

REEIfication

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

Maria Bucur, Director
Vol. 35, No. 2

Brooke Swafford, Editor
April 2011

Russians in Bloomington in the 1960s by Gary Wiggins

Current residents of Bloomington and Monroe County probably do not know that at the height of the Cold War, Russians were flocking to Bloomington. Russian language instruction in the US Air Force Language Program and the IU Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures led to a huge influx of Russians in the early 1960s. This article briefly reviews the history of those programs and highlights a few of the dozens of Russians who lived here at the time.

During World War II, IU began a long partnership with the US military to teach Slavic languages. The Slavic Studies Program, which evolved into the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, was formed in 1947. From 1959-68, IU hosted the Air Force Language Program to teach Russian to enlisted airmen. In one year as many as 55 instructors taught in the intensive nine-month program.

Most, but by no means all, of the Russians in Bloomington depended solely on the IU Slavic Department or the Air Force Language Program for their means of livelihood. Polk's Bloomington City Directory for 1960 lists Alex and Anna Borovkoff at 215 N. Indiana Avenue and shows The Russian Kitchen also at that address. The 1962 City Directory has Basile and Antoinette Gonczarow at 412 E. 9th Street, one room of which contained Russian-language books for sale. The building that housed The Brigantine Restaurant at the SE corner of Kirkwood and Walnut (now The Trojan Horse) was owned by Wladimir Iosifovich Ushakow (d. November 2006). He also owned various apartments in Bloomington. Several Russian families also took students into their homes.

Bloomington in the 1960s had a very large Russian community. The decade was an ideal time for IU students to study the Russian language. While many Russians moved away when the Air Force Language Program ceased, there remained a corps of instructors who contributed a great deal to the splendid reputation that IU gained in the teaching of Russian during the 20th century. To honor them, a plaque in Ballantine Hall 502 is dedicated to the émigré Russian language teachers of the IU Slavic Department and its Summer Workshop. It lists the following: Anna Ivanovna Borovkova, Aleksandra Sergeevna Četverikova, Margarita Petrovna Fedulova, Ekaterina Leonidovna Kuleshova, Natalia Lvovna Lopato, Galina Aleksandrovna McLaws, Zinaida Nikolaevna Malenko, Aleksandr Dmitrievich Martianov, Vera Grigorievna Oussenko, Moisej Ilarionovich Sednëv, Galina Selegen, Tatiana Yakovlevna Sklanchenko, Lidia Prokofievna Slavatinskaya, Marianna Ioakimovna Soudakova, Stepan Petrovich Soudakoff, Wladimir Iosifovich Ushakow, Maria Fëdorovna Zalucki, and Elena Florianovna Zardetskaya.

There is an amusing story about Margarita Petrovna Fedulova's difficulty in making the trip to Bloomington. Unfortunately, she mistakenly went to Bloomington, Illinois instead of Bloomington, Indiana. Exhausted, she finally arrived on a bus, but fainted as she came out the door. The first person Margarita Petro-



Alex and Anna Borovkoff

April 2011

Features

Russians in Bloomington in the 1960s	1
A Tribute to Denis Sinor	3
New Hungarian Professorship Established	3
Outreach Notes: Regional High School Students Excel at Russian Olympiada	4
Romanian Studies Conference Attracts Rising Scholars	5
Faculty Profile: Maria Shardakova	6
New REEI AV Library Acquisitions (Selected)	8
Ambassador Visits IU for Estonian Independence Day	9

News

Faculty/Staff News	9
Student News	10
Alumni News	10

INSTITUTE STAFF

Maria Bucur, Director
 Mark Trotter, Assistant
 Director/Outreach Coordinator
 Emily Liverman, Advisor/Assistant
 Director for Student Services
 Marianne Davis, Administrative
 Secretary

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Brooke Swafford, Newsletter Editor
 Megan Browndorff, Webmaster
 Olia Bueva, Outreach Assistant
 Jeff Naylor, Library Assistant
 Jason Vincz, Research Assistant

CONTACT INFORMATION

Russian and East European Institute
 Ballantine Hall 565
 Indiana University
 Bloomington, IN 47405-6615
 Phone: (812) 855-7309
 Fax: (812) 855-6411
 Email: reei@indiana.edu

IU Awards for REEI Alumni

1994 Irene Meister
 College Distinguished Alumni
 1998 Stephen Cohen
 College Distinguished Alumni
 1999 James F. Collins
 Honorary Doctorate
 2004 Richard Miles
 Distinguished Alumni Service

REEI Awards

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1988 Alexander Rabinowitch
 1988 Charles Gati
 1995 Gale Stokes
 2000 Helena Goscilo
 2002 Howard I. Aronson
 2002 William Hopkins
 2009 Donald Raleigh

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

1988 Theofanis Stavrou
 1988 Robert F. Byrnes
 1989 Karen Niggle
 1996 Robert W. Campbell
 1997 Charles Jelavich
 1997 Janet Rabinowitch
 2000 William B. Edgerton
 2007 Denise Gardiner
 2009 David L. Ransel
 2010 Jerzy Kolodziej

Bloomington 1960s
 continued from page 1

vna saw when she came to was a man in bib overalls speaking Russian to her. She thought to herself that Bloomington must be paradise because here even the janitors speak Russian. It was actually Dr. John F. Beebe, the academic director of the Air Force Language School in 1959-60, who had come to meet her. He often wore bib overalls around campus.

Margarita Petrovna was known to some of her students as "the maternal tractor." She wanted only those students with good grades in her classes, and she was a hard task mistress. I remember that she would literally take cigarettes out of the hands of students who were smoking during the break from her intensive second-year Russian class. Margarita Petrovna would stamp them on the floor and warn the students of the hazards of smoking with a stern *Ne kurit!* "Don't smoke!"

The Russian population in Bloomington swelled in the summers of the 1960s when year-long residents were joined by Russians who taught only in the eight-week Russian workshops. Anna Ivanovna Borovkova gives a vivid description of the vibrant intellectual atmosphere surrounding the summer workshops in a 1966 *Novoye Russkoye Slovo* article. Russian residents and students could take advantage of lectures about Russian art, literature, and culture given by E. E. Klimov, poetry readings by I. V. Chinnov, and a lecture by T. Ya. Sklanchenko. This last was about the famous performance of a play based on the collection of Vosnesensky's poems *Antimiry* (Anti-Worlds) which she saw the previous year in Moscow. Seven Russian films were shown in Bloomington during the summer, and Mussorgsky's opera *Boris Godunov* was performed by the IU School of Music. The students themselves presented Valentin Kataev's play *Kvadratura Kruga*, (Squaring the Circle) directed by A. D. Martianov.

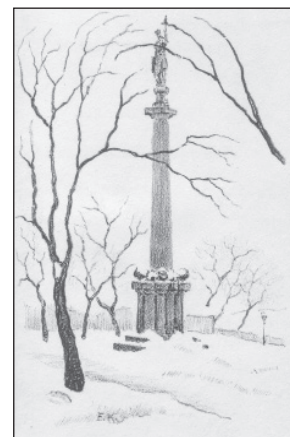
Russian Orthodox Church services were performed at the house at 639 N. College Avenue during the period 1965-1968 by Rev. Michael J. Bylinsky, an instructor in the Air Force Language Program. Another Russian Orthodox priest, Wladimir Nikolaevich Strelnizki, who taught in the AF Language Program from 1959-63, also led services. During the 1960s, the congregation met in various locations in Bloomington, including Beck Chapel on the IU campus. Easter was always a very important holiday and cause for much celebration among the Russian community in Bloomington.

In the 1960s, Russians in Bloomington contributed a great deal to the intellectual life of the city and the university. Although relatively few remained after the heyday of Russian language teaching in the 1960s, some of their descendants were still living here at the time of this writing. Among them are Galina McLaws, Slava Ushakow, Raisa Strelnicki, and Boris Solnzeff.

A longer version of this article can be found on the REEI website at http://iub.edu/~reeiweb/Russians_in_Bloomington.shtml. Another version of this article has appeared in the *Monroe County Historian* (Vol. 2010, Issue 3), the newsletter of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Gary Wiggins is IU Librarian Emeritus.

Would you prefer to receive REEIfication electronically?
 Please email us at reei@indiana.edu to receive
 the newsletter by email instead of in paper form.



A drawing by E. E. Klimov.

A Tribute to Denis Sinor



On January 12, 2011, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, the Russian and East European Institute, IU, and the field of Central Eurasian studies lost a great scholar and colleague, Distinguished Professor Emeritus Denis Sinor. Professor Sinor came to IU in 1962 as one of the world's foremost scholars of Central Eurasia's history and cultures. Within just a few years of arriving in Bloomington, he had transformed the landscape of the university, creating a new emphasis on the diverse lands, languages, and cultures of Eurasia.

Among Sinor's many contributions to IU and to the field of Eurasian studies was the creation of the Uralic and Altaic Language and Area Center in 1962. Under his leadership, the Center grew to become, in 1981, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center.

Sinor was born in Hungary in 1916 and educated in Hungary, Switzerland and France. He served in the French army during World War II and participated in French Resistance efforts, all while carrying out research and teaching at academic institutions in France. Before coming to Bloomington, he taught in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Cambridge University for 14 years.

At IU Sinor founded the Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies (now the Department of Central Eurasian Studies) in 1965 and the Asian Studies Research Institute in 1967 (now the Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies), both of which he directed. Professor Sinor was named a member of the IU President's Circle in 2005.

Sinor's body of work—which includes eight authored books, 13 edited books, and over 160 articles—has received numerous recognitions, including major prizes and awards from the Government of Hungary, the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and UNESCO, as well as universities, research institutions and academies of science throughout the world.

Dr. Edward Lazzarini, Director of the IAUNRC, said of Sinor, "Denis Sinor was 'old school,' a scholar and gentleman with decidedly European bearing and values rooted more in the 19th than 20th centuries. Yet he was able to make his way successfully in more modern times, thereby bequeathing a legacy that will continue to inspire those who knew him and those who will only have heard of him."

On March 4, IU held a memorial service in Sinor's honor. Current and former university administrators, colleagues and former students of Sinor, and representatives of the Hungarian and Hungarian-American communities shared memories of Sinor's engaged scholarship, friendship and sharp wit.

András Bácsi-Nagy, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Hungary to the United States, conveyed the condolences of Hungary's Foreign Minister. "We want to express our deep sorrow at the loss of Denis Sinor," he said, "but we also want to express our nation's pride in our outstanding son."

Vice President for International Affairs Patrick O'Meara spoke of the continued impact of Sinor's work and commitment to the university. "Denis transformed Indiana University; his effect has been spectacular and lasting," he commented.

President Emeritus of IU John W. Ryan recalled the earliest days of cooperation between IU and the government of Hungary and Sinor's role in the establishment of the Hungarian studies chair over an interrupted Thanksgiving dinner.

Dr. Barbara Kellner-Heinkele, Secretary-General of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference, concluded her remarks by discussing Sinor's more adventurous side, such as his travels to the North Pole in 2004, at the age of 88. "I like to think that now he is on a motorbike ride to the splendid horizons on which he kept his eye," she remarked.

This article has been reprinted with the permission of the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center of IU.

New Hungarian Professorship Established



The Fulbright Commission Hungary and IU has established a Hungarian Visiting Professorship which will bring Hungarian expertise to the fields of economics and other social sciences on the Bloomington campus. The new agreement was signed by Huba Bruckner, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission Hungary (Center); Karen Hanson, Bloomington Provost and IU Executive Vice President (Left) and Patrick O'Meara, Vice President for International Affairs (Right) on February 15. The first participant will be selected during the 2011-12 academic year.

Photo courtesy of the IU Office for the Vice President of International Affairs. For more information, see <http://www.indiana.edu/~ovpia/blog/?p=97>.

Regional High School Students Excel at Russian Olympiada

by Olia Bueva and Mark Trotter

On March 19 the lovely campus of the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities in Muncie came alive with the enthusiasm and trepidation of high school students who gathered there to compete in the ACTR Illinois-Indiana Regional Olympiada of Spoken Russian. Although only three schools participated in this year's event, the turnout of 28 contestants from Indiana Academy, Noble Street College Prep (Chicago), and Rickover Naval Academy (Chicago) was the second best showing on record in the four years of the regional competition's existence. Once again, the REEI provided organizational and financial support for the event, together with the University of Chicago Center for East European and Russian Eurasian Studies and the University of Illinois Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center.

Faithful readers of *REEIfication* will recall that the Illinois-Indiana Olympiada is one of approximately fifteen regional high school Russian language competitions that take place annually across the United States under auspices of the American Council of Teachers of Russian. The event offers students an opportunity to engage in conversations with native speakers of Russian, meet students and teachers of Russian from other institutions, and demonstrate their prowess and achievements in Russian language study by participating in a competition with three separate categories that focus on everyday conversation, poetry recitation, and Russian civilization.

Noble Street Russian teacher Josh Bloom (REEI MA 2009) points out that preparation for the Olympiada is a useful and challenging supplement to the Russian language curriculum at his school: "Among other things, the Olympiada helps students better know Russia's geography. It also helps them to be more successful as speakers of Russian by honing their skills in making conversation about common topics--music, art, one's self, one's home, and more. All of the Olympiada materials provide students with a richer understanding of Russian culture." In addition, the involvement of an institution of higher education like IU as well as the opportunity to converse with native Russian speakers extends the relevance of a contestant's language proficiency and cultural expertise beyond the confines of the high school, suggesting ways in which students can apply their



Left photo: Noble Street College Prep student Rebecca Cao Romero reviews geography as part of the competition, along with judge Maria Staton. Right photo: Kalah Gallapoo delivered the highest-scoring performance at this year's Olympiada and plans to attend IU this fall.

accomplishment with Russian in future academic and professional pursuits. "The experience of participation in an event like this proves to the students that they can use the language outside the classroom," Josh Bloom adds. "Some of our students are interested in majoring in either Russian or other Eastern European language. If nothing else, potentially, they could use their language proficiency to place out of first semester Russian and continue their study at a higher level, reducing the amount of language credits required for graduation, thus, saving money and time."

On hand to serve as judges of the student performances were Ekaterina Cervantes, who teaches at Bloomington High School North; Maria Staton, assistant professor of



English at Ball State University and a former teacher of Russian at Indiana Academy; and Veronika Trotter, a graduate student in Slavic Languages and Literatures who has taught Russian for many years at IU. The team of judges garnered high praise from Indiana Academy Russian teacher Heather Rogers. "When they found out the judges were native speakers, my students were a little intimidated, but I think they were put at ease by all three judges. I already have several juniors expressing interest in the Olympiada next

year, now that they know what to expect. Hopefully that excitement will hold." Rogers also praised the structure of the competition for complementing and validating the focus on developing oral skills and cultural competence which distinguishes her classes.

After performing before the judges, contestants had the chance to relax and mingle with other Russophile peers, play Russian scrabble, and watch Russian cartoons. Following announcement of the results, the Olympiada ended on a suitably festive note thanks to the talents of Jeff Holdeman, IU Slavic Languages Coordinator, who presented a program of Russian folk and popular songs, accompanying himself on the acoustic guitar. Holdeman's rendition of "Katiusha" inspired judge Ekaterina Cervantes to ascend the stage and perform an impromptu dance to the song that celebrates her namesake.

Kalah Gallapoo, a senior at Indiana Academy, delivered the highest-scoring performance at this year's Olympiada, an achievement that ACTR will recognize by awarding her a Russian-English dictionary of her choice. "When preparing

for the Olympiada,... we ended up practicing spoken Russian and reciting Russian poetry every chance we got," recalled Gallupoo. "My roommate (who also participated in the Olympiada) and I were awake late the night before, getting extra practice in before the competition. But in the end, all of the studying, memorization and practice paid off and actually helped me. I learned new Russian vocabulary, which was not in our textbook, while preparing for the competition." This coming fall, Gallupoo will join the IU Russian and East European studies community as a freshman at IU who plans to major in Slavic (as well as German), a decision that preparation for the Olympiada helped her to reach. Gallupoo extolled the non-competitive elements of the event as well. "It's nice to know that there are other students in the area around you who enjoy the Russian language and culture as much as you do. The activities after the competition were fantastic. The television shows, which were playing in room 121, were very enjoyable. I would watch them every day if I could.



Indiana Academy students Dennis Coffe and Emily McLaren playing Russian Scrabble.

The Russian Scrabble and other activities in that room were also interesting and fun. The presentation after the results were announced was probably my favorite part of the day. I love Russian folk music, and the performance of both new and familiar songs was spectacular. My roommate and I both continued to talk about the music and Katya's amazing dancing for days after the Olympiada."

In addition to Gallupoo, other gold medalists from Indiana Academy included Sydney Bohuk, Taylor Hubble, Emily McLaren, Jonah Siegel, Lauren Snyder, and Leeah Worley. Their classmates Ryan Clifton, Autumn Delk, Brandon Downs, Evan Kalember, Rachel Speer, Caroline Strange, and Rebecca Thomas took silver medals at the competition, while bronze medals went to Matenya Batchelder and Dennis Coffey. Noble Street contestants Rebecca Cao Romero and Samantha Perez finished the contest with gold medals, and Natalie Kalfas earned a bronze medal. The Rickover team, under the guidance of teacher Anna Niazov, set a new

continued on page 9

Romanian Studies Conference Attracts Rising Scholars by Catalin Cristoloveanu

The Fourth Annual Romanian Studies Conference held on March 25-26 was a great success. Its interdisciplinary focus attracted up-and-coming scholars from some of the country's leading research centers, such as University of Michigan, UC Berkeley, Columbia, University of Illinois, and of course, IU. The conference was honored to have as its keynote speaker Professor Stella Ghervas, a visiting associate professor from the University of Chicago's Department of Political Science, who presented the talk "How Far from Europe? Romanian Society between Orthodoxy and Modernity." Her recent work includes the widely reviewed and critically acclaimed *Reinventer la tradition. Alexandre Stourdza et l'Europe de la Sainte-Alliance* (Reinventing Tradition. Alexandru Sturza and the Europe of the Holy Alliance).

The conference consisted of five panels, each with its own thematic focus and disciplinary approach. The first panel's presenters introduced museums, maps, and the concept of memory as ways to reexamine the spatial and social construction of Romanian history, while the participants on the second panel sought to locate agency and authenticity within Romanian socialism. The third panel introduced three novel approaches to studying the country's history through multinational political-economic activity, as well as political activism and identity across Romania's vibrant German and Jewish communities. The last two panels focused on post World War II reconstruction processes within the country, and the subsequent sharp break from the past that led to forty-five turbulent years of communism.

Thanks to the help of REEI Director and Romanian Studies faculty mentor, Professor Maria Bucur, as well as Professors Lynn Hooker, Christina Ilias, Padraic Kenney, and Aurelian Craiutu, the conference enjoyed an impressive student turnout. Many thanks also go out to the Romanian Studies Organization (especially Erin Biebuyck, Michael Young, and Ben Thorne), whose hard work and dedication contributed to the success of this year's conference. We are confident that the following years will continue to attract quality scholarly work and generate increased interest in Romanian studies.

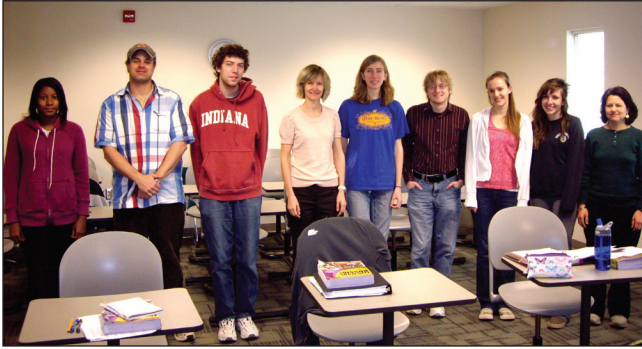


(Left to Right) M. Benjamin Thorne, Gina S. Lentine, and Sebastian Schulman presented in the fourth panel, "Rebuilding Nations, Rebuilding Selves." Padraic Kenney moderated.

Catalin Cristoloveanu is an MA student in History.

Faculty Profile: Maria Shardakova

Interview by Ala Simonchyk



Professor Shardakova (fourth from L) with her first-year intensive Russian class, which “meets at dawn (9:05 a.m.)!”

Assistant Professor Maria Shardakova is the new director of the Russian Language Program in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She teaches a variety of courses in Russian language, second language pedagogy and methodology, and Russian culture, while her research interests lie in second language pragmatics, bilingualism and identity, Russian-American cross-cultural communication, and language pedagogy. The author of *Interlanguage Pragmatics of the Apology: How Americans Acquire Sociolinguistic Competence in Russian* (2009), an exploration of cross-cultural differences in apologetic behavior and factors that facilitate acquisition of pragmatic norms by American learners of Russian, Professor Shardakova is currently researching second language conversational humor, particularly with respect to how American learners of Russian negotiate their identities through humor. She was invited to present her preliminary findings on that project at the annual meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in 2010. Professor Shardakova received her PhD in Russian and Second Language Acquisition from Bryn Mawr College in 2005, prior to which she received a PhD from Moscow State University in Russian language and linguistics with a focus on medieval Russian culture and literature (1993). Before coming to IU, Shardakova was in charge of the Russian Language Program at the University of Pennsylvania (2003-2010). Throughout her career she has taught all levels of Russian, as well as Russian for heritage speakers, the structure of Russian, Old Church Slavonic, the history of Russian language and culture, second language acquisition, bilingualism and identity, second language teaching methods, and contemporary Russian culture and society to a diverse population of undergraduate and graduate students in various academic settings, including the University of Pennsylvania, Middlebury College, Bryn Mawr College, and the University of Maryland.

Before coming to Bloomington, you taught Russian at a number of universities. How would you evaluate the Russian program at IU? What are its strengths and weaknesses?

The greatest strength of IU’s Russian language program is its vitality and ability to reinvent itself. One of the oldest programs in the nation, it is experiencing what can only be described as a radical reinvention, and I feel fortunate to be a part of this process. I adore my colleagues for their burning passion for Slavic studies and acute intellectual curiosity, and I simply love the students. No matter how badly it pours outside or how high the snow is, you will always be rewarded by their enthusiasm and energy, their generosity and talents. I am confident that in a couple of years we will be one of the nation’s top Russian language programs. This is particularly reinforced when considering our great enrollment figures, which significantly exceed national statistics. For example, the 2009 MLA survey showed an 8.2 % increase in Russian language enrollment, as compared to 2006 - at IU there was an astounding 77.7% increase for the same period.

Russian is not an easy language for American students to learn. What do you think is most challenging for them?

It’s true; Russian does pose a number of challenges for American students. Some of these challenges are due to the systemic differences between Russian and English languages, others are nothing more than popular myths. They say that the Russian alphabet (Cyrillic) is as indecipherable as a prehistoric rune, yet if you ask our first year students how long it took them to learn the Russian alphabet, the average answer would be 15-20 minutes. So much for the myth! The systemic challenges, on the other hand, are quite fascinating and should be treated as such, rather than as perilous hurdles. For instance, if you want to say that last night you went to a movie, you will have to choose between six verbs depending on whether you made your trip on foot or rode your bike, whether it was a round trip or something happened on your way to the theater. In other words, you will start thinking like a Russian, considering variables that are usually ignored in your own language and culture. Some 80 years ago, American anthropologist Benjamin Lee Whorf advanced the linguistic relativity hypothesis that states that one’s language shapes one’s worldview; foreign language classrooms offer a great testing ground for this hypothesis. More significant challenges, however, stem from the general institutional curriculum that allocates a fixed number of hours for a foreign language instruction, be it Spanish, Arabic or Russian. For instance, according to the Defense Language Institute’s estimate, a highly-motivated adult learner needs 360 instructional

continued on page 7

hours to reach an intermediate level of proficiency in Russian. By comparison, it would take this type of learner only 240 hours to reach the same level of proficiency in Spanish, French or Italian. IU's two-year Russian language instruction offers 240 hours. What's astounding is that so many of our Russian language students do, in fact, reach an intermediate level of proficiency over such a short course of study, while simultaneously enrolled in at least three or four more courses, all while working a part-time job.

What advice would you give to students who strive to master the language of Tolstoy?

Start with Chekhov. On a serious note though, reading skills are transferable from one language to another, and one can start reading literature as early as in their first semester of Russian. This is not to say that it will be *War and Peace*. Students need to be patient and create their own path with a number of smaller goals more appropriate for their current linguistic level and gradually growing in difficulty, eventually leading to the ambitious goal of reading big novels in the original.

It is commonly believed that age, social distance, aptitude, motivation, personality, learning styles and learning strategies affect language acquisition. Which factor do you consider to be the most influential in successful language learning?

I would rate motivation as a superior factor that makes people overcome various obstacles. Knowledge of factors that affect learning is important, but it should not be proscripting. As long as one can take on an identity of a learner (i.e., maintain intellectual curiosity and not being afraid of taking risks), anything is accomplishable. Once I had a student who began learning Russian at 65 plus years of age. She had all the odds against her, including arthritis, but miraculously, not only did she acquire advanced proficiency in her new language within a couple of years, her studies also seemed to help her overcome her physical pain and looming disability.

What is a perfect class for you?

A class where we learn, where all participants are fully engaged in sharing knowledge, experience, and passion. When a class becomes a community.

This semester you are teaching a course on contemporary Russian culture. Are there any cultural concepts or realities in Russia that you find hard to explain to American students?

I was surprised with the students' highly developed cultural sensibilities and perceptiveness. While it is hard, sometimes, to overcome certain pre-existing views of Russian culture that adult persons may have, students in my class are open-minded, curious, and able to interpret cultural data fairly, applying critical thinking.

You wrote a book on the interlanguage pragmatics of apologizing. Is it the language function that you would recommend Russian learners acquire first?

It's not so much language functions that set apart learners from native speakers, but the way these functions are performed. For instance, when apologizing, one can stress her own responsibility for the mishap and offer a detailed explanation of her improper behavior. This is a standard American way. Russians, on the other hand, often evoke fatalistic sentiments, as if they simply didn't have any other choice but to breach social norms, then they immediately jump to offering a repair or compensation. Extensive explanation is perceived as affected and insincere.

What are your current research interests?

Currently, I examine linguistic impoliteness – a really fascinating topic. As my data show, there exist discernable cultural patterns of impoliteness. For instance, Americans prefer banter and mock bullying while Russians engage in whining and self-deprecation. What is even more interesting, both cultures provide correspondent pre-established formulas for performing these types of impoliteness.

What are your hobbies and interests outside the scholarly world?

I don't really have time for hobbies, but whenever I can, I love getting together with friends talking for hours on end. I just hope they are not angry with me for quoting their speech patterns in my research!

Professor Maria Shardakova will be teaching SLAV-R 201 Intermediate Russian I (4 CR) and SLAV-R 592 Methods of Russian Language Instruction (3 CR) during IU's Fall 2011 semester.

Ala Simonchyk is a PhD student in Slavic Linguistics.

REEI is pleased to announce its first photo contest. Current and former REEI-affiliated students are encouraged to submit an original photograph taken in an REE country for publication in October's issue of REEIFication. Entries of an attached JPEG image with caption should be sent to reei@indiana.edu with a subject line of "ATTN REEI Photo Contest."

New REEI AV Library Acquisitions (Selected)

Title in English (Original Title). Director. Format. Year. Language.

Russian and CIS Feature Films

Battleship Potemkin, two-disc edition with original Meisel orchestral score. Sergei Eisenstein. DVD. 1925. Russian w/ English sub.

Beshkempir, The Adopted Son (Beshkempir, priemnyi syn). Akhtan Abdykalykov. DVD. 1998. Kyrgyz w/ English sub.

The Bright Path (Svetlyy Puti). Grigori Alexandrov. DVD. 1940. Russian.

Burnt by the Sun 2 (Utomlenye Solntsem 2). Nikita Mikhalkov. DVD. 2010. Russian w/ English sub.

Bury Me Behind the Baseboard (Pokhoronite Menia Za Plintusom). DVD. Sergei Snezhkin. 2009. Russian w/ English sub.

The Last Station. Michael Hoffman. DVD. 2009. English.

Maria's Lovers. Andrey Konchalovskiy. DVD. 1984. English.

My Friend Ivan Lapshin (Moi drug Ivan Lapshin). Alexei German. DVD. 1984. Russian.

Paper Soldier (Bumazhnyi soldat). Alexey German Jr. DVD. 2008. Russian.

Room and a Half, or, A Sentimental Journey to the Homeland. DVD. Andrei Khrzhanovskii. 2009. Russian.

The Edge (Kraj). Alexey Uchitel. DVD. 2010. Russian w/ English sub.

Trial on the Road (Proverka na dorogakh). Alexei German. DVD. 1985. Russian.

Viva Castro! Boris Frumin. DVD. 1993. Russian w/ English sub.

Russian Documentary Films

A Concert in Memory of Alexandr Bashlachev (Vecher pamyati Alexandra Bashlachiova v leningradskom rok-klube 21.02.88). Various. DVD. 2010. Russian.

LENIN. LIVE. Pavel Loparev. DVD. 2009. Russian w/ English sub.

Long Knives Night & Reporting From a Rabbit Hutch. Victor Dashuk. DVD. 2001. Russian w/ English sub.



Ole Lukkoye. Fairytales. (Ole Lukkoye. Skazki). Vadim Kouzenkov. DVD. 2010. Russian.

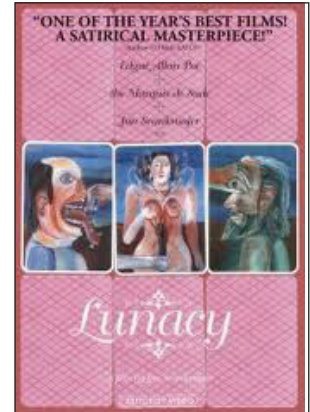
On the Most Important: A Russian Talk Show about Health and Wellness (O samom glavnom: tokshou o zdorov'e). DVD. 2010. Russian.

Paradjanov's code (Kod Paradjanova). Levon Grigorian. DVD. 2008. Russian w/ English sub.

Virginity (Devstvennost'). Vitaly Manskiy. DVD. 2008. Russian.

Vladimir Vysotsky. Kinohronika. Alexandr Kovanovsky. DVD. 2010. Russian.

Yurii Shevchiuk and DDT (Yurii Shevchiuk i grupa "DDT"). Yurii Shevchiuk. DVD. 2010. Russian.



Eastern European Feature Films

After the War: Life Post-Yugoslavia. Various. DVD. 2008. English.

Lunacy. Jan Svankmajer. DVD. 2006. Czech w/ English sub.

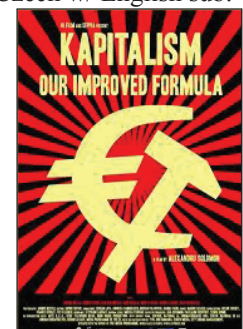
My Nikifor (Moj Nikifor). Krzysztof Krauze. DVD. 2004. Polish w/ English sub.

On the Path (Na putu). Jasmile Žbanić. DVD. 2010. Bosnian w/ English sub.

Saturday Night Dance (Balul de sambata seara). DVD. Geo Saizescu. 1968. Romanian w/ English sub.

Taxidermia. Gyorgy Palfi. DVD. 2006. Hungarian w/ English sub.

West (Occident). DVD. Christian Mungiu. 2002. Romanian w/ English sub.



East European Documentary Films

Kapitalism: Our Improved Formula (Kapitalism: Reteta Noastra Secreta). Alexandru Solomon. DVD. 2010. Romanian w/ English sub.

More information regarding REEI's AV collection can be accessed at http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/av_library/index.shtml.

Ambassador Visits IU for Estonian Independence Day



The IU Baltic and Finnish Student Association celebrated Estonian independence with Ambassador Väino Reinart and his wife, Kaire Jürgenson, on February 21 in Faculty Room of the University Club at the IMU. It was the first visit by the Estonian Ambassador to the United States to IU. Gathered for the event (Left to Right) were Indrek Park, Kelsey Horne, Bart Pushaw, Zachary Kelly, Professor Toivo Raun, Piibi-Kai Kivik, Ambassador Reinart, Kaire Jürgenson, Bethany Duseau, Ian Priser, Sayon Ko, and Alfred Strickholm. Reinart gave the opening remarks, which were followed by poetry and song as well as a performance by the Indianapolis band *Siilikesed* (The Hedgehogs).

Olympiada
continued from page 5

Illinois-Indiana Olympiada record by participating in their third Olympiada. Rickover students Lisa Larson and Rachel Tsybulevsky earned silver medals, and bronze medals went to their classmates Claudia Espinosa, Jose Flores, Stephanie Gaspar, Miguel Paiz, Miguel Pelayo, Mihailo Sestovic, and Ronald Uruchima.

The Illinois-Indiana Olympiada helps to establish a sustainable community of young Russian language scholars in the two states and promotes interest in study of the language through an array of engaging and stimulating activities. Bloom is confident about the continued success of the event. "There will be more students willing to participate next year because of our successes this year." The staff of REEI looks forward to seeing even more schools and students at the ACTR Illinois-Indiana Regional Olympiada of Spoken Russian in 2012.

Olia Bueva is an MA student at REEI.

Mark Trotter is Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator for REEI.

Faculty/Staff News

Maria Bucur (History) has published "Quality Assessment in Higher Education: Research Public Universities in the United States" in *Quality Assurance Review*, volume 2, no. 2, (September 2010): 102 – 108.

Ben Eklof (History) lectured on "Higher Education Reforms in Russia Today: How the Bologna Process is Playing out in the Provinces," at the Teachers' College of Columbia University on March 25. In February, he spoke to students at the Kelly School of Business (IUPUI) on "Understanding Russia's Troubled Transition: Geopolitics, Culture and Society."

Padraic Kenney's (History) article "Siły elektromagnetyczne, fale radiowe i rewolucje demokratyczne. Czy istnieje historia trans graniczna?" (Electromagnetic Forces, Radio Waves and Democratic Revolutions: Does Transnational History Exist?) appeared in the inaugural issue of *Wolność i Solidarność: Studia z dziejów opozycji wobec komunizmu i dyktatury*.

Alex Rabinowitch (Emeritus, History) has received a travel grant from IU to support research for his primary book project, "The Impact of Military Crises of 1919-1920 on the Development of the Soviet Authoritarian Political System," in the former KGB archives in Saint Petersburg.

David Ransel (History) stayed in Sapporo, Japan from January 12 through March 18 as a visiting scholar at the Slavic Research Center of Hokkaido University, working on the project "Civic Identities in Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia" and delivering a talk on "What is Public, What is Private: Sale of National and Natural Heritage Sites to Private Developers in Contemporary Russia" on February 24.

Faculty/Staff News
continued on page 10

Faculty/Staff News
continued from page 9

Mark Roseman (Jewish Studies) lectured on “A Rescue - and a Recovery: Reconstructing the Wartime Activities of an Anti-Nazi Group” for the History Seminar at Boston College on February 11. On March 17 he delivered the 2011 Ina Levine Annual Lecture at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies in a talk entitled “Saving Jewish Lives in the Reich: An Unknown Resistance and Rescue Network in the Heart of Nazi Germany.” More recently, Roseman discussed “Between the ‘Lived Utopia’ and the Rescue of Memory: Recollecting the Wartime Activities of an Anti-Nazi Group” at the University of Virginia, Thursday, March 24. He has published “Surviving Undetected: the Bund, Rescue and Memory in Germany” in Jacques Semelin, Claire Andrieu, Sarah Gensburger (eds.) *Resisting Genocide. The Multiple Forms of Rescue* (Columbia University Press 2011), pp.465-480.

Student News

Heidi Bludau (Anthropology) attended the Regional Policy Symposium on Gender Issues in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, funded by the United States Department of State’s Title VIII Program and implemented by IREX and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars’ Kennan Institute in Washington, DC on April 5 – 8.

Ramajana Hidic Demirovic (History) presented her paper “Bohoreta’s Theater en Saraj: Gendering Sephardic Politics during January Dictatorship” at the Crossing Borders: New Approaches to Modern Judeo-Spanish (Sephardic) Cultures conference on April 4 – 5 at UCLA.

Adam Julian (REEI) has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship in support of his travel to Moldova for research in the 2011-12 academic year.

Chris Molnar (History) was awarded a year-long fellowship at the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, a residential program based at Free University in Berlin.

Colleen M. Moore (History) has been awarded an IU College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Research Fellowship for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Amy Simon (History) has published her article, “Guilt or Shame?” in *Answering Auschwitz: Primo Levi’s Science and Humanism after the Fall* (Fordham University Press).

Nick Sveholm (History) has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship in support of his travel to Romania for research in the 2011-12 academic year.

Emily Young (REEI, SLIS) presented her paper, “Democracy, Gender and Debate in the LiveJournal Blog of the Russian President,” at the Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics (GURT) March 10-13 in Washington, DC.

Alumni News

Anna Muller (PhD History, 2009) received an offer of an instructorship at the European Studies Center of the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Jeremy Stewart (MA/MBA, 2009) became the lead on his finance team in the Business Management Group at Intel Corporation in February. In this role he manages and coordinates a group of fifteen people across different divisions at Intel in preparing the company’s long term financial forecasts. He is also responsible for providing financial analysis to support work done by Intel’s team of economists and the company’s capacity planning group.

Are you on Facebook? The Russian and East European Institute is!
“Like” us and receive REEI updates on your newsfeed. Check it out at

[www.facebook.com/IUREEI!](http://www.facebook.com/IUREEI)

Giving Opportunities

General Fund

The REEI general fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community.

Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fellowship

This fellowship honors the memory of REEI's first director by supporting an outstanding incoming MA student. The current award consists of a stipend and fee remission for the first year of study and is renewable for an additional year.

McCloskey Fund

This fund commemorates the life and work of former Congressman and REEI alumnus Frank McCloskey, who dedicated himself to the advancement of peace and democracy in the Balkans, by supporting a biennial exchange program that sends an IU student to study in the Balkans and a student or scholar from the Balkans to study in Bloomington and Washington, DC.

Daniel Armstrong Memorial Research Paper Awards

This competition is dedicated to the memory of IU Slavics alumnus, teacher, scholar, and administrator, Professor Daniel Armstrong (1942-1979). Awards are presented to students for papers written in a class devoted to some aspect of Russian, East European, or Central Eurasian studies.

Gifts from thoughtful friends like you supplement the modest support that the Russian and East European Institute receives from state and federal sources. Your generosity enables REEI to maintain a high standard of education for its students, encourage innovative research on the region, and engage with the broader community through a variety of outreach activities.

To learn more about opportunities for giving to REEI and the activities that your gift will support, please visit our website at www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/ or contact Mark Trotter, Assistant Director of the Russian and East European Institute, at martrott@indiana.edu or (812) 855-7309.

Please detach along the line above and return this form with your credit card information or check to:
Russian and East European Institute, IU Foundation PO Box 2298, Bloomington, IN 47402-2298

You may choose to support one of the following Russian and East European Institute gift funds:

- REEI General Fund 32AS32012
- Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fellowship 38AS32027
- McCloskey Fund 38AS32035
- Daniel Armstrong Memorial Essay Fund 38AS32019

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my contribution of:
 \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$ _____

Payment Method:
 Credit Card:

___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ American Express

Card number _____ Exp.Date _____

Signature _____

Or please make your check payable to: *Indiana University Foundation*. Your gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Thank you for your support.



Ψ INDIANA UNIVERSITY

**Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European,
and Central Asian Languages**
June 17 - August 12, 2011

Apply Now: <http://www.iub.edu/~swseel/>
Priority Application Deadline: **March 21, 2011**



IN-STATE TUITION and
FUNDING AVAILABLE for all
languages:

1st through 6th year Russian

1st year Arabic, Azerbaijani,
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian,
Czech, Georgian, Hungarian,
Kazakh, Macedonian, Modern
Greek, Polish, Romanian, Tajik,
Tatar, Turkish, Ukrainian, Uyghur,
and Yiddish.

1st through 2nd year Dari,
Mongolian, Pashto and Uzbek

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Bloomington IN
Permit No. 2

Russian and East European Institute
Ballantine Hall 565
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
Return Service Requested