

## **Slavic Languages and Literatures: Assessment of the Russian Major**

Update 2009

The department carries out a rigorous assessment of the progress of students in the Russian major. The assessment is across communicative modes—speaking (via a sampling of students in each level by oral proficiency interview), listening, reading, writing—and includes a grammar-assessment module. We also track, on a semester-by-semester basis and not limited to Russian majors, student retention rates between language levels and make adjustments accordingly. Independent verification of student progress comes from the comparative performance of our students against the performance of students from other post-secondary institutions in the selection process for the study abroad program sponsored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian, the National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest, and by the success of our students in the US Department of State Critical Language Program. By all these measures, our program is thriving. For details, please see our yearly assessment reports submitted to the College.

Our Russian-language curriculum is working well. Indeed, out of five UW-Madison students applying for admission to the ACTR study abroad program in Russia all five were all admitted for summer 2008, fall 2008 semester or 2007-2008 academic year. Students from UW-Madison applying for study at Middlebury College Russian School and Beloit College Intensive Russian Program were also all admitted placed into the next level of study. We are proudest, however, of our second year student, Alec Luhn, who won a highly competitive national Critical Language scholarship to fund his studying Russia in the coming summer year. Third-year students Cecilia Leugers and Jan Van Tol were awarded ACTR scholarship to study in Russian in the fall of 2008.

Twelve UW-Madison students participated in the ACTR National Post-Secondary National Russian Essay Contest and four won awards. We are very proud of Matt Regner and Edward Chien, who won second and third place respectively. Tyler Henderson and Cecilia Leugers earned Honorable Mentions. These accomplishments are impressive because this contest is very competitive with over 700 students participating from more than 50 institutions.

Four UW-Madison students became members of Dobro Slovo, The National Slavic Honor Society.