

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations to the winners of the Ninth Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. We had over 100 students from 37 institutions throughout the United States win gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention certificates.

In this year's contest, there were 723 essays submitted from 50 universities and colleges across the nation. Each essay was ranked by three judges in Russia, and often the results were simply too close to call.

I hope that these awards encourage your students to continue their study of Russian language and culture. I would also thank all of the students who participated in the contest. The contest would not have been the tremendous success it was without their willingness to participate. Finally, I would express my gratitude to you for encouraging your students to take part in the contest and for coordinating the contest at your home institution. Thank you very much!

Please let me know if I have misspelled any names. I will be announcing the winners on SEELANGS, on the AATSEEL Web site, and in the ACTR Newsletter and would like to make sure that the information is correct before I do so. I will be working on the certificates and plan to put them in the mail by Monday, April 21. Please let me know if you need the certificates immediately. I can scan them in as PDFs, and you could print copies out for the students as you wait to receive the official ones by mail.

Once again, thank you for your help in making this contest a success. I hope that you will continue to support the contest in the future.

Sincerely,

Patricia Zody, NPSREC Chairperson
Director, Center for Language Studies, Beloit College

Ninth Annual National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest
American Council of Teachers of Russian

Topic: "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."
(Все счастливые семьи похожи друг на друга, каждая несчастливая семья несчастлива по-своему.), Anna Karenina, Lev Tolstoy

Non-Heritage Learners, Level 1

First Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 1)
Carolyn A. Clark, Williams College
Edward Kraftmann, University of Pennsylvania
Anne Skuza, University of Pennsylvania
Katherine Wallace, University of Pennsylvania

Second Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 1)

Polly Cancro, Vassar College
Alexa Gubinski, Vassar College
Shelby Wardlaw, Vassar College
James Warrick-Alexander, Yale University

Third Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 1)

Elissa Brown Carleton College
Sara Cantor, Carleton College
Hanna June Gould, Columbia University
Matthew Judson Stephenson, University of Mississippi

Honorable Mention (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 1)

Jessica Ann Beck, University of Mississippi
Sophie Georgina Clarke, Middlebury College
Kathryn Rose Critchell, Columbia University
Danielle DeLee, Yale University
Kathryn Derrah, Carleton College
Jennifer L. DeVito, Indiana University
Ionelia Engel, University of Pennsylvania
Lauren Ross Glover, Columbia University
Kelly Grimes, Pomona College
Hannah Ruth Hunt, Columbia University
David Armand Jahn, Columbia University
Izzat Jarudi, Yale University
Andrea Kahn, Amherst College
Jane Inkee Kim, Columbia University
Rebecca Lent, Pomona College
Kate McDermott, Yale University
Candace Phelps, University of Alberta
Justin Purtle, Vassar College
Lillian Jessica Stein, Middlebury College
Brandy Thoma, Bryn Mawr College

Non-Heritage Learners, Level 2

First Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Aneta C. Biesiadecka, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Justin Lo, Yale University
Julia Soper, Swarthmore College

Second Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Rachel Caplan, Yale University
Alexander Karadjov, Vassar College
Stephanie Norton, Kenyon College

Matthew Regner, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Third Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Becky Baumgartner, Indiana University
James Bernard, Swarthmore College
Kate Goldstein, Bryn Mawr College
Brooke Hoffman, University of North Carolina
Kendall Kravchuk, Kenyon College
Melissa Sheedy, University of Montana

Honorable Mention (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Jaclyn Brooks, Indiana University
Reilly Costigan, Bryn Mawr College
Kelly Heuser, Dickinson College
Mihaela Mihailova, Yale University
Zachary Mulvihill, Yale University
Kimberly Sturgill, Randolph College
Juliet Tan, Amherst College
Emily Austin Traverse, Columbia University
Michele Trickey, Yale University
Matthew Watson, Franklin & Marshall College

Non-Heritage Learners, Level 3

First Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Marino Auffant, Harvard University
Jason Cieply, Kenyon College
Josh Pennington, Ohio State University
Joanne M. Stein, Bowling Green State University

Second Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Alexios Ilias Shaw, Columbia University
Eric Swinn, University of California, Los Angeles

Third Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Clinton Buhler, Ohio State University
Justin Cade, Ohio State University
Michael Jaskiw, Harvard University

Honorable Mention (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Steven Bruce, Yale University
Jeff Carr, Utah State University
Elizabeth Fullerton, University of Montana
Tyler Henderson, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Cecilia Leugers, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Sara Orr, Ohio State University

Brandon Strawn, Beloit College
Rachel Molly Trager, Columbia University
Mitchell Vainshtein, Yale University

Non-Heritage Learners, Level 4

First Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 4)
Dustin Cody Bankston, University of Mississippi
Samuel Hirst, University of Pennsylvania

Second Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 4)
Lauren Hill, Amherst College
Abraham Smith, Indiana University
James H. Stotts, Boston College

Third Place (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 4)
Edward Chien, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Eric Ciaramella, Yale University
Kathryn Duda, University of Chicago
Jennifer Zale, Beloit College

Honorable Mention (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 4)
Jennifer Brannan, Beloit College
Gabriel Guadalupe, State University of New York at Albany
Tyler M. Hartmann, United States Military Academy
Laura Hurst, Boston College
Katherine Anne Israel, Indiana University
David W. Kessel, Williams College
Dea Markova, Bryn Mawr College
Armand Rundquist, Utah State University
Caitlin Sullivan, Beloit College

Heritage Learners, Level 1

First Place (Heritage Learners, Level 1)
Syuzanna Adamyan, University of California, Los Angeles

Second Place (Heritage Learners, Level 1)
Elina Kremen, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Marina Tsipenyuk, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Third Place (Heritage Learners, Level 1)
Abigail Kazhdan, University of California, Los Angeles
Anna Lagoutchkin, University of California, Santa Barbara
Asya Pritsker, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Honorable Mention (Heritage Learners, Level 1)

Artom Bogdonovich, Boston College
Sofia Brickman, University of California, Santa Barbara
Nika Brodsky, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Irina Dizik, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Ella Goykhman, Temple University
Svetlana Komizorova, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Dimitry Lensky, University of California, Los Angeles
Anastasia Maleshev, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Yuliya Zeynalova, University of California, Los Angeles

Heritage Learners, Level 2

First Place (Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Anton S. Matveev, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Alesia Selyuzhitski, State University of New York at Albany

Second Place (Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Alexsandra Murray, University of Mississippi

Third Place (Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Inna O.Dinekina, Temple University
Vladen V. Zlatous, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Honorable Mention (Heritage Learners, Level 2)

Kristina Borisova, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Valentina A. Petrenko, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Heritage Learners, Level 3

First Place (Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Diana Kouleshova, Pomona College

Second Place (Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Marina Grishina, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Third Place (Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Anton Rassadkin, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Honorable Mention (Heritage Learners, Level 3)

Dina Flamik, San Francisco State University
Artyom Ivakh, University of Northern Iowa
Victor Krapivkin, University of California, Los Angeles
Anna Weiser, University of California, Los Angeles

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Description of Categories and Levels

Essays will be ranked according to levels as follows:

Category 1: Non-Heritage Learners (those learners who do not and did not ever speak Russian in the home. Please take the time to calculate the number of hours that your students have studied Russian to place them in the proper category.)

Level One: students who at the time of the essay contest will have had fewer than 100 contact hours of instruction in Russian (whether in college alone or in college and high school). (Please note that heritage learners of any Slavic language, including Russian, are not allowed to participate in this level and category of the contest.)

Level Two: students who at the time of the essay contest will have had more than 100 contact hours, but fewer than 250 contact hours of instruction. (This is mostly students in second-year Russian.)

Level Three: students who will have had more than 250 contact hours, but fewer than 400 contact hours of instruction. (This is mostly students in third or fourth-year Russian.)

Level Four: students who will have had more than 400 contact hours of instruction. (This is mostly students in fourth-year or fifth-year Russian.)

Category 2: Heritage Learners

Heritage Learners (1) - students who speak Russian with their families and who have NOT attended school in Russia or the former Soviet Union and have to learn reading and writing skills after emigration.

Heritage Learners (2): students who speak Russian with their families and who have attended school for fewer than 5 years in Russia or the former Soviet Union and may have had to relearn reading and writing skills after emigration.

Heritage Learners (3): students who speak Russian with their families and who have attended school for 5 or more years in Russia or the former Soviet Union and have not had to relearn reading and writing skills after emigration.