

Department of German and Russian Celebration of Graduating Seniors



Braxton Birchard

Major in Russian and History

Hometown: Derby, VT



Caucasus Mountains of Northern Georgia

"I greatly enjoyed my time studying in the Russian Department. I came into my Russian class Freshman year not anticipating becoming a Russian Major though eventually I was coaxed into it. I do not regret this one bit. I had the time of my life living in Russian House sophomore year and studying abroad in Saint Petersburg Senior Year. It is so sad that it went by so fast and had to end like it did. I can not wait to come back and see my past professors again."

Insatiably curious about Russian (and seemingly every other) culture, with the heart of an adventurer, the voice of a bard, and a gift for storytelling



Emily Bruggeman

Major in Russian and Political Science

Hometown: Hebron, CT



"The Russian Department may not be the largest faculty on campus, but the quality of our professors and students makes this one of the richest disciplines at UVM. I feel particularly fortunate to have had my research interests supported and cultivated from an early stage, particularly with encouragement from Professor Kevin McKenna to pursue an honors thesis. During my time in the Russian Department I was met with tremendous input and assistance from our impressive network of scholars. Collaborating with them undoubtedly improved the quality of my work, and gave me a far more rewarding research experience. Beyond my academic pursuits, connecting with my professors on a more personal level ultimately yielded valuable insights, advice, unbelievable stories, and inspiration for the various ways one can use a Russian degree. The Russian Department served as a wonderful community at UVM, and I will fondly remember our various escapades together both within the classroom and outside. Спасибо большое!"

Articulate, analytical, and intellectually curious--a true future scholar of Slavic studies who never backs down from a challenge!



Katie Esser

Major in Russian and Linguistics

Hometown: Bethesda, MD



"The Russian Department, its faculty, and advising has not only shaped my four years at UVM, but also my academic and professional skills. During my time at UVM, I was lucky enough to be able to study abroad in St. Petersburg, complete a year-long Teaching Assistantship, and receive College Honors through my thesis research, which bridged my studies in Russian and Linguistics. While undertaking these goals is certainly an independent endeavor, great credit is due to all of my professors for their guidance and encouragement along my journey. I wish you all the best and I will miss you all dearly!"

Our fearless and dedicated TA-extraordinaire, whose pedagogy background and attentive mentoring skills have helped shape the new Russian curriculum for years to come.



Alta Fox

Major in German and Global Studies



Hometown: Schenectady, NY

Personal Goal—Live and Work in Berlin



A deep thinker and amazing writer, whose quiet demeanor masks the heart of a true adventuress



Mike Gasparrini

Major in Russian and History

Hometown: Trumbull, CT



"Studying Russian has allowed me to take a deeper look inside of myself as well as gain a broader and deeper perspective about the varying cultures of humanity. Russian helped take me farther into myself as to new places I never would have seen myself going to before. I appreciate greatly my professors Professor Katsnelson and Scollins who encouraged me to pursue my studies, and helped me become a better student."

A born seeker: intellectually & physically adventurous, with an unconventional and creative spirit, he is most comfortable at the intersections of cultures, disciplines, and ideas



John Myles

Major in Russian and History

Hometown: New Castle, NH



"Thank you to all my professors and classmates for keeping the Russian department alive despite all the university's bullshit"

A true intellectual whose profane and mordant wit belies a keen and original intelligence



Austin McCourt

Major in Russian and History

Hometown: Boxford, Mass



" When I arrived at UVM, I was really unsure about what I wanted to do or what I wanted my college experience to look like. In the most unexpected of ways, I really found a home for myself in the German and Russian Department, and I'm so glad for the faculty and the friends I've made in it. With their help, I've discovered the best parts of myself in these last four years, and for that I'll be forever grateful. "

A sharp, quick analytical mind, whose interpretive skills are equally adept at decoding literary, political, and linguistic texts



Kate O'Hara, Major in Russian

Hometown: Glastonbury, CT



"I would like to say thank you to everyone in the German and Russian Department for making my experience at the University of Vermont so wonderful. The help and guidance I have received from the professors and staff has enabled me to be successful in my studies and career endeavors. Thank you again for all that you have done and I hope to see everyone again in the future."

A talented and goal-oriented student whose Russian major brings balance and breadth to her study of Computer Science and Economics



Emma Roach

Major in German and Linguistics

Hometown: Ithaca, NY



"My time here at UVM in the German department has been a very special experience for me. I had no idea that I would make so many good friends, meet so many wonderful professors, and learn so much about German language and culture. This was my second home, and I am so thankful for everyone I have met and everything I have experienced. I am excited to continue pursuing my love for German and Translation, knowing that my time here at UVM has given me everything I need to succeed. I will deeply miss this department and all the wonderful people here, but it will always have a special place in my heart."

An incredibly gifted linguist who has not yet met a language that she does not like, infectious cheerful and always one-hundred percent invested in whatever course she takes



Genavieve Twomey

Major in Russian

Hometown: North Adams, Massachusetts



“Better late than никогда!”

A natural skeptic, whose expressive writing and talent for challenging the status quo illuminate texts in original ways

