

Chair's Message



Dear friends of GSLL,

They say: always try to stay modest, and be proud of it. Well, we have one or two things to be proud of.

Undoubtedly, one of the most important events for our department this academic year was the seven-year review. This multi-stage process includes a self-study, internal review, and finally, external review. The self-study is like soul-searching; it allows us to summarize what has been done so far and what yet is awaiting us in the future. The self-study was written by faculty members Ann Schmiesing, Davide Stimilli, Patrick Greaney, Elena Kostoglodova, Laura Osterman, Artemi Romanov, Lauren Stone, and me, with the participation of the GSLL Program Assistant Karen Hawley and our undergraduate and graduate students Ross Etherton, Franziska Schweiger, and Courtney Silver.

Let me share a few highlights from this document with you:

Since the last review cycle, GSLL has experienced a dramatic expansion at the graduate level, especially remarkable at a time when most peer institutions have been downsizing or cutting graduate programs: we went from hosting only Masters-level programs in German (MA, BA/MA, and MA/MBA) to additionally offering a PhD in German Studies, a graduate certificate in Critical Theory, and newly-approved MA and concurrent five-year BA/MA in Russian Studies.

Since 2009, GSLL faculty members have published 9 single-author peer-reviewed books, 2 co-authored peer-reviewed books, 17 edited or translated books, and 96 peer-reviewed articles. Faculty members also have 28 accepted projects in the pipeline; these include peer-reviewed books and articles, as well as translations and curated museum exhibitions. Faculty research has been supported by significant grants. Since 2009, GSLL faculty members have received \$181,000 in external grant funding for their research, in addition to 88 internal grants. Their status in their respective fields is reflected by their 110 invited lectures and keynote addresses.

Showing global reach and influence going beyond a special-interest audience, faculty works have been translated into Italian, Russian, Polish, and German, and have appeared in anthologies, encyclopedias, and textbooks. They have also written for, and been reviewed in, the popular media, including The New York Times, The New Yorker, The New Republic, Artforum, and The Times Literary Supplement. Several of our faculty are translators and have made important texts accessible to a broader audience, and faculty have curated museum exhibitions at CU and in Boulder and Denver, drawing on their research to present work by national and international artists to non-academic audiences.

The GSLL "Unit Profile 2014-2015" shows us in first place among all 45 CU units in the median time to degree (3.67 years) for our majors.

According to the same Profile, student satisfaction with our programs is very high: we are also in first place of all CU units for opportunities for students to interact with faculty.

We are ranked first and third according to Unit Profile 2015-16" among CU Arts and Humanities programs for meeting students' educational goals and first in both profiles for the effectiveness of our courses in preparing students for employment and for graduate school.

Our major retention rate is among the highest at CU: 88% of students who declared Russian as their major upon entry to CU, and 83% of those students whose first major was Russian graduated in 6 years.

GSLL ranks as number two in the division of Humanities and Arts, and number nine of forty-four units, for the opportunities we afford our graduate students to interact across disciplines.

Our reviewers had a very positive impression of our department's work. Professors Gabriella Safran (Stanford) and Niklaus Largier (University of California-Berkeley) in their report praised the academic quality of the GSLL programs on all levels and commended faculty members for their professionalism, the intellectual engagement, and the vital energy of the people at the department. They especially emphasized an "enviable number of students, majors, and minors, nationally prominent faculty, and a collegial atmosphere at GSLL." Reviewers found our undergraduate curriculum well-conceived and our graduate students happy and engaged. They fully supported our scholarly and educational initiatives. In short, we did very well and this is a result of immense hard work of everyone in the department!

More great news: this year GSLL has added a new graduate program! A new MA and BA/MA program in Russian Studies has been approved thanks to Associate Professor Laura Osterman, whose final effort in May – June 2015 completed the process, to which all Russian faculty members contributed. Professor emerita Rima Salys and Professor Artemi Romanov should be especially mentioned along with Laura. Furthermore, we've already admitted two BA/MA students in Spring 2016; five MA and two BA/MA students will begin their graduate study in Fall 2016.

You will see below a few other reports about our last year's activities.

Chair's Message (continued)

I want to congratulate our dear colleague Patrick Greaney who has been promoted to the rank of the Full Professor – an admirable achievement! With Patrick's promotion, the German Program has three full professors in its ranks, and GSLL has five overall.



Senior Instructor of Nordic Studies and the Head of the Nordic Program, Dr. Ben Teitelbaum is leaving GSLL for a tenure-track position at the School of Music. We are delighted and using this chance, on behalf of the department, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to Ben for everything he did for the program. Thanks to his efforts, a system of DILS in Swedish, Finnish, and Danish has been created, classes in Nordic Studies have become enormously popular. Thank you, Ben! We are sure that you will shine at your new job as you did at GSLL!

Dr. Matthias Nordvig has joined GSLL as the Visiting Assistant Professor whose position is sponsored by the special grant from the government of Denmark.

I also want to congratulate Professor Ann Schmiesing with the Boulder Faculty Assembly's 2016 Award of Excellence in Leadership! GSLL faculty more than anybody know how much time and heart does Ann invest in helping others, how extensive are her administrative duties, and how we all come to her when in need of advice and support. This year, Ann has been co-chairing the Arts and Sciences committee for the revision of the Core Curriculum – the work of incredible complexity and highest responsibility. In addition to this she directed the Sewell Residence Academic Program and served as the Undergraduate Associate Chair and the Head of the German Program at GSLL. We are all extremely happy for Ann's well-deserved award and very thankful to her for everything she does for GSLL and the university!

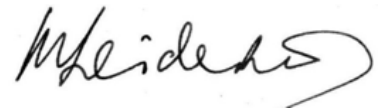


The latest news about Ann is that she has been appointed as the interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School. Congratulations, Ann!

Ann's appointment as Undergraduate Associate Chair ends this year and Associate Professor Beverly Weber will replace her. Similarly, Davide Stimilli's appointment as Graduate Associate Chair will end this year. Next year we'll have two Graduate Associate Chairs: Assistant Professor Arne Höcker for German and Associate Professor Laura Osterman for Russian. The newsletter is a great place to express our gratitude to Ann and Davide for their wonderful service and to greet our new associate chairs, who, I am confident, will hold the fort as well as their predecessors.

In short, this was an eventful year, full of challenges and achievements. I hope, you'll enjoy reading about some highlights of this year below! Have a wonderful summer!

Warmly,



Mark Leiderman

New Faculty in GSLL

Mathias Nordvig joined GSLL as a Visiting Professor from Denmark last fall. He teaches courses in our popular Nordic program. Nordvig finished his PhD thesis "Of Fire and Water: The Old Norse Mythical Worldview in an Eco-mythological Perspective" in 2014. His primary research is focused on how Old Norse myths as narratives intersect with Nordic environment. Since finishing his PhD and before coming to CU Boulder, Nordvig worked as a teacher in Danish secondary and tertiary schools. He also managed tourist projects in Denmark. He continually researches and publishes on Old Norse myths and the environment, as well as pre-Christian Nordic religion and contemporary use of the Viking past in popular culture. GSLL recently added a new Danish language course series to our curriculum that Dr. Nordvig will be teaching beginning fall 2016.



Awards for Students of Russian



Julia Gerhard, PhD candidate at the Program in Comparative Literature, is also a scholar of Russian literatures – she has just defended her comprehensive exam and is preparing to write a dissertation on post-Soviet science fiction. For two years she has served as a TA for GSLL. Last year, she won the GSLL graduate student teaching award. This year, we are happy to congratulate Julia for winning the CU 2015-2016 Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award!



Congratulations to Courtney Silver, one of the first students in the BA/MA program for Russian Studies! Courtney won the Boren Scholarship for studying Russian, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, providing unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests.

A NEW INITIATIVE OF THE GERMAN PROGRAM IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Beginning in fall semester 2016, students at Widefield High School in Colorado Springs will be able to receive first-semester German language college credit while completing their upper-level German classes. The idea of a dual credit program started when German high school teacher Maureen Richards (an alumna of the CU German MA program) contacted GSLL expressing interest in collaborating with CU to further strengthen high school German programs and to prepare students for their college education. GSLL German language coordinator Dr. Berit Jany and Ms. Richards collaborated on learning objectives and the course curriculum to ensure that the high school German coursework meets college standards. The high school German coursework has been accepted for dual accreditation through CU's concurrent enrollment program.



German PhD Candidates Awarded CHA Summer Fellowships

Ross Etherton's project focuses on expanding his expertise in media archaeology. Working with CU-Boulder's acclaimed Media Archaeology Lab and its founder, CU-Boulder Professor Lori Emerson, he will write a media-archaeological account of germanium- and silicon-based fuzz pedals, exploring their material, aesthetic, and ideological bases and effects. The practical component of his project involves (re)constructing fuzz pedals with silicon and germanium transistors.

With the generous support of the CHA 2nd Leg Graduate Student Summer Fellowship, Adi Nester will work on her project German Influence in the Works of Shmuel Yosef Agnon. The Hebrew author S.Y Agnon (1880-1970) resided in Germany (Berlin and Bad Homburg vor der Höhe) between the year 1912 and 1924, where he interacted with prominent figures of the German-Jewish intellectual milieu such as Martin Buber and Gershom Scholem. Adi Nester's research will focus on this interaction and its influence on the works written by Agnon during those years and immediately thereafter. By focusing on the role of Germany and German influence in the works of Agnon, Adi wishes to study the inextricable relation between German and Hebrew cultures that commences with the works of prominent figures of the second Aliyah such as Agnon and continues until the present day.



3rd Boulder Summer Colloquium in German Studies



For the 3rd consecutive year, the University of Colorado hosted the Boulder Summer Graduate Student Colloquium in German Studies from May 12-14, 2016.

The Colloquium was organized in collaboration with Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, and, as a special guest institution this year, the University of Chicago.

The center of the event was presentations by graduate students from all four participating institutions. German Studies at CU Boulder was represented this year by Ph.D. students Sayalee Karkare and Petra Sertic, who presented their work on the filmmaker Werner Herzog and the controversial artist Martin Kippenberger. They were joined by six Ph.D. students from Cornell, JHU, and the University of Chicago who also presented their work.

The Colloquium opened with a seminar by Dr. David E. Wellbery, Professor of German and the Humanities at the University of Chicago and one of the leading scholars and thinkers in the field of German Studies. Professor Wellbery's seminar was held in German and addressed questions of freedom, myth, and social order in Johann Wolfgang Goethe's drama *Egmont* and the genre of the American Western.

Laura Olson Osterman's Book is Translated into Russian

In February 2016, Laura Olson Osterman (Laura J. Olson) published [her co-authored book with Svetlana Adonyeva in Russian translation](#). The book, *The Worlds of Russian Village Women: Tradition, Transgression, Compromise*, had been published in English in 2013 by [University of Wisconsin Press](#), and has since won three awards and garnered a dozen book reviews.

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2016, Laura assisted in "presenting" the book to a live audience by Skype in St. Petersburg at the ["Word Order" bookstore](#). The book has already stirred up a lot of interest and even a bit of satire in the Russian press.

An ostensible [review of the book in Pravda on March 8, 2016](#), calls the authors "scholarly ladies" and pokes fun at their feminist line of argument. Other, less ideologically oriented online publications reprinted sections from the book, one illustrated with colorized pre-revolutionary [photographs by Sergei Prokudin-Gorski](#).



Мир русской деревенской женщины

German Immersion & Career Days



On February 10, 2016, high schools students from the Boulder Valley and Fort Collins school districts explored the CU campus as part of the German Language Immersion Day. High school students participated in sessions on German film and Austrian art. They also tested their knowledge on German geography, economy, music, and popular culture in a game of Jeopardy, and they went on German-spoken campus tours in which they learned about the university's history, areas of study, and campus life. Their German learning experience on campus was further enriched by a discussion round with German Deputy Consul General, Stefan Biedermann, on current issues such as the refugee crisis in Europe. An info session led by the DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service) information officer, Hanni Geist, provided them with useful advice on scholarships in Germany and encouraged them to

continue their study of the German language and culture .

Less than a month later, on March 14, GSLL held its annual German career event. The event provided undergraduate students enrolled in German classes with an insight into some of the different career paths and opportunities available to them – both in Colorado and beyond - and a chance to hear first-hand from experienced professionals who are already succeeding in such careers. Students were able to network with local businesses that require the German language/ culture knowledge by nature of their services. They also sought advice on employment and internship opportunities from Dr. Nayantara Ghosh, the honorary consul of Austria, and Marcel Pitton, honorary consul of Switzerland, and talked to GSLL alumni and former CBYX (Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange) participants about their application processes and career developments.

The Russian Program Presents at Boulder Bookstore and Fairview High

In November 2015, the Nobel Prize Committee awarded the prize in literature to Belorussian writer Svetlana Alexievich. To celebrate this event, Tatiana Mikhailova and Tom Roberts organized and moderated an evening dedicated to the writer in December. The event was such a great success that it was repeated on March 7, not in the Boulder Book Store. The event was also moderated by Tatiana Mikhailova and Tom Roberts, and included contributions from Russian faculty Mark Leiderman and Laura Olson Osterman, as well as CU students Dulguun Baatarkhuyag, Lisa Cayton, Lukas Devries, Colin Grushkin, Tanya Litinsky, Ben Lourie, Erik Powers, Jena Reddy, Ryan Stoner, and Chloe Toscano. Professor Leiderman delivered a brief lecture on Alexievich, and screened clips from speeches and interviews with the author, while the faculty and students delivered highly emotional readings from Alexievich's books. Following the presentations, a lively discussion ensued on the literary qualities of non-fiction writing. The Alexievich evening has become the first in the new series of events celebrating Nobel Laureates across national literature traditions co-organized by GSLL and the Boulder Book Store.

The next event in this new series on Nobel Laureates was on April 25, when the Chinese novelist Mo Yan, was represented by his famed translator Howard Goldblatt.

On March 1 and 4, Russian faculty members Vicki Grove, Laura Olson Osterman, Mark Leiderman and Tom Roberts taught classes on Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment at Fairview High School in Boulder. About 150 11th grade students in the school's International Baccalaureate Literature Program participated in this event consisting of a lecture and interactive game based on Dostoevsky's novel, taught across five class sections. One of the teachers is our own Jim Lewis, an alumni of the GSLL MA program in German Studies. This event was supported by an Arts & Humanities Outreach Grant. We hope that this will initiate an ongoing collaboration between GSLL and Fairview High School.





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.

GSLL Facebook Pages: We've set up Facebook pages to help us keep in touch with alumni, and to keep you in touch with each other and our current students.

We'd love to hear your news!

Please join us by "liking" the pages at :

German Program: <https://www.facebook.com/CUBoulder German>

German Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/158545408175/>

Nordic Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/11123544743/>

Russian Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/crussianclub/>

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://colorado.edu/gsll> and click on "Donate."

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://colorado.edu/gsll>, under Newsletter and Alumni News.

Please email your updates to gsll@colorado.edu.

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