Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of the German and Russian Department,

It is time once again to send greetings from Department of German and Russian. This is also the perfect time for reflection: What have we as a Department accomplished? I think we can generally be happy with the state of affairs. Thanks to the hard work of all members, the Department of German and Russian is flourishing. Our enrollments in both languages are increasing and our seminar room is always full, with students studying, doing homework, or just socializing. It is wonderful to know that our Department is the place to “hang out” for so many of our majors and minors!

This past year we offered quite a variety of courses in addition to our beginning and intermediate language courses. The German program covered literature from the Middle Ages to Romanticism and ventured into the 20th and 21st centuries through the medium of German film. Students in the Russian Program could choose from a variety of upper-level language courses and literature courses that covered the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. We also continued to enrich our curriculum and extend our reach through courses taught in English. All of our faculty members offer courses on German and Russian culture and literature in English that were of interest to the entire UVM community. Offerings included Wolfgang Mieder’s “Nature and Politics of Proverbs,” Dennis Mahoney’s “From Enlightenment to Nazism,” Kevin McKenna’s “Witches, Goblins and Ghosts,” Kathleen Scollins’ “Dreamers, Dulcets, and Demons: The Golden Age of Russian Literature,” and my “Legacy of the Holocaust.”

We will continue to offer such interesting and challenging courses taught in translation to achieve our goal of providing comprehensive instruction in German-Russian culture and literature that draws large enrollments. At the same time we are committed to small-class size in courses taught in target languages. This is indispensable given our emphasis on student participation and our goal of students reaching linguistic and cultural competence.

In Theresa Hoch, Kate Kenny, and Adriana Borra we continue to have very talented and committed language teachers who work hard to make the more difficult parts of language learning enjoyable. They are joined by Gideon Bulvy, who is in charge of our Hebrew courses. He has been writing much of his own teaching material to bring humor into grammar drills. This year, we also have the great pleasure to welcome Ben Jens. He is filling in for Kevin McKenna who is on a much deserved research leave. Ben Jens comes to us from the University of Wisconsin, Madison where he studied Slavic Languages and Literatures.

To the delight of our Russian students, Dr. Kathleen Scollins will remain in our Department. Starting this fall, she joined us as Assistant Professor of Russian. She had already won our students with her skills in the classroom and her generous mentoring. Her outstanding lecture on “A Superfluous Letter in Petersburg: The Alphabetic Context of Gogol’s Overcoat” also made abundantly clear that she is a most promising scholar.

Our faculty continue to be very engaged in scholarship that has made important contributions to their respective fields and has reached beyond the walls of academia. We can be proud of our many accomplishments. All members of the Department are also very active presenters at international and national conferences. Just to name a few: Wolfgang Mieder was the keynote speaker at two international conferences in Tavira, Portugal, and in Mannheim, Germany. Dennis Mahoney spoke at the International Heinrich von Kleist Conference at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Both Kevin McKenna and Kat Scollins presented at the national meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Pasadena, CA. I participated in the International Franz Werfel Symposium at UCLA and the annual meeting of the Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association in Vienna, Austria.

Many of our majors and minors are electing to study abroad. This year we have seven students studying in Germany or Austria and five students studying in Russia. Thanks to the generous donations of former alumni to our Departmental gift fund, we have been able to support all of them with stipends.

Our Department was also busy hosting guest lectures, which drew quite an audience. We had two fascinating talks by Russian scholars Nina Wieda, Northwestern University (“How the Russian Soul Is Made: Expenditure in Russian Culture”), and Polina Rikou, University of Denver (“Confronting the ‘Elder Brother’: Russian-Ukrainian Relations in Oleksandr Ichenko’s novel The Cossack Never Dies [1958]”). Art historian Cordula Grewe gave an enlightening presentation entitled “From Hieroglyph to Comic Strip: The Arabesque in German Art and Literature.” Our distinguished presenter of the 22nd Harry H. Kahn lecture this year was Irene Kacandes from Dartmouth College. Her topic was “Truth and Consequences: Issues in Holocaust Family Memoir.” Another highlight was the reading by Jewish-American writer Lev Raphael from his book, My Germany: A Jewish Writer Returns to the World His Parents Escaped. Again, all these lectures are possible because of the generous support from alumni and friends of the Department of German and Russian. We thank you all most sincerely. Your continued friendship and support is invaluable.

A wonderful close to the academic year was Wolfgang Mieder’s address to the 2011 graduates at the College of Arts and Sciences Commencement Ceremony. Of course, he did us all proud!

I would like to close with an invitation to all of you to let us know how and what you are doing. If you are in the area, please stop by. I also hope that you will continue your much appreciated contributions of our gift fund. It will reap benefits for our students well into the future.

With the best wishes,

Helga Schröder-Bergen
Departmental News

Gideon Bavly spent the night of Hurricane Irene at the Burlington boathouse watching his boat closely. It took 13 docking lines to keep the boat safe. Sailing season did not start until late June this year due to a record high water level in Lake Champlain. Gideon used that time to travel to Israel for three weeks and when he came back he planted a small vineyard of Frontenac gris grape vines. Even though there is already some fruit on one plant, it will take another three years for the vines to produce grapes for harvest, so please wait for the Department news letter of 2014 to learn about Gideon’s new experience as a winemaker.

Adriana Borra is grateful that she can pursue teaching her two mother tongues German and Italian at UVM and is very much enjoying the advanced level of her German students. After working as a reviser of the Italian/German section of the dictionary Il Tedesco Smart (a 1472 page long compact version of the PONS Großwörterbuch) she is proud that it was published last summer by Zanichelli in Bologna. She spent her summer between her two countries traveling and catching up with family, friends and good reads.

Theresia Hoeck: Another summer of new adventures for Theresia Hoeck. A long-cherished dream came true: she took a road trip from Boston to San Francisco marveling at the fascinating landscapes, experiencing cultural diversity, and enjoying the many amazing people en route. Re-energized by these impressions she was ready to participate in a diploma program for Teaching English as a Second Language. These newly acquired theories of pedagogy will help enrich her classroom work. Theresia Hoeck is also looking forward to teaching a 100-level conversation and composition course for the first time.

Benjamin Jens is excited to begin his first semester as a Russian Lecturer at UVM. Ben is happy to be interacting with people again after spending the summer in the library at UW-Madison working to complete his dissertation (on the role of silence in 19th-century Russian literature). He is fond of exploring his new home-city, and has discovered something called a “Maple Creemee.” In November Ben will return to Madison to defend his dissertation, but until then is enjoying teaching and working with his students.

Kate Kenny: Kate had an extremely busy and enjoyable summer: she spent the month of June with her two boys in Great Britain, visiting friends and family and stocking up on real tea bags! The whole family then spent July and August in Canada, North Carolina and the Adirondacks.

Kevin McKenna: Kevin McKenna and his wife, Marcy, spent part of the summer on a bike vacation through wine country in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, where wine and new friends proved equally convivial. This academic year Professor McKenna will be on research sabbatical leave, conducting work on his book, The Role of the Russian Proverb in Aleksandrov Solzhenitsyn’s Fictional and Publicistic Writing. Unfortunately, he recently has had cancel his October trip to Moscow to conduct research at the Solzhenitsyn Museum of the Biblioteka-Fond “Русское Заурядие,” where he was invited as a Research Fellow. He was awarded a Lattie Coor Research Grant to fund this research as well as to conduct a series of interviews with Solzhenitsyn’s widow, Natalya Dmitrieva. He and Mrs. Solzhenitsyn are currently exchanging e-mail messages on the topic of her husband’s use of Russian proverbs in his literary and publicistic writings.

In addition to his research and writing, Professor McKenna continued work over the summer on a U.S. Department of Education grant to create a national portfolio project for American high-school and college students of the Russian language. At the next meeting of this program (April, 2012), he will present a series of taped interviews of UVM Intermediate Russian students to be used in calibrating portfolio projects for American college students. Professor McKenna concluded his work this summer teaching a World Literature 118 course on “Leo Tolstoy’s Novel, Anna Karenina.”

Wolfgang Mieder was honored this year by being asked to deliver the graduation address for the UVM College of Arts and Sciences. He was also excited that he became the doctoral advisor for Michael Herrera, who earlier had obtained his M.A. degree with a thesis on German sound shifts in our Department of German and Russian. In May, Michael received his doctorate degree from
Middlebury College with a truly exceptional thesis on the computer application for the study of the phonetic development of the German language. Prof. Mieder’s various lecture trips took him to California, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Paris, where he presented the keynote address at an international conference on proverbs. Another special occasion was a lecture on Martin Luther King at the Library of Congress at Washington, D.C. He is teaching his popular lecture course on “The Nature and Politics of Proverbs” for the third time, thoroughly enjoying his seventy-five students. Together with his dear wife Barbara, who has retired after forty rewarding years of teaching German and Latin at Milton High School, he went on an exciting bike trip to the Czech Republic, Germany, and Austria. Besides his teaching and scholarship, Prof. Mieder continues to enjoy his work on his large country property, even though he did break his right foot while doing so some months ago. Age is creeping up on him, but he is by no means ready to retire from the University of Vermont that means so much to him.

**Helga Schreckenberger** took her 10-year old daughter, Zoe, to Austria for four weeks. They visited the Viennese Zoo, various castles, and the famous Viennese amusement park, the Prater. While Zoe spent a week with her Austrian Oma, Helga Schreckenberger went to Literaturarchiv in Marbach to conduct research on Salka Viertel, a German exile who became a famous Hollywood screen writer. She spent the rest of the summer preparing for her courses, reading fun books, and doing some gardening. This semester, she is happy teaching the first-year seminar in the Honors College, “The Pursuit of Knowledge,” and a course on the German Short Story after 1945.

**Kathleen Scollins:** After a busy but relaxing summer break, Kathleen Scollins is enjoying her first semester in the department as Assistant Professor of Russian. She spent the summer with her husband and two children (ages 2 and 6) exploring Vermont, traveling around the Northeast (Pennsylvania, New York, Maine and the Boston area), gardening, and indulging in some light, non-Russian reading. The academic highlight of her summer was getting her article on “The Overcoat” accepted for publication in the *Russian Review*, and she is now working on a second article, on Pushkin’s great narrative poem *The Bronze Horseman*. Now that the semester is off to a busy start, she is delighted to be back in the classroom, trying to keep up with her brilliant, energizing students.

**Janet Sobieski:** Janet can’t really believe it, but she will be retiring from UVM and the Department of German and Russian later this fall! She has loved her 27 years of working with the students and faculty of the Department of German and Russian, and will miss so many great things about you all. She will be moving to Boise, Idaho – her husband has just retired and is already there – where her stepson and daughter-in-law live (and are expecting their first child in February 2012). Her new address is 7767 W. Sagebrush Way, Boise, ID 83709. She would love to hear from anyone who wants to keep in touch.

**Tiana Gray** received The Gilman Scholarship, a $5000 scholarship for study abroad, which finished paying for all her expenses in studying in Russia. She studied at St. Petersburg State University through the CIEE Russian Language Program in the Spring semester 2011. Tiana had the experience of a lifetime, made wonderful friends, and did not want to return home to the States when the program was over. She enthusiastically recommends studying abroad to anyone who gets the opportunity to do so. [Tiana learned about the Gilman Scholarship in a visit to UVM’s Office of International Education, so also highly recommends a visit to this office to any UVM student contemplating studying abroad.]

The German House Program won best Global Village Program of the year, and its collaborative event with the Japanese and Chinese House, Day of 1,000 Cranes won Best Living/Learning Event of the Year. Many thanks to the program leaders Phoebe Knowles and Avery Howell!

**Allison Tompkins**, second year Russian major and two-year resident in the UVM “Russian House” has been named a recipient of a two-year internship position with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., and has been invited to remain employed there full-time following her UVM graduation in 2013.

In 2010-2011 **Kirsti Daly** pursued College Honors in Russian and successfully defended her thesis on April 27, 2011. Her thesis title was: “Dilating Doom and Piercing Prospects: An Examination of the Apocalyptic City of St. Petersburg in A. Pushkin’s *The Bronze Horseman* and A. Belyi’s *Petersburg.*” Kirsti’s thesis advisor was Prof. Kathleen Scollins, second reader was Prof. Kevin McKenna, and committee chair was Prof. Denise Youngblood of the Department of History.

Kirsti has also been awarded a Fulbright Grant for 2011-2012, to teach English to Russian students in Siberia, at (Y)ugra University in Khanty-Mansiisk. According to her application proposal, her teaching methodology will incorporate as much American art as possible as both medium as well as the focal point of discussion with her Russian students. During her Spring 2010 study abroad in St. Petersburg, Kirsti found employment teaching English to Russian students at the university, and feels that this experience will serve her well in Siberia. For more information about Kirsti’s Fulbright and her experiences, please see her blog at [http://sequinsandsnow.wordpress.com/](http://sequinsandsnow.wordpress.com/).

**Hillary Barbour** conducted an independent study project entitled “The Bavarian-Czech Relationship: the Burden of Historical Prejudices on the Present Day” during her Study Abroad in Munich, Bavaria. She was awarded the “Ernst Langendorf Preis” for special services in advancing German-American Relations.
Departmental Honors Awards
May 2011

OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN GERMAN: Dennis Hess

Dennis Hess is a double-major in German and Environmental Studies. He received the 2009-2010 Veronica Richel Scholarship for his year-long study at the University of Salzburg, Austria. He plans to continue to pursue his love for German language and literature at the graduate level.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN RUSSIAN: Sam Mishcon

Sam Mishcon is a double-major in Russian and Japanese, who has studied abroad in each of those countries. At the time of the Honors Day presentation in May, he was awaiting final approval to teach Russian next year for the Peace Corps.

Saying Good-Bye to Janet!

Janet is retiring! She and her husband are moving to Boise, Idaho to be close to their children. So while Janet is starting a new period of her life, the department is experiencing very conflicting emotions. One on hand we are happy and excited for her, on the other hand we are asking: how will we survive without her?

Janet has been the office manager for the Department of German and Russian for almost thirty years. She has weathered the many changes the university has gone through, she has mastered the mysteries of People Soft, she has become an expert web mistress and has kept up with all changes regarding course scheduling, room scheduling, and enrollment management. In addition to running the office as efficiently and smoothly as possible, she is also assisting Professor Wolfgang Mieder in editing and publishing his international Proverbium. Janet provides editorial help, manages the subscriptions and does the accounting for the yearbook.

However, it is not Janet’s unquestionable competence as an office manager that makes her so special. It is the way she goes about her work: unfailingly friendly, patient, and always willing to help. Janet will leave no stone unturned to find answers and solution to any problem that is brought to her attention. She cares equally for all members of the department, faculty and students. This is so evident in the wonderful pictures she has been taking during all of our receptions for our graduating students—they capture all the friendships and great relationships that have developed among students and also among students and faculty. Even our guests get the benefit of Janet’s warmth and generous spirit. Alone by the cordial tone in her correspondence or phone conversations with regard to hotel/flight plans, she made them feel truly welcome even prior to their arrival on campus and she always makes sure that their stay is pleasant and smooth. As Prof. Mahoney stated, it is this combination of efficiency, attention to fine details, and true interest in people (be they students, faculty, or other staff within the College) that has made Janet into the heart and soul of our department.

Every member in our department and every student in the program can share a similar story testifying to Janet’s extraordinary kindness and willingness to help. When I took over chairing the Department three years ago, Janet walked me through the budgets, reminded me of deadlines, and explained procedures without once losing her patience. I echo the sentiments of everyone in the Department when I state that Janet is simply invaluable. While we will miss her terribly, we are also excited for her and wish her much joy in the new phase of her life. We are looking forward to hearing about her adventures in Idaho and hope that she will send us many of her beautiful photographs of the new objects that her artistic eye will capture.

Student Scholarship News

Seven scholarships for study in Russia ($500 each) were given to our wonderful Russian students. Four students studied in St. Petersburg for the Fall 2010 semester: Katie Boynton, Sam Vary, Gabriel Simches, and Dan Cawley; and three students studied there in the Spring 2011 semester: Emily Drew, Jennifer Anderson, and Kevin Lovely.

Seven scholarships for German study abroad ($500 each) were given in the 2010-2011 academic year. The Mieder Scholarship was given to Jack Minich, who spent the 2010-2011 academic year at the University of Salzburg in Austria. Hillary Barbour received a Fall 2010 semester scholarship. And five scholarships were given in the Spring 2011 semester: Lindsay Mathes, Alexa Mucklow, Lindsey Weger, Brienne Toomey, and Tracie Ebalu.

The 2011 Nietsch/Mahoney scholarship was given to graduate student Mark Russell, who was able to enroll in the Sion (Switzerland) Seminar given through the University of Ausburg, Germany, in the summer of 2011.

Fifteen scholarships in total were awarded from our Department of German and Russian Gift Fund over this past academic year (primarily $500 each) for a total amount of $7,760.

Through the Truman and Selina Webster Scholarship Fund, we were able to give a $2000 scholarship to our German graduate student Mark Russell.

www.uvm.edu/germanrussian
Dennis Mahoney

Professor Dennis Mahoney, Department of German and Russian published the article “Ubi bene, ibi patria oder: Amerika, hast du es besser?” in the Goethe-Jahrbuch, 126 (2009). The article examines the complexity of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s view of the United States. Professor Mahoney is also the author of a lengthy entry on Romantic Literature (“Romantik: Literatur”) for the Enzyklopädie der Neuzeit.

Dennis Mahoney, Professor of German published “On the Periphery of Weimar Classicism: Passion, Patriotry and Political Machinations in Caroline von Wolzogen’s Agnes von Lilien (1797) and Barbara Honigmann’s Eine Liebe aus nichts (1991)” in the volume Weimar Classicism: Studies in Goethe, Schiller, Forster, Berlepsch, Wieland, Herder, and Steiner, ed. David Gallagher. The article investigates the image of Weimar in the works by Caroline von Wolzogen, a contemporary of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and by the contemporary German-Jewish writer Barbara Honigmann.

Kevin McKenna

Professor Kevin McKenna, Department of German and Russian published “A Village Cannot Stand Without a Righteous Person: A Paremiological Analysis of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s Matryonin Dom,” that examines Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s use of proverbs.

Professor Kevin McKenna, Department of German and Russian is the author “The Role of the Russian Proverb in Leo Tolstoy’s Novel, Anna Karenina,” which appeared in Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship vol. 28. The articles shows how Tolstoy extends the role of Russian proverbs for purposes of character and thematic development throughout the novel.

Wolfgang Mieder

Professor Wolfgang Mieder, Professor of German, is the author of “Proverbs and Poetry Are Like Two Peas in a Pod: The Proverbial Language of Modern Mini-Poems” in the proceedings volume of Third Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 8th to 15th November 2009, at Tavira, Portugal. In this article, Mieder examines the proverbial structure and language of modern mini-poems. Mieder also published “Man soll den Tag nicht vor dem Abend lobs – vom Sprichwort über Schillers geflügeltes Wort zum Antisprichwort,” an article that analyzes the parodies of Schiller’s famous quote “Never praise the day before the evening.”

Wolfgang Mieder, Department of German and Russian, published “Making a Way Out of No Way”, Martin Luther King’s Sermonic Proverbial Rhetoric. The book examines the role of proverbs in Martin Luther King’s speeches. On February 10, 2011, Wolfgang Mieder was invited to present a lecture on Dr. King’s proverbial rhetoric at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.


Helga Schreckenberger

Helga Schreckenberger, Department of German and Russian, published an article on the renowned Germanist and author Egon Schwarz in Deutschsprachige Exilliteratur seit 1933. The article chronicles Schwarz’s life from his expulsion from Nazi-occupied Austria, his flight from war-torn Europe, his exile in Bolivia and Chile to his acceptance at an American university and ensuing successful career as a Professor of German literature and author of two biographical books. In a second article, “Erwachsenwerden im Exil: Die ungewöhnliche Bildung von Egon Schwarz,” Schreckenberger traces the formative influence of the traumatic experiences of expulsion and exile on Egon Schwarz’s world view reflected in his memoir.

Helga Schreckenberger, Professor of German, is the co-editor of Erste Briefe/First Letters aus dem Exil 1945-1950. The volume presents examples of the first attempts by German and Austrian exiles to re-establish contact with friends and colleagues who had remained in Germany and Austria. Schreckenberger’s contribution to the volume, “Es wär vielleicht ein neues Exil und vielleicht das schmerzlichste’. Das Thema der Rückkehr in Oskar Maria Gräfs Briefen an Hugo Hartung,” traces the reasons that changed Graf’s initial goal to return to Germany as soon as possible.

David Scrase

David Scrase, Professor Emeritus of German, was invited to attend the Lehmann-Tage in Eckernförde, Germany, to read from his biography of Wilhelm Lehmann which has just been translated and published in German.
Honestis in mind, challenging yourself to further studies and effort, but now upon your graduation you are surely ready and for humankind. You have already been participants in this giant globe. Whether they stood out and made it into the annals of people before you coped as best they could with life on this journey.

To stride, and we promise you that we will assist you on your life's environmental, and economic demands of the future in good elders have much hope that you will master the socio-political, that await your new ideas and fresh commitment. We as your at the University of Vermont behind, you are ready to commence its multitude of challenges and responsibilities. Leaving your educated citizens facing an ever more complex world with so successfully.

Do, I hope I somehow can make it, just as all of you have done years as a professor, and since I love UVM just as much as you me, I am a few credits short, and as a few of you have done, I'll venture out on a five-year plan. Of course, for me that means fifty years as a professor, and since I love UVM just as much as you do, I hope I somehow can make it, just as all of you have done so successfully.

This is a momentous occasion in your young lives as you make the transition from student life into the world of well-educated citizens facing an ever more complex world with its multitude of challenges and responsibilities. Leaving your eventful and memorable years of academics and the caramounts at the University of Vermont behind, you are ready to commence your true adult life with its plethora of concerns and problems that await your new ideas and fresh commitment. We as your elders have much hope that you will master the socio-political, environmental, and economic demands of the future in good stride, and we promise you that we will assist you on your life's journey.

As you look with excitement and perhaps also with some trepidation to the future, always be mindful that thousands of people before you coped as best they could with life on this globe. Whether they stood out and made it into the annals of history or not, they worked on making this world a better place for humankind. You have already been participants in this giant effort, but now upon your graduation you are surely ready and equipped with knowledge and expertise to make a considerable difference. So keep UVM's Latin motto 'Studia et Rebus Honestis' in mind, challenging yourself to further studies and other honest pursuits, as it were, in the coming years. As you continue to broaden your global awareness with commitment and creativity, always be mindful of working towards an inclusive democracy based on solid moral values and the old American triad of "Government of, for, and by the people."

You have learned about some of the truly remarkable people of human history in various classes. These heroes pursued the tricidal ideals of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as Thomas Jefferson formulated them so eloquently in the Declaration of Independence. Those few words express the basic belief system of democracy, and it is surprising how many of our lasting ideas and aspiring ideals have been summarized in less than a dozen memorable words. More often than not we don't even know who coined these bits of insightful wisdom. We all have our experiences, we make our observations, and then we make our generalizations which enable us to deal with the issues and questions of the day. Abraham Lincoln was a master in using such folk wisdom, as when he tried to prevent the Civil War by quoting the proverb "A house divided against itself cannot stand". He also argued against slavery with an old but most fitting proverb: "Let us have faith that right makes might." And how about that other great American hero and friend of Lincoln's, the African American slave and then abolitionist Frederick Douglass? He too interspersed his powerful anti-slavery lectures with folk wisdom, to wit his proverbial claim that "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." Two decades later Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony relied on the ancient Latin proverb in English translation that "In union there is strength", as they and others fought for equal rights for women.

But you need not only look backward to famous heroes for guidance. Just listen to people around you, and do realize that there are plenty of special persons right here who can serve as your models and guidesposts. You will find that your grandmother, your dad or one of your professors might have a favorite proverb, that the newest Bruce Springsteen hit is replete with proverbs, that a Peanuts cartoon quotes a proverb, and that you catch yourself relying on such preformulated linguistic units to make a point.

Someone who knows all of this extremely well is President Barack Obama, whom you have observed on his path toward the presidency of the United States during your years at UVM. While you might have heard him use such traditional proverbs as "Half a loaf of bread is better than none" and "The rich get richer and the poor get poorer", he has also felt the need to create wisdom-like statements based on proverbial structures that have all the makings of becoming proverbial by going far beyond the typical sound bites of politicians:

- "America prosper when all Americans prosper."
- "We cannot have a thriving Wall Street while Main Street suffers."
- "Countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow."
- "A new politics for a new time."

Of course, as you will struggle to strike a balance between your own and local issues and those of others around the globe, you may also be well advised to keep one of Martin Luther King's favorite proverbs in mind that summarizes his eloquent "I Have a Dream" speech of 1963 into a remarkable piece of folk wisdom: "Making a way out of no way!"

There is much common sense expressed in this saving, and it behooves you and all of us to subscribe in words and deeds to its message. But here are yet a few other time-treated old proverbs that you could heed as special laws of life as you leave UVM, as for example:

- "Hitch your wagon to a star."
- "Knowledge is power."
- "A good name is better than riches."
- "The pen is mightier than the sword."
- "It is better to give than to receive."

And there are thousands of proverbs in all languages and dialects of the world, expressing such basic human experiences and observations in various metaphors. They are invaluable principles of conduct for a life filled with humanity and an awareness that we can solve many of our problems if we adhere to basic moral precepts. Proverbs have served humankind well thus far, and I am sure that they will assist you in leading fruitful lives well balanced between the insight of two final proverbs which should be stars of wisdom for us all.

There is first of all the relatively recent proverb "Different strokes for different folks" that was coined in the African American community in the early 1950s. It tells us that we should recognize our differences, that we should be tolerant of others, and that we should let others do their thing, as it were. The second proverb is one that is shared by all religions and philosophies of the world, and it is commonly referred to as the golden rule or the categorical imperative, that is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This proverb teaches us fairness, decency, and civility, and it thus encapsulates the ultimate moral wisdom. It is a proverb you can heed as you leave UVM, as for example:

- "Hitch your wagon to a star."
- "Knowledge is power."
- "A good name is better than riches."
- "The pen is mightier than the sword."
- "It is better to give than to receive."

Gift Fund Report (2010-2011):

Thank you all for your generous donations to our German & Russian Materials Acquisition Fund. We received $12,070.69 in total gifts this year, and spent $12,780. Here is a breakdown of our purchases:

- $8,410. Fifteen study abroad scholarships, ranging from $500 to $760.
- $233. End of year student reception in our seminar room.
- $1,040. Periodical subscriptions.
- $1,000. Instructional materials and dvds.
- $300. Book stipends for students.
- $272. German opera presentation tickets for students.
- $1,175. Partial payment for speakers and events.
- $12,780. Total Spent in FY11.
Thank you to all of our Donors!

Valentina Griffin (2006) is living in Augsburg, Germany, and working in Munich as a content editor for the online expat community called InterNations. She researches and writes articles containing information about countries that is relevant for expats. She also writes a blog in which she relays stories she has read or heard about expatriates’ experiences in various countries. If you would like to read some of the stories, the url is blog.internations.org.

Lara Langweiler (2010) is working in Moscow and enjoying the cultural marvels of the city. She was recently at the Bolshoi to see the opera “Ruslan and Lyudmila” and will return to see the ballet “Sleeping Beauty.” She has also been amazed by the Russian historical treasures on view in the Kremlin. Lara just had the opportunity to visit St. Petersburg, and found it even more exciting than Moscow. She would encourage anyone and everyone to make a visit to these cities if they ever have the opportunity.

Carrie Cole (2006) graduated with a Masters in Music at the Boston Conservatory in 2010, and has remained in Boston freelancing, teaching trombone and working as an accountant, but also keeping up with her German and her love of proverbs.

Kirsti Dahlly (2011) is enjoying her Fulbright Fellowship teaching English language, literature and culture in Siberia at (Y)ugra University, in Khanty-Mansiisk. She is sharing her experiences in a blog at http://sequinsandsnow.wordpress.com/.

Lindsey Weger (2011) was awarded an internship through the DAAD Rise professional program. She is conducting scientific research for the AG in Heidelberg, Germany.

Megan Luttrell (2010) has been accepted into the PhD program in Slavic Languages and Literatures at University of Kansas with a full scholarship and teaching assistantship. She is teaching Intermediate Russian this semester in addition to taking three graduate-level courses. Megan has been contacted by Victoria’s Secret to open a store in Moscow this coming summer.

Robin (Glore) Hier (2009) is working for Phytron, Inc., a German electronics company where she uses German at work everyday- either translating documents or communicating with their parent office in Munich. She also teaches German for CVU Access, a community education program for adults. She taught Introductory German last spring to 14 students, and this semester she is teaching Introductory German to 13 students and “advanced beginner German” to 9 students.

Chris Nyberg (2009) has just completed his joint MBA Program and M.A. Degree in
Alumni News, cont. from page 7…

Ross Cunningham (2011) is attending George Washington University Law School, for which he received an impressive scholarship.

Vincent Rosario (2011) will be returning to Europe and will pursue an M.A. degree in Translation (something he studied during his junior year abroad in Switzerland).

Michael Herrera (MA, 1993) received his doctorate degree from Middlebury College in May 2011 with a truly exceptional thesis on the computer application for the study of the phonetic development of the German language. Wolfgang Mieder was his doctoral advisor. Michael had obtained his M.A. degree with a thesis on “Sound Shift Simulation on the Personal Computer as Applied to the History of the German Language” in our Department of German and Russian in May 1993.

Kendra Boris McKinley (1990) lives in Norwell, Massachusetts, and she and her husband always remember our department with a wonderful photo card at the holiday season. We have loved seeing their beautiful daughter, Maeve grow up from year to year through these much appreciated cards.

Dana Schovie (2003) is currently working as the ELF Program Coordinator at UVMToday, and has been involved in various levels in the process of integrating incoming students from the US-Sino Pathways Program at UVM. During the academic year she is teaching courses for ELIIs (English Language Learners) “English for International Students’ Parts I and II, and “ESL Conversation Circle.” She obtained her MATESOL (Masters of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from St. Michael’s College in 2007. She also taught abroad at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in the Middle East, and Saint Michael’s College, before deciding to return to the University of Vermont and further develop her career.

Dana has been a foreign language learner since the age of 12, and is fluent in several languages (Turkish, German, English and Bosnian).

Olga Trokhimenko (MA, 1999) has received tenure at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, where she is an Associate Professor of German. She and her husband Eduardo Rincon are the proud parents of their very new daughter, Katja, who was just born on November 8, 2011.

At Home — and Work — with Russian

For recent majors, job market is speaking their language [in UVMToday, 9-27-2011, by Lee Ann Cox (by permission)]

“All of our Russian majors have a history of success — Joe Bowman ’01 was a founding partner of the first venture capital firm in Russia — but as a group this year’s graduates show particularly industriousness and ingenuity” notes Professor Kevin McKenna. Oliver Chase, a Fulbright finalist with a double major in economics, landed a sales job in Moscow this fall.

McKenna will testify, is difficult but somehow seductive.

“The harder I worked at it,” says Vary, “the more I fell in love with it.”

Dahly says she was thinking of dropping Russian after her first two semesters because it was “so miserably difficult and demanding.” But two years in, “something clicked and I became infatuated with everything Russian.”

The other thing that ties them is Professor McKenna, ambassador, mentor, tough coach and ultimate cheerleader. “Typically,” he says, “I have lines of students outside my door.” They come to continue class conversations about Russian literature, to talk about potential careers or study abroad — all passions of his. In a small department, students tend to take one or two classes with McKenna every semester.

“He showed us all what we are capable of,” says Dahly. “He constantly pushed us far beyond what we thought were our limits and we ended up realizing, basically, ‘what we were made of!’ That’s a hugely important lesson to learn in college.” She also enthusiastically mentions, as does McKenna, relatively new assistant professor Kathleen Scollins who “provided dazzling energy and unceasing encouragement and support… What a combination,” Dahly writes, “his high expectations and her encouragement — it was incredible.”

Outside of the classroom, McKenna sends every current major a postcard when he’s in Russia, exchanges emails with former students about their accomplishments and has plans to meet up with those he can when he’s in Moscow this fall.

In the classroom, apparently, he can talk tough. “I point out to every one of my students, ‘don’t find yourself on the other side of the yellow tape at crime scenes… heady stuff on the scene to making connections with the White House, key events to cover; supervising photographers and reporters on the scene to making connections with the White House, the mayor’s office, FBI and major art institutions to gaining access across the yellow tape at crime scenes… heady stuff for a 22-year-old.”

“Foreign’ journalism,” says Vary, who double-major in Film and Television Studies, “is something I feel passionate about. New York is such a vibrant environment, I’m making valuable connections — I feel like I can go anywhere from here.”

“Hard talk”

UVMToday’s Russian majors have a history of success -- Joe Bowman ’01 was a founding partner of the first venture capital firm in Russia -- but as a group this year’s graduates show particularly “industriousness and ingenuity” notes Professor Kevin McKenna. Oliver Chase, a Fulbright finalist with a double major in economics, landed a sales job in Moscow with a medical sports product distributor. (Chase, a high school chess champion, originally learned Russian with the dream of competing in Moscow speaking the native language. He spent a year abroad studying at St. Petersburg University while playing chess tournaments on the side.)

Peace Corp finalist Sam Mishcon, with a double major in Japanese, is awaiting his assignment in either Ukraine or Moldova. After spending a month in St. Petersburg over the summer, Ross Cunningham, also a double major in economics, is a first-year law student at George Washington University, where he’s considering a career in international law.

There are a couple of things that all of these students have in common besides an incredible facility for language (Dahly has a Spanish minor, Cunningham a minor in French). Russian, as

“Учитьсь сеbя в своєй рарелi” (to “feel at home,” explains Kirsti Dahly in “Sequins and Snow” the blog she began shortly after her recent arrival in Khanty-Mansiisk, Siberia. For some, just looking at that phrase could cause dizziness, much less arriving alone in a place more frequently associated with banishment to a land of ice and hard labor. But definitely not Dahly, who graduated in May, won a prestigious Fulbright award and is teaching English and American culture at Ugra State University. She is embracing the people and her work with a sense of both joyous enthusiasm and earnest deliberation on the lines of her post in October: “I’m making valuable connections — I feel like I can go anywhere from here.”

“I think I scored major ‘Russian Soul Points’,” says Fulbright scholar Kirsti Dahly ’11 in her blog from Siberia, “when I compared my getting better at finding mushrooms (to Tolstoy character) Levin’s improvement wielding a scythe during harvesting — when you stop over-thinking it, things come more naturally.” (Photo courtesy of Kirsti Dahly)

 translation and interpreting at the Monterey International Institute in California (May 2011), whereupon he immediately married his Moscow sweetheart, Dasha.

Sam Vary (2011) has landed the exciting position of evening news producer for the RTVi’s (Russian Television) News Hour in New York City. In addition to handling journalism translation matters for the show, Sam will also be identifying and developing new stories on events in the NYC area to be covered on the RTVi program. RTVi is the premier independent Russian television network, with over 50 million viewers worldwide. He is travelling in Russia this fall to develop new story lines.

Richard Langston (1993), Assistant Professor of German at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has received a Humboldt Scholarship.

Charley Ruegger (2009) is enrolled in Law School in Yaroslavl, Russia (Vermont’s Sister State). This comes after working for a year and a half at the Vermont/Karelia Rule of Law Program for Karen Johnson (one of our Russian major graduates from 1996).

Anna Olson (2007) is living in Augsburg, Germany, and as of September 2011 is teaching English full-time at a private school, the Inlingua Berufsfachschule für Fremdsprachenkorrespondentin. She will be teaching Business Correspondence, “Sprechfertigkeit,” and basic economic and business knowledge to students in their late teens and early twenties.

Sam Mishcon (2011) was a double major in Russian and Japanese, and studied abroad in both St. Petersburg and in Nagoya, Japan. He lived in the UVM “Russian House” for all his time on campus and served as its co-director and director over a 2 year period. Sam is leaving in January with the Peace Corps to teach English as a Second Language in Gruziya/Georgia.

Oliver Chase (2011) is living in Moscow, and has been working since the summer of 2011 in the sports medicine division of the sports distributor Eaglesports. He markets and sells medical devices to hospitals, sports teams, fitness clubs, etc. and is finding persuading people in a foreign language both an incredible amount of work and also a great lingual and business practice.