas and concerts. Since I moved to the US, I especially enjoy hiking and camping. I especially enjoy hiking and camping with my husband, our son and our one-year old husky. We also enjoy spending time downtown.

**SLL@VA: What is your favorite:**

**Food:** I love Korean and Indian food, and all sorts of seafood. Soups, pancakes, caviar and various dishes with mushrooms – especially the traditional Russian ones – are my favorite.

**Color** – green.

**Plant** – Espeletia.

**Work of literature** – *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann

**Work of art** - Henry Rousseau, *In a Tropical Forest: Fight Between a Tiger and a Bull*

**Movie:** *Talk to Her* by Pedro Almadovar

**Piece of music:** *Vorob'inaia oratoria* by Sergei Kurekhin.

**Place:** Shuvalovskii Park in St. Petersburg

**Experience:** Watching butterflies in Colombian forests and exploring India and China on top of Enfield.

**SLL@VA: Most touching thing that has ever happened to you:**

There are too many. But this one I remember a lot. A string of beads (a necklace) that had a big sentimental value to me fell apart on the side of a busy road in New Delhi. The beads flew in all directions. I tried to salvage them one by one, picking each bead in a split second every time there would be no bus, car, motorcycles or a rickshaw flying by. I felt very embarrassed and thought people around me probably thought I was absolutely crazy. When I looked around I saw others doing the same – trying to salvage little beads from under the wheels of the rushing transport.

**SLL@VA: What achievements make you most proud?**

I am especially proud of becoming a head teacher at Pushkin Summer Institute. The UW-Madison Pushkin Summer Institute is an intensive, six-week residential pre-college program that introduces outstanding high school students (predominantly of Latino heritage) from Chicago Charter schools to Russian language and culture through the life and works of Russian national poet Aleksander Sergeevich Pushkin. I am proud to be a part of their personal and professional growth that thanks to PSI becomes connected to Russian language and culture.

(Continued)

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

Charlottesville is a very beautiful city, full of parks and gorgeous nature walks. Also, it is very close to many spectacular vistas and camping grounds.

**SLL@VA: What do you love best about the UVa?**

I really enjoy my time with my colleagues and my students. Apart from my professional development, these relationships help me to feel more at home in the US. I discover a lot of new things about the city as well as American culture in general when I learn about their lives and interests. Also, UVa has such a beautiful campus. I love having lunch in the gardens, or grading at the Rotunda.

**What advice would you give UVA students?**

Treasure and appreciate your time at the university and back up your theoretical knowledge with real experiences. Travel and live in different places abroad. Take advantage of your study abroad programs as well as such organizations as AIESEC that helps you to find interesting traineeships and meet new people from all over the world.



## Graduation 2017 in Pictures



2017 Bachelors of Arts graduating from the Slavic Department. From left to right: Prof. Mark Elson, Prof. Katia Dianina, Prof. Julian Connolly, Prof. Edith Clowes, Mitchell Cleary, Madina Gazieva, Jacob Cash, Tatyana Windsor, Partick Bond, Carl Liles, Kira Guth, Alexander Moree, Hannah Southall, Grey Davenport, Sarah Schlichting, Rebecca Leary, Prof. David Herman.  
Congratulations!

# Graduation 2017 in Pictures



Left: Tatiana Windsor and Professor Edith Clowes



Right: Jacob Cash with his family



Left: Michael Drash with his mother



Right: Patrick Bond with his family

## Graduation 2017 in Pictures



2017 Masters of Arts graduating from the Slavic Department. From left to right: Prof. Mark Elson, Prof. Katia Dianina, Valeria Provotorova, Elizabeth Austin, Lisa Pisani, Prof. Julian Connolly, Sharissa Aidukaitis, Prof. David Herman, Elsa Schieffelin, Prof. Edith Clowes, Maria Bakatkina. Congratulations!



## Graduation 2017 in Pictures



From the top left to the bottom right: Valeria Provotorova, Patrick Bond and Elsa Schieffelin; Elsa Schieffelin with her family; Maria Bakatkina with her family, Elizabeth Austin with her family, Sharisa Aidukaitis with her husband, Madelyn Stuart, and Sarah McEleney, Lisa Pisani with her father.

## Graduation 2017 in Pictures



In 2017, Viktoria Basham (née Vutova) defended her dissertation, "The *Rusalka* and the Quest for Romantic Love in the Poetic Works of Aleksandr Pushkin, Mikhail Lermontov, and Vasily Zhukovsky," and earned her PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures. She joined the Modern Languages Faculty at Hampden-Sydney College. Vicky teaches Russian Language at elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels as well as courses in Global Cultures.

Congratulations!

## Conferences, Talks, Guests, and Events

### 2017 UVa Slavic Graduate Forum



On March 31-April 1, 2017, the University of Virginia Society of Slavic Graduate Students hosted an interdisciplinary forum *RE:Constructions, Memory and Imagination*. The forum was devoted to the intersections of memory and imagination. Traditional applications of the terms memory and imagination have emphasized a barrier between the concepts based on the premise of accuracy. However, cognitive scientists have demonstrated that the same neural processes underlie both memory and imagination. Memories are as much constructs as imagination. Despite the seeming differences between memory and imagination, they both affect every sphere of human experience and endeavor. In this forum, speakers from a variety of fields will explore the role of memory and imagination in

literature, history, art, linguistics, and identity.

The forum was organized by the Society of Slavic Graduate Students at UVA and sponsored by Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the French Department, the McIntire Department of Art, and the Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation. Masha Gessen's talk co-sponsored by CREEES, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGS), the Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation, the Department of English, the Corcoran Department of History, and the Department of Media Studies.

Keynote speakers:  
Maria "Masha" Gessen – a Russian

journalist, author, and political activist; contributor to *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The Washington Post*; author of groundbreaking books on Russian politics, society, culture, and history. For more information see speaker's bio at [www.prhspeakers.com](http://www.prhspeakers.com). She gave a talk on current LGBTQ activism in Russia.

Maxim D. Shrayer is a professor of Russian, English, and Jewish Studies at Boston College. Dr. Shrayer has published fifteen books of criticism, nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and translations. Among Shrayer's awards and honors are the National Jewish Book Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Rockefeller Fellowship. He spoke on "The Texture of Translingual Memory, or Nabokov in the Attic."

# 2017 UVa Slavic Graduate Forum

(Continued)

## Panel 1 - Memory through Poetry

Discussant: Sarah Bumpus

Moderator: Alex Maxwell

**Sasha Shapiro (University of Virginia) “The Empowering Supernatural Status of the Lamenter in Russian Funeral Practices”**

**Maria Salnikova (University of Southern California) “The Multitude of Eyes”: Metarealism of Vision in Olga Sedakova’s “The Chinese Journey”**

**Kylie Warner (Columbia) “The Image of the House and Private/Public Upheavals in the Works and Lives of Elizabeth Bowen and Anna Akhmatova**

## Panel 2 – Memory of Trauma and Exile

Discussant: Madelyn Stuart

Moderator: Elsa Schieffelin

**Chloe Papadopoulos (Yale) “Narratives of Exile as Personal Monuments: Reflective Nostalgia in David Albahari’s Bait and Aleksandar Hemon’s Nowhere Man”**

**Sharisa Aidukaitis (University of Virginia) “Kindness in the Gulag”**

**Julia Barnes (University of Virginia) “The Interstices of Memory from a Linguistic Anthropological Perspective”**

## Panel 3– Art and Visual Memory

Discussant: Valeria Provotorova

Moderator: Sasha Shapiro

**Maria Bakatkina (University of Virginia) “A Journey of a Single Image through the History of Russia”**

**Erin Dusza (Indiana University) “Displaying Memory: Post-crisis identity in Prague”**

## Panel 4 – Multiplicities: Memory and Identity

Discussant: Abigail Hohn

Moderator: Alex Maxwell

**James, Nicholas “Applying Ethnosymbolism to Constructivist International Relations Theory: Ethnic Myth-Symbol Complexes and Differing Remembrances in the War in Donbas”**

**Lisa M. Pisani (University of Virginia) “Bifurcations of Identity: Essential Temptations of the Modern Primordial and Cultured Savage”**

**Tierre Sanford (University of Virginia) “Henry Shoshkes Returns Home: A Jewish Traveler’s Initial Impressions of Postwar Warsaw”**

12:30-1:30:

**Workshop: Digital Humanities and Web-Publishing in Slavic Studies**

(Continued)

### Panel 5 – Language, Memory, and Identity

Discussant: Dr. Michael Marsh-Soloway  
Moderator: Sarah McEleney

**Codling, Rosetta** “*The “psychological” linguistics of Black Existentialism and the text of ‘You’ vs. the African ‘I’*”

**Teresa Kuruc (University of California, San Diego)**  
“*Memory as Antidote to Nostalgia in Serhiy Zhadan’s Voroshilovgrad*”

**Koo Ja Myan** “*The Memoir of Musa Kunduchov (Кундухов. М. А): Narration of Caucasian war and Muhajirun (Мухаджирство) process.*”

### Panel 6 – Autobiography and Philosophy

Discussant: Reed Johnson  
Moderator: Abigail Hohn

**Elsa Schieffelin (University of Virginia)** “*Reimagining Love: An Exploration of Margarita, Yevgeny, and Solovyov on The Meaning of Love*”

**Dr. Alexandra Shapiro (Pennsylvania State University)** “*Time and Memory in Nabokov’s “Biographies”*”

**Dr. Peter Orte (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison)** “*Learning How to Write--To Dance with a Pen: Histrionics in the Letters of Nijinsky and Nietzsche*”



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SLAVIC FORUM  
**RE:CONSTRUCTIONS: MEMORY AND IMAGINATION**

The University of Virginia Society of Slavic Graduate Students is hosting an interdisciplinary forum devoted to the intersections of memory and imagination. Common sense tells us memory differs from imagination, yet cognitive scientists have demonstrated that the same neural processes underlie both memory and imagination. Memories are as much constructs as imagination. In this forum, speakers from a variety of fields will explore the role of memory and imagination in literature, history, art, and identity.

**PANELS ON APRIL 1, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
NEW CABEL HALL 236 AND 364**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Friday, March 31, 6 p.m., Maury 209  
**Maria “Masha” Gessen**  
Masha Gessen is a Russian journalist, author, and political activist; contributor to The New York Review of Books, The New Yorker, The New York Times, Vanity Fair, and The Washington Post; author of groundbreaking books on Russian politics, society, culture, and history. For more information see speaker’s bio at [www.prspeakers.com](http://www.prspeakers.com).  
Book signing to follow Gessen’s talk.

Saturday, April 1, 5:30 p.m., Maury 209  
**Professor Maxim D. Shrayer (Boston College)**  
“*The Texture of Translingual Memory, or Nabokov in the Attic*”  
Maxim Shrayer is a professor Russian, English, and Jewish Studies at Boston College. Shrayer’s “Anthology of Jewish-Russian Literature” won a 2007 National Jewish Book Award, and in 2012 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Forum organized by the Society of Slavic Graduate Students at UVA and sponsored by CREEES, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the French Department, the Art Department, and the Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation. Masha Gessen’s talk is sponsored by CREEES, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGS), the Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation, the Department of English, the Corcoran Department of History, and the Department of Media Studies.

## Guest Speakers



On April 12, Wilfried Zeisler, Curator of Russian and 19th Century Art, Hillwood Museum, gave a lecture, *“Russian Art in the United States.”*

Founded by Marjorie Merriweather Post (1887-1973), heiress to the Postum Cereal Company, which later became General Foods, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens houses over 17,000 works of art. The collection includes one of the largest and most important collections of Russian art outside Russia, comprising pieces from the pre-Petrine to the early Soviet periods. Through Hillwood’s collection, this lecture explored the history of acquiring imperial Russian art in the United States.

On April 13, Anna Berman, Assistant Professor of Russian Studies, McGill University, talked about *“Brothers and the Family Plot: A Comparative Approach to the Nineteenth-Century Russian and English Novel.”*



Family concerns drive the plot of most nineteenth-century English and Russian novels, yet the family plots in the two traditions differ greatly. Why are there virtually no English novels that focus on a pair of brothers, while brothers are common in the Russian novel? Russian authors were keen readers of the English, regarding them as a model for writing about family, so this paper explores the way the historical conditions in the two nations shaped their family plots. The English, who honored primogeniture, viewed brothers as a source of rivalry that did not fit their family ideal. By contrast,

the Russians split estates among their children, opening up a space for multiple brothers. I will argue that this has implications for the structure of the novel, as the English created vertical, generationally focused plots, while the Russians created a new kind of lateral family plot.

On April 27, UVA Klezmer Ensemble performed with special guest, Grammy-winner, Lorin Sklamberg (Klezomatics).

Directed by Joel Rubin, the Klezmer Ensemble focuses on the music of the klezmerim, the Jewish professional instrumentalists of eastern Europe, as well as related Jewish and other East European traditions from the 18th century to the present, including Yiddish song.

The performance featured special guest singer and multi-instrumentalist Lorin Sklamberg, hailed by legendary music critic Robert Christgau as “one of the premier American singers in any genre” with a voice that is “transcendent, ethereal and sensual” (All Things Considered, National Public Radio).

## Symposium on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution

On November 8th-10th, 2017, the Miller Center for Public Affairs hosted the Ambassador William C. Battle Symposium, *US Presidents Confront the Russians: A Century of Challenge 1917-2017*. The Symposium was co-sponsored by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. The list of the participants included:

Hal Brands, Henry A. Kissinger Distinguished Professor of Global Affairs at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Derek Chollet, the executive vice president and senior advisor for security and defense policy at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

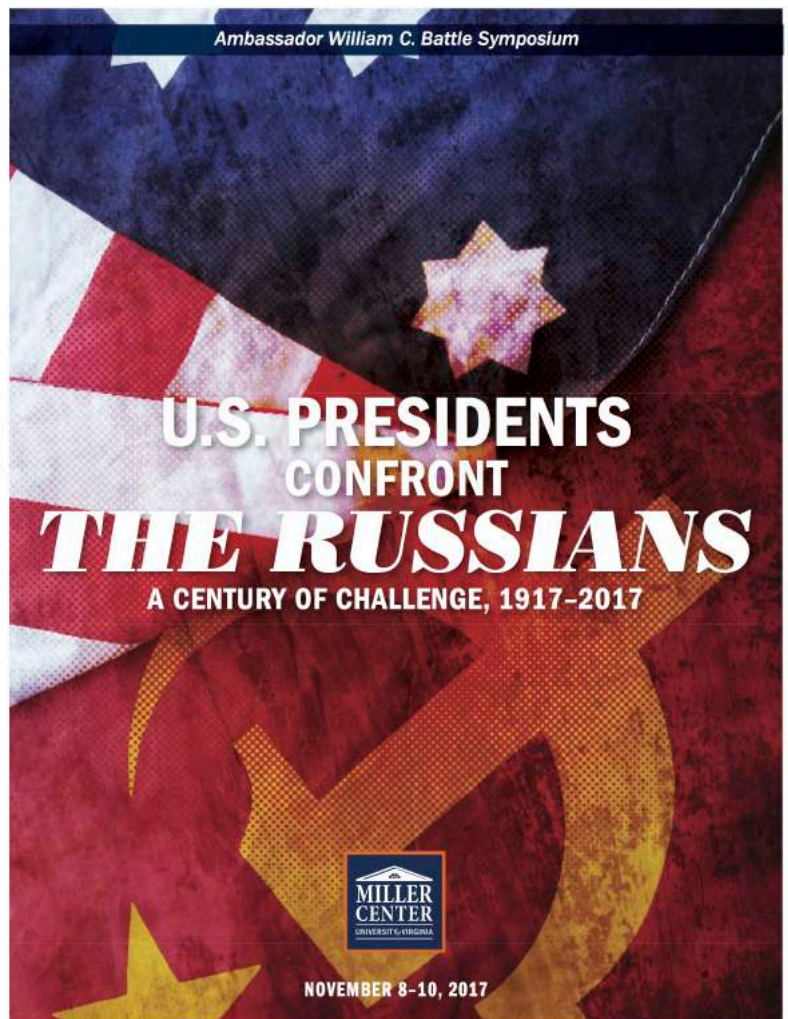
Frank Costigliola, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor at the University of Connecticut, where he teaches US Foreign Relations.

Eric Edelman, former US ambassador and senior fellow and Compton Visiting Professor in World Politics at the Miller Center.

Nicole Hemmer, assistant professor in presidential studies at the Miller Center and the author of *Messengers of the Right: Conservative Media and the Transformation of American Politics*.

William Hitchcock, Randolph P. Compton Professor of History at the University of Virginia, where he focuses on the international, diplomatic, and military history of the twentieth century.

Mel Leffler, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. Professor of History at the University of Virginia, with an



expertise in the Cold War, arms control, Communism, and national security.

Allen Lynch, professor of politics at the University of Virginia. His research interests are Russian foreign policy and Russian politics.

Erez Manela, professor of history at Harvard University, teaching international history and the history of the US in the world.

Tim Naftali, clinical associate professor of history and public service at New York University and co-director of the Center for the United States and the Cold War.

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Barbara Perry, White Burkett Miller Center Professor of Ethics and Institutions and director of presidential studies at the Miller Center.

Serhii Plokhii, Mykhailo S. Hrushevs'kyi Professor of Ukrainian History and the director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University.

Eugene Rumer, Senior Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington DC.

Svetlana Savranskaya, research fellow at The George Washington University's National Security Archive where she directs its cooperative projects with Russian archives and institutes.

Marc Selverstone, associate professor in presidential studies at the Miller Center and chair of the Presidential Recordings Program.

Jeremi Suri, Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and professor in the department of history and the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Strobe Talbott, the president of the Brookings Institution. Talbott previously served as ambassador-

at-large and special adviser to the secretary of state for the new independent states of the former Soviet Union, then as deputy secretary of state from 1994–2001.

William Taubman, Bertrand Snell Professor of Political Science Emeritus at Amherst College, specializing in the Cold War.

Odd Arne Westad, a Norwegian historian and the S.T. Lee Professor of US-Asia Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

James Graham Wilson, a historian at the US State Department, specializing in the Cold War and Diplomatic History.

Philip Zelickow, White Burkett Miller Professor of History at the University of Virginia.

Robert Zoellick, former deputy secretary of state and president of the World Bank.

Vladislav Zubok, professor of international history at the London School of Economics, where he specializes in the Cold War and Soviet-Russian history.



Vladislav Zubok presenting at the Symposium



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### “THE CRISIS OF U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS: HOW DID WE GET HERE AND HOW CAN WE MOVE FORWARD?”

Strobe Talbott,  
Odd Arne Westad; Vladislav Zubok

*Opening Remarks by Miller Center Director Bill Antholis*

### PANEL 1: “IDEOLOGY AND GEOPOLITICS FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE COLD WAR, 1917 TO 1945”

Chair: Nicole Hemmer

#### WILSON/LENIN: “THE IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF US-RUSSIAN RIVALRY”

This conversation discussed the following broad questions among others: What was the nature of Lenin’s challenge to Wilson? And how did Wilson respond? Were the two nations always destined to clash, or was there ever an opportunity for mutual understanding? How did the Wilson-Lenin relationship set the stage for all that came later?

•Odd Arne Westad; Erez Manela

#### FDR/STALIN/TRUMAN: “FROM ALLIES TO ADVERSARIES”

This conversation examined the sources of Stalin and Roosevelt’s cautious partnership during World War II, and its rapid souring in the final months of the war. Was there an opportunity to preserve the alliance into the postwar or was it always doomed? How much did large structural forces drive the two nations into conflict and how much was contingent on personalities, politics, and emotions— especially the rise of Harry Truman to the presidency?

Frank Costigliola; Serhii Plokhii

### PANEL 2: “AVERTING ARMAGEDDON: FROM JFK TO NIXON

Chair: Barbara Perry

### JFK/KHRUSHCHEV: “BRINKMANSHIP AND RESTRAINT”

This session returned to the most dangerous moment of the Cold War – the Cuban Missile Crisis – and explored the reasons behind the risk-taking practices by both sides with respect to Cuba, and also delved into the reasons that a terrible nuclear crisis was narrowly averted. In a time of intense ideological conflict and nuclear rivalry, statesmanship managed to avert a terrible disaster—but only just. Are there lessons here for today?

Marc Selverstone; Tim Naftali  
Russia at cross-purposcentury.

### BREZHNEV/NIXON: “DÉTENTE AND COMPETITION”

Even amid the terrible conflict in Southeast Asia, Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev managed to keep U.S.-Soviet relations stable and on track toward a genuine improvement. Did the two leaders manage to push ideology to the side and pursue common interests and realpolitik? Or does this period reveal the enduring power of ideology and geopolitics in a world of anarchy?

Vlad Zubok; Jeremi Suri

### PANEL 3: “THE END OF THE COLD WAR: AN ELUSIVE VICTORY”

Chair: Philip Zelikow

#### REAGAN AND BUSH/GORBACHEV, 1981-1991: “THE END OF HISTORY?”

The swift collapse of the Eastern bloc in 1989 and the subsequent unification of Germany presented the West with a stunning victory in the Cold War. How did American leaders understand what had happened, and what forces did they think explained these events? Similarly, what ideas, strategies, and political impulses drove Gorbachev in these months? In the end, how much weight should historians place



(Continued)

upon individual men and leaders versus longer term structural factors in explaining the end of the Cold War? And what does this imply for the future of U.S.-Russian relations?

James Wilson; Bill Taubman  
Bob Zoellick

BUSH/CLINTON/YELTSIN: “LOSING RUSSIA?”

The decade after the end of the Cold War was a complex and fluid time in international relations. What ideas and goals drove U.S. policy? What explains the gradual souring of the relationship after a period of U.S.-Russian rapprochement? Did America “lose” Russia? If errors were made, can they be overcome?

Strobe Talbott  
Svetlana Savranskaya

#### PANEL 4: THE PUTIN CHALLENGE

Chair: Eric Edelman

BUSH ‘43/PUTIN/OBAMA

Few would disagree: in the twenty-first century, U.S.-Russia relations have remained difficult and even bitter. What explains this spiral of hostility and mistrust? Are the sources of the rivalry a century old, or are there new factors having to do with the consequences of globalization and the shifts in world politics that are pushing the United States and Russia apart?

Derek Chollet; Allen Lynch  
Hal Brands  
Eugene Rumer

## SLAVIC COLLOQUIUM

*The Slavic Colloquium is a 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 March 16, 2017, Prof. Edith Clowes, and her students, Alex Kozoyed, Veri Silva, Alex Moree, David Peters organized a roundtable "Russian Virginia In and Out of the Classroom."

This colloquium featured two student projects from Prof. Edith Clowes' RUTR 2460 course using the website "Russian Virginia". The first project, presented by Fall 2015 students Alex Moree and David Peters, explores the Russian Civil War through the work of little-known Soviet cartoonist Vladimir Akimov. The second project, presented by Fall 2016 students Alex Kozoyed and Veri Silva, focuses on an Orthodox church in the Northern Virginia area and its integration of traditional orthodoxy with recognizably American social practices and involvement.

On April 20, Prof. Julian Connolly talked about "Confession(s) in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*."

While much of the narrative interest in *Crime and Punishment* is centered on the two subjects invoked in its own title: *crime (prestuplenie)* and *punishment*



From the left: Davic Peters, Alex Kozoyed, Alex Moree, Veri Silva

(Continued)

(*nakazanie*), Dostoevsky's most famous novel is also concerned with another abstract concept—*confession (priznanie)*. The sheer numbers and types of confession that appear in the novel are astounding. This paper will investigate the myriad ways that confession crops up in Dostoevsky's novel and see what it tells us about Dostoevsky's central artistic and ethical preoccupations in the years after his own experience in the Russian criminal justice system.

On October 5, Prof. Mark Elson gave a talk, "What Is Communicative Competence? Are We and Russian Language Textbooks Teaching It?"

On November 17, Madelyn Stuart talked about "Blueprinting the Madhouse: The Mental Institution as Physical Space in Russian Literature."



Professor Julian Connolly

## POLISH LECTURE SERIES

*This series of public lectures and events is organized by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) and UVa made possible by the generosity of Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and the American Institute of Polish Culture.*

*The speakers have, thus far, included, among others, former U.S. Amabassadors to Poland, Nicholas Rey and John Davis; former Polish Amabassador 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.*



From left: Prof. Dariusz Tołczyk; Dr. Łukasz Michalski; Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Founder and President of the American Institute of Polish Culture; Dr. Michel Pawlowski, Polish Studies Chair at the American Institute of Polish Culture

On March 2, the Polish Lectures Series hosted David Tompkins, Associate Professor of History at Carleton College, who gave a lecture *"The East is Red? Imagining China in People's Poland and East Germany."*

On March 30, Malgorzata Fidelis, Associate Professor of History in the University of Illinois at Chicago, spoke about *"The Sixties Behind the Iron Curtain: Youth Culture and the Global Sixties in Poland."*

On October 17, Dr. Łukasz Michalski, Director of *Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy* [The State Publishing Institute] in Warsaw, Poland, spoke on *"Polish Culture Under Nazism and Stalinism: Cultural Losses of 1939-1956."*



Malgorzata Fidelis

## Undergraduate News

### Russian Culture Night



Kate Gasser, Veena Ramesh, Jennifer Kang, Theodora Glouharski



From left: Nir Diskin, Timur Abduhalikov, James Katz, Andrew Dymon

The Russian Culture Night took place at Language Commons, on November 17, 2017.

Jason Schultz served as the chef and under his guidance and supervision Professor Anna Borovskaya-Ellis, Alexandra Bernosky, Alex Misbach, Valeria Provotorova, and Zhao Zhang (one of our first-year students) cooked borsch, kasha with mushrooms and sour-cream, and pancakes for our first-year

Russian students. About 40 people attended the event.

At the beginning of the Culture Night, we talked about popular Russian food and said a few words about the dishes we prepared. Then the students had some time to eat and mingle. Some of them have never met before, therefore it was a good opportunity for them to greet and introduce themselves in Russian as well as



to learn more about each other outside of the classroom. After the meal, some students did 5-10 minutes presentations on Russian history and culture.

# Russian Play 2017: *Elizaveta Bam*



Top right picture from left: Ila Kimata, Aidan Comerford, Valentina Zabrovskaya Bottom right picture from left: Abby Hohn, Jessica Quisenberry, Veridiana Silva

In the Fall 2017 semester a record breaking 23 people participated in the play and over 80 people attended the performance! The students worked very hard over the span of eight weeks to perform *Elizaveta Bam* by Daniil Kharms on December 6, 2017.

The full list of participants is:

Kate Motsko  
Diana Renelt  
Clara McCool  
Ila Kimata  
Nir Diskin  
Jack Lever  
Veridiana Silva

Maryanna Lansing  
Yash Kalburgi  
Devon Parikh  
Peter Fant  
Dylan Jones  
James Katz  
Abby Hohn  
Aidan Comerford  
Sarah Guzik  
Tommy Brennan  
Callie Collins  
William Zhang  
Liam Daly  
Sean Groves  
Jessica Quisenberry  
Valentina Zabrovskaya

## Get to Know the Russian Pod at Shea House



Residents of Russian  
Floor 2017-2018  
From the left: Kate  
Motsko, Ila Kimata,  
Diana Renelt, Sarah  
Guzik

Shea House is a home away from home to the few residents who live there. Russian House is no exception. Together, the residents have created a fun space where they can relax and have fun learning Russian. The students have daily dinners, weekly cultural activities, and large semester events. In the Spring 2017 Shea House led Poetry Night and in the fall they led the Annual Play.

**SLL@VA:** Why did you decide to live in Shea?

**Ila:** I wanted to improve my Russian speaking skills, as well as gain more confidence with initiating a conversation in Russian. Prior to living at Shea, I was really shy in class (and I kind of still am), but now I feel like I

can answer my professor's questions without agonizing over a perfect response. Of course my answers usually aren't grammatically perfect, but since I've been speaking more Russian I've adjusted to accepting and learning from my mistakes.

**Sarah:** I came to Shea House because I wanted more exposure to and practice speaking the language, but studying abroad hasn't been an option for me. I feel like I have gotten so much out of this because there is a lot more than exclusively speaking the language. We've learned so much about Russian culture, holidays, games, and more through the language hours and events.

**SLL@VA:** Why did you come back to live in Shea?

**Kate:** I decided to return to Russian House because the experiences I had my first year living there were worth repeating. For the first time I was able to live in an environment in which I was surrounded by people who shared similar academic goals and actively strove towards building a community of growth and learning. Not only did I see my language skills improve by leaps and bounds compared to the progress I saw when I was learning solely through taking language classes, but I also made friends who I wanted to live with again. The language-learning-centered environment of Russian House was the primary reason I returned this year, but I can't deny that the



(Continued)

convenience of Shea House's location was also a big factor in my decision to live here again - its proximity to Central Grounds can't be beat by any other housing arrangement.

**Diana:** Shea House - and more specifically Russian House - became a large part of my life during my second year. I had a very positive experience and I wanted to repeat it once again.

**SLL@VA:** What are some of your favorite memories?

**Ila:** I loved the Maslenitsa dinner that we hosted at Shea. It was a great experience for learning about Russian cuisine and Russian holiday activities (and I got to cook some blini, which is always fun). I loved watching the movie «Гардемарины, Вперед!» because we learned about an important part of Russian pop culture, like which songs to sing at Russian karaoke.

**Kate:** Some of my favorite memories of living in Shea House this year have been the cultural events we have put on in conjunction with the Slavic department. For instance, the play Элизавета Бам in the fall and our масленица celebration in the spring were both opportunities for Russian House residents and Slavic students alike to share in the experience of Russian culture. Besides our semesterly events, I have very

much enjoyed simply spending time with my fellow Russian House residents. This entails our daily dinners, our language hours, and especially the times we've gone out as a group for bonding. I'm very glad to have chosen to live with this wonderful group of women for my final year of my undergraduate career, as they have shared with me their passion and drive to continue my study of the Russian language.

**Diana:** Making the word wall in the lounge! It was one of those fun and silly things that made me feel like I was in elementary school but I like to think it's the beauty of learning a new language.

**SLL@VA:** Do you have any words of advice for the new 2018 residents?

**Ila:** If you're worried about speaking Russian in a smaller setting, listen to the people around you to pick up possible conversation topics and answers, as well as potential grammatical constructions. Don't be afraid to ask for help. If you put time and effort into Russian House activities, you *will* benefit from it.

**Sarah:** I think there is an adjustment period that could be challenging, but ultimately living here creates a great support



Kate Motsko's festive Christmas decorations



A stack of blini prepared for a Russian cultural event

system that helps so much with learning Russian.

**Diana:** Be open, both to the new people you will meet and the new experiences you have. You'll only improve in your Russian if you put in the effort though.

## Graduate News



From the left:  
Sasha  
Bernosky, Alex  
Misbach,  
Jason Schultz

Starting in the fall semester of 2017, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures has three new PhD students: Sasha Bernosky, Jason Schultz, and Alex Misbach. Welcome!

Before enrolling in our PhD program in Slavic Languages and Literatures at UVA, Sasha Bernosky finished her Fulbright grant teaching English in Ulyanovsk. She is currently teaching Russian for the first time.



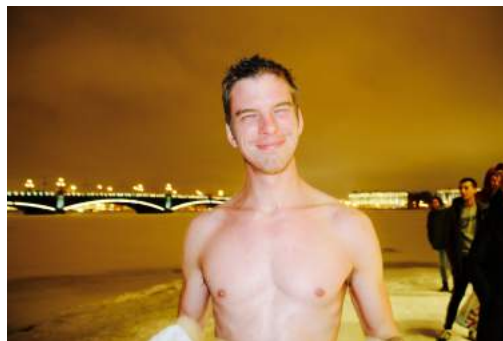
Sasha Bernosky

## MY JOURNEY TO RUSSIA, 2016–2017

### Alex Misbach

With a year remaining before returning to UVA for graduate school, I decided I would make a real effort at realizing the goal that had been swimming around my head ever since finishing the SLI program in Russian in 2014 - to live in St. Petersburg, Russia.

And so in early December, 2016, I arrived in Russia's "cultural capital" to study literature at a local university and, more generally, but perhaps more importantly, to put a face to the near-omnipresent icons of Russian literature: Nevskij Prospect, Admiraltejskaja Igla, the Hermitage Museum just to name a few. Living in my own apartment in an old soviet building from December through July, I am reluctant to try recount and summarize in even a few paragraphs the simply overwhelming wealth of impressions, experiences, acquaintances, adventures etc. Instead, I have chosen a pair of pictures of especially memorable moments and a short explanatory blurb to accompany each. While this was my third extended stay in Russia, all of which have been remarkably positive and uniquely memorable experiences, St. Petersburg remains on a level apart for me and I eagerly await the day I am able to return.



About the above photo: "The sun doesn't come out too often in St. Petersburg - they say there are about 65 sunny days a year there - and in the winter it doesn't get much higher than this as it shallowly arcs over the horizon on the Gulf of Finland. So this was an especially dear encounter. I realized when I was out walking around on that frozen plane that exactly two years ago I was more than 4,000 miles away doing the exact same thing on the Sea of Japan in Vladivostok, and from there came all the reminiscent thoughts of how much had happened over that relatively short period of time. As far as places for reflection are concerned, you'd be hard pressed to find one with fewer distractions. Just don't forget a hat."

About the left photo: "After my failed attempt to participate in the *Kreshchenie* festivities in 2015 and then in 2016, having only arrived in Moscow in February, and the holiday simply getting lost in the excitement of settling in, this was finally the year that, after three consecutive winters in Russia, I was able to take part in the celebration with other Russians - in the heart of SPB under the stony gaze of *Petropavlovka* no less! Luckily, the horror stories of the typically harsh *kreshchenskie morozy* did not come to fruition this year and I was able to take the dip in relatively mild weather."

## Graduate News

**Alex Maxwell and Sarah McEleney** were awarded a 2017-2018 UVA Presidential Fellowship in Data Science for their collaborative project, "Censorship and Detecting Deception: A Data-Driven Look at Obfuscation in Soviet Dissident Writing Versus Misinformation in the USSR and Post-Truth Journalism in America." Congratulations!



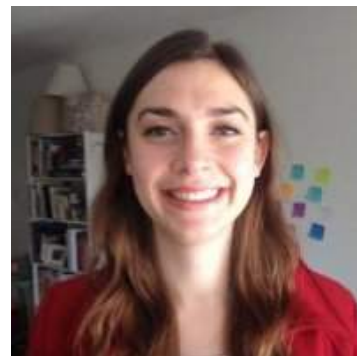
In 2017 **Sarah McEleney** participated as a Praxis Fellow in the UVA Scholars' Lab, working on a digital humanities project in a cohort with UVA humanities graduate studies from the history, art history and English departments. The final project from the 2016-2017 Praxis cohort was a digital project about contemporary American popular culture, an article about which is under review for publication in the American Quarterly journal. In summer 2017 Sarah was digital humanities mentor for

undergraduate students in the Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative (LAMI) program, who were at UVA conducting undergraduate humanities research. During the fall semester of last year she gave a workshop on text analysis with Python at Washington & Lee University. Additionally, she and Alex Maxwell have been working on a data science project as Presidential Fellows in the UVA Data Science Institute, which considers propaganda and disinformation from the perspective of natural language processing. In November they gave a talk about their project and the history of propaganda in Soviet era journalism as guest presenters at Dr. Viktoria Basham's course on propaganda at Hampden-Sydney College.

**Abigail Hohn** successfully completed coursework and passed her comprehensive exams in the spring of 2017. During the summer, she taught Russian at the Summer Language Institute with Professor Elson and Tierre Sanford. In November, she defended her prospectus and has begun work on the dissertation "Socialization, Censorship, and Subversion: The Soviet Children's Periodicals *Ezh* and *Chizh* and their Post-Soviet Legacy," which

examines the eclectic journals mostly remembered today for their association with the avantgarde Oberiu writers. In addition to research and teaching, Ms. Hohn is working on a digital humanities project called The Rhythm of Russian, which she received a Learning Technology Incubator Grant in 2017 to develop. For the project, Ms. Hohn is working with the Scholars' Lab to create a website that allows users to listen to recordings of Russian poems and mark stress and the division of feet on an interactive text. The site is intended to help users learn to scan poetry. However, Ms. Hohn is also developing modules with proverbs and prose to extend the usefulness of the site as a learning tool for beginning students of Russian.

**Tierre Sanford** is a fourth year PhD Candidate in the Slavic Languages & Literatures Department. During the summer of 2017, she taught Russian at



(Continued)

UVa's Summer Language Institute, then in Fall 2017, she developed and taught her own course on Yiddish Literature. She was also awarded a Rachel Winer Manin Graduate Fellows Award of Jewish Studies as well as a Slavic Languages and Literatures Summer Travel and Research Grant. In 2017 Tierre also passed her comprehensive examinations and defended her dissertation prospectus. Her dissertation will be about memoirs written by Soviet Jewish survivors of the Minsk Ghetto. She is on leave this semester, performing research for her dissertation as a Research Fellow at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel. In March, she will be presenting a paper at "The Second International Roundtable Conference on Jewish Studies in China" at Zhejiang Gongshang University. Her paper is entitled "'One Month in Minsk: Memoirs of the Invasion of Belarus and the Formation of the Minsk Ghetto."

**Valeria Provotorova** is a third-year student. She successfully completed her Master's Comprehensive Exams in the Spring of 2017 and moved onto the PhD program. In the summer Valeria studied Ukrainian in her hometown Zaporizhia, Ukraine. This year she is teaching Russian

Conversation, continuing her work as the Graduate Assistant at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and serving as the Language Assistant at Shea House.

**Reed Johnson** is scheduled to defend his dissertation this spring on the Soviet writer of the fantastic Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky. This year he designed and led a course on Eastern European film and memory, and is the teaching assistant for Third-Year Russian with Professor Anna Borovskaya-Ellis. He presented at the MLA conference this January on contemporary Russian author Elena Chizhova, and spoke in a roundtable on Krzhizhanovsky at ASEES in Chicago. His essay on the memory savant Solomon Shereshevsky was published online at the *New Yorker* in August, and he continues to write both nonfiction and fiction in addition to his academic work.



About the above photo: **Reed Johnson** visiting the General Casimir Pulaski Memorial at Savannah, Georgia. Pulaski was a leader in a Polish insurrection against Russia (1767-1773) and later commanded American cavalry units in the War of Independence. Benjamin Franklin characterized him as "Count Pulaski of Poland, an officer famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defence of the liberties of his country." Pulaski was mortally wounded leading a charge in the battle of Savannah (1779).



## Faculty News

Professor **Edith Clowes's** 2017 was full of highlights and a some pretty significant "lowlights" ...that tangentially involve Russia and Slavic Studies. Starting with the lowlights, Professor Clowes has been much more politically active than she has been since the start of the Iraq War. It's time to stand up and be counted for our beliefs. First on January 21 she and many friends and family members participated in the Women's March on Washington and other ancillary marches. Then last summer, because of the decision to remove Civil War memorials, Charlottesville was inundated with racists of various stripes. The citizens of Charlottesville stood up and stood strong. Professor Clowes participated in two of the counter-demonstrations and posted photos on Facebook so that friends and family around the world could have another point of view. Partly because of these posts and to hear her thoughts on the role of Slavic Studies in the current world after the latest ultranationalist turn (which is one of her research areas), the national American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL)



interviewed her for the October issue of the *Newsletter*

([http://www.aatseel.org/100111/pdf/october\\_2017\\_aatseel\\_newsletter.pdf](http://www.aatseel.org/100111/pdf/october_2017_aatseel_newsletter.pdf)).

There were many bright notes throughout the year. Benefitting from the generous Mead Honored Faculty grant, Professor Clowes and Dr. Kathleen Thompson (PhD 2015) took four Russian Culture students to the Southern Slavic Conference in Alexandria, VA, in April,

where they gave research talks on topics relating to Russian cultural sites in Virginia. The students presented in pairs. Alexander Moree (BA, 2017) and David Peters (BA, 2017) talked about the extraordinary collection of Russian Civil War cartoons at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. Alexandra Kozoyed and Veridiana Silva presented their work on an Eastern Orthodox church in Northern Virginia and the ways in which it has integrated into American society. The first paper can be

(Continued)

viewed at russianvirginia.com; and the second will be available soon!

2017 was a lively research year. Probably everyone knows by now that 2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian Revolution. It seems that the year has been noticed more in the United States than in Russia. Professor Clowes contributed in two ways. She participated in a roundtable entitled “GEOPOLITICAL FORUM, 1917–2017: The Geopolitical Legacy of the Russian Revolution,” along with Mark Bassin, Paul Richardson, Vladimir Kolosov, John Agnew, and Serhii Plokhy. The forum was published in *Geopolitics* (2017), 1-28. In November Professor Clowes was invited to give a “First Thursdays” talk at the Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin College on “Shaping Memory, Driving Change: The Allen Memorial Art Museum and the Russian Revolution 100 Years Later.”

In March Professor Clowes presented her research on ultranationalist thinking in Russia today at an exciting conference in Uppsala, Sweden on “The Languages of Utopia: Geopolitical Identity-Making in Post-Soviet Russian Speculative Fiction.” ... which also unfortunately connects far too well to the abhorrent demonstrations in Charlottesville and the ultranationalist white marchers chanting, “Russia is our friend!”

By far Professor Clowes’s most gratifying talk of the year was to a lively group of UVA’s Echols

Scholars at a Fireside Chat. Here she asked, “Why Does Geography Matter? Crimea, World Cultures, and Foreign Policy.” And the students’ questions and discussion ranged broadly across the world’s communities and over its most contested borders.

During Fall 2017 while she was on sabbatical, Professor Clowes lived in Berkeley, California, and conducted research at the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford. Her new project also deals with the centenary of World War I and the Russian revolution. It has the working title, “An Everyday Poetic Geography of Russia’s Revolution and Civil War,” and will be a sociology of literature focusing on place-based identity. She is building a database of place-oriented poetry and prose published in the most far-flung reaches of Russia in the war years from 1914 to 1922 and has currently 70-80 books in it and hundreds of poems, memoirs, pamphlets, and stories. She is interested in understanding how writers—and not just the 8-10 greats from the period, but also the hundreds of “everyday” writers who use poetry and short prose as a testimonial—how those writers imagine their land and the ways they see themselves belonging in it at the most brutal and turbulent time in modern Russian history, when Russia was breaking apart and Russian was fighting Russian.

Despite having a longitudinal tear in her Achilles tendon, Professor Clowes has been enjoying “careful” hiking and very limited tennis!

(Continued)

Since January 1, 2017, 3 articles by **Julian Connolly** have appeared in print: (1) “Restoration or Regression?: The Lure of the Past in Vladimir Nabokov’s Fiction,” in *Nabokov Upside Down*, edited by Brian Boyd and Marijeta Bozovic (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2017); (2) “Hearing the Female Voice in Vladimir Nabokov’s Fiction,” in *Nabokov’s Women: The Silent Sisterhood of Textual Nomads*, edited by Elena Rakhimova-Sommers (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017); (3) “Fluid Spaces, Illusive Identities: Nabokov’s Depiction of France in the Late 1930s,” in *Vladimir Nabokov et la France*, edited by Yannicke Chupin et al. (Strasbourg: Presses Universitaires de Strasbourg, 2017). He also made a presentation entitled “From *The Brothers Karamazov* to *The Brothers K*: Dostoevsky and Modern American Fiction” at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in Wilmington NC in October 2017.

This past year has been productive and enjoyable for **Katia Dianina**. She recently traveled to Venice, where she gave a talk on the recent icons of Nicholas II as part of the international conference,

“Translations and Dialogues: The Reception of Russian Art Abroad.” An article in Russian, “Возвращенное наследие: Николай II как новодел,” is coming out this spring in *NLO*. Also in Spring 2018, Dianina’s article, “The Making of an Artist as National Hero: The Great Karl Briullov and His Critical Fortunes,” will be published in *Slavic Review*.

This year, Dianina launched a new course, Fairy Tales, which turned out an exciting adventure for students and the instructor alike. One student wrote: “I had been looking for a course like this for years, and may I say it did not disappoint. This class has been wonderful, a treat, and one of my favorite classes in my years at this university.” It is



Professor Dianina at the conference in Venice

truly a joy to receive such responses from students! And maybe sometimes life is a fairy tale...

**Mark Elson** directed the 2017 Intensive Summer Russian Language Program. The program proceeded smoothly with 10 students of whom 7 were University students, and all of whom proceeded to RUSS 3010, demonstrating, again, for the 36<sup>th</sup> time, that the summer program lives up to its promise: to cover the first two years of Russian in 8 weeks. The staff included Professor Elson (morning session), Abigail Hohn (early afternoon session) and Tierre Sanford (late afternoon session). As part of her responsibilities, Tierre was cultural director, which included, among other things, organizing our participation in the program wide mid-summer event, the program-wide end-of-summer final event, and our annual Russian supper, held at the Laura Sundberg International Center. Plans for Summer 2018 are underway.

On October 5, as part of the departmental Slavic Colloquium, Mr. Elson presented a paper entitled “What is Communicative Competence? Are We Teaching It in Russian Language Classes?”. The purpose of the paper was to argue that



(Continued)

communicative competence is far more subtle and complex than the language encountered in introductory textbooks, which do not proceed from creative use of language (i.e., the type of knowledge which characterizes native competence), but from formulaic language, which, by definition, lacks a creative component, relying instead on fixed linguistic responses.

Mr. Elson's paper "On the History of Radical-Final Palatalization in Romanian" was published in *Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie*. Part of the paper is Slavic-related, arguing that Bulgarian, and East Balkan Slavic dialects generally, played a crucial role in the evolution of velar palatalization in Romanian in ways heretofore unrecognized.

**Dariusz Tołczyk** has been working on his book, *Blissful Blindness: Soviet Crimes Under Western Eyes*. His article "Відкриття Архіпелагу" has appeared in the Ukrainian journal *Критика* [Krytyka] (Kiev) 9-10, 2017. He has been appointed by Poland's Ministry of Culture to serve on the Program Board of Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy [the State Publishing Institute]. In addition to his regular teaching schedule, he also taught a University Seminar, "Journey Through Hell" and January-Term course, "The Dark Side of the Twentieth Century," with the enrollment of 24. He also organized the Slavic Colloquium and helped to coordinate the Polish Speakers Series.



Professor **David Herman** advising the youngest member of the Department (Anna Borovskaya-Ellis's son, Sam).



Dariusz Tołczyk at the Wilanów Palace in Poland.

# Alumni News



**Katya Jordan (PhD 2014)**, who is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of German and Russian at Brigham Young University, has recently been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association for

Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS). She spent summer 2017 conducting research at the Russian State Library in Moscow and writing a paper on Turgenyev's last novel *Virgin Soil* and his view on the *narodniki* movement. Her most recent publications include "Between Aestheticism and Populism: The Purpose of Art in Mamin-Sibiriak's *Shooting Stars*" (*Slavic and Eastern-European Journal* 62.1, Spring 2018) and "Russian Wanderer in the Post-Soviet Space: Homelessness in Ilichevsky's *Matisse*" (*Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 51.4: 481-501).

**Michael Marsh-Soloway (PhD 2016)** has accepted the position of Interim Director of the Global Studio at the University of Richmond, beginning in June 2017. Michael will be teaching two courses during the 2017-2018 Academic Year, in addition to directing the Global Studio as a center for foreign-language learning and assessment in the Departments of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC) and Latin America, Latino, and Iberian Studies (LALIS). The job stresses innovative applications of instructional technology and research across the disciplines. Michael's teaching is in the area of Russian language, literature, and culture.

**Samantha Guthrie (BA 2016)** graduated in May 2017 with her **Master's in Public Policy** from UVA's Batten School of Public Policy. She decided she wasn't ready to jump into the full-time world of work just yet. She is still tossing around the idea of going back for her PhD at some point, and she wanted to test if she really enjoys research as much as she thinks she does. She was awarded a Title VIII Combined Research and Language Training Fellowship to conduct research and study Russian and Georgian in Tbilisi (Georgia) for 9 months during the 2017-18 academic year. She will be in Tbilisi until the beginning of June, 2018. For this fellowship, Samantha's research question is: what are the social and economic consequences of the non-integration of ethnic minorities in Georgian society? She is focusing on the large Armenian and Azeri communities in Georgia, who largely live in minority-majority regions outside the capital.

"So very hard to believe that 40 years have passed," **Lorrie Smith Todd (BA 1978)** writes to us. "I finished school and got married. I worked as a teacher for Jewish Family Service in Norfolk, VA at Hebrew Academy in Virginia Beach to 2 Russian émigré children. One was very willing to learn English and assimilate and the other was having a hard time. I switched between speaking Russian and English to help Sasha more than Alex. By the time I left them in the summer of 1979, they were well acclimated and finding their way. I was proud. Both were very smart boys. By now, both are probably Doctors or Research Scientists somewhere! I worked at NSA as a Linguist for 4 years. That was the greatest challenge of my life



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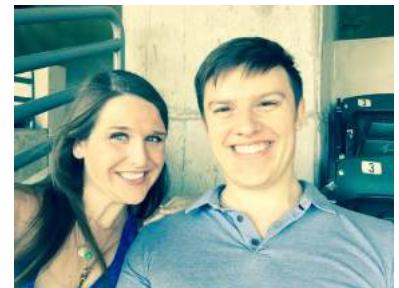
and it was very exciting to do my part to protect our country. I loved my time at UVA and love to come to visit whenever we can. I am excited to be a participant in the Reunions 2018 planning."

**Kitty Marley Dalton (BA 1979)** reminisces: "I was a Russian major back in the 1970s (Mark Elson was one of my instructors). But as graduation approached, the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union caused a chilling effect on travel and study abroad programs. After pursuing an MBA and eventually working with international students at the Duke University Fuqua School of Business (including Russians), I realized that I regretted letting the language go 30+ years earlier. Starting with Pimsleur while commuting to work and taking an intensive summer course geared for ROTC students, I felt I was ready to audit classes at Duke, where I successfully completed second and third year Russian. While taking Chekov and Dostoevsky in translation taught by Professor Carol Apollonio, I was given the chance to assist in translating, "Imagined Chekhov? Yet Another of Boris Sadvoskoy's Fabrications" by Igor' Sukikh (Мнимый Чехов? Еще одна фальсификация Бориса Садовского, Игорь Сухих) and "From Polushka to Katerinka" by Iu. A. Fedosok (От полушки до катеринки, Ю. А. Федосок), the latter used in her new Follow the Ruble course. Our class competed in the Dostoevsky Games, pitting Duke against UNC and attended by UVA's Michael Marsh-Soloway. I'm recently retired and hope to continue translating a bit on the side. I share my story for those who may have found themselves in similar circumstances with Russian – it's really never too late!"

**Christine Lee (née Chun) (BA 2003)** joined the Air Force after graduating. She earned a **Master's** degree in social work and currently works as a social worker. Her husband is in the Air Force, and they are currently stationed in northwest

Louisiana. They have four children. Christine looks back very fondly on her Russian studies at UVA.

**Heather Miller (né Mastapeter) (BA 2007, Russian and East European Studies and Foreign Affairs; 2010, Slavic Languages and Literatures)** writes to us: "Yes! you can find a great job with a degree in Russian language and studies. I work for the Department of the Army at the Pentagon as a Critical Infrastructure Policy Analyst. My husband, James Miller, works at the Department of Veterans Affairs. We just settled down in Fairfax and are looking forward to the future. I hope that this fall semester was a success, and that the Department continues to thrive and grow. There is a renewed interest in all things Russian and East European here in DC, and I hope that students recognize that their skills will be valued and appreciated in the professional world. I am so grateful that I pursued Slavic studies because it led me to a fulfilling, interesting career."



**Mark Wayne** recently accepted an offer for a Russian-speaking technical support position in Bellevue, WA, just outside of Seattle.





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