

# Camelia Sherrod

Modern Languages and Linguistics

**B**efore she embarked on her study of jazz in Russia, Camelia Sherrod didn't know whether she had what it takes to do serious research.

But with a little prodding from professors in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, particularly professors Robert Romanchuk and Lisa Wakamiya, she found herself immersed in Russian cultural history, examining the introduction of jazz in Soviet society in the 1920s and '30s.

Along the way, she got encouragement as well as collaboration, especially from Wakamiya.

"She was just as excited about the project as I was," says Sherrod. "We both knew it would be quite an undertaking, but she was an amazing encouragement every step of the way."

By the time Sherrod finished the final draft of her paper, titled "The Red Charleston," she no longer had questions about whether she could accomplish big things. Her project was selected for the 2011 Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium and earned praise from faculty members.

Since graduating in Spring 2011 with majors in Russian and German, Sherrod has been working to pay off her student loans and get certifications to travel and teach overseas. She hopes to work in Russia but is open to traveling just about anywhere. That confidence to tackle new experiences, she says, came at least in part due to her experience with undergraduate research at FSU.

"By the time the dust settled," says Sherrod, "I felt a level of accomplishment and pride that I had not felt in any of my three years prior."



Photo courtesy of Camelia Sherrod

Camelia Sherrod visits St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.