

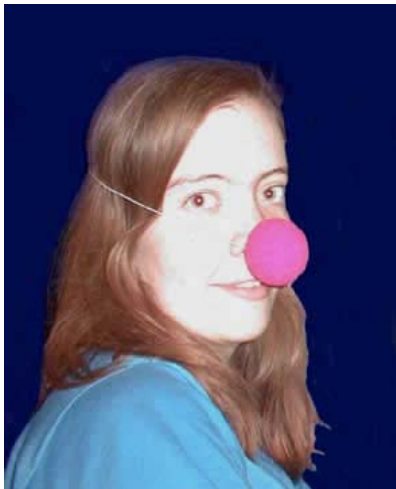


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## Clowning Around

Activities

By Regina Szczesniak



Is that Suzanne or Rudolph?

That's right ladies and gentlemen, the Americans of the INTAG program have witnessed not one, but two amazing circus performances in their last weeks in Russia! Isn't one night of thrilling excitement enough for our American heroes? Not in Moscow, where the Russians are fortunate enough to have two separate groups of circus performers! Both companies are permanent to the city and present very different material, making them unique with respect to one another. Goga, one of our newest Russian friends, was kind enough to organize and accompany us to both excursions.

Our first experience, which took us to the site of the old circus house at Tsvetnoy Bulvar, was on April 9. Several pairs and trios of goofy clowns greeted the audience of the "old" circus and entertained us in three or four separate skits throughout the night. By

## Suzdal: A Millenium of History

Culture

By Matthew Brubaker

During a single millennium many great nations and empires can rise and fall. As a result of these political changes, many beautiful pieces of art and architecture are often destroyed during wars and revolutions. Plus fires, natural disasters, and the lack of proper upkeep over a thousand years can also take their toll on many masterpieces. One town in Russian can proudly say that it has preserved many irreplaceable pieces of art and architecture against the test of time is the millennium old town of Suzdal. In 1983 the town was awarded the "Golden Apple" award from an international organization of journalists writing about tourism for the preservation and restoration of architectural monuments for the interest of tourism.

Although Suzdal was never officially recorded until 1024, the town's unrecorded beginning can be traced back as far back as the 9th-century. In Suzdal's early years, the present-day kremlin that is located within the bend of the Kamenka River was originally the center of the medieval town. But with town's growth northward, the kremlin is now located in the southern part of Suzdal. The town's oldest architectural structure is the white-stone Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin (1222-25). The lower portion of the cathedral is the original white stone while the upper portion was rebuilt in the 16th-century with brick. Two chapels of the cathedral have golden gates made copper plates from the 13th-century. The interior walls of the cathedral are beautifully decorated with

the end of the show we were familiar with each of their characters: the debonair ladies' man and his clumsy side-kick, the self-torturing husband and wife, the aspiring composer and the fan who sabotages each of his masterpieces. The list went on. The night culminated in a knee-slapping skit involving a fire and the eventual "watering down" of the audience. The element of the old circus that probably contributed most to its humor was the incredible amount of audience participation. The clowns stole wives from husbands, drew caricatures of old men, and even gave out champagne to audience members.



They float through the air with the greatest of ease - the daring young men (and women) on the flying trapeze . . .

One week later, we visited the "new" circus at the Universitet metro station. We felt more at home in the large stadium and with the more varied performances. The acts were quite impressive: three juggling brothers, a group of trapeze artists and the dancing woman with changing colored dresses. The performance was held in only one ring and so was interrupted several times for major set and equipment changes. The night ended with the floor of the stadium being completely transformed into a cage for a group of tigers and their trainer. Like the old circus, the new one also included some clown acts, though not many, and audience

religious icon paintings and a five-tiered iconostasis.

Across the Kamenka River from the kremlin is the Museum of Wooden Architecture and Peasant Daily Life. It consists of wooden windmills, houses, barns, bathhouses, and churches that have been moved to Suzdal to assemble a 1700's style peasant village. People in peasant dress portray peasants tending to their gardens. The tallest and most extraordinary of these wooden masterpieces is the 18th-century Church of the Transfiguration. It resembles the architecture of typical Russian cathedrals of previous centuries. Due to its wood construction, it is of a much smaller size compared to the cathedrals made of stone and brick.



The wooden churches of Suzdal

Founded in 1352, the Spaso-Yevfimiyevo or the Savior-St. Euphymius Monastery is surrounded by a high wall punctuated with twelve towers. Behind the wall is the Cathedral of the Transfiguration (1594) that has an interior decorated with murals painted by very talented artists. There are also three other churches and a bell-tower with three arched bays that were built from the 16th to the 17th-centuries.

Across the river from the Spaso-

participation. One act including a woman guessing objects donated by the audience prompted Dan to offer his shoes!

After four months of cultural excursions, our visits to the Moscow circuses were quite welcome. What a wonderful way to end a wonderful semester.



Um - maybe Samra, Danielle and Matt are a little over-enthralled by the circus

## Good Day Sunshine

Weather

By Meg Bruening



Lazy days of summer

It's amazing what the sun can do. A few weeks ago we were complaining about the dreariness we were experiencing due to the gray, rainy weather. Moscow turns into a completely different city in the spring. Now the sun is shining, giving us newfound energy. In class, we are like kids in elementary school, eager to get outside and play. With the sun rising before seven and

Yevfimiyevo Monastery is the Convent of the Intercession that was founded in 1364. It was here that many tsars' wives were exiled for reasons such as barrenness or so the tsar could remarry. Yevdokia Lopukhina, Peter the Great's first wife was exiled here. The Cathedral of the Intercession (1510-18), the bell-tower (17th-century), and the Holy Gate (1518) are fascinating buildings with all white exteriors except for the green and gold cupolas.

Suzdal is a town that has managed to preserve many exquisite architectural masterpieces for those of a new millennium to see how life in the past millennium was. It is a truly magnificent experience to see these places in person and to hear the bells in the bell-towers ringing. If there is one thing to remember when viewing these beautiful churches and cathedrals, remember that none of our modern technology of cranes, backhoes, concrete, steel, and trusses was used to construct them. It has all done by hand.



All of us enjoying the beauty of Suzdal

## The Big Chief

People

By Danielle Cowden

How would you expect a person's background, who is involved in international education, to appear? Most people that I

setting after nine, the average length of the day is about 14 hours, giving us plenty of daylight to do both our work and go outside for some relaxation. Flowers are blooming, leaves are out: the city is bright and green.

The average temperature has been about seventy degrees; under the sun it has gotten up to eighty degrees. And at night it gets down to the mid fifties: warm enough to go outside without a coat, but cool enough that it isn't uncomfortable. It is the perfect weather to go to the park for a picnic and to fly a kite.



**Frisbee Anyone?**

## **The Power of Teaching: Tracy Hoover**

**Education**

**By Daniel Moore**

Tracy Hoover is a professor of agricultural education at the University of Florida. She grew up in Pottstown, Pennsylvania and after completing her high school education, she attended college at Delval University in Doylestown, Pennsylvania where she received her bachelors degree in animal science in 1978. Thereafter she enrolled at Penn State University at University Park where she worked on her masters degree in agricultural education. After completing her masters, she sought out the practical work experience necessary for post secondary school education and worked as a high school teacher of agricultural education for three years in the Cumberland County school system. There, she taught a diverse program,

know would definitely not expect him or her to be involved in production agriculture. The exact opposite, however, is true of Dr. Valery Chumakov. This is what makes him so unique. He is probably one of the leaders, in Russia, of internationalizing agricultural education.



**Dr. Valery Chumakov**

Dr. Chumakov's educational training began at Moscow State Automobile and Road Building University where he majored in mechanical engineering. After graduating in 1974, he worked in research at the same university from which he graduated studying the engines of different machines. The next three years of his life were spent writing his thesis on internal combustion engines so he could acquire his doctorate. For ten years, he continued to work at the same university; he was a research specialist and an associate professor. He began working at the Moscow State Agroengineering University (MSAU) in 1982. Again he specialized in two fields, research and teaching in the classroom.

Dr. Chumakov currently teaches two classes at MSAU. They are both in the area of tractors and automobiles. He is the professor of a course entitled "The Design of Tractors and Automobiles". The other class he teaches is on the theory of the working process of the internal combustion engine.

He was always interested in international education and he is fluent in both the French and English languages. He had the opportunity to study at the National Institute of Mechanization in Agriculture in France for

teaching students skills ranging from welding to woodworking and educating them about wildlife and farming techniques. Her work with high school students contributed greatly to her doctoral thesis that she completed in 1990. The topic of her thesis was the influences that lead students to join agricultural education classes and the FFA, an agricultural youth organization for high school and college aged students.

After earning her doctorate, she taught at Penn State until December of 1992, when she relocated to the University of Florida to fill a tenure line position there. However, she assured me she and her family are still Penn St. fans and frequent Penn St. where she still maintains friendships and professional relationships with colleagues. She got involved with the International Agricultural Program in Moscow through her long time association with Professor Dr. Bruening, who her approached her with a teacher offer three years ago. This is her second year with the program and she has greatly enjoyed the experience of working in an international setting and expects to return in the future.

Presently, her year round job at the University of Florida at Gainesville is comprised of four-fifths teaching and one-fifth extension. For her extension work, she is part of an animal youth design team that organizes programs for kids in Florida. In addition to her full time job at the university, she also juggles her full time job as a wife and mother of two preteen girls, Megan and Allison, who are twelve and eight respectively. Dr. Hoover's husband also works in the field of agriculture and travels a great deal, often bringing the girls along for the experience. When asked if her children liked agriculture, Tracy responded, "They don't have much of a choice."

one year. When he returned from France MSAU named him the Vice Director of International Programs. His most successful venture thus far has been an exchange program; he helped to start, with the Pennsylvania State University. When students participate in this program they travel to Moscow and study at MSAU for one semester. Dr. Chumakov told me that of the sixty-two agricultural universities in Russia none of them have a program that is similar to the one MSAU boasts with Penn State. There are plans to expand the program with Penn State so that it encompasses other universities in the United States. Dr. Chumakov has already visited universities in Colorado, Nebraska, and Maryland to help promote the benefits of the program. Presently, there are around seventy to seventy-five foreign students studying at MSAU, and the number is growing every year. Dr. Chumakov has optimistic plans for furthering MSAU's involvement in the realm of international education. He also plans to continue teaching his classes on tractors and automobiles at MSAU.



Saying goodbye to Dr. Chumakov

**Dear Olga,**

**By Barbie Berrang, Ksenia Koblik & Julia Romansova**

*Olga is our Russian cultural advisor. People throughout write to her asking her for suggestions and advice about Russian life...*

Dear Olga,



Dr. Tracy Hoover

## Last Impressions

**I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED** to study abroad, and Russia was my first chance to fulfill my dream. The program consisted of spending four months in Russia. I was thrilled when this opportunity fell into my lap. It was the perfect chance to see if I was capable of living in another culture for a long period of time.

I feel that good things come to those who wait. Russia has not only been good, it has been great. I have learned so much about the Russian culture, Russian people, and about myself. I love all of the Russian friends that I have made and I will never forget them. They have made this experience invaluable. The Russians have opened my eyes to what is available in the world.

I am happy to know that I will be able to take these experiences back with me to America and to Nicaragua and share them with my family and my friends. Now I have a better understanding of people and their needs which will improve my work in the Peace Corps. I admit that I have so much more to learn and I look forward to having more opportunities such as this to expand my knowledge of various cultures.

**Barbie Berrang**

Hello! My girlfriends and I live at the malls of America. We love to shop and spend money. Where there's a bargain, you can find four crazy shop-a-holics. We always say, "When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping." When I come to Russia, where can I feed my hunger for my favorite past time and cure my shopping bug?

Shop 'til you drop,  
Seymour Cash

Dear Seymour,

Honey, you better cash in your dollars in for rubles as soon as you set your big toe in Russia. You may as well face it, you are addicted to shopping. When you go to visit different cities of the world, you are like any other tourist, you try to buy something that reminds you about your trip. It can be an unusual souvenir or something original like clothes.



Ayyyyyyy!

There are a lot of places in Moscow where you can buy something original and nice. Three of the largest and most famous centers in Moscow are GUM, which is situated in the left side of red square, OHOTNIY RIAD, which was built at the same time as the anniversary of the capital and finally DETSKIY MIR.

In the GUM, there are a lot of beautiful and elite clothes from famous producers from different countries. You can also buy good quality Russian goods here. However, the



**Barbie on top of the world or should we say...wastepile?  
She's always loved pigs.**

**WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE**, Russia was very cold and snow-covered. But now as we now prepare to leave, the days are warm and sunny. The grass is green and the trees are budding their leaves. It is these things that show just how beautiful Russia really is. In my time here, I have met many wonderful people who I now call my friends. I have had the wonderful opportunity to see Russian agriculture first-hand from our many farm visits, and I realize that Russia trying its hardest to improve agriculture. Going to the farms, especially the dairy farms, would remind me of my family's farm that I grew up on and will be returning to shortly. I have done so many amazing things while I was here that I can hardly believe that I did them all in less than four months. I can honestly say that this experience has been the best time of my life and I know that I will never forget it!

**Matthew Brubaker**

prices are quite expensive.

The new OHOTNIY RIAD is a modern trade complex, there are a lot of little famous boutiques of famous firms like "BOSS" "BENITON" "MANGO" Öetc and the prices are expensive here too.

The more affordable prices are at DETSKIY MIR. It has a very good choice of clothes for kids and teenagers.

You can also buy nice goods and souvenirs in the TSUM. It is situated not far from the Bolshoi Theatre. The prices are high here too, but they are less than those found in GUM or OHOTNIY RIAD.

Most of the tourists prefer to go to Ismailovsky Park. It is a big trade fair. They sell of any kind of handmade craft like jewelry made from wood and stones to knitted shawls, sweaters and patchwork quilts. There are a lot of souvenirs on Old Arbat Street, but the prices in the Ismailovsky Park are cheaper.

By the way, you can buy inexpensive clothes in the pavilions located in the different markets of Moscow like Petrovsko-Razumovsky, Cherkizovsky, Shelkovsky, Tushensky. All of them are situated near those metro stations. They are easy to find because they share their name with the metro station at which they are located. It is a good choice for inexpensive clothes with the same quality and fashion as in those expensive stores.

And for people who can afford it, Moscow invites them to the gallery AKTER on Tverskaya Street or to PETROVSKY PASSAGE on Petrovka Street. There is still one more shop that belongs to the most elite and expensive of shops. It is called KRESTOVSKY, and it is not far from Rizhskaya metro station.

Welcome to Moscow!  
I wish you good shopping!

Shop 'til you drop,  
Olga

Contributed by Ksenia Koblik



Matt and Dan sipping some "root" beer

**RUSSIA IS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY**, containing many things to offer its inhabitants and visitors. I will walk away from this experience having made both good friends and memories. I will remember the silly, crazy times that we spent together: dancing at the Voodoo Lounge, taking late night pictures in the metro station for our web page project, walking in the center, and just spending time together laughing. The thing that still continues to amaze me is the hospitality of the Russians. Every single one of our friends has done everything in their power to make our stay as positive as possible. And I will always thank them for that.

### Meg Bruening



Our Russian friends Ksusha and Kostya

**MY FAVORITE COLORS ARE** red, orange, pink, yellow, green and blue now. For years I have liked all these colors at once—mixing them up wearing pink with red and

Russia, Moscow

Dear Olga,

I was searching through some pictures that I found tucked away in the attic. I discovered a picture of my father in a Russian dance club. He sure looked like he was having a great time. I was wondering if I could find the same type of all night entertainment in Moscow. Can you tell me what Russian nightlife is like?

Lookin' for a good time,  
Kip Itmoven

Dear Kip,

Where there is a need for fun, there is a need for nightlife. People have always had the need to socialize and communicate with other people. That is why many of us find ourselves out on the town on the weekends. We all have to relax in some way.

For those people who love music, there are many opportunities to visit different types of clubs. For instance, if you like live bands, the Cukuruza (Corn) club plays various types of live music like the blues, country music and rock n' roll.

Another club that can really give you a taste of Russian and European techno music is Butilka (Bottle). There are no live bands at this club, but there is a stage for dancing, and drinking games.

The VooDoo Lounge is a Latino club that plays a wide range of music from Latino music to American pop and club mixes. They also offer Latino dance lessons.

The Russian nightclubs are open all night. It is common for people to go to their friend's house afterwards or grab a bite to eat at the 24-hour grocery store. However, for those days that an all night excursion is out of the question, there are plenty of movie theaters in the Moscow area that have both Russian and American movies. The Pushkin Movie Theater shows American movies in Russian but the American Cinema House

other no-no's that made my family ignore me in public. Yet, for years my mother has said that my signature color is **red**. But **red's** personality strides on confidence, which is one thing I thought I never had, until now. **Orange**, for me is an individualist's color, it gave me the strength to wake up every morning even during the gloomiest times. **Pink** offers a sense of freedom that the others only hint on. There is a romantic and spunkful combination of the two when it hits the skin. Plain-Jane **yellow** isn't exactly a favorite of mine. It has to be a shade of **yellow** that makes the people scream. A brighter shade of **yellow** that you can't really define, sort of like all the people I have met. Most of them are more than friends now, more like family and probably have enough dirt on me that you can't see the **yellow** at all. I decided the other day that I like **green** more than I thought I did. I was walking in Alexander's Park after visiting the Kremlin for the last time and it hit me that there was **green** everywhere << POOF>> just like that the snow was gone. There was so much **green** that I almost forgot what the land looks like with snow. Recently **blue** has helped me remember that home is just around the corner. 5,000 miles doesn't seem so far away after all, especially when friends and family all over the world are enjoying the same colors as me.

### Suzanne Bruening

**THE TIME HERE HAS PASSED** so quickly, it seems like only yesterday I was gazing out the plane window catching my first glimpse of Russia. The memories of my trip to Russia will surely endure a lifetime.

**M** My first recollection of Moscow is of all the snow I saw piled high when the plane landed.

**E** Everyday increasingly drew me into the richness of the Russian culture.

**M** Metro, oh the fun we had there; of course

plays English-speaking movies so there is something out there for everyone.

Many of the young people in Moscow like to spend time with their friends strolling on Arbat Street. There are people singing and playing guitars. The people in Russia truly appreciate the time they spend with their friends. So, make some Russian friends and let them show you what the Russian nightlife is like. Have fun and take a picture for someone else to see.

Socializing the night away,  
Olga

Contributed by Yulia Romansova  
Russia, Moscow

## To Moscow and Back

By Thomas Bruening



HI-HO HI-HO its off to Moscow we go

This issue of the INATG electronic newsletter represents the 14th edition that students have developed as a result of their two-year study-abroad program at MSAU. It also marks the end of the two-year experimental educational program sponsored by a Kellogg-initiative in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State University. We deem the program to be an overwhelming success. We exceeded nearly every expectation of the project. More students were taught, students took more classes, and more graduate students and professors were involved than we first proposed. We over came every possible

my falling down the metro steps will always be good for a laugh.

⊕ Oranges, apples, cucumbers, tomatoes. . .fresh produce abounds in Russia and going to the market and bargaining was one of my favorite pastimes.

Ⓜ Red Square, how could I ever forget this impressive piece of Russian history? My many trips to Red Square, when remembered, will always be cherished.

‡ Ingesting Russian food was not my favorite thing to do but I will miss the blini.

Ⓔ Everlasting, the faces of all of my Russian friends will be imprinted on my mind forever.

Ⓢ Spring what a wonderful time to be in Moscow; after the long winter it was welcomed by all, probably me most of all!

**Danielle Cowden**

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAVEL...**

If you can't travel to Russia, then travel as far as your car or feet will take you. As for me, I've been fortunate enough to live in harmony with another culture for the past four months. In that time my life has changed, my knowledge of the world has increased and the future seems clearer.

Thank you Russia.

Till next time  
**Christin Ondrusek**

obstacle (and there were many) to make this a very successful program.

Students learned and benefited as they gave of themselves to become active members of the group-learning experience. Nearly all gave of up self-centered tendencies to become members of the MSAU/ Penn State family in Moscow.

Special thanks go to Dr. Valery Chumakov for his tireless leadership and strength. The Rector -- Dr. Michael Erokin and Pavel Sorokin (Russian Embassy Washington DC) played key supporting roles to make this program work. Moreover we could not have completed this project without the support of Jeff Singer and Vladimir Soldatenkov at ACIDI/VOCA in Russia. All of the students MSAU and PSU who participated also deserve thanks and congratulations for the selfless efforts to make the project successful. Finally, we thank and congratulate all of the professors, staff assistants, and graduate students for their participation and professional growth that occurred during the past two years.

We have submitted a new proposal to involve more United States universities in a similar program for the next two years. We are hopeful that additional sponsors will emerge to support this useful and valuable program. Study abroad programs are not unique in the university environment. However, this group-based program is unique in the way it is offered and the valuable academic and cultural interaction of students and professors. For more information about the program contact me at THBruening@Hotmail.Com.

**The Good, The Bad and**



**Christin and Genie in Saint Petersburg**

**I BELIEVE** the experiences an individual acquires throughout their lifetime makes the person who they are. The more a person can experience, a better understanding develops in thinking and understanding. Coming to Russia has proved to me that the world is a very big, diverse place. If you were to ask me before I came what I would take back with me from living here these four months, my answers now and what they would have been are completely different.

The people here that have become my friends, both American and Russian, are the most influential factors in my stay. Breaking through language barriers, living as a large family, and discovering new personalities and ideas shaped me. I will be stepping onto US soil in less than 2 weeks a different person, one that looks forward to new opportunities, not backing down from a struggle, and a person that will return.

**LeeAnn Tice**



## the Ugly

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

Pictures courtesy of:  
**Sara Hayden**  
**Christin Ondrusek**



**LeeAnn frolicing among the windmills**

[Top of Page](#)

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