

NOVELTA

NOVOSIBIRSK ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION



2010

PRESIDENT GREETING

**THE ANNUAL STUDENT SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE IN
FOREIGN LANGUAGES – 2009**

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PRESIDENT GREETING



Dear Colleagues,

We have been through the first decade of the twenty first century. The world is not the same as it used to be on the verge of the new millennium.

The decade saw terrorist attacks, wars, devastating floods and eruptions. Many nations suffered and people died by thousands. And to crown it all a global recession affected the lives of millions.

But there is always a silver lining among dark clouds. New telecommunication technologies have significantly changed

the way we interact. Not only can we make phone calls, e-mail messages or search news on the Internet, we can socially network making news and exchanging experience. There are a lot of sites for us, language teachers, among which <http://elt-russia.ning.com> – a social networking site containing only English language teaching professionals who either work in Russia or are connected to English teaching in Russia.

NOVELTA website is in the process of its revival. Please join and feel free to contribute. We are an association, so being together makes us stronger. As Henry Ford once said:

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is a process.

Working together is a **success**.

Let's work together and see many successful decades that lie ahead.

**President of the NOVELTA,
Elena Melekhina**



John Silver from California has been teaching English and training teachers for 15 years in America, the Former Soviet Union and Asia. He is currently working at the Institute of Management, Business and Law in Rostov-on-Don. John works with the U.S. Embassy's English Language Office to develop teacher training activities and is also assisting with the Access program in the Southern Federal Region. A graduate of the School for International Training in Vermont, John is an enthusiastic adherent of Experiential Learning. He especially enjoys delivering workshops on fun Communicative Language Teaching activities for speaking and listening. On his first ever visit to Russia; John is very excited to be working with the teachers and students here. In his free time John enjoys travelling, building, reading, and trying new foods.

Teaching Listening

Listening is a skill which we use extensively in our native language, but its importance can often be overlooked in the language classroom. Our best resource for authentic listening is actually found in the classroom, with learner to learner listening activities which require no equipment or technology. Activities include: *Palmistry, Guided Visualization Dream Game* and *Dialogue for Active Listening*. Designed for teachers of intermediate to advanced learners.



John Mark King graduated from The American University's TESOL program in Washington DC in 2003. In 2006-2007, he was the English Language Fellow in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Previously, he taught English at a university in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Uzbekistan. From 2007 to 2009, he taught in the College ESL program at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, Va. His areas of specialty are academic reading and writing and cross-cultural communication.

THE ANNUAL STUDENT SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES – 2009

Absolutely nothing is so important for a nation's culture as its language.
Wilhelm von Humboldt

Language is the means of getting an idea from my brain into yours without surgery.
Mark Amidon

The annual student scientific conference in foreign languages was traditionally held on 26 November at Novosibirsk State Technical University, Faculty of Humanities, the Department of Foreign Languages. The theme of the conference – 2009 was: “Education and Culture as Key Factors of National Development”.

Clearly, a constant improvement and enhancement of the national educational system – is a precondition for successful development of any state. It is impossible to be an economically and politically stable country without well-educated people. Moreover, in the conditions of transit to post-industrial society and economy based on information technologies and knowledge, education becomes a significant resource of socio-economic and political development and one of the leading sectors of Russian economy.

In order to avoid serious failures, the government should realize that all its activities should be carried out after serious consideration of distinctive features of national culture. When implementing policies, taking cultural and historical traditions into account is a must.

The range of the problems which were addressed at the conference was very wide indeed. The students focused on various problems modern society is faced with – political, economic, social and cultural issues. The most popular topics were the interdependence of the level of education and culture and the level of national development, advantages and disadvantages of Russian and foreign educational systems, the problems of ethnic and other minorities etc.

The program of the conference included four parallel section meetings: English (2), French and German. More than 40 students participated in the conference. The



most active ones were the representatives of International Relations and Regional Studies (East and West), Public Relations, Socio-Cultural Service and Tourism, Philology and Foreign Languages Departments.

Each participant was allowed five minutes for the PowerPoint presentation of their research work. A presentation was followed by the question and answer session. Almost all presentations provided the ground for interesting and fruitful discussion. It should be stressed that the primary purpose of the event was not only to discuss the most pressing problems but also to offer the ways of solving them.

Finally, the best students were awarded with certificates and, additionally, they received presents from the sponsors – representatives of Macmillan Publisher's House and Oxford University Press in Novosibirsk.

We are deeply grateful to all participants and our sponsors for their valuable contribution to the conference.

**E. Filatova, Senior teacher,
 The Department of Foreign Languages,
 Faculty of the Humanities**



UNIVERSITY LIFE

After spending 11 years at school, life goes on and your next step is to choose the right university where you can get a good education, make friends and just have a good time for the next 5 years.

So, in our case, it is NSTU, and we want to tell you what kind of life is hidden under these 4 letters. If you visit NSTU you are immediately attracted by the buzzing atmosphere, you can find so many people around you: some students are laughing, others are talking, some of them are trying to learn smth quickly because in 15 minutes

they will have an exam. It looks completely like an anthill, where everybody is busy with his/her own business. But all this stuff just helps you to feel that school is over and your crazy and unpredictable university life is starting now. And what do we have here? Lectures, seminars, libraries ... You have so many things to learn that from time to time it seems that you have not enough space in your mind for all this information.

But as we all know, university life doesn't consist only of study, it goes beyond the scope of university's walls and library.

Students take part in various contests, competitions, conferences and sporting events organized by NSTU. If we are talking about us, we can say that we are not exceptions: being four-year students of humanitarian faculty, we often participate in English language conferences, but as proverb says "It's good to speak one language, but being bilingual is much better!" It means that conferences are held not only in English, but other languages too, such as French and German. Students have a motivation to take part in such conferences, because sponsors treat winners well.

Besides conferences, every year girls of our university struggle for being called Miss NSTU. Four-year student, Kira Stolbova, participated in this contest in 2006. She says, «Beauty contest is an event which I have been waiting for the whole year. To be called Miss NSTU is very honorable, that's why you must do your best for achieving this title. When you are a participant you need a support. I remember, how my group mates took the nearest places near the scene and they screamed and applauded, they wanted to encourage me somehow. Unfortunately, I didn't win but, I think, it was an useful experience for me».

We haven't mentioned night clubs yet. Of course after a difficult week, the best way to relax is just to go to the night club and have a good time there with your group mates. Students very often attend parties organized by NSTU such as Freshers' day (the first official university party for freshers), New Year party, Halloween and etc.

Students can also spend their free time together in caf's, or



coffee houses or even university canteen. The last place is our favourite one, because as we all know university canteen is a perfect place where you can eat good and cheap food, plus it's a perfect place to chat.

And finally, we want to tell you about our KVN team. It's quite famous not only in our university but in some other places

of our city too. The members of our KVN team come on the stage and crack jokes, it brings smiles on the faces of spectators. Students receive positive emotions. It's quite important, especially, before session. The most interesting fact is that after the performance jokes are heard in the corridors of our university.

In conclusion we want to say

that we are very often told that university should be the best time of our life and it's true. Be active and enjoy your university life.

Kira Stolbova, Elena Litvinova
Gr. FL-61, NSTU

HALLOWEEN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

Have you ever celebrated Halloween in broad daylight? First-year NSTU students majoring in Foreign Languages have. On a sunny morning of October 30, 2009, fearless and daring, they got together to plunge into the world of this ancient holiday. They were accompanied by a group of teachers who put on a brave front and saw the party through in spite of the throngs of mummies, skeletons and other dead things hovering around.

The room had a festive and a bit spooky air thanks to colourful posters and two carved pumpkins brought in to the merry sounds of "Pumpkin Bells" sung by group FL 91. The first step towards the land of the dead was made by Victoria Khorolskaya (FL 91) whose presenta-

tion took us back to the pagan roots of Halloween and provided a brief overview of its history. A video clip by Ilya Vozhakov (FL 91), a bit bleak in the morning light and therefore even more scary, added to the atmosphere of growing suspense.

Sketches presented by students were the heart of the event. Group FL 91 dramatized a classic poem "The Raven" by Edgar A. Poe featuring the Hero, the Ghost of his Bride appropriately dressed in white, and the Raven in a black coat. Group FL 92(1) focused on the day-to-day life of spooky creatures, who turned out to be quite "human" when having a meal in a restaurant and even trying to observe familiar "Sheep or Ship" intonation patterns. A Halloween version of a grammar chant

performed by group FL 92(2) provided the finishing touch. The crowning hit of the party was a traditional "Bobbing for Apples" competition with four volunteers splashing around in two basins and happily crunching apples afterwards.

As a follow-up to the party one of the students wrote, "This year is the first year at our University, we only start to get the feel of the new surroundings. I think that such events help us to become good friends with our groupmates and take away the tension of the studies. It was a fantastic event!" We hope that everybody felt the same.

Anna Tarabakina,
FLD for the Humanities



HUMOUR DAY

Students of our university are very active and creative. They like taking part in different contests, conferences, celebrations and usually do it with pleasure. One of the most interesting and cheerful events for them is Humour Day. Every year our department organizes this contest to let students show their creativity, sense of humour and, of course, let them have fun.

Humor Day is usually held on the first of April. For many people this day is associated with April Fool's Day – a day when people play harmless jokes on their friends or relatives. We prefer to name this day Humour Day, because the aim of our contest is not to play jokes on somebody, but to demon-

strate a good sense of humour, spend a good time and, of course, practice English. It is not a secret that while learning foreign language a person faces a lot of problems (some grammar aspects, idioms, etc). One of the most difficult aspects in all foreign languages is ability to understand foreign humour and joke about different things in a foreign language. During the contest students try good sense of English humour.

Students of different departments take part in this event ("Philology", "Department of foreign languages", "Region study"). Participants act out various funny situations from our life. It can be a parody of famous TV show or program, a series of comic sketches, a play

based on a well-known book or song, etc. Your choice depends on your imagination and creativity. The only rule is that your variant should be in English and funny.

During this contest the atmosphere is very friendly, warm, cheerful and lively. Students encourage and support all participants. And it is always hard for jury to choose the best contestant, because all of them are worthy.

If you want to see a lot of interesting, humorous and artistic sketches, get into a good mood or try your sense of humour, welcome to our annual Humour Day. You won't be disappointed.

**Olesya Guselnikova,
FLD for the Humanities**



MSLU AS I REMEMBER IT

I studied at MGLU (Moscow State Linguistic University) at the Advanced Training Faculty during 4 month (February-June, 2009).

MGLU is a state institution, so the tuition was free. It was a refreshment course for the teach-

ers of foreign languages. There were two groups (the teachers of German language and the teachers of English language).

We had outstanding, enthusiastic, very experienced teachers, the most of them are Doctors of Science.

All classes were held in Ostozhenka St. 38. This location was very convenient: just a 5-minute walk from the Garden Ring (Metro "Park Kultury"). We lived in the one of the institute's hostel foreign students (near Ostozhenka St.).

We studied various aspects of the English language: phonetics, grammar, lexicology, stylistics, translation practice, etc.

Another big area of study was the English-speaking countries (Britain and the USA); we had courses on their geography, literature, history, culture, and political systems.

We also had a course of methodology, psycholinguistics, the using of the Common European Framework.

The curriculum also included a writing of scientific paper. We chose the subject and a research adviser at the discretion.

In general, what I think this curriculum badly lacked were subjects developing practical communicative skills, such as speaking, phonetics and a course of methodology.

I left the University with mixed feelings: I was grateful for all the acquired knowledge and skills, but I was also dissatisfied because I expected some courses more helpful and effective.

For all that it was a good and useful university experience and a great possibility to take a position of a student again.

**Larissa Tsvenger,
FLD for the Humanities**



WEEK OF GERMAN FILMS

On Wednesday, 9th December a fascinating event took place in our city that we as the students studying foreign language couldn't ignore. It was the opening of the "Week of German films" in Novosibirsk which was held in one of the best Novosibirsk's cinemas "Pobeda", which often assists with the organization of such cultural events. Premiere of festival was Ina Weise's film "The Architect" that was presented to our city's audience by her. The presentation was dynamic, amusing, in a friendly atmosphere. The invited guests who opened the ceremony have a direct contact with culture and especially with German culture. The "Pobeda" Cinema was awarded with the letter of gratitude by Deputy Administrator of Novosibirsk Culture Department, Consul general of Germany in Novosibirsk and the

Head of German Centre for help in festival's organization.

Before the very beginning of viewing the director took the floor and addressed the spectators with words of encouragement and invited everybody to discuss the film after. When the lights went out, everybody started watching closely for the plot developments.

The successful architect from Hamburg Georg Winter went with his family to mountain village where he had spent his childhood. The aim of his trip was funerals of his mother. There he met mysterious Hanna and her son Alex. Hanna opened a secret that made Georg's family be shocked and filled them with chaos and passions. A snow-slip cut off them from outer world and burned their boats.

We were so captivated by plot that didn't notice how time

passed. We emphasized with characters, tried to divine what would happen next but director's idea exceeded all our expectations. It's important to notice that the film was in the original with Russian subtitles. Such a language practice was very useful for us, that's why it was more interesting for us to watch the film.

Of course, after the viewing we decided to communicate with the director, all the more she was a native speaker of the language that we are studying. We shared our impressions with her and thanked Ina Weise for her breathtaking and amazing film. And Ina, in her turn, promised to visit Novosibirsk again with her new works.

**Anastasia Shevereva, Julia
Fomicheva,
Gr. FL-61, NSTU**

FOREIGN LANGUAGES CONTEST AMONG THE STUDENTS OF NOVOSIBIRSK UNIVERSITIES 2009

The Foreign languages contest was organised among the students of Novosibirsk universities at NSTU on April 16, 2009. It was hosted by the Foreign Languages Department of Technical Faculties, headed by O.V. Salkova. The event focused on the following topic: "The future of Russia is determined by ethical values and professionalism of its citizens."

75 students and 23 teachers participated in the event, representing 11 universities of Novosibirsk.

The participants' language competence was assessed according to the listening and speaking activities results. It must be stated that the level of knowledge, demonstrated by the competitors, was really high. We are proud to mention that NSTU students succeeded both in speaking and listening tasks, ranking among the best participants and heading the list of the contest winners:

ENGLISH:

the 1st prize – Egor Zasyppkin (a 2nd-year student , Automation and Computer Engineering Faculty, NSTU)

the 2nd prize – Alexandra Kovalenko (a 2nd-year student, Applied Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty, NSTU)

GERMAN:

the 1st prize – Artyom Mironov (a 1st-year student, Mechatronics and Automation Faculty, NSTU)

FRENCH:

the 1st prize – Tatyana Zabolotskaya (a 1st-year student, Applied Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty, NSTU)

English, German and French NSTU teams were ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

The contest was sponsored by the Scientific Technical Centre of

Students' work. Due to its support the Foreign Languages Department managed to organise a high-level event and make the teachers' ideas into reality:

- teachers and students were offered a coffee break;

- "Longman" and "Macmillan" representatives gave a presentation of multi-media programs;

- students could study the key features of multi-level Cambridge ESOL examinations;

- all students were given a chance to take part in a lottery organised by "Longman" and "Macmillan";

- the contest winners were awarded diplomas and prizes.

The success of the contest was due to the professionalism and well-coordinated work of its organizers: O.V.Salkova (HoD, Foreign Languages Department of Technical Faculties), L.N.Franchuk, E.A.Golovneva, L.D.Sivolap, V.Y.Dudina.

The department received a lot of positive feedback from the participants.

"I'm happy to have taken part in such an interesting competition!" said M.Batishcheva, a student from Novosibirsk state medical university. "Thank you for an opportunity to showcase our abilities and talents. Unbiased jury, challenging tasks, friendly atmosphere and professionalism – the list of this contest advantages is to be continued!"

"We are thankful for an opportunity to take part in such a well-organized competition. I can't but mention the professionalism of your teaching staff. Qualifications save explanations! We are looking forward to collaboration with your department again," said M.V. Martyanova, a teacher from Novo-

sibirsk higher military school (institution).

"I hope the next year competition will take place at NSTU again!" remarked Alexandr Bolov, a student from Siberian university of consumer cooperation.

The contest annually hosted by the Foreign Languages Department not only recognizes the most talented students of Novosibirsk, but encourages their further self-development and progress. It helps winners better publicize their achievement, while encouraging interaction between teachers and students in and out of the classroom. We strongly believe that honouring these students will put them on the fast track to success in their future career. Welcome to the Foreign languages contest in 2010! More information is available by contacting the Foreign Languages Department of Technical Faculties at 46-03-23.

Written by L.N. Franchuk (Vice Chairperson of the Organising Committee) and L.A. Semenova.

A CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010

Winter Methodology School	February
Speech Contest	April
Humour Day	April
Talent-Show	April-May
Annual Student Scientific Conference in Foreign Languages "Education and Culture as Key Factors of National Development"	November