



Language Connection

Spotlight on Russian & the Russian language

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Please join us at our third “Spotlight on the World” event, which focus on **Russia and the Russian language**. A buffet lunch will be served.

Date: Wednesday, July 23

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: 6th Floor Conference Room, Diplomatic Language Services, 1901 N. Ft Myer Drive, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA 22209.

We will have the pleasure of welcoming renowned expert on Russian cultural issues: **Ms. Marilyn Pfeifer Swezey**.

Author of *Masterspieces from the House of Faberge* and *Faberge Flowers*, Ms Swezey will speak on “Russian America,” providing little known history facts about Russian-American relations.



New Faces at DLS by Claudia Marquina

Nearly a quarter of a century has passed, yet the excellence that characterizes DLS remains the same. Of course, none of our joys and success would be possible without the effort of our hard working staff. This is why we are thrilled to welcome new faces to join the DLS family this season.

As you walk in, you will meet our new Student Services Coordinator, Claudia Marquina. A recent college graduate who specialized in Communications and Marketing, as well as languages, Claudia transitions from being a student herself to becoming vital support to all of DLS’ instructors and students.

Only a few feet away, you will find our Student Services Coordinator Intern, April Bellas. She is completing high school with college plans for 2009. A competitive figure skater, she will shortly receive her gold medal for Senior Level Freestyle. April is a welcome support for Claudia and Molly.

Finally, two new members join our team as WTE Dari Curriculum Developers; they are Safia Jahed and Maria Rahman.



April Bellas, Claudia Marquina, Maria Rahman, and Safia Jahed

Safia earned her Master’s Degree in Teaching Methods and Education from Kabul University, Afghanistan. She has several years of experience teaching English at renowned universities in Afghanistan, as well as other organizations in Virginia.

Safia has also worked as a Dari Language Instructor in the Washington DC area.

Last but not least, Maria earned her Bachelor’s degree in Business Information Systems and intensive professional development studies. She has numerous years of experience as a business operations analyst and working in computer-driven industries. Maria also taught Dari language to Afghan children at the Afghan Academy and volunteered to assist Afghan immigrants with language interpretation at the Immigration Office.

Special points of interest:

- Spotlight on Russia
- New staff members
- Current Russian instructors
- Intricacies of the Russian language
- DLI Students excel in class
- Recipe of the Month
- Human & electronic in-class support

Our Wonderful Russian Teachers at DLS

by Monique Roske

Although we all know that we are sharing our highly talented and efficient Russian teachers with other foreign-language schools in the area, we still are very lucky to have them work with our students.

“I enjoy working here,” said Tamara Yudina, Russian instructor. “The teachers really feel like they are part of the school body.”

The photo to the right presents some of our Russian teachers who are currently teaching at DLS.

“I like the support of our staff very much,” said Marina Richaud, DLS’s newest Russian instructor. “They are very responsive to our needs.”

We wish to thank them and all of their colleagues for all the hard work and perseverance on the job!



DLS’s Russian teachers take an afternoon break to gather and smile for our cameras. Above (from left to right): Natalya Kurushko, Marina Richaud, Vera Goldina-Taylor, Saida Yerlepeissova, Larysa Shevchenko, and Tamara Yudina.

AREN’T YOU GLAD IT ISN’T REALLY CYRILLIC? By Dudley Hagen

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А Б В Г Д Е Ж З

The Cyrillic alphabet (now used to write Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Kyrgyz, and other languages) is named in honor of St. Cyril. Around 863 Cyril, along with his brother Methodius, traveled to Great Moravia on a mission to bring Christianity to the people in their native language.

Great Moravia included parts of what is now the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Cyril and Methodius were natives of Thessaloniki, now the second largest city in Greece. The brothers were speakers of a Bulgarian/Macedonian dialect, and their mission was sponsored by the Byzantine emperor. Things were very international!

Cyril invented a new alphabet for his Bible translations. But scholars now generally agree that Cyril’s invention was an alphabet known today as Glagolitic.

The letters in the top row are Glagolitic; the letters underneath are equivalents in the modern Cyrillic alphabet. The letters in the second row are really quite similar to Greek letters, which many people are familiar with. Even so, some letters had to be added for sounds that don’t exist in Greek.

DLI Students at DLS Once Again Surpass Testing Average by 26%

by Jim Bellas

In the 3rd Quarter of FY2008, Defense Language Institute (DLI) students at Diplomatic Language Services (DLS) passed DLI's overall testing success rate by 26 percent.

This repeats our 2007 achievement when DLI students at DLS surpassed the overall success rate of the DLI – Washington DC office by 27 percent. DLI students at Diplomatic Language Services reached an overall success rate of 100% in Listening, Speaking and Reading in this most recent quarter.

DLS, one of the oldest and most respected

foreign-language service providers in the Washington DC area, teaches foreign languages to military officers and NCOs in preparation for deployments overseas. We also work with DLI-Monterey on Curricula, Weekly Training Event and Familiarization program development.

DLS once again congratulates its students, teachers and staff for achieving impressive results, and thanks them for their hard work, motivation and continuing dedication to improving the overall language abilities of the US Military Community.

“Very effective training, I learned more Portuguese in two and a half weeks than I learned in over three months of classes in Brazil.

I wish I could have had all my training with DLS! ”

- July, 2008

“I highly recommend DLS. DLS is the best language school! (I have studied at FSI and Berlitz, so I have a basis for comparison.)”

- July, 2008

Recipe of the Month: Russian Borscht

Ingredients:

- 3 1/2 c. canned tomatoes
- 6 med. size potatoes cut in halves
- 1 large carrot cut fine
- 1 small peeled beet
- salt to taste
- 1 small onion chopped
- butter
- 4 c. shredded cabbage
- 3/4 c. sweet cream
- 1/2 c. fresh green pepper chopped
- 2 tbs. fresh or dried dill
- 1 celery chopped fine
- 2 1/2 qts. water
- 1 1/2 c. diced potatoes
- black pepper



Directions:

Boil water in a large kettle. Add 1/2 c. canned tomatoes. When water is boiling drop in 6 med. size potatoes, chopped carrot and the beet. While this is cooking add 3 tbs. of butter in frying pan. When melted add chopped onion, cook tender but do not brown. Add 3c. canned tomatoes and let simmer with onion and butter until a thick sauce. Set to back of stove.

Into a separate frying pan put 2-3 tbs. butter to melt. Add 2c. shredded cabbage and fry. Cook tender but do not brown. Shred another 2c. to add later to the borscht.

When potatoes are tender remove them

to a bowl. Add 2 tbs. of butter, mash well, then add 3/4 c. of sweet cream and mix well and set aside. Add 1 1/2 c of diced potatoes to the stock and the remainder of the shredded cabbage. When diced potatoes are tender, add the onion-tomato sauce, then add the cooked cabbage, and the potato-cream mixture. Add 3 tbs. of butter to the borscht. Stir well. Add fresh chopped fine green pepper. Add 3 tbs. of fresh or dried dill. The more fresh dill the better the flavor. Remove beet, one hour later after borscht is ready.

Borscht is ready to serve. Serve hot. Serve with chopped garlic in your soup bowl and a fresh piece of bread and butter. Yummy, enjoy!

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**TRAINING * TESTING * TRANSLATION *
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**



Blended Learning by Monique Roske

For many years, technological developments seemed to be key to improved teaching of foreign languages. Now it has become quite apparent that a “blend” of human involvement mixed with technological scaffolding is the best way to achieve reliable results. “Blended learning” consists of a teacher interacting with the student, either face-to-face or via web-based platforms, together with technological tools such as computer-based vocabulary lists, subject-specific phrases, and the vast array of authentic materials that is available on the Internet in the target language. The student’s interaction with the teacher is vital to the progress of language studies. The motivational factor cannot be underestimated. Studies have shown that students use instructional computer programs such as Rosetta Stone, for example, for an

average of 2 to 3 months. Then they stop. The lack of interaction with a teacher proves to be a major hurdle. The machines cannot provide the needed motivation and incentives to continue the language studies; the human factor is needed.

Students learn best when the human factor is scaffolded by technological tools. Authentic materials are readily available via the Internet in the form of local and regional newspaper and magazine articles. In addition, special programming provided, for example, by SCOLA, offers the latest as well as archived foreign television newscasts together with interviews of people on the streets of some of the target countries. Both for the purpose of language learning and the introduction of the respective country’s political, economic and social characteristics, access to web-based programs such

For over 20 years, Diplomatic Language Services (DLS) has been a leading full-service provider of language services to U.S. Federal and State Government, military and commercial clients. Since 1985, DLS has provided over 1.5 million class hours of language training, and more than 10 million words in translation.

In 1999, DLS was the first language service provider to be awarded a GSA Schedule and in 2001 the Department of Defense selected DLS to translate the Osama Bin Laden tapes for public release. More than 150 language professionals currently support our wide range of on- and off-site language and cultural training, government-authorized testing, curriculum development, translation and interpretation services.

For all services provided, DLS uses the same approach to meet and exceed client expectations: unparalleled service quality and responsiveness.

as these provides invaluable instructional support. Other technological support is currently being provided by companies such as Transparent Languages and Auralog, offering structural scaffolding through vocabulary lists, subject-specific phrases and pedagogic approaches that mirror the latest developments in foreign-language teaching.

“Blended learning” will improve individual and agency capability in the foreign-language learning sector.

Teachers who know how to adapt to their students’ learning strengths and how to use the currently available technological tools will be the agency’s key factor in achieving individual and agency objectives.