

REEES News

Rock/folk/soul duo White Fort to play October 11



Artyom and Yuriy come from Irkutsk, Siberia. Growing up in the Soviet Union, they began studying classical music in grade school, and spent many long, dark winters with nothing to do but practice, practice, practice. The Iron Curtain couldn't hold out rock and roll, though, and soon Jimi Hendrix and the Beatles were sharing a gallon of vodka with Mozart and Tchaikovsky.

The result? White Fort--a unique hybrid of rock, folk, and classical music, propelled by a Russian ethnic pulse and rocket fuel.

The boys have come a long way from the steppes, with a dozen albums and numerous international awards over their 25-year career. They've toured worldwide, from the trance clubs of Ibiza to NYC's Lincoln Center.

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REEES WELCOMES NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

This year we are delighted to welcome five new graduate students to our M. A. program: Paul Forehand (B. A. in Russian Languages and Literatures, Oklahoma State University), Maya Larson (B.A. in Philosophy, Yale; MA in Philosophy, University of Oregon), Rick Moore (B. A. in English, University of California-Berkeley), Qiang "Vasya" Wang (B. A. in Russian Language and Literature, Heilongjiang University, in Harbin), and Tatiana Yarygina (B. A. in Foreign Languages, Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University).

Our second-year graduate students are Alena Nekrasova (concentration in literature), Valeriia Tetriak (concentration in linguistics), and Miriam Lipton (concentration in history). See their introductions and updates starting on p. 2!

Best wishes for a great year!
Katya Hokanson
Director, Russian, East European
and Eurasian Studies Program

**Concert: 4 p.m. on
the EMU's East
Lawn on Thursday,
October 11.**

INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS, FALL 2012

Paul Forehand

I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Russian Language and Literature from Oklahoma State University.

My interests thus far are: Golden and Silver Age Russian literature, psycholinguistics, cognitive neuroscience, and the philosophy of education.

Maya Larson

I was born in Honolulu and spent part of my childhood in the Netherlands. I hold two degrees in Philosophy: a BA from Yale University and a Masters' from the University of Oregon.

During my early academic career I studied existential, continental and feminist philosophy and led discussion sections as a Graduate Teaching Fellow.

My current interests include resistance literature, anarchist thought, and feminist challenges to cultures of violence and war. I will be researching the multiethnic Women in Black resistance movement in Serbia.

Rick Moore

I am married and have two sons. I was born in Oregon City and grew up near San Jose in California. After graduation from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in English Literature, I lived in London setting my sights on the heart of the traditional publishing world. My passion for traveling and experiencing diverse cultures led me to Italy, where I was teaching English in Padua, and then Turkey,

Eastern Europe during the time of change and reform and later to India. As a Peace Corps officer I worked in Lesotho, Africa and visited Samoa. I returned home with a dream to design and construct a sailing yacht, which I realized and wrote about in a boat-builder magazine. My life adventures were in direct correlation with my love of literature. Being fond of Russian prose and cinematography since early youth, I truly immersed into Russian culture and customs in 2006, when for six months, my wife and I, visited relatives and friends in Moscow, Kiev and Minsk.

My current interests are in the literature of late Imperial Russia, literary movements of the Silver Age, Futurist and other avant-garde poets and publicists, literature as propaganda and its influence on ideology, politics and historical events, the crisis of European Modernism. My German and Italian will be of assistance for a future comparative research of those aspects. I am looking forward to studying with the faculty of researchers and experts at the University of Oregon.

Qiang Wang (Vasya)

I got my BA degree in Russian language and literature from Heilongjiang University in China this year. During 2010-2011 I studied in People's Friendship University of Russia in Moscow on a full Sino-Russian governments scholarship.

My interests are Russian literature and culture, Slavic linguistics and language learning. I

am currently learning French and Czech. I am also interested in tennis, cooking and traveling.

Tatiana Yarygina

I was born in Novosibirsk, Russia. I hold a degree in Foreign Languages from Novosibirsk Pedagogical University (2009). During my academic career I worked in several language schools in Novosibirsk teaching English to Russian children and adults. After I graduated I took part in the Fulbright Language Teaching Assistantship program at Wittenberg University, Ohio, USA (2009-2010) where I assisted an American professor in Russian language classes, had tutoring sessions with Russian language students and organized Russian tables for advanced students.

My interests include: foreign languages, pedagogy, foreign language acquisition, and Russian literature (the 20th century).

CONTINUING GRADUATE STUDENTS, FALL 2012

Miriam Lipton

I am originally from Venice Beach, California. I got my undergraduate degree from the UO in 2010 where I triple majored in Russian & East European Studies, Biology, and General Science and I also minored in Chemistry. I have to been to Russia twice, once in 2007-08 for a year long study abroad in St. Petersburg, and the second time in 2009 where I was awarded the Critical Language Scholarship to study Russian in Kaliningrad. This Fall, I will be interning at the US

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The annual bilingual Russian-English play this past year was “Ruslan and Lyudmila,” adapted and directed by Julia Nemirovskaya. It ran for two sold-out nights in March and featured Pushkin and his muse, the main characters of Pushkin’s narrative poem, UO students, muppet-like puppets, the Armenian ambassador, Baba Yaga, and many others! Costumes, set and props were breathtaking, the audience was extremely enthusiastic, and next year’s Russian play is eagerly awaited! REEES thanks everyone involved, along with Associate Dean Judith Baskin, Theatre Arts, the Clark Honors College, UO Libraries, UO Housing, and OCIAAS staff for their kind and much-appreciated support.

White Fort, continued...

They took First Place in the Instrumental Music Category in Nashville's 2011 International Songwriting Competition. According to MTV producer Maty Fernandez, "These two guys do what it takes Dave Matthews five guys to do."



PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!!

If you are not already signed up for our program listserv, reesc-news, please send an email to hokanson@uoregon.edu to get signed up. And take a look at our newly overhauled website at <http://rees.uoregon.edu/>. Our Facebook page is at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Russian-and-East-European-Studies-at-the-University-of-Oregon/166591626703376>.

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS CONTINUED

Embassy in Moscow at the Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Desk. My area of focus is on Soviet Medical history.

After I complete my M.A. I plan on attending medical school, where I hope to practice medicine in Russia and/or the former Soviet Union.

In my free time I like to read, ride my bike, attempt to do pottery, do crosswords, and play boggle.

Alena Nekrasova

I was born and raised in Kazakhstan. When I was nine, my family moved to Tomsk, Siberia. There I graduated from Tomsk State University where I majored in Foreign Languages and Literature. After graduation I was offered a linguist-expert position at Tomsk Laboratory of Court Expertise where I identified speech samples in Russian. Besides my academic and professional interests my favorite hobby is dancing. I was a member of a dance team throughout my university years. I am very excited to be a part of the REEES program, because it will enrich my life with new academic, professional, and personal experiences.

Valeriia Tretyak

I was born in Kiev but grew up in a medium-sized city of Petrozavodsk, which is in the north-west of Russia. I got my degree in English and German Philology from Karelian State Pedagogical University. In 2009-2010, I was a Fulbright

scholar and a cultural ambassador in Beloit College, Wisconsin.

Since 2011, I have been pursuing my MA degree through REEES, majoring in Slavic Linguistics. My first year at the U of O was full of new encounters and academic discoveries. Andreas Kappeler, Harsha Ram, Harold Goodglass, Alexander Luria, and Horace Lunt became my best companions during sleepless nights and endless workdays. Imperial sublime, aphasia, agrammatism, anomia, aorist, and Dative absolute came into my life and mesmerized me forever.

My current research is focused on the semantico-syntactic faculty of the Instrumental Object in Russian; however, deep in my heart, I cherish hope to find ergative constructions in Russian (don't tell this to my academic advisor!) and publish a monograph titled "Overlooked Ergativity: A Study Case of Russian."

2012 GRADS

Almir Methadzovic

After I came back to Croatia I started working as a representative for Russian speaking tourists in Middle Dalmatia – Croatia. Currently I'm writing an article about language conflict in Former Yugoslavia for the Spanish journal Balkania. Also I will try to publish a part of my thesis in the same journal. Finally, I will work on my next application for graduate studies at the U of O or elsewhere.

Best regards to all REEES friends. I miss you all!!!!

Daria Smirnova

I am happy to work at the international language center Liden & Denz, Saint- Petersburg, teaching Russian to students from Europe - mostly German, French, and Italian. It really helps my German and inspires me to learn more languages. I feel that soon I'll have my former students all over the world! :-)) I also teach English sometimes at the other branch of the same center. At Liden and Denz they also told me that there is a possibility for me to teach my culture course and maybe even literature courses in winter, when language itself will be less in demand. This would make me employed according to my last degree from the U of O, which, everybody used to tell me, was almost impossible. :-)) I keep exploring Piter and its cultural space: for example, soon I am going to see this: <http://www.naliteinom.ru/index.php/show/td/prensa/479-201004>

It is a new and very innovative play "Тень города" in Театр на Литейном about Petersburg and its citizens - their dreams, their fantasies, their kommunalka reality. It abounds in references to Dostoyevsky and others, often in a form of a song, a dance, or a name. I am excited to see it and wish I knew about it before I wrote my thesis, because this is exactly what I needed. It even has a ghost of Peter the Great in it!

I hope to focus on my Marusya Klimova article soon, after I am settled with my schedule and finances.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND NEWS NOTES

On May 18 and 19, 2012, Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies hosted “Russian and East European Arts, World Stage,” which examined Russian and East European arts and letters in an international context and engaged scholars from across campus as well as regional and national invited guests.

The two keynote speakers for the conference were [Eliot Borenstein](#), Professor of Russian and Slavic Languages and Literatures at New York University and author of *Overkill: Sex and Violence in Contemporary Russian Popular Culture*, and [Helena Goscilo](#), Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University, author most recently of *Gender and National Identity in 20th Century Russian Culture* (with Andrea Lanoux).

Special features of the conference were a performance of a scene from Julia Nemirovskaya’s play, “Meyerhold in Hell,” directed by John Schmor and acted by both Theatre Arts and REEES students, and a performance by Eugene-based Balkan band “Kef” and faculty members Mark Levy and Carol Silverman.

REEES co-sponsored the international Ninth Joint Meeting of North American and Bulgarian Scholars, from May 30 to June 2, 2012. Over 50 scholars from 7 countries, including a delegation from Bulgaria, participated in the conference at UO, and gave talks on subjects in Bulgarian history, sociology, ethnography, linguistics, literature, medieval studies, art, music, and cultural studies.



FACULTY NOTES

Julie Hessler is Associate Professor of History with a specialty in 20th century Russia and the Soviet Union. Her research interests range from social and economic history, which formed the subjects of her first book, *A Social History of Soviet Trade: Trade Policy, Retail Practices, and Consumption, 1917-1953* (Princeton University Press, 2004), to political, cultural, and intellectual history. She is currently working on the impact of Soviet ties to the Third World on Soviet cultural life from the end of the 1950s through the early 1980s. A first article connected to that project was "Death of an African Student in Moscow: Race, Politics, and the Cold War," which was published a special issue on the Thaw years in *Cahiers du monde russe* in 2006. In addition to the Soviet history survey, Professor Hessler teaches specialized aspects of Soviet history (current topical courses and seminars have included Stalinism; The Russian Revolution; The Soviet Union and World War II; Soviet Culture: Intellectuals, Ideas, and the Arts from Stalin to Gorbachev; and a new course in the works on Soviet Popular Culture since the 1950s). She also has strong comparative interests in 20th century Europe, and has recently published a textbook with Robert O. Paxton, *Europe in the Twentieth Century* (Cengage, 2010), that draws together her knowledge of Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and postwar Western Europe.

Katya Hokanson, Associate Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature

Katya Hokanson holds a joint appointment in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and in Comparative Literature. She specializes in nineteenth-century Russian literature and her research interests include the history of Russian colonialism in the Caucasus and Central Asia, the writing of Aleksandr Pushkin, and Russian women writers of the nineteenth century, particularly Madame Blavatsky. Her teaching focuses on Russian and European literature of the nineteenth century and literary theory. Prof. Hokanson's first book is *Writing at Russia's Border* (University of Toronto Press, 2008). Her article, "The 'Anti-Polish' Poems and 'I Built Myself a Monument...': Politics and Poetry," will appear in *The Other Pushkiniana: Taboo Texts, Topics, Interpretations*, forthcoming from the University of Wisconsin Press. Other publications include "Russian Women Travelers in Central Asia and India," in *The Russian Review* (January 2011), "In Defense of Empire: 'The Bronze Horseman' and 'To the Slanderers of Russia,'" *Beyond the Empire: Images of Russia in the Eurasian Cultural Context*, Hokkaido University Slavic Research Center (2008), "'Barbarus hic ego sum': Pushkin and Ovid on the Pontic Shore," *Pushkin Review* 8: 2005, and "Onegin's Journey: The Orient Revisited" (*Pushkin Review* 3: 2000). Her current book project focuses on Russian women's writing on the Russian Empire, particularly Central Asia.

Alan Kimball, Associate Professor of History

I am currently working on a computer-assisted study of several score Russian social organizations and their members in the middle of the nineteenth century, a period called the "Era of Great Reforms" or "First Russian Revolutionary Situation". I am currently posting to the internet the datafiles generated in the process of completing that project = <http://pages.uoregon.edu/kimball/index.htm>

My recent publication in an anthology published by the Russian Academy of Sciences took mid-century themes forward a half century = "Pre-Soviet Russian Concepts of Civil Society and Their Legacy", a chapter in *Hierarchy and Power in the History of Civilizations* (Moscow: 2008). The text is also on the internet = <http://pages.uoregon.edu/kimball/Pre.SSR.idl.cvc.pbl.htm>

I compose and maintain a large pedagogical website, "A Student's Annotated Chronology and Systematic Bibliography" [SAC] = <http://pages.uoregon.edu/kimball/sac.htm>.

Yelaina Kripkov, Senior Instructor of Russian Language and Russian Language Coordinator

M.A., 1983, Moscow State Pedagogical Institute; Ph.D., 1996, Kansas. (1995)

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**Mark Levy, Instructor of
Ethnomusicology**

Mark Levy has been at the UO School of Music since 1991. He received his B.A. in music from the University of Chicago, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in music with a specialization in ethnomusicology from UCLA.

Mark has done many years of research in the folk music of southeastern Europe, particularly Bulgaria and Macedonia. He has also written a book on the classical music of North India. Before coming to the School of Music, he was the Program Coordinator for the UO Russian and East European Studies Center, and then Overseas Study Adviser at the UO Office of International Services. Mark co-created the East European Folklife Center, a non-profit corporation which sponsors summer residential workshops in the folk music and dance of the Balkans. He is an accomplished performer and teacher of Balkan folk music, specializing in the *gaida* (bagpipe), clarinet, and other wind instruments. He also has performance experience in the musics of Java, Bali, Japan, India, Iran, Ghana, and Zimbabwe.

His East European-related courses include MUS 453/553 Folk Music of the Balkans and MUS 390/690 East European Folk Music Ensemble. There is also significant East European-related content in MUS 358 Music in World Cultures and MUS 451/551 Intro to Ethnomusicology.

Mark also coordinates the World Music Series on campus, which includes concerts and lecture-demonstrations by visiting artists of various cultures.

**Julia Nemirovskaya,
Instructor of Russian
Literature**

Dr. Nemirovskaya is a native of Moscow, Russia, and has both an undergraduate degree and a PhD from Moscow State University in Pushkin studies; she is a published poet, writer and playwright; was with the Moscow Poetry Club and the Sphere Theater; worked for the Swedish Academy and the Scandinavian Bonniers Literary Magazine in the 1980-90s, has taught at UT Texas in Austin and BYU, and for the last decade has taught at the UO. She has also written and directed plays. She is married and has three children. Her favorite things are to be with the family, write, teach, travel and cook Russian food.

**Jenifer Presto, Associate
Professor of Comparative and
Russian Literature**

Jenifer Presto joined the faculty at Oregon in 2003 and is currently an associate professor of comparative literature and Russian. Her primary research interests are in Russian modernism, gender studies, cultural studies, and interart studies. Her first book, *Beyond the Flesh: Alexander Blok, Zinaida Gippius, and the Symbolist Sublimation of Sex*, which was

published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 2008, examined the problem of gender and self-creation in the life and art of two of Russia's foremost symbolist poets. More recently, her work on Russian modernism has assumed a greater emphasis on cross-cultural and interart studies. Her new book project, tentatively titled "The Frozen Image: Italy and the Aesthetics of Russian Modernism," explores the Russian modernists' fascination with Italy as a site of visual pleasure and cultural self-reflection. An article based on one of the book's chapters, "The Aesthetics of Disaster: Blok, Messina, and the Decadent Sublime," appeared this fall in *Slavic Review*. Although a specialist in Russian modernism, Presto routinely teaches courses on a wide variety of topics in based on one of the book's chapters, "The Aesthetics of Disaster: Blok, Messina, and the Decadent Sublime," appeared last fall in *Slavic Review*. Although a specialist in Russian modernism, Presto routinely teaches courses on a wide variety of topics in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian literature and culture, as well as in comparative literary studies. Her course offerings in REEES have included Dostoevsky, the Russian short story, Russian literature and the politics of the fantastic, Russian literature and western cinematic adaptations, Russian modernist poetry, Soviet literature, film, and culture of the 1920s, and Russian and Soviet cinema.

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REEES FACULTY,
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**Carol Silverman,
Professor of Anthropology**

Carol Silverman did extensive research in 2010-11 on the globalization of Balkan Gypsy music, supported by a Fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation and Center for the Humanities. Her fieldwork included interviews with musicians, music and festival producers, DJs, and clubbers in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dusseldorf, Koln, Berlin, Frankfurt, Vienna, Lisbon, Brussels, and in various cities in Bulgaria and Macedonia. Her article "Music, Emotion, and the 'Other': Balkan Roma and the Negotiation of Exoticism," in *Interpreting Emotions in Russia and Eastern Europe*, ed. Mark Steinberg and Valeria Sobol, Northern Illinois University Press, was published in 2011, and her book *Romani Routes: Cultural*

Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora (Oxford University Press) was published this spring with an interactive website.

**Cynthia M. Vakareliyska,
Professor of Linguistics,
Department of Linguistics.**

Dr. Vakareliyska's research looks to features of Slavic and Baltic languages as potential sources of information about linguistic processes in general, both historical and synchronic. Her work is based on both field research and archive research in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, and Russia. Her publications fall into two main areas: issues in contemporary Bulgarian syntax, and medieval Bulgarian, Serbian and East Slavic manuscript studies, specializing in 14th-century gospels and calendars of saints. Her book *The Curzon Gospel: Vol. I An Annotated Edition,*

Vol. II A Linguistic and Textual Introduction. (Oxford University Press 2008) was awarded the 2009 Slavic Linguistics Book Prize by AATSEEL, the 2009 John D. Bell Memorial Book Prize by the Bulgarian Studies Association, and the 2010 Distinguished Scholarship Award by the Early Slavic Studies Association. She also works on the phenomenon self-identification by members of multilingual ethnic/confessional minorities with more than one language and culture, with particular emphasis on the Russian German communities in provinces of the 19th-cen. and WWI-era Russian Empire that now compose eastern Poland and southeastern Lithuania. In REEES, she teaches courses in Slavic and Baltic linguistics, including Old Church Slavonic, History of the Russian Language, Structure of Russian, Structure of Lithuanian, and comparative Slavic linguistics.

We'd Love to Hear From You!!

If you attended the University of Oregon and studied Russian, East European and/or Eurasian topics or majored or minored with us, we'd love to hear from you! If you write us a short update of your activities, we can include it in a future newsletter.

And if you are a community member who wants to keep up with our activities, we'd love to have you on our mailing list.

Please contact us at hokanson@uoregon.edu or check in on our Facebook page (see p. 2 for information). Also, check out

our website at <http://reecees.uoregon.edu/>.

Donations Always Welcome!!

We put on an expensive yearly play and provide many other activities, so donations are always welcome.

If you'd like to donate to us, please make out your check to: "UO Foundation," and specify "Russian Studies Fund 0623" on the memo line. Mail checks to:

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Or contact us at 541-346-4078 or email us at hokanson@uoregon.edu.