

## ***Where Are They Now?***

### ***UF Russian Studies Alumni Profile***

**Alumnus:** *Luke Jeske (class of '16)*

**Concentration(s) at UF:** (majors) *History*; (minor) *Russian & Central and Eastern European Studies*

**Current occupation:** *English-language Teacher, Vladimir, Russia*

**Looking back, what aspects of your UF Russian studies proved particularly useful?** *UF in Moscow; Advanced Speaking Practice; Theory of Translation; Cultural classes*

**With regard to your pursuit of Russian at UF, is there anything you didn't take or get that would have been useful?** *I started studying Russian late (in my junior year) and I could have learned more from my professors if I had started earlier. However, I still had many opportunities in those two short years.*

**What did you do after you graduated?** *I took my current job teaching English in Vladimir, Russia. I came here because I wanted to improve my Russian and English is a marketable skill in Russia.*

**Are you still using your Russian?** *Yes.*

**What advice might you have for Russian studies students considering Russian as a major?** *Russian, like any other major, can be used in as many ways as you can imagine. There are jobs like mine, but also ones in America (one of my fellow teachers worked in Washington D.C. last year helping the Georgetown library and Library of Congress catalogue Russian works).*

**What advice might you have for Russian studies students on the verge of graduation?** *Ask your professors and fellow students about ways to do what you want: live in Russia, get into graduate school, etc. They often know about opportunities that you have not heard of before – I found out about the place that I work at from my professor. If you are fluent enough to surf the Runet, then do that as well. Looking for a job takes a lot of time, but don't let it get in the way of your studies because jobs are out there and your college career is short.*

**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 challenged my perspectives on how we narrate and understand other people and cultures. Moreover, I vastly reconsidered the opportunities available to me after studying Russian. Too often, college students limit their career options to a short list of jobs that are expected of their majors and do not explore other options.*

**If their interests or trajectories correspond to yours, would you be willing to help individual students with career, post-graduate, and/or networking questions?** *Yes.*