

## From Michael Kerins

- **Author, Storyteller**
- **Winner of the B.A.S.E. Award in 2012 and the only person ever to have won**
- **Winner of Tall Tales Oscar – Edinburgh**
- **Winner of the Aye Write - Glasgow Herald Storytelling Oscar**
- **Founder S.L.A.T.E.Charity**
- **Inaugurator of KerinsNaumov translation competition**



I visit a lot of educational establishments both here in the United Kingdom and abroad, and without doubt Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University Faculty of Foreign languages led by Dean Tatyana Germanovna Loginova is somewhere, and someone very special to me. The Dean runs a remarkable faculty, and when I hear Russians in Perm and elsewhere in Russia speak in English I know by their level of pronunciation and in particular the way they pronounce the letter “H” whether or not they studied at Perm State Pedagogical University. At all levels, including my own spheres of translation practice, translation theory, English practice all are obvious and her motto – LACK OF PRACTICE – means - LACK OF PRACTICE. In other words if students **do what is expected** of them, they will get what they deserve. If they **don’t do what is expected** of them, then they will get what they deserve.

The Dean has continually selected students who have been of great assistance to us and were ideal for key roles such as collecting and delivering us safely to and from Moscow. Social visits in and around Perm, with trips to see AMKAR, or attend the ballet. These can be seen by around a dozen profiles on [http://www.slatecharity.com/slatecharity/Our\\_Interpreter.html](http://www.slatecharity.com/slatecharity/Our_Interpreter.html) all of whom are current or former students of Perm State Humanitarian-Pedagogical University.

I first visited Perm State Pedagogical University in the early days of the twenty-first century. Although not my first visit behind the former “Iron Curtain” it was my first visit to Russia, and I fell in love with the people, their thirst for knowledge of the outside world. Remember back then many citizens of Perm had never met a foreigner and they had a real honest curiosity about what we, and the outside world, were about. I often recall visiting a branch post office away from the city centre and the post-mistress had never seen or spoken to a foreigner and she was EXTREMELY suspicious about my motives in buying stamps to send postcards and letters to friends and schools in Scotland, the

USA and throughout Europe. She asked my interpreter to point out that there were other post offices in the city.

## **KerinsNaumov International Translation Competition**

This was set up, in 2002, in conjunction with former student Nicholas Alexandrovich Naumov. Николай Александрович Наумов and me.



Nicholas Naumov was sent by the then Centre for Scottish Studies to meet me in Moscow and be my interpreter and helper. On the Kama train, he wrote a pair of poems, which were given to me, and I set up an online international project to have them translated, I ended up with forty-six languages. These were then published; here in Scotland, and with the profits Naumov and I agreed to set up an international translation competition. Initially I wanted to call this the NaumovKerins competition. Tatyana Loginova explained that Nicholas would insist on my name first. She was right. This was the first of many examples of how she knew both the personality and the traits of hundreds of students under her care. The Dean has been a firm supporter of this project since the first prizes were won by freshman Boris Kruze. Boris now Dr. Boris Kruze, PhD Associate Professor, Foreign Language Education Department, Deputy Head, IB Professional Development Provider Center Perm State Humanitarian-Pedagogical University, is the first of many student interpreters who became friends and beneficiaries of Kerinsnaumov as it grew to become S.L.A.T.ECharity

This competition is open to all students of English who study at any of the centres of Higher Education in Perm Russia. It is the only competition of this kind in the world and gives any student the chance to read contemporary English written by a wide variety of native English speakers. Articles have been submitted by native speakers from Canada,

The United States, England, South Africa, Ireland, China, Wales, Australia and Jamaica and of course Scotland.

Some years ago a few students at Perm State Technical University asked to join the competition.

Last year the KerinsNaumov was widened to include German to Russian and now involves both students of German at PSHPU & School 12 – a German language school situated in the downtown area of Perm.

I would have no hesitation in recommending Perm State Humanitarian-Pedagogical University, as a great opportunity to learn English, appreciate the wider world, be of service to the wider community and thrive in an academic environment where, if they practice and study, they will get what they deserve.

**I have collected some reviews of my friends and colleagues that I have personally chosen to share my experiences of Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University.**

**All are from members or associates of S.L.A.T.ECharity, a registered charity that seeks no profit and works towards bridging gaps and helping educate all whose lives we touch...**

**From Frances Logan - Teacher of English, Board member S.L.A.T.ECharity, Storyteller**



My experience, as a visitor, of Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University in Perm Russia was a very positive one. The staff and students were warm, sincere and receptive.

The staff were keen to give students broad learning experiences and not averse to encouraging new and innovative practises to motivate and enhance the learning process, giving affirmation and direction. All have a holistic approach to education and self-fulfilment.

**From Michael's beloved sister Rona Barbour - Associate member S.L.A.T.ECharity, Storyteller**



The first thing that struck me when I arrived at the Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University Perm, Russia, was the atmosphere of the place. I felt very comfortable and was made to feel very welcome. The students were curious about their visitors from the West and I was equally curious about them. I was overwhelmed by their enthusiasm and of how much they seemed to value their education. I had not expected to enjoy Russia as much as I did but the highlight for me will always be my time spent at Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University. I long to return there.

**From Ian Ferguson - Founder member S.L.A.T.ECharity, Head of Fundraising S.L.A.T.ECharity, Storyteller**



Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University is a wonderful organisation which is led by Dean Tatyana Loginova firmly and with integrity. The students are bright, polite, and challenging, and the welcome at the University is always warm and friendly. As a storyteller and fundraiser for the S.L.A.T.E. Charity, I have always been made to feel that my contribution to the work of our charity in support of the University is greatly appreciated. There is sometimes a misconception in our country that Russians can be off-hand and somewhat cold, however that notion is easily dispelled by spending time at the Perm State Pedagogical University and in the city of Perm generally. I would recommend anyone to travel to Russia, Perm, and the Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University to come home with their life enriched by the experience.

**From Brian Grassie - Business Manager - Scotland National Autistic Society**



I was extremely impressed by the superb level of support provided by Mrs. Loginova, her colleagues and the students of Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University. With such a busy itinerary during our time in Perm, we were offered the opportunity to use facilities at the university to coordinate our party and take stock on various days.

With the limited free time we had, a fantastic tour of the Ballet School had been arranged. This provided a wonderful insight into Perm and Russia's history, and was a very welcome addition to our time there. The trip highlighted common components of Mrs. Loginova's approach – superb knowledge, great organisation and (in my opinion) importantly keenness and enthusiasm. This worked well to create an enjoyable and very productive trip.

The healthy competition between students and indeed other universities was evident at the Kerinsnaumov/S.L.A.T.E Charity International Translation Competition awards' ceremony. It was great to see first hand the high level of translation across all of the students I met. I would also add that their confidence, and humour made discussions extremely worthwhile. The range of questions asked by the students showed a keen awareness of international issues. It was also apparent on a few occasions just how supportive the staff, were, with

students, and also the students themselves supporting their peers with some more obscure terms we may have used.

I hope to visit Perm again in the future and would happily seek the services of Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University and Mrs. Loginova's current and former students.