There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.
*Julius Caesar, Act 4, scene 3, 218–224*

**Dedication**

Professor Brecht’s tireless work with students and colleagues includes three central tenets by which he has led his life of leadership and scholarship. Shakespeare encapsulates the first principle above, reminding us that our engagement with the world, and our application of our scholarly work, is in fact best taken as the wave crests. In living this tenet, Richard has led his public life by example, founding organizations, pursuing lines of research and inquiry, and participating in conversations deemed heterodox by the field at the time. It is worth recalling as well that Brutus precipitates his fall in *Julius Caesar* through his inability to understand the circumstances he finds. This leads us to the second tenet Richard has worked to instill in his students and colleagues: the value of *остранение* in research and praxis. Richard’s work illuminates a state of mind – the rigorous examination of theoretical, applied, and actionable challenges from many perspectives in order to defamiliarize oneself, to stretch one’s analysis and examine one’s notions of what is and ought to be. The title of the volume alludes to a parable, taken from his fifth grade primer and oft repeated by Richard to his students, in order to illustrate the practical application of *остранение*. A boy climbs an apple tree, and puts the biggest apple into his pocket. Once he tries to remove it, he thinks only of tearing the pocket, but his teacher suggests turning and cutting the apple. This volume embodies these two tenets of fearlessness and inquiry in expressions of the third tenet of Richard’s life: the profound engagement by Richard, his students, and his colleagues in his and their vocation: the improvement of the common weal through the expansion of foreign language learning and foreign language use.