The SUNY Russia Programs Network (RPN) is pleased to announce the winner of the 2016-2017 Travel Award to St. Petersburg, Russia, for SUNY Faculty, Dr. Elizabth Johnston, of Monroe Community College.

Dr. Johnston is an Associate Professor of English at Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY, where she has been teaching writing, literature, and gender studies courses since 2003. In 2014 she won the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Her research interests include 18th Century British Literature, Gender Studies, and Popular Culture, and her creative and scholarly works have been widely published (you can read more about her work and the writer's group she co-founded here: http://strawmatwriters.weebly.com). When she's not writing or grading, she's hiking and camping with her family in the Adirondacks, running, and dancing (she prefers Salsa but will move her feet to anything). She lives in North Chili with her husband, two daughters, three cats, and a dog.

In St. Petersburg, Elizabeth will draw from her research on female iconicity in popular culture, lecturing on how Barbie, Medusa, and Lolita take shape in the cultural imagination, specifically in film and television. Her talks will consider why these icons rose to fame and explain their staying power as well as analyze how their meanings shift over time and across cultures. She will also discuss the design and implementation of her Honors Course, "Female Icons in Popular Culture."