

Introduction to Volume 64

On behalf of the editorial team of the *Russian Language Journal*, it is with great pleasure that we present Volume 64. The current issue of *RLJ* sees an expansion of our reinstated section of reviews, under Professor Michael Gorham's editorship, as well as a special section, *Humanities+*, edited by Dr. Tony Brown of Brigham Young University, on the excellent joint Symposium held there this past January by the Russian State University for the Humanities and BYU. His summary appears next; as a participant in the symposium, I can report that the papers collected here present the symposium's thought-provoking perspective on the curricular requirements of the 21st century, and the opportunities now before the Russian field to better prepare our students for the wider world, including further academic study.

In addition, *RLJ* presents several scholarly articles from our regular submissions process. Ekaterina Nemtchinova highlights the careful integration of 21st century web searches into the curriculum. Beata Gallaher takes up the pedagogically vital, complex issue of politeness and its differential sociocultural expressions in English and Russian, through the lens of the speech act of complaining. Valentina Soboleva delves into the semantics of secondary imperfectives, with an analysis of their connotations in terms of duration and completion. Finally, Todd Drummond explores the cross-linguistic issues arising from the development of national college entrance examinations in Kyrgyzstan. Taken collectively, the articles in the current number of the *Russian Language Journal* span the interests of the membership of the American Council of Teachers of Russian, touching on pedagogy, linguistics, policy, testing, and curriculum development.

Finally, on behalf of the editorial team, let me express our thanks to all who submitted and reviewed this year for the *Russian Language Journal*, as these contributions and our reviewers' careful reading make the publication possible. It is my personal view that the *Russian Language Journal* fulfills an important mission in our field, serving a diverse audience and providing a place for serious scholarship which might not otherwise fit into the other fine journals in our field. In closing, I

commend to you the work of our colleagues as collected here in Volume 64 of the *Russian Language Journal*.

William P. Rivers, Ph.D.
Editor, *Russian Language Journal*
Executive Director, Joint National Committee for Languages –
National Council for Languages and International Studies
writers@languagepolicy.org