

Bryn Geffert

Work

Howe Library
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Home

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Education

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

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

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

Modern Russian History.

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

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

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

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

Other

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

Languages

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

Academic Employment

Dean of Libraries, University of Vermont, 2019-present. Professor, Department of History, 2020-present.

Highlights include establishing the University of Vermont Press, the first U.S. flagship university press operating under a diamond open-access model; leading a grass-roots strategic-planning and staffing process that yielded twenty new positions, with a focus on direct instructional and research support; substantially increasing private and public philanthropic support; significantly increasing professional development opportunities; and partnering with research providers across campus to coordinate research support.

Librarian of the College (Library Director), Amherst College, 2010-2019. Lecturer, Department of History, 2014-2019.

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

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

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

College Librarian (Library Director), St. Olaf College, 2002-2008. Associate Professor of Russian Area Studies, 2006-2008.

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

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

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

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

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

Teaching

Amherst College

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

Smith College

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

West Point

- Senior tutorial on Eastern Orthodox Christianity, 2009.

St. Olaf College

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

University of Minnesota (as a Teaching Assistant)

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

Publications in History

Books

- *Catholics without Rome: Old Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, and the Reunion Negotiations of the 1870s*, with co-author LeRoy Boerneke. Notre Dame University Press, 2022, xxiii, 535 pp.
Reviewed in *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 75 no. 2 (2024): 412-14; *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 58 no. 2 (2023): 291-93; *Newman Studies Journal* 22, no. 2 (2023): 102-4; *Church History* 92, no. 4 (2023): 1017-19.
- *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: The Essential Texts*, with co-author Theofanis Stavrou. Yale University Press, 2016, xxvi, 447 pp.
 - *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: Supplemental Texts*, xvi, 1350 pp., yalebooks.com/eoc.
Reviewed in *Russian Review* 76 no. 2 (2017): 369-70; *Church History* 86, no. 3 (2017): 841-42; *CHOICE* 54, no. 4 (2016): 550; *Reading Religion* (September 17, 2016).
- *Eastern Orthodox and Anglicans: Diplomacy, Theology, and the Politics of Interwar Ecumenism*. Notre Dame University Press, 2010, ix, 501 pp.
 - Translated as *Восточные православные и англикане: дипломатия, теология и политика межвоенного экуменизма*. Academic Scholars Press, forthcoming.
Reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 83, no. 4 (2011): 872-73; *Slavic Review* 70, no. 2 (2011): 433-34; *Russian Review* 69, no. 4 (2010): 724-25; *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 62, no. 2 (2011): 428-29; *Church History* 80, no. 2 (2011): 433-35; *Irish Theological Review* 75, no. 4 (2010): 420; *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 46, no. 1 (2011): 127-28; *Contemporary Church History Quarterly* 18, no. 2, (2012).

Articles & Essays

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

Consortial Leadership

- President-elect, president, and past president of the Boston Library Consortium, which includes most major, public, university libraries in New England (2023-2025).

Review Teams & Consulting

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

Work as a Referee

Cambridge University Press

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

Johns Hopkins University Press

- *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies*.

National Endowment for the Humanities

- Review Panelist.

Publications in History (continued)

Commentary

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

Book Reviews

- Review essays (9) in *Russian Review*, *Slavonic and East European Review*, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, *Church History*, and *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*.

Publications in Librarianship

Commentary

- "The Perennial Question of Library Credentialing," with Anna Staton, *The Scholarly Kitchen* (December 12, 2024).
- "How Librarians are Advancing Open Book Publishing at Lever Press," with Anne Huston, *Katina* (November 12, 2024).

Research

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

Invited Lectures

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

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

Community Service

Varsity Basketball Official

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

Certified Red Cross Lifeguard Trainer and Swimming Instructor, 1984-1994; WSI 2000-2002.

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

Other Interests

Piano study, 16 years.

Triathlons (4).

Marathons (22) including Boston (6).

American Birkebeiner (3).

College Service

Amherst College

- Chair of Manager's Council, 2012-2014.
- Disciplinary Hearing Advisor, 2011-present. Represented and advised students in allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

West Point

- Continued Intellectual Development Committee, 2008-2010.

St. Olaf College

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

Other Employment

Minnesota Public Radio Newsroom, 1989.

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

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

Programming with moderately to severely mentally disabled adults and children.

Head Swimming Instructor, Chaska Community Education, Summers 1986-1990 (1989-90 as head).

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