

Star City Treasures AmeriCorps Oral History Project Transcript

Interview with Artem Dudin
Star City Treasures AmeriCorps Oral History Project
Bryan LGH School of Nursing Library
1600 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
Interviewed by Kaitlyn Koenigsman
AmeriCorps Member

Kaitlyn: OK, the following interview was conducted with...your name?

Artem: Artem Dudin

Kaitlyn:...for the Star City Treasures AmeriCorps history project. It took place on June 5, 2006, at Bryan College School of Health Sciences library. The interviewer is Kaitlyn Koenigsman. So, Artem, can you tell me about where you grew up?

Artem: I was born in uh, Russia--Vladikavkaz--city Vladikavkaz--it's south part of Russia, and um, in 1980, I was married a--and uh, we moved to Ukraine--right now Ukraine--south of Ukraine, Yalta city this Crimea. Yalta city is uh, pretty famous uh, place in world. Mmm, and mmm, mmm, uh in uh, 2000 uh, uh, 2000--August 2000--uh, we uh, moved uh, to United States. We have uh, refugee state and uh, that's all.

Kaitlyn: Can you tell me about your family when you were growing up [Artem: uh] in Russia?

Artem: Mmm.. My family, uh, you mean uh, with my wife and children or my uh, parents?

Kaitlyn: With your parents.

Artem: Oh, [laugh] my parents. OK, mmm...uh...in my family we had uh, we have three children mmm, two my sisters and me. Uh, my father died in 1980 and my mother died in 19, in 1998--1998, and um...mmm...that's all.

Kaitlyn: Are you the oldest, or the youngest...?

Artem: Oh, I'm middle.

Kaitlyn: You're the middle [laugh].

Artem: [laugh] Middle, yeah.

Kaitlyn: OK, and what are your siblings' names?

Artem: Uh, you mean sisters?

Kaitlyn: Mmm hmm

Artem: Uh, my elder sister, she lives in California and the younger sister lives in California too...uh.... elder sister has uh, eh, her name is uh, Olga and uh...youngest sister, her name is, uh, Yelena.

Kaitlyn: Do they have families in California?

Artem: Umm, my sister, uh, had, mmm, uh, she--she is divorced and she had three-three children and uh--

Kaitlyn: Is this Olga?

Artem: Yeah, Olga, uh, her, uh, husband, uh, uh, they were divor--divorced in Russia because uh, that's uh, was mmm, her-her uh, husband didn't want to be believer and uh, he said uh, to [laugh] my sister uh, he doesn't want to--to believe Baptist.

Kaitlyn: So, a believer in what?

Artem: Uh, that's uh, uh, because uh, it uh, was a difficult situation in former Soviet Union um, uh, toward uh, believers. I mean, uh for example, are you a Christian?

Kaitlyn: Yes.

Artem: Do you go to church?

Kaitlyn: Yes.

Artem: What kind of church do you go?

Kaitlyn: An Evangelical Free Church.

Artem: Yes...good. And mmm, especially in uh, former Soviet Union uh, in Communist--mmm, it was Communist country uh, almost uh, all believers were

persecuted and uh, it was difficult situation--this situation uh, destroyed family because uh, um...the...like uh, government said, we need to be without believers uh, former government--government and uh, it influenced on all--a lot of families. For example, one uh, from husband or wife was uh, believer and uh, next side wasn't believer, it was uh, sometimes difficult because official pro--pro-official--uh, like newspapers, magazine, and everything was like uh, kind of--persecution and uh, it was difficult and um, uh, my uh, sister uh, came--uh, came to United States uh, with uh, her three children. Uh, she has mmm, son and two daughters--two daughters uh, right now uh, they--they are married and uh, my sister has uh, five grandchil--children and uh, her um, son, uh, he is younger, he has uh, only seventeen. He is student and uh, they--they--live over there and uh, they uh, like th--uh, like California, climate, mountains, a lot of flowers [laugh] but uh, huge traffic, huge traffic, it's mmm...I like Lincoln more because uh, traffic is [laugh] uh, more appropriate, and um...mmm...mmm...that's all.

Kaitlyn: So, your sisters went to California. Why did you choose Lincoln?

Artem: Ah, mmm, because um, uh, my sister er, uh, came to United States um, three years later than me and my family. I-I came to Cal--uh, to United States uh, arrived to Ukrai--United States with my family in 19, uh, 2000 and my sister came, uh, it was 2004--2004, uh 4 years--2004. And mmm, uh, the reason that we choose--uh, we didn't choose--we just applied and uh, because uh, my uh, f--father-in-law and mother-in-law live here, uh, this my uh, wife's parents and they live here since 1995 and uh, they invite us and we arrived uh, here--if they lived uh, in California, I'm sure we were over there [laugh]--maybe in--but they uh...they were in Lincoln first and they are inviting. We came in Lincoln and six years we are here [laugh].

Kaitlyn: How many children do you have?

Artem: I have nine children.

Kaitlyn: And how old are they?

Artem: Elder, uh, my elder daughter is uh, uh, her name is Arlena. Uh, He is--uh, she is--uh, tw--twenty-four--twenty-four, and she is married and uh, uh, she has a daughter and she lives uh, with her family in uh, North Carolina.

Kaitlyn: That's, a lot of children [laugh]

Artem: N--not a lot of...[KK: no?] just uh, nine.

Kaitlyn: Just nine [laugh]. So, I wanna talk about your faith then. [AD: mmm hmm] - Are you a believer?

Artem: Yes um I-I got uh, uh, Christ in my heart. It was um, 1979. And--because my parents were believers--they were baptist and uh, before seven--uh, 19 uh, 79--I wasn't a believer. I was like, um, almost a lot of um--most of people--um, unbelievers, um, but,

praise the Lord, my parents prayed for me and when I had uh, twenty, uh three, I uh, received uh, Jesus Christ in my heart.

Kaitlyn: What was it like to be a Christian in Russia?

Artem: Mmm, uh, please say it again?

Kaitlyn: What was it like to be a Christian in Russia?

Artem: What do you mean, uh...?

Kaitlyn: What was it like for you? Was it difficult, er...?

Artem: The first time it was uh, difficult but I, it was, it uh, d--it wa--doesn't matter for me because I finished uh, medical uh, school over there and um, when I finished medical uh, school and uh, I started work, I mmm, after maybe mmm, two weeks when I uh, because uh, my uh, st--uh, like, uh, kind of uh, staffing--no this--personnel--like uh, they didn't know that I am believer and because they didn't ask me about that--after that when I started, they uh, saw I didn't drink, I didn't drink uh, alcohol, [laugh] I didn't smoke [laugh], I didn't uh, say dirty words and uh, they tr--tried to know what happened--why? [Laugh] And I say that I am believer, oh it's--it's begin after that, uh, uh, time of persecution because they tried to move out, uh---move me out from facility and uh, they suggest that you have to be out of our uh...mmm...of our community--of our society, because you are American uh, spy [laugh] sometimes...It's--it's-it's was uh, not just f--uh, with me, it's uh, almost, uh, a lo--uh, most of believers, they had persecution and problems so...I think, it's difficult to imagine for you uh, because I think a lot of American--especially youngest--uh, younger uh, teenager or young adults--they uh, uh, cannot imagine what this mean to be real Christian...what this mean because uh, this like, uh, familiar for the--them, a lot of churches over there, a lot of freedom, everybody can choose a--any church, it doesn't matter what, uh, uh, what kind of church--you can go one church, you can go another church...a--

Kaitlyn: This is in Lincoln? [AD: I--] You're talking about in Lincoln?

Artem: I mean in United States

Kaitlyn: Yeah

Artem: It's because it's freedom for believers, uh, to be believer and uh, in former Soviet Union it was difficult time because if--if, uh, for example, um, your boss knows you are believer and it was communist time before Soviet Union destroyed, uh, he invite you and uh, and, give you paper--gives you paper and please sign and you uh, you don't want to work here because you want to move in another city [laugh]. And, no I don't want--no, you--you need---you need--please write. [Laugh] It's uh--

Kaitlyn: What year did you move to the Ukraine?

Artem: Mmm, uh...when?

Kaitlyn: Yeah, what year?

Artem: Why?

Kaitlyn: What year?

Artem: Uh, what year, it was uh, let me see, it was uh, 1980. Uh, we uh, got married--we got married, and after three months uh, I moved to, uh, with my wife uh, with my...uh, we moved to Ukrainia, because I have uh, I--my uh, instructor, he's--he was professor from medical school--he didn't know that I am believer because I st-started to be believer after medical school and, uh, he, um, he liked me because I was hard student and he invite me uh, to work with him and I came [laugh]. But--but it uh, was a mmm, blessing for me, he wasn't uh, communist, he was a pretty smart man [laugh] because uh, her mother was a believer and uh, he said me, that's OK, that's no problem for me, [laugh] you can--it's your decision. It's your view. OK...

Kaitlyn: How did the situation change for Christians after [AD: uh] the fall of the Soviet Union?

Artem: Yeah, it's great change, it's bra--was really a great change and um, it--it's---it was uh, if you know history, it was uh, like uh, a kind of a very interesting time when Communist uh, Party uh, because Soviet Union was uh, co--communist country and when Soviet Union destroyed, after a few months, Communist Party started to be illegal party in--the for--in the Russia and Ukrainia [laugh] and all the crazy. Is kind of a situation for---crazy situation for a lot of uh, people who believes in uh, Marx, Engel's, Lenin...but, uh, after that, like, uh, because should be, uh, democracy--each party uh can--uh, can be uh, exist and—and uh, after that uh, this situation...right now it's uh, wonderful, wonderful, especially Ukrainia especially because I know Ukrainia situation better uh, because I have uh, I live--I have lived um, in uh, uh, Ukrainia--in Yalta--20 years before moving uh, in United States and uh, mmm...it was great change started uh, before Soviet Union destroyed maybe three--two--three years uh, since uh, 1988, it was a great celebration in uh...S--uh, former Soviet Union, uh, not uh, from government uh, s--uh, side but from people's side. I mean, if--if you know history, in 1988 it was 1,000 years then uh, Russia, became uh, to be a Christian country. Lots of it. It was great liberating, and it was uh, communist...

Kaitlyn: For 1,000 years it had not been a Christian country?

Artem: No, no, you mean, 1,000 years ago mmm, since uh, 1988, uh, Russia uh, became uh, began to be, uh, began to be, a Christian--began to be Christian country because uh, it was mmm uh, li--it was uh, Kiev. It was uh, uh, like uh ca--capital of uh, ancient Russia. It was uh, Kievskaya Rus'--it's like, in uh, Russian...and um, czar, mmm, kind of king of [clears throat] Kiev--Kievskaya Rus'--he decided oh, uh, my country must be

Christian country...that's [laugh] that started. S--so, good uh, celebrating and I remember it was [clears throat] first time [clears throat] in my memory--in my life when--uh, uh, our church uh, went to mmm...center of Yalta and it was uh, like uh, uh, sea coast and because uh Yalta is very uh, nice uh, city and uh, there is umm--there are a lot of wonderful places and a lot of uh, thousand--a thousand people c--uh, uh, comes uh, come uh, to Yalta for rest uh, because uh, great uh, climate--great kind of California, yes, and uh, [clears throat] uh, very uh, uh, and danger uh, sea--no any danger shark, you can uh, swim maybe one day uh, maybe through all sea but uh, never-never shark, uh, isn't--never is uh, like kind of uh, shark--danger. And uh, uh, it was uh, first time uh, when our church we--went umm, to this mmm, uh, center of city and we had great meeting in the street. With uh, dynamic, dynamic, you mean for loudly voice and we uh, had sung uh Christian song and we uh h--had s--uh, spoken about Jesus Christ with uh, thousands people. It was great uh, meeting and it was uh, a kind because it was a one thousand years uh when Russian in--uh, invited uh, like uh, began, uh, to be Christian country and um, since uh, 1988, it's uh, we had, uh, seen this uh, uh...umm...like uh, movement toward more and more freedom but uh, uh, finally, uh, the freedom came and Soviet Union destroyed. It's uh, it's--it is--I--I--think uh, it's um, uh, I--I uh, actually uh...people change--a lot of people change uh...for example, they were uh, communist before destroy--Soviet Union destroyed, when Soviet Union destroyed a lot of people uh, change, uh, their mind, uh, change uh, their uh, maybe names, I mean like names, I--uh, he was a Communist, right now he is not a Communist, he is Democrat, or maybe a Republicans or maybe anything else but uh, it's uh, very important to change uh, mind uh, uh, I think it uh, a process it's is going and I think uh, never--it's my opinion--never a communist time uh, return to--[laugh] to Russia and Ukraine. Never...[laugh]

Kaitlyn: So, why did you choose to leave Russia in 2000 and come to the United States?

Artem: Mmm, I lived uh, Ukrainia, not Russia.

Kaitlyn: Oh yeah, in Ukraine, sorry. [AD: Ukraine, yeah]

Artem: Um, because mmm, uh, because we arrived uh, like uh, as umm, refuge. We had persecute and when um, my wife's parents and her relatives uh, moved to United States and they uh--we had uh, conversation by phone a lot of times and letters and they uh, uh, invited us say, I--let's go come to United States uh, U--United States because we li--uh, we see because it was uh, really diculo--difficult time and uh, it's continued to--to be difficult for example, for economical reason and--and like, um, kind of uh, um...mostly uh, most important economical reason and um, uh, they said us it's uh, um, we can uh, apply to um, to move to United States as re--refuge because uh, in former Soviet Union we had a lot of persecutions and we applied and we um, we have gotten um, like invitation from uh, government of United States to come to move to United States and we did it.

Kaitlyn: So, in the Ukraine in 2000, was there persecution of Christians then?

Artem: No, no

Kaitlyn: No

Artem: No, it's uh, it's um, I-- [laugh] it's a very interesting uh, situation because officially no. Officially no. But you can imagine uh, a lot of uh, government people-- local government maybe uh, like uh, area government, maybe city government, maybe Republican government, they were uh, Communist and they change their name, not Communist--Democrat, but their attitude--a lot of people had uh, previous attitude and um, it was so clear [laugh] it was so clear and uh, we had uh, a lot of troubles. We did.

Kaitlyn: Mmm--can you tell me about some of the trouble you had?

Artem: Um, what time you mean? Uh, when, for example, before Soviet Union destroy or after Soviet Union destroy? What time is it?

Kaitlyn: In the Ukraine

Artem: In Ukraine? Mmm..This like, uh, maybe not official, but if for example, if you want to have mmm, for example, mmm, it was mmm, it was early in 1995 in 95, before 95 m-maybe, for example, if you want, for example, to make career in your job, you couldn't sometimes do it because mmm, uh, government for example, local government, uh, or maybe another government, they had uh, their people for that place, and, for example, mmm, it was, mmm, it was--it was sometimes it difficult to explain exactly because it was not like official uh, like uh, for example, before Soviet Union destroyed but it's kind of attitude--kind of uh, mmm, I think like any fellowships...uh, it's um...I uh, but we had a lot of uh, freedom--a lot of freedom, it's uh, nobody, uh, nobody is uh, cou--uh, could say, don't go to church or, why do uh, why do you pray? Nobody, nobody. And um, we had a possibility to--to preach on the street. To preach in, uh, di--different schools. It was...and I think in this case uh, we had sometimes more freedom than in the United States because in public schools it is mmm, uh, prohibited--uh, pr--prohibited to uh...to speak about uh, Christ. I doubt. I had a meeting with uh, my uh, um--my uh, daugh--uh---children--it was gr--uh, gradu, gr--graduated last year from high school here. And uh--

Kaitlyn: Which high school?

Artem: Uh, Northeast. And I had a conversation with uh, one teacher and he said me uh, it's um, not good situation with uh, spiritual condition in uh, our public school because uh, forty years ago--maybe around forty years ago--we could uh, speak about Bible, we had Bible classes, right now we prohibit--it's prohibit. And uh, in this case I see um, in Ukrainia right now more freedom-- [laugh] freedom than United States. And my uh, main uh, problem--main reason to move in uh--in uh, to southern, it was economical because mmm, and uh, for example, um, we didn't like uh, we didn't like that everybody from um, uh, children uh, so--our sons uh, must be in army. For example, in the Uni--in Ukrainia, in Russia, uh, [clears throat] because it was like for every uh, teenager, if you have 18, you must go to army but uh, according our beliefs um, my

children, they're--they're Christian--they don't want to kill be--because it's against their beliefs and uh, it was, and uh, we didn't want that our son, for example, go to army and have any troubles according this uh, case and uh, I--I ice in United States situation, if you want go to army you can go please. If you don't want, please. It's your decision. I think it should be so everywhere because it's uh, decision uh, for everybody to go to army or to mmm--d--don't go.

Kaitlyn: Um, can you tell me about what you're doing in Lincoln right now? [AD: hmm] Are you working, going to school? [AD: mmm] Tell me about this aspect [AD: uh huh] of your life.

Artem: Right now I am student, uh...

Kaitlyn: And where are you a student?

Artem: Uh, in uh, Bryan College of Health Science and I had the classes in Southeast, mmm, I had, uh--last semester--I had 14 credit hours. It was uh, not easy for me [laugh] and uh--

Kaitlyn: Why was it difficult?

Artem: Uh, why difficult--because I am not teenager righ-- [clears throat] right now [laugh] um, [clears throat] uh, and I need uh, mmm, I have uh, youngest uh, fam--and I need to, keep attention for my family, for my children, to uh, to do everything for family and uh, I'm going after uh, this uh, semester uh, I'm looking for part time job because I'm going to continue my education to graduate two--two thousand eight and I applied a lot of time in Bryan uh, because I--I--I like Bryan and I like to get part time job here uh, because I uh, worked at Madonna, during--I--I had worked at Madonna during three year and three months uh, as uh, certified nursing assistant and I have great experience in this case and I'm going to continue to st--during my study to work part ti--part time as um, a certified nursing assistant and right now I am looking for part time job and uh, I need to find uh, mmm, uh, a midnight shift right now uh, because uh, I had classes uh, morning time, I have evening time and only night time is a possible to work [laugh] uh, right now this my um concern about to find appropriate job uh, to connect my uh, my study and uh, the living uh, for my family.

Kaitlyn: So, you were a doctor in [Artem: yes] Russia [Artem: mmm] and the Ukraine? What is it like to be a nursing student here? What's been easy, what's been difficult for you?

Artem: Mmm, um, mmm, I like m--medical field because it's my life uh, I work at uh, as uh, a medical doctor in Russia and Ukrainia uh, around uh, 22 years and I worked as uh, a nur--a registered nurse in Russia I--uh, three years and I worked uh, as a nursing assistant uh, two years um, then I started to be student, I went to be hospital kind of nursing assistant after that uh, kind of registered nurse and after that I started to work as a physician--a medical doctor. And um, this uh, sometimes difficult uh, here because uh, I

need to have uh, attention for my family. I am responsible uh, not for just me, kind o--like for example, you--you have great mother, you have great support, you have no, [clears throat] right now family, and you can uh, for example, take uh, all attention for your study and [laugh] uh, for me it was uh, not possible like this but it's--praise the Lord, uh, uh, praise the Lord, uh, I had uh, great support from my family, I had great support from um, college instructors, I had great support from uh, government here because I had um, a lot of uh, good people who help me to find appropriate home, to mmm, find appropriate time [clears throat] to have tutoring here. I think it's a blessing for me and um, I am going to finish and to work uh, as a registered nurse uh, and I'm uh I thi----I think uh, if uh, Lord Jesus bless me, uh, in future time, I will uh, I can work uh, as a physician too. I will see. And uh, it depends uh, um, how I mmm, because uh, it's uh, difficult to say uh, exactly because uh, I have right now not uh, seventeen, just um, it's um...I will see [laugh].

Kaitlyn: Well, your family seems very important to you. Is it also important to you that they remember the culture from Russia--that they remember Russian language, or the culture in the Ukraine?

Artem: Mmm hmmm...mmm hmm

Kaitlyn: And how do you choose--do you speak Russian at home or English at home...?

Artem: Yes, we uh, we speak uh, Russian at home because uh, we want uh, our children ummmm, have to uh, have two language, uh--Russian and uh, English and uh, I encourage my children to teach uh, third uh, language. For example, my daughter studies uh, in school uh, Spanish too, and I think uh, it's my dream, for example, to have at least um, three or four languages, and it w--will be great for every body and uh, it's very important to uh--when children grow up--to uh, speak with native language with them, uh, and um, because they had a lot of time in school and they can uh, s--uh, teach uh, American English um, in school, and um, uh, I think it is uh, for everybody family should be uh...family should be very important. It's uh, ev--it's uh, I think it's uh regular, usually it's normal to have uh--keep attention first of all, uh, family, children, because, you know, it's uh, time is difficult, the world is difficult. Hmm.

Kaitlyn: Yes. Are there any family traditions that you still keep doing that are from Russia and the Ukraine that you grew up with that are important for you to keep for your culture?

Artem: N--uh, I think it's uh, it's a very interesting moment in uh, for example in the United States sometimes um uh, the very--this statement uh, another culture, another culture, another culture, [laugh], it's uh-- [clears throat] for e--for me--for example, [clears throat] you can see uh, we have uh---are you Christian? I'm a Christian too. It's my opinion. It's uh--but it's not mi--just mine but I'm sure in this case. Uh, do you have Bible--Holy Bible at home?

Kaitlyn: Yes.

Artem: I have Bi--uh, Holy Bible at home. The same Bible. Same Bible. And there is no American culture and Russian culture in Bible. There is Christian culture. [Pause] What's problem [AD & KK: laugh] for everybody? But uh, in this--in this case, pagan culture from America, pagan culture from Russia, pagan culture from uh--you mea-- know what this mean pagan?

Kaitlyn: Yes.

Artem: It's people who uh, did--didn't know uh didn't invite uh, Christ into his heart.

Kaitlyn: So you mean non-Christians?

Artem: Non-Christians. Yes. It's pagan culture. Uh, influence on these--our interpretation Holy Bible. For example, a lot of uh, Bible statement uh, Holy Spirit wrote, you have--you must do this way. You have to have this, you don't uh, need to do this and sometimes, interpretation--oh, it was old time; it was Greek culture; it was Jewish culture; [clears throat] but uh, if y--if we believe to Jesus Christ...For example, how it's possible uh, Christian smokes? Can you imagine Jesus smoke? It's st--it's a stupid situation. It's not possible.

Kaitlyn: So you use the Bible to create a good environment for your children [AD: yes] and to choose [AD: yes]--be able to choose [AD: yes] what is right in a culture and what is wrong in a culture?

Artem: Yes, for example, for example, you have um, you have in um, I mean uh, it's not just my opinion, a lot of people because um, uh, we can be th--thankful to God and we can be thankful to uh, believers before us to--uh, old Christian time because strong--just according um, [clears throat] uh, according their strong faith, we have this situation-- freedom--everything--blessing, because uh, for example, uh, two hundred years ago-- around two hundred years ago--when America, uh, United States uh, um...choose uh, like uh, to be--to be like freedom country from uh, Great Britain and uh, in uh, I--I saw it's not uh, my opinion it's every can--everybody can confirm, God bless Ameri--blessed America because America--United States--began uh, they uh, to build uh, this society on Bible's precepts. It's clear like days and if we uh, right now, a lot of people--it was uh, old time, right now we need to change our mind, our culture, and uh, a lot of Christian should uh, it's not uh--it's not terrible to smoke, it's not terrible and uh, some churches for example, in Massachusetts and some churches in California uh, this uh, uh, homosexuals uh, marriage--it's crazy situation. It--this situation destroy United States if it will be not stop. We have some examples in Holy Bible--in history. Sodom and Gomorra. And uh, uh, now it's--no let's uh, don't touch them uh, that is their decision--they want to be and uh, interesting situation a lot of uh, time we can see--we can hear--non-traditional marriage or traditional marriage. Its--its not correct uh, uh, name. It's normal marriage or abnormal marriage. It's not traditional or u-- [laugh] untraditional. It's normal or crazy a--and it's maybe--it's not my opinion because it's uh, in Holy Bible principles.

Kaitlyn: So, you use the Bible to create your opinions [Artem: yes] and, [Artem: yes, I think--] you use that for your family.

Artem: If--if I believe to Jesus Christ, if uh, I uh, see Jesus is my Lord, I need to mmm, to--to listen him.

Kaitlyn: Do you go to a Russian church here in Lincoln? [AD: Yes, we have--yes] Do people s--everybody speaks Russian?

Artem: Mmm hmm.

Kaitlyn: Do you feel that it's important to have the support of the Russian community here [AD: yes, it is] in Lincoln? [AD: yes, yeah] Other Russians? And how do you feel the support in Lincoln has been as a community for you as an immigrant coming to Lincoln? [AD: mmm] Do you feel that you have a good support system here?

Artem: Yes, yes, it, uh, because, yeah, it's very important to uh, have like, kind of uh, um, I think it is uh, for example, not just this uh, situation from Russian immigrant, I think Mexican people has uh, their community, maybe any black people have uh, their community, it's uh, mmm, very helpful to uh, start a new life. I have a lot of friends from uh, American uh, churches and I like to be in American church and--and if I see the church, mmm, don't bless uh, homosexual [laugh] and or if I, for example, if I come uh, to a uh, church and I see pastor smoke after uh, service, I never be over there again [laugh]. Yes, uh [laugh]

Kaitlyn: So, how do you--how did you learn English and how do you keep up on your English?

Artem: It's uh, main idea to mmm, have um, fellowship with uh, America--American speakers. It's main idea.

Kaitlyn: Did you know English before you came [AD: uh, it was] to the U.S.?

Artem: It was British English. There is difficult uh, thi--um, a lot of uh, differences and uh, I know uh, British English uh, people say that American English is broken English [laugh]. But I--I like--right now I like more American uh, pronunciation--American o's--and so...uh...and I like American uh, English uh, more because mmm, for me it's um, more like uh, mmm...good pronu--more good pronunciation than uh...[laugh]

Kaitlyn: You're used to it now?

Artem: Yes, that's right.

Kaitlyn: Yes.

Artem: And uh, we stu--uh we uh, studied in school, uh, British uh, li--English and uh, it was like uh, kind of uh, like introduction.

Kaitlyn: So you studied English at a University or high school?

Artem: Y--Yes, in high school

Kaitlyn: High school.

Artem: High school and uh, first uh, two years in uh, uh, medical school. Just two years. I think it should--it should uh, be more than just two years. M--my English wasn't uh, like uh, not uh, good level because uh, I hadn't uh, any uh, practice.

Kaitlyn: But y--have you taken English classes here in Lincoln?

Artem: Yes, I--I t--I um, I took uh, uh, in Southeast, all eight levels. I have t--uh--I had tutoring uh, with uh, Litera--uh, Linc--Lincoln Literacy Council, and I also appreciate Mark uh, Mike and uh, and other people who help me. And uh, it's uh, for--for me and my family, we--so it's uh, uh, a lot of uh, uh, people who were fri--so friendly for us.

Kaitlyn: Good.

Artem: Yes, and uh, sometimes mmm, maybe it diffi--it was sometimes um, a surprise for people who a--came from former Soviet Union uh, I mean, uh, for example, uh, in Soviet Union uh, usually it was uh, like uh, not uh, like uh, mmm, a lot of people who, when you have uh, for example you--when you on the street or maybe market or store, and uh, a lot of mmm, almost nobody uh, will smile with you for example, when uh...mmm, OK...and—and uh...they go and uh, I like this when people uh, uh, meeting uh, make short time maybe in store and everywhere they smile. I think it should be--it's normal. It's uh; very good but first of all, should be smile not on face, on your heart [laugh]. It's—it is another problem. [Laugh]

Kaitlyn: Yes.

Artem: Yes. And another--another subject. [Laugh]

Kaitlyn: OK, [AD: OK] well, um...your fine. Well, is there anything else that you would like to say before we end our interview?

Artem: No, I uh, appreciate for your attention and uh...uh...

Kaitlyn: Well, I appreciate you agreeing to do this so, [AD: yeah] thank you so much.

Artem: Uh, thank you.