



College News



International Spotlight

By Maureen Banza
Office Manager

I will walk through the world and many a time I will be judged for all the wrong reasons. You will look down on me and at the worst of times you will even spit in my face. What wrong have I committed that you must judge me so harshly?

As an alien to this vast land of opportunity, you will always meet someone who does not like you simply because of where you come from. Most of us know exactly how that feels and how misguided people are. Alexei Kormschikov is from Russia and will surprise you with his enthusiasm and charm. He is mature beyond his years and his personality will rub off on you when you sit with him awhile.

How would you describe yourself in one sentence?

Hard working, determined, easy going and ambitious.

Which part of Russia are you from?

I'm from Yoshkar Ola, which is 500 miles from Moscow on the east and has a population of almost 300,000 people. It is the capital of one of the Republics, which merged with the Russia.

Do you have a favorite saying?

Not really. I take the Nike phrase "Just Do It" as a principle.

Who has been the greatest inspiration to you?

My father because he achieved a lot in his life both personally and in his career despite all the challenges that he encountered.

How do you feel about the way Russians are generally viewed?

I think that they're stereotyped a lot. We're viewed as heavy

drinkers, trouble causers and no-one likes us based on only what they see on the television.

How did you come to study at Methodist College?

I studied at the University of Northern Iowa for a year under a US government sponsored program. I went back to Russia where I got my Bachelor's degree. I applied for a full scholarship under the "Arrived Program" and that is how I came to Methodist.

What changes would you like to see in your home?

I'd like to see more stability in our economy and in politics. I'd also like to see a change in the mentality of the people because they are still dwelling on Soviet mentality. They expect to get handouts without the need to work. I'd also like to see less crime.

Where will you be five years from now?

I hope to be working in the investments field.

What is your greatest personal achievement?

Getting awarded the scholarship because it was very competitive. Almost 2,500 people applied and only 250 were chosen.

If you were stranded on a desert, what two things would you take with you?

I guess I'd have to say two women!!

What are your hobbies?

I love to read books, computers, socializing with people and hanging out at parties.

Do you have a hidden talent?

Well, I am good at foreign languages. I studied German, French and English. I don't know if that can be called a hidden talent.

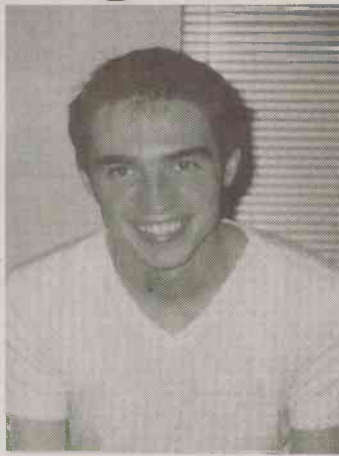


Photo by Kristin Porter

If you had the chance to be anyone else, who would it be?

I don't want to be anyone else because as me I can be anyone I choose as long as I work hard enough.

When you look at the world, what do you see?

It's a big place, full of opportunities to succeed and be happy in the life you choose.

What is your favorite food?

Borsch. It's a Russian soup with many different ingredients.

Are you into sports?

Yes, I love skiing, cross country and play basketball just for fun as I'm not very good.

Many of us at some time or another have been in some position where a stranger displayed hatred towards us for no reason. At Methodist, we are a small community where we learn to look beyond our differences in culture, race and ethnicity to bond together. What do we gain from misguided hatred? We are all wonderful people who have much to teach each other and I challenge you to extend the hand of friendship the next time you meet someone from a foreign land.

Debate Team Returns with Hardware

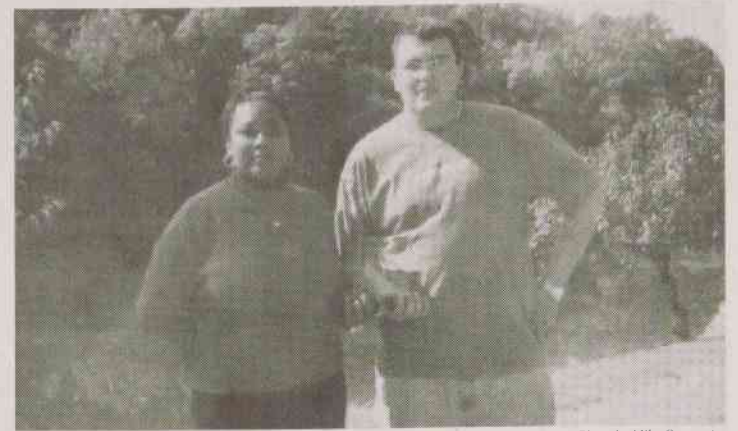
By Mike Carpentier
Staff Writer

The Methodist College Debate Team returned from the University of Richmond Debate Tournament with plenty to show for their hard work and dedication. The squad earned 3 team awards as well as 2 speaker awards.

The junior varsity team of Ron Berry and Dee Woodert compiled a 4-2 record in the round-robin style preliminary rounds to advance to the single elimination rounds. They defeated an Army team in the quarterfinals on a 2-1 decision to advance to semifinals where they lost to a West Virginia team on a close 2-1 ballot. The team finished fifth overall in the division and Mr. Berry missed a speaker award by one place coming in out of 34 competitors.

The novice team of Oghina Okeyo and Maureen Banza compiled a 4-2 record in preliminary rounds earning third place in the division and advancement to the quarter finals where they were defeated by a West Virginia team on another close 2-1 decision. Despite a disappointing finish to the day, Ms. Banza's performance in the preliminary rounds was outstanding and earned her 2nd speaker in the novice division.

Also in the novice division, the team of Michelle Muthiani and Adam Loose compiled a 3-3 record in preliminary rounds, which



Woodert and Berry show their award.

Photo by Mike Carpentier

enabled them to clear to the octafinal round where they lost to West Virginia. Mr. Loose collected another Monarch speaker award by earning the 6th placed speaker in the novice division, and Ms. Muthiani was also very close placing 19th out of 42 speakers.

"I am extremely proud of the entire team for this past weekend," said second year Coach Todd Lyden. "Methodist can take pride in the performance of this group of students. It is impressive that debaters can work with new partners and out perform themselves. I am particularly pleased with the improvement of our JV team [Berry and Woodert]. They returned from the first tournament and immediately began preparing

for this tournament."

Lyden pointed out the amount of time and energy it takes to do well in collegiate debate competition. "These students come in at least once a day to go over evidence, practice, and research. The results clearly show how the time and effort will pay off. The results speak for themselves. We returned from King's with one team plaque. This time we returned with 3 team awards and 2 speaker trophies."

The Monarch Debate team will compete again at the Liberty Debate Tournament in Lynchburg, VA on November 3. Anyone interested in joining the Methodist Debate Team or learning about the Greater Horn of Africa should contact the team through Coach Todd Lyden at ext. 7643 or tlyden@methodist.edu.

Halloween Truths

By Robin Warrington
Photo Editor

On Oct. 31, a day is celebrated which some consider evil and corrupt.

Most people love Halloween. It is a day that you can get dressed up like anything you've ever dreamed possible and go out to other people's homes and ask for candy.

Some people do not know where this day originated, whereas others know it by heart.

Samhain, the "original" Halloween, is the festival the Celtic people celebrated with the end of the old year and the beginning of a new one. It originated in the 1st century A.D.

The Celts used to celebrate

Samhain with a Fire Festival. They would set fires on hilltops, and turn out all the fires in their homes, to scare away evil and keep the spirits of the dead away from the living.

The costumes that are a tradition to us were in those times animal skins that mortals wore to confuse the spirits.

The Jack o' Lanterns we sit out on our front porches were originally made out of turnips. They are believed to be lights for the spirits on their journey into heaven.

We associate Halloween with ghouls, goblins, witches, and black cats. The costumes of the festival remind us of ghouls, goblins, and the like, dancing

around in the night.

Trick or treating originated from Christians roaming the streets begging for "soul cakes," which are squares of bread with currants on them. The more soul cakes a person gathered the more prayers they promised to say for the dead of those they received them from. The dead would stay in limbo until prayers were said to send them to heaven.

In the 19th century the elements of the Fire festival were incorporated into the Christian holiday of All Hallows' Eve, which is the night preceding All Saints' Day.

So now that you know all this about us at the *Monarch Messenger* wish you a safe and happy Halloween!

Our Country Is In Good Hands

By Carrie Adcox
Editor-in-Chief

Eric S. Slater re-enlisted in the U.S. Army at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.

Dr. Andrew Ziegler, assistant professor of political science and leadership, administered the oath.

Slater, from Owego, New York, is pursuing degrees in sociology and political science. He will graduate this May.

He first joined the Army in August of 1989. His military occupational specialty is Electronic Warfare Equipment Operator and Maintainer.

When asked why he wanted to hold his re-enlistment ceremony at the Airborne and Special Operations museum, he replied, "I wanted to re-enlist at the museum because it is a place where we can remember the reasons for which we serve our country and the people who secured our freedom."

He chose Dr. Ziegler to administer the oath because not only has mentored him during his time at Methodist, but he looks up to him for guidance as well as his military experience.

Ziegler is not only a professor but also the chair of the department of history and political science as well as assistant director of the Tally



Slater makes his pledge to serve.

Photo contributed by Andrew Ziegler

Center for Leadership Development. He has been full-time faculty since 1998. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1996 as a Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry after serving 22 years in various command and staff assignments, including the Persian Gulf War.

"I consider it an honor and a privilege to have been asked to

perform the ceremony. Eric is a great student and leader, and I am confident our Army is in good hands when he and others like him continue to re-enlist," said Ziegler.

Slater now serves in Company C, 319th Military Intelligence Battalion, XVIII (ABN) Corps.

Attention students!

By Dave Reece

Director, Police and Public Safety

There have been many questions over the last few days about cult activity in the Fayetteville area. A rumor is circulating that cult members are hiding under vehicles, disabling women by cutting their ankles, and then cutting off one of their body parts. Another rumor is that women are being car-jacked for the purpose of cutting off one of their body parts.

When the Fayetteville Police Department was asked about this they stated they have not had any reports of such activity.

In spite of this, community members are advised to exercise good crime prevention habits when traveling about the community.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the Police and Public Safety Department at 7149.

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