

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF RUSSIAN TEACHERS OF AMERICA

"Нравственность человека видна
в его отношении к слову."
— Л. Н. Толстой



Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference

“Ты ищи меня по карте,
И рядом будем мы.”
Из популярной песни

March 21, 2026 - Virtual Session (for International participants)

March 27th- 29th, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton – Austin, Texas



Study Abroad

- Russian as a Second Language (Bishkek, Riga, Tbilisi, Yerevan)
- Identity and Conflict in the Caucasus (Tbilisi)
- Central Asian Studies (Bishkek)
- Security and Society Summer School (Warsaw)
- Security & Diplomacy: CEE Perspectives (Warsaw)
- Crossroads: Geopolitics and Security in the Caucasus (Tbilisi, Yerevan, Baku)
- Georgian Language & Culture (Tbilisi)
- Layers: History and Memory in Armenia (Yerevan)
- Armenian Language & Culture (Yerevan)
- Iranian Studies: Language & Society (Yerevan)
- Polish / Ukrainian Language (Warsaw)
- Persian Language (Yerevan)

Study Tours / Certificates

- Winter / Spring Break Riga: Russian Language Intensive
- Media Literacy in the Baltics: Identity, AI, and Security
- Wine and History in Georgia: Identity, Tradition, and Taste
- Spring Break: Navruz in Uzbekistan

Custom (Faculty-Led) Programs

- Logistics (visas, housing, transportation)
- Academics (lectures, seminars, roundtables)
- Experiential learning (service learning, travel, workshops)
- Cultural programming (excursions, performances)

Archive Assistance

- Remote research services
- Translation



SRAS.org
study@sras.org



The Central Association of Russian Teachers of America officially includes the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas but is open for professionals from other states. The purpose of our organization is to consolidate and coordinate the efforts of the Russian language and area studies in order to enhance and expand Russian studies in the region, provide professional and moral support for existing programs, and to create new programs of need and interest to students at all levels of public, private, secondary, and higher educational institutions. The additional benefits would be an exchange of educational programs, ideas, and techniques. Our current **Board** is listed below:

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Sally Ziebell - Oklahoma

REGISTRATION —

Registration includes all Conference activities:

Friday: Reception, Panels, and Exhibits

Saturday: Awards Luncheon, Panels, and Exhibits

Sunday: Breakfast, Drawings for Door Prizes, Panels, and Exhibits

Registration Fee:

Members	 \$120.00
Students	 \$50.00
Retirees	 \$75.00
Non-Members	 \$170.00
Virtual Registration	...\$50.00



On-Site Registration Fee: \$200.00



DoubleTree by Hilton



Austin, Texas

EXHIBITORS

American Councils for International Education ACTR/ACCELS

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School of Russian and Asian Studies (SRAS)

Vista Higher Learning



STUDY & RESEARCH ABROAD

NEW STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS WITH AMERICAN COUNCILS

The Baltic States, NATO, and Russia - Tallinn, Estonia

Explore the front lines of European history, culture, and security while mastering Russian in one of the world's most dynamic capitals. Hosted by **Tallinn University (TLU)**, this new, innovative program offers academic credit in **Anthropology, International Relations, Political Science**, and **Russian language**. Offered for semester study, starting in Fall 2026.

The Caucasus Today - Yerevan, Armenia

Experience the legendary hospitality, vibrant culture, and ancient history of the South Caucasus while developing a new understanding of the social, religious, and geopolitical forces that both unite and divide this vital region. Academic credit in **Anthropology, International Relations, Political Science**, and **Russian language**. Offered for semester study, starting in Fall 2026, hosted by **Yerevan State University (YSU)**.

Fall 2026 applications: due March 15, 2026
Spring 2027 applications: due October 15, 2026

Eligibility requirements, financial aid, and scholarship info available at:
www.studyabroad.americancouncils.org

Questions? Contact us: outbound@americancouncils.org

❧ 2026 Conference at a Glance ❧

All Conference Sessions Will Be in the Magnolia Room

All Times Are Listed in Central Standard Time (CST)

Saturday, March 7, 2026	
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	CARTA Yevgeny Yevtushenko Poetry Recital Contest (Zoom)

Saturday, March 21, 2026		
8:00 a.m.	Session 1	Teaching Russian Studies Outside the United States (Virtual)

Thursday, March 26, 2026		
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	CARTA Board Meeting	Location T.B.D.

Friday, March 27, 2026		
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	CARTA Board Meeting	Location T.B.D.
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	In Front of Magnolia Room
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Tour of a Historic Texas Capitol and O. Henry Museum	Group Meets at 2pm in the Lobby of the Hotel
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Opening Reception	Dover's Room

Saturday, March 28, Sessions & Events

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits	In Front of Magnolia Room
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Session 2	Russian Literature I
9:10 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Session 3	Methods of Teaching Russian
10:15 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Session 4	Russian Culture I
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Session 5	Plenary: Julia L. Mickenberg: Finding American Girls in Red Russia
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting	Keynote: Renee Stilling: AI and Study Abroad in the Evolution of Russian Programs
2:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Session 6	Russian Culture II
4:25 p.m. – 5:35 p.m.	Session 7	Slavic Linguistics

Sunday, March 29, Session & Events

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	In Front of Magnolia Room
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Exhibits	In Front of Magnolia Room
8:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Session 8	Russian Literature II
9:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Session 9	«С миру по нитке....» I
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Drawings for Door Prizes and CARTA Auction	Magnolia Room

11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Session 10	«С миру по нитке....» II
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2026 Conference Program

All Times Are Listed in Central Standard Time (CST)

Conference Zoom Host and Coordinator: Michael Long, Baylor University

SATURDAY, March 21, 2026

SESSION 1 – (Virtual).....8:00 a.m.

Panel: Teaching Russian Studies Outside the United States

Moderator: Mara Sukholutskaya, East Central University

“Proverbial Dyads as an Esthetic Values Classification Instrument”

Presenter: Ra'no Abdullaeva (Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan)

“The Iranian Linguacultural Portrait as a Condition for Ethnically Oriented RFL Education”

Presenter: Pronkin Nikolai (Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University
of Russia, Moscow)

“Соединяя языки и технологии: XR/VR-технологии и стратегии нейролингвистического программирования (НЛП) в обучении русскому языку как иностранному”

Presenter: Guljazira Shamenova (University of Public Security of the Republic of
Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan)

“Language of Friendship and Partnership: The Role of the Russian Language in the Current Uzbekistan City Culture”

Presenter: Gafurov Bakhtiyor (Bukhara State Medical Institute, Uzbekistan)

“Content and Language Integrated Learning”

Presenter: Kateryna Zubkovska (Charles University, Czech Republic)

“Разработка национально-ориентированных интернет-ресурсов по переводу в Гранадском университете”

Presenter: Rafael Guzman Tirado (Granada University, Spain)
Larisa Sokolova (Granada University, Spain)

“Русские и русский язык на постсоветском пространстве: основные перемены

за последние десятилетия”

Presenter: Alexander Arefiev (Pushkin Russian Language Institute; Moscow)

THURSDAY, March 26, 2026

Carta Board Meeting – *Location T.B.D.*.....2:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.

FRIDAY, March 27, 2026

Carta Board Meeting – *Location T.B.D.*.....9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration – *In Front of Magnolia Room*.....1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Workshop/Field Trip:

Tour of a Historic Texas Capitol and O. Henry Museum.....2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



The granite Texas statehouse stands as a testament to the history of the Lone Star State. The Texas Capitol is widely recognized as one of the nation's most distinguished state capitols. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

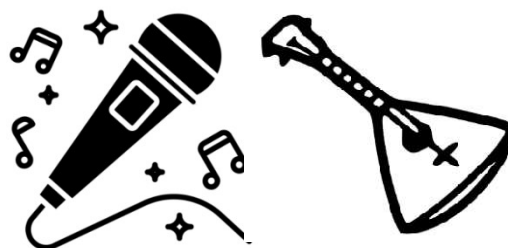
The O. Henry Museum is the former residence of William Sydney Porter, otherwise known as O. Henry, the short story writer who authored such classics as “The Gift of the Magi,” “The Ransom of Red Chief,” and “The Last Leaf.” Through exhibits, programs, and

tours, the museum focuses on Porter’s Austin years, during which he wrote his earliest stories. The museum is included in the National Register of Historic Places

The cars will be leaving promptly at 2:00 p.m. from the hotel’s main entrance.

Opening Reception – *Dover’s Room*.....7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

- *Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar*
- *Entertainment*
- *ECU and ACC Students*
- *Karaoke*





SATURDAY, March 28, 2026

SESSION 2 – *Magnolia Room*.....8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

PANEL: Russian Literature I

Moderator: Sally Ziebell, Harding Charter Preparatory HS

“A Biblical Analysis of Alexander Pushkin’s *The Bronze Horseman*”

Presenter: Taylor Towner (University of Texas)

**“What Remains Unsaid: Love, Loss, and Translation in *The Fault in Our Stars*.
A Love Story Written Twice”**

Presenter: Anton Gridasov (University of Mississippi)

“Daniil Andreev’s *The Rose of the World* as a Late Echo of the Silver Age”

Presenter: Tatiana Scanlan (Independent Scholar, Kansas)

Exhibitor’s Break

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

SESSION 3 – *Magnolia Room*.....9:10 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

PANEL: Methods of Teaching Russian

Moderator: Marita Nummikoski, University of Texas at San Antonio

“Collaborative Online Interactive Learning (COIL)”

Presenter: Alla Kourova and Barry Morris (University of Central Florida)

“Developing Reading Strategies Through Proverbs”

Presenter: Ariel Ganelis and Alla Kourova (University of Central Florida)

Exhibitor's Break

10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

SESSION 4 – *Magnolia Room*.....10:15 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

PANEL: Russian Culture I

Moderator: Michael Long, Baylor University

"Russian Folk Soldiers' Songs as Cultural Artifacts"

Presenter: Olga Butyrskaya Scarborough (United States Air Force Academy, Colorado)

"Cold War II in Hollywood: Russian Villains in the Latest American Movies & Movie Series"

Presenter: Tamara Karakozova (University of Mississippi)

"Negotiating and Reflecting Upon Language Identity Through Autoethnography"

Presenter: Irina Pidberejna (University of Florida)

Exhibitor's Break

11:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SESSION 5 – *Magnolia Room*.....11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

PLENARY:

"Finding American Girls in Red Russia"



Julia L. Mickenberg is Professor of American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her book, *American Girls in Red Russia: Chasing the Soviet Dream* (Chicago, 2017) was named a best book in History by the Financial Times. She is also the award-winning author or editor of four other books and many articles and has won fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Spencer Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution and elsewhere. An affiliate (and former acting director/interim chair) of UT's Center for Russian and Eastern European and Eurasian Studies and the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, she's also an affiliate of the Center for Women and Gender Studies, the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, and the Department of English.

Exhibitor's Break

12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AWARDS LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING – *Dover's Room*.....12:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
KEYNOTE:

“AI and Study Abroad in the Evolution of Russian Programs”



Renee Stillings is Founder and Director of SRAS, providing study abroad and custom faculty-led programming in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Central/Eastern Europe and the Baltics for 30 years. She has traveled extensively in the region, always with an eye toward development of unique and impactful learning experiences.



Exhibitor's Break

2:30 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

SESSION 6 – Magnolia Room.....2:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PANEL: Russian Culture II

Moderator: Mara Sukholuts kaya, East Central University

“Exploring Russian Treasures in the US Capital”

Presenter: Mara Sukholuts kaya (East Central University)

“Hillwood Estate Museum: Russian Culture Throughout the Centuries”

Presenter: Rafael Charqueno (East Central University)

“The Glamour of Faberge”

Presenter: Olivia Hunley (East Central University)

“Aleksandr Pushkin: World Poetry in the Heart of the US”

Presenter: Jesse Barker (East Central University)

“The Minds That Bind”

Presenter: John Kelso (East Central University)

Coffee Break Sponsored by Vista Higher Learning - Magnolia Room.....4:00 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.

SESSION 7 – Magnolia Room.....4:25 p.m. – 5:35 p.m.

PANEL: Slavic Linguistics

Moderator: Harold Schefski, Emeritus, California State University, Long Beach

“Rasmus Rask and the Education in Languages that Led to His Significant Discoveries in Slavic, Russian and Related Languages”

Presenter: Matt Feeny (University of Kansas)

“Foreign Lexical Elements in Russian Conversational Discourse as Markers of Social Meaning”

Presenter: Yuliya Kruchkova (Southern Methodist University)

“Rewriting the City: On the Evolution of Public Signage in Post-Soviet Urban Space”

Presenter: Valentina Iepuri (University of Mississippi)



SUNDAY, March 29, 2026

Breakfast

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

SESSION 8 – *Magnolia Room*.....8:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

PANEL: Russian Literature II

Moderator: Marita Nummikoski, University of Texas at San Antonio

“Lessons Over Tea: What Russian Melodramas Can Teach Us About Language and Life”

Presenter: Mary Greff (Austin Community College)

“Love and Violence in Vladimir Sorokin’s *Marina’s Thirtieth Love*”

Presenter: Tatiana Karmanova (California State University, San Bernardino)

“Obsessive Behavior Patterns in Anton Chekhov’s Short Stories”

Presenter: Harold Schefski (California State University, Long Beach)

Exhibitor’s Break

9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

SESSION 9 – *Magnolia Room*.....9:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

PANEL: «С миру по нитке....» I

Moderator: Sally Ziebell, Harding Charter Preparatory HS

“Russlish – A Contact Version of Russian Language in Northern Texas”

Presenter: Gayane Paul (UT Arlington College)

“S.T.A.L.K.E.R.: Shadow of Chernobyl & Post-Nuclear Apocalypse Fiction”

Presenters: John Kelso (East Central University)

“Panel by Panel: The Modern Comic Book in Post-Soviet Russia”

Presenter: Broden Haley (East Central University)

“Russia’s Cultural Influences on Current-Day Estonia”

Presenter: Elena Dolshygina and Olga Randolph (University of Tulsa)

Drawings for Door Prizes and Auction

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SESSION 10 – *Magnolia Room*..... 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

PANEL: Russian Language Pedagogy

Moderator: Michael Long, Baylor University

“Reflecting on Objectives and Outcomes for Title I Elementary Students and University Students”

Presenter: Adrienne Harris (Baylor University)

“Building an Extracurricular K-8 Russian Language Program and Curriculum”

Presenter: Madeleine Holland (Baylor University)

“Teaching them some Russian while Speaking their Language: Connecting to «Поколение 6-7».”

Presenter: Wilson Smith (Baylor University)



ABOUT THE EXHIBITORS

We would like to thank the following exhibitors for taking the time to present their products and programs at our Spring 2026 CARTA Conference. Please be sure to visit their websites (listed below) and thank them for extending their courtesy to CARTA.

American Councils for International Education ACTR/ACCELS— Founded in 1974 as an association for area and language professionals, American Councils has focused its expertise on academic exchange, professional training, distance learning, curriculum and test development, and delivery of technical assistance, research, evaluation, and institution building. Find out more at <http://www.americancouncils.org/index.php>

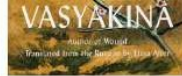
Bard Abroad – reflects Bard College's long-standing commitment to innovative, globally engaged education through semester-long and summer study abroad programs in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Hosted by the American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Bard College's dual-degree partner since 2009, the Bard-AUCA programs offer students a rare opportunity to study in English alongside peers from more than 25 countries at the region's leading university. With a strong liberal arts curriculum and a dedicated track in Russian language study, alongside other regional languages and fields such as anthropology and political science, students gain deep cultural immersion and intellectual insight in a rapidly changing region. Learn more at bard.edu/bardabroad/bishkek/.

Bergstrom Press – The name may be different, but our passion for the teaching and study of foreign languages burns just as intensely. We stock the widest possible selection for studying Russian and original language literature in Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, German, and other languages. From beginner to native speaker, we have something for everyone. Visit us online or our brick-and-mortar store in Maryland. We are also actively publishing language learning titles, especially readers. We are currently working on readers in Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian. See our website at www.bergstrompressbooks.com.

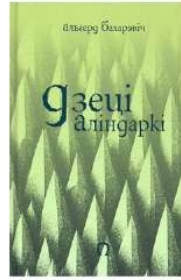
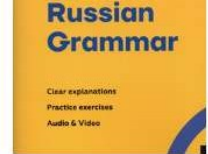
SRAS – Is an organization committed to encouraging the study of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. In addition to a wide array of study abroad programs formulated for credit transfer to American institutions, SRAS develops free resources, including the SRAS Family of Sites, supported in great part by student writing and The SRAS Newsletter, a monthly publication with articles, interviews, scholarship information, and much more. Find out more at www.sras.org.

Vista Higher Learning – Vista Higher Learning's singular focus is developing print and digital solutions that meet the needs of all language learners—those learning a new language, improving a second language, or perfecting their native language. We are committed to partnering with educators around the world to raise teaching and learning of languages, literacy, and culture to a higher level.





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Austin Community College, Texas

Dr. Antonio J. Ramirez, AAC Dean of Liberal Arts: Humanities and Communication,
Rio Grande Campus

Dr. Vanessa G. Lazo, Department Chair of World Languages

East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma

Dr. Steven Pedersen, Chair, Department of English and Languages
College of Liberal Arts and Social Studies (CLASS)

ECU Russian Club

Olivia Hunley

Madison Hawkins

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Brandi Schur, Library

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STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

SUMMER, FALL, SPRING, ACADEMIC YEAR

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a Bard College dual-degree partner since 2009

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American
University of
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RUSSIAN IN CENTRAL ASIA SUMMER PROGRAM

June 5 – August 1, 2026

June 4 – July 31, 2027

8-week program which combines intensive Russian study with an exploration of the region from historical, political, ideological, and cultural perspectives.

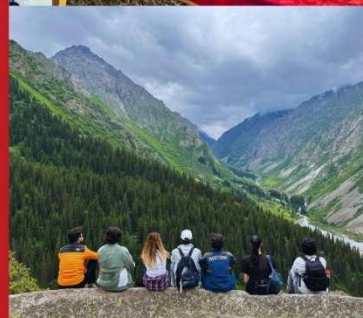
Two Academic Courses (4 credits each)

- Russian Language: Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced
- Post-Soviet Central Asia: Sovereignty, Community, and Cultural Self-Expression

Highlights

- Russian Table lunches + guided homework sessions with AUCA peer tutors
- Homestays with Russian-speaking families in Bishkek
- Weekly excursions, museum visits, and extracurricular activities
- Overnight trips to Lake Issyk-Kul and Son-Kul

Application Deadline: March 15



BARD-AUCA FALL STUDY ABROAD

August 17 – December 22, 2026

January 4 – May 18, 2027

Offers students an immersive experience in the languages, cultures, and politics of Central Asia. With coursework across the social sciences and regional languages, the program is ideal for students interested in the post-Soviet space.

Highlights

- One-week Russian intensive and ongoing language courses
- Russian-speaking homestays or AUCA dorms
- Enrollment in 2-5 academic courses
- Cultural programming, peer tutors, student clubs, civic engagement, and internship/volunteer opportunities

Academic Tracks

- Beginning Russian
- Intermediate/Advanced Russian
- Liberal Arts

Application Deadline: April 1 (Fall/AY), November 1 (Spring)



LEARN MORE: [BARD.EDU/BARDABROAD/BISHKEK/](https://bard.edu/bardabroad/bishkek/)
CONTACT: BARDABROAD@BARD.EDU



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Erin Collopy
Anthony Qualin

Wyoming

Matthew Feeney

CARTA Honorary Members:

Vitaly Kostomarov, Russia (1930-2020)
Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Oklahoma (1933-2017)
Michael Long, Texas





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the CARTA
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КАРТОЧКА

The official newsletter of the Central Association of Russian Teachers of America

Volume 25, Issue 1 Since 1998 March 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

- Conference News and Updates
- Poetry Recital Contest
- Student Research Paper Contest
- CARTA Member News

«Нравственность
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Л. Н. Толстой

Troika 3rd Edition



Troika 3rd Edition

A Communicative Approach to Russian Language, Life, and Culture ©2025

Troika is a communicative introductory Russian text that emphasizes language proficiency in all four skills of speaking, reading, listening, and writing. **Troika** also serves as an introduction to Russian life and culture. This new edition of **Troika** comes with an enhanced online platform—the Supersite—with authentic media, plenty of practice activities, chat activities, assessment, and more!

Learn more at <https://learn.vistahigherlearning.com/troika/>

New to this edition

- **A Supersite for seamless textbook-technology integration** with practice activities, chat activities, assessment, and more!
- **Digital Instructor's Annotated Edition** with additional explanations, clarifications, contexts, and insights to help you enhance your course.
- **Updated colorful design** of the print Student Edition to bring the language to life
- **A Student Activities Manual** in print and online formats with extra practice and fully integrated with the Supersite



Experience the **Troika** Supersite, an unparalleled digital learning environment with integrated content, resources, and tools built exclusively to support language learning

- Practice activities—many with auto-grading and immediate feedback
- Authentic video, audio, and readings expose students to the Russian culture throughout the lesson
- Digital versions of the Student Edition and Instructor Edition
- Synchronous chat activities—Partner Chat and Group Chat—offer valuable practice that simulates typical conversations in a language classroom and prepare students to communicate with native speakers
- Assignable assessments