The Initiative for Russian Culture invites applications for the James Symington scholarship for the study of Russian language, culture and international relations. This scholarship honors the career of James Symington, former Congressman (D-MO) and active proponent of better U.S.-Russian relations. The scholarship provides $10,000 for tuition and travel expenses to attend the interdisciplinary summer program in Russian language, culture and international relations at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University), June 11 – August 3, 2013. For details see: http://english.mgimo.ru/.

Applications will be judged based on the student's academic record and an essay proposing one or more ways in which the United States and Russia can overcome barriers to deeper cultural and/or political understanding. The scholarship recipient will be given the opportunity to read from the essay at a special gala dinner at the Russian Embassy hosted by the American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation in November 2012, where the scholarship will be announced and awarded.

Applications, transcripts, and essays are due September 30, 2012. Please send to: irc@american.edu and cc fedyashin@american.edu and eloehr@american.edu.

James Symington Scholarship for the study of Russian language, culture and international relations.

Name:

Essay: This scholarship is primarily an essay competition. In five pages or less, please write an essay proposing one or more ways in which the United States and Russia can overcome barriers to deeper cultural and/or political understanding. You are welcome to draw upon research, personal experiences, events you have attended, or interviews. Please cite any sources you use as you would in paper for class. The criteria for assessment include: originality and creativity of approach, persuasiveness of the argument, and quality of the prose. You are welcome to confer with Prof. Fedyashin or Prof. Lohr about the essay.

Purpose: In one paragraph, please explain how this summer program fits into your program of study.