

Hello Everyone

Thanks to everyone who helped with the sheet signs. They look neat and lively.  
Today, April 9<sup>th</sup>, we attended to club matters before attending to the Guest Speakers.

### Club Matters

The sign-up sheet for Relay for Life attendance was passed around today. Keep in mind that Relay for Life is 2 Fridays away. People are needed for the overnight portions of the relay. If you can commit to an overnight stay- please contact the President, [tbutenschon@valdosta.edu](mailto:tbutenschon@valdosta.edu)

Another option of tickets to sale is for President McKinney's Parking spot for 2 days. They also follow the price of 2 for a dollar. However the seller must distribute the accompanying ticket in order for the transaction to be rule-abiding, because this constitutes a Raffle. (The term we are not to use for the Relay for Life Drawing)

Our Relay for Life Booth decorations were discussed today along with activities.

- A white moon (with the sellable option of throwing multi-colored paint on it)
- An Aluminum covered table
- Stars and chicken wire around the edge of the booth
- White/Silver, Blue glitter on Blue/ White, Silver paint for decorations
- Popcorn was decided as the food item
- Blue Koolaid was decided as the beverage choice
- An artist was chosen to be commissioned for a rocket ship art piece.

Drawing Ticket Sales will be conducted this week. On Wednesday and Thursday from 11am to 2pm, our table will be outside of Bailey Science Center. Please attend to assist. On Friday the location changes to the gazebo outside Nevins Hall on the Pedestrian walk but the time and activity are the same.

Our speakers today, The Russians, are named Demitri Kozlov and Maria Shatalina.

### Samara State University

*When looking at a map of Russia*, Samara is the heart-shaped region south east of Moscow, for this reason we were allowed to call it 'the heart of Russia.' It has a climate that is similar to Valdosta, with four seasons: warm summer, golden autumn, white winter and green spring.

*As for its history*, during the Soviet Union, Samara played a major role in creating military weapons. Back then, you had to receive clearance to get into it. Some imposing, bulky architecture still remains from that time period in the city. Most of the city buildings cannot be called skyscrapers by any meaning of the word with some impressive exceptions.

What makes Samara famous is that –

- it has the largest city park in Europe,
- it created the first rocket used to launch a human into space
- it has a very large indoor waterpark, called Viktoria.

Samara State University has a large campus with 25 departments. Psychology became its own department 12 years ago after branching of as an extension of an unrelated department. Within that time frame, it has grown quite large.

*Student life at Samara is different than at VSU in a few key ways*. While we both use projectors, white boards, computers, and stationary- Samara goes to school 6 days of the week. Their lectures, like some of ours, are an hour and a half and can move into discussion much like ours do. However, it is appropriate for the class to get together to answer a question that has no

preset answer during ‘practical lessons.’ The lessons focus on skills that will be used in the workplace after the school has ended. Sometimes, speakers are invited to speak from other disciplines and they are expected to answer all that the students can think up. Most of the time, anyone is invited to sit in but on a few occasions the group is exclusively meant for Psychology students. The expensive textbooks at Valdosta are not like the cheap ones in Samara. In fact, if students come early enough they can choose to check out the textbooks from the library! Tuition in Samara sounds dramatically cheaper at the equivalent of less than \$2000.

*Additionally, it is heavily discouraged to be a full-time student and keep a job.* The sheer amount of homework and hours devoted to schoolwork threaten your job or vice versa.

Therefore the campus will not help you to find work on campus. It is possible to be a part-time student. Your employer agrees to let you off for 3 weeks of continuous school two times a year. During those three weeks, you play catch up with the class.

*Clubs and groups are active on campus too.* One notable club is centered around a young man who is interested in the psychology of art versus pop culture. He hosts a book club for reading fictional books and hosting discussions. The observation they have made is that some movies stir you to see them, and when you watch them you become intense in however many emotions, but then that is enough and you do not want to return. Other movies hint at something deeper and so you may watch them repeatedly without decreasing the emotional fulfillment. In some case, you belong even more strongly to the story or character than before. This is what separate art from pop culture and it is the dissection of what makes this art that makes an art psychologist.

The school is very active in its field of thought with several prominent professors who lead students into clever and exciting experiments including probing the self in personal and social situations, discovering the purpose of the conscious and capabilities of the unconscious and the impact of emotions on our perceptions.

Although the need for psychologists in Russia is not high, psychology graduates find their work in similar fields especially business including as a business trainer, human resource employee, and group-talk facilitator. Many of those who exit the University leave with a specialist degree- one that requires 5 years of work. In an effort to make Europe uniform in its education standards, the bachelors and master’s system have been incorporated into the school. Still, the professors are having a tough time adjusting. “How,” they ask “can a student be satisfied or employed with a bachelor’s when all of us who came before the student have a Specialist degree?”

### Upcoming Events

Apr 16- Next Speaker from the military about federal job opportunities to graduates.

Apr 19- Relay For Life event on the Front lawn from 7pm-7am