

Where Are They Now?
UF Russian Studies Alumni Profile

Alumnus: *Trevor Holmes (class of '04)*

Concentration(s) at UF: *BA – Russian Studies, BS – Information Sciences, MA – International Business*

Current occupation: *U.S. Marine Officer*

Looking back, what aspects of your UF Russian studies proved particularly useful? *The most useful were the study abroad options and also the tight-knit community that developed which made practicing much easier, and allowed for the interest in the language to grow exponentially.*

With regard to your pursuit of Russian at UF, is there anything you didn't take or get that would have been useful? *No, the entire program has served me over the past 12 years in my career.*

What did you do after you graduated? How, if at all, did your UF Russian studies inform or influence these activities? *I became a Marine Officer and have deployed to numerous locations around the world, and have served as a translator in many circumstances. My knowledge of Russian and of the culture has greatly enhanced my professional and personal life. I still read often, and never have regretted the decision to learn the language.*

Are you still using your Russian? *Yes. I travel extensively to Russia, and utilize my knowledge of the language for a variety of purposes.*

What advice might you have for Russian studies students considering Russian as a major? *In today's political environment and especially with the concerns to the defense industry, a Russian major is extremely valuable, whether it is the sole discipline or combined with business or engineering. Whenever I meet a Russian major, I always find that they are a cut above the competition in a myriad of fields.*

What advice might you have for Russian studies students on the verge of graduation?

I'd recommend further study in graduate school, but I would recommend selling this versatile skill. An expert in the Russian language can be beneficial in business, engineering, diplomacy, defense, or just to enrich one's academic career.

In a sentence or two, reflect on your experiences studying Russian at UF and its impact on you personally and/or professionally.

My life would be very different had I decided not to study Russian. I never imagined that I would have traveled to many countries within the Former Soviet Union, and I have made many life-long friends along the way. There are very few Americans that I have met that speak Russian well or that have an interest in the culture, language, etc. I've been fortunate to never forget what I've learned, and I have been asked on many occasions to utilize my communication skills for translation purposes or to provide recommendations and advice to those who are making decisions in that part of the world.

If their interests or trajectories correspond to yours, would you be willing to help individual students with career, post-graduate, and/or networking questions? I'd love to help students and talk with anyone who is interested.