

Bryn Geffert

Work

Howe Library
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Home

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Education

Ph.D., History, University of Minnesota, 1998-2003.

Modern European History.
Major Area: Modern Russia.
Minor Area: Early Modern England.
Outside Area: Russian Literature.

M.A., History, University of Minnesota, 1994-1997.

Modern Russian History.

M.S., Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, 1991-1992.

Focus on research and reference, with courses in archives, cataloging, and systems.

B.A., *summa cum laude*, St. Olaf College, 1986-1990.

Double Major: History and Russian.
Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta (History), Departmental Distinction.

Other

- Harvard-ACRL Leadership Institute, 2007.
- Center for Language Studies, Beloit College, Summer 1994. Intensive Russian Language Study.
- Aberdeen University, Aberdeen, Scotland, Fall 1989. Coursework in Russian language and history.
- Intensive Russian Language Study, Krasnodar, USSR, Fall 1988.

Languages

- Russian.
- German (reading).
- Modern Greek (reading).

Academic Employment

Dean of Libraries, University of Vermont, 2019-present.

Professor, Department of History, 2020-present.

Responsible for vision, program, and operations for the University of Vermont Libraries.

Librarian of the College (Library Director), Amherst College, 2010-2019.

Lecturer, Department of History, Amherst College, 2014-present.

Highlights include winning the Association of College & Research Libraries' Excellence in Academic Libraries Award (library of the year award) in 2015; establishing the Amherst College Press, the first open-access press in the U.S. devoted to scholarly monographs; chairing the task force that launched the Lever Press; establishing the library's first Department of Digital Programs; building a new Department of Research and Instruction; re-envisioning the Department of Archives and Special Collections to emphasize archival research and teaching; significantly increasing opportunities for student research; renewing efforts on fundraising and consortial ventures; and crafting new opportunities for staff development.

Librarian (Library Director), United States Military Academy, West Point, 2008-2010.

Associate Professor, History, United States Military Academy, West Point, 2008-2010.

Recruited in the spring of 2008 to oversee a new library, to revitalize reference services and collection development, to develop a program of research instruction, and to teach in the history department.

College Librarian (Library Director), St. Olaf College, 2002-2008.

Associate Professor of Russian Area Studies, St. Olaf College, 2006-2008.

Reference Librarian, St. Olaf College. 1993-2002.

Responsible for the program, vision, and administration of the three St. Olaf libraries. Taught for the History Department and Russian Department.

Assistant Director for Library Services, Lewis and Clark Community College. 1992-1993.

Supervision of all staff; instructor in the library certification program—a two-year degree; research instruction and reference duties.

Reference Librarian, Illinois Valley Library System. 1992. (Position eliminated with cuts to the State Librarian's budget.)

Teaching

Amherst College

- Revolutionary Thinking (Russian Revolutionary Thought), Fall 2016 and Fall 2017.
- The Great Schism through Eastern Eyes, Fall 2014 and Fall 2015.

Smith College

- Renaissance and Revolution: Modern Russian Religious Thought (with Vera Shevzov), Fall 2013.

West Point

- Senior Colloquium on Eastern Orthodox Christianity, 2009.

St. Olaf College

- The Great Conversation, 2005-2007, a five-semester course on the history of Western thought.
 - The Tradition Beginning: Greeks and Hebrews, Fall 2005.
 - The Tradition Continuing: Romans and Christians, Interim 2006.
 - The Tradition Redefined: The Medieval Synthesis, Spring 2006.
 - The Tradition Renewed: New Forces of Secularization, Fall 2006.
 - The Tradition in Crisis: Dissenters and Defenders, Spring 2007.
- The Russian World, 2004.
- Imperial Russia (1690-1917), 2000.

University of Minnesota (as a Teaching Assistant)

- Modern Britain (1688-1970), 2000.
- World History (1450-1920s), 1999.

Publications in History

Books

- Forthcoming: *Catholics without Rome: Orthodox, Old Catholics, Anglicans, and the Reunion Negotiations of the 1870s*, with co-author LeRoy Boerneke. Notre Dame University Press. Accepted for publication..
- *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: The Essential Texts*, with co-author Theofanis Stavrou. Yale University Press, 2016, xxvi, 447 pp. + *Supplemental Texts*, xvi, 1350 pp., yalebooks.com/eoc. Reviewed in *Russian Review* 76 no. 2 (2017): 369-70; *Church History* 86 no. 3 (2017): 841-842; *CHOICE* 54 no. 4 (2016): 550; *Reading Religion* (September 17, 2016).
- *Eastern Orthodox and Anglicans: Diplomacy, Theology, and the Politics of Interwar Ecumenism*. Notre Dame University Press, 2010, ix, 501 pp. Reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 83, no. 4 (2011): 872-73; *Slavic Review* 70, no. 2 (2011): 433-34; *Russian Review* 69, no. 4 (2010): 724-25; *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 62, no. 2 (2011): 428-29; *Church History* 80, no. 2 (2011): 433-35; *Irish Theological Review* 75, no. 4 (2010): 420; *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 46, no. 1 (2011): 127-28; *Contemporary Church History Quarterly* 18, no. 2, (2012).

Articles & Essays

- "Rethinking *The Kreutzer Sonata* and Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*," in *Thresholds into the Orthodox Commonwealth*, ed. Lucien Frary, 473-88. Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers, 2017.
- "Anglican Orders and Orthodox Politics," *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 57, no. 2 (2006): 270-300.
- "The Charges of Heresy against Sergii Bulgakov: The Majority and Minority Reports of Evlogii's Commission and the Final Report of the Bishops' Conference," *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 49, no. 1-2 (2005): 47-66.
- "Sergii Bulgakov, The Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius, Intercommunion, and Sofiology," *Revolutionary Russia* 17, no. 1 (June 2004): 105-141.
- "The Era of the *Bogoslovskii Viestnik*," *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 41, no. 4 (1997): 273-336.
- "Existentialism and War in *Red Cavalry*," *Rusistika* no. 13 (July, 1996): 62-63; no. 14 (December, 1996): 10-14.
- "Lisovskii's List: 18th and 19th Century Russian Orthodox Religious and Theological Journals," *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 40, no. 3 (1996): 181-206.

Review Teams

- Occidental College Library, 2018.
- Williams College Library, 2015.
- Colgate University Library, 2015.
- Lafayette College Library, 2014.
- St. Mary's College Library, 2013.
- Franklin and Marshall College Library, 2011.

Consulting

- Grinnell College, 2015.

Work as a Referee

Cambridge University Press

- *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*.
- *Church History*.

National Endowment for the Humanities

Review Panelist.

Publications in History (continued)

Commentary

- "Orthodox Disunity in Ukraine," *Yale Books Unbound* (November 5, 2015), bit.ly/geffert-odu.
- "Western Reaction to Solzhenitsyn," *Bulletin of Bibliography* 49 (December, 1992): 289-298.

Book Reviews

- Review essays (11) in *Russian Review, Slavonic and East European Review, Journal of Ecclesiastical History, Church History, and Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*.

Publications in Librarianship

Commentary

- "Information Access and the 800-Pound Gorilla," *Inside Higher Ed* (February 20, 2017), <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2017/02/20/us-copyright-law-significantly-hinders-access-information-essay>.
- "Piracy Fills a Publishing Need," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (September 4, 2016) B4, bit.ly/geffert-pfpn.
- "A Librarian's Defense of Despair," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (March 6, 2015), bit.ly/geffert-ldd.
- "On Securing Rights," *The Scholarly Kitchen* (March 5, 2015), bit.ly/geffert-osr.
- "How to Succeed in Publishing without Really Trying," *Inside Higher Ed* (August 24, 2012), bit.ly/geffert-hsp.
- "Libraries, Publishers, and a Plea for Shotgun Weddings," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (March 20, 2011): B13-14, bit.ly/geffert-lpp.

Research

- Co-author, "Things They Carry: Attitudes toward, Opinions about, and Knowledge of Libraries and Research among Incoming College Students," *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 37, no. 3 (1998): 279-289.
- Co-author, "Whither BI?: Assessing Perceptions of Research Skills over an Undergraduate Career," *RQ* 36, no. 3 (1997): 409-421.
- Co-author, "Local Holdings Searching in ISI® CD-ROM Databases," *Information Technology and Libraries* 15, no. 4 (1996): 251-252.
- "Beginning with MARC: Providing a Foundation for Electronic Searching," *Research Strategies* 13, no. 1 (1995): 26-33.
- "Community Online Networks: A Case Study of the Freeton P.A.T.H.," *Public Libraries* 32, no. 2 (March/April, 1993): 91-99.

Invited Lectures

Auburn University, Bowdoin College, Colgate University, Drew University, Grinnell College, Lewis and Clark College, Middlebury College, Smith College, St. Mary's College, Temple University, Vassar College.

TEDx: "Books for Some, All, or None" (November 10, 2013), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK2TmNmAM7M>.

Community Service

Varsity Basketball Official

- Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, 2010-2012.
- Minnesota State High School League, 1996-2008.

Certified Red Cross Lifeguard Trainer and Swimming

Instructor, 1984-1994; WSI 2000-2002.

Youth Soccer Coach, Northfield MN and West Point NY, 2006-2009.

Other Interests

Piano study, 16 years.

Triathlons (4)

Marathons (22) including Boston (6).

College Service

Amherst College

- Chair of Manager's Council, 2012-2014.
- Disciplinary Hearing Advisor, 2011-present. Represent and advise students in cases of sexual harassment and assault.

West Point

- Continued Intellectual Development Committee, 2008-2010.

St. Olaf College

- Faculty mentor in St. Olaf's Summer Undergraduate Research Program, Summers 2007-2008.
- Great Conversation Steering Committee, 2005-2006.
- Review and Planning Committee, 2001-2004 (chair 2002-2003, secretary 2001-2002).
- Faculty-Regents Conference Committee, 1998-1999.
- Chair, Nominating Committee, 1997-1999.
- Faculty Advisor to University of East Anglia program, 1996-2004.
- Faculty Advisor to University of Aberdeen program, 1995-1996, 2000-2004.
- Special Studies Subcommittee of Curriculum and Education Policy Committee, 1994-1997.
- Secretary, Phi Beta Kappa, 1995-1997.

Other Employment

Minnesota Public Radio Newsroom, Summer 1989.

Internship. Helped write and edit *The Week in Review*, a weekly, three-hour summary of local, national, and international news.

Resource Counselor, QSS Inc. and Mt. Olivet Rolling Acres, 1990-1991.

Programming with moderately to severely mentally disabled adults and children.

Head Swimming Instructor, Chaska Community Education, Summers 1986-1990 (1989 and 1990 as head).

Supervised a staff of seven instructors, designed curriculum material, and taught.