Winter is just around the corner and it’s time again to send greetings from the Department of German and Russian and to apprise you of the achievements of our faculty, students, and alumni. I am very happy to report that this past year was a busy one for the department.

Our students continue to do us proud, receiving prestigious scholarships like the Beinecke Scholarship and the Fulbright Research Grant; completing their M.A. and honors theses; and excelling in their courses. Many of our alumni informed us about their exciting job opportunities in the US and abroad. We also have two new graduate students in our German M.A. program, one of whom just received his acceptance letter to study at the University of Augsburg in the spring.

This year also saw Wolfgang Mieder turn 70 years young, and the University of Vermont celebrated his birthday in style. Professor McKenna masterminded the celebration, keeping it a surprise from Wolfgang, who walked unknowingly into a room filled with old friends, colleagues, and current and former students. With President Tom Sullivan in attendance, Dean Cepeda-Benito gave the laudatio, and a delegation of Wolfgang’s colleagues from Europe presented him with a Festschrift in his honor. Of course, Wolfgang rose to the occasion and gave a most gracious and heartwarming thank-you speech that made us all proud. Predictably, turning 70 has not slowed him down one bit: he is as active as ever, as his list of publications amply demonstrates.

The next celebration was on the occasion of Professor Dennis Mahoney being awarded the Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contribution to International Education. Colleagues and students spoke about Dennis’s commitment to excellent teaching, his directorship of the German house, and above all his generosity towards students in terms of extra help and mentoring. Professor Mahoney is the third member of our department to be honored with the Robert V. Daniels Award – Kevin McKenna and Wolfgang Mieder are also proud recipients.

All members of the department are actively engaged with their scholarship. We had a busy year travelling to conferences in the United States and Europe. Professor Scollins was invited back to her Alma Mater, the University of Wisconsin, to present her research on the Petersburg Text. Professor Mahoney attended the annual meeting of the Novalis Society in Oberwiederstedt, both as a presenter and as the Society’s first American president. Professor Mieder traveled to conferences in Finland and Paris, giving a talk at the Sorbonne, and by the time you are reading this he will likely be receiving his honorary degree from the University of Athens in Greece. I myself was able to go to two conferences in Vienna, Austria. Unfortunately, the crisis between Russia and Ukraine prevented Professor McKenna from taking advantage of an invitation to speak at a conference on Solzhenitsyn in Moscow, as his visa application was denied.

We also had the pleasure of hosting two of our former students as invited speakers. Peter Christiansen (Russian major, 1986) returned to the University in his capacity as a recruiter for the State Department and talked to a packed room of language students about his experiences at the State Department and what working there entails. He also had lunch with a number of our German and Russian seniors. Sam Mishcon (Russian and Japanese double major, 2011), returned to UVM to speak about his experiences during his Peace Corps placement in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, where he taught English as a Second Language.

In addition, we hosted or co-hosted a number of very interesting guest lectures, the highlight being our 25th annual Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture. Scott Spector, Professor of German, History and Judaic Studies, presented a fascinating lecture entitled “Two Vultures: Freud between ‘Jewish Science’ and Humanism.” We also had two “homegrown” lectures, with Professor Mieder speaking on the origin of “Der Rattenfänger von Hameln,” and Professor Mahoney presenting on Goethe’s and Massenet’s Werther in preparation for the German House’s outing to the cinema to see a recording of the Metropolitan Opera performance.

Let me conclude by thanking all of you for your continued support of the German and Russian Department. Please keep sending us your news!

With best wishes for the Holidays,
Theresa Hoeck reports that Scotland is more than clansmen in their kilts, bagpipes, or malt whiskey. She marveled at true wilderness along Scotland’s island-strewn coastline and its rugged Highlands. She enjoyed numerous cultural attractions in the very vibrant cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Back on the continent, it was a summer of theater and music at various festivals. She hopes that her enthusiasm for traveling will inspire her students to explore the broader and less known world.

Adriana Borra is on a full sabbatical in 2014/15 while she works on a new dictionary project. She has been dividing her time between Turin, Italy and Regensburg, Germany.

Katie Kenny once again had a fabulous time traveling around England and Germany in May and June with her two sons, catching up with family and friends. July and August were spent enjoying the camping delights of Vermont, Canada, and North Carolina with all of her family. She is enjoying teaching her three German classes, and being back at work in the department.

Gidon Bavly spent another sunny summer sailing on the lake. His only celebrity guests this year were former U.S. Federal Reserve Official Alice Rivlin and former Congressman Mickey Edwards (R-Okl). Over the summer he started training a little Chihuahua to be the boat’s mascot and lucky charm. He brought the pooch to the boat to see the Independence Day fireworks and to celebrate with some friends. At the first salvo the little puppy showed major(!) signs of distress. Gidon grabbed her and took cover behind a storage shed on the back dock at the marina. Fortunately, since it would have been hard to hold her for the whole 45 minutes, Gidon found an empty flowerbox for her to shelter in (see picture for reenactment). Despite starting the evening with front row seats he ended up not seeing the fireworks at all, and kept hoping that each new salvo was the grand finale.

Kate Kenny once again had a fabulous time traveling around England and Germany in May and June with her two sons, catching up with family and friends. July and August were spent enjoying the camping delights of Vermont, Canada, and North Carolina with all of her family. She is enjoying teaching her three German classes, and being back at work in the department.

Elena Carter spent her summer participating in the Kanazawa Technical College Summer Program at Saint Michael’s College (where she taught English as a second language to a group of young adults from Japan), as well as writing two articles on Nikita Khrushchev’s proverbial speeches at the United Nations and the use of metaphorical language by the Soviet Premier during his visits to the United States in 1959 – 1960. The resulting paper, “Melting the Ice of the Cold War: Nikita Khrushchev’s Proverbial Rhetoric in America,” was successfully presented at the 8th Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs at the beginning of November 2014 in Tavira, Portugal. Now she is enjoying teaching her Russian Composition and Conversation class.

Kevin McKenna commenced his summer this year on a two-week bike-trip with his wife, Marcy, along with Professor Wolfgang Mieder and his wife, Barbara. The ride this year was a spectacular trip through wine country in the Loire Valley of France. In the summer of 2015, all four plan to reprise this odyssey over the terrain of Slovenia, Italy, and Austria. Back home by mid-June, Professor McKenna returned to his book on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s use of Russian proverbs in his fictional and publicistic writing. Part of this research will be delivered to colleagues at the National Meeting of AATSEEL.
Wolfgang Mieder had another exciting summer that took him and his wife, along with Prof. Kevin McKenna and his wife, to the Loire Valley in France on an enjoyable bicycle trip that included stays in beautiful castles with scrumptious meals and splendid wines. They also enjoyed almost three days in Paris, with Prof. Mieder flying on to Hamburg to visit his sister and her family. He also went on to the old Hanseatic city of Greifswald on the Baltic Sea where he presented a lecture on the proverbial rhetoric of President Barack Obama and met up with two proverb scholars specializing in the rich treasure of Russian proverbs. Other lecture trips during the year took him to Providence, Rhode Island, Washington, D.C., Logan, Utah, Tartu, Estonia, and Helsinki, Finland. A special and memorable event was the opportunity to present a lecture on the proverbial language of the two 19th-century feminists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony at the Sorbonne in Paris. His book on these two amazing ladies just appeared in print with the title “All Men and Women Are Created Equal”. Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s and Susan B. Anthony’s Proverbial Rhetoric Promoting Women’s Rights (2014). In addition to various published articles there is also his German book on the survival of Bible proverbs in modern literature, mass media, and cartoons with the title “Wer andern eine Grube gräbt ...”. Sprichwörtliches aus der Bibel in moderner Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen (2014). His work on the use of proverbs and proverbial expressions by Willy Brandt, the former mayor of Berlin and German chancellor, is coming along as well. He also reached the age of seventy and continues to teach with much excitement and enthusiasm in the hope that he will be able to continue for a few more years. In addition to teaching advanced German classes on Folklore, Medieval Literature, History of the German Language, and 19th Century Literature, he is very appreciative for being able to teach a large lecture course during the fall semesters on “The Nature and Politics of Proverbs”. It is a great joy for him to reach larger numbers of students as his professional career is nearing its end – but not yet!

Brian Minier had a lovely summer! High points included hiking Mount Abe with his five-year-old daughter and seventy-year-old father-in-law. Low points included the resulting torn meniscus. Incidentally, if you go hiking with a septuagenarian and a preschooler, and you’re the one who comes out injured, you may be past your prime. The knee injury came less than two years after a broken hand received during a soccer game, and raised concerns of decrepitude. Brian’s main winter endeavor will be skiing with his son and teaching his daughter to do the same. What could go wrong?

Helga Schreckenberger started her summer with a conference at the University of Vienna, where she presented on Lily Gruen’s novel Alles ist Jazz (1933). She combined a visit to her family in Austria with research at the Wien Bibliothek. After her return, she spent a wonderful week in Maine’s Acadia National Park together with her roommates from college. Then she enjoyed this year’s glorious summer in Burlington with gardening, reading, and preparing courses for the fall semester.

Kathleen Scollins is pleased to be back in the department after a very productive (but somewhat lonely) junior research leave, during which she completed a book-length manuscript on the 18th- and 19th-century origins of the Petersburg literary tradition. In between chapters, she also traveled to conferences in Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin, where she presented new research on the Petersburg tales of Pushkin and Gogol. She spent much of the summer with her husband Brian and their two children (ages 5 and 9) gardening, cooking, and traveling (highlights included a 20-year Haverford College reunion with Brian; family trips to New Hampshire, Maine, and Cape Cod; and the annual family reunion in Michigan). After so many months spent in the relatively leisurely pursuits of research, writing, and family life, she is delighted to be back in the classroom, where her enthusiastic and energetic students never let her slow down. Next up: the annual ASEES Convention in San Antonio, where she will present on the intersections between 19th-century Russian literature and Orthodox iconography.
2014 Departmental Awards

Awards for German:
1st year: Garrett Garcia
2nd year: Sommer Johansen
German 122 (Contemporary German Culture): Alexandra Sebastiano
German 155 (German Literature in Context I): Anna Lidofsky
German 237 (The German Novella): Anna-Lisa Kraller
German 282 (Modern Drama): Evan Groetch
German House: Amanda Greene

Awards for Russian:
1st year: Georgia Jackson
2nd year: Andrew Lamoureux and Tatiana Rumsey
Russian 101 (Phonology): Tatiana Rumsey
World Literature 118 (Russian Literature in Translation): Hannah Gibson
Russian 121 (Composition and Conversation): Ruslan Lucero
Russian 161 (Lexicology): Kristen Rousse
Russian 202 (20th Century Russian Literature): Jackson Taymans
Russian 221 (Russian Culture and Civilization to the 1905 Revolution): Rubin Goldberg

Awards for Hebrew:
Intermediate Hebrew: Alli Agulnick
Advanced Hebrew: Danielle Greenwald

From left: Outstanding Senior in German, Jonas Gray; Department Chairperson, Helga Schreckenberger; Outstanding Senior in Russian, Jackson Taymans
Faculty Publications

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

Dennis Mahoney

Professor Mahoney edited a volume with over 100 poems by Charlie Ballantyne, a UVM graduate of the class of 1950. The volume was published in the “Red Barn” series of Wind Ridge Books of Shelburne.

Professor Mahoney co-edited Über die Natur des Lichts – Die Farbe Blau in der Romantik (a catalogue for the exhibit and international conference of the same name co-sponsored by the International Novalis Society). The catalogue also contains Professor Mahoney’s essay “‘Dämmrung will die Flügel spreitzen’: Die Funktion von Tageszeiten, Licht und Farbe in Joseph von Eichendorffs Ahnung und Gegenwart,” an analysis of the symbolic functions of the different times of the day (morning, afternoon, evening, night), light and colors in the novel Ahnung und Gegenwart by Joseph von Eichendorff.

Professor Mahoney published an article on Joseph von Eichendorff in the Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception.

Kevin McKenna

Professor McKenna is the author of “Parabasis in Nikolay Gogol’s The Inspector General: The Proverbial Medium.” He argues that the proverb-epigraph “Don’t grumble at the mirror if your [own] puss is distorted” in the 1842 edition of Gogol’s comedy The Inspector General represents the main parabasis in the play.

Wolfgang Mieder

Professor Mieder’s article “‘Die Furcht ist auch hier wieder die Mutter der Moral’. Sprichwörtliche Aphorismen in Friedrich Nietzsche’s Jenseits vom Gut und Böse” appeared in the Academic Journal of Modern Philology. Professor Mieder interprets Nietzsche’s aphorisms in Beyond Good and Evil, pointing out their debt to proverbial expressions.

Professor Mieder published “‘Idleness Is the Beginning of All Philosophy’: Friedrich Nietzsche’s Aphoristic Anti-Proverbs” in the Proceedings of the Sixth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 4th to 11th November 2012, at Tavira, Portugal. In this article, Professor Mieder analyzes examples of Nietzsche’s anti-proverbs and their enhancement of the critical tone of his aphorisms.


Professor Mieder is the author of “All Men and Women Are Created Equal.” Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s and Susan B. Anthony’s Proverbial Rhetoric Promoting Women’s Rights. Professor Mieder traces both women’s rich use of Biblical and folk proverbs in their correspondence, speeches and essays, analyzing the function of traditionally and innovatively worded expressions in their fight against discrimination. The book contains an index of all proverbs and proverbial expression used by Cady Stanton and Anthony in their rhetorical contexts and with information on their source and date.

Professor Mieder is the author of “Wer andern eine Grube gräbt ...” Sprichwörtliches aus der Bibel in moderner Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen. (“Whoever Digs a Pit for Others ... “ Proverbial Language from the Bible in Modern Literature, Media, and Caricatures.) Wien: Praesens, 2014.

Professor Mieder published volume 31 of Proverbium. Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship. In addition to an updated bibliography of international proverb scholarship and an international bibliography of new and reprinted proverb collections, Professor Mieder also contributed the article “‘Keep your Eyes on the Prize’: Congressman John Lewis’s Proverbial Odyssey for Civil Rights” to the volume. The article analyzes the function of proverbs in Lewis’s three books: Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement (1998), Across the Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change (2012) and March: Book One (2013).

Helga Schreckenberger

Professor Schreckenberger is the author of “‘They Say Hollywood is a Paradise!’ Salka Viertel’s Perseverance During Hollywood’s ‘Inquisition.’” The article discusses the reasons that prevented Salka Viertel from returning to Europe even when her career in Hollywood had come to an end, partly due to her political activism.
The GRS Program is pleased to announce that Dennis Mahoney is the recipient of the 2014 Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education.

Dennis joined UVM in 1979 and attained the position of full professor in 1994. Over the last 35 years, through research, teaching and service, he has been a leader in building and advancing international studies at UVM. Dennis’ classes in the Department of German and Russian Studies have included upper-level courses that have allowed students to explore German Romanticism, the works of luminaries such as Richard Wagner, Friedrich Schiller and Heinrich von Kleist, and the interactions between literary development and events such as the French Revolution and the rise of German nationalism. Dennis has also taught Area and International Studies classes and in the TAP program with a course exploring literature from the Enlightenment to Nazism. He was honored with UVM’s 2001 Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dennis has a truly impressive record of service, activity and outreach in international studies. One central element of this has been his work with residentially based education. As a newly minted Assistant Professor, Dennis was tapped to serve as faculty director of the German House, and he and his spouse Angi resided in an apartment in the Living/Learning Center for several years. In 2005 Vice President Lauck Parke and John Sama asked Dennis to help conceptualize a new idea - the creation of Residential Learning Communities (RLCs). Dennis was an important contributor on the first team that developed the framework for RLCs and went on to serve as Faculty Director of the Global Village RLC for its first two years (2006-2008). “D-Mo,” as students affectionately called him, was the perfect person to launch this initiative, and to get students excited about participating. Dennis’ strengths as director included bringing UVM faculty into this community to engage with students, providing cultural and artistic programming, supporting international exchange students and UVM students who wanted to study abroad, and linking the Global Village with local and regional organizations with a global focus.

Beyond this, Dennis served as the Interim Director of the European Studies program in 1997-98, the Director from 2000 to 2005, and the Acting Director in 2011. From 2006 to 2008 he served on the committee that laid the groundwork for the development of the Global Studies program at UVM. He has offered public commentary for Lane Series events and organized Burack lectures in 2006, 2007, and 2011. Finally, since 1994, Dennis has served as UVM coordinator of our student exchange program in Augsburg, Germany.

Dennis’ scholarship has focused on the works of Goethe, Novalis, Schiller, and other authors of the Age of Goethe. He is author or editor of seven books and has published forty articles and chapters and nearly ninety book reviews on areas of his scholarly expertise. His book, Roman der Goethezeit, brought him national and international recognition. This is also the case for his three books on the German Romantic writer Novalis, two written in German and one in English. His book on The Critical Reception of Novalis' Novel "Heinrich von Ofterdingen" was named one of Choice magazine's "Outstanding Academic Books for 1995." In his most recent project, he served as editor of The Literature of German Romanticism (2004), part of the 10-volume Camden House German Literature series that represents the most detailed history of German Literature in English. Since 2012 he has been serving as the President of the International Novalis Society and is the first non-German to do so.

The Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education

The 2014 Robert V. Daniels Award honors Dennis Mahoney, Professor of German

Robert V. Daniels Award History and list of previous recipients

Robert V. Daniels Award History:

Established in 2004 in honor of Professor Emeritus of History Robert V. "Bill" Daniels, the award celebrates the achievements of UVM’s most distinguished scholars and teachers of international studies. Previous recipients include Professor Emeritus of History Robert V. Daniels (2004), Professor Emeritus of History William Metcalfe (2005), Professor Emeritus of Economics Abbas Aminrazavi (2006), Professor Emeritus of History Peter Seybolt (2007), Professor André Senécal (2008), Professor Kevin McKenna (2009), Professor George Moyser (2010), Juefei Wang (2011), Wolfgang Mieder (2012), and Denise J. Youngblood (2013).
German and Russian Houses Cook-Off—Round Three  
by Professor Kevin McKenna

On Monday evening, November 10th, the German and Russian Houses reprised their annual culinary spectacular in the Fireplace Lounge of Living and Learning. Designed to raise money to benefit a Russian orphanage in Ukraine, this third annual event bested last year’s proceeds to the tune of more than three-hundred dollars.

Under the skillful leadership of Professors Dennis Mahoney and Elena Carter, along with shopping and food preparations by Kyle O’Brien (German House) and Tatiana Rumsey/Sasha Sidelev (Russian House), more than one-hundred-fifty Living/Learning students feasted on main courses of Schnitzel complemented with side dishes of Kartoffelklöße (potato dumplings) and Käsespätzle (a much tastier German equivalent of macaroni and cheese). Professor Mahoney contributed his much-heralded Apfelkuchen (apple cake) by way of dessert. On the Russian side of this gastro-extravaganza, students feasted on Russian pirozhki (stuffed meat pies), bliny (tasty Russian pancakes), and borscht. At last check, fortunately, no one complained of gastrointestinal distress, and much fun was had by all.

Congratulations to student organizers and chefs of this enjoyable and successful charity event!
Alumni News

Matt Andrews (German major, 2014) received a Fulbright Research Grant to work on a research project at the University of Marburg. In addition, he was awarded the Berliner Luftbrückenstipendium der Steuben-Schurz-Gesellschaft e.V. 2014, which is offered to one American student every year in connection with the Fulbright Grant.

Rebecca Bostock-Holtzman (Russian Minor, 2012) has begun the Ph.D. program in Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at the Ohio State University.

Dan Cawley and Sam Mishcon (both Russian majors, 2012) have been working for the U.S. Peace Corps (Dan in Kyrgyzstan and Sam in Georgia). Sam recently returned to UVM to give a talk on careers in the Peace Corps. Sam plans to return to Russia soon, where he will be working with a firm teaching English to Russian businessmen. Dan is preparing to enter into a graduate program in urban/regional planning with a specialty in international development/overseas work. Svetlana Mikheyeva (Russian major, 2013) has also been accepted into the Peace Corps and is now awaiting assignment.

Kim Cornett (German major, 2010) accepted a position in Rome as an associate reporting officer in the emergency and rehabilitation unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. She is in charge of communications work about the organization’s emergency projects completed and underway in eastern and southern Africa (e.g. sending seeds and tools to South Sudan).

Ross Cunningham (Russian major, 2011) recently received his J.D. degree from George Washington University Law School.

Hannah Doughty (Russian major, 2014) joined the Air Force, shipping out to basic training earlier this fall, preparing to serve as an Airborne Cryptologic Linguist.

Tim Douglas (REES minor, 2011) has begun an M.A. program at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation for a Masters of Science degree in Urban Planning.

Beka Foley (REES major, 2013) has worked in Paris for the past year-and-a-half for Google Maps, but has now decided to return to graduate school in Russian Studies. She has just been admitted into the M.A. degree program in Russian and Eurasian Studies (IMARES) at the European University at St. Petersburg, where she will commence her graduate program in January of 2015.

Hannah Gibson (Russian major, 2014) is an Interpreting Project Manager and freelance translator with Global Arena Language Services.

Ian Goodnow (Russian major, 2014) is now a case worker with the Vermont Department of Labor.

Megan Luttrell (Russian major, 2010) just completed her final year of coursework in the PhD program of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Kansas.

John Mauran (Russian major, 2014) is an intern at the Center for Economic and Social Research, stationed in Warsaw.

Liza Petow (Russian major, 2010) started her study of law this year at Harvard University.

David Plotkin (Russian major, 2014) is applying for a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English at a Russian university during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Charley Ruegger (Russian major, 2010) was awarded the Les Zambo scholarship for finance students in May and won a fellowship to travel to Vladivostok and participate in the Northeast Asian Economic Forum’s Young Leaders Program (NEAEF YLP) for 3 weeks in August. He was named the 2014 Student Commencement Speaker for his graduating class at the Monterey Institute, and will be receiving his MBA in May of 2015 with a specialization in International Finance and Energy Markets.

Gavin Santacross (German major, 2014) is teaching German at Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, Vermont.

Tanya Sherman (Russian major, 2010) is in her second year at the Monterey Program in the Russian Translation/Interpreting and Business Localization M.A. Program.

Will Sinkula (Russian major, 2013) is living in Kiev, Ukraine, and working for the American English Center.

Jackson Taymans (Russian major, 2014) will be entering into the European University at St. Petersburg to pursue an M.A. degree in Russian Cultural History and Arts. He also holds the honor of creating and serving his Russian borscht dish at the Skinny Pancake down on the Burlington Waterfront.

Student News

Nicolas Chlebak (Russian major, 2015), spent the 2014 spring semester at Yaroslavl University. His Senior Honors Thesis proposal entitled “The Adaptability of the Balalaika: An Ethnomusicological Investigation of the Russian Traditional Folk Instrument,” has been accepted by the Dean's Honors Review Committee.

Rubin Goldberg (Russian major, 2015) earned a Summer Research Award, which enabled him to spend last summer researching his Senior Honors Thesis, “The Effect of Russian and Soviet Nationalities Policy on Baltic States, 1855-1991.” Rubin is now studying at Riga University in Latvia, where he and Kristen Rousse (Russian major and German minor, 2015) are studying as part of the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP).

Alexandria Hall (German minor, 2016) received the Beinecke Scholarship – one of the most prestigious graduate fellowships in the U.S.

Justin Hueckel (German M.A., 2015) was accepted for graduate studies in German at the University of Augsburg.

Three of our Russian students were semi-finalists in the national competitions for Boren and/or Critical Language Scholarships:

Sammie Ibrahim (Russian minor, 2015), Jacob Pelland (Russian major, 2015), and Gabriel Sheir (Russian minor, 2015). Sammie went on to be awarded the Boren scholarship, and will be studying Russian in Kazakhstan this coming spring semester. Gabriel spent his summer on a CIEE Russian Language Study Program in St. Petersburg, after which he traveled to Moscow State University, where he is studying this fall.

Three of our students – Kylie Keune (REES major, 2015), John Marchinkoski, and Neal Hopton (Russian major, 2015) – are currently studying in Saint Petersburg.

Miles Schoenberg (Russian minor, 2015) spent the spring 2014 semester studying at Moscow University.

Rebecca Spinner and Georgia Jackson (Russian major, 2015) studied at the Middlebury College Intensive Summer Russian Language Program this summer.
Update from recent graduate Mark Russell

I couldn’t have been happier when I received my diploma in the mail a couple of weeks ago, and it seemed at times that that day would never come. It took me longer than I would have liked, and probably would have taken me even longer if it wasn’t for the support of all the professors in the German Department and my very helpful advisor, Prof. Dennis F. Mahoney. My thesis focused on the figure of the wanderer in literature from the Age of Goethe, making use of works from Eichendorff, Müller and Goethe. While on my Fulbright Grant in Augsburg and later in Erding, it was hard to focus on my thesis with so much history around me. Do I visit the Park an der Ilm, where Goethe himself ‘wandered,’ or do I spend the weekend in the library with his characters he wrote about while living in his garden house in the same park? These were the type of questions I had to ask myself, but luckily I was able to find a balance between the two. I have decided to stay in Germany a bit longer until I find a position where I can make use of this fancy piece of paper I recently got in the mail.

Until that time however, I’ve found a temporary job at the Olympic Park in Munich. I’m very grateful for all the experiences I had at UVM, and I will miss all of the professors and the great learning environment that was provided.

Mark Russell, standing in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin with another Fulbright grantee, Sarah Salino (William and Mary graduate).

Former German student Olga Trokhimenko publishes book

Olga Trokhimenko came to the University of Vermont in 1996 from the Vinnytsia State Pedagogical University in Ukraine. After spending one year with us she decided to continue her studies as a graduate student in German at UVM. After two years she received her M.A. degree with an excellent thesis that was published as a book with the title “Wie ein Elefant im Porzellanladen”. Zur Weltgeschichte einer Redensart (1999). After that she continued her German studies at Duke University where she obtained her Ph.D. degree in 2006. Since then she has taught German language, culture, and literature at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. In 2011 she became a tenured Associate Professor there, having been honored with numerous fellowships and awards. Her newest accomplishment is the absolutely magisterial book Constructing Virtue and Vice. Femininity and

Laughter in Courtly Society (ca. 1150-1300) that was published in 2014 in Germany. The book examines textual representations of women’s laughter and smiling and their imagined connection to female virtue in a wide variety of discourses and contexts of the German Middle Ages, including medieval epic, ecclesiastical texts, conduct literature, lyric, and sculpture. By engaging with the competing, and at times contradictory, views of female laughter, the book reaffirms a disputatious nature of medieval culture, in which multiple views of femininity, sexuality, and virtue stood in conflicting, yet productive, dialogue with one another. Women’s laughter thus offers an important way into understanding medieval views of gender because it combines physicality with shifting and conflicting cultural norms.
Student Scholarship News

Alexandria Hall received the Beinecke Scholarship. German graduate students Justin Hueckel and Kyle O’Brien both received $2,000 Webster Graduate Scholarships. Justin Hueckel is also the recipient of a $1,000 Mieder Scholarship. Sammie Ibrahim was awarded the Boren Scholarship. $500 Lamport Prizes were awarded to Alli Agulnick, Robin Brand, and Madeline Rabin. Kristen Rousse was the recipient of a $500 Study Abroad Scholarship, and Jordan Seim received a Study Abroad Scholarship of $300.

Congratulations to our 2014 Graduates!!

www.uvm.edu/germanrussian
Contributors to the German and Russian Gift Fund

Mrs. Jan Abbott & Mr. Harris Abbott
Ms. Carolyn Ahrens
Mrs. Marilyn Aldrich
Dr. Elizabeth Allen-Pennebaker
Ms. Shirley Arora
Arora Family Charitable Foundation
Mr. Stephen Ash
Ms. Elizabeth Austin & Mr. Lawrence Damon
Mr. Milton Barwick & Mrs. Margaret Burns
Mr. Gidon Bavly
Ms. Adriana Borra
Dr. Kathrin Bower
Dr. Russell Bradley
Mrs. Sherry Calkins
Ms. Christine Carragee
Ms. Rose Carruth
Ms. Caroline Cole
Mr. Ernest Cordes & Mrs. Nancy Cordes
Ms. Kimberly Cornett
Ms. Jennifer Davis
Ms. Petra Eldh
Dr. Christopher Evans & Mrs. Margot Evans
Mrs. Fusun Floyd
Mr. Donald Fox & Mrs. Rachel Fox
Geico Philanthropic Foundation
Mr. Philip Georgatos
Ms. Martha Gilbreath
Mary-Ellen Grove
Dr. Janet Hadda
Mr. Peter Hammer
Mr. Robert Hatfield
Mrs. Larissa Hebert
Mr. Michael Herrera
Ms. Theresia Hoeck
Ms. Sara Holub
Mr. Jeremy Hourigan
Dr. Thomas Huber
Dr. Benjamin Jens
Dr. Max Kahn and Ms. Kathleen Lampe
Mrs. Nella Kamerman
Mrs. Barbara Keigler & Mr. Thomas Keigler
Mrs. Hazel Kahn Keimowitz & Dr. Robert Keimowitz
Ms. Kate Kenny
Mr. Keir Kleinknecht and the Knight Vision Foundation
Dr. Primus-Heinz Kucher
Ms. Henia Lewin
Ms Catherine Lippman

Mr. John Ludes, Jr. & Mrs. Anne Ludes
Ludes Family Foundation
Ms. Alexandra Lutz
Mrs. Christine MacDougall
Prof. Kevin McKenna & Ms. Marcy Waterfall
Mrs. Marguerite McKenna
Ms. Martha McKenna
Mrs. Kendra McKinley
Dr. Dennis Mahoney and Mrs. Maria Angelika Mahoney
Mr. Christopher Marino & Mrs. Kimberly Marino
Prof. Wolfgang Mieder & Dr. Barbara Mieder
Ms. Ann Miller
Mr. Keith Monley & Ms. Elizabeth Inness-Brown
Mr. Stephen Monroe
Mr. Wendell Murray
Prof. Kenneth Nalibow
Mrs. Barbara Nevid & Mr. Maynard Nevid
Mr. Maynard North
Ms. Jean O’Donnell
Mrs. Carol Ode & Mr. Paul Ode, Jr.
Mr. Daniel Page & Dr. Kirsi Savusalo
Mr. Michael Patterson
Dr. George Peredy
Ms. Nancy Persons
Ms. Alma Piric
Mr. Almin Piric
Ms. Ivana Popovac
Ms. Tamara Popovac
Prof. Helga Schreckenberger & Mr. Gordon Peterson
Prof. Kathleen Scollins & Mr. Brian Minier
Dr. Michael Scollins & Dr. Mary Scollins
Prof. David Scrase and Dr. Melanie Gustafson
Ms. Monika Shepherd
Mrs. Esther Shropshire & Mr. Thomas Shropshire
Mr. Douglas Smith & Ms. Stephanie Ellis-Smith
Mr. Thomas Smith
Mr. Richard Snyder
Ms. Janet Sobieski
Mrs. Hannelore Spence & Mr. Edward Spence
Ms. Amy Stockman
Mrs. Wendy Taggart & Mr. Joseph Taggart
Mr. Clifford Timpson and Ms. Leesa Guay-Timpson
Dr. Olga Trokhimenko
Mr. David Webster
Ms. Beatrice Wood
Dr. A. Peter Woolfson and Mrs. Vicki Woolfson

Thank you all for your generous donations to our German & Russian Materials Acquisition Fund! We received $7,405 in total gifts this year and spent $1,601. Expenditures from our gift fund were much less this year than last, because funding for the scholarships we provided came from our endowed funds. Here is a breakdown of our gift fund spending:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print &amp; Mail</td>
<td>$416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Materials and Supplies</td>
<td>$167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers and Events</td>
<td>$299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Tickets to Performances</td>
<td>$226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-of-semester and end-of-year celebrations</td>
<td>$493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Spent in FY14</strong></td>
<td>$1,160.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.