

CURRICULUM VITAE

John Givens
Department of Modern Languages and Cultures
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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 1999- Associate Professor of Russian, University of Rochester
- 1999- Editor, *Russian Studies in Literature* (publisher: ME Sharpe), vol 35:1- present (13 vols to date).
- 1993-99 Assistant Professor of Russian, University of Rochester

EDUCATION

- 1993, Ph.D. University of Washington
Major field: Twentieth Century Russian literature. Minor field: Russian Religious philosophy.
Dissertation: "Provincial Polemics: Folk Discourse in the Life and Novels of Vasilii Shukshin"
- 1987, M.A. University of California, Davis. Russian language & literature.
- 1985, B.A. University of Oregon. Russian.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- University of Rochester Goergen Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2011)
- University of Rochester Student Association Professor of the Year Award in Humanities (2011)
- University of Rochester Edward Peck Curtis Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award (2000)
- University of Rochester Student Association Professor of the Year Award in Humanities (2000)
- University of Rochester Student Association Professor of the Year Award, Finalist (1998, 2002)
- Kennan Institute Research Scholarship, Alternate (1996-97)
- Fulbright-Hays dissertation award; IREX long-term research award, Russia (1991-92)
- FLAS Title VI Fellowship (4 academic-year awards) University of Washington (1988-91, 1992-93)
- Graduate Recruitment Fellowship, University of Washington (1987-88)

HONORS

Entry in volume one of the three-volume *Shukshin Encyclopedia* (on the life and works of Russian

writer, actor and film maker Vasilii Shukshin) as the leading Shukshin scholar in the West: “Givens, Dzhon,” *Tvorchestvo V.M. Shukhsina: Entsiklopedicheskii slovar'-spravochnik*, 3 vols (Barnaul: Altai State University, 2004-08) vol 1, pp. 18-20.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- 1) *The Image of Christ in Russian Literature* (book ms. in progress; estimated completion date 2014)
- 2) *Prodigal Son: Vasilii Shukshin in Soviet Russian Culture*, Northwestern University Press, 2000. 267 pages.
- 3) Vasily Shukshin. *Stories from a Siberian Village*. Trans. Laura Michael and John Givens. Intro. by John Givens. Northern Illinois University Press, 1996. 256 pages.

FINALIST for “Best Translation,” American Association of Teachers of Slavic & East European Languages, 1997

The cycle “From the Childhood Years of Ivan Popov” reprinted in *Russian Life* magazine, vol. 40, June, 1997, pp. 21-30.

The story “In the Autumn” reprinted in the anthology *Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida*, ed. Robert Chandler (New York: Penguin, 2005), 339-49.

The story “Cutting Them Down to Size” reprinted in the quarterly journal *Chtenia* (#16, Fall, 2011).

Reviews: *LA Times* (27 Oct 1996); *NY Times* (29 Dec 1996); *Times Literary Supplement* (8 Aug 1997); *Modern Language Review* 94:4 (1999); *Kirkus* (1 August 1996); *Publishers Weekly* (9 Sept 1996); *Library Journal* (1 Oct 1996); *Choice* (March 1997, 34:7).

EDITED COLLECTIONS

Vsevolod Garshin (introduction, annotated selection of 19 articles, and bibliography), Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism Series (Columbia, SC: Layman Poupard Publishing, forthcoming 2012).

ARTICLES

“Can This Be Faith?’ Tolstoy’s *Resurrection* and the Apophatic Search for Christ,” completed, to be submitted for journal publication.

“A Narrow Escape into Faith? Dostoevsky’s *Idiot* and the Christology of Comedy,” *Russian Review*, Vol 70, No. 1 (January, 2011) 95-117.

- “Grotesque Characters,” *Ars Interpretationis*, ed. O.G. Levashova (Barnaul, Russia: Altai State University Press, 2010) 30-47.
- “Divine Love in *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*,” *Zapiski russkoi akademicheskoi gruppy v S.Sh.A / Transactions of the Association of Russian American Scholars in the USA*, Vol. XXXVI (2010) 165-90.
- “The Fiction of Fact and the Fact of Fiction: Hayden White and *War and Peace*,” *Tolstoy Studies Journal*, vol. XXI (2009), 16-33.
- “Screening the Short Story: The Films of Vasilii Shukshin,” *Film Adaptations of Literature in Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-2001: Screening the Word*, ed. Stephen Hutchings and Anat Vernitskaia (London: Routledge, 2004) 116-32.
- REPRINTED as “Ekranizatsiia rasskaza: pervye tri fil'ma V.M. Shukshina,” *Tvorchestvo V.M. Shukshina v mezhnatsional'nom kul'turnom prostranstve*, ed. Svetlana Kozlova et al. (Barnaul: Altaiskii gosudarstvennyi universitet, 2009) 372-90.
- “Vasilii Shukshin,” *Russian Prose Writers After WWII*, vol. 302 of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, ed. Christine A. Rydel, (Columbia, SC: Brucoli Clark Layman, 2004) 266-79.
- “Vsevolod Garshin,” *Russian Literature in the Age of Realism*, vol. 277 of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, ed. Alyssa W. Dinega (Columbia, SC: Brucoli Clark Layman, 2003), 128-40.
- “*Call Me to the Bright Beyond: Cultural Mobility and the Landscape of Longing in the Works of Vasilii Shukshin*,” *Russian Studies in Literature*, “Rereading Russian Writers” Issue, 37:3 (Summer, 2001) 60-77.
- REPRINTED in *V.M. Shukshin: Problemy i resheniia*, ed. O.G. Levashova (Barnaul: Altaiskii universitet, 2002), 40-55.
- “Literaturnoe nasledie Shukshina v nauchnom mentalitete Rossii i Zapada.” [Shukshin’s literary legacy in the academic mindset of Russia and the West.] Co-authored with Svetlana Kozlova and A.A. Chuvakin. *Tvorchestvo V.M. Shukshina v sovremennom mire*. [The Works of Shukshin in the Contemporary World.] Ed. V.V. Desiatov, et al. Barnaul: Altaiskii gosudarstvennyi universitet, 1999. 11-22.
- “Vasilii Shukshin and the ‘Audience of Millions’: *Kalina krasnaia* and the Power of Popular Cinema.” *Russian Review*, 58:2 (April, 1999) 268-85.
- “Art and Remembrance: Joseph Brodsky’s ‘Pamiati ottsa: Avstraliia’ (‘In Memory of My Father: Australia’).” *Essays in Poetics*, 23 (Autumn, 1998): 238-51.

- “Wombs, Tombs and Mother Love: A Freudian Reading of Goncharov’s *Oblomov*.” *Oblomov: A Critical Companion*. Ed. Galya Diment. Northwestern UP, 1998. 90-109.
- “Vasilii Shukshin’s *Liubavin Family Chronicle* and the Autobiographical Novel of Co-Consciousness.” *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* 11.2 (1996): 105-24.
- “Vasily Shukshin: A Storyteller’s Story.” Introduction to Vasily Shukshin. *Stories from a Siberian Village*. Trans. Laura Michael and John Givens. Northern Illinois University Press, 1996. xv-xliii.
- “Author and Authority: Valentin Rasputin’s ‘Vniz i vverkh po techeniiu’ as a Discourse on Writing.” *Modern Language Review*. 91 (1996): 427-40.
- “Leksiko-semanticheskie osobennosti rasskaza V.M. Shukshina ‘Srezal’ v angliiskom perevode.” [Lexical and semantic peculiarities of V.M. Shukshin’s story “Srezal” in English translation.] *Rasskaz V.M. Shukshina ‘Srezal’: Problemy analiza, interpretatsii, perevoda*. [V.M. Shukshin’s Story “Srezal.” Problems of Analysis, Interpretation, and Translation.] Ed. S.M. Kozlova. Barnaul: Altaiskii gosudarstvennyi universitet, 1995. 112-22.
- “The Anxiety of a Dedication: Joseph Brodsky’s ‘Kvintet/Sextet’ and Mark Strand.” *Russian Literature*. XXXVII (1995): 203-226.
- “Tvorchestvo Shukshina v Soedinennykh Shtatakh Ameriki (problemy vospriiatiiia).” [On the reception of Shukshin’s works in the USA.] *Tvorchestvo V.M. Shukshina: Poetika, stil’, iazyk. Problemy estetiki i poetiki*. [The works of V.M. Shukshin: poetics, style, language. Problems of aesthetics and poetics.] Ed. A.A. Chuvakin. Barnaul, AGU, 1994. 184-191.
- “Siberia as *Volia*: Vasilii Shukshin’s Search for Freedom.” *Between Heaven and Hell: The Myth of Siberia in Russian Culture*. Ed. Galya Diment and Yuri Slezkine. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1993. 171-84.
- “Reflections, Crooked Mirrors, Magic Theaters: Tat’iana Tolstaia’s ‘Peters.’” *Fruits of Her Plume: Essays on Contemporary Russian Women’s Culture*. Ed. Helena Goscilo. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1993. 251-70.
- “Vasily Shukshin.” *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century*. Vol. 5. Ed. Steven R. Serafin. New York: Continuum Publishing, 1993. 554-56.
- “Osobennosti realizatsii ekzistentsialistskikh idei v proze V.M. Shukshina.” [Existentialist ideas in the prose of V.M. Shukshin.] *V.M. Shukshin: filosof, istorik, khudozhnik*. [V.M. Shukshin: philosopher, historian, artist.] Ed. S.M. Kozlova. Barnaul, AGU, 1992. 11-36.

TRANSLATIONS (Articles)

Svintsov, Vitalii, "Faith and Unbelief: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov and Others," *Russian Studies in Literature* (35:3), Summer, 1999, 51-81 (translation of "Vera i neverie: Dostoevskii Tolstoi, Chekhov, i drugie, *Voprosy Literaturny*, 1998; 5: 176-207.).

Lipovetskii, Mark, "The Parology of Russian Postmodernism," *Russian Studies in Literature* (35:2), Spring, 1999, 59-82 (Translation of "Paralogiia russkogo postmodernizma." *Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie*, 1998; 30: 285-304.).

Ivanova, Natal'ia, "Literature of the Last Decade: Tendencies and Perspectives (From a *Voprosy Literary Roundtable Discussion*)," *Russian Studies in Literature* (35:2), Spring, 1999, 45-58 (Translation of *Voprosy Literaturny*, 1998; 2: 4-17.).

REVIEWS

Frank Ellis, *The Damned and the Dead: The Eastern Front through the Eyes of Soviet and Russian Novelists* (Lawrence: UP of Kansas, 2011). Forthcoming, *Russian Review*, 2012.

Justin Weir, *Leo Tolstoy and the Alibi of Narrative* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2011). Forthcoming, *Tolstoy Studies Journal*, vol XXIII, 2011.

The Russian Twentieth Century Short Story: A Critical Companion. Lyudmila Parts, ed. Brighton, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2010. Forthcoming, *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*.

Routes of Passage: Essays on the Fiction of Vladimir Makanin, ed. Byron Lindsey and Tatiana Spektor (Bloomington: Slavica, 2007), *Slavic and East European Journal*, 53.2 (Summer 2009) 290-92.

Joseph Brodsky: The Art of a Poem, ed. Lev Loseff and Valentina Polukhina (New York: Macmillan Press, 1999), *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 40:2 (2006) 554-55.

Boris Thomson, *The Art of Compromise: The Life and Work of Leonid Leonov* (Toronto: U of Toronto Press, 2001), *Slavic Review*, 62:1 (Spring, 2003), 220-21.

David MacFadyen, *Joseph Brodsky and the Soviet Muse* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 2000), *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, 36:1 (2002), 201-03.

Mark Lipovetsky, *Russian Postmodernist Fiction: Dialogue with Chaos* (Armonk: ME Sharpe, 1999), *Slavic and East European Journal*, 45:1 (2001), 137-39.

David Gillespie, ed. and trans. *The Life and Work of Fedor Abramov* (Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1997), *Slavic and East European Journal*, 42:3 (Fall, 1998) 545-47.

Vladimir Soloukhin, *A Time to Gather Stones*, trans. Valerie Z. Nollan (Evanston: Northwestern

UP, 1993), *Slavic Review*, 54:1 (Spring, 1995): 245-46.

Krystyna Pomorska, *Jakobsonian Poetics and Slavic Narrative: From Pushkin to Solzhenitsyn*, ed. Henryk Baran (Durham, N.C.: Duke UP, 1992), *Russian Review*, 54:1 (January, 1995): 130-32.

CONFERENCE & PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“Apophaticism, Authority and Authorship: The Search for Christ in Bulgakov’s *Master and Margarita*,” ASEEES National Convention, Washington, D.C., 17-20 November 2011.

“‘Can This Be Faith?’ Tolstoy’s *Resurrection* and the Apophatic Search for Christ,” Midwest Slavic Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 14-16 April 2011.

“Images of Christ in Russian Culture,” University of Rochester Department of Religion and Classics Undergraduate Council Lecture Series, 29 March 2011.

“Divine Love in Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*,” AAASS National Convention, Boston, 12-15 November 2009.

“Hayden White and *War and Peace*,” at the conference Between History and Narrative: Colloquium in Honor of Hayden White, University of Rochester, 25 April 2009.

“A Narrow Escape into Faith? Dostoevsky’s *Idiot* and the Christology of Comedy,” AAASS National Convention, Philadelphia, 20-23 November 2008.

“Carnality and Redemption in Dostoevsky: A Discussion,” AAASS National Convention, Philadelphia, 20-23 November 2008.

“From Christ to Lenin: Sacred versus Soviet Iconography,” Authority of the Image Symposium, Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, 15 November 2008.

“A Narrow Escape into Faith? Dostoevsky’s *Idiot* and the Christology of Comedy,” MLC Works in Progress Series, University of Rochester, 9 April 2008.

“The View from the Periphery: Screening Shukshin's Short Stories,” AAASS National Convention, Toronto, 20-23 November 2003.

“From *Kinofot* to *Tsirk*: What Kuleshov, Kalatozov and Charlie Chaplin Had to Say about Soviet Avant-Garde Film,” Mid-Atlantic Slavic Convention, Cornell University, 31 2001.

“Plodding vs. Plotting in Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*,” British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies, Cambridge, England, 27-29 March 1999.

- “‘Ekhal Van’ka’: Vasilii Shukshin’s *Pechki-lavochki*.” AATSEEL National Convention, Toronto, 28-30 December 1997.
- “Elbows, Orgasms & the Abyss: Sexuality in Goncharov’s *Oblomov*.” AAASS National Convention, Boston, 14-17 November 1996.
- “Vasily Shukshin, Stenka Razin, and Russian/Soviet Society,” AAASS National Convention, Washington, D.C., 26-29 October 1995.
- “Kharaktery: Sotsial’niy iazyk and Characterization in the Prose of Vasilii Shukshin,” AATSEEL Nat’l Convention, San Diego, 28-30 December 1994.
- “Tsirk, KVN, Kabachok ‘trinadtsat’ stul’ev:’ Popular Culture and Cultural Critique in Vasilii Shukshin’s Works,” AAASS National Convention, Philadelphia, 17-20 November 1994.
- “Verbal Conjuring and the Illusory Horizon: A Discussion of Tatyana Tolstaya’s Prose,” AAASS National Convention, Philadelphia, 17-20, November 1994.
- “The Peasant Lad and the Moscow Cultural Elite: Vasilii Shukshin’s Biographical Legends,” AATSEEL National Convention, Toronto, 28-30 December 1993.
- “Existentialist Ideas in the Prose of Vasilii Shukshin,” AATSEEL National Convention, New York, 28-30 December 1992.
- “Problems in Translating Vasilii Shukshin’s ‘Srezal’ into English.” Fourth All-Russian Conference on V.M. Shukshin. Barnaul (Siberia), Russia. 20 December 1991.
- “Russian Nationalism and Vasilii Shukshin,” AATSEEL National Convention, Chicago, 28-30 December 1990.
- “Joseph Brodsky’s ‘Sextet’ and Mark Strand: On the Presence and Absence of the Dedicatee.” AAASS National Convention, Washington, D.C., 18-21 October 1990.
- “Reflections, Crooked Mirrors, Magic Theaters: Tat’iana Tolstaia’s ‘Peters,’” AATSEEL National Convention, Washington, D.C., 28-30 December 1989.
- “Energy and Entropy in Zamiatin’s ‘Cave,’” PAPC annual meeting, Claremont, CA, 10-12 November 1989.
- “Rereading Shukshin,” AAASS National Convention, Chicago, 2-5 November 1989.
- “Rasputin’s ‘Vniz i vverkh po techeniiu,’” AATSEEL National Convention, Washington, D.C., 28-30 December 1988.

“Gogol’s Mad Diarist and the Underground Man,” PAPC annual meeting, Portland, OR, 11-13 November 1988.

“Folkloric Dualities in Shukshin’s *Kalina krasnaia*,” AATSEEL National Convention, San Francisco, 28-30 December 1987.

“Folkloric Dualities in Shukshin’s *Kalina krasnaia*,” PAPC annual meeting, Davis, CA, 13-15 November 1987.

“Sexuality and Birthing in Pasternak’s ‘The Childhood of Liuvvers,’” Southern California AATSEEL annual meeting, Los Angeles, 2 May 1987.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript and book reviewer for *Slavic Review*, *Russian Review*, *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Tolstoy Studies Journal*, *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, *Ardis Publishing House*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Russian Section Head, MLC, 1999 - present

Undergraduate Advisor, Russian Section, MLC, 1995 - present

Co-Director, UR Summer Program in St. Petersburg, 1994 - present

Chair, College Board on Academic Honesty, 2004-10

Member, College Board on Academic Honesty, 1999-2004

Organizer, MLC Annual Undergraduate Research Conference, 2000, 2001, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011

Dean’s Working Group on Study Abroad, April-May 2007

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Modern Languages & Cultures, 1998-2001.

Administrative Committee, 1995-98

Judicial Hearings Committee, 1994-2000

Bookstores Advisory Committee, 1997-2001

Multi-Media Center Steering Committee, 1997-2000

Faculty Council, 1998-00

Pre-Major Advisor, Class of ’13, 2009-11

Pre-Major Advisor, Class of ’11, 2007-09

Pre-Major Advisor, Class of ’10, 2006-08

Pre-Major Advisor, Class of ’09, 2005-07

Pre-Major Advisor, Class of ’08, 2004-06

Pre-Major Advisor, Class of '07, 2003-05
 Pre-Major Advisor, Class of '06, 2002-04
 Pre-Major Advisor, Class of '01, 1997-99
 Pre-Major Advisor, Class of '98, 1994-96

Coordinator, Foreign Language Floor, Susan B. Anthony Hall, 1994-96

Faculty in Residence, Susan B. Anthony Hall, 1993-96

COURSES TAUGHT

Russian Literature & Culture: “Dostoevsky;” “Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*;” “Great Russian Writers;” “Russian Literature Between the Revolutions: 1917-91;” “Russia Goes to the Movies;” “Image of Christ in Russian Literature;” “Superfluous Men, Superior Women: Topics in 19th C Russian Literature;” “The End of Soviet Culture: Russian Fiction & Film, 1953-1991;”

Russian Language: Beginning Russian; Intermediate Russian; Advanced Russian; Topics in Advanced Russian Grammar; Advanced Readings in Russian

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Organized and introduced screening of Andrei Tarkovsky's film “Andrei Rublev” at the Curtis Theater in the George Eastman House, October 29, 2008 (part of Authority of the Image UR Humanities Project)

Lecture at Linkages (Rochester-Novgorod sister city organization) on the life and art of Vasily Shukshin, January 20 1997.

Bookstore readings from Vasily Shukshin, *Stories from a Siberian Village*: Border’s Books & Music, February 6; University Barnes and Noble Bookstore, April 22 1997.

Interview with Paul Baker on WXXI’s “Bookshelf” program about Vasily Shukshin, *Stories from a Siberian Village*, December 13 1996.

Lectures on Russian film for National Endowment for the Humanities series “Search for Identity: Re-emerging Russia” for the OASIS Organization, Rochester, NY, September 22, 26, 1995 & February 2, 1996.

Introduced and led discussion of Alexander Askoldov’s film “Commissar” for Linkages (Rochester-Novgorod sister city organization), March 20, 1990.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

Russian: Excellent speaking, reading and writing.

French, Czech: Reading.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Literature (AATSEEL)