



What is the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania?

We are:

- 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)
- and much more!

Last academic year's lectures and talks included topics like Vsevolod Nekrasov in Translation, the OSCE and Media Law and Practice in Russia, Dostoevsky's séance, Social and Political Construction of Cyberspace and Internet Regulation in Russia, Two Ukraines and Euro-maidan, and readings by Dmitry Golynko and Chamisso Prize Winner Vladimir Vertlib. We also held an evening lecture series titled Russian Nights at the Rooftop Lounge of the Harrison House. Undergrads who reside at Harrison House or any other residence hall on campus were welcome.

For all those interested in pursuing a Russian major or minor, a very informal and personal Russian Major Dinner was held at the Harrison House. Our own Penn Russian Club was the primary organizer of the dinner.

A very popular Russian folk group, Zolotoy Plyos, brought the house down in April. The group performed Eastern European, Russian, and Yiddish and Hebrew music and demon-



Dostoevsky's Seance, or Fighting for Souls in Russian Culture, Lecture by Dr. Vinitzky, October 30, 2013

strated a multitude of folk music instruments.

We usually bring an academic year to a close by getting together for a barbeque with Russian majors and minors, core and affiliated faculty, and staff. Dr. Kevin Platt, Chair of the Comparative Literature Program, is a fantastic barbeque master. This event draws a very large crowd happy to relax and kick back at the University's BioPond, in the shade of various trees, surrounded with friends and colleagues.

A hot dog or a burger, grilled to perfection, they are an excellent treat prepared by our grill master, Dr. Kevin M. F. Platt





Department Chair Dr. Vinitsky with a colleague from the Graduate School of Education, May 5, 2014



Our grill master, Dr. Kevin M. F. Platt



Students enjoying the outing

Every December, before the semester is officially over, students from all Russian courses put together a talent showcase titled Russian Talent Show. This event is a fantastic opportunity for Russian students, Slavic faculty, staff, friends, and guests to mingle in the atmosphere of fun and support. Students perform musical and dance numbers, comedy skits, poetry recitals and more. Every art form is welcome.

Last year's talent show was also a students' goodbye to a longstanding faculty member who was retiring. Dr. Ludmila Oleinichenko was loved and appreciated by her students who created a special goodbye number



Student Talent Show, December 10, 2013

to express their gratitude.



Dr. Oleinichenko and one of her students



Student Talent Show,

The April Cabbage Pie / parody show usually concludes the semester. It is a humorous show of parodies performed by both heritage and non-heritage students.

Our graduate students hold an annual Slavics without Borders colloquium that draws participants from universities like Princeton, NYU, and others. Every April, our department holds Slavic Bazaar, an undergraduate research conference. The Best Paper prize is a monetary award. We also hold a poetry translation contest that is as challenging as it is fun.

The end of every academic year brings a bittersweet event, the Champagne Reception for Graduating Russian Majors and Minors. We are happy to see our students graduate with a major or minor from our department, but it is also a parting that is less than sweet. Students and their family members, faculty, and staff get together and toast the end of the major undertaking that an undergraduate degree from Upenn is and celebrate the new beginning of a professional path.



Department Chair Dr. Vinitsky and family members of our graduating majors and minors, Champagne Reception, May 18, 2014



Dr. Steiner, Dr. Vinitsky, Dr. Platt, Dr. Alley, and Dr. Korshunova with students and families, Champagne Reception



Dr. Korshunova and Dr. Alley with students and families



Dr. Steiner and Dr. Korshunova with a student and her family

Meet Our Faculty:



Ilya Vinitsky, Professor, Department Chair. Dr. Vinitsky's main fields of expertise are eighteenth- and nineteenth- century Russian literature, the history of emotions, and nineteenth- century intellectual and spiritual history. This fall semester, Dr. Vinitsky will teach RUSS240: Napoleonic Era and Tolstoy.



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



Svetlana Korshunova, Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Heritage Speakers Program Coordinator. Dr. Korshunova's academic interests focus on issues of language and identity. This fall semester, Dr. Korshunova will teach:

- RUSS360 Russian for Heritage Speakers I
- RUSS464 Russian Humor



Kevin M. F. Platt, Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Graduate Chair of the Comparative Literature Program. Dr. Platt works on representations of Russian history, Russian historiography, history and memory in Russia, Russian lyric poetry, and global post-Soviet Russian culture. This fall semester, Dr. Platt will teach

- RUSS136: Portraits of Russian Society
- RUSS633: Russian and Soviet Culture and Its Institutions: Media, Publics, Genres



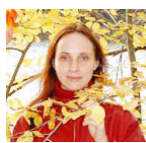
Peter Steiner, Professor, Undergraduate Chair. Dr. Steiner's major areas of research are literary theory and modern Slavic literature and culture. This fall semester, Dr. Steiner will teach:

- RUSS145: Russian Literature to 1870's
- RUSS201: Dostoevsky



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)
- RUSS410: Russian Folk and Literary Tale

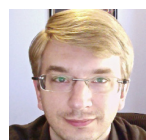


Maria Bourlatskaya, Lecturer in Foreign Languages. Dr. Bourlatskaya specializes in teaching advanced Russian content-based courses for business professionals with the use of film and literature, as well as political and business materials. Her current research interest lies in techniques for training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



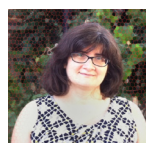
Vladislav Todorov, Senior Lecturer. Dr. Todorov is the author of several scholarly books as well as an accomplished fiction and screen writer. Three of his novels were made into films that garnered praise and high critical acclaim. Dr. Todorov is a voting member of the European Film Academy. This fall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



James McGavran, Lecturer. Dr. McGavran is interested in Russian poetry. His book of annotated translations of the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, *Selected Poems*, was published by Northwestern University Press in 2013, and he has also published articles and translations in multiple academic journals. He is working on a collection of translations of Osip Mandelstam and a cultural history of chess in Russia and the Soviet Union. This fall semester, Dr. McGavran will teach:

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



Anna Aydynyan, Lecturer. Dr. Aydynyan's research interests include 19th-century and 20th-century Russian literature, culture, and intellectual history; 18th-century Russian Enlightenment; Russian Orientalism; Eurasian Studies; Russia and the Caucasus; Russia and Iran; Russian and Soviet film. This fall semester, Dr. Aydynyan will teach RUSS222: Imagining Asia: Russia and the East (Freshman Seminar)



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