



**NORWICH  
UNIVERSITY™**  
Expect Challenge. Achieve Distinction.

# The Rotunda Report

2012 Winter/Spring Issue

Museum Associates Bi-Annual Newsletter

## “Russian, Only Please”: A History of the Norwich Russian School

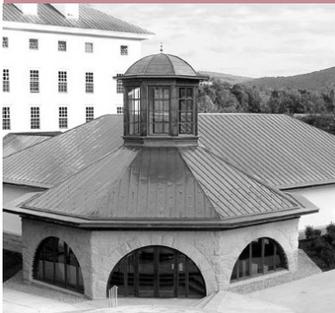
The Sullivan Museum and History Center is pleased to present “*Toľko Po Russky, Pozhluista*” (“*Russian Only, Please*”), an exhibition chronicling the history of the Russian School of Norwich University.



Russian School Slavic Festival Performance, c. 1979

The Russian School was a fixture on the Norwich campus every summer from 1968 to 2000. Students spent seven weeks intensely studying the Russian language. In addition to classroom work, total immersion in the Russian language continued in extra-curricular activities such as Russian choir, folk dancing, theater performances, radio and sports. The Russian School drew internationally renowned scholars and artists to campus, including the exiled writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. This exhibition considers the academic and cultural legacy of the Russian School and its place in the history of Norwich University.

**Please join us at the opening reception and Lunch N’ Learn Program on Thursday, March 22nd at 12pm.**



**SULLIVAN MUSEUM  
AND HISTORY CENTER**

## Recap of the Museum Associates’ Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Sullivan Museum and History Center Associates was held on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of the Homecoming festivities. After a buffet breakfast in the rotunda and a warm welcome from President Schneider, the program got underway with the introduction of Jim Bennett, former director of the Regimental Band. One of the new exhibits for the museum for this fall is a tribute to the NU band, the oldest collegiate band in the nation. Jim’s remarks were followed by a concert from the band which included 8 “Zoobie” alums. LTC Todd Edwards, the present director, led the band in many familiar and patriotic songs which were enjoyed by well over 60 guests.

At the conclusion of the concert, the annual meeting was opened for business. Marilyn Solvay gave a report to the gathering, telling what is going on at the SMHC. She reported that the number of visitors is

up, and the museum has been doing outreach at such places as the History Fair and the Womens Veterans Day. There is increased use of the museum by faculty and students. Conservation was done on General Harmon’s portrait and the museum’s collection of musical instruments. She also reported on her trip to Council Bluffs, Iowa to do research on Grenville Dodge. Carol Todd reported on “Adopt-an-Artifact”, a new initiative for the museum. For further information on how to become an “adoptive parent” contact the SMHC at [SMHC@norwich.edu](mailto:SMHC@norwich.edu).

After a ribbon cutting to officially open the two fall exhibits, (Strike up the Band and NU and the Civil War), author Howard Coffin gave an informative talk on Vermonters in the Civil War, with an emphasis on the role of NU graduates.

It was announced to the Associates that our director, Marilyn Solvay, will be leaving the SMHC to become the director at a museum in Maine. We wish her well and thank her for her tireless and wonderful work for the Sullivan Museum. She will be missed.



NU Band performing in the Museum galleries.  
photo by Jennifer Langille

## Associates Announce a New Initiative for the Sullivan Museum

The Associates, under the leadership of Bob Guptill, are opening a bookstore. Included in the bookstore will be books written by and/or about Norwich Alums and former students. After a very successful trial run at Homecoming, it was decided that this is a very appropriate venture for the Museum. NU graduates have made notable contributions to the history of our country and Bob has been busy stocking the bookstore with a wide range of books that tell their stories. Books will be on sale at the Museum on a daily basis during museum open hours or at special events such as Homecoming, Graduations, the Colby Symposium and the opening of the academic year.

For further information you may contact Bob Guptill at [rgup91427@aol.com](mailto:rgup91427@aol.com) or Nancy Braman, Museum Book Sales Associate, at [nhbraman@yahoo.com](mailto:nhbraman@yahoo.com).



### **Presently, the books available for sale include:**

- *Gideon Wells*
- *Frederick W. Lander*
- *Journal of a Cruise of the U. S. Schooner Dolphin*
- *How We Built the Union Pacific Railroad*
- *Journal of an Excursion by the Corps of Cadets, June 1822*
- *My Name is Bill*
- *The Notorious "Bull" Nelson*
- *Drumbeats in the Valley*
- *Life of Hiram Paulding*
- *The Devil Soldier*
- *The College Cavaliers*
- *Iron Knights*
- *Norwich Matters*
- *Grenville M. Dodge*
- *Captured by the Navajos*
- *Admiral of the New Empire*
- *The Norwich Cadets: A Tale of Rebellion*
- *By the Blood of Our Alumni*
- *Combat Commander*

## Norwich Students Active in the Museum

There has been a notable increase in student involvement with the museum in recent months. Our recent *Building and Beyond* and *Touch the Sound* exhibitions each featured projects created by NU students from various academic departments.

In November, the Museum hosted a reception to celebrate International Student Week. President Schneider spoke about the importance of internationalizing the Norwich experience by 2019. As part of this event, photographs taken by Norwich students studying around the world were exhibited in the Museum Rotunda.

Also in November, students in Prof. Tara Kulkarni's Engineering course made presentations about Fluid Mechanics at a Lunch-N-Learn in the Rotunda. These projects then went on exhibit in a temporary exhibition case through January.

The Museum played a role in the campus-wide commemorations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and work. In January, the Museum staff offered tours of our current Civil War exhibition, and posed the question, how has the legacy of slavery in the United States continued to impact us today? Students, faculty and staff were invited to record their thoughts.

This March, Norwich University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Question and Allies (NULGBTQA) will present an installation in the Museum Rotunda. Currently in its first year of existence, NULGBTQA is the first Lesbian and Gay student organization at an American military college.



Chris Palumbo '14

As always, the Museum's work study students continue to provide diligent and much-appreciated assistance behind the scenes. This year, Matthew Blanchard '14, Matthew Latter '14, and Chris Palumbo '14 have worked to make mounts for swords and weapons in storage, to reorganize the Museum's collection of patches and insignia, and to catalogue the collection of videos.

## Recent Gifts to the Sullivan Museum

The Sullivan Museum would like to thank the following donors for their recent gifts to the museum collections. Their contributions will help us to continue to tell the stories of Norwich University.

Gregory & Pamela Adamian  
 Jayson Altieri  
 David Barrington  
 Margaret Blanchard  
 Donald Boardman  
 Russ Bodge  
 Madene Briggs  
 Patricia Zaleski - Buchholz  
 Basil Burrell  
 Stephen & Joanna Cleveland Caswell  
 Gerard Couture  
 Peter Cuthbert, Phil Tiemann, and the Class of 1950  
 Robert Guptill  
 Loring Hart  
 Richard P. "Dick" Jordon  
 Benjamin Kleskovic

John C. Koziol  
 Elizabeth Lane  
 John Larney / Boy Scouts of America  
 James Lewandowski  
 Katherine McNeice  
 James & Cynthia Mullin  
 Cynthia Newby  
 Carolyn O'Brien  
 Anthony Otis  
 Rosemary Smith  
 Leslie Tye  
 Rochelle Ruthchild  
 John Walter  
 Alan H. Weiss  
 Dave Whaley  
 Jackie & Al Wilder



The New Gifts Case

### SULLIVAN MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

#### **Museum Associates Executive Committee**

Patricia Leavenworth  
*President*

John Lyon  
*Vice President*

Nancy Braman  
*Secretary*

Lauren Wobby  
*Treasurer*

John Greenway  
*Special Projects*

Carol Todd  
*Member at Large*

#### **Museum Staff**

Kelly Nolin  
*Interim Director*

Suzanne Desch  
*Museum Assistant*

Candace Kloidt  
*Museum Registrar*

Phil Whitman  
*Exhibitions Associate*

## Sullivan Museum Associate Membership

June 1, 2012- May 31, 2013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Join Me Up at the Following Level:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 Student

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 500.00 Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 Regular

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1000.00 Founder

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100.00 Patron

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to give an additional gift amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ To show appreciation to our members we list names in the Museum Associates Newsletter, Please check if you wish to remain anonymous

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Please bill my credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_ (this is the 3-digit code found on the reverse of your card)

Signature Required: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a credit card receipt mailed to you? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Please return this form along with your payment to:

Sullivan Museum and History Center, Norwich University  
 158 Harmon Drive, Northfield, VT 05663

## Sullivan Museum and History Center

Norwich University  
158 Harmon Drive  
Northfield, VT 05663

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(802) 485-2183  
[www.norwich.edu/museum](http://www.norwich.edu/museum)

FIRST CLASS MAIL U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 4 Northfield, VT
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## Upcoming Exhibitions

The Sullivan Museum is open 8-4pm, Monday-Friday, and 9-4pm on Saturday.

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On View Now and Continuing through Summer, 2012

### **Norwich University and the Civil War: The Challenge and Compromise of Slavery**

*Explore the complexities of the Slavery issue by examining NU stories of those on both sides. This is the first exhibition in a five part series presented in conjunction with the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.*

Opening March 22nd, 2012

### **“Tol’ko Po Russky, Pozhluista” (“Russian Only, Please”)**

*Discover the fascinating history of the Russian School of Norwich University, 1968-2000.*

June 16-17th, 2012

### **Vermont History Expo 2012, Tunbridge Fair Grounds**

*Come visit us at our booth at the History Expo!*

Opening in Late Summer, 2012

### **Norwich University and the Civil War: The Year of Higher Moral Purpose**

*The second in our series of exhibitions commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, this exhibit considers the role of NU in the Civil War Navies, in the training of the volunteer forces, and in response to the Emancipation Proclamation.*

For more information on these exhibitions, and for updates on coming attractions and public programs

Please visit our website and blog:

[www.norwich.edu/museum](http://www.norwich.edu/museum) and [www.norwich.typepad.com/museum](http://www.norwich.typepad.com/museum)

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## Sullivan Museum and History Center Mission Statement

*The Sullivan Museum and History Center seeks to be a lively, compelling and anchoring presence in our community; to serve as a dynamic resource, to improve cultural and educational opportunities for the Norwich community; to enhance our reputation as a unique institution of higher education; to promote Norwich and the Norwich experience; and to demonstrate who we are in the present through interaction with our past, our community, our beliefs, and the vision we hold for the future.*