

# The impact of cross-cultural projects and international exchange in teaching foreign languages in the USA and Russia.



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# Research projects:

- ▶ The Effect of a Virtual Exchange on Students' Interest in Learning about Culture
- ▶ UCF digital language exchange with Russian students "Connecting Classrooms" and blind and visual impaired students in Russia.
- ▶ From Orlando to Russia: Cross-Cultural communication through gamemaking



# Impact and Results

## Research projects

- ▶ The Effect of a Virtual Exchange on Students' Interest in Learning about Culture
- ▶ UCF digital language exchange with Russian students "Connecting Classrooms" and blind and visual impaired students in Russia.
- ▶ From Orlando to Russia: Cross-Cultural communication through gamemaking

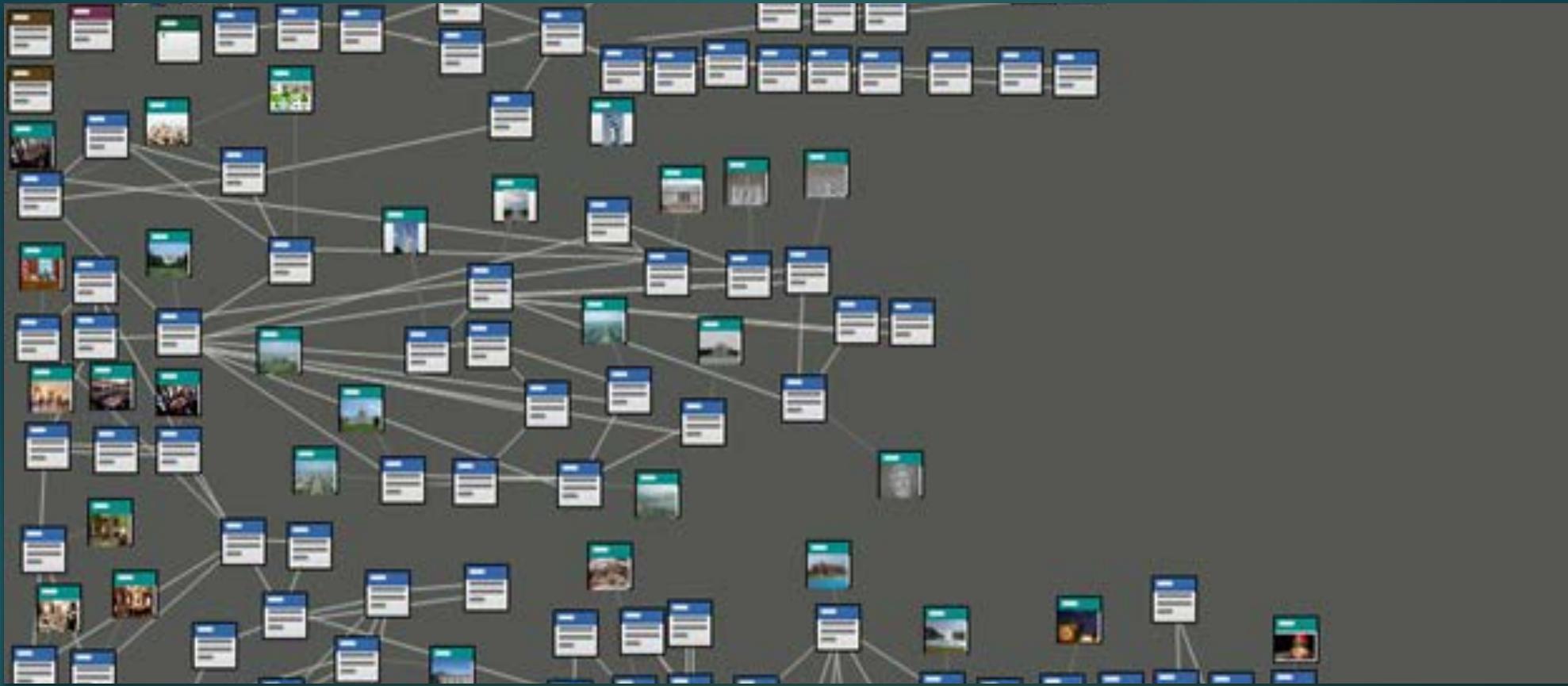
## Grants(external& internal)

- ▶ Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad Grant ( 2017-2018)
- ▶ The US- Russia Dialogue Program "Getting Closer: A Cross-Cultural U.S.-Russian Project Focusing on Teaching Foreign Languages to U.S. Students and Blind/Visually Impaired Students in Russia ( 2015-2016)
- ▶ **STARTALK** grant (STARTALK is the newest of the component programs of National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) US Department of State. ( 2015-2018)
- ▶ UCF In-House Research Grant Picturing Russia (2014)
- ▶ UCF In-House Faculty-Led Study Abroad Research Grant ( 2015)
- ▶ LIFE at UCF Program Development Grant, (2015—**\$300**).

# Grant: THE U.S.-RUSSIA PEER-TO-PEER DIALOGUE PROGRAM

- ▶ Projects must be non-political in nature and focus on Russian-American peer-to-peer dialogue or people-to-people engagement on themes of mutual interest.
- ▶ Applicants are responsible for designing their own unique program to compete for funding. ( 20 pages)

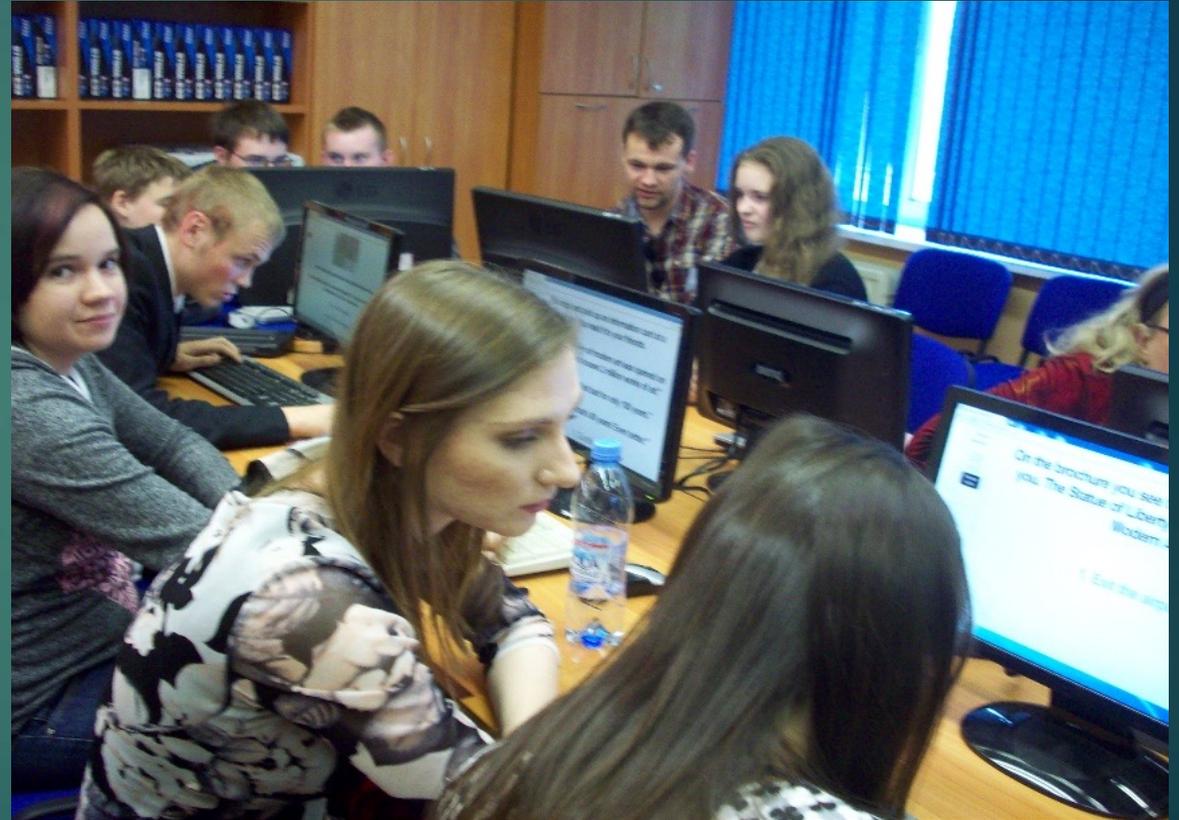




Game Play through

# US Students on Making the Game

*“I was adamant in showing how culturally diverse America is as a nation; the culture in Boston is different than Dallas, which is different than San Francisco. In my experience traveling abroad, I have noticed that many people view America as more homogenous than it is, so I feel that providing that insight would help to eliminate stereotypes and lead to cultural understanding.”*



# STARTALK Grant

STARTALK's mission is to increase the number of U.S. citizens learning, speaking, and teaching critical need foreign languages. STARTALK offers 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. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) launched STARTALK in 2006.

- ▶ 30 questions:
- ▶ Describe the opportunities you will organize for or recommend to participants for continued learning beyond this program.
- ▶ Describe the evidence you will collect to show that each learner has met the major goals of the program. Include examples for each mode addressed by your program. Be sure that the examples you share are specific to the theme of your program.
- ▶ How will your program address the different backgrounds and experiences that your participants bring to the program? How will you ensure that all participants will acquire new learning as a result of their participation in this program?
- ▶ What learning targets will be addressed in the online portion of your program, and how will you measure if the targets have been met/achieved?



# International Project “Connecting Classrooms”



# Publications

- ▶ The US- Russia Dialogue Program “Getting Closer: A Cross-Cultural U.S.-Russian Project Focusing on Teaching Foreign Languages to U.S. Students and Blind/Visually Impaired Students in Russia
- ▶ **STARTALK** grant (STARTALK is the newest of the component programs of National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) US Department of State.
- ▶ UCF In-House Research Grant Picturing Russia
- ▶ UCF In-House Faculty-Led Study Abroad Research Grant
- ▶ LIFE at UCF Program Development Grant, (2015—**\$300**).

## Academic Books

- ▶ *Picturing Russia: A Research Guide to Russian Culture.* (2016)
- ▶ *Using cross-cultural projects in teaching foreign languages: A research- based approach to design and implementation.* (2013)

## Refereed Book Chapters

- ▶ Kourova, A. (May, 2016). Russian Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Establishing links with the global community. In *Reconsidering Post-Soviet rhetoric: Theory and practice of professional writing and of writing education in the former Eastern Bloc.* Washington DC: Lexington Books.
- ▶ Kourova, A. (2012). Multimedia programs and cross-cultural communication in teaching English—new way of interdisciplinary approach. In *Using humanities courses to prepare non-language major for effective intercultural communication* (pp.82-93). Kiev, Ukraine: National Aviation University.

## Refereed Articles

- ▶ Kourova, A., Salter, A., Pidberejna, I., & McDaniel, R. (September, 2016). From Orlando to Russia: Cross-cultural communication through gamemaking. ( September 2016)
- ▶ +9 articles

# Impact and results:

- ▶ 2 academic books
- ▶ 10 refereed articles
- ▶ 2 book chapters
- ▶ 6 grants ( 3 external and 3 internal)
- ▶ 2 booklets
- ▶ 6 Fulbright scholars in Russia ( +5 teaching)
- ▶ Developing UCF Russian program and Russian Club
- ▶ Study Abroad in Russia
- ▶ RAMP, LEAD, and research initiative undergraduate grant.

# Why create grant programs?

- ▶ To close the gap in our knowledge
- ▶ To develop more efficient program
- ▶ To make a difference
- ▶ To save money, time

▶ Good luck!