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Genie seranades us in Samra's room.

## Days of Our Lives

### Activities

By Christin Ondrusek

"Where will our feet take us?" is an inherent thought I contemplate each and everyday. I understand our time here is too precious and any opportunities that emerge must be seized with our heart and soul. I wish to share with you some moments in Moscow...

February 17th - "Please, step inside the Vietnamese Market where all your clothing apparel needs will be meet," the motto for future advertisement. This market is located inside an old apartment building that has been converted into an indoor market. On four floors the doors have been removed from each apartment and individual Vietnamese vendors set up shop, selling everything from leather coats to Calvin Kline blue jeans. Oh, and don't forget the shoes. Many more trips are needed to truly appreciate the experience of the Vietnamese Market and bring home all the wonderful purchases.

February 18th - Thanks to our friends, Lena and Masha, we experienced traditional

## You Can Learn a lot from Fairytales

### Culture

By Danielle Cowden

Every country has its own fairy tales. In some we can find similarities to American fairytales, but others are in a league of their own. Regardless, these tales can tell us a great deal of information about a country, its people, its customs, and way of life. All we must be willing to do is read deeper than the words on the page. Here is one Russian fairy tale that captured my interest:

### The Tale of Tsarevich Ivan and the Grey Wolf

In a certain land there lived a tsar. He had three sons. The youngest was Ivan. Around the tsar's palace there was a beautiful garden with all kinds of flowers and trees growing in it. The tsar's favorite was an apple tree with golden apples. One day he noticed that the apples were being pecked during the night. His watchmen could not catch the thief. So he called his sons and they promised to do their best. The first night the eldest son went to the garden to keep watch. After walking about for some time he felt tired, sat down on the grass near the apple tree, and fell asleep. In the morning he told his father that he had not closed his eyes all the night through but had seen no one. The next night the middle son went to keep watch. He also fell asleep but told his father the same. The third night it was Tsarevich Ivan's turn to go to the garden. For some hours he walked around the apple tree afraid if he sat down he would fall asleep.

Whenever he felt sleepy he washed his eyes with dew. Half the night had passed when the Tsarevich saw a light glowing far off in the

Russian folk dancing. I recall that evening when the first group of girls glided onto the stage. They seemed like angels floating through heaven, like skaters dancing on ice, like beautiful Russian dolls rotating on their stands. I sincerely recommend this to you... when a time arises and you have the chance to watch Russian folk dancing, do it.

February 22nd - Many people of all ages associate the ugly duckling story with a swan's image. However, for many of us the correlation has changed. My altered state of mind can be attributed to an excursion to the Kremlin Palace where we enjoyed the ballet Swan Lake. It's a wonderful story of a young prince who falls in love with a swan princess. I know I'll share this fairytale with my children and grandchildren.

February 26th - Another great, no, amazing market called the CD market (actually, it's Garboushka but "the CD Market" is much easier to remember, and more importantly, to pronounce). You can buy just about any CD there for \$3.00 or less. Ok, we've all joined those CD clubs and thought, wow, what a great deal. Now, I take that statement back and with that probably 20 or more CD's. Did anyone know that Phil Collins sang a song featuring N'SYC?

Every weekend - Some of us go dancing. Actually, we dance the night away until the early morning. We've tried a blues/jazz joint, traveled to a sports club called Champions, experienced the Chameleon and frequented the group favorite, The Voodoo Lounge, which is fit with music to satisfy everyone's taste. I hope those of us who are not 21 don't go into club withdrawal when back in America.

Tomorrow - Is just another day, but a new day and an eventful day in Moscow.

### **Daily Temperatures for Moscow, March 6-10th:**

**High\Low**

distance. It came closer and closer until suddenly the whole garden was lit up as if by sunshine. The Firebird with wings like flames flew in, perched on the tree, and began pecking at the apples. Ivan crept up softly and caught the bird by the tail. Though he held her fast she tore herself from his grasp and flew away leaving a feather in his hand. In the morning Ivan told his father who had been pecking the golden apples and gave him the feather, which illuminated the Tsar's chamber with the light of thousands of candles.

The Firebird did not visit the garden any more, but the Tsar could not forget it. A desire to have her in the palace took hold of him. He summoned his sons and bade them find the bird and bring it to him. Half the tsardom was set as a reward.

After receiving their father's blessing all three sons rode away from the palace, each in his own direction.

Tsarevich Ivan rode on and on until he found himself in an open field before a large stone on which the following words were written: "If you go straight ahead, you will be hungry and cold. If you go to the right, you will lose your horse. If you go to the left, you will die." After carefully thinking over his dilemma, he made up his mind to go to the right. The night caught him in a dense forest where he dismounted to get some sleep.

In the morning he could not see his horse, went to search for it and soon found its bones. He wept for his horse and as there was no choice but to continue the journey on foot this he did. After a good walk the Tsarevich felt exhausted and sat down on a tree stump to have a rest. All of a sudden Grey Wolf appeared in front of him. Having heard Ivan's story the wolf said that he felt sorry for having eaten the horse and was ready to make up for his deed. He pledged to serve the Tsarevich truly and faithfully and take him wherever he wished to go. Ivan climbed onto his back. The wolf ran faster than any horse and when night fell they came to a stone wall. Grey Wolf told Ivan to climb over the wall into the garden

	High		Low	
	F	C	F	C
Monday	19	-7	0	-18
Tuesday	16	-9	0	-18
Wednesday	25	-4	0	-18
Thursday	18	-8	0	-18
Friday	30	-1	0	-18

This week's temperatures in degrees Centigrade and Fahrenheit

## Signs of Spring

### Weather

By Matt Brubaker

Spring is slowly on its way! At the end of February most daytime temperatures were above freezing, leading to the formation of deep puddles of water everywhere from the melting snow. And since that time, our skis have leaned against the walls of our rooms and have wondered why we never use them any more. But for the first full week of March, freezing temperatures returned as the daily highs and all those puddles of water became ice.

We have all heard the tales from back home in Pennsylvania about the temperatures being in the 50's and 60's and dream about enjoying those temperatures here soon! Although on some days it does not feel like spring is ever going to come, we can still see the signs of longer days and more sunshine. Plus, we no longer need as many layers of clothing to stay warm outside as compared to what was required in January and February. All of these signs have made us anxious for spring's arrival in Moscow.



where he would find a golden cage with the Firebird in it.

"Take the bird but do not touch the cage," said Grey Wolf. All was still in the garden. Ivan took the Firebird out of the cage and started towards the wall but then turned back. The golden cage studded with gems was very precious, anyway he needed it to put the bird in. The moment he touched the cage a great din rose up all around him. The guards caught him and led him straight to the Tsar.

"Who are you and where do you hail from?" The Tsar bellowed in is fury. Ivan told him the whole story.

"Well, you should have come to me and asked for the bird; perhaps I would have given it to you. But now there is only one way for you to save yourself from disgrace. There is a horse with a golden mane over the hills and far away. Bring me that horse and I'll forgive you and let you have the Firebird."

Full of sadness, Ivan returned to Grey Wolf. The wolf scolded him but finally softened. Ivan sat on the back of Grey Wolf and they rushed off in search of the horse with the golden mane.

Nobody knows how long the wolf ran before he reached the stables of white stone. He sent Ivan to fetch the horse with the golden mane and told him not to touch the golden bridle hanging on the wall. The stablemen were sleeping so Ivan took the horse and was about to leave the stable but could not content himself with leaving the bridle behind.

"I might as well take the bridle," he thought, forgetting for a moment his friend's advice. No sooner had he touched the bridle than there was ringing and clanging broke out throughout the stables. The stablemen woke, seized the thief and led him to their Tsar.

"Who are you and where do you hail from?" was the question again. The Tsarevich told his story, and the Tsar, as before, said that he would have given the horse with the golden

Dr. Dennis Buffington and Christin pose at the farewell/welcome party for our professors.

## New Alliances

### Education

By Sara K. Hayden

All good things must come to an end, and Dr. Whittington's Web Design class was no exception to this rule. In fact, it came to an end much sooner than many of us had imagined. Our website is complete, and Dr. Pat has returned to the States.

Happily though, our next class, Biological Systems, began this past Monday with Dr. Dennis E. Buffington of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Although most of the American students are not majoring in engineering, Dr. Buffington's enthusiasm for his subject and the relevance of this material for any individual should make the course interesting.

Dr. Buffington's class was not Monday's only activity, however. While Dr. Buffington began teaching as scheduled, he also donated part of his class-time for a presentation. Rick Bennet, who was a scientist in the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA, and Dr. Ray Miller, an organizer of international programs for the College of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Maryland, discussed agricultural relations between the United States and Russia. This meeting provided an opportunity for them to see what American and Russian students have been able to accomplish together (in the form of our completed web page) and also allowed the students to ask questions about how our countries are working together to develop agriculture.

As these men explained to us, they, themselves, are part of a governmental working group dealing with research, education, and extension, within the larger framework of the Agrobusiness Committee, chaired by Secretary of Agriculture Glickman, which, in turn, is a part of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission. President Clinton established this commission eight years ago in

mane if Ivan had come in daylight and openly asked for it, but as he had failed to do that he would be in disgrace in all the tsardoms unless he performed a service for him. Ivan was asked to go to the Thrice-Tenth Tsardom which was beyond the thrice-nine lands and bring from there Princess Elena the Fair. Then he would be pardoned and given the horse. With a heavy heart the Tsarevich returned to Grey Wolf. Again the wolf scolded him but finally softened and pledged his help.

As this is a fairy tale they soon came to the palace where Elena the Fair lived. Grey Wolf did not let Ivan go in for Ivan always encountered some sort of trouble. The wolf leapt into the garden that surrounded the palace and when Elena came out for a walk he seized her, threw her across his back and ran to the place where the Tsarevich was waiting for him. Ivan and Elena mounted Grey Wolf's back and he ran so fast that their pursuers could not catch them. Quite naturally the young people fell in love and the nearer they were to the place of parting the sadder Ivan became. Only Grey Wolf could help them. He rolled over on the ground and took on Elena's form. Ivan exchanged the pretend Elena for the horse with the golden mane. The old Tsar was very delighted to have gained a young and beautiful bride and did not lose any time preparing the wedding feast. Grey Wolf gave Ivan and his fair princess time to ride a long way off, and at the end of the feast he turned back into his original form and left the Tsar in a state of great fear and astonishment. Then the travelers repeated the trick and exchanged the pretend horse with the golden mane for the Firebird. After all, it would have been beneath the dignity of a tsar to be to come home with so beautiful a bride on foot.

The wolf fulfilled his promise to serve truly and faithfully. Ivan bowed low to Grey Wolf and set off on his way home with his betrothed. Very weary they reached the Tsarevich's land, lay down for a night's rest and soon fell asleep. At the very moment, the elder brothers were riding by empty handed. Seeing the Firebird in the golden cage, the horse with the golden mane and a beauty

order to form more formal relations with Russia. The hope is that, by exchanging information and technologies, relations between the two nations will be strengthened. Now Americans and Russians in agriculture are doing more joint research, co-publishing papers, and trying to develop a Russian extension service.

Thus far the program seems to be running smoothly and bringing about positive results for both countries. Members of both nations look forward to continued cooperation - especially when students, the future of agriculture, are already discovering how much we have in common and all that we can learn from one another.



Ray Miller and Rick Bennett speak to us about the importance of keeping a global perspective.

Questions? Comments? [E-mail Us!](#)

sleeping beside their brother, they decided to kill him. This they did and commanded Elena to say to their father that it was they who had captured the Firebird and horse. She was so shaken with fear that she vowed to obey. Tsarevich Ivan lay dead and ravens were flying over him. That did not escape Grey Wolf's notice. He went to try to revive his old friend, but in vain. He then hid behind a bush, and when a young raven was quite close grabbed it and threatened to tear it into pieces unless its mother brought him some dead water and live water. Three days later the raven returned with the water. First of all Grey Wolf sprinkled the dead water on Ivan's body, and all his wounds closed. Then he sprinkled him with live water. Ivan stood up and exclaimed, "Oh, what a long sleep I have had!" Grey Wolf told him what had happened and took him to his hometown. Ivan saw people dressed in their holiday best hurrying to the palace. He learned that his elder brother was to marry Elena the Fair. He quickened his step. As soon as he entered the feasting chamber Elena the Fair sprang up and said: "Here is my true and beloved bridegroom!" and told the Tsar and the guests all that had happened to her and her beloved. The Tsar drove his elder sons out of the tsardom. Then he gave half of his tsardom to Ivan, who married Elena. Ivan and his fair wife lived in peace for many a year and never had cause to shed a tear.

I hope that you enjoyed the tale of Ivan and his follies as much as I did but there is more to be gained from this simple tale than a moment's pleasure. After spending two months in Russia and interacting with many different Russian people I realize how this story applies to their culture. For example, when the Tsar sends his sons to search out the Firebird, to me, this signifies how much Russian parents trust, respect, and depend on their offspring. The same is true of the children also. In Russia I have been amazed at the strength of the bond between the child and the parents. In the tale, when Ivan has his many plights, he never once falters or thinks

to abort his mission. This is also characteristic of Russian culture. If someone sets out to accomplish something they will not let anything stand in their way. I feel this also denotes the problems that Russia has had as a country over the centuries. The history of this country is not without troubles but in the end everything always worked out, just as it did for Ivan and Elena.



Sasha shows off our web page to Ray Miller

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Pictures courtesy of:  
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[Top of Page](#)

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