



## **Russian Language Program for Students at the University of Washington**

### ***Russian in the Sky and in Outer Space***

July 16-August 10, 2012 | <http://depts.washington.edu/startalk/>

The STARTALK Student Program, "Russian in the Sky and in Outer Space," aims to enroll 20 high school and college Russian heritage students in a four-week intensive language program meeting five hours a day for a total of 100 instructional hours. Students will be introduced to MOODLE, an interactive and collaborative software network, language self-assessment and goal setting through LinguaFolio Online and language learning through social networking via Livemocha. They will be able to earn five UW credits by enrolling in RUSS 499 and also have an opportunity to complete the ACTFL OPIc (Oral Proficiency Interview computer-based) and WPT (Writing Proficiency Test). High School students may be able to use these results in order to receive high school credit for proficiency. All students will receive placement results for future study of Russian at the UW. The differentiated teaching and learning environment using the national standards will increase students' proficiency in all three communication modes: Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational.

A powerful component will be woven into this program – content-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) – through a partnership with the Museum of Flight. The STEM-based lessons will be taught by experienced teachers and will be designed to go together with three trips to the Museum of Flight where the students will be able to use Russian as they work with the aviation and space expeditions' materials, participate in activities of the Aviation Learning Center and the Challenger Learning Center.

#### **About STARTALK**

STARTALK was launched as a new component in the programs of the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) announced by former President Bush in January of 2006. The initiative seeks to expand and improve the teaching and learning of strategically important world languages that are not now widely taught in the US. STARTALK's mission is to increase the number of Americans learning, speaking, and teaching critical need foreign languages by offering students (K-16) and teachers of these languages creative and engaging summer experiences that strive to exemplify best practices in language education and in language teacher development.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Paul Aoki

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Teacher Program Director: Dr. Michele Anciaux Aoki | Lead Instructor: Dr. Bridget Yaden

Instructor and Technical Lead: Veronika Egorova | Heritage Language Consultant: Galina Zakashanskaya