

Context

Faculty of Philology and Cross-cultural Communication of Volgograd State University

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Learn English in the UK!

A new international program has been launched at the Chair of English Philology.

text: Vilena Bryleva,



Eastbourne School of English, UK, now offers our students a variety of language programmes of 2 weeks' to 2 months' duration in a most picturesque historical area – «1066 country» in East Sussex, the county on the eastern coast of the English Channel. A group of 7 students are now taking an intensive English language course in Eastbourne, as well as going through tough cultural experience living on their own in English host families without a word of Russian spoken around. They are also enjoying wonderful train and bus trips around the area – to London, Hastings, Brighton and Rye.

As the group leader, **Olga Safonova**, our chair assistant prof. reports from Eastbourne, the weather leaves a bit of warmth to be desired, still some sun spills let them admire the sights of Westminster, Buck palace and Tower Bridge last Sunday. They are planning Brighton and Windsor for this week, students feel excited about their stay and seem to be enjoying themselves a lot. They've made friends at school with other students from Emirates, Prague and China and have fun speaking only English at all times and all days long!

The School teachers, who are, actually, certified professionals and native speakers of British English with remarkable RP, say they like Russian students for their nice manners and diligence, also marking their command of English as very high compared to other students at school. Rebecca, the School marketing manager, says that she would be happy to arrange more courses for students from VolSU throughout the academic year and during summer holidays, especially now that the School director Graham White and VolSU rector **Oleg Inshakov** have signed the Agreement on Cooperation between the institutions.

Now a new group will be soon forming for this summer trip to Eastbourne, as well as for the new programmes in Brighton and Cambridge that are to be launched as soon as Agreements with language schools are due. If you be interested in the English **Language courses in UK** please feel free to apply. **Application deadline for August courses is April, 20.** For more information call the Chair or the International Affairs Department, tel: 405536.

News-in-Brief

Keep on top of the latest and yet upcoming events at the faculty. There is always something to be proud of!

- » March, 17, 2010 was marked by extending the professional qualification of the Faculty. The Scientific Committee Д 212.029.05 awarded the candidate degree in Philology to five research associates of the faculty. **Luiza Kulkina, Alina Tsivileva, Tatjana Baturina, Ekaterina Stepanova, Lija Kravchenko** reported usefully on their research projects. Our congratulations!

- » A new English student textbook is issued by the English Chair – **«Английский язык : Лингвистика. Переводоведение. Межкультурная коммуникация»** (Волгоград: Изд-во ВолГУ, 2009). The authors (L.G. Fomichenko, E.A. Pelikh, L.A. Kochetova, V.A. Bryleva, N.Yu. Sorokoletova, T.N. Tsinkerman) hopes that the course directed at the senior students of Linguistics department training will develop major communicative skill and abilities and contribute significantly into formation of bi-language cognitive-communicative basis of translators-to-be. May be requested at: english_philolog@mail.ru.

- » The Theory and Practice Translation Chair announces a training program **Communicative competence of the 21 century specialist** targeted at mastering professional skills in sequential and simultaneous translation. The dead-line is March, 29. The entrance testing day – March, 31. For more information contact the Chair – 40-25-55.

- » March, 10, 2010 the Theory and Practice Translation Chair joined the **Russian Translation Union** as its associate member. It will offer wide range of academic and practical opportunities for the Chair.

- » The monograph **«Language and speech: dynamic aspects»** is planned to be issued by May, 2010 to honor the 30th anniversary of Volgograd State university. The book presents the spectrum of linguistic study results of the researchers working in VolSU. The collective work gives the panoramic view on the language life as including processes of language units change and development in various discourse environment. The target audience for the monograph may be professionals interested in semiotics, pragmatic, discourse issues and phonetic methods of language study and experimental application. May be requested at: english_philolog@mail.ru.

- » Candidates for 2010 Admission are invited for the spring **Open Doors Day** held on 28, March from 10.00 a.m. For more information contact the faculties on: www.volsu.ru.

- » March 23, 2010 the annual competition **Miss Linguistics – 2010** is due to take place. The most active and creative students of the faculty participated in preparations for the event. The most talented girls are going to compete for the prestigious title. It is going to be a very special show! Feel free to come: Tuesday, 4 p.m. hall 4–29Г.

A Romantic Tribe

Meet the students of the Philological and Cross-cultural Communication faculty! They are Positive and Sociable! They Believe in Friendship!

text: Christina Kopyisova



How do we learn about it? We carried out a survey and the results uncovered a very romantic soul of our students. We asked a hundred students of the Faculty of Philology and Cross-cultural Communication about their dreams, goals and plans for the future. We wanted to learn about their attitudes to their studies and what they usually do outside the university.

And there is good news – they seem to be unselfish and if they could afford it they would like to lead an altruistic lifestyle participating in volunteering or in organization of shows, traveling and learning some exotic philosophy and oriental culture was the next frequent choice. There were various questions about academic success and preparation for career, about their opinion on reading books and creative activity. And now we'll dwell on the questions one after another.

Almost half of the respondents state that they are satisfied with the choice of the faculty (59% - fully satisfied, 30% - almost satisfied). Ten people out of 100 favor personal freedom which they gained after entering the university.

It might seem funny, but they value the opportunity to socialize (39%), to study on their own (25%) more than lectures and seminars (17%). Perhaps, we have the most conscientious and hard working students as they mention that they don't have any troubles in coping with new material and studies (almost 79%).

Our people do not live in a shell, they are interested in the life around: watch news on TV and listen to the radio (44%), read newspapers and magazines (6%), but much many of them prefer Internet (69%). And more than that – they still read books! The teachers would grumble that we are a lost generation for reading, but the questionnaire results tell that only 11% of us do not care, whereas 71% prefer to read a paper version, not the e-book (18%).

The choice of genres is tremendous and a list of authors is impressing! Classics of the World literature – L. Tolstoy, F. Dostoevsky, Ch. Dickens, R.L. Stevenson, O. Wilde, I. Show, A. Remark, E. Hemingway, popular M. Frei, Arturo Perez-Reverte, Dan Brown, Richard D. Bach, A. Clark, L. Ulitskaya, P. Sanaev, V. Pelevin, etc.

There was one question the answer to which was the most astonishing of all. "Which job would you never take or do in the future?" – a DENTIST, a LIBRARIAN, an ECONOMIST, a SPY, a SECRETARY, a STREET SELLER. One respondent surprised us mentioning that the worst thing of all is to become a tramp.


When asked on creative activities some hesitated, others seemed to be lost in thoughts. "What would you call the top creative achievements of yours?" we inquired. Half of our girls remembered they going to music schools or visiting dance classes in their green years. Few remembered about their success in organizing or participating in fashion shows or receptions. Several stated that they once or twice took up handcraft and made some unique presents to their friends. It looks that we all need to cheer up! Why don't you shake off the dust from your hobbies and amuse your friends and yourselves with something existing?

Everyone wants to be fluent in English


 **86%**
English

 **67%**
French

 **43%**
Spanish

 **41%**
German

 **22%**
Italian

 **10%**
Arabic

 **10%**
Japanese

Some questions were about the opinion on communicative proficiency in foreign languages. We asked what languages and how many the students would like to know. The answers were surprisingly various! Two the thirds are dreaming of fluent mastery of English (86 of 100), of French (67), German (41), Spanish (43), Italian (22), Japanese (10), Arabic (10). Some students said that they would like to learn Turkish, Finnish, Serbian, Estonian, Czech, Polish, Swedish, and even Latin! Who and with whom would speak Latin?! Perhaps, during spiritistic sessions at the magician!

The reality turned out to be more dull and commonplace. The students, when they said they would like to know two, three or four foreign languages were crying for the moon. In reality they hardly know two, and the assortment is rather modest – English (86 out of 100), German (42), French (27), Spanish (7), Italian (3).

The above results may be soothed by the fact that knowing one foreign language is considered to be a must as our students think that they hold a proper level of language competence, quite enough to take a job at an international environment (almost 70%). One language but to the best!



"ARABELLA MARIA. "Only to think, Julia dear, that our Mothers wore such ridiculous fashions as these!"
Both. "Ha! ha! ha! ha!"

Almost half of the students who took part in the questionnaire (obviously most of them are girls) noted that they would like **to live the 17-19th centuries** (41%). We may only guess why, perhaps the fancy dress code of previous centuries influenced the choice.

A touch of optimism multiplied by confidence

On February 28, 2010 Translation Theory and Practice Chair invited the faculty staff and the students to celebrate its 15th anniversary.

text: Olga Volkova



On the one hand, getting one's teens might seem not quite a significant date and one could think that it's too early to sum up. On the other hand, being a teenager resembles a peculiar state of mind – the age urges being eager to head for something new, to run, to fly anywhere in order to be the first or to learn most interesting things. The prospects are exciting and it's only up to you to decide on the direction. Translation Theory and Practice Chair made up their mind 15 years ago now advancing to the goal.

“Over the last 15 years, that were really hard and demanding, so many events have occurred that no stogy European university might have experienced over a hundred years. Transformation period was not just the field for innovation, it's become our lifestyle” – head of Chair, prof. Vera Mitjagina said. “Modern standards regard a 15 year term as a fair period for demonstrating staff talents and achievements”. Meeting the challenges of the

epoch, the chair took its place among VolSU academic subdepartments. It ensures a rather high professional attainment level which provides a student with an opportunity to make a successful career of interpreter in the field of cross-cultural communication.

The early years

Our university has always been prepared to meet new challenges. It was set up during the historical epoch change – in the latest 1970s and now it is progressing actively, integrating into the world collegiate community in accordance with a modern globalization trend. The instructors of the department note, it is exactly due to desire to get incorporated into the community, that their cooperation with foreign institutions extended and ambition to master students' translation skills increased.

In 1993 VolSU and Institute of Theory and Applied Translation, Gratz University (Austria)

signed Cooperation agreement, thus Translation Theory and Practice Chair was established. With Austrian colleges' support (the director of the Institute prof. Erich Prunch in particular) VolSU got the chance to join a TEMPUS program of the EU Commission and received a grant that assisted the foundation of translation department at VolSU. The university received 40 thousand ECU intended for teaching aids, interpreters training equipment, foreign in-depth study courses for the instructors of the chair. The first curricula were worked out in close cooperation with the foreign colleges, who advised on translation theory and methodology of translation teaching. On January 5, 1995 the newly established Translation Theory and Practice Chair was the new place of employment for a number of instructors of English, German and Romanic Philology Chairs who had some experience of working with the senior students. Thus the first unconventional subdepartment was

organized at VolSU. It incorporated specialists in three European languages whose main target was translation and cross-cultural competence formation.

Team spirit and clear objectives

The first head of the Chair was Nikolay L. Shamney, who had had much experience in performing the duties of International Affairs Vice-Rector of VolSU and was well informed on TEMPUS project implementation. The new chair establishment proceeded logically from the multinational project. The first instructors of the Chair (V.A. Mitjagina, O.I. Popova, S.A. Korolkova, A.N. Usacheva, S.R. Khairova, etc.) shared the conviction that only cooperation could give sufficient result. Step by step their dream was coming true. Training courses for instructors and students were organized, foreign colleagues – invited, books and teaching aids from various funds – received, audio- and video materials –

supplied, satellite antenna, the Deutsche Welle present – installed. “This all has positively indulged us and taught to wish and to dream” – V.A. Mitjagina said. “But it’s only team work and cross-chair cooperation that made it possible to create a unique special education and training system which has resulted in developing a modern translation centre at VoLSU”.

In the year of 2000 the chair developed and introduced an advanced vocational training program “Professional Communication Translator/Interpreter” (supervising professor – R.L. Kovalevsky). The program enabled lots of students to achieve their dream and obtain an extra specialization in the field of foreign language translation techniques, it is aimed at helping our graduates be more competitive on the labour-market. The chair also implements Presidential Program of advanced vocational training for management and administrative staff (since 1998), which forms a vital link with regional enterprises, extends didactic goals in practical training of interpreters-to-be and assists our graduates in employment. The implementation of all the projects has been supervised by Rostislav Leonidovich Kovalevsky. This is a very significant name for the history of the faculty and the department of linguistics. The first dean of Humanitarian (since 1980) and Philological department, head of Translation theory and practice chair (since 1996) – R. Kovalevsky is an experienced teacher, capable manager, recognized scientist, skillful interpreter contributed to the achievement of the chair’s new ambitious goals and objectives.

Being determined to bring up highly professional specialists and master their proficiency, the instructors of the Chair teach simultaneous and consecutive translation using modern equipment; in close cooperation with Polish colleagues the instructors implement XTRF project (Translation management Systems) aimed at translation agencies management teaching.

Unity in diversity

Scientific and methodological project TEMPUS participation stimulated the staff to the development of educational program and requirements universal for three languages taught here. Diverse experience in the field of translation training, extended scientific and methodological work as well as the opportunity to consult with leading Russian expert in translation study prof.

I.S. Alekseeva made it possible to work out an original model of a textbook for translation that satisfies the requirements of Bologna agreement on foreign language teaching. The authors are proud of the three versions (English, German and French) of the textbook: ‘Translation’ (English) by Usavheva, Khairova, Seropegina; ‘Translation’ (Deutsch) by Kovalevsky, Novikova, Makhortova; ‘Traduction’ (Francais) by Korolkova, Boulkina. The textbook was approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. It is used in teaching practice not only at VoLSU but also at over 30 institutions of Russia and Kazakhstan. The development and approbation of the three versions of the textbook on interpretation training is being completed at the moment.

Professional and scientific union membership (including Germanist Union of Russia, Russian-German forum, nonprofit organization French Alliance) provides the Chair with new opportunities. Long-lasting cooperation with education and culture attache as well as the French language attache to the embassy of France in Russia contributed to the establishment of the French language resource centre at VoLSU. The centre is headed by associate professor Olga Iljinichna Popova. It has the reputation of a most competent in Russia and holds DELF and DALF certificate examinations without Moscow office mediation. The embassy of France arranges at the centre thematic seminars involving leading experts in French teaching.

The instructors of the Chair have a clear vision that success of a team makes the basis of personal initiative while personal gains give rise to mutual progress. Despite its young age the Chair has witnessed a number of important events. The staff now consists of 19 instructors, including 13 candidates of sciences and 1 doctor of sciences. Our graduates make good career and instructors feel proud of them likewise of their ex-colleagues mastering professional skills at a new level, for instance Svetlana R. Khairova teaches at Moscow State University; doctor of sciences Victorija V. Zhura heads the Foreign languages chair at Volgograd State Medical University. Another brilliant graduate of the chair – Vera A. Mitjagina obtained in 2009 an academic degree – a Doctor of Philology, and was elected head of chair. Thus one of VoLSU staff policies principle was implemented: a student should rise from the rank of school-leaver to professor at university.

Euroschool holds out a helping hand

One of VoLSU students takes part in the Euroschool project aimed at promoting European values in CIS and Russia in particular.

text: Anastasia Gavrilova



Meet **Albert Mukeljan** – a researcher associate for a Master Degree in Translation and a person with a lot of complimentary skills. Likewise other Jacks-of-all-trades he is good at various activities, learning or teaching, engaging himself in translation or advertising – he would always strive towards mastery.

European culture and languages have always been his greatest passion. But he could hardly imagine that one day he would be invited to the reception of the Representative Head of the European Commission Agency in Russia.

“I first learned about the Euroschool in spring 2009 when by chance I got a questionnaire based on the facts of the EU history. I didn’t think seriously about it, but I filled in the form that claimed a selection to a Euroschool seminar”, Albert Mukeljan says. “To my surprise within two weeks I received a letter with the words of congratulation and an invitation for participation!”

The Euroschool is a project under the aegis of the European Commission. It is targeted at introducing and promoting modern ideas on European development in CIS, and Russian in particular.

Albert says that he got curious on the syllabus but when he set off for it he felt some doubt – What must be done to attract and keep interest of forty young people for five days? From his personal experience he knew how much effort one should put into the activity to seduce young people. The skeptical attitude vanished the very first morning he attended lectures and intensives that were conducted by noted professors from Moscow State University, Moscow State

Institute of International Relations, Russian University of Peoples’ Friendship. The opportunity to ask questions and exchange ideas with them and with Paul Vandoren (an acting Representative Head of the European Commission), Thomas Bertelman (Ambassador of Sweden in Russia), Denis Daniilidis (Head of PR and Information department of the European Commission Agency in Russia) was a challenge and pleasure.

The students from Russia, Germany, Austria, the UK were busy day and night – trainings, presentations of projects, discussions of current and hot events. “We were given many tasks and offered role plays, asked to study some political or economic cases and find an efficient approach to their solution. After the lectures we could discuss hot issues, exchange opinions and clear up uncertain points. Our projects were evaluated and some students were invited to visit the final seminar “Euroschool” in Moscow. To my great surprise I was among them!”

The final session in Moscow turned to be very fruitful. In September 2009 we all met – young people from Kazan, Voronezh, Sochi, Nizhny Novgorod and people from Europe. The European Committee Agency helped us find like-minded people and gave the opportunity to exchange ideas, to design new projects which may help to draw together our cultures. We decided to set up “Euroclubs” in our universities and promote the slogan of the EU – Unity in diversity!” I am sure that we share common ideas about freedom and liberation of personality, we are all Europeans and general simplification of political affairs in Europe should be followed by the increase of face-to-face meetings of Europeans and Russians. It’s time to learn more about each other.



Left to right: E.Yu. Novikova, A.N. Usacheva, T.V. Maximova, R.L. Kovalevsky, V.A. Mitjagina, O.I. Popova.



The following sites may turn useful for those who would like to join us:
<http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/ru/> – an official site of the European Committee Agency in Russia;
<http://europlanet.ru/ru/> – “to young people about Europe” (information about concerts, round-table discussions, clubs, seminars, language courses, digests of European newspapers and magazines);
<http://www.euro-pulse.ru/> – information about education in the EU countries.

UniUniGuide

Unique University Guide

text Alexander AKULINICHEV

photo Alexander MIKHALEV



It will not be easy for a freshman or guest to take his or her bearings within our university buildings since there are 4 and two times 1/3 buildings inside. We don't mean that the layout of VoLSU resembles Hogwarts with a hundred and forty-two staircases "some that led somewhere different on a Friday, some with a vanishing step halfway up that you had to remember to jump"), but if you wish to be on time and not to miss your class you'd better remember the algorithm that has been developed by the students. A strange phrase «Англичане Бреют-де Головы Вечерами» American Boys Enjoy Driving Coupe is handed down from one generation to the next, and the first letters (marked in bold) denote the indexes that mark all VoLSU buildings clockwise.

The Layout of VoLSU Buildings

Let's begin a tour about the university from the A building. Do you know why it was marked A? There is a legend. It tells that the first building of the university had to be marked as Ah. When its foundation was laid in the 1970-s one big man came to visit the construction site. He got to the top of the hill, looked around and exclaimed in amazement "Aaah-h!" And anyone would! You could hardly bridle your emotions if you get to the top and look around. You would see the unforgettable landscape – a beautiful winding of the Volga far beneath and panoramic scenery of the city. To make a long story short we should say that the big man from Moscow was deeply struck, so the A-building still faces the Volga river and we all can enjoy the view twenty four hours a day!

The A-building is a sacred place with an administrative block on the second floor. Ninety nine percent of the students might never happen to open any of the doors here but you'd better remember about the Rector and Vice Rectors offices, just in case. It is easy to find the entrance to the Office of Rector, because it is marked with a large mail box. It is said that any student or a faculty member can address his or her offers, complaints or sensible proposals to our rector.

You will be surprised but it is not the A-building, but the B-building that is the oldest of all. In September 1983 when the construction of this building was over it was the first to house the Faculty of Philology and the Faculty of History.

Many events have happened since that time but the two faculties are still their. However, in accordance with the innovative restructuring policy of the university they have been transferred into the Faculty of Philology and Intercultural Communication and the Faculty of Philosophy, History, International Relations and Social Technologies. The C-building houses the Faculty of World Economy and Finances, the Faculty of Management and Regional Economy, the Faculty of Law.

Internet access

In the C-building there is another attraction – the Internet Centre. It used to be the starting point of academic modernization in the university, but today Internet access is available throughout VoLSU. The owners of smart phones, PC and laptops know that if there are troubles with Wi-Fi in the halls you may surely catch it in the reading hall. To tell the truth, there is no need to have a PC on your laps every day as every faculty has some Internet classes which may be used both for class work and for individual studies. However, it is forbidden to sit in social nets there.

Libraries

Honestly, there is one library in VoLSU. But the departments are scattered within the university, and only senior students know which door should be asked politely and which place on it should be tickled if you want to get a book. Otherwise you will knock at the door which isn't really a door at all, but the solid wall just pretended. It is not easy to remember where anything is, but you'd better remember four – a reading hall and departments of textbooks, academic books, fiction. The department of fiction is the most liberal and secretive place. If you are lucky and find the desired sign you will be

positively surprised by the assortment of it. One can hardly find the title or the author that is lacking here. Besides it's the only place where you can borrow thick books like "The Quiet Don" for a longer period.

The department of textbooks is visited by students mostly once or twice a semester. But we wouldn't advice you to hurry to come here. Smart students don't go there until a full list of books in need is clarified. And be prepared to spend some time standing in a queue with a neatly written list of books and authors! Otherwise you may be exposed by the librarians to shame!

The department of academic publications is the most weird office in the library. No book can be borrowed from here unless you produce full information on the book you need! Moreover no late return of the book may be excused! An infringer is sentences to harsh punishment – to be banned from the service for a semester! And then you are in trouble!

From the horrors of the university regulations and day stresses students often hide in the reading halls, where you may request an electronic catalogue, get to e-libraries, read your friend's notes on lectures you missed or just bury yourself from the world – miss the lecture and have a nice talk with the mates. And feel safe – the lecturers don't come here often, if do they will never notice you in the crowd of brethrens striving for knowledge.

Students' Trade union

You want to ask why we tell you about the Students' Union, don't you? You are surprised, why you might need it at all, aren't you? If you feel like joining any student's club or society, if you wish to participate as a volunteer in any social project – that's the place for you. Besides, this is a place where (hash-hash!) you may get a pass to some sea student camp or a ticket for a tour! Just don't be lazy and you will be rewarded! Talents and creativity will be estimate at its true worth – take part in student concerts and find your role in faculty clubs of jolly and smart

performances! And you'll rise to fame overnight!

Cloakrooms

«Theatre begins at the cloakroom» (quoting Stanislavsky), and our university is not the exception. The cloakrooms meet you and see you to the exit doors! It's not easy to find some of them, and there are no skeletons in their cupboards but there are some musts and don'ts every student should follow. If you decide to leave your overall in the cloakroom you may find three of them with some nice ladies that adore cracking crosswords and worship «loyal customers». Once you've chosen a cloakroom, never dare to betray it! Besides there are two more things that are under no circumstances welcomed – don't lose the tag and never leave your cell phone in the pocket! If the first blunder may be forgiven after multitude of excuses and a bar of chocolate that can sweeten the bitterness over lost, the pesky tune that had been teasing and torturing a nice lady all day long will be not!

An Exit and an ever open door to a life long education

Are you tired of our talking blue streak and dragging around? Calm down! There is an exit that has appeared in the distance! In the physical sense there are two exits guided by security and revolving-doors. But in the moral sense there are many more exits that can lead you outside – to the real professional world! This is a Bachelor Certificate and a Master Certificate in Economy, Ecology, Law, Psychology and Social work, in Philology, Journalism, Linguistics and Cross- cultural relations, in Philosophy, History, International Relations and Social Technologies, in Mathematical and Computer Sciences, in Physics and even Astrophysics! Would you like to have some romantic people as friends who can read the Milky Way as easy as you can read your mail? Just Join Us At The Entrance To The Portal That Opens The Road To The Future! Every year, on September, 1st we meet new comers and enjoy their company!

Some people go Google. Some others go Moodle

Google for Moodle and you will discover a world out there: a community of crazy educationalists, programmers and students, working daily with it, in it, on it. So, what does this mysterious word stand for?

text: Vilena Bryleva



MOODLE stands for **Module Object Oriented Didactic Learning Environment**. Sounds even scarier, eh? Well, it is all about distant education, moreover, web-based distant education. It is a virtual learning environment, a system, or, in simple words, a web-based application that provides students and teachers with an opportunity to share materials, communicate, test and assess. With its system of interactive modules, e.g. forums and chats, it helps create online community of learners and in a way compensate the lack of natural language environment, which is so important when you learn a language.

It opens the oceans of possibilities for teachers, as they can upload texts, media stuff and tasks, create tests, surveys and lessons, assess the participation of the students with statistics module and grade the students' work.

A whole bunch of specialists all over the world volunteer to work on this free and open code system to improve its functionality and security. Thousands of educational sites are set and now function on the platform of Moodle and more teachers pour in to join the moodle.org club. Some find it challenging and complicated, others seem to have fun plunging into the wilds and jungles of its innards (php code), but all users of the Moodle say it is the answer to their teaching needs.

In VolSU Moodle has been on for 6 years by now. «We were looking for an e-tool to upload task sheets for some of our practice courses, so that students could access them from home and labs at any time and to store them for later usage too, when a friend from US sent me a link for Open Source moodle.org» the moodle.volsu.ru administrator, V. Bryleva looks back.

The Moodle as an educational environment was planned and developed by an Australian sociologist Martin Dougiamas as part of his academic research.

«He is just a genius to have done this, he is!» she says. Initially, it did not seem extremely easy to install and operate, so VolSU Internet Centre specialists helped to set and

launch our first courses. The students of EFL teachers training department were the first to be the guinea-pigs for the Moodle experiments and soon new ideas popped up when more opportunities of the system opened up. «With the help of forums within the Moodle we could participate in an international project with American students from Mansfield and this was an unforgettable experience for us who had not communicated with native speakers before on such regular basis!», says Tatiana, the ISP participant, then a student, now a language instructor herself. «Now I use it for my students. It used to be challenging and exciting in the times of my studies, but now it is just a part of working routine».

Prof. Elena Ilinova was among the first to realize the wide opportunities the Moodle offers a language teacher. She says «Six years ago, when we knew nothing about smart-phones, i-Pod and other gadgets and vidgests and social nets, it was a miracle! When I discovered Moodle it didn't take much time to learn how to use it. And it was for the mutual advantage of both – my students and me. I might guess how much they were angry with me at first! Students like to make tricks like "Sorry, I didn't know the task as I was not present last time". There is no excuse since then. The task is safe and sound in Moodle».

Nowadays <http://moodle.volsu.ru> seems to be integral part of the teaching-learning process at the Chair of English Philology. There are about 20 courses - language practice and linguistic theory courses for various specialties and departments, Business English courses, a couple of virtual libraries storing e-books, lectures and articles. There are also courses for Teachers' practice and trial courses of postgraduate students taking their master degree in TEFL: they work with Moodle as part of their training in Teaching Technologies. As for students - they now feel in Moodle at home. Applied Linguistic students learn to Moodle as soon as they start their first year: their grading depends on how fast they understand its ins and outs.

We do not live by English alone...

Many people want to speak foreign languages today and VolSU is the right place to make their dreams come true.

text: Christina Kosova

Young professionals believe it is absolutely necessary today to speak at least one foreign language to make a good career. They are quite right in thinking so, as applicants for prestigious jobs are usually expected to have a good command of a foreign language. **Elena Yu. Ilyinova**, Prof. of the English Chair, elucidates that learning languages helps to develop mental abilities – memory, concentration, decision making ability. «Choosing the best graduate candidate is a very dramatic moment. Employers think that if a person could cope and learn a foreign language it tells about his or her intellectual abilities and stamina. Hard intellectual practice in green years – both in the family and at school – justifies the efforts and hopes in the future. Intellectual levels decline modestly by your middle age, but change little over the working life». It explains why teachers are so strict to the students giving loads of tasks and checking the students' progress daily.

Students majoring in English develop speaking and writing skills which help them communicate their ideas effectively. Besides there is a number of extra-curriculum programs in English available in VolSU: **English and Cross-cultural Communication for Translation; English for Business; Training for TOEFL, IELTS; Training for LCCI Certification**. These programs certainly require quite a lot of effort from the trainees – classes begin late in the afternoon and usually last for several hours. Many organizations and universities recognize the certificates given at the end of these courses as a secure, valid and reliable indicator of true-to-life ability to communicate in English for education, immigration and professional accreditation.

Vera A. Mityagina, PhD, Head of the Translation Theory and Practice Chair, told us about international contacts and German language programs. «According to the EU conception on support of multilingual environment in modern Europe, educational institutions are recommended to teach two or more languages spoken in Europe. Following the call of the times the Chair members target at rising of academic mobility of our students. Our students participate in numerous exchange programs. Regularly they go for a semester and study at universities of Germany, Austria, Belgium, at the same time groups of foreign students arrive to our university to improve their skills in Russian. The professors of the Chair visit and participate in international conferences under the guidance of **DAAD**».

Olga I. Popova, Associate Prof. of the Translation Theory and Practice Chair, believes that there may be many reasons why people want to learn French. Firstly, the students need to continue and master French for academic and professional purposes. Besides, they need to be competitive in the new market environment. So they need to prove their language qualification and get an international certificate. At the moment there is a **DELTA/DALF Recourse Centre** at the faculty that is licensed to hold European certification exam in French.

DELTA is a certificate that confirms basic or advanced level of language proficiency, whereas DALF diploma certifies fluency in French that is the ability to communicate in a francophone community. If a graduate wants to find a job in a French-speaking country or in a Russian branch of a French company the diploma gives them an advantage over the rivals. Besides, it is a life-long certification of the language proficiency.

The Eastern Languages Centre was founded just a few years ago and it has already gained a significant popularity. The reason for this is the growing economies of the Eastern countries. Many students are interested in learning Chinese and Korean. There are business people among the trainees who have partners in Asian countries, so they have to learn languages for practical business purposes. **Alexander E. Varlamov**, the Director of the Centre, says, «Our graduates are welcome in the business environment. Employers highly appreciate a job applicant if they are ready to learn Chinese, Korean or Arabic.»

It's never too late to start learning a language and it always proves to be worth the effort. So make up your mind and apply for a language course at our university!

From England with Laugh

A group of seven VolSU students spent two weeks in England, doing London and East Sussex county. They share with you the fun they had.

photos: Vilena Bryleva, Olga Safonova



Under the London Eye



London calling



Russian party in Brighton



The Black Egg on the South Bank



Our memories will never fade

Context

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