

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOWDOIN COLLEGE RUSSIAN DEPARTMENT

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bowdoin College moved all instruction online after spring break, resulting in the unfortunate cancellation of several highly anticipated co-curricular events, along with the annual Russian department dinner that we had planned for later in the spring semester. Nevertheless, it was a very full year in the department even before the disruption occurred, with four lectures and a dance performance, student outings to two different versions of *Anna Karenina*, the first-ever group trip to explore Russian culture in and around New York City, our traditional holiday potluck in December, and even a Zoom event featuring two Bowdoin alumni in May! This year, our new TA, *Anna Karenina*, has brought tremendous energy, a friendly spirit, and a wide range of teaching interests to the department. Finally, it was a year of major student achievements that deserve to be celebrated. We hope you will enjoy reading about all of this and more in the pages that follow!



Dr. Gillespie (associate professor and department chair) is excited to announce the release of a new CD on the Delos record label, titled *Four Poems of Marina Tsvetayeva*, by California-based composer Mark Abel, containing his new piece for soprano, piano, and voice. Dr. Gillespie will be on sabbatical in 2020-21, working on three different books on poet Alexander Pushkin (a scholarly monography, a biography, and a collection of essays) and a book-length translation of Marina Tsvetayeva's poetry.


Dr. Gillespie is excited to announce the release of a new CD on the Delos record label, titled *Four Poems of Marina Tsvetayeva*, by California-based composer Mark Abel, containing his new piece for soprano, piano, and voice.

Dr. Johnson (lecturer) joined Bowdoin this fall after a year of teaching academic writing at Harvard and is glad for the opportunity to return to the Russian fold. This year he taught a literature in translation course on the subject of love and desire in Russian culture, along with Intermediate and Advanced Russian languages courses in both semesters, and is currently developing a course on the demonic in Russian literature and film. This summer he will be working on research for a book project on the early Soviet writer Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, alongside other ongoing writing projects.

Dr. Johnson (lecturer) joined Bowdoin College, this fall after a year of teaching academic writing at Harvard and is glad for the opportunity to return to the Russian fold. This year he taught a literature in translation course on the subject of love and desire in Russian culture, along with Intermediate and Advanced Russian languages courses in both semesters, and is currently developing a course on the demonic in Russian literature and film. This summer he will be working on research for a book project on the early Soviet writer Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, alongside other ongoing writing projects.



Í<]gfcfm XcYgbÑhí fYdYUHz' hłci [\ ']hí XcYg' gca Yhja Yg'



Hometown: Minneapolis, MN
Majors: Russian and English

Hometown: Warren, RI
Majors: Philosophy and Russian

