



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Susana Hancock '07

*Slavic Studies, Linguistics; 2008 finalist
for the Rhodes Scholarship*



Q: How did you choose your major?

A: When I first arrived at Connecticut College, I was certain I would study astrophysics and studio

art. After four semesters of language study, finding myself gaining proficiency in Russian and Czech, I opted to pursue both Slavic studies and linguistics as my majors.

Q: Were you close with your professors?

A: I was drawn to the Slavic studies department because of its family-like atmosphere. I was able to work closely with my professors and even represent the department as a member of the Board of Advisory Chairs.

Q: Did you study abroad?

A: I traveled to the Netherlands where I took courses in historical linguistics and Russian language. I've also lived in the Czech Republic where I worked as an assistant to Professor Eckert.

Q: What have you done since graduation?

A: I moved to an island in northern Norway where many people speak Russian, researched cognitive linguistics and undertook an anthropological study of the indigenous Saami people. I also became involved with the local community, learning how to herd reindeer and becoming the president of the regional chapter of Amnesty International. I believe that my varied experiences at Connecticut College prepared me well for the intensive research and fieldwork that I did in Norway.

Slavic Studies

Overview

The U.S. Department of State has designated Russian a “critical need language” and it is easy to see why: With its stronger economy and increasingly active role in international politics, Russia is reasserting its position as a key player on the world stage. As a Slavic studies major at Connecticut College, you will have the opportunity to study not only the Russian language but also contemporary issues in Russian culture, society and environmental policy, as well as Russian literature, film, theater, history and linguistics. Our four-year program in Russian language incorporates iPods, Skype partners, study abroad and a language-in-context approach to bring students to advanced-level proficiency by their fourth year. In addition to Russian, you can also study Czech, Croatian or Polish as an independent study. A small department known for its family atmosphere, Slavic studies develops close and lasting relationships with its students and alumni.

Cultural Immersion

The Slavic studies department is active in organizing opportunities for students to use their Russian outside of the classroom, including trips to see Russian theater and opera performances in nearby cities and lectures by visiting faculty and alumni. Students also enjoy our annual *Elka* (Christmas) and *Paskha* (Easter) celebrations, rehearsals of the Slavic chorus, and the Russian language table in Knowlton international dining hall. Additionally, each student taking elementary Russian receives an iPod containing authentic cultural materials such as popular music, folk songs, poetry, music videos, cartoons, talk shows, nursery rhymes and language exercises.

Study Abroad

A signature program of the department is our semester-long Study Away Teach Away (SATA) program in Prague, which combines the study of Czech language with classes on central European history, literature and politics and excursions throughout Prague and the neighboring countryside. As part of the elementary Russian sequence, students sometimes take a 10-day trip to Russia during spring break. Most Slavic studies majors and minors study abroad in Russia during their junior year, or in another Slavic country if their program of study concentrates on Czech, Croatian or Polish.

Beyond Connecticut College

Students in the Russian program have the opportunity to improve their language skills and positively impact the local community by volunteering as a Russian tutor at the Regional Multicultural Magnet School in New London. Recent Slavic studies graduates have used their Russian to gain employment abroad in fields such as international law, journalism, business, education, publishing, literary translation and environmental protection, or to enter the graduate programs of their choice.

Faculty

Christopher Colbath, *Adjunct Assistant Professor*

Ph.D., M.A., University of California, Los Angeles; B.A., University of Washington
Russian symbolism; Russian film; science fiction; Andrei Belyi; Nikolai Gogol

Marijan Despalatovic, *Senior Lecturer*
M.A., Yale University; B.A., Zagreb University

Russian literature; Chekhov; Dostoevsky; film theory; the philosophical novel; myths and folk tales

Eva Eckert, *Professor*

Ph.D., University of California,

Berkeley; M.A., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; B.A., Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia
Linguistics; Russian and Czech

Andrea Lanoux, *Associate Professor, Department Chair*

Ph.D., M.A., University of California, Los Angeles; B.A., Brown University
Russian and Polish languages and literatures; gender studies; contemporary Slavic cultures

Liuba Ulianova, *Visiting Instructor*

M.A., Karls-Ruprecht University of Heidelberg, Germany
Russian language pedagogy; German language pedagogy

Selected Courses

Elementary Russian; Elementary Czech; Russia Today; Advanced Russian through Film; Conversational Russian; Introduction to Slavic Studies; Masterpieces of Russian Literature; Dostoevsky; Tolstoy; Sci-Fi, Cyborgs, and Soviet Life; Chekhov and the Russian Theater; History of Russian and Soviet Film; Literary Translation; Gender in Communist and Post-Communist Societies; The Story of Language; Sociolinguistics

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

What can you do with a major in Slavic studies?

Marko Dumancic '02

Ph.D. candidate in Russian and Soviet history at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Interned in Moscow at the publishing firm that launched *Men's Health* in Russia. Led a six-week study-away program in Moscow and taught courses on Russian and Middle Eastern history.

Katherine Avgerinos '06

Pursuing an M.A. in international relations and public relations at Syracuse University. Worked as a legal assistant for an American law firm in Moscow and as a freelance writer and translator. Studied in Moscow and interned with an antitrafficking NGO. Developed a senior integrated project on the normalization of prostitution in post-Soviet Russia, which was later published in an online journal, *Vestnik*.

Marina Ivanova '06

Works at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and is considering a career in the NGO field. Received a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School. Studied abroad in Prague and completed an internship at an English-language newspaper in Russia, *The St. Petersburg Times*.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/