

## Report on the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest

### 1. Information about the 2015 NPSREC

In this year's contest, there were 1,087 (cf. 1,004 in 2014) essays submitted from 68 (cf. 57 in 2014) universities, colleges, and institutions across the nation. Three judges currently are reading each essay and independently ranking them. Results are expected by the end of April, at which time awards will be issued.

All institutions were required to have one teacher be a current member of ACTR in order to participate in the contest. Registrations and fees were sent directly to Tony Brown, who forwarded them to Mulugeta Tamire of American Councils. Mr. Tamire deposited the fees to the ACTR account and arranged for the payment of honoraria to judges.

From February 1 through February 15, students wrote their essays. The topic of the essay in 2015 was: "A very interesting day in my life." / "Очень интересный день в моей жизни."

The names of award recipients and respective institutions will be published in the 2015 summer issue of the ACTR Newsletter and announced on the SEELANGS listserv in May.

Beginning in 2016, Nina Bond will assume responsibility for administering the NPSREC.

### 2. Comparison of Participating Institutions: 2014/2015

2014	2015
American University	American University
Amherst College	Amherst College
	<b>Barnard College</b>
Boston College	Boston College
Boston University	Boston University
Bowling Green State University	Bowling Green State University
Brandeis University	Brandeis University
Brigham Young University	Brigham Young University
	<b>Brown University</b>
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr College
Carleton College	Carleton College
	<b>Case Western Reserve University</b>
College of Charleston	College of Charleston
College of William and Mary	College of William and Mary
Columbia University	Columbia University
Cornell University	Cornell University
Dartmouth University	Dartmouth University
Defense Language Institute	Defense Language Institute
Dickinson College	Dickinson College
Drew University	Drew University
	<b>Franklin and Marshall Hall</b>
Georgetown University	Georgetown University
Harvard University	Harvard University
Indiana University	Indiana University
Kenyan College	Kenyan College
Lewis and Clark College	Lewis and Clark College
Miami University	Miami University
<b>Middlebury College</b>	
	<b>Missouri University of Science and Technology</b>

Mount Holyoke College	Mount Holyoke College
	<b>New York University</b>
Northeastern University	Northeastern University
Ohio University	Ohio University
Pomona College	Pomona College
Portland Community College	Portland Community College
Portland State University	Portland State University
<b>Princeton University</b>	
Purdue University	Purdue University
Rhodes College	Rhodes College
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Sewanee: The University of the South	Sewanee: The University of the South
	<b>Smith College</b>
	<b>Stetson University</b>
Swarthmore College	Swarthmore College
Temple University	Temple University
The College of New Jersey	The College of New Jersey
<b>The State University of New York at Binghamton</b>	
	<b>The Pennsylvania State University</b>
<b>Tufts University</b>	
United States Air Force Academy	United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy	United States Military Academy
	<b>University of Alabama</b>
	<b>University of Alaska Anchorage</b>
University of California Los Angeles	University of California Los Angeles
<b>University of California Santa Barbara</b>	
University of Chicago	University of Chicago
	<b>University of Illinois at Chicago</b>
	<b>University of Kansas</b>
	<b>University of Kentucky</b>
University of Maryland	University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts Amherst	University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Mississippi	University of Mississippi
University of Montana-Missoula	University of Montana-Missoula
University of New Hampshire	University of New Hampshire
<b>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b>	
University of Notre Dame	University of Notre Dame
<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	
	<b>University of Pittsburgh</b>
University of Rochester	University of Rochester
University of Wisconsin-Madison	University of Wisconsin-Madison
	<b>Wake Forest University</b>
	<b>Wheaton College</b>
Williams College	Williams College
Yale University	Yale University

### 3. 2015 Revised Description of Categories and Levels

Essays were ranked according to categories and levels as follows:

STUDENTS OTHER THAN RUSSIAN HERITAGE LEARNERS

Category A: Students who do not and did not ever speak Russian or any other Slavic language at home.

Category B: Heritage speakers of a Slavic language other than Russian.

Please take the time to calculate the number of hours that your students have studied Russian and assign them to the proper level.

Level One (A1, B1): 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 speakers of Russian must be assigned to Category C (below), and heritage speakers of any *other* Slavic language must be assigned to Category B.

Level Two (A2, B2): 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 in Russian. (These are mostly students in second-year Russian.)

Level Three (A3, B3): Students who will have had more than 250 contact hours, but fewer than 400 contact hours of instruction in Russian. (These are mostly students in third- or fourth-year Russian.)

Level Four (A4, B4): Students who will have had more than 400 contact hours of instruction in Russian. (These are mostly students in fourth- or fifth-year Russian.)

#### RUSSIAN HERITAGE LEARNERS

Category C: Students who were born to Russian speaking families and received most or all of their education in English.

Please take the time to calculate the number of hours that your students have studied Russian and assign them to the proper level.

Level One (C1): Students who may or may not speak Russian with their families, and who have NOT attended school in Russia or the former Soviet Union and who had to learn reading and writing skills after emigration. Those students who did not have any formal instruction in Russian before college and have had fewer than 60 contact hours of instruction in college.

Level Two (C2): Students who may or may not speak Russian with their families, and who have NOT attended school in Russia or the former Soviet Union and who had to learn reading and writing skills after emigration. Those students who did not have any formal instruction in Russian before college and have had fewer than 120 contact hours of instruction in college.

Level Three (C3): Students who may or may not speak Russian with their families, and who have NOT attended school in Russia or the former Soviet Union, but who have had private formal instruction in the language after emigration, and who have had fewer than 60 contact hours of instruction in college.

Level Four (C4): Students who speak Russian with their families, and who 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, and who have had fewer than 60 contact hours of instruction in college.

Level Five (C5): Students who speak Russian with their families, and who 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.