

Chair's Message

The main and most exciting news that I wish to share with you is that a new Ph.D. program in German Studies was approved by the University of Colorado Regents and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education in April 2012. This is a huge achievement for our entire department, prepared by four years of hard work by the German faculty, ably led by the department chair, Professor Ann Schmiesing. The new Ph.D. is an innovative program that will grant the degree after four years of study, a shorter period than traditional programs. The innovative features of the new Ph.D. program have garnered national attention. *The New York Times* (July 22, 2011) wrote

about it as a new type of a degree program aimed at professionals and as a model that other humanities departments may want to emulate. *Inside Higher Education* published an article lauding our new Ph.D. program as an achievement of national scope. The program will begin accepting new students in the next academic year. Next year, we await the approval of the proposal for an MA and BA/MA program in Russian Studies. Along with this joyful news, there are other things we are proud of and about which you can read in this issue of the Newsletter. Other important events this year are the creation of a new committee (consisting of faculty members and

students) that distributes student fees for various cultural and educational activities; the promotion of Tatiana Mikhailova to the rank of Senior Instructor of Russian Studies (Tatiana has also been running a popular Russian Film Series for the past six years); lectures by several visiting scholars in German and Russian Studies; the revival of the Hebrew Club led by Eyal Rivlin (an event highlighted by *The Daily Camera*); and, most recently, the publication in Moscow of Professor Rimgaila Salys' book *Laughing Matters: The Musical Comedies of Grigory Alexandrov* (in Russian translation). This year GSLL also hosted two international scholars, both in Russian



Studies – a Fulbright scholar from Russia, Olga Bagdasar-ian, and Professor of Sichuan University (China) Li Zhiqiang. As you can see, GSLL remains an intellectually and educationally vibrant place!

Best wishes,
Mark Leiderman
Associate Professor of Russian

Conversations in the Mountains



The German Department at CU Boulder hosted its first *Conversations in the Mountains* at the Max Kade German Room on

October 12 – 14, 2011. Two visitors from Germany (Eva Geulen, Universitaet Bonn, and Peter Geimer, FU Berlin), and two American colleagues (Rembert Hueser, University of Minnesota, and Anette Schwarz, Cornell University) joined Ann Schmiesing, Davide Stimilli, Patrick Greaney and Helmut Muller-Sievers in a wide-ranging conversation on the notion of "environment" (*Umwelt*) in German culture and literature. The papers delivered in the morning touched on the work

of the Austrian writer Adalbert Stifter, on the philosopher Martin Heidegger, on the fairy tales of the brothers Grimm, on art installations in German cities, and on the history of "circumambient air." In the afternoons, the group visited NCAR, and got a guided tour of some of the pine beetle infestation on Sugarloaf Mountain. A long hike on Saturday morning concluded this innovative conference, which the department is hoping to organize every other year.

Mark Leiderman Promoted to Full Professor

Mark Leiderman joined the faculty as assistant professor of Russian in 1999 and was promoted to associate professor in 2003. He is an internationally known specialist in 20th c. Russian literature, drama and culture, and the most prominent scholar of Russian Postmodernism. Professor Leiderman publishes widely in Russia, the United States and Europe. His recent books include: *Paralogies: Transformations of the (Post)Modernist Discourse in Russian Culture of the 1920s-2000s* (Moscow:

Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie, 2008), *Performing Violence: Literary and Theatrical Experiments of New Russian Drama*, co-authored with Birgit Beumers (Bristol and Chicago: Intellect Press, 2009), *50 Writers: An Anthology of the Twentieth-Century Russian Short Story*, co-edited with Valentina Brougher (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2011), *Charms of the Cynical Reason: The Transformations of the Trickster Trope in Soviet and Post-Soviet Culture* (Boston: Academic Studies Press,

2011). His two-volume textbook, *Twentieth-Century Russian Literature: 1950s-1990s*, co-authored with Naum Leiderman (Moscow: Academia, 2001) has gone through five reprint editions. Professor Leiderman has served the department well as undergraduate associate chair for Russian Studies and is currently serving as interim chair. Congratulations, Mark, on a well-deserved promotion!

Ambassador Vitaly Churkin's Visit to CU-Boulder

On Thursday, April 26, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Ambassador Vitaly Ivanovich Churkin, came to CU-Boulder and participated in two meetings with our faculty and students. Ambassador Churkin's visit was organized and sponsored by the Honorary Consulate of the Russian Federation in Colorado, by the CU-Boulder International Affairs program, by the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, and by our department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures. GSSL professors Mark Leiderman and Artemi Romanov worked with Russian Honorary Consul Dr. Deb Palmieri for several months to make this high profile visit a reality.

The Russian ambassador started his visit with a tour of CU-Boulder campus and a visit to the CU Heritage Center in Old Main, where Ambassador Churkin had an informal conversation over tea with about twenty professors representing different colleges and institutes of CU-Boulder, including GSSL faculty.

After the tea, Ambassador Churkin gave a public lecture to about 200 students and faculty, followed by

questions and answers in HUMN 250. Russian faculty members Rima Salys, Laura Osterman, Mark Leiderman, Artemi Romanov, Vicki Grove, and Tatiana Mikhailova attended the lecture, along with Russian majors and minors and IAFS students. It was a truly exciting event: the room was packed with students standing in the hallways and sitting on the floor. Ambassador Churkin talked about the role of the Russian Federation in the UN and recent political events. Then CU students and faculty asked many challenging questions. Ambassador Churkin's

answers reflected his intellectual breadth, erudition in international affairs, and experience in handling difficult questions. While answering questions Ambassador Churkin talked about the current state and the future of American-Russian relations, the Russian assessment of the Arab spring and events in Libya and Syria, the Iranian nuclear program, Russian-Chinese cooperation, and Vladimir Putin's third term as president of Russia. The lecture was followed by a reception in Macky Auditorium Gallery.



Russian Cooking Series

Last year Alexandria Farris, a senior in the Russian program, and Elena Kostoglodova, Senior Instructor of Russian, came up with the exciting new idea of hosting the Russian Cooking Series for students at Elena's home in the mountains. In the past, students had really enjoyed the Russian Enrichment cookouts (we once made shish kebabs outdoors and also hosted a few cooking parties, enjoying crepes, borscht and pies), so we decided to take the idea to the next level by making them into a regular series, with a distinct monthly theme. Every year we revisit the same categories -- appetizers, soups, main courses and desserts, finding exciting new Russian recipes to make in each. This semester, for example, the students learned how to make the more exotic soups (rassolnik and schi), tried their hand at traditional appetizers (among them vinegret and olivie) and baked a colossal number of rich, mouthwatering desserts. The series is free to students and is generously funded through



student fees. We have hosted 15-25 students at every gathering. The students love cooking, eating and socializing in a home-like setting and enjoy great conversations, playing board games and experiencing Russian cultural immersion outside of class. This year the Russian Cooking Series was written up in *The Daily Camera*. We are looking forward to our third season in the fall.

-Elena Kostoglodova
Senior Instructor of Russian

German Storyteller



2012 marks the 200th birthday of the Grimm Brothers' famous fairy-tale collection entitled "Kinder- und Hausmärchen." On this occasion the Goethe Institut San Francisco and GSLL sponsored a visit by the renowned German storyteller Katharina Ritter. On March 6th she performed "GRIMMiges IM WUNDERBAREN WORTSALON": a number of well-known as well as quite unknown fairy-tales by the Brüder Grimm – some of them scary, others quirky or funny or simply magical – for our German students and other German speakers at CU. Her very unique, engaging and often interactive style brought the chosen fairy-tales to life during a wonderful and mesmerizing evening filled with captivating tales, fabulous acting, lots of laughter and the joys of the German language. More information and video clips of Katharina Ritter's storytelling can be found at: <www.geschichtenerzaehlerin.de>

Memorial Bench Dedicated to Professor Thomas Hollweck

In spring 2012 a stone bench was erected next to Varsity Pond in memory of our dear colleague and Professor of German Studies, Thomas Hollweck, who taught in GSLL for more than twenty years and passed away in 2011. The memorial bench was sponsored by Thomas' son Andrew and his family. To mark this event, we had an informal ceremony on May 4, 2012. Andrew Hollweck spoke about his father and his own memories associated with the McKenna building. GSLL faculty Patricia Schindler, Zilla Goodman, and Artemi Romanov, as well as Professor of Political Science Horst Mewes, shared their memories about Thomas and his effect on their life and work. The event was attended by GSLL faculty and staff, as well as faculty and staff from other departments on campus who knew and worked with Professor Hollweck.



Memory and Literature after Auschwitz and the Gulag



Dominick LaCapra and Alexander Etkind

In November 2011, GSLL Associate Professor Mark Leiderman, in collaboration with Professor and Chair of Humanities, David Ferris organized a two-day symposium entitled "Memory and Literature after Auschwitz and the Gulag." For this event two world-renowned scholars were invited: Dominick LaCapra of Cornell University, the foremost expert on Holocaust Studies, and Alexander Etkind of Cambridge University, a leading expert in post-Soviet memory studies. During the first day of the symposium, the guest speakers delivered lectures: "Magical Historicism: Memory and Fan-

tasy in Fiction and Non-Fiction" by Prof. Etkind and "Nazism and the 'Postsecular'" by Prof. LaCapra. For the second day, Etkind and LaCapra's articles distributed via the Humanities Program website were discussed during an open seminar for faculty and graduate students. The symposium was enthusiastically attended by many colleagues and students from different departments in humanities and social sciences. It was sponsored by the Humanities Program, GSLL, the President's Fund for the Humanities and GCAH.

New Faculty in GSLL



GSLL has hired a new instructor of Nordic Studies and head of the Nordic Studies program, Ben Teitelbaum. Ben is ABD at Brown University in

ethnomusicology. He is completing his dissertation on music and radical nationalism in Scandinavia. He has substantial teaching experience, has lived in Sweden, has twice interned at the Smithsonian, and has written, presented, or been interviewed on topics ranging from Scandinavian folk music to radical nationalism in the Nordic region. He was interviewed by Swedish and Norwegian national radio stations last summer for a

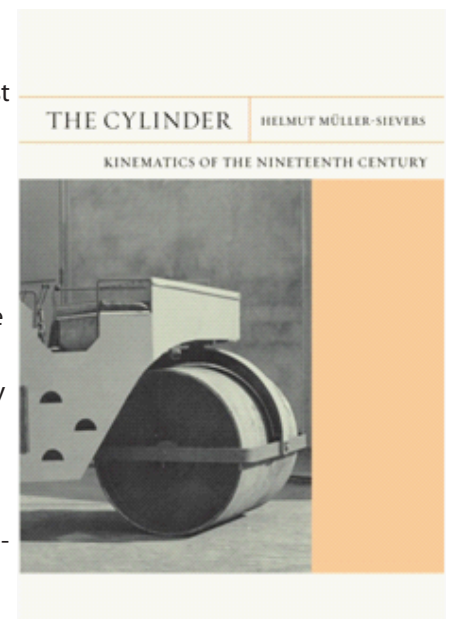
story on the influence of radical music on Oslo bomber/Utøya shooter Anders Behring Breivik's ideology. Ben is a Colorado native who currently lives in Louisville. He speaks Swedish, Norwegian, German, and Russian.

Faculty Books

Helmut Muller-Sievers published *The Cylinder. Kinematics of the Nineteenth Century* with University of California Press in March. The book tries to account for the proliferation of cylindrical objects and processes in the 19th century, such as steel milling, paper making, rotary printing, phonography, kymography (the transcription of vital signs onto a cylindrical drum), cryptography, Yale locks, etc. Cylinders, the book argues, are able to isolate and transmit straight-line and rotational motion, and thus became the indispensable building blocks of industrial

machines. At the same time, the realist novel invented new ways to combine the forward motion of the story with reflection on morality and justice. Novels are, both in the ways they narrate and in the ways they captivate their audience, reading machines. The book argues for a closer collaboration between engineering and literary criticism.

For more information on GSLL faculty and what they are up to, visit our website at: <http://gsll.colorado.edu/>.



"Sometimes a cigar is just a cylinder."

Where are our German & Russian Studies

Graduates? We continue to collect data about our former students' graduate school and job placements. Please send the information about yourself and your career to gsll@colorado.edu. Your privacy will be protected: only the names of academic programs and job descriptions will appear on our website. The information about careers for which GSLL prepares its graduates is very important for our current and incoming students.

Donate to GSLL: We would like to thank all our donors for their support. If you would like to donate to one of our programs or scholarships, please visit our website: <http://gsll.colorado.edu/> and click on "Make a Gift Online."

Alumni/Alumnae News: We would like to hear from our alums, wherever you may be! Keep us informed about what you are doing, and about developments in your lives and careers. See what other alums are doing on our website: <http://gsll.colorado.edu/>, under Newsletter and Alumni News. Please email your updates to gsll@colorado.edu.

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