

DEPARTMENT OF

GERMAN & RUSSIAN

Letter from the Chair

This year finds a new signature at the bottom of this letter. With Professor Schreckenberger enjoying a well-deserved change of pace from her teaching and administrative duties while on sabbatical for the academic year 2015-16, I am serving as acting chair of the Department of German and Russian.

In order to provide a sense of how happily busy students and faculty have been so far this semester, here is a listing of the special events that we as a department organized or (co-)sponsored during the month of October alone: please hold your breath!

On the first of October, Adriana Borra, senior lecturer in German as well as Italian, gave a lively and well-attended presentation for the German House/Global Village in the Living/Learning Center on her work as a lexicographer for two major German-Italian dictionaries, in anticipation of a new course that she will be offering in the spring semester entitled "My Best Friend, the Dictionary." From Tuesday-Thursday, October 6-8, the University of Vermont hosted an international conference on the topic "Exile und Shoah/Exile and the Holocaust"; its location in the Davis Center enabled students to hear presentations not only by scholars such as colleagues from our exchange-student partner, the University of Augsburg, and Primus-Heinz Kucher from the University of Klagenfurt, who had been a Fulbright guest professor at UVM in the spring of 2013, but also by our own Helga Schreckenberger before she left for France and Vienna later in the month on sabbatical research. At an October 15th workshop on study abroad and scholarship/internship opportunities in German and Russian, our students Anne Moyerbrailean, Jacob Pelland, and Jessica Quinn provided detailed and enthusiastic reports about their respective semesters of study in Zürich, St. Petersburg, and Augsburg. The following Tuesday, the Department co-sponsored a guest lecture by Dr. Andrea Mehrländer (Berlin) on "Ich bin auch ein Berliner. Marketing a Heavy Past: Reshaping Berlin's Identity through Diversification" that was attended by a diverse audience of students, faculty, and community members; thanks to the initiative of Adriana Borra, Dr. Mehrländer also visited classes on modern Germany in History as well as in our own department. On Monday, October 26th, we even organized two events: a 3:30pm roundtable on the topic of "Languages and Global Consciousness" led by Burkhard Henke, Professor of German Studies at Davidson College, North Carolina, and also a 5pm concert of Russian Songs in the Fireplace Lounge of the Living/Learning Center that was performed by the ensemble "Russian Soul" and hosted in inimitable fashion by Kevin McKenna. As if that were not already enough for one semester, let alone for one month – Professor McKenna also organized and hosted a lecture on "Civil Society in Today's Russia" by Dr. Mark Pomar, President of the US-Russia Foundation for Economic Advancement and the Rule of Law. Having been a colleague of Mark's when he taught on the Russian side of the department in the late 1970s and early 1980s, I wish I could have been able to attend this lecture on Thursday, October 30th, but by then I was already in Oberwiederstedt, Germany in order to give a lecture on the Orpheus Motif in the works of Novalis at a conference and exhibit on "Novalis and Antiquity" at the birthplace of the poet (for more details, please see my contribution to "Departmental News").

By this point in the newsletter, some of you may be wondering about Wolfgang Mieder and his activities. Not to worry! This past weekend saw him at an Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs in Tavira, Portugal, where he gave a talk on Willy Brandt's Proverbial Rhetoric – the topic of his latest book in conjunction with Andreas Nolte, a former M.A. student in our department. Later this month, Professor Mieder will be traveling to Bucharest, Romania in order to receive his secondary honorary doctorate in one year. And – in accordance with the proverb "Good things are worth waiting for" – the much anticipated "Festschrift" in honor of his 70th birthday that had been announced in last year's Newsletter is now in print: for more details, please read Kevin McKenna's contribution to "Departmental News."

As you will see when you peruse the following pages, there is an abundance of other good news to report about the achievements of our faculty, students, and alumni. This year we also are including a new section on the activities of people who have worked within the department over the years – we are glad that so many of them have responded, and look for even more news next year from them, as well as from current students and faculty, alumni, and friends of the department.

With American Thanksgiving no longer that far away, let me thank you for all your continued support of the German and Russian Department, which helps make possible the kinds of activities mentioned above, and also wish you Happy Holidays, whatever they may be for you and however you may be spending them.

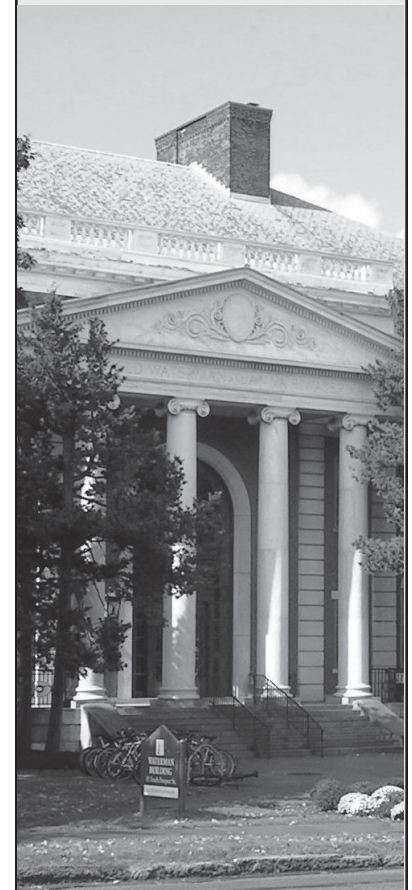
Sincerely yours,

Dennis F. Mahoney

Dennis Mahoney

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Departmental News



Gidon Bavly had another great summer on the lake. At the beginning of the summer though, on one of the many rainy days in June, as he drove south on Pine Street he noticed a man sitting in the rain on the side of the road with his bike and a few other items spread out next to him. It did not look good and Gidon pulled over. The man was moaning as a stream of blood flowed from one of his feet. Gidon ran back to the car, grabbed the phone and dialed 911. The man was

in a great deal of pain. It was overwhelming. After struggling to describe to the dispatcher where exactly on Pine Street they were, Gidon figured out the location, and Police and Rescue came soon after. A few days later there was a piece on the news as the man, now recovering at home, recounted the story. Having been hit by a City dump truck, he was very lucky to be alive. Toward the end of his story he said, "And then came some nice guy, who couldn't speak much English, but was kind enough to call 911."

Adriana Borra just returned from her sabbatical, during which she divided her time between Turin, Italy and Regensburg, Germany. She continued her work on Italian/German-German/Italian dictionaries, contributing both to the 3rd edition of the Italian/German-German/Italian Giacomini/Kolb dictionary (Klett/Zanichelli 2014) by translating neologisms and to the 2nd edition of *Il tedesco SMART* (forthcoming at Zanichelli) by indicating false cognates.



Moreover she researched the declining dictionary user skills among our students and the rising awareness of the problem by lexicographers and publishers who specialize in dictionaries. In short, she finally connected her work as a translator and lexicographer with her teaching. She also developed three new classes for the German curriculum and prepared three different Power Point presentations about lexicography for both students and colleagues.

In the spring she was invited as a guest speaker by the Concorso Letterario Nazionale Lingua Madre (National Writing Contest Lingua Madre) at the Turin International book fair, along with four other women, to discuss *L'italiano e i suoi sconfinamenti: meraviglie dell'italiano e l'italiano delle meraviglie* (Italian outside its borders: Italian marvels and marvelous Italian). The National Writing Contest Lingua Madre gives voice to immigrant women, encouraging them to write in their new language of Italian; a special section of the contest is reserved for Italian women who want to tell how their lives were enriched by the otherness of being immigrant women, an initiative even more important at a time when, sadly, the rising number of immigrants often leads to a lack of understanding between native and newly-arrived Italians.

A particular joy was to be able to publish a "labor of love", *Alphabete* (KernVerlag, Regensburg: 2015), 53 texts chosen from Antonello Borra's poetry collections *Alfabestiaro* and *Alphabetabestiaro* and co-translated with Barbara Krohn.

It was also wonderful to see the staging of Marie-Christine Le Hû's French Canadian play *Jouliks*, in her German translation *Jouliks oder Zuviel der Liebe* at the Ambigu theater in Berlin, on November 20, 2014. The highly original production was what Germans call a "Kaltstartlesung", meaning that the actors opened the script for the first time on stage and got into their parts along with the audience.

Thanks to the sabbatical she not only attended the AAIS (American Association of Italian Studies) annual conference at the University of Zurich,

Switzerland, but also participated in other professional development scheduled during the school year: a seminar at the Goethe Institute in Turin about teaching language instructors how to improve all students' speaking skills in big learning groups (*Werkzeugkiste Sprechen. Sprechfertigkeit üben mit großen Gruppen*; speaker: Carel van der Burg) and two conferences on lexicographical topics: *L'italiano elettronico, vocabolari, corpora, archivi testuali e sonori* (Electronic Italian, dictionaries, corpora, text and sound archives), a 3-day symposium organized by *l'Accademia della Crusca* in Florence on November 5-7, 2014, and *Il presente e futuro della lessicografia digitale* (The present and the future of digital lexicography), an intense day of study at the university of Milan on November 12, 2014.

Finally, the most enriching professional development of her life was the 2014 Berlin Summer Academy on The Holocaust & Present-day Jewish Life in Germany, organized by the historian Dr. Andrea Mehrländer, whom she invited to visit UVM this fall.

One may wonder how it is possible to drive over 2000 miles in a small country like Portugal. **Theresia Hoeck** did it by visiting not only the major tourist attractions, but also by exploring every hidden corner of cultural, historic, and scenic interest.

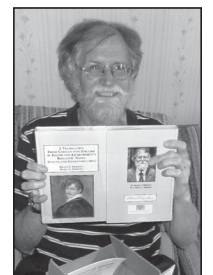
Another highlight of her summer travel, albeit a somber one, was an excursion to the Obersalzberg Center of Documentation, an extensive and impressive museum of Hitler's and other Nazi leaders' mountainside retreat.

This will be Theresia Hoeck's last year at St. Michael's College where she was asked to fill in for one year and where she ended up teaching German for 18 years.



Kate Kenny once again had a fabulous time traveling around Europe in May and June with her two sons, catching up with family and friends, and stocking up on real tea, chocolate and hula-hoops. July and August were spent enjoying the delights of canoe-camping in Vermont and she also visited the Outer-Banks of North Carolina with all of her family (they fortunately did not come across any sharks!). Now that the fall semester has begun in earnest, she is enjoying teaching her three German classes, and being back at work in the department.

Dennis Mahoney is unpacking a very special delivery in this photo, namely copies of the translation of the novel *Ahnung und Gegenwart* (Presentiment and Present) by the German Romantic author Joseph von Eichendorff, published by the Edwin Mellen Press in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of its initial appearance. He also is so happy because he is looking at his wife and co-translator, Maria A. Mahoney, whose native-language ability and love of well-turned phrases helped make this first-ever translation of *Ahnung und Gegenwart* far better than if he had done it on his own.



Another scholarly co-production this summer was the analysis of proverbial messages in Marc Estrin's Kafkaesque novel *Insect Dreams: The Half Life of Gregor Samsa* (2002) that he undertook with his colleague and friend Wolfgang Mieder – a philological project in the fullest sense of the word

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that is scheduled to appear in the 2016 issue of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*.

The third major scholarly event of the spring, summer, and fall involved planning for and participating in the international conference and special exhibit on “Novalis and Antiquity” that took place in Oberwiederstedt, Germany from October 30–November 1, 2015. A special session of the Board of Directors of the International Novalis Society, of which he is the president, met in early June at the Freies Deutsches Hochstift/Goethe Museum in Frankfurt, Germany to work on plans for this and three further conferences during 2016 and 2017. Summer work involved the writing of his own conference talk on the Orpheus Motif in the works of Novalis, from the poet’s teenage translations of Vergil’s account of Orpheus’ descent into the underworld and his own attempt at an Orpheus epic, all written in dactylic hexameter, to his “romantic” reworking of this classical theme in the novel *Heinrich von Ofterdingen* (1802) – one of the works being read by Professor Mahoney’s students in the fall 2015 senior seminar on the Prose of the Age of Goethe. Now that he is back from the conference in Germany, at the invitation of the German House within the Living-Learning Center’s Global Village he will be giving an English-language version of his talk, aided by the technical prowess of German House’s student director, Niklas Gick, who had been of immense help in putting together the audio-visual side to the lecture in Oberwiederstedt.



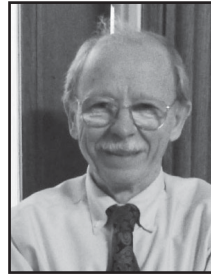
Kevin McKenna once again began his summer chasing friend and colleague, Wolfgang Mieder, on a two-week bicycle trip through Slovenia, Italy, and Austria. The splendor and beauty of the Julian Alps, however, contributed little to efforts to catch up to and pass Professor Mieder, a surprisingly speedy demon for a rising octogenarian. Our next bike trip, once again with our wives, will take place in May of 2016 in

the South of France, Provence.

Back home again, Professor McKenna returned to his book on the role of Russian proverbs in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s fictional and publicistic works. His efforts in this endeavor have produced a chapter on the Russian writer’s novel, *Cancer Ward*. In addition to work on his book, Professor McKenna worked this summer on a lecture to be delivered to the Osher Lecture Series this November, “The Intersection of Putin’s Politics and the ‘Russian Soul’ As Presented in the Literary Works of Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Pasternak, and Solzhenitsyn.” As part of this lecture, he has also developed a new World Literature course to be offered in the spring semester of 2016: “Ideas, Philosophy, and Ideology in 19th-Century Russian Literature: Turgenev, Chernyshevsky, and Dostoevsky.”

At long last, Professor McKenna’s co-edited *festschrift* volume of essays has appeared at the end of the 2015 summer: *Qui Cito Dat, Bis Dat: A Festschrift Volume of Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder’s Seventieth Birthday*, (Frankfurt, Germany: Peter Lang Publishers, 2015). Nearly 800 pages long, this volume contains nearly 70 articles contributed by way of celebration of internationally acclaimed folklorist, octogenarian, and paremiologist, Wolfgang Mieder.

Finally, Professor McKenna continues his work on the editorial board of a Russian sociology journal: *Социальные явления/Social Phenomena*, published by the Samara State University Department of International Relations (Russia) and the Oxford Russian Foundation. The first issue of this journal appeared in 2014.



Wolfgang Mieder continues to enjoy his teaching, lecturing, and writing although he is well beyond the normal age for retirement. He particularly liked his seminar on Medieval German Literature and his large lecture course on the fascinating world of proverbs that he teaches every fall semester. His lecture trips have taken him to Greece, Portugal, Santa Fe, Long Beach, and also to various places in his beloved Vermont, where he talks at retirement homes, local clubs, lifelong learning groups, etc.

A major milestone was his trip together with his wife Barbara to Athens, Greece, where he received an honorary doctoral degree on December 16, 2014, from the University of Athens in recognition of his lifetime achievements in international proverb studies. Among his articles published during the past year in Finland, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, and the US are “Futuristic Paremiography and Paremiology: A Plea for the Collection and Study of Modern Proverbs”, “You Have to Kiss a Lot of Frogs (Toads) Before You Meet Your Handsome Prince’: From Fairy-Tale Motif to Modern Proverb”, “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize’: Congressman John Lewis’s Proverbial Odyssey for Civil Rights”, and “Ein in sich gespaltenes Haus hat keinen Bestand’. Zur Politisierung eines Bibelspruchwortes bei Abraham Lincoln, Willy Brandt und Barack Obama.” His new books include “Behold the Proverbs of a People’: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics and “Goldene Morgenstunde” und “Früher Vogel’: Zu einem Sprichwörterpaar in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen. Since “All work and no play make Jack a dull boy”, the Mieders went on a wonderful bicycle trip to Slovenia, and they also welcomed a new Black Labrador puppy to their country home which offers plenty of work on the land and in the garden to get a rest from academic labors.

Brian Minier had another wonderful summer roadtripping with his kids on a great circle tour of the pinnacles of Western civilization (Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Michigan). He also continued his streak of annual visits to orthopedics, this time with a ruptured Achilles tendon suffered during a hotly-contested soccer game. He is now halfway through the two-month recovery process, which entails wearing a very awkward boot on the injured leg – sort of like wearing a high heel on only one foot. Friends and family have expressed concern that he may be past his prime, and that perhaps it’s time to bronze the boots, pass the torch, and rest on his laurels. However, fearing that the loss to the beautiful game would just be too great, Brian has vowed to soldier on for another year. You’re welcome.



Helga Schreckenberger is on sabbatical leave for the academic year. In October, she attended a conference in Sanary-sur-Mer, France, the little fishing village where the first wave of exiles from Nazi Germany gathered to wait out Hitler. The conference included a field trip to the detention camp Les Milles and to Marseille, the site of Anna Seghers’ novel *Transit*. She will also spend some time in Vienna, conducting research for her sabbatical project.

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Kathleen Scollins had a busy summer of family, friends, and research, and is pleased to be back in the classroom with her bright and energetic elementary Russian students. The indisputable highlight of the summer was a week-long trip to Madison, Wisconsin, with her husband Brian and their two children (ages 6 and 10), to attend the wedding of UW-Madison graduate school classmate (and former UVM lecturer) Ben Jens. When she wasn't visiting old friends and professors (not to mention restaurants, bars, and other favorite places) in Madison, she was busy at home organic gardening, figuring out how to make organic vegetables palatable to kids, and revising her manuscript on the origins of the Petersburg literary tradition. Next up: the annual ASEES Convention in Philadelphia, where she will present on Gogol's use of Orthodox iconography in his Ukrainian and Petersburg stories, and the annual AATSEEL Conference in Austin, where she will present on pedagogical strategies for teaching literature in the L1 (English) vs. TL (Russian) classroom.



Alie Yuldasheva, a native of Crimea, Ukraine, joins us this fall as a replacement for Elena Carter, who has returned to Russia. Alie spent several years training volunteers for the U.S. Peace Corps in Ukraine before finding her way to Vermont in 2014. She is teaching our Composition and Conversation (Russian 121) class this semester. She will also be offering her first lecture, "Russian History Through Currency," at about the time this newsletter goes to press. When not teaching at UVM, she leads classes at the Fletcher Free Library and Access CVU.

News from Former Members of the Department

Heike Doane, former Associate Professor of German, and her husband Fred have been living in North Carolina for over thirty years. They still spend their summers in Vermont where they enjoy the cooler climate, and the company of their old friends by pretending nothing has changed. Heike has just finished a book manuscript on the German writer Martin Walser, and is bracing herself for rave reviews.

Ben Jens is now Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Russian and Slavic Studies at the University of Arizona, and in the summers works with high school students learning Russian in the Pushkin Summer Institute at UW-Madison. He married the lovely Colleen Lucey this summer, and is looking forward to his honeymoon on a Caribbean beach over the winter break.



Ken Nalibow is enjoying every day of retirement, and is keeping busy exercising his recently replaced knee. He enjoys keeping up with former students as they complete graduate work and find employment. He now has time for everything, including reading and music-oriented travel (Amsterdam – Concertgebouw, Berlin – Neue Philharmonie). He has recently taken four separate vacation trips to Costa Rica (Caribbean side). His photo is from Dubrovnik, Croatia.



Mark Pomar is the founding President of the US-Russia Foundation for Economic Advancement and the Rule of Law (USRJ). An independent foundation, USRF supports university partnerships, academic and student exchanges, and training programs in economics and law. He is also a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Russia Institute at King's College, London.

Janet Sobieski and her husband Bill enjoy being retired in Boise, Idaho, near their children and wonderful grandson, Adam (3 ½). Janet gets to be a grandma/babysitter two days a week, which she loves, and finds it a great privilege to see this little boy grow up. She is enjoying exploring her new state and the different climate and surroundings. She has taken trips to Maryland/Virginia, and Arizona, and hopes to visit Vermont in the next couple of years. Janet has lots of time for reading, outdoor activities, photography, drawing, and time with family. She looks forward to the annual department newsletter to hear all about the faculty, staff and students of the Department of German and Russian, and wishes everyone continued success.





College of Arts and Sciences Honors Day 2015

(left-to-right) Nicolas Chlebak, Outstanding Senior in Russian, Kristen Rouse, Outstanding Senior in Russian, Department Chairperson, Professor Helga Schreckenberger, Aidan Holding, Outstanding Senior in German

2015 Departmental Awards

Awards for German:

1st year: Maria Koutsouris

2nd year: Anika Gillwald

German House: Niklas Gick

103 (Composition and Conversation):

Ella Overfield Lamberti

121 (Culture and Civilization until 1800):

Sasha Gainen-Truslow

156 (German Literature in Context II):

Grace Hartman

196 (German Film): Duncan Donnay

281 (Romanticism): Alexandria Hall

282 (Middle Ages): Emily Stoneking

296 (The Art of Translation): Niklas Gick

Awards for Russian:

1st year: Daniel Berenberg

2nd year: Alexandros Nickoloff

101 (Phonology): Andrew Lamoureux

118 (Russian Lit in Translation): Elizaveta Shkurina

121 (Composition and Conversation): Zhenya Rock

141 (Reading Comprehension): Nicolas Chlebak

201 (Survey of Russian Literature): Tatiana Rumsey

222 (XX-XXI Century Russian Culture):

Kristen Rouse

Awards for Hebrew:

Beginning Hebrew: Hannah Klugman

Intermediate Hebrew: Oraya Zinder

AUSSPRACHE

Learning this new language, I feel
the separateness of my body:
The mouth trying to form
the right shape to sound
the difference between *Hölle*
and *Höhle*—one hell, one
hole—the mouth itself
a pit, a void contorted,
through which we voice,
fumble over, vowels. The palate
learning a posture, the mouth
given a mouth, given a cup
to be filled, to be poured,
given a wind blown through
a scrap of lace. The mouth
like the moon curling
into a small crater—*Mond*
or *Mund*—the vowels
confused again, the tongue
quivering naked in the gorge.
The mouth: a pang.
Press the hand
like a roll of gauze
to the wound.

Alexandria Hall, who graduated from UVM in 2015 with a minor in German, recited this poem – which was part of “Northeasterners,” her Honors Thesis collection of poetry under the direction of Major Jackson – at the German and Russian Department’s Honors Awards ceremony. She is now a member of the graduate Creative Writing Program at NYU.

Faculty Publications

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

Wolfgang Mieder, Professor of German published "Futuristic Paremiography and Paremiology. A Plea for the Collection and Study of Modern Proverbs" in *Folklore Fellows' Network* 44 (July 2014), in which he identifies the collection and study of newly created verbal and material traditions as important desiderata of future folklore studies.

Other articles that Professor Mieder published in the last year include:

"'You Have to Kiss a Lot of Frogs (Toads) Before You Meet Your Handsome Prince': From Fairy-Tale Motif to Modern Proverb" in *Marvels & Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies*, 28/1 (2014). In this article, he demonstrates that the origin of the motif of a princess kissing a frog originates in the proverb and not, as commonly believed, in the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale "The Frog King."

"'Ein in sich gespaltenes Haus hat keinen Bestand.' Zur Politisierung eines Bibelspruchwortes bei Abraham Lincoln, Willy Brandt und Barack Obama", in which Professor Mieder shows that the biblical proverb "A house divided against itself cannot stand" (Mark 3:25) became increasingly secularized in the 18th and 19th centuries and has been used by American presidents Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama as well as by German chancellor Willy Brandt to call for political unity.

"'Aller Anfang ist Gefahr': Friedrich Nietzsches sprichwörtliche Aphorismen in *Menschliches, Allzumenschliches*" in *Phraseologie und Kultur / Phraseology and Culture*. Eds. Vida Jesenšek and Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij. In this article, Professor Mieder shows that while Nietzsche often employs proverbial language, he usually argues against its traditional wisdom. Instead, Nietzsche creates anti-proverbs through manipulation, parody or alienation of the original proverb, or by putting them in contexts where they acquire unexpected meanings.

"M(R)ight Makes R(M)ight': The Sociopolitical History of a Contradictory Proverb Pair" published in the *Proceedings of the Seventh Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 3rd to 10th November 2013, at Tavira, Portugal*. This article presents a survey of paremiographical, titular, and intertextual references of the proverbs "Might makes right" and "Right makes might" from their first usage to the present day.

"Der Mensch lebt nicht vom Brot allein'. Zu Willy Brandts gesellschaftspolitischer Sprichwortsprache" in *Beiträge zur historischen Textanalyse, Valenz- und Phraseologieforschung*. This study looks at the rhetorical use of proverbs by the former German chancellor Willy Brandt.

"Origin of Proverbs" in *Introduction to Paremiology. A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*. Here, Professor Mieder discusses the classical, Biblical, medieval, and modern origins of proverbs and shows how they have been disseminated over time. He also deals especially with the worldwide distribution of modern American proverbs.

H ANAGOREUSH
TOU KAQHGHTH WOLFGANG MIEDER
SE EPITIMO DIDAKTORA
TOU TMHMATOS FILOGIAS
THS FILOSOFIKHS SCOLHS
TOU PANEPISTHMIOU AQHNWN

If the preceding text seems «Greek» to you, there's a good reason for that. It is the transliterated title of the booklet of official documents and speeches commemorating "The Proclamation of Professor Wolfgang Mieder as Honorary Doctor by the Department of Literature of the Philosophical School of the University of Athens" in the Main Hall of the University on December 16, 2014. Professor Mieder's own speech "'Different Proverbs for Different Times': Proverbial Discourse at the Crossroads to Modernity" is reproduced in English and Greek within this volume (Athens: Institute of the Book – A. Kadamitsa, 2015, pp. 39-68); one may also enjoy the talks and photos involved with the conferral of this honorary doctorate on pages 101-138 of the 2015 issue of *Proverbium*, which lives up to its subtitle: *Yearbook of International Scholarship* through 17 articles, 5 book reviews, and 2 bibliographies by scholars from 15 countries and written in 4 different languages.

In addition, **Wolfgang Mieder** published "*Behold the Proverbs of a People. Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*". The thirteen chapters of this book are connected by a rhetorical perspective that considers proverbs as speech acts with text, texture and context that have a significant impact on oral and written communication within a culture and society.

Other books that Professor Mieder published in the last year include:

"*Goldene Morgenstunde*" und "*Früher Vogel*". *Zu einem Sprichwörterpaar in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen*. The first part of this study deals with the history and survival of the German proverb "Morgenstunde hat Gold im Munde". The second part does the same for the English proverb "The early bird catches the worm". The third part shows how this proverb has been translated into German as "Der frühe Vogel fängt den Wurm", where it has become so popular that it competes with the traditional German proverb about getting up early.

Wise Words. Essays on the Proverb was edited by Professor Mieder. Originally issued in 1994, this book was been reprinted in 2015. The volume contains twenty essays written by leading paremiologists and folklorists from North America, Africa, and Europe that have become the standard for scholarship on proverbs in the English language.

Also reprinted in 2015 was *Tradition and Innovation in Folk Literature*, which first appeared in 1987. It contains chapters on the survival of Grimm fairy tales in the modern age, the legend of the Pied Piper, modern variants of the daisy oracle, the proverbial three monkeys, the history and interpretation of the proverb "Big fish eat little fish", and the use and function of proverbs in the mass media.

Elena Carter, Lecturer of Russian, published "'He Who Lives in a Glass House Should Not Throw Stones': Nikita Khrushchev's Proverbial Speeches at the United Nations" in *Proverbium* volume 32 (2015).

Dennis Mahoney, Professor of German, had twenty-one of his articles published in a Festschrift entitled *From Goethe to Novalis. Studies in Classicism and Romanticism*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder. Spanning such diverse subjects as the multifaceted Age of Goethe, the influence of the French Revolution, and the continuing discussion of the nature of the Bildungsroman, this volume reflects

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Faculty Publications, cont. from page 5...

Professor Mahoney's life-long occupation with and extraordinary expertise in two important periods of German cultural, intellectual, and literary life.

Joseph von Eichendorff's Romantic novel *Ahnung und Gegenwart* ["Presentiment and Present," 1815] had never been translated into any language, including English, even though it contains some of Eichendorff's most renowned poems, as set to music by composers like Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn. Now poems such as "Zwielicht" (Twilight) and "Waldgespräch" (Conversation in the Forest) can be read in the context for which their author first intended them, thanks to the translation by **Dennis F. Mahoney** and Maria A. Mahoney, which also includes an introduction that situates Eichendorff and his novel in a literary, philosophical, artistic, and historical context, as do the 239 scholarly footnotes (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2015). In addition, Professor Mahoney's 2013 lecture on "Joseph von Eichendorff, *Ahnung und Gegenwart* (1815)" at the University of Augsburg that was filmed for German television has now appeared in the volume 13 of *Große Werke der Literatur*, eds. Hubert Zapf and Günter Butzer (Tübingen: Narr Francke Attempto Verlag, 2015), 115-128.

Kevin McKenna, Professor of Russian, published "Дидактическая роль русских пословиц и поговорок в фильме *Александр Невский* Сергея Эйзенштейна/The Didactic Role of Russian Proverbs and Proverbial Expressions in Sergei Eisenstein's Film, *Aleksandr Nevsky*," in *Rossica antiqua: Журнал Исторического факультета Санкт Петербургского университета*, in which

he argues that Sergei Eisenstein's film *Aleksandr Nevsky* can best be appreciated through an understanding of the critical role the filmmaker assigns to Russian proverbs throughout his film.

And, at long last, Professor McKenna's co-edited festschrift volume of essays appeared at the end of the 2015 summer: *Qui Cito Dat, Bis Dat: A Festschrift Volume of Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder's Seventieth Birthday*, (Frankfurt, Germany: Peter Lang Publishers, 2015). Nearly 800 pages long, this volume contains nearly 70 articles contributed by way of celebration of internationally acclaimed folklorist, octogenarian, and paremiologist, Wolfgang Mieder.

Kat Scollins, Assistant Professor of Russian, published "Cursing at the Whirlwind: The Old Testament Landscape of *The Bronze Horseman*" in *The Pushkin Review* 16. This article reexamines Pushkin's 1833 poem through a comparison with the Biblical Book of Job, baring deep structural and thematic parallels between the two works, and building a case for the biblical story as a direct source for Pushkin's originating Petersburg tale.

Helga Schreckenberger, Professor of German, published "Berliner Spuren in Billy Wilders Film *Hold Back the Dawn* (1946)" in *Feuchtwanger und Berlin*, ed. by Geoffrey V. Davis, in which she argues that Berlin played an important role for the artistic development of director and screenwriter Billy Wilder and that traces of these early experiences can be detected in his later Hollywood screenplays and films, most notably in *Hold Back the Dawn*.



Student and Alumni News

Beka Foley (REES major, 2013) writes, “I became enthralled by the world of Russian history as a freshman at UVM in 2009, and since then, relations between the U.S. and Russia have all but withered, making every day for us Russianists more riveting than the last.

“That exceptional first year of Russian classes ended up shaping the next four. With academics as knowledgeable and inspiring as Professors McKenna, Scollins and Carter, my transcript soon became peppered with courses on Russian history, literature, and language. After defending a thesis on the role of Russian Constructivism on early Soviet propaganda under the auspices of Prof. McKenna, I made my own Great Northern Expedition to Russia to pursue an M.A. in Russian and Eurasian Politics and History at the European University of St. Petersburg, where I currently reside.

“After completing a module this past summer in Kazan, Tatarstan, on post-Soviet politics in the former Soviet Union, I became captivated by the topic of regime change and its ideological implications in Eurasia. Thus, I have since begun research for a thesis on the role of the Soviet legacy in post-Soviet Uzbekistan, a study that will coincide with a spring 2016 State Department internship in Tashkent. Still, I make sure to routinely pay homage to the Constructivist collection at the Russian Museum, as one cannot forget one’s past...”

Anna Lidofsky (German minor, 2014) is continuing a predoctoral research fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital. She is currently applying to medical school.

Julia Moreno (German major, 2015) will be starting her PhD studies in linguistics at the University of Glasgow.

Jacob Pelland (Russian major, 2016) was recently invited to become a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Kathy Quimby (German M.A., 1984) received an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts in January, 2014. While there she received the 2013 Norma Fox Mazer Award for a YA novel manuscript. She also received the PEN New England Susan P. Bloom Discovery Award in 2013 for the same manuscript. She is currently an adjunct faculty member in the Professional Writing Program at Champlain College.

Shawna Rambur (German major, 2011) completed a master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, focusing on German Literature and Translation while teaching one class per semester. After graduating last year, she translated technical German documents at a company in Milwaukee. In the fall of last year she started a job as a full-time Lecturer of German at the University of Rhode Island and just started her second year there. She mostly teaches introductory courses, such as German 101 up to German 104. She also had the opportunity to chaperone a student trip last Winter Semester to Berlin, Braunschweig, Hamburg, and Cologne. Additionally, she was awarded a scholarship to participate in a DAAD/Fulbright program to Leipzig this past summer where she lived with a family while participating in a program for American Professors of German.

Matt Ryan (Russian minor, 1990), in honor of the 25th anniversary of his graduation, recently made a five-year donation commitment to establish a fund for a prize to be awarded annually to the best graduating senior in Russian. This prize is to be named in honor of **Professor Kevin McKenna**, who played an enormously important formative role in Matt’s undergraduate education and post-UVM career. Matt works as a construction lawyer in Austin, Texas, mainly representing architects and engineers. He recently finished a nine-year run through the leadership of the Construction Law Section of

the State Bar of Texas, culminating in his service as the Chairman of its approximately 2,300-member section in 2014. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Austin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for the last several years, and has even managed to break into the ivory tower at his own alma mater by teaching classes at UT Law in Construction Law and Construction Litigation over the past nine years. Most importantly by far, he is the proud father of eight-year-old twin girls who—together with his wife—are his greatest motivation every day. Matt says, “I want this gift to honor the dedication and accomplishments of the great Professor McKenna, my original college and career mentor, and I hope this will help students experience the same kind of immersion adventure that I was lucky enough to spend in Russia after graduating in 1990.”

Elizaveta Shkurina (Russian major, 2018) writes, “What I love about the Russian people is their ‘Russkaya dusha’ – a sentimental warmth behind a deceivingly cold public appearance. With my return to Moscow in May, I was stunned by the complete lack of a smile or even an agreeable expression on the faces, ranging from passersby to waiters. Yet, the longer I remained, the more I discovered the organic and personal qualities that make the Russian soul. Not personality, but soul – the Russian people dig deep, ignoring the social dances we do in the West to preserve the peace. Instead, Russians display the utmost respect for blunt honesty, loyalty, and bravery, and display them fully once you crack through the shell of acquaintance.

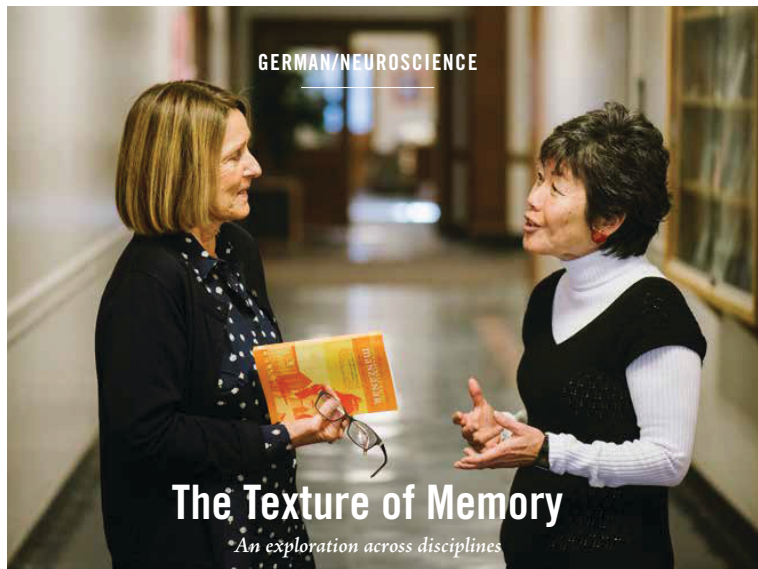
“That notion got me into the doors of *The Moscow Times* on an early Monday, having received no previous confirmation of them wanting a meeting or even having read over my resume. Where in the United States would a spontaneous visit to a major company with a request for work be met with a simple, ‘well, come in tomorrow’ – ‘Nu shto, prihodi’?”

“Ira, the marketing manager at *The Moscow Times* who hired a stranger, me, off the street, and who quickly trained me to stop mumbling a shy ‘yes ma’am’ at her every request, would slide cheesecake onto my desk and urge me to ‘idti gulyat’ if she thought I had worked enough for the day. I was soon comfortable – I translated articles for the business supplement issue of *The Moscow Times*, earned the title of copy editor, and attended functions with Moscow’s ambassadors and contemporary artists. The Russian women of the marketing department made me feel at home, always joking with that subtle Russian humor. I can still hear their laughter echoing through the halls.

“One day, Ira led me past the door of the marketing department. ‘You came here to write, so go write,’ she said, and led me, terrified, into the office of *The Moscow Times’* editor-in-chief. He was a large Russian man, who took no liking to my shy smile and stuttering Russian. ‘Interns only waste time, we have to rewrite everything after them,’ he said, without looking up from his papers. Then, he simply motioned me toward a plump, rosy woman sitting in a cubicle, whom I later got to know as the culture editor of the newspaper. I arrived the first day at work ready to make coffee for the reporters. Instead, I received a stack of papers with contact numbers, and was told to bring a finished article the next day. And so had started my journey as a journalist intern at *The Moscow Times*.”

Lily Teitelbaum (German minor, 2013) received the prestigious *Internationales Parlaments-Stipendium* and will be spending the coming year in Berlin.

Olga Trokhimenko (German M.A., 1999) was recently promoted to full professor of German at the University of North Carolina – Wilmington.



Photograph by Andy Duback

BY MEREDITH WOODWARD KING G'03

In Remembrance of Things Past, Marcel Proust writes about a memory that “is hidden somewhere outside the realm, beyond the reach of intellect.” Only *petites madeleines*, dipped in tea, can prompt his narrator’s recollection of his childhood in the fictional village of Combray.

As twenty sophomores in an Honors College seminar learned last spring, Proust was describing a relationship that neuroscientists would uncover decades later. Smell, the most primitive of senses, can evoke memories buried deep inside the brain. Both long- and short-term memories are stored and encoded via synaptic activity that forms neural patterns. Bound together, neurons can be reactivated and retrieved as memory.

In light of recent neuroscience research, Proust’s passage begs for an interdisciplinary study of memory. UVM’s “Texture of Memory” course does just that, and dissects other works of literature and film accordingly. The course’s co-teachers span colleges and disciplines: Rae Nishi, professor of neuroscience in the College of Medicine, and Helga Schreckenberger, chair and professor of German and Russian in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I’m always trying to find a way to connect the colleges together, especially to connect the sciences with the humanities and the arts,” says Nishi, who directs the Neuroscience Graduate Program and also the Neuroscience, Behavior and Health Transdisciplinary Research Initiative.

When she sent out an email looking for a co-teacher from the humanities, Schreckenberger responded immediately. A decade ago, she taught a course focused on Holocaust memory, prompted by her research on contemporary Austrian literature.

In Nishi’s explanations of brain anatomy and neurological function, she aimed for the “big picture” to make science approachable. The students examined “flashbulb” memories of individual and collective experiences. They discussed the groundbreaking neurological research on H.M., the epilepsy patient who lost his short-term memory after removal of his hippocampi. And they debated the accuracy of memory, whether false, manipulated, or forgotten.

In focusing on the “texture” of memory, Schreckenberger explains, “You think about the different layers, and that’s what we were trying to show the students. You have those individual neurological processes, which lead to personal memory and also get played out in societal processes.”

She introduced accounts of the Holocaust, Japanese internment camps, and African-American slavery, as well as Leslie Marmon Silko’s Native American novel *Ceremony*, among other works. Students visited UVM’s MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging and an exhibit on Native American art at the Fleming Museum.

Student research projects reflected the interplay between the neurological basis of memory and its societal component. One explored the history and community of grave-stone carvers in marble-and-granite-rich Barre, Vermont, and how they memorialized a family member killed in the Attica prison uprising. Another student, from New Orleans, analyzed the official and non-official recollections of Hurricane Katrina. Still others explored war veterans’ PTSD and disparate experiences of 9/11.

“It was interesting to see how this societal, complex memory functions in many ways like our own individual memory,” Schreckenberger says. “Outside of our individual brain, our collective memory functions according to the same rules. It’s constructed in a narrative way. We hit on certain events and we build a story out of it.”

“We had students say, ‘This is incredible. I didn’t realize there were so many points of view out there,’” Nishi recalls. “The dialogue and connections Helga and I make with each other is what students can use in the future.” After all, she says, “interdisciplinary study is the future of higher education.”

Scholarships and Awards

Evan Haley and **Ella Overfield-Lamberti** each received a \$750 **Mieder Scholarship**.

Niklas Gick received a \$700 **Richel Scholarship**.

Last semester, **Hannah Klugman** and **Oraya Zinder** each received \$1,000 **Lampport Prizes**.
During the current academic year, four \$1,600 **Lampport Prizes** have been awarded to **Sara Barth**,
Shae Beckett, **Leah Ostrander**, and **Alexandra Roseman**.



***Congratulations to our
2015 Graduates!!***

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