



The 2008 Department Newsletter, vol. 27

This newsletter was edited by Helen Fehervary, with Natascha Miller.

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Letter from Dresden, Summer 2008

So here we are in front of the town hall having just been entertained by the folks there responsible for sister-city relations and then whisked up the tower to take in the view from atop the tallest structure in downtown Dresden. On a clear day, such as the one we enjoyed, the nearby Frauenkirche is thrown into sharp relief but the distant peaks of Saxon Switzerland are also easily distinguished. You'll excuse the pun—a high point of the trip thus far. The next day we headed off to Meissen where most everything worth visiting involves scaling a not insignificant hill, as befits a town originally founded in the tenth century as a military outpost in hostile territory. Needless to say, when it's raining the climb is just that little bit more arduous and it's only the most dedicated of study-abroad students who appreciates the finer points of early medieval settlement patterns.

In other words, to exhaust the pun, the study-abroad experience is full of ups and downs, but if it weren't mostly ups then I wouldn't be here for an eleventh summer and, more tellingly, we wouldn't have seen a record number of applicants for the program this past spring, which translated into 29 students taking the plunge to spend two months in the Saxon capital. The

dollar might have been at an all-time low, but student interest had never been higher. Reason enough then to celebrate the success of the program, even though we should really have waited until next year and the fifteenth anniversary, but numbers speak louder than milestones. Additionally, we would have missed the opportunity to thank outgoing Chair Bernd Fischer for his support over the years, including the soliciting of funds from the Max Kade Institute, without which a good number of students would never have had the opportunity to participate.



From a personal perspective, a true highpoint over the years has been the collaboration with the many TAs with whom I have worked. There have been too many to list all the names here, but you know who you are, and know also that without you this wouldn't be possible.

Last year we had 25 students on the program, of those, four are leaving this fall to study at the University of Bonn for a year, one is off to Salzburg to combine her German studies with music, and a further joint German and Business major is about to embark on an internship with a company in Stuttgart for six months. And before I forget, I got two e-mails today from former "Dresden-students". Claire is now a graduate student at the University of Madison-Wisconsin and she wrote to let me know that she is going to be back in Dresden in September to teach on a year-long Fulbright scholarship. Chris, on the other hand, has been here since 2002, married with kids. He just wanted to get together for a beer.

This all tells me that we are doing something right, and that's why I like this job. Now if only it would stop raining before we leave for Freiberg tomorrow, a trip which is going to see us descend a couple of hundred metres beneath the surface to see for ourselves a twelfth-century silver mine. A low which, if the last several years are anything to go by, will prove to be a high. You just never can tell.

Andy Spencer (Resident Director, Dresden Summer-Study Abroad program, 1998-2008)

Pictured above with Resident Director Andy Spencer and GTAs C. J. Brown and Thomas Stefaniuk are this year's participants in the program and recipients of the Max Kade Dresden Summer Study Abroad Grants:

Nathan Biglin, Ben Borelli, Keela Bowers, Chris Canady, Darlene Chinn, Katelyn Clements, Alex Douglas, Melissa Hoppes, Will Kammerer, Katie Karnitis, Garry Kirkland, Alysa Kociuruba, Kara Larcey, Kristin Luncan, Jeff McIntyre, Matthew McMullan, Jeff Mixter, Zach Motter, Elwood Nesser, Brittany Nowak, Kyle Robinson, Jana Samanich, Derek Schauer, Rachel Schebler, Matthew Suguitan, Adam Sulewski, David Tebbe, Angela Thatcher, Matthew Tobias, and Tony Willis.

A note from the Chair



I would like to use this occasion to introduce the Department's next chair, Anna Grotans. Anna received her PhD in 1992 from the University of Minnesota with a dissertation on "Syntax in the St. Gall classroom: Notker Labeo and the *ordo naturalis*." After one year at Brigham Young University, she joined our Department in the fall of 1993. Anna's scholarly interests include Medieval German Studies, Paleography, Historical Linguistics, Medieval Pedagogy, and Linguistic Historiography. She is currently working on a book manuscript on "The Eastern Franks and Their Languages". Previous publications include: *Classica et Beneventana* (ed. with Frank T. Coulson; Brepols, 2008); *Living Dangerously: On the Margins in Medieval and Early*

Modern Europe (ed. with Barbara Hanawalt; Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2007); *Reading in Medieval St. Gall* (Cambridge UP, 2006); *Consolatio Philologiae: Festschrift for Evelyn S. Firchow* (Kümmerle, 2000); an annotated edition and translation of *The Gall Tractate* (with David Porter; Camden House, 1995); as well as articles on Notker's *De rhetorica* in 15th-century Bavaria; Notker and the *ordo naturalis*; medieval punctuation; Old High German accentuation; text-editing; and New Philology. Anna enjoys a reputation as one of the best teachers at this university—and had to pay dearly for it with many long office hours and numerous service assignments that often involved undergraduate education. She has also received much praise for her administrative endeavors, such as a multi-year directorship of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and her one-year stint as the Department's acting chair. We are indeed very lucky that Anna has agreed to serve as chair of the Department beginning in autumn 2008—there could not have been a better choice. I wish her all the best.

~ *Bernd Fischer*

A note about the Chair



The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at OSU has been truly fortunate in its chairs; we have historically been led by competent, dedicated, and committed faculty. But even in this group Bernd Fischer stands out. He has been an exceptional chair and our department has thrived under his stewardship. During his twelve-year tenure we have hired fully nine new faculty in exciting new intellectual areas; our enrollments have increased to the second-highest in the country; and, through his wise and creative management of our budget, the Department has remained fiscally sound through challenging times indeed. Upon taking the job Bernd quickly understood the system according to which the university functions, its rules both written and unwritten. He has always acted as our advocate to the Dean, not only as the Dean's advocate to us. He has represented us well, fighting for us and fighting tenaciously.

When I think of the last twelve years of Bernd's leadership, I'm reminded of something one heard often on Hillary Clinton's campaign trail. In response to criticisms of her husband's presidency, she said, as we might say of Bernd's chairship—What part didn't you like, the peace or the prosperity? Our department is no different from other academic units in its share of demanding faculty. Yet Bernd has skillfully kept GLL at peace for all these years, for which we all can be grateful. The prosperity part of the allusion is even more transparent. When other departments are going into the red, Bernd has always and seemingly easily kept us fiscally afloat. Even during a year when there were no raises and our budget was cut, he managed the finances such that we as faculty and TAs were affected as little as possible. To this day, he protects us from the fiscal vicissitudes of the university and the state.

Bernd has supported us not only as a department but as individuals within it. Many of us, faculty, staff, and students, have benefited from his intervention on our behalf in some personal, medical, or professional problem or crisis. This commitment came at no little cost, since we know that he took our departmental and individual problems home with him. And all this work, not a little of it quite thankless, came at the cost of pursuing some of the research endeavors dear to his heart. Given the demands on his time, his research productivity has been prodigious indeed, yet one can't help but wonder how many books and articles were sacrificed for our common weal.

And so we might ask why one would take on such a job. It's really perfectly understandable, though none the less laudable for that. Bernd Fischer brings to his service to our department the values of the Enlightenment to which he is so strongly committed intellectually. The virtues of reason and communal responsibility embodied in that intellectual movement have informed virtually all the decisions emanating from his office during these twelve years. The Enlightenment value of responsibility to the common good is equally prominent in his character and the history of his leadership. As we talk about him amongst ourselves, after all is said and done his colleagues almost universally describe him with the single word—"fair," fair in all his decisions—fiscal, curricular, professional and personal. In recognition of the extraordinary leadership with which this department has been blessed for the last twelve years, I speak for all my colleagues—faculty, staff, and students—when I express our most profound gratitude.

~ Marilyn Johns Blackwell

Pro fortitudine et prudentia in officio!

Faculty and Staff

- **Barbara Becker-Cantarino**, Research Professor

...is serving on the College of Humanities Tenure and Promotion Committee and starting a two-year term as Graduate Chair in GLL. She published *Meine Liebe zu Büchern: Sophie von La Roche als professionelle Schriftstellerin* (Heidelberg: Winter, 2008) several long articles: on Günderröde and Creuzer, aesthetics and gender around 1800, Bettina von Arnim and Heine, representations of female sexuality, and erotic performativity in the 18th century. She is working on a study involving sexuality, gender, and Romanticism and editing, together with Gudrun Loster-Schneider (Mannheim), a

conference volume from a meeting on the literary politics of Sophie von La Roche and the era of Sensibility at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, organized with Prof. Loster-Schneider in Oct. 2007 with support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and OSU College of Humanities. In Jan. 2007, she was invited to lecture at the conference "Women and Death" at Oxford University. She completed her service for the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung and two terms as President of the AvHAA (alumni association of the Humboldt Foundation in the US) in 2007. She continues to teach "The German Experience in America" (German 250) and will offer a graduate course on "German American Migrations and Exchanges" the coming year. She hopes to expand her research into migrations, especially in the Early Modern Period, connecting with earlier work on German Pietists and Moravians such as *The Life of Johanna Eleonora Petersen, Written by Herself* (Chicago 2005).

- **Nina Berman**, Associate Professor

- **Marilyn Johns Blackwell**, Vorman-Anderson Professor for Scandinavian Studies, Director of Swedish/Scandinavian Studies

...published "Subjectivity *in extremis*: Image Composition in the Films of Ingmar Bergman" *A Transatlantic Gathering: Essays in Honour of Peter Stenberg*, ed. Thomas Salumets and Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz, (Deutsche Bibliothek: Munich, 2007) and "Platforms and Beds: The Sexualization of Space in Ingmar Bergman's Theater and Film" *Ingmar Bergman Revisited: Performance, Cinema, and the Arts*, ed. Maaret Koskinen. Wallflower Press: London, 2008. She gave an invited lecture "Mirrors, Mirroring, and Reflections on Ingmar Bergman's *Sawdust and Tinsel*," at the joint session of the Film Association of Canada and the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada, Vancouver, June 3, 2008 and presented "Ingmar Bergman's Masculinities" at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in Davenport IA, May 2007. She attended the Royal Consulate General's University Teachers of Swedish Meeting, Oct. 2007, Minneapolis.

- **Kathryn A. Corl**, Associate Professor

... was awarded an Expertise Grant for Collaborative Innovation in eLearning sponsored by TELR (Technology Enhanced Learning and Research) at OSU. Her project resulted in the creation of *Merk mal!*, an online grammar awareness tool designed to help students recognize and work with verb forms in excerpts from authentic texts; she is also researching the use of online concept-mapping tools to enhance student collaboration in online and classroom-based courses. This year she served on a national selection panel for Fulbright Awards to Germany.

- **John E. Davidson**, Associate Professor

...continues his work in university governance and as Director of OSU's Film Studies Program. He remains active in the working group on "Screen Memories of the War," a collaborative research association of historians and film scholars from Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and the US. He is completing his monograph on "Ottomar Domnick, Father of the Other German Cinema," part of which will be presented in September at the "Transference: Cinema and Psychoanalysis" conference at Cambridge University, UK. His forthcoming articles investigate the relation of cinematic form to historical articulation in documentaries in the 70s and 80s, as well as in features of the post-wall era. He continues to work a wide ranging study of auto-mobility and its place in German cinema throughout the twentieth century. In summer 2008 he is teaching in the Screenwriting MFA program at Hollins University.

- **Helen Fehervary**, Professor

...continues as general editor of the Seghers *Werkausgabe* (with Bernhard Spies, Universität Mainz). The edition's seventh volume (Bd. V/1) appeared this past spring: Anna Seghers, *Briefe 1924-1952*, ed. Christiane Zehl Romero and Almut Giesecke (Berlin: Aufbau-Verlag, 2008), 747 pp. Together with Bernd Fischer she edited *Kulturpolitik und Politik der Kultur/Cultural Politics and the Politics of Culture: Essays to Honor Alexander Stephan*. *German Life and Civilization* 47 (Oxford: Lang, 2007), 489 pp. Fehervary's recent articles and essays include: "Tales of Migration from Central America and Central Europe," *Aftermaths: Exile, Migration, Diaspora*, ed. Marcus Bullock, Peter Paik, Patrice Petro (New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2008); "Diverting Travels with Egon and 'Papa' Haydn," *Schwarz auf Weiß: Ein transatlantisches Würdigungsbuch für Egon Schwarz*, ed. Jacqueline Vansant and Ursula Seeber (Vienna: Czernin Verlag, 2007); and "Bloß eine Räubergeschichte? Anna Seghers' 'Die schönsten Sagen vom Räuber Woynok' 1929-1938," *Argonautenschiff: Jahrbuch der Anna-Seghers-Gesellschaft* (2007). In fall 2007 she delivered papers on Seghers and Film at the Lion Feuchtwanger Symposium in Los Angeles and the Seghers Symposium in Meiningen; in spring 2008 she presented a lecture on Shakespeare and German theatre at Bucknell University. She looks forward to her sabbatical leave in 2009 and work on her intellectual biography of Anna Seghers.

- **Bernd Fischer**, Professor and Chair

... published "Kant und der Neokonservatismus." *Das Wissen der Weltbürger*. *Diskurs Philosophie*, Bd. 7. Ed. Anette und Peter Horn. Oberhausen: Athena, 2008. 59-72. The article is based on his lecture "Kant and the Neocons" delivered at a conference on Globalized Imagination at the Univ. of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 3 Apr. 2007. He presented "Transkulturelle Teilhabe," *Building Bridges: International Conference on Transcultural German Studies*, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, 30 Mar. 2007; "Von der Moral zur Kultur: Kant und Herder," *Wissen, Kreativität und Transformationen von Gesellschaften*, Vienna, Austria, 7 Dec. 2007; "Pre- and Transcultural Commonalities," *Hochschule für Philosophie*, München, Germany, 22 Jul. 2008; "Empathy and the Enlightenment's Imagination of Transculturality," Univ. of Helsinki, Finland, 29 Jul. 2008; and served as moderator and commentator at a session on

"Emergent Subjectivities in Eighteenth-Century Germany," German Studies Association, Conference, San Diego, 5 Oct. 2007. Together with Helen Fehervary, he edited *Kulturpolitik und Politik der Kultur/Cultural Politics and the Politics of Culture. Festschrift für Alexander Stephan/Essays to Honor Alexander Stephan*. German Life and Civilization 47. Oxford: Lang, 2007; and he reviewed Andrea Albrecht, *Kosmopolitismus. Weltbürgerdiskurse in Literatur, Philosophie und Publizistik um 1800* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2005). *Monatshefte* 99 (2007): 108-110. More than anything, he has been daydreaming about the limitless freedom that awaits him just outside the chair's office on Sept. 1, 2008.

- **Anna Grotans**, Associate Professor

...published two edited volumes, *Living Dangerously On the Margins in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* with Barbara Hanawalt (University of Notre Dame Press) and *Classica et Beneventana* with Frank T. Coulson (Brepols). As part of her continued work on language and identity in Carolingian Europe, she presented "Frenkisce in the Eastern Empire" at the MLA Convention in Chicago in December. She looks forward to her new role as chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures beginning next year.

- **Kai Hammermeister**, Associate Professor

- **Gregor Hens**, Associate Professor

... published an appreciation of Wernher der Gartenaere's *Meier Helmbrecht (Meine Klassiker. Autoren erzählen vom Lesen*, Frankfurt: S. Fischer, 2008), a portrait of the Velvet Underground singer Christa Päffgen (aka Nico) *Beat Stories* (München: blumenbar, 2008), the novella "Miriam" *The Gold Collection* (Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 2007) and a column about trekking in the Ötztal region of Austria (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*). His article "Lektion Über die Angst" about the Virginia Tech shootings appeared in *Der Tagesspiegel*. He finished a translation of Ray Robinson's novel *Electricity*, scheduled to appear under the title *Lily* (Hamburg: marebuch, 2008). In March, Hens was interviewed on Deutschlandfunk radio about his views on the American primary elections. He read from his translation of Marlon Brando's novel *Fan-Tan* at book promotions in Hamburg, Berlin and Frankfurt, and from his own work at various events in Germany and the U.S. He also participated in a panel on trends in contemporary German fiction at the annual conference of the Hans-Werner-Richter Foundation. He is spending the summer in Peru to work on a novel about a professional tennis player and a translation of Susanna Moore's novel *The Big Girls*.

- **Brenda Hosey**, Fiscal HR Officer

- **Neil G. Jacobs**, Professor

...was on sabbatical during Winter/Spring 2008, working on his project on Jewish cabaret. He presented several conference papers during 2007 and 2008, at the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference [GLAC] (April 2007, Penn State; May 2008 at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison); the Assoc. of American Geographers Annual Meeting (in May 2007); the 5th Berkeley Yiddish Conference (May 2007). He gave invited lectures in 2007 and 2008 at Stanford University; the Univ. of California-Berkeley; Univ. of Illinois at Chicago; Brown University. He serves on the board of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at OSU, and as Vice-President (2006-2008) of the Society for Germanic Linguistics.

- **Steven Joyce**, Associate Professor (Mansfield Campus)

- **Merrill Kaplan**, Assistant Professor

...published a review of Thomas DuBois's *Lyric, Meaning, and Audience in Scandinavian Studies* and presented conference papers on crop circles, intangible cultural heritage, and the obscene symbolism of land-taking rituals in 9th-century Iceland. She enjoyed teaching the newly-approved Scan 513: the Medieval Icelandic Saga as well as Scan 222 and has high hopes for the approval of a course on Old Norse language. She sends this dispatch from the North: The weather in Iceland this summer includes sun, sun, sun, light northerly winds, and frequent flurries of research and writing at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies. Lower temperatures are expected in the evenings accompanied by deep thought about a book project on the rehabilitation and reuse of traditional narrative in 14th-century Iceland. In late-breaking news from 10th-century Norway, King Olaf Tryggvason has moved into Gaular Valley and begun converting the populace to Christianity. The local troll community has called a town meeting to discuss the attendant crash in real estate values. Further coverage of the situation at Gaular will be published in Prof. Kaplan's essay, "Out-Thoring Thor," forthcoming in the October issue of the *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*.

- **Bernhard Malkmus**, Assistant Professor

Before I came to OSU, a friend of mine from England said to me—and his voice resonated with the gravity of experience: "The first year is all about survival." Well, here I am, a year later, and still alive—thanks to supportive colleagues and great students. I have also continued work on a book project (the modern picaresque), an edited volume ("Third agents. Secret protagonists of modernity", forthcoming summer 2008) and an article on Goethe's *Wahlverwandschaften*. And I look forward to a year of new research and teaching initiatives in our department.

- **May Mergenthaler**, Assistant Professor

...has happily completed her first year in the Department and enjoyed teaching (and learning...) more about representations of Socrates in the 18th century, literature and its relationship to religion in a variety of periods from the Late Middle Ages to the present, and how to dance the famous GDR "Lipsi-Schritt" with her students. She has finished an article, "Die Frühromantik als Projekt vollendeter Mitteilung: Friedrich Schlegel und Dorothea Veit im Dialog über Friedrich Richters Romane," that will appear in *The German Quarterly* 81.3, 2008, and acted as a respondent at a Conference on "Plato and Platonisms" in Columbia, NC. She has begun revising her dissertation for publication, under the working title "Ein Projekt vollendeter Mitteilung: Die Frühromantik im Symposium der 'Athenaeums-Fragmente'," and, in this context, continues to work on her reading skills in Ancient Greek. Later this summer, she will write a paper on poetry and fear, which she is anxiously looking forward to presenting at the upcoming GSA conference. She is exploring digital poetry in an independent study and learning how to read "mezangelle" and kill poems with a mouse click. With other faculty in the Department, she has begun organizing a cluster on "The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries," which is set to start its activities with workshops and lectures in the fall and will hopefully stir interest in the Department and beyond.

- **David Neal Miller**, Associate Professor

- **Natascha Miller**, Secretary

...continues to serve as the Department's Office Associate. She writes now from the eye of the storm—summer quarter—when there is time to recharge the camera battery and oil the wheels of the little red wagon in gleeful anticipation of the up-and-coming academic year.

- **Paul Reitter**, Associate Professor

...published *The anti-journalist: Karl Kraus and Jewish self-fashioning in fin-de-siècle Europe* with the University of Chicago Press. He also edited a special issue of *The Germanic Review* and published essays in the *TLS* and *Harper's Magazine*.

- **Brikena Ribaj**, Visiting Assistant Professor

...is working on her monograph titled *The Ennobled Third: Gender Formations and Reformations in the German Middle Ages* and providing the finishing touches on an article on Hartmann von Aue's *Der arme Heinrich*.

- **Andy Spencer**, Senior Lecturer

...is directing the Summer Study in Dresden Program for the eleventh consecutive year. See his "Letter from Dresden" in this newsletter.

- **Alexander Stephan**, Professor and Ohio Eminent Scholar

...is currently on leave. He published *Überwacht. Ausgebürgert. Exiliert. Schriftsteller und der Staat*. Bielefeld: Aisthesis, 2007. 432pp. and "New Information from the FBI, CNDI LA-BB-1: The Surveillance of Bertolt Brecht's Telephone in Los Angeles." In *Modernism on File: Writers, Artists, and the FBI 1920-1950*. Eds. Claire A. Culleton and Karen Leich. New York: Palgrave, 2008, pp. 181-195.

- **Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm**, Associate Professor

...presented findings from her current research projects at the 30th Annual Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) and National Communication Association: Language and Social Interaction Division. She published an article which presents an empirical analysis of the organization and function of gestures in the foreign language classroom. She is currently working on two conversation analytical projects: one explores the acquisition of L2 interactional competence (German) at the intermediate level. The second project focuses on German everyday interaction and studies the ways speakers mark epistemological shift in their mind in talk-in-interaction. She looks forward to teaching (for the first time at OSU) a graduate seminar on the "acquisition of interactional competence" this coming academic year. Carmen also chaired an OSU committee that submitted a proposal for an interdisciplinary graduate specialization in Second Language Studies, which is currently being reviewed.



Kathy Corl and Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm

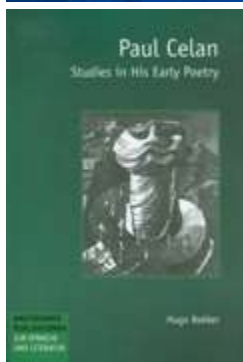
Donation of FBI-Files by Ohio Eminent Scholar Alexander Stephan

The Alexander Stephan Collection of FBI Files on German Intellectuals in US Exile is held by the OSU Libraries Rare Books division: Spec.Rare.CMS.307. The collection contains 33 boxes of files that document FBI-surveillance of Central European exiles in the U.S. and Mexico during World War Two. Stephan was the first scholar to examine these files after their restriction lapsed and published the results of his research in: *Im Visier des FBI: Deutsche Exilschriftsteller in den Akten amerikanischer Geheimdienste* (Stuttgart: Metzler, 1993); a 1998 paperback edition (Berlin: Aufbau); and an abbreviated English translation: *"Communazis": FBI Surveillance of German Emigré Writers* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2000). Professor Stephan's research was reviewed with acclaim in all major European and American newspapers and journals and resulted in several television documentaries. Thanks to his gift the FBI-documents are now readily available to all scholars concerned with this important aspect of exile studies.

New Books



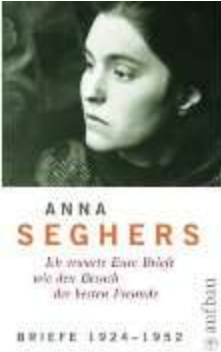
Barbara Becker-Cantarino, *Meine Liebe zu Büchern: Sophie von La Roche als professionelle Schriftstellerin*. Heidelberg: Carl Winter Universitätsverlag, 2008.



Hugo Bekker, *Paul Celan: Studies in His Early Poetry*. Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi, 2008.



John Davidson, *Framing the Fifties: Cinema in a Divided Germany* Vol. 4—
FILM EUROPA: German Cinema in an International Context. Oxford/NY:
Berghahn Books, 2007.



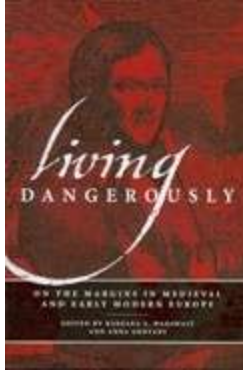
Fehervary, Helen, and Bernhard Spies, eds. Anna Seghers, *Werkausgabe*.
Vol. 5/I: *Briefe 1924-1952*, eds. Christiane Zehl Romero and Almut
Giesecke. Berlin: Aufbau-Verlag, 2008.



Fehervary, Helen, and Bernd Fischer, eds. *Kulturpolitik und Politik der
Kultur/Cultural Politics and the Politics of Culture: Festschrift für Alexander
Stephan*. German Life and Civilization 47. Oxford: Peter Lang, 2007.



Coulson, F.T., and Anna Grotans, eds. *Classica et Beneventana: Essays
Presented to Virginia Brown on the Occasion of her 65th Birthday*.
Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2008.



Hanawalt, Barbara A., and Anna Grotans, eds. *Living Dangerously: On the Margins in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. University of Notre Dame Press, 2007.



Paul Reitter, *The Anti-Journalist: Karl Kraus and Jewish Self-Fashioning in Fin-de-Siècle Europe*. University of Chicago Press, 2008.



Alexander Stephan, *Überwacht. Ausgebürgert. Exiliert. Schriftsteller und der Staat*. Bielefeld: Aisthesis Verlag, 2007.

Lectures and Events

Professor Neil G. Jacobs (Ohio State University)

Caffeinated German: Hermann Leopoldi, Vienna cabaret, and language style(s)

October 12, 2007

Doctoral Colloquium: Weija Li (Ohio State University)

Anna Seghers' Encounter with China

October 22, 2007

Professor Guy Stern (Wayne State University and Holocaust Memorial Center, Farmington Hills, Michigan)

Prof. Stern shared his personal experiences as a member of the "Ritchie Boys" and showed

scenes from the award-winning documentary entitled *The Ritchie Boys* to our German 250 class in early November.

Professor Guy Stern (Wayne State University and Holocaust Memorial Center, Farmington Hills, Michigan)

Fighting the Fires of Hate: the American Reaction to the Nazi Book Burning
November 8 and 9, 2007

David Buob (Dresden, Germany)

Visual Art/Multimedia Presentation. See: <http://www.davidbuob.de/>
November 14, 2007

Professor David Simo (Yaounde University in Cameroon)

Introduction of the German Law and Legislation in the German Protectorate Cameroon
February 11, 2008

Dr. Sabine Kebir

Die Mitarbeiterinnen Bertolt Brechts
February 25, 2008

German Day [read the full article below]

April 25, 2008



Prof. Dr. Hartmut Steinecke

The Annual Carolyn Engel Luebeck Lecture:

Professor Robert Norton (Notre Dame)

The Ideas of 1914: Ernst Troeltsch and the First World War in Germany
May 5, 2008

Max Kade Visiting Professor Lecture:

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Steinecke (Universität Paderborn)

Verfasser unbekannt—Kaiser der Emigration. Zur Heine-Rezeption 1933-1945

May 23, 2008



Professor Guy Stern



Dr. Sabine Kebir

Graduate students in the Department

Cornelia Bock, Alex Brewer, C.J. Brown, Erin Cary, Addie Cheney, Ingrid Fraser, Kris Fromm, Doug Gill, Svetlana Gordon, Kevin Herzner, Kristen Hetrick, Trent Hudson, Berit Jany, Dorothea Kirschbaum, Michael Kovnat, Saskia Kraemer, Annett Krause, Jaclyn Kurash, Weijia Li, Linda Long-Van Brocklyn, Sara Luly, Colleen McCallum-Bonar, Jennifer Magro-Algarotti, Kevin Richards, Daniela Roschinski, Thomas Stefaniuk, Wray Stretch, Karolina Suchowolec, Amber Suggitt, Charlie Vannette, Kristen White, Jesse Wood.

New graduate students joining us in autumn 2008: Helen Hauser, Alex Holzniekemper, Kyle Kissell, Nicholas Spindel, Bethany Van Camp, Wonneken Wanske, Felicitas Wonneberger, John Woitkowitz (FU-Berlin)



Berit and Ingrid

Ph.D. Dissertation

Colleen McCallum-Bonar, Ph.D., March 2008

Black Ashkenaz and the Almost Promised Land: Yiddish Literature and the Harlem Renaissance
David N. Miller (Advisor), Neil G. Jacobs, Bernd Fischer

Ph.D. Candidacy Examinations

Kristen Hetrick, A.B.D., May 2008

Helen Fehervary (Chair), Anna A. Grotans, Kai Hammermeister, Gregor W. Hens

Sara Luly, A.B.D., May 2008

Barbara Becker-Cantarino (Chair), John E. Davidson, Bernd Fischer, May Mergenthaler

M.A. Departmental Examinations

C.J. Brown, M.A., May 2008

Kris Fromm, M.A., May 2008

More Graduate Student News ...

Alex Brewer spent the last year as an exchange student at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. "Letter from Berlin" appears at the end of this section.

Kevin Herzner presented "A Mitsve to Remind You! Memorates and Chronicates in Khasidic Mayses of the Khurbn" at the International Folklore Conference in Quebec, "Fragments in Fire: Yiddish Encounters with the Body Post-Shoah" at the MMLA conference, "Four Score and Two Centuries Ago: Emancipation in the Shlimil, Shlimazl, and Picaro Literary Traditions" at the OSU Folklore Student Association conference, and is studying at Indiana University's summer Polish program and the Yiddish Institute in Vilnius. He was the recipient of the Morris and Fannie Skilken Scholarship in Yiddish and Ashkenazi Studies and the George and Emily Severinghaus Beck Scholarship for 2008-2009. This past year he was co-founder and president of Students of Yiddish (SOY).

Kristen Hetrick spent the fall teaching as a visiting instructor of German at Washington and Jefferson College. She then returned to Ohio State and completed her Ph.D. candidacy exams, focusing on HIV/AIDS and cancer in German and English literature. She plans to continue this research next year and begin her dissertation.

Michael Kovnat hopes to earn his Master's degree in Yiddish Language and Literature by the end of 2008. Then he will search for a job that may or may not be related to Yiddish. If he returns to graduate school in the future, he may study linguistics. In May, Michael presented a paper, "Had Gadya: A European folksong transformed into a Jewish sacred chant" at the OSU/IU folklore conference hosted by the OSU Folklore Student Association.

Annett Krause was actively involved in German Day 2008. Most memorable was her coordination of and participation in a video conference with the Freifrau-von-Löwendal-Gymnasium in Lauchhammer of which Annett is a graduate. The video conference was a wonderful opportunity for high school students learning German to visit a college campus, connect with Annett's *alma mater*, and meet German students like themselves. This summer Annett is conducting archival research in the U.S. and Germany for her dissertation project on the depiction and function of Prester John in German medieval travel accounts, research that she will present in several conference papers in autumn.

Jaclyn Kurash

After finishing her coursework as a second-year PhD student in the Department, Jaclyn Kurash accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the German department at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA from Fall 2008 to Spring 2009. In pursuit of her degree, Jaclyn will continue to explore her research interests, which center on works dealing with representations of the female body in 20th century German and Austrian women's writing.

Weijia Li conducted dissertation research in the Anna Seghers Archive in Berlin in the summer of 2007. In his presentation titled "Anna Seghers' Encounter with China", Weijia shared his ongoing research with faculty members and graduate students in the Doctoral Colloquium held

in the Department in October, 2007. Currently, he is completing the second chapter of his dissertation.

Linda Long-Van Brocklyn has been active this year, presenting four conference papers. She was selected as the Jewish Studies Section Chair for the Midwestern Popular Culture/American Culture Association.

Sara Luly has completed her third year at Ohio State in the PhD program. This year she passed the candidacy exam in her research area Caroline de la Motte Fouque and the tradition of German *Schauerliteratur*. She was also awarded this year's Graduate Research Award for her paper "Examining Fear in Caroline de la Motte Fouque's 'Der Cypressenkranz'." Sara plans to continue her research over the summer and begin work on her dissertation.



Colleen McCallum-Bonar and José Macian at the Departmental Awards Ceremony

Colleen McCallum-Bonar, Lecturer in Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies (YASP), served as Ohio State's campus representative for the National Security Education Program, which provides funding opportunities for students to study world regions critical to U.S. interests. Four OSU students and one alternate received awards for study abroad. Colleen worked this year as co-coordinator of the Foreign Language Center's GOAL program which brings international celebrities to campus to converse in their respective native language with foreign-language majors. She was involved in events to promote foreign language learning, and as such, has a

forthcoming article (co-authored with Karen Sobul) in the *Language Educator*. She served as faculty advisor to two new student organizations—Germanic Graduate Student Association (GGSA) and Students of Yiddish (SOY). GGSA organized a bake sale and SOY sponsored four film nights, mahjong lessons and a Yiddish theatrical performance. The last highlighted the academic year and allowed students of Yiddish and members of the community to come together for an afternoon of Yiddish storytelling. In spring Colleen defended her dissertation *Black Ashkenaz and the Almost Promised Land: Yiddish Literature and the Harlem Renaissance*. Her project explores the relationship between African Americans and Yiddish-speaking Eastern European immigrant Jews by examining their depictions of each other in their respective literatures. She is honored to be the first Yiddish PhD awarded at OSU, as YASP celebrates its 30th anniversary!

Kevin Richards is a 2nd year PhD student with an interest in the Germanic heroic epic, especially the popular reception of the *Nibelungenlied* in post-war and post-reunification Germany. This year he explored topics such as Thomasius' plea to end torture in witch trials, the violent mother figure in Hebbel's dramas, the allegorical type scene in identifying conversion Thaettr in the example of *The Tale of Thorstein Shiver*, Baumann and Brigg's *Voices of Modernity* and the counter-hegemonic content of the Grimm fairy tales, and imagery and criticism of the Crusades in the *Nibelungenlied*. Kevin presented *Thialfi and Roskva: a Myth of Child Exposure* at the Univ. of Massachusetts graduate student conference and will present "On the Stylistics of Trauma in Magical Realism and Modern Horror: The Negotiation of National Trauma and the Isolation of the Individual" at the upcoming GSA conference in Minnesota.



Andy Spencer and May Mergenthaler at the Max Kade German House



Weijia Li, Jaclyn Kurash, Kristen

Hetrick at the Max Kade German House

Letter from Berlin

Well, my time in Berlin is running short (not to mention my time to submit to the newsletter), and I have been doing a lot of thinking about the past nine months and what a whirlwind it has been. I feel like everyday here has a surprise in store for me. Whether it be randomly coming across the Berlin marathon in action, turning the corner to encounter a huge fan mile and festival, or walking out of my apartment to find the street lined in police vans and barricades because there is another protest against the Media Spree or about the evils of capitalism at Boxhagenerplatz, Berlin will always keep you guessing, in a good way. With a consistent flow of things happening, it is hard to imagine one of Berlin's best qualities: its laid-back feel. Most people don't seem to be in a hurry, and in my experience it's as if no one wakes up before noon. This makes for an energetic nightlife full of every kind of person, music, and scene that I could imagine (and many more that I would have never imagined in my wildest dreams, or nightmares, as is the case sometimes). It all seems to end in the same fashion though: eating a döner as the

sun slowly illuminates the streets. Some of you may be thinking, "With all of this late sleeping and sunrise döner eating, did he ever go to class?" Well, the answer, which might be surprising to some of you, is yes. I go all the time, seriously. I have been thoroughly enjoying the diverse course offerings and as a result, have been able to experience the pleasure of sitting in one of Berlin's great parks (Treptower Park is probably my favorite) and reading all afternoon. Actually, that doesn't sound like a bad idea for right now. It's a beautiful day, my bike is right outside, and I have plenty to read.

~ *Alex Brewer*

German Day at OSU

German Day 2008 started with a drizzle of rain, but that didn't stop the fun...on April 25th over 90 students from four area high schools arrived at Hagerty Hall to participate in a variety of creative activities that focused on German language and culture. The theme this year was "Germany in the 21st Century", and thanks to the efforts of the German Day Committee and Abijit Varde from the Foreign Language Center, the Global Gallery in Hagerty Hall was dressed for the part with colorful posters depicting recent films and popular music from the German-speaking world. As the buses from Fairlawn, Olentangy, Reynoldsburg and Upper Arlington arrived, the students were greeted by an umbrella-brandishing staff and student volunteers and were led to the Hagerty Hall auditorium, where they received their color-coded "OSU German Day" T-Shirts and were divided into teams schwarz, rot, gold and weiß.

As if on cue, the rain subsided and the program began with German-language tours of Campus, guided by faculty, GTA, and local German-speaking volunteers. For latecomers, a "virtual tour" of campus in the auditorium challenged participants to use their German language skills to match descriptions of several notable OSU campus locations to photos.

The Kermit Hall Teleconferencing Center in Hagerty Hall was the scene of one of this year's highlights: a live interaction with 12th-grade students of English from the Freifrau-von-Löwendal-Gymnasium in Lauchhammer (near Dresden). Columbus students had a chance to try out their German and students from Lauchhammer tested their English in this lively intercultural exchange organized and facilitated by graduate student Annett Krause, who has special ties to her alma mater in Lauchhammer. The fun continued with competitive and non-competitive activities for every interest: a video competition, lip-synching to contemporary German pop music, and a "quiz bowl", for which the students and their teachers had contributed over 125 questions. After lunch in Hagerty Hall Courtyard, where participants socialized with faculty and German majors and minors from our program, we held a raffle and awards ceremony. We are very pleased that German Day 2008 was a big success and that students had a memorable experience at GLL. We thank the many volunteers who helped make the day a success and we especially wish to thank the teachers for their participation and all their hard work to keep High School German going strong: Kay Barr and Patricia Fellingner (Upper Arlington), Carah Casler (Reynoldsburg), Nikki Davis (Olentangy), Thomas Crookshank (Fairlawn). The OSU German Day committee consisted of Brikena Ribaj (Chair), Kathryn Corl, Brenda Hosey, Annett Krause.

~ Kathryn Corl and Brikena Ribaj



Undergraduate News

Jeanine Baumann—Robert and Mary Reusche Scholarship for Study Abroad; Germanic Languages and Literatures Undergraduate Essay Award.

Anais Flores—Huntington International Fellowship; GACCoM Transatlantic Program Participant.

Garth Fox—GACCoM Transatlantic Program Participant.

Stacy Hoenig—DAAD/Max Kade Graduate School Experience Grant.

Kyle Jeffrey Massey—2008 Iلسedore Edse Scholarship for travel to Germany.

Alyson Sewell—Honors and Scholars Summer Research Internship.

Tom Tearney—Germanic Languages and Literatures Undergraduate Essay Award; DAAD/Max Kade Graduate School Experience Grant.

Nicholas Wolterman—Austrian Fulbright Scholar.



Our very own Student Receptionist Tony Dean (Japanese major) serving lunch to visiting students on German Day.

German 250 Class Excursion



Autumn 2007 Schiller Park, German Village, Columbus, Ohio

Alumna Profile: Elizabeth C. Hamilton

Elizabeth Hamilton is Associate Professor and Chair of German Language and Literatures at Oberlin



College. She has a B.A. degree from Grove City College (1987), an M.A. from the University of Delaware (1991), and received a Ph.D. from Ohio State in 1998 with her dissertation *Disabling Discourses in German Literature from Lessing to Grass* (Advisor: Leslie Adelson, 1996- Cornell University). Her areas of interests are West German literature and film, East German cinema, postwar narratives of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, and disability studies. She has published articles in *Colloquia Germanica*, *Unterrichtspraxis* and *Disability Studies Quarterly*, authored chapters in books devoted to foreign language teaching and disability studies, and co-edited *Worlds Apart? Disability and Foreign Language Learning* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008).

Elizabeth's current book project is: "Disability's Past: Georg Christoph Lichtenberg and the Deviant Body in German Literature." It explores historical debates about the body underway since the age of the Enlightenment, examining the relationship between the body and the mind, how the healthy should regard the sick, how bodily difference can be explained, and what the measure of the human being is to be. Elizabeth has chosen to ground her study in the works of Lichtenberg, who as a physicist, philosopher, aphorist, mathematician and professor of natural sciences both saw and personally navigated a complex web of knowledge and beliefs about the human body.

At Oberlin, Elizabeth teaches language, literature and film courses in a tremendously friendly German department with a long and rich history. She contributed a chapter on Ulrich Plenzdorf to her department's recent volume, *Willkommen und Abschied: Thirty-Five Years of German Writers-in-Residence at Oberlin College*, edited by her colleagues Dorothea Kaufmann and Heidi Thomann Tewarson (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2005). The book chronicles post-war German literature through the lens of this small college town in Ohio. Delighted to be on the faculty at Oberlin, Elizabeth remembers how well prepared she was for teaching when she first arrived at the College, and writes: "Ohio State's German Department taught me well!"

More alumni news

Tom Baginski, Ph.D. 1990

... is Professor of German at the College of Charleston in South Carolina and published "Die Welt als Kunst in der naturmagischen Lyrik Oskar Loerkes," *Études Germaniques*, 61.2 (2006): 173-189.

Sai Bhatawadekar, Ph.D. 2007

.. combines German, South Asian, Comparative and Postcolonial Studies, and is working on a book manuscript examining Hegel and Schopenhauer's interpretations of ancient Indian religious texts and understanding of Hinduism. She will present papers on the conflation and preference shift from Hinduism to Buddhism in 19th century Germany at the upcoming GSA Conference and the South Asian Conference at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. At OSU she continues to teach the Hindi language and culture courses she initiated and developed and is building a South Asian Studies Program that in the future and with the support of interested faculty and administrators can establish undergraduate minors and majors. For her teaching initiative and program development Sai received the College of Humanities Diversity Enhancement Award in fall 2007.

Kristy Boney, Ph.D. 2006

... is Assistant Professor and Director of Beginning German at the University of Kentucky. In January, she and her husband became the proud parents of Conor Wesley.

Erol Boran, Ph.D. 2004

... is currently Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of German at the University of Toronto.

Cynthia S. Chalupa, Ph.D. 2001

... is Associate Professor of German and Director of the Basic German Language Program at West Virginia University, where she received tenure in May 2007. She was selected for the Outstanding Teaching Award from WVU's Eberly College of Arts and Sciences in Spring 2007, and in May of 2008 was one of five recipients university-wide to receive the WVU Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching. She has served as a consultant for the ETS Praxis II Exam Advisory Board and as a German commissioner on the College Board AP World Language Course and Exam Commission. Recently she published an article on ETA Hoffmann in the journal *Marvels and Tales* and entries in the *Encyclopedia of Folktales and Fairy Tales*. This summer, she is in Fulda, Germany, directing the third year of an intensive study abroad and business internship program.

Randall Condra, M.A. 1990

... showed two watercolor paintings, "Home from the War" and "Homeward Journey", in the anti-war art exhibit, "War, Madness, and Delusion", a juried national exhibit hosted by the Andover Newton Theological School from February 1 through April 10, 2008, in the Meetinghouse Gallery in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. The purpose of the show was to address the experience and contested morality of war in our times. The show exhibited works by 35 artists selected from across the nation.

Jenifer Cushman, M.A. 1992, Ph.D. 1996

After being back in the Buckeye state for just two years, the Cushman/Dingos moved from Wooster to central Pennsylvania in July 2007, when Jen assumed the duties of Dean of International Programs and Associate Professor of German at Juniata College. Matt enjoys teaching a host of private guitar students and playing in a jazz trio; he also taught a Jazz Improv class at the college in spring 2008. Halina (6) will be entering second grade in fall 2008, and Jakub (3) attends the college's Early Childhood Education Center.

Yogini Joglekar, Ph.D. 2002

... has served as Academic Director of the Mountbatten Programme (a Univ. of Cambridge International Partner) since 2003, overseeing cross-cultural training and its integration with Business Studies for international graduate professionals in New York, London and Bangkok. In 2008-09 she is working on launching a multi-city MBA in International Business Practice in partnership with American International College. Her current research focuses on integrative international education and workplace competency development, including work-study exchange programs for business studies. Yogini is happily settled in the New York metropolitan area with her husband Subodh and three-year old daughter, Indra—and keeps up ties with OSU through the New York OSU Alumni Club.

Bryan Kampbell, M.A., 2001

... recently completed his Ph.D. in Rhetoric at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, with a dissertation entitled "The Story in the Soil: Toward an Agrarian Rhetoric of Property." He has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA. Bryan and his wife, Aimee, are proud parents of a baby girl, Silvia Rose, born in December.

Stephanie Libbon, Ph.D. 2000

... received tenure and was honored for "outstanding leadership and commitment to scholarly excellence" by the Mortar Board at Kent State University where she has been a member of the German faculty since 2002. In 2007 she was elected President of the Ohio Chapter of AATG and published "Pathologizing the Female Body: Phallogentrism in Western Science," *Journal for International Women's Studies* 8,4 (2007).

Rachel Lindsay, M.A. 1999

... has just completed her first year as coordinator of university-wide exchanges with partner institutions in the Americas at Tilburg University, the Netherlands. She is also the institutional coordinator for the Erasmus, Leonardo and ISEP programmes, and coordinator of her university's orientation programme for new international students. She has lived in the Netherlands for three and a half years now and really wishes she had taken Prof. Harry Vredeveld's Dutch class when she had the chance. She and her husband, Joerg Raab, are raising their two fantastic little girls, Sophia (4) and Stella (2), tri-lingual.

Barbara Mabee, Ph.D. 1988

... is Professor of German and just completed her 20th year at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. In 2007 she published with Moeller, Adolph, and Berger the 7th edition of the second year college German text, *Kaleidoskop* (Houghton Mifflin) and "New York als postmoderner Locus für Emigrantengeschichten und Aufarbeitung von DDR-Familiengeschichte: Steffen Menschings 'Jacobs Leiter'" (2003), *Glossen* 26 (Dec. 2007). She presented "Jürgen Fuchs Post-unification Texts as Confrontation with the Stasi and Trauma" at the Northeast MLA Meeting in Buffalo, 4/13/2008. She was Second Vice President of NeMLA in 2007, is currently Vice President and will be President next year. At the GSA meeting in San Diego, Oct. 2007, she chaired the panel, The End of the GDR: Continuities and Discontinuities in Post-unification Germany, at the annual meeting of NeMLA, the session, German-German Problems: Continuities and Discontinuities in Post-unification Germany. She is on the editorial board of the *Oakland Journal* and since 2000 coordinator of the exchange program between Oakland University and the Univ. of Oldenburg.

Barbara Mennel, M.A. 1991

... is Assistant Professor of German Studies and Cinema Studies in the Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Studies and the Film and Media Studies Program in the English Dept. at the Univ. of Florida. In 2007 her book *The Representation of Masochism and Queer Desire in Film and Literature* was published with Palgrave, and in 2008, Routledge published her book *Cities and Cinema*.

Christine Möller-Sahling, Ph.D. 2002

... was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the Univ. of Southern Indiana in Spring

2007. She recently published: "'Paper is such an Unfaithful Messenger': Intimacy and Gender in the Eighteenth-Century Letter," *Transformations of Passion. The Mediatization of Intimacy in the 20th Century*, ed. Eva Wyss (Amsterdam/New York: John Benjamins, 2007). Also in spring 2007, she married Hans-Nikolaus Lauer, who is originally from Hamburg, Germany, but grew up in Northern Italy. But most importantly, their son Finn Magnus Constantin was born on June 24, 2007. Christine is taking a leave of absence in 2007-08 to be with her husband and son in Milwaukee, WI.

Joseph Moser, M.A. 1999

... is currently serving as book review editor of the journal *Modern Austrian Literature*, a position he assumed in fall 2006.

N. Ann Rider, Ph.D. 1992

... has stepped down from her position as Associate Dean for curriculum and academic affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana State University after five years and returned to the faculty in the Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics and an affiliate appointment in Women's Studies. Her current research project analyzes pedagogical approaches to fascism and the Holocaust. This summer she will attend a conference and workshop at Yad Vashem in Israel.

Egon Schwarz, M.A. 1951

... read from *Schwarz auf Weiß: Ein transatlantisches Würdigungsbuch für Egon Schwarz* (Czernin Verlag, Wien 2007) in Vienna on March 13, 2008. The event was part of the series: "Abschiede 1938. Die Vernichtung des geistigen Wien."

Amy Kepple Strawser, M.A. 1982, Ph.D. 1991

... chaired the special session "German Women Writers" at the 2007 Midwest Modern Language Association in Cleveland, Nov. 10. Her translation of the first section of Ursula Krechel's *Stimmen aus dem harten Kern* (Voices from the Bitter Core) was published in HOST Publications' journal *The Dirty Goat*, Issue 17 (2007). The full length bilingual text of this long poem will appear with HOST in Jan. 2009. Her profile of the Iranian-German writer SAID appeared in the online literary research database The Literary Encyclopedia in August 2007. She is currently developing and teaching a hybrid intermediate German course (German 104) at Columbus State Community College.

Mary Vandegrift Mills, M.A. 1972

... is co-clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and assistant clerk of the Woodbury Friends Meeting (Quakers), Mary has been very busy as a peace activist. Her Quaker interests have led her to research the activities of the Quakers in Germany during the Third Reich. She plans to translate the spiritual writings of Hans Albrecht, the man who guided the German Yearly Meeting through a difficult and challenging time from 1927 to 1947. Mary also teaches world literature and American literature at Holy Family University.

Jennifer William, Ph.D. 2002

... is currently Chair of German at Purdue University. She co-organized an interdisciplinary conference on Theory of Mind and Literature in November 2007, which brought together cognitive studies scholars from various fields, and is co-editing a volume of papers from the

conference. Since Feb. 2008 she is co-editor (with Gerhard Knapp) of the German literature entries for *The Literary Encyclopedia*. She is looking forward to a research sabbatical in Berlin in 2009!

Dear friends/alumni/alumnae: Keep in touch! Please send us your news for the next issue of the newsletter. Visit our homepage, where you will find a submission form. As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

in memoriam Charles W. Hoffmann and David P. Benseler

We are deeply saddened by the deaths of two former colleagues and chairs of our department. Their legacies represent an important era in our history during which, separately and by way of collegial friendship and cooperation, they steered our departmental ship swiftly and safely across the shifting waters of two decades. As we mourn their passing we also celebrate the lives and contributions of these exemplary colleagues, teachers, scholars, and friends.

Charles W. Hoffmann (1929-2007) held a B.A. degree (1951) from Oberlin College and M.A. (1952) and Ph.D. (1956) degrees in German literature from the University of Illinois. In 1956 he joined the German faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles where in 1962 he received the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award. In 1964 he accepted a faculty position at OSU where he taught for 28 years until his retirement in 1992, and served as chair of our department from 1969 to 1977 and again in 1986-87. Under his leadership in the 1970s the department introduced administrative reforms and liberalized its operating structures, expanded its undergraduate and graduate programs, and developed one of the best German language and TA-training programs in the country. It was at this time that *German 299: Weimar and the Third Reich in German Literature and Film* was instituted, a course that in Hoffmann's hands—he was famously and on all levels one of the best teachers in department memory—turned into our most popular course offering and one he taught with resounding success until his retirement. He served not only as his department's head, but also its heart. His colleagues and students from those years will long remember the generous acts of kindness that were his trademark and of which he gave gladly and freely.

Chuck Hoffmann's personal values were reflected in his political commitment to civil rights and peace and justice issues as well as in his scholarship devoted to humanistic principles in modern German literature. His book *Opposition Poetry in Nazi Germany* (University of California Press, 1961) was the first in-depth treatment of this topic. His editions of works by Kafka, Brecht and Böll were published by Norton in 1961 and 1970, his *Survey of Research Tool Needs in German Language and Literature* by the OSU Research Foundation in 1978; his scholarly articles appeared in a variety of professional journals over the years. He was a lifelong theatre enthusiast who could recite by heart, and with deft timing and wit, lines from Shakespeare to Ibsen to Brecht, and with his wife Barbara was an active supporter of progressive theatre groups locally and in the greater Midwest.

Professor Hoffmann's contributions in service to The Ohio State University and the profession were legion. He was a member of and often chaired important College and University committees: Faculty Council, the Arts and Sciences Senate, search committees for deans of the College of Humanities, department and program review committees, the Film Studies Committee, Study Abroad Committee, Fulbright Fellowship Selection Committee, Library Council, among others. He chaired the National Honorary Member Committee of Phi Beta Kappa and served in executive capacities for the American Association of Teachers of German, Modern Language Association, and American Association of University Professors whose OSU chapter he chaired from 1984 to 1986.

Among his lasting contributions was his untiring advocacy for faculty governance and academic freedom. During the campus riots of the Vietnam War era he was instrumental in organizing a group of liberal faculty that mediated between the administration and students. In 1970-72 he chaired the OSU Committee to Establish a University Senate whose accomplished mission would have enormous significance for the University. Ten years later he succeeded in proposing and shepherding through faculty and administration channels a University Rule stating that tenure resides not in the tenure initiating unit but the university, assuring that if a unit is dismantled, tenured members retain all the rights and responsibilities of tenured university faculty. In 1983 Hoffmann was duly honored as the recipient of the OSU/AAUP Louis Nemzer Award for defense of academic freedom and service to faculty governance.

David P. Benseler (1940-2008) held degrees in German from Western Washington University (B.A. 1964) and the University of Oregon (M.A. 1966, Ph.D. 1971). From 1969 to 1977 he taught in the Department of Foreign Languages at Washington State University, and in 1977 was hired by OSU to chair the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Building on the reforms of his predecessor and in keeping with developments in interdisciplinary and cultural studies, he effected new hirings in German literature, critical theory, women's studies, and film, and lent generous personal and departmental support to faculty initiatives in these areas, be they major grant proposals, international conferences, visiting scholar and artist-in-residence programs, or editorial work for journals such as *The Modern Language Journal*, *German Quarterly* and *New German Critique*. With his infectious good humor and never-flagging enthusiasm he exhibited genuine interest in each faculty member and student, every burgeoning project or idea, and ran the department with an open door policy that respected the increasing diversity among its colleagues and students.

All the while he served on College and University committees, supervised student work, and was enormously active in his own field of specialization: as editor of *The Modern Language Journal* since 1980, as author and editor of books devoted to foreign language teaching, as compiler of bibliographical chapters and volumes. He organized national workshops, delivered keynote lectures and numerous conference papers, published articles in leading professional journals, sat on the editorial boards of journals devoted to language learning, the Joint National Committee for Languages/National Council on Languages and International Studies, and the MLA executive committee for the division of teaching, to name only a few. As a recognized authority in the evaluation of professional trends and grantsmanship, he was a frequent consultant for national organizations such as NEH as well as university and college program evaluations and review. In

1985 he was awarded the Federal Republic of Germany's prestigious *Bundesverdienstkreuz I. Klasse* for "Distinguished Contributions to German Studies."

After completing two successful four-year terms as chair of our department in 1985, Dave Benseler remained at OSU as Professor of German until 1991. In 1987-88 he taught as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Foreign Languages at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he received the Army Commendation Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service; in spring 1989 he held a similar position at New Mexico State University-Las Cruces. In 1991 he accepted a permanent appointment at Case Western Reserve University as L.D. Beaumont University Professor of Humanities and Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; in 1998 he resigned from his duties as chair and was named Emile B. de Sauzé Professor of German. He taught at Case Western and continued to serve his profession until his retirement in 2006.

~ *Helen Fehervary*

Gifts of Books

Over the years we have been the fortunate recipients of books in German literature, theatre, and film kindly donated by Charles W. Hoffmann and more recently by his widow Barbara Hoffmann to our departmental library collection.

The Ohio State University Libraries received 400 books donated by David P. Benseler in 2007-08 in arrangement with Professor Graham Walden, Subject Specialist for Communication and Journalism, Germanic Languages and Literatures, and General Reference. The unique titles in the donation increased library holdings in the areas of witchcraft and fairy tales and German and Scandinavian languages. They have been added to the Libraries General Reference, Rare Books, Fine Arts, and general collections.

Dr. Henry Kratz Jr. Fund in Germanic Languages and Literatures

A generous bequest has been made by the estate of Henry Kratz, Jr. Dr. Kratz, who passed away on April 14 at the age of 86, earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in German from Ohio State in 1946 and 1949. The Dr. Henry Kratz Jr. Fund is designated for annual graduate student stipends in GLL to be awarded in honor of two of Dr. Kratz's teachers in our department, Professors Hans Sperber and Wolfgang Fleischhauer.

Dr. Kratz was Emeritus Professor of German at the University of Tennessee, widely respected for his extensive knowledge of ancient and modern languages and scholarship in Germanic philology and lexicography. After completing his Ph.D. at OSU he taught at the Universities of Michigan, Massachusetts and Oregon, and in 1965 was recruited by his former teacher at Ohio State, Reinhold Nordsieck, to build the graduate program in German at the University of Tennessee. He succeeded Nordsieck as head of his department in 1972 and served in that capacity for fifteen years. In addition to his wide-ranging teaching and his publications in

Germanic philology and medieval literature, from 1955 to 1960 he left academia to work on the preparation of Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language (Unabridged); he was responsible for over half the etymologies in that standard reference work and supervised the work on the other half.