

# DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN & RUSSIAN

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of German and Russian,

We have had a beautiful fall here in Vermont with lots of warm weather and brilliant leaves. But now, with the cold weather moving in, it is time to look back on our previous year and take stock of our accomplishments as a Department. As you will see, we have had a very good year.

Our students in particular did us proud. Last May, a record number graduated with a major in either German or Russian. We were equally balanced: ten majors in Russian and ten majors in German. Two of our graduating German students received Fulbright Teaching Assistantships to Germany, and two more received Fulbrights for Austria. Two of our graduating Russian majors joined the Peace Corps. In addition, one of our German students was admitted to UVM's McNair Scholars Program. We also have several German and Russian students studying abroad, one with the help of two prestigious awards – a National Critical Language Scholarship and a Boren Scholarship. But this is only a sampling; further along in the newsletter you can learn more about our students' successes.

Kevin McKenna has returned from his well-deserved sabbatical, putting renewed energy into teaching his courses and directing the Russian House. Kat Scollins had a very successful first year as our "new" Assistant Professor in Russian, both in terms of teaching and research. Her popularity continues to rise among students and colleagues across campus. Ben Jens, who filled in while Kevin McKenna was on leave, was able to secure a position at the University of Arizona. He was a great colleague. We miss his dedication to his students and to teaching, and his quiet humor as well. Rounding out the Russian side of the department this year is Elena Carter, who will be teaching three courses for us.

This spring semester, we will also be hosting an Austrian Fulbright Professor, Primus-Heinz Kucher, from the University of Klagenfurt. He will be teaching a senior seminar on "Imagining America: The USA in Austrian Literature and Culture in the 19th and 20th Century." And of course, we can still count on our well-tested and very popular instructors Theresia Hoeck, Kate Kenny, Adriana Borra, and Gideon Bavy to continue to offer excellent language courses at all levels.

Another new addition to our Department is Brian Minier, who took over from Janet Sobieski. Janet has found a new home in Boise, Idaho, close to her children and a brand new grandbaby. As much as we miss Janet, we are in very good hands with Brian, who is extremely well-organized and calm under pressure.

Our Department has also amassed a few awards and honors. Dennis Mahoney was elected President of the International Novalis Society and has also been asked to join the editorial board of the *Internationale Jahrbuch für Germanistik*. Wolfgang Mieder received the prestigious "European Fairytale Prize" of 2012 as the "worldwide most productive and best-known scholar in the area of proverb and fairytale scholarship." Moreover, he was awarded the equally prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Folklore Society, also for 2012. At the University of Vermont, Wolfgang Mieder was honored with the Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of International Studies. To top it off, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The Boston Globe* both reviewed his book *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs* that he co-edited together with Charles Clay Doyle and Fred R. Shapiro. Oh, and did I mention that the major German newspaper *Die Zeit* published an interview with him in their Sunday supplement?

Again, we were able to organize a number of interesting and well-attended lectures. We were able to bring Paul Michael Lützel, Washington University, to campus as part of the Dan and Carole Burack President's Distinguished Lecture series. He spoke about "US Writers on the Old World: Competitions between the American and the European Dream." He was followed by Leonie Marx, University of Kansas, who presented the lecture "Zauber des Vergessens—Macht der Erinnerung. Die deutsche Kurzgeschichte nach 1945." In the Spring, Kathrin Steyer of The Institute for the German Language (Mannheim) spoke about the "Activities of the Institute of German Language." Dr. Steyer visited us on behalf of the Institute, which is interested in acquiring Wolfgang Mieder's proverb archive. This was followed by a visit of Theodore Ziolkowski, Princeton, who talked about "Romantic Subjects in Contemporary German Literature." Finally, the 23rd Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture was presented by Jonathan Huener of the UVM History Department. His topic was "Primo Levi, Tadeusz Borowski, and the Historical Auschwitz." This was a very well-attended event that drew much praise from the audience.

The semester is off to a good and extremely rapid start. There will be more lectures, more wonderful exchanges with students and colleagues and, we hope, more awards and successes for everyone. Please also share your good news with us – it is always a pleasure to hear from you. I will close by thanking you for your continued support of our departmental gift fund, which makes all of these great lectures and departmental events possible.

All the best,

*Silja Schweckenberg*

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## Departmental News



**Gidon Bavly** had a great time in Vermont, sailing on Lake Champlain, though the summer seemed to pass at the speed of light. His sailing also afforded him the chance to rub elbows with some very interesting folks: two Political Science professors, one Poli Sci administrator and, together on one cruise, the former Majority Leader in the Vermont House and former Middlebury College president, Olin Robison. Now that school is back in session, he continues to work with Hebrew students at the University and also at a local synagogue in a variety of levels.



**Adriana Borra** spent her summer catching up with family, friends, and good reads. She divided her time this summer between her two countries, traveling between her hometown of Regensburg; her university town of Freiburg; the Turin book fair; the beautiful Piedmont region; and her summer home in Liguria. Now that autumn has arrived, she is enjoying immensely the high quality students in the advanced courses of the German and Russian department, while continuing to enthusiastically teach introductory Italian classes for the department of Romance Languages and Linguistics.

**Elena Carter** had an extremely busy summer. One focus was on her studies at Saint Michael's College, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (MATESOL) program. She also devoted a great deal of time to the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington, where she completed her second year of service as an AmeriCorps Literacy Outreach Coordinator. She spent her time at the library supervising ESL classes; teaching Citizenship sessions; coordinating computer classes in foreign languages; organizing cultural events in French, German, and Russian; and leading a Russian conversation group. During what free time there was, she read a number of modern Russian novels written by Lyudmila Ulitskaya. Please join us in welcoming her to the German and Russian department.



**Theresia Hoeck** once again began her summer by visiting new lands. She traveled through the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania). They are hidden jewels of Europe with their

fascinating historical cities and towns, dynamic culture, and untouched landscapes. At every turn one can admire the lasting influence of Germany's cultural and intellectual history. She ended the summer with her annual hut-to-hut hike in the Austrian Alps. There she gets back in touch with her roots and gains strength for the new academic year.



**Kate Kenny** had a fabulous time traveling around England and Germany in May and June with her two sons, catching up with family and friends. July and August were spent enjoying the camping delights of Vermont, Canada, and North Carolina with all of her family. Now that the fall semester has begun in earnest, she is enjoying teaching her two German classes, and being back at work in the department.

**Dennis Mahoney**, at the May 2012 meeting of the International Novalis Society in Oberwiederstedt, Germany, had the honor not only to give the keynote address, but also to be elected President. Novalis—the nom de plume for Friedrich von Hardenberg (1772-1801) was not only an ancestral title from the Middle Ages but also a sign of his aspiration to be a “clearer of new ground” — has long been regarded as one of the principal figures not only of German, but also European Romanticism. Professor Mahoney, whose doctoral dissertation dealt with the combination of idealistic philosophy and science in what Novalis called a “poeticized nature,” was first invited to speak in Oberwiederstedt in 1993. Since then he has taken part in three international symposia sponsored by the Society. Becoming its president — the first non-German to have been so chosen — is truly the highlight of his scholarly career.



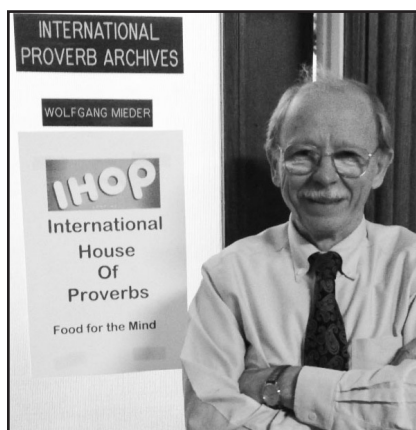
**Kevin McKenna** took a leave of absence from his year-long sabbatical research leave to join his wife and Wolfgang and Barbara Mieder on a two-week Vermont Bicycle Tour through Bordeaux wine country in the south of France. Beautiful landscapes and delicious wines lubricated a much-anticipated summer vacation, starting with three days spent in Paris museums, restaurants, and cafes. Back home Professor McKenna returned to his research project on his book, *The Role of Russian Proverbs in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's Fictional and Publicistic Writing*. Part of that research will be shared with colleagues at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, to take place early in January, 2013 in Boston, MA., where he will deliver a paper titled, “The Tolstoy Connection: The Role of the Russian

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

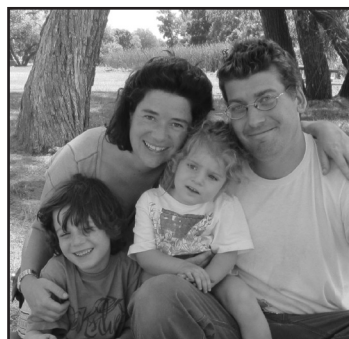
Proverb in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's Novel, 'V krug pervom (In the First Circle).'" His research also gave birth to a summer Continuing Education World Lit. 118 course on the topic of "Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*." Finally, one of Professor McKenna's three courses this fall term derives directly from his research sabbatical in the form of another World Lit. 118 course he is offering: "Art into Life: the Fictional World of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn." This fall semester he has been invited to give a lecture on his Solzhenitsyn research in a lecture series sponsored by the EEE (Elder Education Enrichment) Group of Vermont (December 3rd). On November 30th he will be lecturing the same EEE group on the topic of "Prospects for Vladimir Putin's Third Term as Russian President: Pro and Con." Finally, on October 25th Professor McKenna was part of a UVM faculty panel analyzing news coverage of the U.S. presidential elections in the Russian news media.



**Wolfgang Mieder** continues to enjoy his advanced German folklore and literature courses, and he is especially pleased that lots of students from different fields of interest take his World Literature lecture course in English on "Big Fish Eat Little Fish": The Nature and Politics of Proverbs".

He has been appointed to the board of the Vermont Folklife Center, and he tries his best to help UVM with its Capital Campaign to raise the university's endowment and to provide more financial aid and scholarships to the students. His lecture trips have taken him to Los Angeles, Harrisburg, Paris, Bloomington, Sacramento, Würzburg, and Helsinki. The big surprise for him this year was the honor of having been awarded the "Europäischer Märchenpreis" in his native Germany, in recognition of his life's work in folk narratives and proverbs. In addition UVM honored him with the 2012 Robert V. Daniele Award for outstanding contributions to International Education on our campus. He published numerous articles on proverbial matters in the States and in Europe, and he edited the 29<sup>th</sup> volume of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Scholarship*. New books include "Zersungene Lieder". *Moderne Volksliederreminiszenzen in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen*, *International Bibliography of Paremiography*, and with his former student Andreas Nolte "Zu meiner Hölle will ich den Weg mit guten Sprüchen pflastern". *Friedrich Nietzsches sprichwörtliche Sprache*. A major accomplishment, after several years of work with his friends Charles Doyle and Fred Shapiro, is his *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs* published with Yale University Press. But minding

the proverb that "All work and no play makes Wolfgang a dull boy", he also traveled to France with his wife and Prof. Kevin McKenna and his wife to enjoy a week of bicycling through the French wine country. And, very importantly, Sophie, the Mieders' black Labrador, has been joined by a second yellow Labrador, both of whom love to take walks with their "parents" on their country estate and thereby keeping them fit in body and mind to carry on for a few more years.



**Brian Minier**, aka the New Janet, is doing his best to fill the shoes of his predecessor. He is very pleased to be back in the academic world, surrounded by foreign languages in general, and Russian in particular. He is also enjoying being an academic spouse, and is looking forward to joining his wife, Kat Scollins, at the ASEES conference in New Orleans. For more on Brian, please see **Kat Scollins** below.

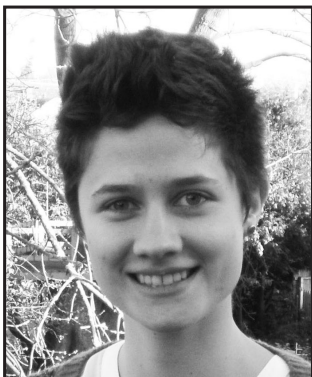
**Helga Schreckenberger** spent the early part of the summer in Los Angeles, doing research on Salka Viertel at the Margaret Herrick Library, for which she received a Botstiber Grant. In her free time, she made pilgrimages to the grave sites of prominent Austrian and German émigrés like Billy Wilder, Heinrich Mann, and Lion Feuchtwanger. She also looked at the houses that were formerly inhabited by German and Austrian Exiles. In July, she attended a conference in Vienna. The rest of the summer she enjoyed an extraordinarily beautiful Vermont summer doing garden work and reading lots of fun novels.



**Kathleen Scollins** is delighted to be back in the classroom after a full but relaxing summer with her husband Brian and two children (ages 7 and 3). Travel highlights of the summer included a scorching 3-week road trip through the Midwest and a peaceful week on the beaches of Cape Cod and Maine. She was thrilled to have her second article, a comparative reading of Pushkin's *Bronze Horseman* and the Book of Job, accepted for publication in this year's issue of the *Pushkin Review*, and she is now hard at work on a conference paper on Gogol's "Nevsky Prospect," which she will present at November's ASEES conference in New Orleans.

## *Departmental Honors Awards*

### *May 2012*



**OUTSTANDING SENIOR  
IN GERMAN:**  
Brienne Toomey

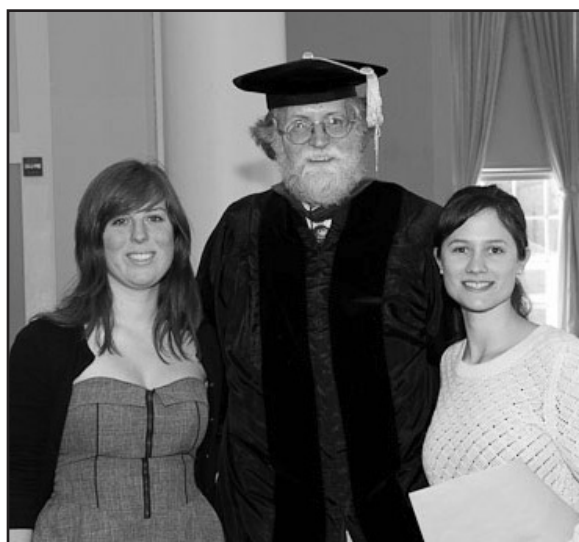


PHOTO BY SALLY MCKAY



**OUTSTANDING SENIOR  
IN RUSSIAN:**  
Katie Boynton

*Katie Boynton, Prof. Dennis Mahoney, and Brienne Toomey at the College of Arts and Sciences' Honors Ceremony in Ira Allen Chapel.*

#### **Awards for German:**

1<sup>st</sup> year: Andrew Gambardello

2<sup>nd</sup> year: Alexandra Sullivan

German 103 (Composition and Conversation): Aidan Holding  
German 122 (20<sup>th</sup> Century Culture and Civilization): Laura Galiher

German 155 (German Literature in Context I): Jonas Gray  
German 156 (German Literature in Context II): Hillary Barbour

German 202 (Expository Writing): Alena Litin

German 282 (Prosa der Goethe-Zeit): Tom Bartovics

German 281 (German Short Story after 1945): Jack Minich

German 252 (German Folklore): Seth Walters

Spirit Award: Gavin Santacross

#### **Awards for Russian:**

1<sup>st</sup> year: Kristen Rousse

2<sup>nd</sup> year: Jackson Taymans

Russian 101 (Phonology): Kieran Ficken

Russian 122 (Composition and Conversation): Sadie Parker

Russian 161 (Lexicology): Gabriel Simches

Russian 201 (Literature): Brittany Erickson

Russian 221 (Culture): Emily Drew

Spirit Award: Ian Goodnow

## Faculty Publication and Honors, 2011-2012

### Dennis Mahoney

Professor Mahoney authored “*Maria Stuart Adaptations in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries: from ‘Classical’ Parodies to Contemporary Politics*,” which appeared in *Who is this Schiller Now? Essays on his Reception and Significance*, eds. Jeffrey High, Matthew Bell, and Norbert Oellers (Camden House Press, 2011). In this article, Professor Mahoney shows the adaptability of Schiller’s classical play as it can be staged both as a literary parody or a commentary on contemporary politics.

He also published an article on the Austrian Romantic author Joseph von Eichendorff in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*.

### Kevin McKenna

Professor McKenna saw two of his articles reprinted. Both “Proverbial Wisdom of an Enlightened Empress: Russian Proverbs in Catherine the Great’s *O, vremia!*” (originally published in *Neophilologus*, vol. 74, no. 1, 1990) and “Empress behind the Mask: The Persona of Md. Vsiakaia Vsiachina in Catherine the Great’s Periodical Essays on Morals and Manners” (originally published in *Proverbium* vol. 15, no. 1, 1998) were reprinted in the journal *Literary Criticism, 1400-1800*.

### Wolfgang Mieder

Professor Mieder published the 29<sup>th</sup> volume of *Proverbium. Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*. The volume also contains four of his articles: “‘Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness’: Martin Luther King’s Proverbial Struggle for Equality” illustrates how Martin Luther King used proverbs to legitimize his demand for equality. (A Spanish version of this article also appeared in *Paremiología y herencia cultural*, edited by Antonio Pamies Bertrán, Juan de Dios Luque Durán, and Patricia Fernández Martín.) The article “‘Hat alles seine Zeit’: Sprichwörter in Otto Ludwigs Dramen” traces German playwright Otto Ludwig’s rich use of proverbs. “Alan Dundes as Book Collector” introduces the reader to Alan Dundes’s impressive library, which is now housed at the University of Southern California. Professor Mieder also put out two bibliographical updates: the “International Bibliography of New and Reprinted Proverb Collections” and “International Proverb Scholarship: An Updated Bibliography.”

Professor Mieder is the author of “*Wie anders wirkt dies Zitat auf mich ein! Johann Wolfgang von Goethes entflügelte Worte in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen*.” In this book, he presents over 700 examples of the use of Goethe-quotations in literary texts, articles, advertisements and cartoons as integral of Goethe’s ongoing literary reception.

Professor Mieder edited *Otto von Reinsberg-Düringsfeld. Das Kind im Sprichwort*. The book is a collection of proverbs focused on children and childhood. Professor Mieder provided this reprint of the 1864 edition with an introduction that discusses the collection within the entire body of Reinsberg-Düringsfeld’s work.

Professor Mieder published the *International Bibliography of Paremiography. Collections of Proverbs, Proverbial Expressions and Comparison, Quotations, Graffiti, Slang, and Wellerisms*. The book documents 3615 proverb collections in 120 languages that make up the author’s private collection.

Professor Mieder published “Vilmos Voigt as Paremiologist,” an article dedicated to Vilmos Voigt’s proverb scholarship. The article appeared in the Hungarian journal *Néprajzi Látóhatár*. In addition, Professor Mieder’s article on the fairytale scholar Archer Taylor appeared in *Enzyklopädie des Märchens*.

Professor Mieder published “‘The World is a Place’: Barack Obama’s Proverbial View of an Interconnected Globe,” which analyzes the proverbs used in President Obama’s speeches on globalization.

Professor Mieder published the article “‘The Dog in the Manger’: The Rise and Decline in Popularity of a Proverb and a Fable” in the journal *Midwestern Folklore*, 11. It delineates the history and dissemination of the story of “the dog in the manger” and its resulting proverbial use, from its Greek origins to Europe and the United States. He concludes that despite being a lesser-known proverbial expression, it will remain in use since it describes an unchanged human behavior.

Professor Mieder’s article “‘I Have a Dream’: Martin Luther King’s Proverbial Hope for a Better Future” was included in the *Proceedings of the Fourth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, held at Tavira, Portugal, 7th to 14th November 2010*.

Professor Mieder is the author of “‘It Takes a Village to Change the World’: Proverbial Politics and the Ethics of Place” which appeared in the *Journal of American Folklore*. Here he argues that political rhetoric concerned with social improvement often employs proverbs based on spatial metaphors to bring into focus an ethics of place that is ever more concerned with global matters.

Professor Mieder published the article “‘Diesz ist der Grund dieser räthselhaften Sprichwörter’. Über ‘Deutsche Sprichwörter mit Erläuterungen’ (1790) von Johann Christian Siebenkees” in the volume *Idiome, Konstruktionen, “verblühte rede”. Beiträge zur*

*continued on page 6...*



*Faculty Publications and Honors*, cont. from page 5...

*Geschichte der germanistischen Phraseologieforschung*. The article investigates the significance of Johann Christian Siebenkees' annotated proverb collection for historical paremiography.

Professor Mieder, together with Charles Clay Doyle and Fred R. Shapiro, published *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs* with Yale University Press. The book is a collection of proverbs that originated after 1900 including sayings like "Follow the money" (Henry Peterson, 1974) or "Give peace a chance" (Christian Science Monitor, 1923). Searching numerous electronic full-text databases allowed the editors to verify the origin and accuracy of the proverbs. The book was reviewed both in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and the *Boston Globe*.

### Helga Schreckenberger

Professor Schreckenberger published "Verurteilung zu raffinierter Ausweglosigkeit: Juden und Judentum in Franz Werfels *Barbara oder Die Frömmigkeit*" in *Judentum in Leben und Werk von Franz Werfel*, edited by Hans Wagener and Wilhelm Hemecker. (Walter de Gruyter, 2011). She reads Werfel's novel as a criticism of the secularized Jewry of Vienna, whose loss of faith and tradition resulted in an identity crisis.

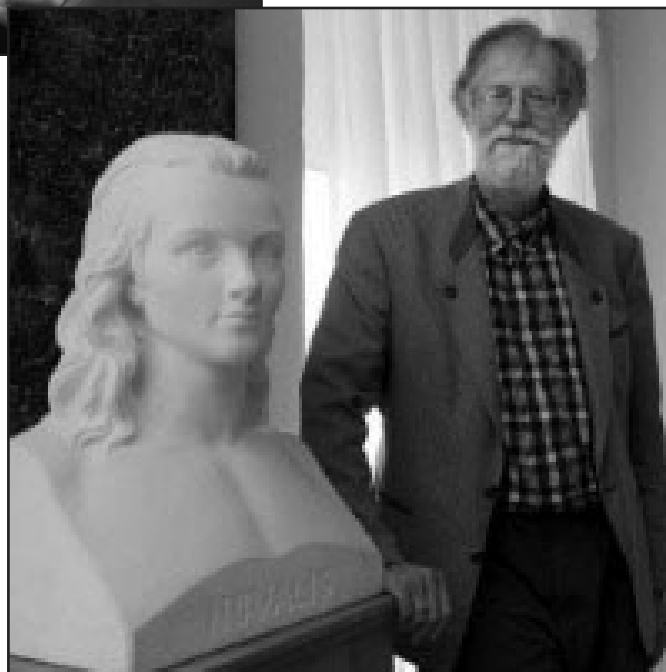
### Kat Scollins

Professor Scollins published the article "Letter as Hero in 'The Overcoat'" in *The Russian Review*. She argues that the hero of Gogol's "The Overcoat," Akakii Akakievich, should be understood as an individual alphabetic character. She rereads Gogol's story as that of an isolated letter in search for content, context, and significance.



A copy of *Arabische Sprichwörter oder die Sitten und Gebräuche der neueren Aegyptier*, which Professor Mieder edited, and for which he also wrote the foreword, is presented to the Emir of Sharjah earlier this year.

At this year's meeting of the International Novalis Society, Professor **Dennis Mahoney** delivered the keynote address, and was also elected the society's President. (Photo: Jürgen Lukaschek)



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## Alumni News

**Katie Boynton** (Russian major, 2012) has been accepted into the Russian translation/interpreting program at the Monterrey Institute for International Studies. Katie graduated last year as recipient of the Outstanding Graduating Senior in Russian. She spent a semester of study at St. Petersburg University in the fall of 2011, where she worked at the World War II Memorial on a translation project of a book dealing with the Great Patriotic War.

**Dan Cawley** (Russian major, 2011) is working for the Peace Corps, teaching English in Kyrgyzstan/the Kyrgyz Republic.

**Kirsti Dahly** (Russian major, 2011) recently completed a year as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching English language and American culture at (Y)urda University.

**Julia Katsnelson** (Russian major, 2012) was accepted into the M.A./Ph.D. program in Russian Literature at Middlebury College, where she began her graduate program this past summer. She will continue the program in the summer of 2013 and then spend a year doing dissertation research in Moscow.

**Renee Lariviere** (Russian major, 2007) After internships at the American Embassy in Moscow as well as the Consulate in Kyrgyzstan, Renee has now been accepted into the U.S. Foreign Service.

**Sam Mishcon** (Russian major, 2011) has taken a two-year position in the U.S. Peace Corps in Tbilisi, Georgia.

**Chris Nyberg** (Russian major, 2009) Having received MBA and CPA degrees as well as an M.A. in Russian Translation and Interpreting, Chris is currently employed with one of the Big Four Accounting Firms, where he continues his interests with Russian business.

**Charley Ruegger** (Russian major, 2009) Following a stint as Program Coordinator for the Vermont/Karelia Rule of Law Project in Colchester and Petrozavodsk, and then attending law school in Yaroslavl, Charley is now working toward a career in Russian translation and interpreting while pursuing an MBA at the Monterrey Institute of International Studies.

**Douglas Smith** (German and Russian major, 1985) Doug's most recent publication (September, 2012) is *Former People: The Final Days of the Russian Aristocracy*, about the fates of Russia's privileged class following the demise of the Russian Empire. Previous books by Doug include *Working the Rough Stone: Freemasonry and Society*

*in Eighteenth-Century Russia; Love and Conquest: Personal Correspondence of Catherine the Great and Prince Grigory Potemkin; and The Pearl: A True Tale of Forbidden Love in Catherine the Great's Russia.* Doug will be giving a lecture on his latest book on our UVM campus in February, 2013.

**Brienne Toomey** (German major, 2012) Brienne's drawing of Friedrich Nietzsche was chosen by Olms Publishing House for the cover of "*Zu meiner Hölle will ich den Weg mit guten Sprüchen pflastern.*" *Friedrich Nietzsches sprichwörtliche Sprache*, co-authored by Wolfgang Mieder and **Andreas Nolte** (German M.A., 2003). Brienne graduated last year as recipient of the Outstanding Graduating Senior in German.

**Olga Trokhimenko** (German M.A., 1999) published the article "'Believing That Which Cannot Be': (De)Constructing Medieval clerical Masculinity in 'Des munches not'" in *The German Quarterly*, the main American journal for German literature. Olga Trokhimenko received her Ph.D. in German from Duke University and is Assistant Professor of German at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. The same volume of *The German Quarterly* contained the article "Serdar Somuncu: Reframing Integration through a Transnational Politics of Satire" by **Kathrin Bower** (German major, 1986), Professor of German and Chair of the Department for Foreign Languages at Richmond University.

**Sam Vary** (Russian major, 2011) Sam spent last year working in New York City and Moscow as a News Producer for NTV (Russian Television News). He also recently published an article on the current visa debate between Russia and America in *Russian Profile*.

**Lindsey Weger** (German minor, 2011) started an M.A. program in Chemistry at the University of Aachen.

**Gabriele Wurmitzer** (M.A. German, 2004) received her Ph.D. in German Language and Literatures from Duke University in May of 2012.



## Student News

**Jack Burns**, German major, and **Katherine Sacks**, German minor, received Fulbright Teaching Awards to Austria.

**Stephen Casadonte**, **John Mauran**, **Nathan Poulin** (Витя) and **Will Sinkula** (Вася) attended the Middlebury College Intensive Russian Language Program this past summer. Will is spending this fall on the CIEE Program at St. Petersburg University.

**Hannah Doughty** Having received the nationally-competitive CLS (Critical Language Scholarship), Hannah studied Russian over the summer in Ufa, the capital and largest city of the Bashkortostan Republic. She is currently on a study abroad program in Saint Petersburg, as is **Will Sinkula**.

**Kieran Ficken** Даша was accepted into the Lake Baikal/Lake Tahoe program to study environment-related issues associated with Lake Baikal this past summer.

**Rebeka Foley** has been selected by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs as the UVM Foreign Affairs Campus Coordinator. She is writing her senior honors thesis on the topic of Bolshevik ideology and earth 20th-century Constructivist art: "'Art into Life': The Role of Russian Constructivist Art Forms on Politics at the Rise of Bolshevism".

**Hannah Gibson**, **Ian Goodnow**, **Billy Harney**, **Andrew Lenz**, **John Mauran**, **Corey Pariseau**, and **David Plotkin** have been accepted to study abroad in the spring semester of 2013 at St. Petersburg University.

**Katrina Kiritharan** Katrina was accepted into the 2012 Siberian Summer Adventure hosted by Irkutsk State Linguistic University and the Great [Lake] Baikal Trail.

**Svetlana Mikheyeva** will defend her senior honors thesis early in December on the topic of: "From Russia with Failure: Ben & Jerry's Withdrawal from their Joint Venture in Petrozavodsk, Russia".

**Mark Russel**, graduate student in German, and **Ryan Peterson**, German minor, received Fulbright Teaching Awards to Germany. Of his experience, Mark writes "Unbelievable is the word that comes to mind when I think about my experience as an English Teaching Assistant in Augsburg, Germany. It's only been about two months now but I'm well on my way of making this year one of the most memorable years of my life. The experience in the

classroom has been amazing. Currently I'm working at a Gymnasium (college preparatory school), where I have the privilege of working with 11th and 12th graders and preparing them to take their Abitur in the spring. They have to complete a part of this test all in English, and it's basically like an Advanced Placement Test in the U.S. They need to pass it in order to attend university, and therefore a big topic for all of the teachers that I'm working with. The English lessons that I am giving are quite advanced, and I'm very impressed on how much the students already know about American culture. I'm working with about 13 English teachers and attending their classes every other week. Being an election year, I feel like I have become a politics teacher, but I find it quite interesting to hold in-depth conversations about American politics with Germans. Some of their knowledge about our government is better than that of some Americans I know. When I was in high school, I know I didn't know anything about the German government, so it's quite impressive for me to see how much they know. Outside of the classroom when I have the weekends and holidays free, I'm trying to travel as much as I can. Being in Augsburg, I feel like I have a nice central location to many great places. I've been all over Bavaria (even Oktoberfest), had the chance to visit in Germany so far Cologne, Munich, Weimar (Goethe's hometown), as well as even make a trip to Vienna. My next plans are to make it over to Prague or down to Switzerland. In concluding, I have to say I'm very grateful for such an amazing German Department at UVM, and how the professors inspired me and helped me get where I am today.

**Daniel Suder** will defend his senior honors thesis on the topic of "Views of Orthodoxy in the Literary Works of Nikolai Leskov".

**Allison Tompkins** will be writing a senior honors thesis on the topic of the 2014 Summer Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia: "Ethnic Conflict Considerations in the South Caucasus: A Comparative Security Analysis of Preparations for the Sochi Olympic Games of 2014".

**Veronica Whittmore** is spending the year studying Russian at Tartu University in Estonia.

**Geoff Wilson** will be writing a senior honors thesis: "A War of Words: An Examination of Ukraine's 'Law on the Principles of State Language Policy' Through the Lens of Linguo-Cultural Ideology".

## *Student Scholarship News*

Rebecca Murphy was the recipient of a \$750 **Mieder Scholarship**.

Galina Mesko received a \$750 **Richel Scholarship**.

Four students received \$500 **Study Abroad Scholarships**. On the German side were Adan Catovic and David Lenz, with Brittany Erickson and Stephen Kent representing the Russians.

Jack Burns, German major, and Katherine Sacks, German minor, received **Fulbright Teaching Awards** to Austria.

Mark Russel, graduate student in German, and Ryan Peterson, German minor, received **Fulbright Teaching Awards** to Germany.

Hannah Doughty, Russian major, received a **Critical Language Scholarship**.



## *Congratulations to our 2012 Graduates!!*

[www.uvm.edu/germanrussian](http://www.uvm.edu/germanrussian)



## UVM German and Russian *Global Village* Houses Host Fund-Raising Event to Help Orphanage in Kirov, Russia

Two of the “Houses” in the Living/Learning Center’s Global Village challenged one another to a friendly yet competitive “cook-off” in an effort to raise money for an orphanage in Kirov, Russia. Commonly referred to as the Epic Food Battle of 2012, the “food fight” took place in the Fireplace Lounge of the Living and Learning Center this past Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> (ironically, the anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution). The German House’s Stephanie Forristall (an exchange student from the University of Augsburg) and the Russian House’s Kristen Rouse organized a widely attended culinary evening along with fellow students from their respective residential learning Houses.

Nine members of the German House (Bruce Barger, Tracy Guion, Samuel Janidlo, Kara Pratt, Patrick Ryan, Charlie Dan Sheffy, Erin Skelly, Allie Sullivan, and Stephanie) as well as an equal number of Russian majors from the Russian House (Veronica Rock, Nicolas Chlebak, Dalina Ceku, Tatiana Rumsey, John Mauran, Corey Pariseau, Rubin Goldberg, Jake Pelland, and Kristen) organized themselves into small “kollektivs” for purposes of preparing a wide array of national dishes for the event.

With the help of faculty director, Professor Dennis Mahoney, German House students prepared Käsespätzle, 2 kinds of Apfelkuchen, Sauerbraten, Kartoffelpuffer, Schwarzwälder brownies, and apple twists. They also served apple sauce for the potato pancakes (Kartoffelpuffer) and some rather tasty non-alcoholic drinks.

Professor Kevin McKenna, faculty director of the Russian House, made his contribution to the evening’s “cook-off” by staying out of the kitchen; but under Kristen Rouse’s direction Russian House students prepared a delicious array of борщ/borscht, пельменные/pel’mennye (fried dumplings), блины/bliny, шарлотта с яблоками/ sharlotta s yablokami (apple cake), салат столичный/salad stolichnyi and, of course, Russian печения/pecheniya (cookies).

Katie Boynton, former UVM Russian House student director and, now, UVM grad (class of 2012), was the guiding force for this event in suggesting that the Russian and German Houses work together in raising much-needed funds for a cash-strapped orphanage in Kirov, Russia. Since graduation Katie has been working for a non-profit organization, Bright Connections, in the Philadelphia area, where she assists in fund-raising efforts for Russian orphanages to repair buildings, provide toys for the kids, and provide other basic services.

While the Germans once again went down in defeat to the Russians in this food-fight, a total of more than \$330.00 was raised in contributions to the Kirov Orphanage: a most worthy undertaking with no victims or casualties to report! Judging by the unusually healthy (and hungry) turnout of UVM students for the event (approximately 90-100 in number), the evening was a “большой успех” and no one awakened “wurst” for the experience the following morning. Delighted by the turnout and even more so by the money raised, Professor Mahoney (the founding faculty director of Global Village in 2006-08) was most of all impressed by the enthusiasm and cooperation displayed by the students in both houses: an example of Residential Learning at its best!

Submitted by Professor Kevin McKenna  
German and Russian Department







The University of Vermont

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN AND RUSSIAN

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## *Gift Fund Report (2011-2012)*

Thank you all for your generous donations to our German & Russian Materials Acquisition Fund! We received \$3,080 in total gifts this year (which combined with our gift fund reserves of \$6,245 for a total of \$9,325), and spent \$9,550. Here is a breakdown of our purchases:

\$ 4,000.	Awards and Scholarships
\$ 890.	Print & Mail
\$ 420.	Instructional Materials
\$ 315.	Periodical Subscriptions
\$ 3,165.	Speakers and Events
\$ 260.	Winter Reception
\$ 500.	End-of-year departmental awards party
<hr/>	
<b>\$ 9,550.</b>	<b>Total Spent in FY12</b>

Your donations mean so much to us in the Department of German and Russian. They make a tremendous 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 donation payable to the "*UVM German and Russian Materials Acquisition Fund*" and send it to: The University of Vermont, Grasse Mount, 411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05405.

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