Dear Friends of the Department of German and Russian,

“Tempus fugit” may be an overused phrase but it is nonetheless true. We are in the finals week of the 2016 fall semester and the Holidays are quickly approaching. Thus, I will start this year’s newsletter by wishing you a joyful, peaceful and relaxing Holiday Season and a wonderful and happy New Year!

This is also the perfect time for looking back and taking stock of our accomplishments and challenges. Overall, we can be very happy with the state of affairs. All members of the Department are happily engaged in teaching and research; we continue to attract wonderful students; and thanks to your support we have been able to organize some exciting cultural events for our students and the greater UVM community.

One highlight was without doubt Stefan Koch’s Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture, “From Vienna to Vermont: The Life and Music of Richard Stöhr (1874-1967)” on March 15, 2016. Born into a prominent Jewish family in Vienna, Stöhr received not only an M.D. degree from the University of Vienna, but also a doctorate from the Vienna Academy of Music, where he taught from 1901 to 1938, with students including Herbert von Karajan, Rudolf Serkin, and Erich Leinsdorf. During this time he was the author of several widely used textbooks on music theory, all the while composing in every major classical genre and having dozens of performances of his works each year. After being forced by the Nazis to resign from the Academy and to emigrate, he was able to obtain teaching positions at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, where Leonard Bernstein was one of his pupils, and then St. Michael’s College, which now houses his musical archives. Stefan Koch not only introduced us to Richard Stöhr’s tumultuous life and career but together with his musical partner, pianist Robert Conway, also performed two pieces for cello and piano. It was a moving performance, the more so as the composer’s daughter, Hedi Ballantyne, a 1950 graduate of the University of Vermont, was also in the audience.

The fall semester brought another opportunity to experience a live performance of Viennese music. The Austrian performers Andreas Ertl and Katharina Winand, accompanied by pianist Tom Cleary of the UVM Music Department, treated their audience to songs from Johann Strauss, Franz Lehár, Emmerich Kálmán, and Robert Stolz. The program also included some Broadway melodies from The Sound of Music (Oscar Hammerstein) and songs by Kurt Weill.

We continue to offer quite a variety of courses in addition to our beginning and intermediate language courses. During her sabbatical leave, Adriana Borra developed two new courses. “My Best Friend, the Dictionary” shows students how the dictionary can assist them in widening their vocabulary, improving stylistics and in understanding the nuances of the German language. “Staging German” is designed to strengthen students’ speaking ability through pronunciation exercises and performances of different genres (skits, songs, speeches, and poems). Professor Mahoney taught a first-year seminar on “Nature in German Literature” and Professor Scollins offered “Necropolis: St. Petersburg and the Cultural Legacy of a City Built on Bones,” also as a first-year seminar. Furthermore, Katie Kenny and Theresa Hoeffeck adjusted their intermediate-level German courses so that they fulfill UVM’s new sustainability requirement. Gidon Bavly has been tapped to contribute to the new Jewish Studies minor and will be teaching a course on “Contemporary Israel.”

All members of the Department are successfully pursuing their research interests. You can read a list of their newest publications inside. This fall was especially busy with regard to international conference travel. Both Dennis Mahoney and Helga Schreckenberger participated in conferences in Germany. Dennis Mahoney presided at the International Naovis Conference at Schloss Oberwiederstedt and also delivered a lecture on “Naovis und die Jesuiten”; Helga Schreckenberger took part in a working conference on exile and migration. Wolfgang Mieder traveled to the 9th Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs at Tavira, Portugal where he met up with Elena Carter who is continuing doing research on proverbs and also presented at the conference.

Speaking of Wolfgang Mieder he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Bucharest – his second honorary doctorate within one year! This event is commemorated in “Doctor Honoris Causa” – Wolfgang Mieder (București: Tipografia Universității din București), which contains Daniela Ionescu’s Laudatio and Professor Mieder’s speech at the award ceremony.

There is more good news about faculty, students and alumni in the following pages. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about all these wonderful accomplishments and that you will also share your news with us. If you are in the area, please stop by. I realize that many of you recently received a letter from Steve Monroe, one of our alumni, seeking donations to the department. Thank you to all who donated! For any who have not yet had the chance to donate, let me assure you that your contributions to our gift fund are much appreciated. The benefits for our students and the department are invaluable and we cannot thank you enough for your support.

Sincerely,

Helga Schreckenberger

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Gidon Bavly has started his 20th year teaching Hebrew at the University of Vermont, and also continues with his sailing business on Lake Champlain in the summers. This year he enjoyed interacting with Ben Cohen as they met and exchanged ideas about how to support Bernie Sanders in his bid for the presidency. Ben and Jerry were arrested earlier in the year while campaigning for Bernie. Too busy to get arrested, Gidon instead printed on his sail “WE ♥ YOU BERNIE” – a statement of love. When people asked him what he had against Hillary he shared. When they tried to take it further and argue, telling him what they thought he said simply, “I did not ask!” He ended up voting for her, but then wasn’t a bit sad when she was not elected. The sail is 20 years old, just like Gidon’s career at UVM, and it was retired at the end of the season. The new sail is going to say: “LIFE GOES ON” and then in smaller print below that: “the understatement of the year.”

Adriana Borra once again spent a lovely summer dividing her time between Italy and Germany. At the end of June, she attended an American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI) conference in Naples where her husband, Professor Antonello Borra, organized a session on contemporary Italian poetry.

Back at UVM, Adriana is pleased to offer two new courses based on the work she was able to accomplish during her sabbatical in 2014-2015. First, in the spring of 2016, she offered “My Best Friend, The Dictionary,” an advanced-level German course designed to help students expand their vocabulary and their understanding of nuances in the German language. Now, in the Spring 2017 semester, she is excited to teach “Staging German,” an advanced-level class focused entirely on oral communication, from pronunciation and intonation to facial expressions and stylistics.

This fall she presented her paper “Bringing Dictionaries Back into Fashion” at the annual convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in Boston. This presentation addressed the decline in dictionary-user skills among our students, and the rising awareness of this problem by lexicographers and publishers specializing in dictionaries. It suggested strategies and activities for both instructors and students to encourage them to make better use of high-quality print and digital dictionaries. This fall also saw the publication of the 2nd edition of Il tedesco SMART (Zanichelli 2016), including her contributions on translating neologisms and indicating false cognates. This work was still published as a print dictionary, though most trends show that print dictionaries of this size will soon be completely replaced by digital versions. Lexicographers will need to find a way to embrace this technology without sacrificing content.

This holiday season, she has decided to forego a trip to Europe in favor of some skiing on local slopes. If last week’s trip to Bolton Valley is any indication, this winter looks to be much better than last year’s. Frohes neues Jahr!

Theresia Hoeck had a leisurely Vermont summer, indeed. Smooth sailing on Lake Champlain, rustic camp life on Butler’s Island, time to explore historic landmarks and to enjoy many music and theater performances. But before these luxuriously lazy summer days in Vermont, Theresia’s wanderlust sent her on an adventurous round-trip from Chicago to the east shores of Lake Michigan, along the south shores of Lake Superior, through Wisconsin’s lake region, and back to Chicago. With renewed energy she welcomes another year of working with students who are, hopefully, enthusiastic about studying German.

Julia Katsnelson, a native of Russia, joined the UVM German and Russian department in the spring of 2016, when she taught the Russian Culture and Civilization course. When she herself was a freshman at the University of Vermont she was once asked to help with interpreting a parent-teacher conference at one of the Burlington elementary schools. She ended up translating and interpreting for the Burlington School District for 7 years, before returning to UVM to teach.

She had a busy summer traveling, taking a course for teachers of Russian, trying to stop wild animals from destroying her vegetable and flower gardens, and preparing for the spring 2017 semester. In June Julia took a Proficiency-based Pedagogy for Teachers of Russian course at Middlebury College. It was great to visit the beautiful town of Middlebury, to see her former professors who teach at the Middlebury College graduate school, and her friends and former classmates. In August, Julia traveled to Brazil for the Olympics, where she saw events such as the soccer final, basketball games, and the closing ceremony, which was held in a cold pouring rain. Julia also enjoyed Brazilian music, the delicious seafood, and Copacabana Beach. While in Brazil, she also traveled to Argentina to visit the spectacular Iguazu Falls.

She spent her fall participating in Russian House activities. She enjoyed Russian Conversation Hours and also offered a lecture: “Russian Cultural Beliefs, Customs, World Views”. She is looking forward to teaching three courses (Phonology, Conversation and Composition, and Russian Culture and Civilization in the XX-XXI centuries) in the spring semester.

Kate Kenny back-packed through the UK and France with her sons for most of this summer and was delighted to find out that they, too, appreciate the ease of traveling by train. From Hereford they went to Wales and then down to London, caught the Eurostar over to Paris, and then visited Dijon en route to Nans-Sous-Sainte-Anne in the East of France. Here they spent just under two weeks hiking, visiting friends, and testing their mettle by completing a section of the Via Ferrata (which the boys found far less terrifying than their mother did!). August was spent back in America and the family did their annual canoe-camping trip to the Green River Reservoir in Vermont and they also visited the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Kate has enjoyed her three classes very much this semester at UVM, and each year she is grateful for the opportunity to work in such a wonderful department.

Dennis Mahoney continued his work as acting chairperson of the Department of German and Russian for the first half of 2016, enjoying the opportunity to schedule the Departmental Awards ceremony on May 2nd – the birthday not only of the German Romantic poet Novalis, but also of a departmental faculty member who received a congratulatory note from the afterworld seemingly signed by said poet. How fitting, then, that later that week in Jena, Germany, he delivered a lecture on the Orpheus motif in the works of Novalis that took place in Friedrich Schiller’s garden house. While in Jena, he also presided over a symposium on German Literature, Art, and the Sciences where the three finalists for the 2016 Novalis Prize presented their theses before announcing the prizewinners both for this international competition (issued in conjunction with the University of Jena and the Novalis Society) and also the “Blüthenstaub” Prize for students.

During the summer, he and his wife Maria A. Mahoney continued their work as translators by producing the English-language version of a brochure for the Novalis Museum at Oberwiederstedt Castle, the birthplace of the poet. He already was able to bring this back with him from Oberwiederstedt in early November, where

continued on page 3
Kevin McKenna and his wife, Marcy, once again commenced their summer by joining Professor Mieder and his wife, Barbara, on a bike ride through the Provence area of southern France. And, once again, the Mieders left Professor McKenna and his wife “in the dust.” The coming summer of 2017 will take the four of them as well as Professors Tim and Joanne Murad on a bike trip to southern Ireland.

Back home, Professor McKenna returned to research and writing on his book, The Role of Russian Proverbs in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s Fictional and Publicistic Writing. Finally, this will be Professor McKenna’s last year of service on the Editorial Board for a Russian sociology journal: Социальные явления/Social Phenomena (published by the Samara State University Department of International Relations [Russia] and the Oxford Russian Foundation).

Wolfgang Mieder appreciates the fact that he can continue his active teaching, writing, and lecturing schedule despite his advanced age. He thoroughly enjoys teaching his popular World Literature course in English on “The Nature and Politics of Proverbs”, and he also had an exciting group of advanced German students in his 19th century German literature course.

As always, he traveled within the United States and Europe to present lectures at various locations in Vermont, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and in Portugal and Romania. He received the special recognition of an honorary doctoral degree for his international folklore and proverb scholarship from the University of Bucharest on November 26, 2015, with his wife Barbara accompanying him to Romania for the memorable event.

Among his articles published in Germany, Lithuania, Portugal, and the US are “‘Der Mensch lebt nicht vom Brot allein’. Zu Willy Brandts gesellschaftspolitischer Sprichwortrhetorik”, “‘Politics is not a Spectator Sport’: Proverbs in the Personal and Political Writings of Hillary Rodham Clinton”, “‘Ein Schriftsteller abgeschnittener deutscher Zunge’: Zur späten Vernetzung des Exilautors Arthur Feldmann”, and “Different Ways to Make Life’s Gold”: Three Valedictory Messages of a University Course on Proverbs”. His new books include “Different Strokes for Different Folks”. 1250 authentisch amerikanische Sprichwörter; “Entflügelte Worte”. Modifizierte Zitate in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen; and “Kleine Schritte sind besser als große Worte”. Willy Brandts politische Sprichwortrhetorik (with Andreas Nolte).

Together with Professor Kevin McKenna and his wife Marcy the Mieders went on another annual bicycle trip in beautiful Provence, France. There are also concerts, plays, and other events keeping them busy, and there is also the work on their country property with their two Labrador dogs keeping them company.

Helga Schreckenberger spent a wonderful summer in Vermont working in the garden, reading fun books and learning how to paddle board on Lake Champlain together with her 15 year old daughter, Zoe. Her most unusual experience was taking an aerial yoga class that did not, as she expected, take place in the open air but involved doing yoga while hanging upside-down from the ceiling in a sling. She continues working on her book project on transnational aspects of contemporary Austrian literature. While having thoroughly enjoyed her sabbatical leave, she missed teaching and is very happy to be back in the Department.

Kathleen Scollins enjoyed a very busy and productive 2016. She spent much of the summer with her husband Brian and their two children (ages 7 and 11) gardening, cooking, and traveling, including a wonderful spring trip to NYC and the annual summer reunion in Michigan. Undoubtedly, the professional highlight of the year was being selected as a winner of UVM’s Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award. She is also pleased to announce that her book on the Petersburg literary tradition, Acts of Logos in Pushkin and Gogol: Petersburg Texts and Subtexts, will be published in 2017 by Academic Studies Press. Other professional highlights of the year: presenting on strategies for teaching literature in the English vs. Russian-language classrooms at the annual AATSEEL Conference in Austin, TX; giving a paper on Pushkin, Goethe, and the Romantic-era response to environmental catastrophe and participating in a roundtable panel on Orthodox icons and the arts, both at the national ASEEES Convention in Washington, DC; and teaching a new first-year seminar this past fall dedicated to the arts and literature of St. Petersburg. It was an active and rewarding year, and she is ready for a bit of a break before classes begin in 2017!
Faculty Publications

(The following is not an exhaustive list, but hits some of the highlights of our professors’ publications from the last year.)


Kevin McKenna, Professor of Russian, co-edited with Christian Grandl “‘Bis dat qui cito dat.’” Gegengabe in Paremiology, Folklore, Language, and Literature. Honoring Wolfgang Mieder on His Seventieth Birthday (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2015). A special feature of this 776-page Festschrift was Professor McKenna’s work in gathering contributions not only from within the Department of German and Russian, including his own piece on “Parabasis in Nikolay Gogol’s The Inspector General: The Proverbial Medium” (also published in Proverbium 31 [2014]: 317-329), but also from UVM colleagues like Tom Simone and Juan Maura.

Kat Scollins, Assistant Professor of Russian, attended the annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) in Austin, Texas, where she participated in a roundtable dedicated to teaching literature in advanced-level Russian classes. She also attended the annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in Washington, D.C., where she delivered a paper examining The Bronze Horseman and Faust through an Ecocritical lens, and participated in a roundtable discussion on the intersections between Russian literature and icons.

Student and Alumni News

**Christiansen, Peter** (Russian major, 1987) is now working in the Consular section of the U.S. Embassy in Erevan, Armenia, having completed a two-year term with the U.S. State Department in Malaysia.

**Foley, Beka** (REES major, 2013) continues to work for Freedom House, where she is compiling information to build a timeline of repressive changes to legislation in Russia over the past 5 years. Freedom House has published her article on Azerbaijani energy politics: https://freedomhouse.org/blog/corruption-caspian-fueling-aliyev-s-regime

She is currently working on her thesis, and hopes to continue doing research on Eurasia, specifically with regard to energy geopolitics. When people ask how she became interested in this region, Beka traces her fascination with Russia to a first-year TAP class on Soviet history with Professor Kevin McKenna.

**Gick, Niklas** (German major, 2016) received this year’s Outstanding Senior in German award.

**Goldberg, Rubin** (Russian major, 2016), never one to stray far from home, has moved upstairs to the 5th floor of Waterman, where he offers inestimable services to the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and Linguistics as their intrepid Administrative Assistant.

**Goodnow, Ian** (Russian major, 2014) is working as an English teacher in Khashuri, Georgia, near Gori.

**Harney, William** (Russian major, 2014) has been living and working for the past two years in Ukraine (Kiev and Kharkov), where he is employed by the American English Center, teaching English in a variety of schools and business enterprises. He has been accepted into the Russian/East European Studies graduate program at the University of London and is awaiting news of his application to Harvard University.

**Keune, Kylie** (REES major, 2015) recently got engaged to fellow UVM grad [John Marchinkoski](#), you can find news about John below). Kylie is employed at the Tahirih Justice Center as an Executive & Communications Assistant.

**Knickmeier-Cumming, Kelly** (Russian major, 2002) has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, “Diagnosing the Demonic: Reading Valeri Brisuov’s Fiery Angel as Pathography” at the University of Kansas. Kelly is currently living in Germany, but will soon be returning to the U.S. to teach Russian.

**Lamoureux, Andrew** (Russian minor, 2016) is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in pure mathematics at New York University, Albany.

**Lariviere, Renee** (REES major, 2007) is currently a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, having previously served in the U.S. Embassy in Almaty, Kyrgyzstan. She will be returning in the spring of 2017 to give a presentation at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, having previously served in the U.S. Embassy in Erevan, Armenia, having completed a two-year term with the U.S. State Department in Malaysia.

**Luttrell, Megan** (Russian major, 2010) is currently writing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Kansas, and has recently released an album entitled “Broken Bottles.”

**Marchinkoski, John** (History major, 2016, with a concentration in European history) is an investigator with the Office of Personnel Management at CACI, Washington, D.C., a government contractor primarily dealing with information technology and security.

**Moreno, Julia** (German major, 2015) is now studying in the PhD Program in Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, having her dissertation topic will involve a study of clicks in interactions of preschool-aged, middle school-aged and high school-aged Standard Scottish English speakers.

**O’Hara, Kate** (Russian major, 2020) took first in the Oireachtas (the regional championships for Irish dance) on November 18th. Kate has been dancing with the Griffith Academy in Wethersfield, Connecticut for twelve years, since the age of six. She will move on to the national competition in New Orleans in July.

**Rock, Zhenya** (Russian major, 2016) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at graduation in May. He was also the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship that has taken him to Tomsk, where he is teaching English to Russian students.

**Rousse, Kristen** (Russian major and German minor, 2015) is now employed in a law firm in Burlington, following a semester of teaching high-school German at Springfield High School in Central Vermont.

**Rumsey, Tatiana** (Russian major, 2016) received this year’s Outstanding Senior in Russian award. Recently returned from Japan, where she has been teaching English, Tatiana is now preparing to teach English in Russia.


**Wood, Brenden** (Russian major, 2016) is applying for graduate programs in Russian at Penn State University, the University of Indiana, and the Ohio State University.

Scholarships and Awards

- **Zhenya Rock** received the inaugural $750 Kevin McKenna Scholarship (made possible by alumnus Matt Ryan).
- **Daniel Berenberg, Will Hopkins, Georgia Jackson, Will Julian, Colin Kamphuis, Thomas Mahan, Nicole Meszaros, Scott Quisenberry, Hannah Schaefer, Ronan Sefton, and Brenden Wood** each received a $300 Study Abroad Scholarship for the last academic year.
- **Leah Ostrander, Madeline Portnoy, and Benjamin Subl** each received a Lampert Award for the current academic year.
- **Elizaveta Shkurina** received a $4,300 Webster Scholarship for the current academic year.

The following majors and/or minors in German and Russian have been selected for Fulbright Scholarships in 2016-17: **Duncan Donnay** (Austria), **Sammie Ibrahim** (Kazakhstan), **Jacob Pelland** (Austria), **Zhenya Rock** (Russia), and **CharlieDan Sheffy** (Germany).

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College of Arts and Sciences
Honors Day 2016
(left-to-right) Tatiana Rumsey, Outstanding Senior in Russian; Acting Department Chairperson, Professor Dennis Mahoney; Niklas Gick, Outstanding Senior in German

Congratulations to our 2016 Graduates!!

2016 Departmental Awards

Awards for German:
1st year: Kiara Day
2nd year: Alex Sherbrook
103 (Composition and Conversation): Ellen Jones
122 (20th/21st Cent. Culture and Civilization): Thomas Mahan
155 (German Literature in Context I): Eliana Moskovitz
196 (My Best Friend, The Dictionary): Ella Overfield-Lamberti
197 (Readings and Research): Casper Slemp
281 (Prose in the Age of Goethe): Niklas Gick
282 (German Literature of the 19th Century): Anne Moyerbrailean
Spirit Award: Tracy Guion

Awards for Hebrew:
Beginning Hebrew: Bethany Harris
Intermediate Hebrew: Leor Binyamin

Awards for Russian:
1st year: Leyla Dickason
2nd year: Jose Modeste
101 (Phonology): Eleanor Maloney
121 (Composition and Conversation): Tatiana Rumsey
161 (Russian Lexicology): Andrew Lamoureux
202 (The Master and Margarita): Daniel Berenberg
221 (Culture & Civilization To the 1905 Revolution): Brenden Wood
Spirit Award: Benjamin Shefner and Nick Vidal

Awards for World Literature:
017 (The Nature & Politics of Proverbs): Aoife Fullerton-Meaney
018 (Philosophy and Ideology in the 19th-Century Russian Novel): Anya Gorodentsev
118 (Philosophy and Ideology in the 19th-Century Russian Novel): Liz Anderson

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Gift Fund Report (2015-2016)

Thank you all for your generous donations to our German & Russian Materials Acquisition Fund! We received $12,847 in total gifts this year and spent $12,847. Here is a breakdown of our gift fund spending:

- $868 Print & Mail
- $2,290 Publication Costs
- $1,084 Instructional Materials and Supplies
- $1,994 Lectures and Visiting Speakers
- $6,275 Gift Fund Scholarships (Other scholarships are funded by our endowments)
- $386 Student events and end-of-year party

$12,847 Total Spent in FY16

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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