

## **Where Are They Now? UF Russian Studies Alumni Profile**

**Alumnus:** *Nick Chadeayne (class of '03)*

**Concentration(s) at UF:** *(majors) Russian & Political Science; Masters of Science in Management.*

**Current occupation:** *Market Risk Analyst for Shell*

**Looking back, what aspects of your UF Russian studies proved particularly useful?**

*Forcing me out of my comfort zone. Studying abroad was one of the most difficult endeavors I have ever undertaken. However, I met fantastic people I would have never otherwise met and grew in ways I never expected. When you realize you can survive in language and culture that is not your own, most other challenges that come up seem trivial by comparison.*

**With regard to your pursuit of Russian at UF, is there anything you didn't take or get that would have been useful?** *A course on doing business in Russia.*

**What did you do after you graduated?** *After undergrad, I enrolled in UF's MSM program. My future wife was still in law school and I wasn't ready to leave Gainesville. That's when I also fell in love with finance. Never thought it would be a subject of interest but it turns out, it was a passion. I worked for Merrill Lynch upon graduation, then Wachovia and BBVA. I went back to school at Tulane for a Master's in Finance. I started at Shell 4 years ago. I'm not sure that Russian studies influenced my career but it has made for some interesting conversations. I think most employers recognize the value in having a diverse background.*

**Are you still using your Russian?** *Even though I've lost so much of my ability to speak and understand but I can still speak enough to have a basic conversation. Working at a very international company I meet Russians or Russian speakers fairly often. Being able to speak even just a little, allows you to build an almost instant rapport as you can see the reaction when you suddenly respond in Russian to a native speaker.*

**What advice might you have for Russian studies students considering Russian as a major?** *I would without doubt recommend a language as a second major. To be very honest, unless you are truly passionate, dedicated, and perhaps gifted with languages, I*

*think making a career with only a Russian major would be a challenge. However, learning to see the world through another culture's perspective can only do good things for society and helps to build a sense of mutual respect. It seems today that we as Americans are becoming more withdrawn from the world when we shouldn't be. I encourage all students regardless of major to pursue a language as either a minor or second major. Russia, aside from being a geopolitical hotspot, has a wonderful and fascinating culture to learn and experience.*

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

*Study abroad if at all possible. There is no replacement for being surrounded by people who do not speak English. It forces you to stumble, maybe sound like a fool, but you will eventually find a way to communicate.*

**In a sentence or two, reflect on your experiences studying Russian at UF and its impact**

**on you personally and/or professionally.** *Studying Russian at UF allowed me to experience another culture in a way I could not have understood through reading a book. It broadened my horizons and helped me to grow as an individual.*

**If their interests or trajectories correspond to yours, would you be willing to help individual students with career, post-graduate, and/or networking questions? Of course! Email works best nrchade@gmail.com.**