

SPUTNIK



DEPARTMENT OF
SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

Sput-nik

Russian for (literally) ‘fellow-traveler’; each of a series of Soviet artificial satellites, the first of which (launched on October 4, 1957) was the first satellite to be placed in orbit.

What Is Our Department?

It is:

- a diverse group of scholars and students;
- language programs designed for non-heritage and heritage learners;
- exciting lecture series and roundtables on a broad variety of cultural and political topics;
- talent shows, concerts, poetry readings, undergraduate research conferences;
- student trips, Russian conversation hour (Russian Tea), family atmosphere, and much more!

Student Voices



Although I have travelled to Russia before, this summer marks my first time in Moscow. I am spending 10 weeks here interning at the U.S. Embassy. And although we’ve talked about Moscow at length in class, I have to admit, I derived most of my expectations from my favorite Soviet film, “Moscow Doesn’t Believe in Tears”.

Needless to say, besides the awesome metro, the film does not quite match my experience. However, the skills I’ve learned in my Russian studies at Penn have directly impacted the work I do at the embassy. In the

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language seminar “Business and Democracy in Russia”, we spent the semester reading and discussing Russian-language news. Stationed on the Press side of the Public Affairs section at the embassy, I focus on tracking trends in Russian social media and digital media. This involves skimming through hundreds of posts a day, identifying what is most important, and then drafting an English-language summary with appropriate historical, political, and cultural context. I also work on developing content for the embassy’s Facebook and VK pages. Through these platforms, we really strive to connect with younger Russians.

I’ve had a ton of opportunities to get out of the office and travel! One of my favorite was touring the TV station Dozhd. I’ve also gotten to watch our embassy press spokesman, Will, give an interview in Russian with RT. Outside of Moscow, I’m excited to take a weekend trip to Petersburg and a day trip to Tula! In the photo, I am near the monastery in Suzdal. We spent a weekend touring that town and the Golden Ring city of Vladimir. Without a doubt, there has been no better preparation for this summer abroad than Penn’s Russian major.

Miranda Lupion, Class of 2017

Cole Speidel, Russian minor, class of 2017, studied abroad in Moscow, Russia, in the Spring 2016 semester. The studies took place at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO).

Listening to a lecture at MGIMO during a visit by professor Jacek Kugler, known for his work in ‘power transition theory’



Student Voices - cont'd

People are often quite surprised to learn that I willingly shipped off to Russia in the middle of the winter to study for five months at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). The most common reaction I get is “Wow! Why Russia?,” and the simple answer is because I find the country fascinating. As Winston Churchill perhaps most famously put it, for me Russia is “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma”. And for the past three years at Penn I have spent my time exploring all possible aspects of this enigma — its language, culture, history, and politics. Studying abroad in Moscow, I was able to experience it all come to life.

This past semester constantly brought new and exciting surprises for me. From unexpectedly stumbling upon the famous icon Blessed be the Heavenly Host at the Tretyakov Gallery, to hearing beautiful znamenny chants at St. Sergius’ Trinity Lavra, to watching several classic Russian fairytales mesh together into a spectacular ballet at the world-renowned Mariinsky Theater, I was practically giddy to witness firsthand so many cultural artifacts that I had studied in depth at Penn. Yet even aside from these grand excursions to Russia’s most famous sights, walking through Moscow on an ordinary day felt almost like exploring an open air museum chronicling Russia’s rich culture and history. The city is littered with monuments honoring Russia’s writers, artists, and historical heroes. Remnants of tsardom and communism lie side by side, shaping the face of modern Russia. And even the metro is an exquisite work of art illustrating scenes from Russia’s past and celebrating its cultural icons.

However, far and away the most illuminating experiences of this past semester were my everyday interactions with Russians -- people so willing to impart their cultural wisdom, show their national spirit, or argue their worldview with me. From the passionate babushki working at tiny house museums to my professors teaching Cold War international relations, the Russian people by far helped me most unpack this enigmatic country. The hundreds of thousands of Russians cramming into Moscow streets on Victory Day to honor their relatives lost in the Great Patriotic War overwhelmingly displayed the immense meaning WWII holds for millions of Russians. My friends at MGIMO would give me insight into their understand-

ing of global issues during our lively discussions by day and show me how Russian young adults relax and play board games at anti-cafes by night. And perhaps my favorite experience, visiting a friend’s family in Tatarstan showed me just how much food you need to be ready to eat when visiting an incredibly warm and welcoming Tatar home!

Ultimately, this past semester I found myself in the most exciting classroom, Moscow. I was able to constantly learn more about the fascinating country that I am so passionate about, and by the time I left, I felt myself completely at home.

Stephanie Petrella, class of 2017



Miranda Lupion, Russian major, Class of 2017, and Stephanie Petrella, Russian major, Class of 2017, in Moscow, Russia. Stephanie has just finished her semester at MGIMO, and Miranda started her summer internship in Moscow.

This was a cool evening that followed a hot summer day. This boat restaurant offers light blankets to customers in need of warmth.

In the Fall, the Penn Slavic Department, with the cooperation of the University of Pittsburgh, brought poet, activist, videographer, and musician Roman Osminkin to give a lecture at Penn. His outstanding multilingual multimedia performance gave students and professors a good understanding of the socialist artistic movement in Russia today. The highly participatory performance went on to discuss the dying role of artistic creators in the Russia of today due to a lack of state need for art, and a lack of audience. As a member of Vpered, an important Trotskyist literary movement populated by the likes of Kirill Medvedev, Osminkin’s performance also went on to discuss certain politically divisive topics, such as Communism as a base necessity, and the role of Russia as a regional superpower. By creating such a powerful dialog, Osminkin occupies the important

Student Voices - cont'd

space of leftist artistic, poetic, and musical commentator of current Russian events.

As a participant in the audience, I was astounded to see how real the far-leftist protest movement is in Russia, as well as how real state media control is - no matter the size of the protest that the likes of Osminkin have organized, they have rarely if ever been televised. I was also forced to vocalize social realities and recognize my family's personal space in the Russia of today. Osminkin left me and other observers with an appreciation of the changing role of art in Russia, and an appreciation for what it means to be a communally supported bard - a role that does not truly exist in America, but which continues to exist in Russia.

Anton Relin, Russian minor, Class of 2019

Last Year at a Glance

Last academic year, we had a variety of academic and cultural events at our department: Garry Kasparov delivered a lecture titled *Winter is Coming: Why Vladimir Putin and the Enemies of the Free World Must Be Stopped*; the Russian Cultures and Global Situation Workshop with Vitaly Chernetsky, Ilya Kukulkin, Alex Moshkin, Kevin M. F. Platt, Lisa Ryoko Wakamia, Larissa Ryzanova-Clarke, Dirk Uffelmann, and Adrian Wanner; a faculty forum on *Soviet Union 2.0: Divergent Perspectives on Russian Foreign Policy*; Dr. Daniel Kelemen gave a talk titled *Hungary's Authoritarian Reversal: What can the EU Do About Viktor Orban?*; Roman Osminkin did his literary performance; students organized a Student Talent Show; Dr. Keith Darden gave a lecture titled *The Causes of War in Ukraine: Illegitimacy, Identity, and Intervention*; Dr. Lucan way gave a lecture titled *How Do We Deal With Putin?*.

Graduate students organized the annual Slavics Without Borders colloquium which drew a large number of graduate student attendees from neighboring universities. Our annual undergraduate student research conference, Slavic Bazaar, was an impressive showcase of research talent. The Slavic Department Research Essay Prize was awarded to Richard Wess. A 3-day Eurasian-American Technology Entrepreneurship Conference drew a large crowd of entrepreneurs and students alike. This was a perfect opportunity to network and start new collaborations.

And as custom dictates, we celebrated our graduating majors and minors at our annual champagne reception.

In February of 2016, we had a group of professors and graduate students from the European University in Saint Petersburg (EUSP), Russia, for a week-long academic visit. Professors Ilya Utekhin, Vadim Bass, Artem Magun, Samuel Hirst, and Ivan Kurilla and graduate students Elli Ponomareva and Fedor Maksimishin participated in a series of lectures, workshops, and discussions that culminated in a very well attended symposium held on February 26 titled *Russian-American Relations in Historical Perspective*.



Dr. Steven J. Fluharty, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, opened the symposium with an introduction that communicated the School's excitement about the EUSP-Upenn collaboration.

The first roundtable of the symposium was titled "By Way of Introduction: Higher Education in Russia Today". It was followed by a gripping lecture by Dr. Vinitzky (Princeton U.) on "The Extraordinary Adventures of Ivan Ivanovitch Narodny, 'The Worst Fraud that ever Came Out of Russia'". Later, Dr. Kurilla gave a lecture titled "Russian-American Relations in Historical Perspective". The Symposium concluded with a roundtable discussion on Russian-American relations then and now.



Left to right: Dr. Platt, Dr. Nathans, Dr. Orenstein, Dr. Kurilla, Dr. Magun

Last Year at a Glance - cont'd

On April 5th, Dmitry Bykov delivered a lecture to Penn's Russian Studies community on the topic of "Putin as Russia's Trump." Dmitry Bykov is a journalist, poet, critic, radio personality, novelist, and one of the few figures in contemporary Russia who can be called a public intellectual. His strong opinions on politics, history, literature, and everything else resonate across liberal Russian society. Bykov's recent series of political satires in poetic form in the performance project "Citizen Poet" wove together classic Russian literary traditions with current political commentary and galvanized Russian oppositional sentiment. Bykov's lecture at Penn was a provocative intervention—almost a stunt—in which he debated the similarities and difference between the political style of Donald Trump and that of Russia's strong-man president Vladimir Putin. Perhaps the lecture should have been titled "Trump as America's Putin?" since the main thrust was to prod the audience to ask itself whether Mr. Trump's appeal to populism and nationalism, his derision for America's neighbors and allies (and for many others, as well), and his blustery showmanship were symptoms of a dangerous tendency towards the worst kind of authoritarianism, as has proved to be the case with Putin. Bykov's main question for the audience was: is Trump's outrageous political style just a strategy to get elected, or is it a reflection of his actual beliefs? If the latter is the case, Bykov urged, then right-minded Americans should take a stand before it's too late.



D. Bykov and the captivated audience

This may have been the first time that a Russian guest lecturer warned an American audience at Penn about the dangers of authoritarianism and illiberalism in the USA. Yet Bykov is a man of firsts, of

surprising intellectual moves, and of shocking statements. This lecture, in other words, was pure Bykov.

Kevin M.F. Platt, Professor

On April 11, Dr. Mitchell Orenstein, Slavic Languages and Literatures Department Chair, in collaboration with the Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI), the Transatlantic Academy of the German Marshall Fund, University of Pennsylvania's Perry World House, the Penn-Temple European Studies Colloquium, and the Atlantic Council's Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center held a day-long conference titled "Russian Foreign Policy in the Putin Era." Hosted by International House Philadelphia, the conference brought together an impressive array of leading scholars on Russian foreign policy to discuss Putin's grand strategy and objectives, Russo-European relations, Russia's oil and gas politics, and ways in which the West can work to counter Russia's aggressive policies in its near abroad and beyond.



A total of over 200 people attended this symposium



Left to right: Dr. Orenstein, former Ambassador Herbst, Prof. Mendras, Mr. Ryan, and Ms. Grigas

In the first panel of the conference, the speakers addressed the question of Russian grand strategy, attempting to locate and define

Russia's motives and geopolitical objectives. Agnia Grigas, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, John Herbst, former Ambassador to Uzbekistan and Ukraine, and Director of the Atlantic Council's Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center, Marie Mendras, Professor of Political Science

Last Year at a Glance - cont'd

at SciencesPo and Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy of the German Marshall Fund, and Charles Ryan of Almaz Capital were the panel's presenters. A lively discussion followed the panel, with questions focusing on a range of issues including the relative importance of the EU-Russia and US-Russia relationships, the detrimental role of corruption in Ukraine, and the intentions of the Kremlin toward the Baltic states and to the West in general.



Noted historian Timothy Snyder provided the keynote speech for the conference. In this speech, he

took a step back from the specifics of Russia's current foreign policy challenges to examine the basic ideological underpinnings of its leadership's actions and worldview.



Left to right: Dr. Moravcsik, Ms. Polyakova, Mr. Speck, and Dr. Stephen Szabo

The second panel of the conference was dedicated to examining Russo-European, and specifically Russo-German, relations.

Andrew

Moravcsik, Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University, and Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, Alina Polyakova, Deputy Director of the Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council, Steve Szabo, Executive Director of the Transatlantic Academy, and Ulrich Speck, Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, made their presentations at the second panel. Questions after the panel focused on the effects of sanctions, and the degree of unity in the European response to Russia. The panelists were somewhat divided

in their assessment of the sanctions' effectiveness.



Left to right: Prof. Balmaceda, Dr. Horowitz, Mr. Haines, and Dr. Sil

The third panel covered the topic of Russia's use of its energy resources for political leverage.

Margarita

Balmaceda, Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University, John Haines, Senior Fellow and Co-Director of FPRI's Eurasia Program, and Rudra Sil, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania and Co-Director of the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business, presented their points of view on the subject. The audience posed several questions in a lengthy discussion at the end of the panel, covering issues of European responses to Russian energy influence, the future of Russia's role in Asian energy markets, the role of fracking as a potential counter to Russia, and general predictions about the impact of Russia's oil and gas sector on politics in Europe over the next several years.



Left to right: Dr. Orenstein, Ms. Babayan, former Ambassador Basora, and Dr. Burke-White

The final conference panel tackled the question of Western strategy towards Russia, analyzing both what form it currently takes and

how policymakers should best shape it for the future. Nelli Babayan, Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, Ambassador Adrian Basora, Senior Fellow and Co-Director of FPRI's Eurasia Program, and William Burke-White, Professor of Law and Director of the Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania, voiced their takes on the issue. The discussion after the panel covered several broad questions about the US understanding of Russia's direction, NATO expansion, and the role of Russian domestic politics in its foreign policy.

Conference Report By Alexandra Wiktorek Sarlo
Edited for length by Alina Yakubova

Last Year at a Glance - cont'd

On December 9, 2015, we held our annual Student Talent Show in Cohen Hall.

This event is a great opportunity to practice your Russian, to work closely with your instructor outside of the classroom, and create a skit or a video. It is also a wonderful way to [temporarily] forget the stress of coursework by making new friends, watching their performances, and enjoying authentic Russian treats and beverages. We wanted to share with you some wonderful photographic memories from that event.



Last Year at a Glance - cont'd

Our annual undergraduate research conference, Slavic Bazaar, took place on April 23, 2016, and demonstrated an impressive array of student academic talent.

The morning panel was titled “19th-Century Russian Literature: From Pushkin’s Reflexive Narration to Tolstoy’s Moral Teaching”. Katherine Senter presented her paper on “Narrating Narration: Pushkin on the Purpose of Fiction”, and Laura Christians presented her paper, titled “Moral Teaching and Teaching Morality: Divergent Perspectives on the Role of Educators in Moral Reform in Late Imperial Russia”.



The next panel was closer to the modern times: 20th-Century Russian Literature: The Soviet Experience. Syra Ortiz-Blanes presented a paper titled “Identity and the Village Eccentrics in Vasily Shukshin’s Short Stories”, while Jeremy Golant took a serious look at the grim Soviet realities in his paper titled “The Gulag: Solzhenitsyn and My Dedushka Isaak”.

The lunch break was with authentic Uzbek food and beverages. Students and faculty alike enjoyed the food and conversation, discussing the papers presented and future research topics.

The Keynote Lecture was delivered by Jessica Ferro, Graduate Fellow, University of St. Thomas, Penn alumna, art historian with a passionate interest in Russian literature. Her lecture was on the dark matters of “O Cursed Night: Smerdyakov’s Nativity and Lizaveta’s Hortus Conclusus Gone Awry”.

The last panel was a set of multi-region- and interdisciplinary presentations. The panel was titled “East Central European Politics and Economies”. Richard Wess presented the paper titled “From Government Social Agency to Private Enterprise: How

Restructuring and Privatizing Naftogaz Can Save the Ukrainian State”. Edgar Palomino dazzled us with his paper titled “Coming of Age-Polish Foreign Policy since 1990”. Hannah Kereszturi presented her analysis in the paper titled “Democracy in Danger: Studying Hungary’s democratic reversal through the lens of EU accession”.



And, as the tradition dictates, the conference concluded with a celebration, involving authentic Russian cakes, tea and cider. Winners of The Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest were announced and awarded.

Later, upon review of the presentations, the Slavic Department Research Essay Prize was awarded to Richard Wess for his paper presented at the Slavic Bazaar.

The New Russian Club

Russ-loo-Penn
Russloopenn
(members would be Russloopenns?)
Russo-loo-Penn
Russoloopenn
(members would be Russoloopenns)
Reactions to this potential club name? Other suggestions?

Are you interested in Russian language?

Are you interested in Russian arts and culture?

Are you interested in creative collaboration?

If your answer to these questions is “yes,” then our new club is for you!

What will we do?

What we will do depends on the interests and ideas of the members, and it will change every semester. At the beginning of each semester, we'll reach a consensus about an aspect of Russian arts and culture to explore, and together prepare a presentation based on our chosen topic. Our presentation will be part of the department's Talent Show (in the fall) or Parody Show (in the spring).

When will we meet?

Once per week at a mutually agreed upon time. No prior experience or special skills are required to be in this group, just your interest and openness to and participation in creative collaboration.

Русс-лю-Пенн
Русслюпенн
(Русслюпенны?)
Руссо-лю-пенн
Руссолюпенн
(Руссолюпенны)

Вы интересуетесь русским языком?

Вы интересуетесь русским искусством и русской культурой?

Вы заинтересованы в творческом сотрудничестве?

Если вы ответили “да” на эти вопросы, наш новый клуб для вас!

Что мы будем делать?

Что мы будем делать, зависит от интересов и идей участников и будет меняться каждый семестр. В начале каждого семестра мы будем выбирать тему, касающуюся русского искусства и русской культуры, чтобы изучать ее вместе и готовиться к презентации, основанной на нашей выбранной теме. Наша презентация будет включена в Вечер талантов (осенью) или в Капустник (весной).

Когда будем встречаться?

Раз в неделю в удобное для всех время. Для участия не нужны предыдущий опыт или специальные навыки, а только ваш интерес и готовность к участию в творческом сотрудничестве.

Upcoming Events

- September 14: “Europe on the Rocks” Lecture Series, lecture #1: Brexit: Shaken or Stirred?
- September 24: Dr. Kevin M.F. Platt and Dr. Jennifer Wilson co-organize the “Translating Race in Eurasia” Conference
- October 13: Alexandr Skidan Poetry Reading at Kelly Writers House
- October 13 - 14: Symposium: Charles IV: an Emperor in Europe (1316–2016)
- November: Orbita poets visit
- December 6: Student Talent Show
- March 24 - 25: INter-campus graduate student/faculty symposium
- April: Kapustnik, parody show
- April: Slavic Bazaar, Undergraduate Student Research Conference
- May: End-of-year student, faculty, and staff BBQ
- And, of course, the weekly Russian Conversational Table!

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Laura Christians was selected as one of nine 2016 Dean's Scholars
- 11 students appeared on the Dean's List for 2015-16: Nicholas Akst, Jamiliya Aliyeva, Irina Bit-Babik, Maria Cermak, Nicholas Emery, Jeremy Golant, Natasha Kadlec, Hanna Kereszturi, John Laberee, Amelia MacDonald, Cora Neumann, Andrew Parsons, Jonah Rosen, Bailey Scott, Richard Wess
- 3 students were recognized by Phi Beta Kappa (Laura Christians, Karin Shmulevich, Cole Speidel)
- Stephanie Petrella and Laura Christians received the Luba Zinkowsky Friedman Fund Slavic Department Prize for Excellence in Russian Studies
- Rachel Bailey Scott won International Relations Program Valedictorian (2016) and the Norma D. Palmer Prize for Best Thesis in International Relations (2016)
- Jonah Rosen received the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) Annual Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate Award, 2016
- Richard Wess won the Slavic Department Essay Prize (2016), given for the best paper delivered at the Slavic Bazaar undergraduate conference
- 2 students have been recognized with awards in the 17th American Council of Teachers of Russian Essay Contest: Nick Akst (2nd year) and Yasmeen Duncan (1st year)
- Natasha Kadlec was awarded the Daniel B. Shumway Prize, 2016 (for achievements in German Studies)
- Andrew Parsons received 2016 Engineering Alumni Society E. Stuart Eichert, Jr. Award.
- This year 2 of our majors have been accepted in the graduate schools at the departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures: Laura Christians (Class of 2016) at Princeton University and Alexander Droznin-Izrael (Class of 2015) at Harvard University, while Karin Shmulevich has been admitted to Penn Law School.

NEW FACULTY



Dr. Aleksey Berg received his PhD from Harvard University in 2013, completing a dissertation on the economic history of Russian verse in the 19th and 20th centuries. He taught Russian literature, culture, and language at Middlebury

College, Boston College, and MIT. His interests center on liminal literary practices that question or transcend boundaries of genre, convention, or social class. He is also interested in the history of underground Russian literature and dissident movement in the former USSR in the 1960s-80s, and Russian elegiac poetry.



Dr. Mila Nazyrova has been teaching Russian language and culture courses since 2001. She teaches a broad variety of Russian language courses as well as courses for heritage speakers and intensive language courses.

Some examples of content-based courses that she teaches in Russian include "The Wonders of Advertising," based on Victor Pelevin's cyberpunk prose, "Moscow, St. Petersburg and Beyond"—a course on Russian civilization and "Russian Song from Folklore to Contemporary Culture." Mila's research interests focus on Russian art and culture at the turn of the twentieth century and early Soviet era including symbolist art, modernist architecture and the reception of Greek and Roman pastoral themes.

NEW FACULTY - cont'd



Dr. Vinokour specializes in the intersections between politics and literature in modern Russia and German-speaking Europe. Her first project, *Power, Sexuality, and the Masochistic Aesthetic from Sacher-Masoch to Kharms* argues that incipient totalitarian societies instrumentalized art and literature to produce citizens who enthusiastically consented to painful social discipline — that is, political masochists. She is currently developing a second project on late-Soviet science fiction and film as sites for processing the traumas of the Second World War and Stalinist terror.

FULLBRIGHT FLTA SCHOLAR



Inessa Kaufova is an alumna and the professor of Pyatigorsk State University (former Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University), the holder of Candidate (PhD) of Philology Degree specializes in the field dealing with the problems of communicative linguistics and cross-cultural communication. Her most recent field of academic interest is an experimental phonetic study of speech prosody, the main topic of her thesis being the experimental study of the prosodic explication of non-finality in the political discourse, mainly in the speeches of British and Russian politicians. The themes of her most recent publications are the lexicological sphere of the political discourse and its linguo-communicative strategies.

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Slavic Languages and Literatures Department Upenn



Meet Our Faculty:



Mitchell Orenstein, Professor, Department Chair. Dr. Orenstein is a scholar of international politics focusing on the political economy of transition in Central and Eastern Europe. This fall semester, Dr. Orenstein will teach RUSS123: Russia and Eastern Europe in International Affairs.



Maria Alley, Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Language Program Coordinator. Dr. Alley's interests include second language acquisition and language pedagogy, proficiency testing, and materials development. This fall semester, Dr. Alley will teach:

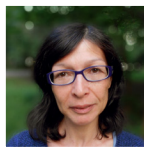
- RUSS001 Elementary Russian I
- RUSS003 Intermediate Russian I



Alex Berg, Lecturer. Aleksey Berg received his PhD from Harvard University. He is interested in the history of underground Russian literature and dissident movement in the former USSR in the 1960s-80s, and Russian elegiac poetry. This fall semester, Dr. Berg will teach RUSS201: Dostoevsky



Maria Boulatskaya, Lecturer in Foreign Languages. Dr. Boulatskaya specializes in teaching advanced Russian content-based courses for business professionals with the use of film, literature, and political and business materials. Her current research interest lies in techniques for training business professionals to develop and assess cross-cultural competency. This fall semester, Dr. Boulatskaya will teach RUSS311: Advanced Russian Conversation and Composition.



Mila Nazyrova, Lecturer, Heritage Speakers Program Coordinator. Dr. Nazyrova's research interests focus on Russian art and culture at the turn of the 20th century and early Soviet era. This fall semester, Dr. Nazyrova will teach:

- RUSS360: Russian for Heritage Speakers I
- RUSS467: Classic Russian Literature Today



Molly Peeney, Lecturer. Her interests are in language pedagogy, early twentieth-century Modernism, and creative writing. This fall semester, Dr. Peeney will teach:

- RUSS001 Elementary Russian I
- RUSS003 Intermediate Russian I
- RUSS220 Russia and the West



Kevin M. F. Platt, Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Dr. Platt works on representations of Russian history, Russian historiography, history and memory in Russia, Russian lyric poetry, and global post-Soviet Russian culture. Dr. Platt is on academic leave this year.



Peter Steiner, Professor Emeritus. Dr. Steiner's major areas of research are literary theory and modern Slavic literature and culture.



Vladislav Todorov, Senior Lecturer. Dr. Todorov is the author of several scholarly books as well as an accomplished fiction- and screen- writer. Three of his novels were made into films that garnered critical acclaim. Dr. Todorov is a voting member of the European Film Academy. This fall semester, Dr. Todorov

will teach:

- RUSS111: Poetics of Screenplay: the Art of Plotting
- RUSS164: Russian and East European Film 1900 - 1945
- RUSS196: Russian Short Story



Julia Verkholtantsev, Associate Professor. Dr. Verkholtantsev's academic interests are in the field of cultural history, early modern and medieval literary and linguistic culture, and the history of ideas. This fall semester, Dr. Verkholtantsev will teach:

- RUSS213: Saints and Devils in Russian Literature and Tradition (Freshman Seminar)
- RUSS408: Reading Russian History



Maya Vinokour, Lecturer. Dr. Vinokour's academic interests are in the intersections between politics and literature in modern Russia and German-speaking Europe. Dr. Vinokour's work appears in *Slavic Review* and *Digital Icons* and is forthcoming in the *Slavic and East European Journal*. Her research has been supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Fulbright Commission. She is also a professional translator and holds the 2011 Academia Rossica Young Translator's Award. This fall semester, Dr. Vinokour will teach:

- RUSS136: Portraits of Russian Society
- RUSS145: Russian Literature to 1870's
- RUSS191: Putin's Russia



Jennifer Wilson, post-doctoral fellow. Dr. Wilson specializes in 19th and 20th century Russian and comparative literature with an emphasis on the nexus of sexuality and radical political thought. This fall semester, Dr. Wilson will teach:

- RUSS149: Slavery, Serfdom, and Cultures of Bondage in the U.S. and Russia

Original idea, content, and design by
Alina Yakubova, Administrative Coordinator