

DEPARTMENT OF

# GERMAN & RUSSIAN

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of the German and Russian Department,

The leaves are changing in Vermont and it is time again for our annual newsletter. As you will remember from the previous letter, this has been a year marked by a great many transitions with the retirement of three of our long-time faculty members—David Scrase, Beatrice Wood, and Ken Nalibow. On the Russian side, we have gained a wonderful new colleague in Kat Scollins who joined the Department in January on a three-semester appointment as lecturer. You can read more about Dr. Scollins on the next pages of this newsletter. We were able to retain Adriana Borra and Kate Kenny to teach German. With growing enrollments we have added a section of Beginning German, and we are optimistic about the renewed interest in both German and Russian.

As usual, we had a busy and productive year. No longer distracted by administrative duties, Wolfgang Mieder has become even more prolific. He authored, edited or co-edited nine books; published eleven articles, and delivered seven lectures which took him to Halle, Germany, Athens, Greece, and Los Angeles, California. Dennis Mahoney had the wonderful experience to give a presentation on Johann Wolfgang Goethe in Goethe's "hometown" Weimar, Germany. He also traveled to California State University, Long Beach, California, to present on Friedrich Schiller at the International Conference "Who is this Schiller [now]? Friedrich Schiller 1759-1805-2009." Schiller was also the subject of Dennis Mahoney's talk at the Meeting of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Ottawa. Kevin McKenna has started working on the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. State Department grant to develop a nationwide portfolio project for High School through College Critical Foreign Language Programs in Arabic, Chinese, and Russian. Theresia Hoeck and Adriana Borra used their visits to Austria and Germany to keep up on cultural and political development. Gideon Bavly also was able to return to his native Israel over the semester break. Kat Scollins balanced her time between her family and preparing her dissertation for publication. Kate Kenny returned again this fall ready to teach intermediate German in addition to two sections of beginning German. If you visit the Department's website, you will see what Janet Sobieski has been doing since last semester. Her artist's eye and creativity certainly have made a big difference in our presence on the web. If you have not seen our new site, please do so: [www.uvm.edu/germanrussian](http://www.uvm.edu/germanrussian).

We also sponsored some very successful events. Last November marked the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which we commemorated with a series of lectures that drew quite large audiences. Prof. Alan Steinweis, Director of Holocaust Studies, talked about his experiences of living in Berlin both with the Wall and in the immediate aftermath of its opening. Prof. Susanna Schrafstetter, Department of History, discussed the nostalgia for Socialism in Germany today in conjunction with a screening of the film "Good-Bye Lenin." On November 9, Prof. Frank Nicosia, Department of History and Holocaust Studies, reminded his audience of six significant events in modern German history which all occurred on that date. We were also privileged to hear a very moving and illuminating talk by Prof. Emeritus Henry Lea, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, who worked as simultaneous interpreter at the Nuremberg Trials. He drew on this experience while discussing Jonathan Littell's novel *The Kindly Ones* (2006) which focuses on the "Einsatzgruppen," the German death squads who were charged with killing Jews and other "undesirables" across the Eastern part of Europe during World War II.

In the spring, Russian-born author Elena Gorokhova gave a most wonderful reading from her memoir *A Mountain of Crumbs* that tells about her growing up in the Soviet Union. Prof. McKenna hosted a reception for Ms. Gorokhova, giving our students the opportunity to meet and talk with the author. Prof. McKenna spoke about the changing images of the US in 'Pravda' political cartoons in conjunction with an exhibition at the Fleming Museum entitled "Views and Re-Views: Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons."

For the 21<sup>st</sup> Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture we invited Prof. Kathrin Bower, one of our former German majors. Since graduating from UVM in 1986, Prof. Bower received her Ph.D. in German Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is currently the chair of the Foreign Language Department at the University of Richmond. Prof. Bower presented a fascinating lecture on "Gender, Witness and Remembrance in Ruth Klüger's *Still Alive* and Judy Chicago's *Holocaust Project*." We have several events planned for the coming year and hope that you will be able to join us for some of them.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the many activities and achievements of our faculty, students, and alumni. More importantly, I hope that you will share your news with us. Please send me an email ([hshreck@uvm.edu](mailto:hshreck@uvm.edu)) and let us know how you are doing. We love hearing from all of you.

With best regards,

*Helga Schweckenberg*

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## Departmental News



**Gideon Bavly** spent the summer on the lake. Weather-wise was an amazing summer here in Burlington, and just like all else in the local tourism industry it was a great 3rd season for Gideon and his new boat named "LET'S GO SAILING". He did not get to take many foreign visitors this year, but is hopeful for next year.



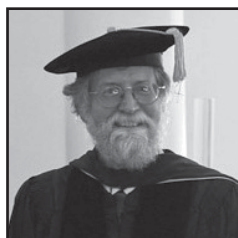
**Adriana Borra** is very much enjoying the opportunity of teaching a few German classes in 2010 and of reconnecting with her first language in the classroom. In the spring the Italian/German-Italian/German dictionary *Il tedesco Junior* was published in Turin ending 6 years of intense collaboration with Silvia Verdiani. After 15 years of lexicographic work during the summer she enjoyed an exceptionally free summer attending the AATI conference in Lecce in May and catching up with all things German and Italian during her extensive travels in her two countries.

**Theresia Hoeck** loves her new office, but she misses the spirit of camaraderie she shared with Beatrice Wood, her former office mate of twelve years. Frau Hoeck has decided to once again experience life on the other side of the desk and has been studying Spanish for the past several semesters. To put her newly acquired skills to the test she spent three weeks in Spain and returned with two clear messages for her students: people abroad really appreciate your effort to speak their language and it takes continued study to improve your proficiency. This past year she received training as a hospice volunteer to expand her working world beyond the classroom and provide much needed services in the community.



**Kate Kenny** is delighted to be back in the German and Russian department this semester and is already enjoying teaching her two beginners' courses in German. She had a busy summer, hosting many visitors from Europe and showing them the delights of Vermont. She and her husband also took their two young sons (4 and 2) on their first camping and canoeing trip, to the Adirondacks, and she's still catching up on the loss of sleep which ensued!

**Dennis Mahoney** was very pleased and honored to represent the Department of German and Russian this May at Honors Day, especially as the two students receiving German and Russian Honors had been residents of the German and Russian Houses during the time when he



served as Faculty Director of the Global Village Residential Learning Community.

This summer, when writing a chapter for a forthcoming book on Weimar Classicism, he had the pleasure of using insights from discussions with his Intermediate German students in the spring of 2010 when they read Barbara Honigmann's *Eine Liebe aus nichts* (1991), which takes place partly in Weimar during the final years of the German Democratic Republic. He also read and wrote reviews of the following three books: *Unfinished Music*, by Richard Kramer (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008); Cordula Grewe, *Painting the Sacred in the Age of Romanticism* (Farnham, Surrey and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2009); and Nicholas Saul, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to German Romanticism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009) while preparing for his upcoming Spring 2011 class on Romanticism.

Finally, during a visit to the University of Augsburg in July, he had the pleasure of seeing not only the three current UVM students taking courses there, but also one former UVM student who has returned to Augsburg for course work, as well as two former and one future Augsburg student participant in our exchange program.



**Kevin McKenna** commenced his summer on a trip with his wife to the Lakes Region of northern Italy (Lake Garda and Lake Como), the favorite tourist spot of Gogol, Dostoevsky, Herzen and so many other nineteenth-century Russian writers. By early June he was back working on his book, *The Role of Russian Proverbs in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's Fictional and Publicistic Writing*. He also completed research and writing of an article on Leo Tolstoy's novel, *Anna Karenina*, which he will submit to the journal, *Proverbium: Journal of International Proverb Scholarship*. Professor McKenna will be delivering a shorter version of this article at this year's AATSEEL (American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages) Conference in Los Angeles, CA early in January: "Poslovitsa ni suda ni raspravly": A Paremiological Approach to Leo Tolstoy's Novel, *Anna Karenina*." He will also present a second paper at the AATSEEL Conference: "The Role of Russian Reading Skills in the Intermediate-Russian Language Classroom: Syntax and Lexicology." In addition to his research and writing, Professor McKenna continued to work this summer on a U.S. Department of Education grant to create a national portfolio project for American high-school and college students of the Russian language (see elsewhere in this Newsletter). He concluded his work this summer teaching a World Literature 118 class on "Leo Tolstoy's Novel, *Anna Karenina*."



**Wolfgang Mieder** continues to be excited about his students and research. He was thrilled when his former graduate student Andreas Nolte received his Ph.D. degree in German from the University of Halle in Germany on account of his superb M.A. thesis written at UVM and two additional books written on the use and

*continued on page 3*



*Departmental News*, cont. from page 2...

function of proverbs in German literary works. In fact, Andreas and Prof. Mieder traveled to Halle together to attend the celebration of this academic achievement. Prof. Mieder also continues to be very excited about his large lecture course on “The Nature and Politics of Proverbs” with eighty students. He has participated in conferences at Boise, Idaho, Salem, Oregon, Halle, Germany, Granada, Spain, and other exciting places, including several lectures throughout Vermont. His lectures have dealt with proverbs in the mass media, in political rhetoric, and in various literary works. He remains the editor of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* that has been published at UVM since 1984. Several articles and books by Prof. Mieder appeared in Europe and the United States, and he is especially proud of his new books “*Spruchschlösser (ab)bauen*”: *Sprichwörter, Antisprichwörter und Lehnspichwörter in Literatur und Medien* and *International Bibliography of Paremiology and Phraseology*. When he is not working academically, Prof. Mieder enjoys keeping up his land (mowing, cutting wood, etc.) in the country as well as bicycling and cross country skiing with his wife Barbara, who continues to teach German and Latin at a local high school.

**Helga Schreckenberger** has settled into being Department Chair and finds it challenging at a time of extreme budget crisis. She, however, appreciates counsel from her colleagues, which helps her keep her sanity. She very much enjoyed teaching a large lecture course on the literary responses to the Holocaust by the second generation, the children of Holocaust survivors. In November 2009, she delivered a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers



in German at San Diego California. In May 2010, she traveled to Vienna to present at the Annual Meeting of the Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association and was able to extend her visit for a month in order to conduct research for her current project on Austrian writers with migrant background.

**Kathleen Scollins** is thrilled to be starting her second semester as a Russian Lecturer in the German and Russian department. She enjoyed a busy but relaxing summer gardening, traveling and hiking around Vermont with her husband and two children (ages 5 and 1). The highlight of their summer was an exhilarating—albeit exhausting—two-week-long road trip with the kids through the Midwest. Now that the school year is off to a busy start, she is delighted to be returning once again to the classroom and her students.



**Janet Sobieski** continues to enjoy her work in the Department of German and Russian, due to the wonderful faculty, students and alumni that we have. She especially enjoys working on the new Department web pages, and is learning to do more with photos and “Flickr”, so if you have any photos you would like to share of your time at UVM or perhaps study abroad, please let her know. She had three wonderful vacations this year, in March to visit her mother and sister in Phoenix, Arizona; and with her husband Bill in July to the ocean in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts and also in August to visit her step-daughter, and also stepson and his wife in Boise, Idaho.



## Student Scholarship News

Two **Nietsch/Mahoney Scholarships** were awarded over the 2009/2010 academic year. The **2009 Nietsch/Mahoney Scholarship** was given to Shawna Rambur, who spent the entire 2009/2010 academic year studying at the University of Augsburg in Germany. The **2010 Nietsch/Mahoney Scholarship** was given to Nicholas Leggett, who spent the Spring 2010 semester at the University of Augsburg.

The **Veronica Richel Scholarship** was given to Dennis Hess, who spent the 2009-2010 academic year studying at the University of Salzburg in Austria. The **Mieder Scholarship** was awarded to Amadeus Kaelber, for study at the University of Augsburg in Spring 2010.

**Scholarships for study in Russia** were given to Oliver Chase, Kirsti Dahly, Ross Cunningham, Rebecca Hill, Daniel Malamud (who all attended St. Petersburg University in Russia, for full-year, spring semester, or summer semester study), and to Vincent Rosario, who studied in Switzerland for both his German and his Russian majors.

In addition, a \$500 scholarship was given to our graduate student Mark Russell to help defray his study expenses at the Middlebury College Summer German Program.

Eleven scholarships in total were awarded from our Department of German and Russian Gift Fund over this past academic year, ranging in amounts from \$500 to \$1000, for a total of \$6,750.

Through the **Truman and Selina Webster Scholarship Fund**, we were able to give two \$1000 graduate scholarships, one to each of our two German M.A. students, Anne Venezia and Mark Russell.

## *Departmental Honors Awards, May 2010*



### **OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN GERMAN: Kim Cornett**

Kim Cornett, who is a gifted student of languages (German and Chinese), interned with the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin in the Summer of 2009. She plans to spend the 2010/2011 year working and/or interning in Berlin, and then go on to graduate school to study international relations/intercultural studies.



### **OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN RUSSIAN: Megan Luttrell**

Megan Luttrell, the recipient of the 2008 Kidder Award as Outstanding Sophomore, studied in St. Petersburg, Russia, for the summer semester 2009. She volunteered in the Burlington Russian immigrant community, was an active member/director of the UVM Russian House program, and completed a senior honors thesis on Tolstoy's novels. She spent this past summer driving across-country to inspect graduate schools, and plans to study toward a Ph.D. degree in Russian Literature at the University of Wisconsin (Madison).

*Kim Cornett, Prof. Dennis Mahoney, and Megan Luttrell at the College of Arts and Sciences' Honors Ceremony on May 21, 2010, in Ira Allen Chapel.*

PHOTO BY SALLY MCKAY




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## *Student Awards and Honors*

**Brienne Toomey** has been awarded the **UVM Kidder Scholarship** for Juniors. She is an Honors College student with a double major in German and Environmental Studies and a minor in Studio Art, and is very active in campus activities. She says of her experiences at UVM: "Upon entering the University, I had a set of passions: German, nature, and art. The beauty of a liberal arts education, however, is that having an interest does not require stifling of other interests and unexplored territories. I have am still able to take classes like psychology, math and religion, which are all vital to a well-rounded education and character."

In 2009-2010 two Department seniors pursued **Honors in Russian** with Kevin McKenna as their thesis advisor – **Elizabeth Petow** and **Megan Luttrell**. They both successfully defended their theses in the spring semester. Elizabeth's title was: "The Economy of Comedy: A Marxist Analyst of Anton Chekhov's Play, *The Cherry Orchard*," (April 29, 2010), and Megan's title: "By What Men Live': A Russian Formalist Examination of Peasant Speech in Leo Tolstoy's Novels *Anna Karenina* and *War and Peace*," (May 5, 2010). Now in the current year, we have six students pursuing Honors in Russian.

## *Scholarship from German and Russian Department Makes A Difference*

*originally published in the College of Arts and Sciences E-Newsletter, Spring 2010*

Oliver Chase, a native of Hubbardton, Vermont, and double major in Economics and Russian, is spending his junior year studying in St. Petersburg, Russia. He writes from St. Petersburg about his experiences:

As I write this I am sitting in the very same flat in St. Petersburg that I was in last semester, with the very same host family. They don't speak any English, but I don't mind: it keeps things interesting and I get the practice I need. I am currently in my junior year. I started my study of Russian at the beginning of my studies at UVM. This semester I am particularly happy because a few of my friends from UVM are joining me. We all sat together in the same classes since our first year. And it is just really neat to do it all together.

I am very glad that I decided to spend two semesters abroad. I have already built many lasting relationships. I returned home between semesters and missed the friends I had made abroad. During my stay here I particularly enjoy going to the city's many museums, going to the theater, and playing in chess tournaments. I am very proud of the fact that I've actually managed to make a little scratch in these chess tournaments, as Russians have a reputation of being particularly good at the game.

I am greatly appreciative that Prof. McKenna exposes his students to Russian proverbs in his intermediate Russian class. I was a bit skeptical when I was first introduced to the study of proverbs. However, my first couple weeks abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia already affirmed that the class time we spent memorizing some of the many Russian proverbs went to good use.

As a Russian language learner proverbs are particularly useful. I found that they were used much more commonly in Russian speech than in English. Personally, I see them as the cheat codes to the language: by reciting one I know that I'm guaranteed a sentence of completely flawless Russian. In this sense I can sometimes make it seem like I speak Russian better than I do.

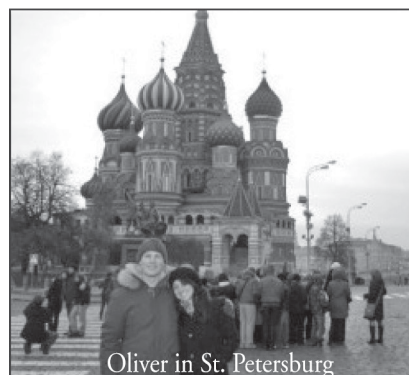
I distinctly remember speaking with my host family during one of our first breakfasts together and uttering something similar to "The early bird catches the worm." In my case it would literally translate to "God gives to he who rises early." I know it sounds strange in English but there is a rhyme to it in Russian. Anyway, I rather timidly recited the words during breakfast conversation to test the ice and members of my host family were not only very impressed by my knowledge of these wise words, but they jumped with joy at the fact that this very important part of their language

and culture hadn't been overlooked by the rest of the world. Due to my newfound interest in proverbs abroad I plan to continue formal study of the subject by taking a class offered by Prof. Wolfgang Mieder upon my return to UVM.

Russia is beautiful. St. Petersburg is one of the prettiest cities in the world and has a very rich culture and history. I am having the time of my life here and the opportunities provided to me by UVM and the Department of German and Russian have made this all possible. I am very thankful to have received a Department of German and Russian scholarship as it has assisted me greatly to have these life changing adventures studying abroad.

As far as plans for post graduation, I'm still not sure. As of late, I would ultimately like to become an entrepreneur. I might go to business graduate school for this but I change my mind an awful lot. At one point while at UVM I wanted to be an engineer, then a computer scientist, then a psychologist. Basically, I've had some really great professors at UVM that have instilled a passion for me in a lot of subject areas. Government service is always in the back of my mind. Right now I'm looking for various summer internships. If I don't find anything that captures my heart, I'll probably go to the Ukraine, get a job teaching English, and try my luck at learning that language. Either way, I'll always be a lifelong learner.

I can't recommend this route (studying abroad) enough to prospective students. As far as a reason for my personal decision to begin the study of the Russian language, the best I can give is fate.



Oliver in St. Petersburg

### ***Kevin McKenna Selected to Participate in Department of Education/ U.S. Department of State "Critical Foreign Language Initiative"***

**Professor Kevin McKenna** (German and Russian Department) has been invited to participate in a four-year "critical foreign language" initiative funded by a grant co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) and the U.S. Department of State. The goal of the four-year initiative is to respond to the U.S. State Department "National Security Foreign Language Initiative (NSLI)" to increase the number of American high-school and university students learning "critical" foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, and Russian. To meet this ambitious goal, the President of the U.S., the Secretaries of State, Education and Defense, and the Director of the National Intelligence Agency have all contributed in funding close to \$100 million. The DOE has proposed \$24 million to create incentives to teach and study critical need languages by refocusing Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grants.

Professor McKenna's work in the UVM Russian language program was cited by Modern Language Association (MLA) data as one of the more prominent college Russian programs in the country, resulting in his being selected as one of six university level faculty members throughout the U.S. to participate in creating a language portfolio task force for the Russian, Arabic and Chinese languages.

The UVM Russian program will become one of a number of American universities where high-school graduates with Russian language interests will be tracked for purposes of assessing their progress and performance in preparation for language/culture study during their junior or senior years at a Russian university. McKenna hopes to be able to include Chinese and Arabic language study in this plan. The Initiative began in Fall 2009 when the initial plan for determining parameters for a Russian language portfolio was developed, and ends in 2012, with meetings three times annually in Glastonbury, Connecticut.



## Faculty Publication and Award News from “UVM Today”, 2009-2010

**Kevin McKenna**, Professor of Russian, published “Proverbs in Sergei Eisenstein’s *Aleksandr Nevsky*” in the journal *Proverbium*. The article examines the functional and thematic roles of proverbs in Eisenstein’s anti-German propaganda film constructed around the historical figure of Aleksandr Nevsky. McKenna argues that Eisenstein’s employment of an unusually large number of proverbs reflects his desire to enhance the film’s message of patriotism and nationalism.

Professor **Wolfgang Mieder** from the Department of German and Russian is the author of ‘*Geben Sie Zitatefreiheit!*’ *Friedrich Schillers gestutzte Wort in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen*. The book provides extensive documentation of the ever increasing presence of Friedrich Schiller — whose two hundred fiftieth birthday falls on Nov. 10, 2009 — in contemporary literature and culture. Quotations from many of Schiller’s plays have been used in literary works, editorials, advertisements, and comics since the 19th century either in their original form or as caricatures. Wolfgang Mieder has also edited the 26th volume of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* to which he contributed the article “New Proverbs Run Deep: Prolegomena to a Dictionary of Modern Anglo American Proverbs.” In addition, Wolfgang Mieder edited Otto von Reinsberg-Düringsfeld’s *Die Frau im Sprichwort*. This collection of proverbs which originally was published in 1862 focuses specifically on women. Mieder provides an introduction and extensive bibliography for the edition. Together with **David Scrase**, professor emeritus, Department of German and Russian, Wolfgang Mieder edited *Reactions to the Third Reich Then and Now*, the fourth collection of the Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lectures (2005-2009). This volume focuses on local Holocaust scholars and contains lectures by UVM faculty Frank Nicosia, **David Scrase**, **Helga Schreckenberger**, and Mark Stoler, and Burlington lawyer and legal scholar Robert Rachlin.

**Awards and Honors: Wolfgang Mieder**, Professor of German, was elected to membership in the P.E.N. Center for German-Speaking Authors Abroad, which is a chapter of the International P.E.N. Club.

**Wolfgang Mieder**, Professor in the Department of German and Russian, published *International Bibliography of Paremiology and Phraseology* with the prestigious German De Gruyter publishing house. The two volumes list 10,027 publications in the fields of paremiology and phraseology. Each bibliographical entry is followed by a number of alphabetically arranged key-words. In addition, the bibliography contains both a subject and a name index. In addition, Mieder edited *Proverb Semantics. Studies in Structure, Logic, and Metaphor*, a collection of the most important articles by the Estonian folklorist and paremiologist Arvo Krikmann. Mieder is also the author of the article “Theorie erklärt, Praxis lehrt.’ Zu den sprichwörtlichen Aphorismen von Hans-Jürgen Quadbeck-Seeger,” which provides an overview and analysis of the aphoristic writings of the renowned German chemist Hans-Jürgen Quadbeck-Seeger.

**Wolfgang Mieder**, Professor of German co-edited *Phraseologie global—areal—regional*, an essay volume containing 43 of the 200 presentations given at the international conference EUROPHRAS at Helsinki, Finland, August 13-16, 2008. Mieder was also involved in editing the remaining presentations which will be made available on a CD. In addition, Wolfgang Mieder edited three decades of his correspondence with UCLA folklorist Shirley L. Aurora which was published in a volume entitled *True Friends Are Like Diamonds*.

**Helga Schreckenberger**, Chair of German and Russian, is the author of the article “Suffering

from Austria: Social Criticism in Prose Fiction of the Seventies and Eighties” published in *Shadows of the Past. Austrian Literature of the Twentieth Century*, ed. by Hans Schulte & Gerald Chapple. Schreckenberger disputes the notion of a predominantly apolitical Austrian literature by tracing critical reactions to Austria’s social and political structures in the literature of the 1970s and 1980s.

**Wolfgang Mieder**, Professor of German, published “*Spruchschlösser (ab)bauen.*” *Sprichwörter, Antisprichwörter und Lehmsprichwörter in Literatur und Medien*. The volume comprises 20 of Mieder’s essays tracing the use of proverbs and proverbial expressions in contemporary aphorisms, poems and everyday speech. Mieder also published an article titled “Der Mensch lebt nicht vom Brot allein.’ Vom Bibelspruchwort über das Volksspruchwort zum Antispruchwort” that analyzes the various interpretations of the biblical proverb “Not by bread alone” in German literature. In addition, Professor Mieder is the author of “The Golden Rule as a Political Imperative for the World: President Barack Obama’s Proverbial Message Abroad.” In this article, Mieder argues that Barack Obama’s use of proverbial language gives his speeches a colloquial and metaphorical expressiveness that enables him to communicate effectively with people of different ethnic and social backgrounds.

**Dennis Mahoney**, Professor of German, recently published “Ubi bene, ibi patria’ oder: Amerika, hast du es besser?” in the *Goethe-Jahrbuch*. In this article he discusses how the literary sources Goethe drew on for his knowledge of the United States explain the rather pessimistic image of the country in Goethe’s novel *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre*. Professor Mahoney is also the author of an encyclopedia entry on Romanticism which appeared in the *Enzyklopädie der Neuzeit*.

## Gift Fund Report (2009-2010):

**Thank you all for your generous donations to our German & Russian Materials Acquisition Fund. We received \$9,890 in total gifts this year, and spent \$10,265. Here is how:**

\$ 6,250	Ten study abroad scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$1000 [see “Student Scholarship News” on page 3 for specific details of scholarships]
\$ 500	Middlebury Summer German Program student stipend
\$ 550	Honors Day “Outstanding Senior” Awards
\$ 165	Senior Reception
\$ 650	Seminar Room book purchases
\$ 150	Periodical subscriptions
\$ 1,350	Instructional materials
\$ 400	Book stipends for students
\$ 100	German concert tickets for students
\$ 150	Partial payment for speakers and events
<b>\$ 10,265</b>	<b>Total spent</b>

Your donations mean a lot to us in the department! They make such a big difference in what we can do for our students. We appreciate each and every donation, and hope you can continue your generous contributions to our Gift Fund. Please make your tax-deductible donations payable to: *German and Russian Materials Acquisition Fund*, and send them to: The University of Vermont, Grasse Mount, 411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05405.

*Thank you  
to  
our donors!*

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### *Alumni News*

**Dzeneta Karabegovic** (2008) has recently been awarded a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Program Scholarship to pursue an independent research project on social networks within the Bosnian diaspora population in Sweden. She will spend the year with researchers at Uppsala University working to get a better understanding of how diaspora members interact with their community and the greater Swedish population. A better understanding of diaspora social networks, she says, will lead to better immigration and integration policies for the population. This research will be a continuation of the work she did as a UVM student for her honors thesis.

A better understanding of these populations is important to Dzeneta, who is a Bosnian native. She immigrated to the United States when she was young, and settled in the Burlington area. As a student at UVM, she was a member of the Honors College, a double-major in political science and German, a John Dewey Scholar, an inductee into Pi Sigma Alpha

(National Political Science Honors Society), and was a founding member of the "Bosnian Lilies," a local Bosnian dance group. When she returns to the United States she plans to attend either law or graduate school so that she can continue to help Diaspora populations in the U.S. and abroad.

**Dine Moeller-Sahling** (MA, 1995) was named Director of the Language Department at the Goethe-Institut Boston. After graduating from the University of Vermont with an MA in German, Moeller-Sahling entered the doctoral program at Ohio State University. Upon completion of a Ph.D. in German, she joined the faculty of German and Humanities at the University of Southern Indiana where she held the title of Associate Professor of German and Humanities until 2009.

**Andreas Nolte** (MA, 2003) received his Ph.D. from the Martin Luther  
*continued on page 8...*

*Alumni News*, cont. from page 7...

University in Halle, Germany this past spring semester. He writes “February was a very special month for me. I was able to travel to Halle in Germany with Prof. Mieder to defend my dissertation about the German poet Mascha Kaléko at the Martin Luther University. All went well, and there’s now a certificate hanging proudly in my small library at home. This trip was not about a certificate, though. Traveling to Germany was simply one very special milestone on the road of lifelong learning. With the invaluable help of so many wonderful people at UVM, mainly those in the Department of German and Russian, and, of course, especially Prof. Mieder, I was able to get my master’s degree in 2003 as a so-called non-traditional student taking one class at a time for 6 years while holding a ‘real’ job. Still very motivated after this first encounter with academia in my adopted country, I kept researching and writing so that a number of published papers and books could eventually form a small mountain of scholarship high enough that a Ph.D. could be awarded – the flag on the summit, so to speak. But this trip was also not about reaching a summit. I do believe that it is true what they say: it is not the destination that counts – it is the journey. It’s not about a title, but all about the learning; not about this one mountain, but about the others that you can see from up there that still need to be climbed. There is a lot more interesting and important scholarly work to do! So, when we came back from Germany in February happy and proud, the trip was over – but not the journey.”

**Christopher Nyberg** (2009) received a full two-year scholarship to attend the Monterey Institute for International Business in Monterey, CA, and is on track to receive his MBA with a specialization in Finance in 2011. While an undergraduate at UVM, he spent a year studying Russian at Moscow University in 2008. He gives this personal statement on the value of studying Russian at UVM: “Can you say ‘impairment of intangibles’ in Portuguese, Russian or Chinese? It has been my experience that in today’s globalized and highly interconnected economy fluency in a second language has become a prerequisite to success. During my time at UVM, my knowledge of Russian was expanded exponentially and has served me well. A large reason I was accepted into a prestigious MBA program at 22 was my internship in Moscow, where I received real-world experience and critical vocabulary at the speed of business today. The professors at the UVM Russian department are dedicated to enhancing the skill set of their students and guiding them into rewarding careers maximizing their abilities.”

**Anna Olson** (2007) received her Master’s degree in German Studies with a specialization in Linguistics in September 2010 from the University of Paris-IV-Sorbonne. The title of her thesis is “Cultivating an Eco-Image: Lexical and Argumentative Strategies of Green Communication in French and German (*Soigner son éco-image: Stratégies lexicales et argumentatives de la communication verte en français et allemand*). It is an analysis of the specific vocabulary that companies use in order to project an environmentally-friendly image. Anna visited family in New Hampshire recently, and now upon completion of her M.A. is in Augsburg, Germany looking for employment.

**Alma Piric** (2002) graduated UVM with a double major in German and English and a minor in Russian, and earned a Master’s Degree in Teaching English as a Second Language at St. Michael’s College in 2006. She is now in Bosnia and Herzegovina, teaching courses for the Faculty of Philosophy and the English Language and Literature Department of the University of Zenica. She previously taught courses as part of the U.S. Embassy’s English-Access Microscholarship Program (Access), and today serves as a mentor to six local English language teachers who now teach the courses within the Access program [Alma observes their classes, shares the newest language teaching methods, and runs teacher training sessions]. From 2006-2008, she served as an English Language Fellow, taught in the English Studies Department of the University of Tuzla, and also taught Access Program students in Tuzla. In the summer, Alma serves

as an English language instructor, teaching methodology and language classes to Tuzla Canton teachers, university and high school students.

Alma is originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina, lived for several years in Wetzlar, Germany, and at 17 moved with her family to Montpelier, VT. In her senior year of high school, she met Profs. Mahoney and Mieder from our Department of German and Russian, and as a result decided to apply to UVM. She writes: “At that time, my English was not the best (my TOEFL score was just above the minimum), as I had lived in the country for less than a year, but my German language skills allowed me to take advanced German courses. In college, cultural shock became a regular part of my everyday life, as I had to face my poor English language skills in the dorm, in class, in the dining hall, but being around my professors and the friendly staff in the German department, I had a safe zone, a place that felt like home away from home. I was able to help others with their homework, and some of the students who asked me for help were juniors and seniors. Some of them became my friends, and suddenly I was immersed in this new culture, with friends, who not only studied with me, but also spent their free time showing me around, and at times helping me with my other classes which were in English. Getting a work study position as a Research Assistant, conducting research in German helped me feel better about myself, as I felt awkward about the state of my English language skills. As my mentor, Prof. Mieder noticed that I needed to work on my English, so he advised me to take classes within the English department. This led to my second major, and today, when I look back, I realize that if it were not for my great mentor, I might not be where I am today, teaching English.”

**Dorothee Racette** (MA, 1997) has been elected “President-elect” of the American Translator Association. She has been actively involved with ATA since 2000—she chaired the German-interest group within ATA and in 2004 she became a member of the board. She will become President of ATA starting in 2011. The ATA has about 11,000 members worldwide and represents the professional interests of translators and interpreters.

**Charley Ruegger** (2009) graduated with a major in Russian and a minor in Japanese. During his studies at UVM, Charley lived abroad in Yaroslavl, Russia and was matriculated at Yaroslavl State University for the academic year of 2008-09. He is currently Program Coordinator, Vermont for the *Russian American Rule of Law Consortium* (RAROLC), and has just left for Russia to facilitate a program in Arkhangelsk from September 19th to 24th. The RAROLC committee will be meeting with Russian Justices of the Peace and Court personnel to discuss their program topics. These are “Courts and the Media” which will cover access to justice through various forms of media (internet, television, journals, etc), “Judicial Ethics” which will cover juvenile matters mostly (Dismissal of charges, rehabilitation and first time offenders) and “Bench Bar.” Bench bar is RAROLC’s attempt to facilitate communication and interactions between the bench, judges, and the bar, lawyers. As a facilitator, Charley will be doing consecutive interpreting and assisting the US participants - Judge John Michael Deasy (New Hampshire), and Judge Richard Mulhern and Court Administrator Mary Ann Lynch (Maine).

**Justine Trombley** (2009) was a History major/German minor, and also research assistant to Prof. Mieder for three years while at UVM. She recently completed her Master’s degree in Medieval History at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and has begun her Ph.D. studies there on the same subject. She has just published an article “The Master and the Mirror: The Influence of Marguerite Porete on Meister Eckhart” in the journal *Magistra: A Journal of Women’s Spirituality in History*, vol. 16 (2010). In her Ph.D. work she will be investigating the origins and provenance of the medieval Latin translations of Marguerite Porete’s *Mirror of Simple Souls*.