



OCTOBER 2017

Global and Regional Studies 2016-2017 Newsletter

A Message from the Director

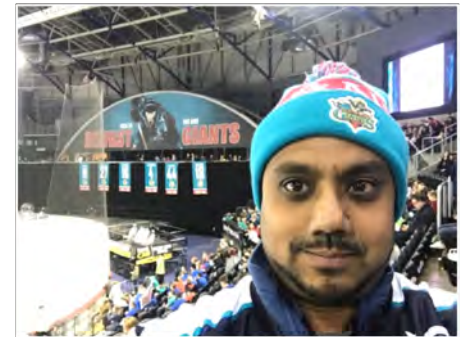
Pablo Bose, Geography Department and GRS Co-Director

Professor **Jonah Steinberg**, of Anthropology, and I took on the shared position of Global and Regional Studies directors in 2016-2017, and have continued to integrate new staff and regional directors into our program since. **Marilyn Eldred**, our program administrator, celebrated in 2017 her twentieth year at UVM and continues to provide excellent support not only to us, but also to the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and the Humanities Center at UVM (as well as on occasion to the Center for Research on Vermont).

Our Regional Studies programs continued their excellent work bringing speakers onto campus, organizing panels, workshops and film screenings reflective of current events and interests, and they worked with students to develop better and more diverse study abroad offerings and internship opportunities. The Global Studies department is also working to provide more funding for students – in particular, through the recently established Abbey Endowment for Global Engagement. This fund will enable Global Studies students (especially those from Vermont) to take part in study abroad programs that they might not otherwise be able to afford or to participate in an internship opportunity that might otherwise be unpaid. We are extremely grateful to **Faith Nichols Abbey** for her support and her commitment to us; her generous donation will help our students to—in her words— “understand and engage in the issues of a global society through learning opportunities outside of the traditional classroom.”

An example of such an experience was a trip funded jointly through the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Athletics in which Global Studies student **Jack Estrin** joined myself and the men’s hockey team in Belfast, Northern Ireland for the Friendship Four Tournament in November 2016. The team collectively took a semester-long global studies course on Northern Irish history, politics, geography, and culture which culminated in a visit to the city. Aside from hockey, the students were able to participate in a tour of the city and the region and they also got a chance to see some of the sets and locations for Game of Thrones, which is filmed locally. Jack interviewed a number of the student athletes before and after the trip and wrote a series of articles for the Cynic and the college about the experience.

The past few years have been as tumultuous as, well, every other set of years depending on one’s perspective and position. 2016-2017 seemed inordinately busy and full of news – some of it good, much of it challenging. From Brexit to the US Presidential election, from secessionist movements in Catalonia, Scotland, Iraq, and many other places besides, to the largest forced migration crisis since the Second World War, from the rising tide of xenophobia and the increasing power of right wing political parties worldwide, to growing numbers of environmental risks and disasters across the globe, there is no shortage of issues and concerns for our students to grapple with. And indeed, they



GOING PLACES

Professor and co-director of the GRS program, Pablo Bose in Belfast, Ireland at the Friendship Four Tournament with the UVM men’s hockey team

do, in their classes, internships and volunteering with local and global organizations, and a range of other activities. **Katie Hickey**, for example, wrote an outstanding honors thesis on the challenges to French national identity as a result of demographic change and global cultural, political, and capital flows. Similarly, **Erika Gilgore** wrote an innovative thesis consisting of three essays in the style of creative non-fiction based on the experiences of participants in a three-country program on gender, health, and inequality. It is work such as this – and all of the work and interests of our faculty and students – that is so crucial for continuing our engagement with and intervention into the world in which we live in order to better it. All the best for the year ahead,

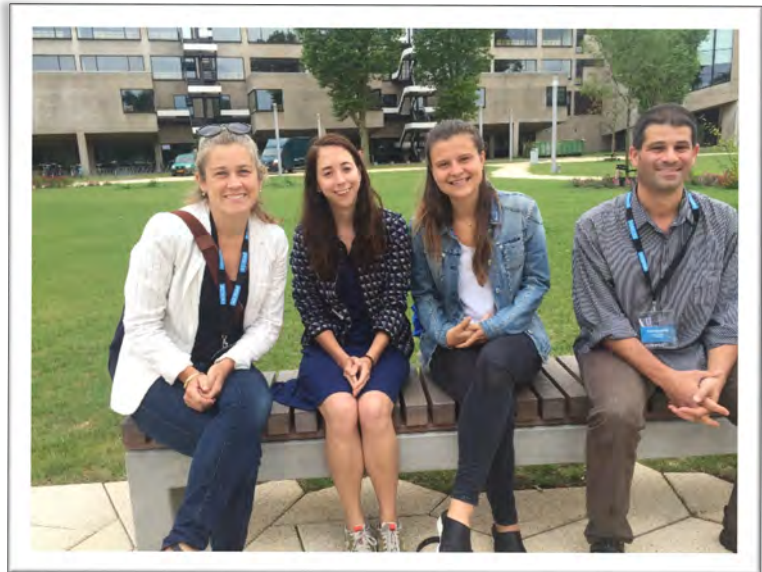
Pablo

Global Studies Department Update

This has been a year of substantial growth for UVM Global Studies, and the program looks set to continue to expand dramatically over the next several years, including potentially with new affiliate faculty, a curricular reconfiguration, and more. Our enrollments continue to be exceptionally high—one of the biggest majors, now, in the College, especially among non-professional-track, non-quantitative disciplines.

This fall the department has sponsored and co-sponsored the lecture series entitled "Spirited Things: Religious Objects and Embodied Practices in the Black Atlantic" held at the Fleming Museum and organized by **Vicki Brennan**, artists performing Mexican and Balinese folk dances, speakers on international human rights from the Vermont Law School, and a citizenship project based in Belize that looks at climate change, resiliency and social justice.

We continue to see exceptional activity among our graduates, including **Sammie Ibrahim '16**, one of our former award-winners, who is finishing a Fulbright in



GOING PLACES

Sammie Ibrahim and Chiara Domestici intersected Global Studies Director Jonah Steinberg and Anthropology Chair Emily Manetta at the IMISCOE (European Network on Migration) Conference in Rotterdam, Netherlands (see photo)

Kazakhstan; **Dan Rosenblum '13**, is circulating through Europe in Erasmus University's Four Cities program; **Chiara Domestici '17**, another winner of Global Studies' top recognitions at our award ceremony, who is starting graduate work at Leiden University in the Netherlands; **Tyler Wilkinson-Ray '13**, who is excelling as an independent outdoor filmmaker and National Geographic Young Explorer; **Peter Grunawalt '13**, who has been attending the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland; and many others.

Our core faculty continue vigorously to pursue their research and to mobilize it to strengthen our pedagogical offerings; GRS co-directors **Pablo Bose** and **Jonah**

Steinberg both continue work on their respective NSF grants for research involving refugees and/as minorities in various contexts. At the IMISCOE conference in Rotterdam, Dr. Bose presented a paper co-authored with Sammie Ibrahim, and Drs. Steinberg and **Manetta** co-presented their own paper.

New in Regional Studies: European Studies

2017 has not been the busiest year for the European Studies Program, but we are proud to say we lent financial support to two great campus events over the 2016-2017 period. The first event was the visit to UVM by **Tracy Adams**, Associate Professor of French at the University of New Zealand, Auckland, who spoke on "The Royal Mistress and the

the Politics of Representation." The second was a round table discussion, organized by **Charles-Louis Morand-Métivier**, Assistant Professor of Romance Languages and Linguistics, on the upcoming French Presidential elections. This event brought together various faculty and many students at the Global Village. This coming academic year, European

Studies is very pleased to be hosting **Marko Mihkelson**, a member of the National Parliament of Estonia, chair of its Foreign Relations Committee and Head of the Estonian delegation to NATO. We look forward to his visit and more like campus events in the future sponsoring the knowledge of the European continent.

New in Regional Studies: Canadian Studies

Over the last year, the Canadian Studies Program has been busy with study trips to Canada as well as sponsoring events about our neighbor to the north. Last October, Professor **David Massell** co-led the annual UVM field trip to Ottawa with Professor **Jeffrey Ayres** of St. Michael's College. Highlights included students' interviews with Canadians about the U.S. election, a lesson in the Scottish-Canadian sport of curling, and a luncheon in the Parliamentary dining room with our host from Parliament, Liberal Member of the House of Commons **Denis Paradis**.



Group selfie during the ride home from the Odanak trip

In March, Canadian Studies put on a major UVM conference in conjunction with the Center for Research on Vermont and with the financial and logistical support of the Government of Quebec. "French Connections: Franconnexions" brought together leading academics, educators, public servants, business people, university students and community elders from both Quebec and Vermont to discuss and examine the past, present and future of the important relationship in migration and trade between Quebec and Vermont/New England. Over 250 registrants participated in the conference, and many more tuned in via livestream video. Attendees and speakers included Vermont Governor **Phil Scott**, Quebec Minister **Rita de Santis**, Vermont Attorney General **T.J. Donovan**, and University of Vermont President **Tom Sullivan**.



Also in March, Massell took graduate students to northern Quebec as part of the seminar "Cree Country: Native History and Environmental Change". He will repeat the seminar, at the undergraduate level, in the spring of 2018. To learn more about this educating and enlightening trip read the news article posted on UVM's website: <https://www.uvm.edu/newsstories/news/deep-cree-country>

GOING PLACES

In Ottawa last October UVM students and faculty met with Canadian Parliament Liberal Member of the House of Commons, Denis Paradis

In April, Massell's North American Indian History course took a field trip to the Abenaki Reserve of Odanak in Quebec. Massell coordinated and co-led the trip with St. Michael's College Professor of French, **Laurence Clerfeuille**.



Museum Director Mathieu Obomsawin points to ash line where were Odanak was burned by American Rogers' Rangers in 1759



Odanak guides Daniel Nolet and Suzie Obamsawin point to their ancestors

New in Regional Studies: African Studies

Over the past year, the African Studies program has continued to grow, but has also said goodbye to some impressive students graduating with the African Studies minor. On Wednesday, May 3, 2017, African Studies minor **Laura Felone '17** successfully defended her Honor's Thesis, entitled "As Perceived by its Citizens: The (Un)Successful Ghanaian Democracy." Laura was a Political Science major who minored in African Studies, English, and Music. Associate Professor **Peter von Doepp**, of the Political Science Department, supervised her thesis, and Associate Professor **Vicki L. Brennan**, of the Religion Department, was the chair of the thesis committee. After graduating, Laura is focusing on getting a Ph.D so she can return to academia as a professor of international relations and African studies. Congratulations to Laura and to all of our graduates!

The program was also very proud to host a lecture last fall from a visiting Nigerian professor. On Wednesday, October 5, 2016, the African Studies Program, together with the Global and Regional Studies Department and the Department of Romance Language and Linguistics, hosted Professor **Harrison Adéniyi** from Lagos State University in Nigeria. Professor Adéniyi delivered a lecture entitled "The Sociopolitical Realities of African Indigenous Languages in Post-Colonial African Countries," in which he presented his latest research on language politics in contemporary Africa.



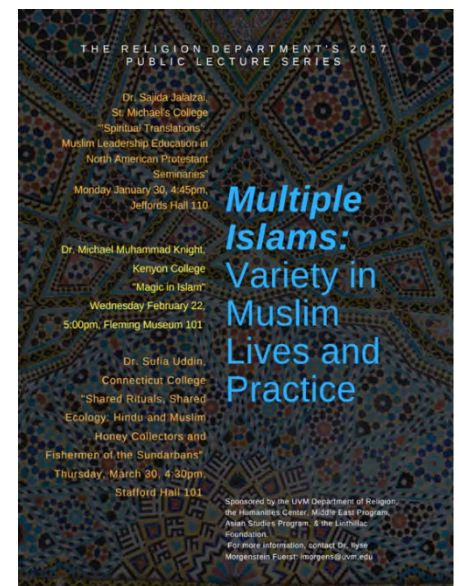
Dr. Harrison Adéniyi (Lagos State University, Nigeria), Dr. Steve Nyamilandu (Chancellor College, Malawi) and Dr. Loka Losambe (UVM) in Waterman Manor.

New in Regional Studies: Middle Eastern Studies

In the 2016-2017 school year, the Middle East Studies Program welcomed new faculty member **Peter Henne**, Assistant Professor of Political Science. He is an expert on counterterrorism, the Middle East, and religious politics and he will help offer classes in these areas. We are happy to add him to our program and excited to see what he will contribute to our studies of the Middle East.

In the Spring, the Program co-sponsored a lecture series titled "Multiple Islams: Variety in Muslim Lives and Practice." The series included three talks, each of which was very well attended (no talk had

fewer than 45 attendees and one boasted over 120 guests). The talks included: Dr. **Sajida Jalalzai**, of St. Michael's College, gave a lecture entitled "Spiritual Translations: Muslim Leadership Education in North American Protestant Seminaries" on January 30th, Dr. **Michael Muhammad Knight**, from Kenyon College, spoke on "Magic in Islam" on February 22nd, and on March 30th, Dr. **Sufia Uddin**, of Connecticut College, gave a lecture on "Shared Rituals, Shared Ecology: Hindu and Muslim Honey Collectors and Fishermen of the Sundarbans" Over all, it was a good year for the program



program and we are excited to see what lies ahead for the program this upcoming year.

The Death of Russia's Musical Messiah: Aleksandr Scriabin and the Meaning of 1917

In 1915, amid the flames of war, the focus of Russia's educated elite was drawn to the sudden passing of a major musical celebrity: the composer Aleksandr Scriabin. Scriabin's untimely death by blood poisoning at the age of only 43 captivated the contemporary Russian imagination. In countless newspaper articles, poems, speeches, concerts and meetings dedicated to the composer over the subsequent months and years, attempts were made to define the precise "meaning" that the composer's demise held for society as a whole. Scriabin's death came to be seen as a symbol for the fate of Russia itself. But how was this symbol to be correctly interpreted?



Rebecca Mitchell
Assistant Professor of History, Middlebury College

Thursday, April 13
4:30 p.m. • Memorial Lounge

Professor Mitchell studied music and Russian language and culture before devoting herself to Russian history. A native of northeastern Canada, her research interests have taken her throughout Europe, the UK, and Russia. At Middlebury, she teaches courses on the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, comparative Communism, and the intersections between music and power in history. Her first book, *Vienna's Orphanage: Music, Metaphysics and the Twilight of the Russian Empire* (Yale University Press, 2016), examines the interrelationship between imperial identity, nationalist tensions, philosophical ideals, and musical life in the final years of the Russian Empire.

This event is sponsored by the Russian and East European Studies Program, European Studies Program, History Department, and Political Science Department.

New in Regional Studies: Russian and Eastern European Studies (REES)

Over the past year, REES program activities centered on the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution in an attempt to further educate students about this consequential political moment.

The Russian East European Studies Program book group convened on Jan 25, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the John F. Dewey Lounge to discuss "Memories from Moscow to the Black Sea," a memoir written by Teffi about her experiences in 1918 following the Russian revolution. More than twenty students participated in this discussion, which was facilitated by

Professor **Denise Youngblood** and Professor **Michele Commercio**. The Program brought guest speaker Dr. **Rebecca Mitchell** to UVM, where she gave a talk on April 13 entitled "The Death of Russia's Musical Messiah: Aleksandr Scriabin and the Meaning of 1917".

REES director Michele Commercio also released the publication: "Structural violence and horizontal inequalities: conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan" this past year.

New in Regional Studies: Latin American and the Caribbean Studies (LACS)

This past year LACS promoted and supported many university wide events. Last October, the program helped to support the "Political Science Research Symposium" on subnational politics in Mexico. The symposium brought Mexican political experts **Roderic Camp**, **Nicolas Loza**, and **Alvaro Lopez Lara** to campus to meet with students and present research on October 3-4. The program continued its relationship with the Lane Series and was able to help and support the Los Angeles band, *Las Cafereras*, performance on October 28. We also supported the Janus Forum Debate which focused on immigration policy on October 30th. During the spring semester, LACS promoted a series of events

with journalist **Sam Quinones** about his recent book *Dreamland* around Burlington and on campus. Quinones attended the Burlington mayor's book club and gave a very popular lecture on campus April 4-5. The program sponsored a lecture by Anthropologist **Erika Robb** on Brazilian favelas as well.

In the fall of 2016, **John Waldron**, Associate Professor of Spanish, taught a special interdisciplinary course GRS95 "Politics and Culture of Latin American Protest Music" with **Caroline Beer** and **Alexander Stewart**. As part of this course, Professor Waldron brought musician **Jorge Arce** to campus to perform. He also took a group of students to



Dartmouth University for a tour of the Orozco murals.

The department looks forward to hosting and participating in more cultural events over the next year.

New in Regional Studies: Asian Studies

For several decades, the Asian Studies program has provided both faculty and students at UVM with an umbrella for the study of the region from a number of different disciplines. We currently have faculty members across ten different departments, with specialties across the humanities and social sciences, as well as across Asia. In Spring 2017, we graduated eight majors in Asian Studies, and currently have 11 majors and 12 minors. Many of our majors and minors also major or minor in Asian Languages and Literature, which is unfortunately currently limited to Chinese and Japanese language, with the loss of Arabic.

However, we are fortunate in Asian Studies to have an endowed lecture program, the Claire M. Lintilhac Seminar in Asian Studies, allowing us to bring in several scholars each year, usually though not always tied to one of our classes. In 2016-2017, we had three Lintilhac Seminars. In February, **Katrina Moore**, Professor of Anthropology and Japanese Studies at the University of New South Wales, gave two talks entitled, "The Pedagogical Power of Japan's Noh Theater: an Ethnographer's Journey," and "Who Cares for the Elders? Aging and Interdependence in Contemporary Japan." In March, **Sufia Uddin**, Professor of Religion at Connecticut College, and formerly a member of the Religion Department at UVM, gave a talk as a part of the Religion Department lecture series on "Multiple Islams," entitled, "Shared Rituals, Shared Ecology: Hindu and Muslim Honey Collectors and Fisherman



The Claire M. Lintilhac Seminar in Asian Studies presents

The Monk on the Farm

Susan Darlington, Ph.D.

Professor of Anthropology and Asian Studies
Hampshire College

Thursday, April 20, 2017

4:30-6:00pm

314 Dewey Hall

Professor Darlington received a B.A. in anthropology and history from Wellesley College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Michigan. Her research, based on extensive fieldwork in Thailand, examines the work of Buddhist monks engaged in rural development, environmental conservation and other forms of social activism. The broader questions she addresses in her research and teaching include understanding the changing social, political, and historical contexts of religion, environmentalism and human rights, and the creative use of ritual for social change.

Sponsored by the UVM Department of Anthropology, Food Systems Program, Global Studies Program, Department of Religion, and Asian Studies Program

For ADA accommodations, please contact Professor Thomas Borchert at 656-3488 or thomas.borchert@uvm.edu.

of the Sundarbans." Finally, in April, **Sue Darlington**, Professor of Anthropology and Asian Studies at Hampshire College, gave a talk entitled, "The Monk on the Farm."

We are also, through the generosity of the family and friends of **Peter Seybolt**, founder of the Asian Studies program at UVM, grateful to have an endowed fund which gives 2-3 awards each year to enable Asian Studies faculty members to conduct research in Asia. These awards have enabled ASP faculty to begin new research programs, and continue programs that might otherwise be difficult to pursue. Recent awards have gone to **Erik Esselstrom**, in the History department, who is finishing up a book on Japanese views of Maoist China during the Cultural Revolution, **Hyon Joo Yoo**, of Film and Television Studies, who is beginning a project on depictions of Europe and the United States in Korean cinema, and **Jeanne Shea**, of Anthropology, who conducted research on eldercare and the problems of aging in China.

This year also saw the closing of the UVM Asian Studies Outreach Program in the spring, after many years of bringing knowledge of Asia to the secondary schools in Vermont. Supported by the Freeman Foundation among others, ASOP conducted teacher training workshops for Vermont's K-12 teachers on China, Japan and Thailand, and it also supported the China program of the Governor's Institute. The program was still able to achieve some of its goals, helping the societies of the Asian continent seem no longer quite so exotic to many students and teachers in Vermont.

The Fleming Museum also opened a large new Asia exhibit in spring 2017, with images and artifacts from inside its collection and on loan. This is a significant and appreciated investment by the Fleming, during the opening, **Abigail McGowan**, Associate Professor of History, gave a talk on South Asian textiles in the museum's collection.

2016-2017 Global and Regional Studies Awards

Benedict Prize for Top Student Essay in International Affairs:

Founded in 1906, this award honors the legacy of **Robert D. Benedict** who graduated from UVM in 1848 and went on to become one of the most famous admiralty lawyers and judges of the 19th century. In 1904 he delivered UVM's commencement address, in which he argued his support for the Japanese in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. This prize was originally focused on the topic of International Arbitration, but in 1967 with Benedict's permission it was amended to be on the topic of best essay on international affairs. In 2017, we had two great co-recipients of this honor: **Sage Wilmot** and **Abigail Brown**.

The Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of International Studies:

This award was created in the spring of 2004 to honor Robert "Bill" V. Daniels, of the UVM History Department. Dr. Daniels specialized on Russia and from 1962-1965 he was the Chair of the History Department. He was also the Founder and Director of the UVM Area Studies Program from 1962-1965, which is now our Global and Regional Studies Program. In the 1970s he served in the state legislature as a State Senator for Chittenden County, and even after retirement in 1988 he published multiple seminal books on the Bolshevik Revolution, Stalin, and the end of the Communist era. Dr. Daniels passed away in 2010 but his legacy at UVM remains today in this award. This year's recipient of the award was Professor **Gayle Nunely**.

Other Awards:

Global Studies Scholar Award:

-**Chiara Domestici** and
Erik Kernan

Global Studies Community Activism and Engagement Awards:

-**Katie Hickey** and
Mary Petronio

Latin American Studies Albizu Campos Award:

-**Ryan Kabilian**

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