A Message from our Director, Luis A. Vivanco

The AISP has experienced exciting changes over the past year, a few of which will continue to shape our direction in the next few years. Among these changes:

• The formal approval of our Global Studies Program. In fall 2008 I taught our first Introduction to Global Studies course, with sixty students. It was a highly successful course, and generated a lot of enthusiasm for the new major and minor. The positive buzz around this program continues to grow not just among students, but faculty and administration as well. Even though the major is not available until the next academic year, we already have at least a dozen current students taking requirements for the major.

• During the 2008-9 academic year, AIS received its first budget increase in many years. At a time of budget cuts, this increase indicates strong support for our work from the Dean’s office in the College of Arts and Sciences. We have provided most of this increase to our individual regional program directors, who have in turn used it to support more events and activities in their areas.

• Two programs that once operated semi-independently—Asian Studies and Canadian Studies—have been re-integrated into AIS because of budget cuts and administrative restructuring.

One of the most consequential changes, at least in symbolic terms, is our name change to Global & Regional Studies which takes effect over the summer. This change brings with it new possibilities—the integration of regional and global curricula, for example—but it also reinforces our program’s status as a dynamic and relevant environment for international studies.

I hope you will stay in touch with us during the next year!
EDITORIAL, LUIS A. VIVANCO

The Ongoing Challenge of Internationalizing UVM

In recent years, universities have sought to “internationalize their campuses” by integrating international and intercultural dimensions into the teaching, research, and service functions of the university. An internationalized campus is more than a set of disconnected programs. It has a shared purpose and cross-fertilization of different elements, including study abroad, language teaching, international students and scholars, service learning, the curriculum, campus life, and community involvement.

At UVM, the AIS has been at the forefront of such efforts for almost fifty years. Our member faculty and students have been conducting cutting-edge research, working in collaboration with foreign colleagues, deeply involved in study abroad, reaching out to our community, and, last but not least, delivering high quality regional studies curriculum to our undergraduates. We continue to be at the forefront with the addition of our Global Studies Program, which expands our focus into formally teaching on global interconnections. This history of success has been marked by a high degree of cross-university coordination, and recently, strong political and budgetary support from the Dean’s office of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Yet there are limits to what we can do from the bottom-up. Truly internationalizing a campus requires support, both conceptual and, more importantly, material, from the highest levels of the administration. While the current administration has inserted language around international engagement and global responsibility into UVM’s mission statement—a worthy first-step—these are merely rhetorical flourishes so far. Two recent situations illustrate the problem.

- During the past year, yet another committee was convened to analyze the problem of better coordinating UVM’s international education missions, a ritual that takes place every six to ten years with few tangible results. The committee included several AIS faculty—Kevin McKenna, David Massell, and myself. We made several strong recommendations, some of which have been undermined by recent budget cuts. But one of these, re-convening a campus-wide international advisory council of faculty, staff, and students that was disbanded a few years ago—a basically cost-free measure that could bring real coordination—has, like all our other recommendations, gone unfulfilled as this newsletter goes to print.

- The administration has eliminated, at least for the next academic year, the International Incentives Grant program—the only fund on campus substantial enough to support international collaborations and curriculum.

In the grand scheme, these are modest issues, but they do have an impact on those of us involved in international education. And their symbolism is powerful. Nevertheless, in the midst of this lack of high-level coordination and support for international education, we carry on as we always have, pursuing high quality international research, teaching, and service.

A Glance at Our History from 1997 to 2009

In most of our programs, there has been a steady rise in the number of students. Notable is that most of this growth began its steady pace even before the recent increases in the number of students in the College of Arts and Sciences.
Interview with 2009 Award Recipient Professor Kevin J. McKenna by Luis Vivanco

Professor McKenna is Professor of Russian in the Department of German and Russian, and served as Director of the Area and International Studies Program between 1989 and 2007. Professor McKenna received his B.A. from Oklahoma State University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Colorado. He joined the UVM faculty in 1984. In addition to being an internationally-recognized specialist of eighteenth century Russian literature, Russian proverbs, and Soviet-era newspapers and propaganda, Professor McKenna is a highly regarded teacher who has won the Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Teaching Excellence (1992).

In April, I sat down with Kevin to learn about his career, scholarship, and involvement in international studies at UVM. Here are some of the highlights from that conversation.

On his entry in the field of Russian language and literature:

In the 1960s, when I was in college, Russian and Soviet studies was very hot - Sputnik got all that going, and the National Defense

Education Act made it possible for people like me to go to college. I had a Russian literature and two Russian history professors who were enormously inspiring mentors with whom I have remained friends after all these years. As I would watch particularly good professors, they always seemed to really enjoy what they were doing in the classroom. I would think, this is not a bad career is it? I knew probably by the early part of my sophomore year that this was something I wanted to do. I was deliriously happy when I got a fellowship to graduate school.

On serving as a Foreign Service officer in the Soviet Union during the mid-1970s, while conducting his Ph.D. research:

My dissertation topic was Catherine the Great as a writer of literature. I had applied for an IREX grant and had the misfortune of being granted the fellowship but turned down by the Russians. Clearly it was not research that I was going to be able to do in the United States. I had to go into the archives in Leningrad. That was quite a curve. I was a little bit more devious than I am now. I did the next logical thing: I applied for the Foreign Service.

I applied to work on cultural exhibits in the Soviet Union. They came out of the Nixon Kitchen Debates from 1959. We showed aspects of typical American life. I worked on one called “Technology and the American Home.” I did it for a year and three quarters, and it was the second best job I had in my life. The exhibits were so impossibly popular that it would be 30 degrees below zero and people would start to get into line at 5:30 and 6 in the morning, and we didn’t open until 10 on weekdays. On the weekends they were lining up at midnight! I would spend all my vacation time from the exhibits in the archives in Leningrad. We would spend four or five months per city, then the exhibit finally got to Leningrad. Starting 7 to midnight I’d be in the archives, and then on my days off too. I was burning the candle at both ends because I also had an active social life.

On his career at UVM:

When I came to the University of Vermont, I managed several publications on Catherine the Great. In this department it’s not at all surprising, but I noticed that Catherine peppered her writings with an awful lot of Russian proverbs. So I undertook a study of her use of proverbs, which essentially got me interested in the larger question of proverbs in Russian literature. I have the number one authority on proverbs just down the hall from me [Wolfgang Meider]. He’s been an incredible resource and to a very large degree responsible for this line of research, which I still have not tired of. In fact, the book I’m working on right now is the role of the Russian proverb in Solzhenitzyn’s fiction.

Another research track I have pursued is something that began with my work in the Foreign Service, observations I made about propaganda. I had long noticed that the Soviet visitors always seemed to be posing the very same questions to me, about life in the United States, crime, education, blacks, American Indians, etc. It finally dawned on me, or I developed a thesis, that the lead editorial on the front page of Pravda had anti-Western, more specifically anti-American content, and that there was a direct correlation between these lead editorials and the political cartoon that accompanied them and the views and information that Soviet citizens held about the quality and status of everyday American life in the United States. And so I began what became an incredibly long period of research. I read every single issue of Pravda from 1917 to continued on page 4
1991, most of them twice. It became my book All the Views Fit to Print.

During my career at UVM, I’ve primarily taught language, literature, and culture and civilization courses. I taught a lot of Soviet press courses, survey courses on 19th and 20th century Russian literature, and courses on single authors or single works. I also developed an innovative course called “Comparative Russian and American Civilizations.” In those times [1980s], when there was so much of the Hertz-Avis complex between the United States and the Soviet Union, the audience for that class was considerably larger than it would be today. In the 1990s, I developed a course on business Russian and a team-taught course in the business school on the culture of doing business in Russia today.

On the ups and downs of directing the Area and International Studies Program:

Easily the richest aspect of the job would be the people I’ve worked with. People like Peter Seybolt, Bill Daniels, Bill Metcalfe, Ted Miles. Working closely for ten years with Nancy Poulin. And then I could not have been more fortunate to have closed my years as A&ISP Director with Mary Lou Shea.

Other high points include watching various area groups grow. Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, European Studies, the African studies minor, all took off in the mid-to-late ‘90s. It was enjoyable to be working with a director who was a go-getter, who really in just a few years could transform a program. One of our bigger moments was the change surrounding our name as the Center for Area Studies. The ethos of the times was indicating more international. We spent a year to a year and a half to get it renamed Area and International Studies.

Occasionally a high point, but occasionally a low point, was to coalesce with international groups in other UVM colleges and schools, such as Business, Agriculture, and Education. As a continuation of working effectively with these programs, the International Advisory Council was formed. The IAC was an attempt—largely successful for a while—to better coordinate disparate international activities on campus. The peak of our success in the IAC was when we developed proposals for the capital fund campaign to support international education on campus. I was the chair of IAC and director of AIS at the same time, so I could bring a lot of common synergy. I would say that would also count for the lowest of the lows. An unnamed functionary who sat in an administrative office basically closed down the IAC, closed it down the very year we were up for donors contributing money to the capital campaign. It’s been frustrating to watch how little international education has progressed from that point. Sadly. But by no means would I want to end my comments on that low note, because the overall experience of working with so many fine colleagues dedicated to international research and education has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had over the years at UVM.

The Robert V. Daniels Award Ceremony to honor Professor McKenna will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman 338.
Professor Wolfgang Mieder Honored with Surprise Festschrift
By Kevin J. McKenna

Nearly a year-long surprise for Professor Wolfgang Mieder, (Chairperson of the Dept. of German and Russian 1977-2008; European Studies) came to fruition last month, when he was presented with a festschrift volume of essays by UVM President Daniel Fogel. The volume is titled, The Proverbial ‘Pied Piper’: A Festschrift Volume of Essays on the Occasion of Wolfgang Mieder’s Sixty-Fifth Birthday (Peter Lang Publishers, 2009, 307 pp). Edited by Professor Kevin McKenna (German and Russian; Russian/East European Studies), the volume is the result of a year-long project to honor Professor Mieder for his many contributions to proverb studies. The volume includes twenty-four contributors ranging from Russia and Israel to Spain, England, Hungary, Austria, Germany, France, and the Czech Republic. In addition, six UVM scholars contributed articles: Professors Robert J. Gordon (Anthropology); Antonella and Adrian Borra (Romance Languages); Dennis F. Mahoney and Helga Schreckenberger (German and Russian); and a Preface as well as an article on Prince Aleksandr Nevsky by Professor McKenna. The Tabula Gratulatoria section of the festschrift contains more than 200 names of colleagues and friends from UVM and countries around the world.

A surprise reception for Professor Mieder was co-sponsored by the UVM President’s Office and the College of Arts and Sciences. The event was scheduled to fall on the actual sixty-fifth birthday of Professor Mieder, February 17, 2009. Considerable planning and coordination with the UVM president’s and provost’s calendars was facilitated by Leslie Logan and Jan Gregoire in the President’s Wing. In addition, the cooperation of Professor Luis Vivanco and Mary Lou Shea of the Area & International Studies Program contributed to the surprise event by scheduling a faux lecture by Professor McKenna, who was to be intro-
duced by Professor Mieder. As the latter began his introduction, Professor McKenna approached the podium and informed Mieder of the actual event to take place that afternoon. At that point President Fogel, Provost Hughes, and A&S Dean Ellie Miller entered Memorial Lounge, where the UVM President made the official presentation of the festschrift volume. Each of them then delivered brief benedictions on the event, praising Mieder for his many contributions to scholarship on folklore and paremiology (proverb studies), as well as his teaching and service records at the University. Professor Helga Schreckenberger (Acting Chairperson of the Department of German and Russian) followed with additional remarks about Mieder’s tenure as Departmental Chairperson over a thirty-one year career. McKenna closed the formal remarks with a summary of Mieder’s contributions to folklore and proverb studies.

The author of more than one-hundred-twenty-five books and 400 scholarly articles, Mieder first came to UVM in 1971. By 1977, he had been promoted to full professor as well as began a career as Chair of the German and Russian Department, from which he stepped down in 2008. In 1980, he was named the first University Research Scholar and in 1987 he received the George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award. In 1990, Professor Mieder was named Vermont Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. He went on to receive the Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1995. Among his many impressive international awards, Mieder became a Member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters (1996), and received the coveted Giuseppe Pietre International Folklore Prize (1997). He has been a Guest Professor of German and Folklore at the University of California, Berkeley (1980) as well as a Guest Professor at the University of Freiburg, West Germany (1987). This year he celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his editorship of Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship, which is published here at the University of Vermont.

Mieder’s scholarship ranges from fairy tales, legends, folk songs, and nursery rhymes to philological and literary studies. It is in the area of international paremiology, however, that his true expertise lies. His various and many publications cover the use and function of proverbs in literature, the mass media, art, politics, advertising, etc. In addition to his many publications in German, some of Mieder’s English-language books include: The Wisdom of Many: Essays on the Proverb (1981, with Alan Dundes; Disenchantment: An Anthology of Modern Fairy Tales (1985); Encyclopedia of World Proverbs (1986); A Dictionary of American Proverbs (1996, with Steward Kingsbury and Kelsie Harder). In the past ten years, Mieder’s research has taken him into national and international politics with his publications on: The Proverbial Winston S. Churchill: An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Winston S. Churchill (1995, with long-time UVM friend and colleague George B. Bryan); The Proverbial Harry S. Truman; An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Harry S. Truman (1997, with George B. Bryan); The Politics of Proverbs: From Traditional Wisdom to Proverbial Stereotypes (1997); The Proverbial Abraham Lincoln: An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Abraham Lincoln (2000); and “No Struggle, No Progress”: Frederick Douglass and His Proverbial Rhetoric for Civil Rights (2001). True to form, Mieder is currently working on a book-length study of Barack Obama’s use of proverbs in his political rhetoric.

The afternoon reception for Wolfgang Mieder, perhaps, is best summed up by Professor David Scrase’s limerick that appears in the festschrift volume of essays:

There once was a fellow named Mieder,  
Who was a voracious reader.  
The proverbs he sought  
Were subjected to thought  
By this meticulous scholarly leader.
AISP NEWS

The Ottawa Field Trip: A Canadian Studies Program Tradition
By Tom McGrath

The sun is just beginning to rise at 6:35am on a cool, late-October morning. The UVM campus does not get much quieter than it is at this hour, and the only discernable sound is that of the two Lamoille Valley Tours coach buses parked on College Street alongside the Waterman building. Despite the fact that for many undergraduates this is an ungodly early time of day, they begin to trickle in from various points on and off campus. Contrary to the ultra-casual style of dress that seems to reign these days, the students look sharp in their jackets, ties, skirts, and blouses. They are about to embark on an unforgettable three-day journey to Ottawa, Canada’s capital city, and in a few short hours they will be meeting with Canadian Members of Parliament.

While the University of Vermont Canadian Studies Program dates back to 1964 and is one of the oldest such programs in the US, the annual Ottawa Field Trip has been going on even longer. Traditionally, the Program has chartered a bus to bring about fifty students up North in order to visit Parliament, meet with government officials, tour museums, and even take in another side to Canadian culture by attending a hockey game. With the recent increased enrollment of students in Canadian Studies Program courses, Program Director Dr. Paul Martin decided in 2007 that there was enough student interest to take two buses. That year, eighty students registered for the trip. This past fall, one-hundred-four students signed up, filling both buses. In recent years, the trip has followed a similar itinerary. If all goes smoothly and quickly at the border, the buses arrive in Ottawa in time to grab a quick lunch in downtown Ottawa. From there, the group walks up Rideau Street, past the ornate Chateau Laurier, over the Rideau Canal, and up Wellington Street, where the East Block of Parliament soon comes into view. At Parliament, students receive a guided tour, view the Memorial Chamber which commemorates Canada’s war dead, and ascend to the observation deck of the Peace Tower, taking in a panoramic view of Ottawa and the surrounding landscape, including Gatineau, Québec, which lies just across the Ottawa River.

Ottawa War Memorial

Upon descending from the Peace Tower, it is time to head to the House of Commons Chamber to watch Members of Parliament (MPs) debate in what is called Question Period. Here, the opposition parties launch questions at the governing party, a process that can result in at best, a shouting match, and at worst, sophomoric name-calling. Students are amazed to see the Prime Minister being held accountable for his policies, at times squirming in an attempt to avoid answering a particularly jarring question. Immediately following Question Period, the group assembles in a private meeting room for an hour-long question/answer session with MPs. The Canadian Studies Program tries to get an MP from each of the four major political parties so that students receive a broad range of opinions on current issues. The MPs seem to enjoy the session as much as the students, as they share their positions on everything from Canada-US relations, federal marijuan a laws, Canada’s place in world affairs, and issues that had just come up during Question Period. UVM Senior Laura Pedro, who went on the trip twice, commented on the intimacy of the meeting by saying that, “It is a great trip for American students because they get to visit our neighbor’s capital city and experience the inner-workings of the Canadian government in a first-hand context that would never be possible in Washington.”

After leaving Parliament, the group walks a few blocks to check in at the stately Lord Elgin Hotel, where they soon realize how tired they are. It has been a long day. There is enough time to find a restaurant on Elgin Street, or, for the more adventurous, in the Byward Market, Ottawa’s oldest marketplace.

The next morning, the students, looking a little groggy, assemble in the hotel lobby before walking over to the National Gallery of Canada. Many of them comment that they have witnessed the front-page political stories of the morning newspaper. On the way to the gallery, UVM history professor David Massell stops at the National War Memorial in Confederation Square to explain the importance of Canada’s sacrifices in both World Wars and the Korean War. After crossing the Rideau Canal, the group stops near the statue of Colonel John By in Major’s Hill Park, and Massell talks to them

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about the importance of geography in Canadian history while the students take in a stunning view of the Ottawa River, the Ottawa Canal, and the Library of Parliament. At the National Gallery, the group receives a guided tour of the museum’s collection of Canadian art, and then has time to explore the rest of the galleries on their own.

After taking lunch at the gallery and a trip through the gift shop, the group meets the bus to head across the Ottawa River to the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Québec. Here, they are treated to a tour of the Grand Hall, a series of west-coast First Nations dwellings and art, featuring the largest collection of totem poles in the world, followed by a tour of Canada Hall, where students literally walk through the history of Canada and meet actors who are trapped in time.

Following the museum visits is a reception with a keynote Canadian speaker. Most recently, students have had the pleasure to hear and meet Canadian author and unofficial poet laureate of hockey Richard Harrison, and renowned Canadian journalist and author Roy MacGregor. From there, it is on to the Ottawa Civic Centre to watch the Ottawa 67’s face off against another opponent from the Ontario Hockey League.

After two full days of activities, the students are both mentally and physically drained. They have the next morning to explore Ottawa on their own. Many head down to the Byward Market to browse the local arts, crafts, and produce at the farmer’s market, or head down Elgin Street in search of breakfast in one of its many diners. Others may walk a couple of blocks to go souvenir shopping on Sparks Street, a marketplace similar to Burlington’s Church Street. By one o’clock in the afternoon, everyone has checked out of their rooms, the buses are loaded, and it is time to head back to Burlington.

On the Ottawa Field Trip, students learn a great deal more than they ever could in a classroom. They have the opportunity to meet scores of Canadians, including government officials. They get to hear people engaged in conversation switch back and forth from English to French without hesitation. They digest a full array of Canadian art, history, and culture. They experience the feeling of attending a hockey game in the nation’s capital. Many students who have gone on the trip look back on it as one of the highlights of their undergraduate years, a weekend that they will always remember.

For the latest information on Area & International Studies and Global Studies at UVM, please visit our website at www.uvm.edu/~global

The Area & International Studies Program Implements Local Chapter of the Sigma Iota Rho National Honor Society for International Studies

UVM has recently instituted a local chapter of the Sigma Iota Rho National Honor Society for International Studies, recognizing scholarship and excellence for students in the areas of international studies, international affairs and global studies. AISP is proud to boast that well over 30 students in our area studies programs are eligible to become members of the organization this spring 2009. The organization has recently been announced to students, and we anticipate a strong response by graduation in May.

As Sigma Iota Rho states on its website, part of the mission of the honor society is to “foster integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs.” Sigma Iota Rho believes that in order to be competitive in today’s world, young people must integrate technical skills, analytical skills and be accomplished in a foreign language, all “anchored by a strong program of study that has both breadth and depth.” Sigma Iota Rho is eager to honor students showing dedication and excellence in the field of International Studies at UVM, a prospering field that will be vital in the years to come.
Student Highlights:
Chris Nyberg, a senior graduating in this spring 2009 and a current Russian House student, has recently been awarded a most impressive scholarship to attend graduate school at the highly-acclaimed Monterey Institute of International Studies (Professional graduate degrees in International Policy Studies, Translation and Interpretation, Language Teaching, and International Business-MBA). Chris plans to work on an MBA in International Business.

Renee Lariviere, Class of 2008, travels to Moscow to work in the U.S. Foreign Service
Renee Lariviere, a 2008 graduate from UVM who was a double major in Russian and Political Science, is currently working in the U.S. Foreign Service in Moscow after spending six months working in Kazakhstan. She wrote to Prof. Kevin McKenna to share her experiences thus far, and to let students know what types of opportunities exist for those pursuing a Russian major.

Renee Lariviere:
I’ve been in Moscow for about three weeks now, and I would definitely love to share my thoughts on the Foreign Service, and life in Moscow with any students who would be interested. This is a bit of a mish-mash of my thoughts and experiences here so far. I have about ten weeks left in country. Moscow has been interesting so far. This has been the longest time I have been in the city; I’ve only spent time in St. Petersburg before. I have to admit that I far prefer St. Petersburg, but there is so much going on in Moscow that it is an absolutely fascinating place to be!

I’m interning for the internal political section, where I am supporting the Human Rights officer and the Refugee Coordinator - both positions are giving me work related to the North Caucasus, which is where my main interests are. I didn’t quite know what to expect coming in, because as an intern in the Admin Section in Kazakhstan, I had a lot of free time, and very little truly substantive work. Here, I have already written several cables and briefing memos, as well as being sent out to various press briefings to report back on. I also had the opportunity to go to a press conference by the “Solidarity” party, where it was going to release the party’s economic policy.

Embassy Moscow is pretty unique in kind of throwing their folks into the thick of things immediately. The press conferences I have been sent to are in Russian, and my supervisor told me they really expect folks to learn on the fly, so that has been an experience! In other embassies, local employees will often go along to translate... not the case here.

I’ve also noticed the differences with the levels of security and access to information. The history of the embassy has shown that the Russians are interested in what is going on here, so I don’t have access to the same level of information that I did while I was working as an admin assistant in the Truman building, or even as an intern in Astana. But that information is not really a necessity - I have been very busy without it! The most interesting thing I have done here thus far has been to attend a roundtable with the International Rescue Group’s Russia director, who is based out of Groznyy. Hearing his perspective on the situation in the Caucasus (both humanitarian and political) was really fascinating - as was being able to have lunch with a group of people who are active and interested in the region! I have also met with the regional directors of the International Red Cross/Crescent to discuss humanitarian needs in South Ossetia. It has been really fascinating to learn about the different groups operating over here, and how they are able to maneuver in this atmosphere, which is not always the friendliest to NGOs.

The embassy really does offer a lot of substantive work to interns, and a taste of what life in the Foreign Service is like. If any of your students are interested in the Foreign Service, I would really encourage them to apply for an internship - it’s a great way to learn more about what the various sections actually do before they have to pigeon-hole themselves into a particular cone when registering to take the test. I think the fall internship deadline is March 1, and I believe the competition during the school year is a little bit less than the summer positions. I have only good things to say about my time with State... I guess I’m turning the Student Programs into a bit of a career! I started last summer interning in Astana, gained employment through their Stay-in-School program with the Africa Bureau, am now in Moscow, and I will be with Intelligence back in the states this summer.

The fall is the last session I will be eligible for a program (you must have at least one semester left at school in order to intern). If any students are interested, the best site to check out is careers.state.gov, and select the student section.

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Spottedlight on Students

Megan Luttrell Receives Kidder Scholarship:
When I received the phone call telling me I was awarded the Kidder Scholarship I was overcome by a string of emotions. At first I felt sheer bubblly excitement, then extreme gratitude, finally I felt relief. Attending a university, especially as an out of state student, makes finances tight. Having received the Kidder award, I felt a great part of the financial burden had been lifted.

In the current economic situation, this scholarship allows me to continue my education, in a time where other students may not be so lucky. As a Russian major I have always planned on studying overseas. Although the cost of the ticket to St Petersburg alone seems daunting, the various scholarships that UVM has awarded me will allow me to take part in this incredible experience. After completing my studies at UVM I hope to continue on into graduate school and work my way toward a doctorate in Russian language and literature. I hope to work as a translator afterwards.

I realize that the financial aspect of a scholarship is extremely important. However, it is not the only aspect that creates an impact. The Kidder award not only provides incentive for academic excellence, it also prizes dedication to community service. I feel that this scholarship promotes two extremely important ideas: education and giving back. I feel so honored for receiving this award, and incredibly thankful for the financial aid it provides.

Student & International Studies
Students to be Honored at the 2009 College of Arts & Sciences Honors Ceremony
Alexander Elefterakis, a Russia/East European Studies major and Economics minor, will receive the Dellin Memorial Prize for his outstanding accomplishments in the area of Russia/East European studies. Alexander will graduate this spring 2009.

Douglas Farnham, an Asian Studies major, will receive the Asian Studies Program Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior. Not only did Douglas achieve the highest GPA in Asian Studies, but numerous faculty members reported that he was one of the most distinguished ASP students they have had the opportunity to teach.
**News from African Studies:**

This year the University of Vermont has been chosen to host the 35th Annual African Literature Association Conference April 15th through April 19th. This important association is dedicated to the study of the work of African writers and artists. This year the general conference theme focuses on the ways in which writers and artists have imagined Africa and blackness. The conference will attract scholars and artists from across the globe. The keynote speaker is the Nobel prize-winning Wole Soyinka, author of *Death and the King’s Horsemen* as well as many other plays, poems, novels and memoirs. Other noted speakers include Kwame Anthony Appiah and Valentin Mudimbe. The conference program can be accessed at: [http://www.uvm.edu/conferences/ALA2009](http://www.uvm.edu/conferences/ALA2009).

**The Asian Studies Program Welcomes Renowned Speakers to Campus for Spring Lectures**

Amchi (Dr.) Tenzin Bista visited the UVM campus and presented a lecture on *Traditional Medicine, Social Change, and Global Health: A View from Mustang, Nepal* on March 4, 2009. Amchi (Dr.) Tenzin Bista is a senior monk in the Sakya Tibetan Buddhist tradition and an amchi (practitioner of Tibetan medicine) from Mustang, Nepal. Tenzin has been involved in regional, national, and international efforts to preserve, document, and revitalize amchi practice and medicinal plant use. Along with his brother Gyatso, Tenzin Bista works to preserve and develop the amchi tradition in Nepal, and to provide Tibetan medical care to remote, high-mountain communities. Dr. Sienna Craig, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Dartmouth College and Dr. Ken Bauer, Assistant Professor in CDAE at the University of Vermont, hosted Amchi Tenzin during his time in the United States, and Dr. Craig translated the lecture from Tibetan into English. The lecture drew a large crowd from the UVM community, eager to learn more about Tibetan culture and the history of this traditional form of medicine. Later in the afternoon Tenzin met with an advanced Anthropology seminar of UVM undergraduates in studying the life-cycle and the body in cross-cultural context to discuss Tibetan notions of conception, birth, maturation, death, and rebirth.

On March 31, 2009, the Claire M. Lintilhac Seminar on Asian Studies presented “China’s Environmental Challenge” by Elizabeth C. Economy. Recommended by UVM’s Dr. Saleem Ali of the Rubinstein School, Dr. Economy is C. V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director for Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, and award-winning author of *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenges to China’s Future*. In June 2005, *The River Runs Black* was named best social sciences book published on Asia in 2003 or 2004 by the International Convention on Asia Scholars, and named one of the top 10 books of 2004 by the *Globalist*. Dr. Economy was profiled in the *National Journal*’s special report on people whose ideas will help shape important policy issues after the 2004 presidential elections (May 2004). She also received an honorary degree from Vermont Law School in May 2008. Dr. Economy’s lecture provided daunting figures on the scope of air, water, and soil pollution in China today and fascinating insights into the local officials, social activists, and ordinary Chinese citizens who are striving to make improvements in China’s environmental situation. A large crowd attended the lecture, and numerous students lingered after the talk to ask Dr. Economy additional questions. Faculty had the opportunity for further discussion of research on contemporary China with Dr. Economy at a small luncheon held in her honor, which was attended by retired Asian Studies Program Director Peter Seybolt and this year’s Program Directors, among others.

**The Momentum Continues for the Canadian Studies Program**

The 2008/09 academic year was another busy one for Canadian Studies. We offered a terrific slate of courses again this year, from our mainstays such as the Canadian History Survey (106 students this year) to new courses on Canadian women writers and the immigrant experience in Canada and the United States. Enrollments continue to be strong in courses on Canada, as well. In 2008-09 we had 512 students in 18 different courses with partial or full Canadian content. While our number of majors and minors remains small (improving this figure will be one of our main objectives over the next several years), the popularity of our courses ensure that many UVM grads will have taken at least one course on Canada by the time they graduate.

One of the things that should also help to remind students of the possibility of pursuing a Canadian Studies major or minor is some of the great achievements of our students this year. This spring two of our best students in recent memory will be graduating, after having done some exceptional work in their fields.

This spring, Tom McGrath, one of the most recognizable faces and tireless advocates for our program since he was an undergraduate here at UVM taking courses in Canadian Studies, will defend his Master’s thesis in History. Entitled “Still in All the Good Traditions: The... continued on page 10
University. Laura will be presenting a paper there on her research and will have a chance to network with Canadian Studies undergraduate and graduate students from both countries.

These and other student opportunities that we are able to provide are a direct result of the generous external funding we receive each year from the Canadian Embassy’s “Program Enhancement Grant” competition, which in 2008-09 brought approximately $10,000 in direct support of our visiting speakers, student and faculty travel, research support, and purchases of teaching and research materials for our faculty. This year, Dr. Pablo Bose, an Assistant Professor from the Department of Geography, received an additional $10,000 in conference support for an upcoming conference we will be running in the fall of 2009 on the topic of the Canada/US border. The other exciting conference news for us is that the American Council of Quebec Studies has announced that it will hold its next Biennial Conference at the University of Vermont. This will bring close to 300 scholars on Quebec from around the world to our university from November 4-8, 2010. Professor David Massell, the Vice-President of ACQS, helped to bring this conference here and we will be working to make this a great event for the entire UVM community.

Speaking of the Canadian Studies community at UVM, Canada House in the Global Village Residential Learning Community has become the site of some great Canada-themed activities. This year, the Global Village held a very successful Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner celebration for fifty guests and we anticipate this will carry on for years to come. We also ran the first ever “Learn to Curl” workshop next year. This workshop has been so popular that we expect to be running multiple sessions of this workshop next year.

As our program’s Outreach Coordinator from 2001-2006, Tom traveled throughout the US and Canada promoting our Canadian Studies program and, more importantly, helping to create and make available Canadian Studies materials for K-12 teachers wanting to bring Canada into their classrooms. Tom remains the Coordinator for our legendary Canadian Studies Ottawa trip, which has been running annually at UVM since the 1950s.

Our other star student of the last several years is Laura Pedro. A double major in Canadian Studies and History, Laura will graduate in Spring 2009. Her Honors Thesis, entitled “Tragedy into Art: The Canadian Aboriginal Residential School Experience ExpRESSED Through Fiction,” draws on work she has done in courses taught by David Massell and Paul Martin as well as her own independent research. Thanks to funding from the Honors College and the Canadian Studies’ Program Enhancement Grant from the Canadian Embassy, Laura was able to travel to Ottawa to do some research at the National Library of Canada. In recognition of her superb work on her Honors Thesis and as a Canadian Studies major, the Canadian Studies Program also provided her with full funding to attend the annual “Crossing Borders” student conference sponsored by The University at Buffalo and Brock University. Laura will be presenting a paper there on her research and will have a chance to network with Canadian Studies undergraduate and graduate students from both countries.

Other notable events this year included another highly successful Ottawa field trip, and several Montreal field trips for the students in Dr. Michèle Laliberté’s French courses, Dr. Pierre Deslaurier’s course on the Geography of Montreal, and Professor Massell’s upper-level Canadian History course. As usual, we also had some incredible speakers come to campus, including Dr. Derek Mueller who gave a talk entitled “Disappearing ice in a warming climate: cryospheric features of northern Ellesmere Island, Canada.”

Students learn the Canadian sport of curling
A public announcement of the Area and International/GLOBAL studies program to grow at UVM. In September, in conjunction with the Burlington Book Festival, we welcomed award-winning Canadian writer Dr. Alistair MacLeod to campus. One of the world’s masters of the short story genre, Dr. MacLeod won the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award for his 1999 novel No Great Mischief. After spending a Friday afternoon meeting with students in Paul Martin’s Canadian literature courses, Dr. MacLeod wowed a packed house at the Book Festival with his reading, prompting a huge hour-long lineup of readers wanting their book signed. Our affiliation with the Burlington Book Festival will continue this coming fall when we welcome to campus novelist Joseph Boyden, author of Three Day Road and the Giller Prize-winning Through Black Spruce.

ALISTAIR MACLEOD

In our update last year, I mentioned how, unlike many Canadian Studies programs around the world, the last five years have been marked by a renewal of our faculty. While other programs have found themselves without replacement positions for retiring, UVM has over the last five years, thanks in great part to the tireless and tenacious lobbying done by our past and present Canadian Studies faculty, hired new Canadianists in Geography, English, History, and Economics. We’re happy to announce here that Dr. Ching Selao has accepted a position in the Romance Languages Department where she will teach courses on Quebec literature and culture starting in Fall 2009. These new additions to our faculty are the first and most crucial step in ensuring that Canadian Studies continues to grow at UVM. Although this has been a year of great gains by our program we are also saddened by a tremendous loss to our program. The fall of 2009 will mark Professor André Senécal’s last semester of teaching here at UVM as he retires after teaching at UVM since 1978. The recipient of the 2008 Robert V. Daniels Award, Professor Senécal directed the Canadian Studies Program from 1997-2006 and was one of the co-founders of Project CONNECT, a program that helps to identify and develop the future Canadianists who will be vital to the continued growth of our discipline. An expert in Quebec literature and in the history of Quebec and New France, Professor Senécal will be retiring to Idaho, where he will continue his writing and research, including his work on the early history of Samuel de Champlain. His presence on campus, in the classroom, and in our local community will be missed by all those who have worked with him. We wish him the very best in his retirement, knowing full well that he will continue to be as busy and as curious as ever.

News from the Latin American Studies Program:

This year the Latin American Studies program has been sponsoring a project named “Invisible Odysseys”. Susannah McCandless, lecturer in the geography department, has spearheaded this initiative to shed light on the precarious lives of undocumented Mexican farmworkers in Vermont. Along with artist B. Amore, McCandless is working with farmworkers to document their journeys to Vermont and share their experiences with the UVM community. An exhibition of their artwork is planned for next fall.

Latin American Studies faculty Yolanda Flores and Tina Escaja organized the 15th Annual Hispanic Forum, “Bodies in Motion: Gender in Hispanic Media.” Next year’s Hispanic Forum will be dedicated to exploring the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

The Latin American Studies program is also a co-sponsor of an exhibition at the Fleming Art Museum “More than Bilingual: William Cordova and Major Jackson”. For more information, please visit their website at http://www.uvm.edu/~fleming/index.php?category=exhibitions&page=cordova.

News from the Russian and East European Studies Program:

A number of students from the Russia/East European Area Studies and Russian Language Programs have studied or still are studying in Russia. These include, Alexander Eleftherakis and Elizabeth Petow who have returned from St. Petersburg after a fall term in that city and Brendan Hamilton, who is in St. Petersburg this term. Charles Ruegger and Tanya Sherman are spending the year at the Yaroslavl State University and returned to the US for a two week inter-semester sojourn with parents and friends.

On November 17, 2008, Douglas Smith, a graduate of our Department of German and Russian, came back to campus to give a lecture to a packed house. Douglas Smith is a Scholar in Residence at the University of Washington, Seattle. The lecture – “The Pearl: A True Story of Opera and Forbidden Love from Catherine the Great’s Russia” was based on Smith’s recent book: The Pearl: A True Tale of Forbidden Love in Catherine the Great’s Russia. Smith is a prize-winning historian/author.
News From Middle East Studies:
For the first time in history, the University of Vermont is offering a sustained program of instruction in the Arabic language. Beginning with the spring semester 2009, Prof. Darius Jonathan will be offering classes in Arabic as a lecturer in the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures. Prof. Jonathan was born in southern Sudan, received his BA in Social Anthropology and Arabic at the University of Khartoum and his MA in Linguistics at the University of Hawaii. He began his academic career teaching Arabic as a second language at his alma mater in Khartoum and has since taught the language at numerous academic institutions and government facilities. He comes to UVM from the State University of New York at Albany. This semester he is offering two sections of Elementary Arabic, which filled up within days during registration, as well as courses in the Anthropology Department.
In the past, UVM has occasionally offered an Arabic language course through Continuing Education. This is the first time that the University has committed to a sustained program in Arabic through the hiring of a regular faculty member and instructor in the language. This is a great boon to the Middle East Studies program and a fabulous opportunity for UVM students.

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For more information on the Global and Regional Studies Program, please call 802-656-1096 or email the Global and Regional Studies Program Director, Dr. Luis Vivanco, at luis.vivanco@uvm.edu.

For the latest information on Area & International Studies and Global Studies, please visit our website at www.uvm.edu/~global