A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, there is a wooden desk with a slanted top. Behind the desk, two red chairs with metal frames are visible. In the background, there is a large black chalkboard with some faint white markings. The text "Newsletter 28/2009" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Newsletter 28/2009

Germanic Languages & Literatures  
The Ohio State University

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**Newsletter 28 - 2009**  
**Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures**  
**The Ohio State University**

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## A Note from the Chair

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It has been a year of change, of challenges surmounted, of accomplishments achieved; it has been a year of deep loss.

In May 2009 our colleague, Ohio Eminent Scholar and Professor of German Alexander Stephan passed away. We knew him as a beloved teacher, advisor and mentor, as an esteemed and learned colleague and friend. Recently a student and I were reminiscing about Alex, his insights, his knowledge, his passion, his smile, his generosity, and his uncanny ability to bring people together. I think Alex understood people very well. I'll never forget a lunch I had with him soon after learning that I would be the new chair of the Department. Alex, a former chair himself, offered me wise advice, he jestingly consoled me in advance for tasks he knew would be difficult, he inspired me with confidence, and he reminded me how important it is to listen. More information about Alex, his life and work is found in the *In memoriam* on the pages that follow. Alex, we shall miss you, *ave atque vale*.

We are excited to have Katra Byram join our faculty this fall as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Katra brings several new areas of expertise to the Department and will serve as an important bridge to the "Project Narrative" research initiative . She begins her new duties in the autumn

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with a graduate seminar on “German Realism from 1850 to the Present.”  
Welcome Katra!

Our students had an extremely productive year: We are celebrating the accomplishments of six new *doctores in spe*, three new M.A.s in German and two in Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies. Three undergraduate students completed honors theses and four students were awarded Fulbright grants. We begin this autumn quarter with four new Graduate Teaching Associates and two incoming University Fellowship winners. Weijia Li, who successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis this summer, will join the faculty of Western Illinois University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the fall. Congratulations to all!

On the following pages you can read about the many events and lectures we sponsored this year. I’m particularly pleased to report on the great strides of the research focus group that the Department inaugurated last year: “The Public Sphere and the Social Imaginary.” Thus far we’ve sponsored several lectures and workshops by both local scholars and guest speakers. In addition to our focus group, we offered several other research and lecture events. Barbara Becker-Cantarino, Director of Graduate Studies, organized a very useful series of graduate student events that dealt with a wide range of topics such as the profession, research and publishing and included two very successful *alumnae* lectures and quarterly dissertation colloquia. The Germanic Graduate Student Association put on a stimulating conference to coincide with our recruitment weekend at the beginning of spring quarter.

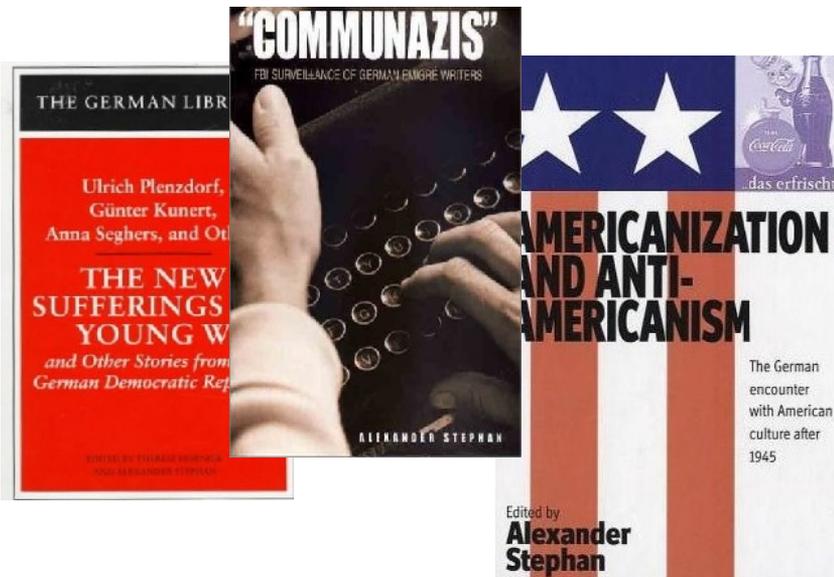
This summer we hosted the fifth annual “German Graduate School Experience,” co-sponsored by OSU, the German Academic Exchange Service and the Max Kade Foundation. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce bright college seniors to the various avenues of graduate study in Germanistik, to its research, teaching and professional opportunities.

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This year's Director, Professor John Davidson, organized a week of activities around the theme "The Wall in the Social Imagination", which combines our research focus with two spectacular photography exhibits that we are hosting in Hagerty Hall and that commemorate the fall of the Berlin wall twenty years ago.

This autumn will bring with it some time for self-reflection as we prepare for an upcoming program review. We welcome the opportunity to take a step back and assess ways in which we can make some improvements, undertake some fine-tuning, or simply maintain and solidify that which we are doing well. October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> we will host the annual meeting of the CIC (Big Ten) German coordinators and chairs together with the conference of the German chapter of the American Association of University Coordinators and Supervisors. It promises to be a busy year.

~ Anna Grotans



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## **In Memoriam Alexander Stephan**

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The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures mourns the loss of our beloved friend and esteemed colleague, Ohio Eminent Scholar and Professor of German Alexander Stephan. Alex had been battling brain cancer for over three years and passed away on May 29, 2009 in his home in Schmöckwitz near Berlin, a city to whose culture and people he devoted so much of his work. He is buried in nearby Grünau. Born in 1946 in Lüdenscheid to where his parents migrated from Silesia at the end of the Second World War, Alex would have turned sixty-three in August.

Alex first came to the United States as a high school exchange student. After returning to Lüdenscheid he received his *Abitur* and soon departed for West Berlin where from 1966 to 1968, at the height of the student movement, he took courses in American Studies and German literature at the Freie Universität. He soon returned to the United States, and in 1969 he received an M.A. in German from the University of Michigan and in 1973 a Ph.D. in German literature from Princeton University. It was during his graduate studies and early teaching career that Alex became a husband and father. In 1969 he married Halina Konopacka, a native of Poland who also had come

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to the States in the 1960s, earned her Ph.D. in Russian literature from the University of Michigan, and as a professor of Slavic studies walked hand in hand with Alex through the subsequent stages of their careers. In 1977 Halina gave birth to their son Michael.

The career path that Alex carved out for himself was extraordinarily productive from the start. His first book, on Christa Wolf (1976), the first on this author in any language and widely reviewed as groundbreaking, underwent three more editions. His second book, on German exile literature (1979), is a seminal work still considered mandatory reading in graduate courses here and abroad. In recognition of his scholarship, his work was supported by major grants from NEH, ACLS, the American Philosophical Society, Alexander von Humboldt and Simon Guggenheim foundations, and many more. Alex made his way quickly up the promotional ladder from Assistant to Associate to Full Professor at the University of California-Los Angeles. Archival documents and interviews with surviving exiles or their kin in southern California provided Alex with a virtual treasure house for the study of a largely neglected cultural topography and era. Related to exile studies Alex published ten books and innumerable articles; organized international conferences; and served on the boards of leading journals. He was a principal member of the international Lion Feuchtwanger, Arnold Zweig, Anna Seghers, Peter Weiss, and Bertolt Brecht societies. His research on postwar German literature is equally significant, for instance in books and other publications on Max Frisch, Uwe Johnson, Anna Seghers, Peter Weiss, and many more.

Alex taught at the University of Florida at Gainesville from 1985 to 2000 and served as department chair for eight years, a period during which he earned wide public recognition as well as scholarly acclaim for his examination of FBI files related to the surveillance of German exiled writers in the United States and Mexico. Alex's study was given extensive reviews in all major German and European newspapers, and later in the English-

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language press, and the book's revelations resulted in several television documentaries.

Alex joined our department in the fall of 2000 as the first Ohio Eminent Scholar in the Humanities. A special incentive for him to come to OSU was a n opportunity to join OSU's Mershon Center for International Security Studies as a research fellow in the area of cultural politics. This relationship blossomed rapidly and he soon devoted about half of his time to the Center. Indeed, much of the continuous reshaping of his scholarly interests and enterprises can be attributed to his ever more visible role in the Mershon Center. First, Alex investigated post-war cultural transfers from the US to Germany as well as the development of US-German cultural relations (including German Anti-Americanism). He then extended his interests in US cultural relations and politics to Europe and finally to other areas of the World under the general heading of 'Americanization and Anti-Americanism.' From 2002 to 2006, Alex managed to organize fifteen conferences and lecture series at the Department, the Mershon Center, the Brecht-Haus in Berlin, and elsewhere, most of which resulted in the publication of a volume of proceedings.

Alex was truly a great scholar and yet – in the middle of all his exhausting engagements – he remained the kindest, most caring, and patient friend and generous colleague one could wish for. We cannot even begin to think how much more he would have given to our department and to our lives, had he not been taken from our midst many decades before his time. Our hearts are with his wife Halina, his son Michael, and his mother Ingeborg.

Alex, we miss you dearly!

*~ Helen Fehervary and Bernd Fischer*



**Alexander Stephan (1946-2009)**

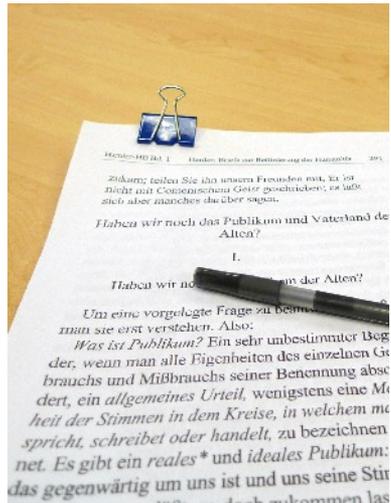
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## Goings-On in the Department

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### The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries: A Teaching and Research Initiative

We have successfully completed the first year of an interdisciplinary research and teaching initiative that focusses on a number of vital questions in contemporary social and cultural theory. The **Initiative on the Public Sphere** serves as a framework for the investigation of cultural expressions arising from and contributing to modern social imaginaries -- understood by Charles Taylor as the ways in which people in a society understand and realize their collective existence -- and to work within and against the classical notion of the political public sphere of German speaking and European societies, in a historical and global context. The guiding question deals with the creation of a political public sphere -- defined by Jürgen Habermas as the realm of power-free and rational discourse indispensable for any functioning democracy -- and its role in establishing and maintaining social freedom and justice. Led by John Davidson, Bernd Fischer, Bernhard



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Malkmus and May Mergenthaler, graduate students, faculty members and interested scholars from other departments such as Comparative Studies and History have begun to explore the interrelations between modern social imaginaries and the public sphere by analyzing cultural, social and political practices that have emerged between the Enlightenment and the present. In what ways might these practices enable or impede the emergence of a political public sphere? To what extent can culture and the arts themselves create public realms and discourses that might influence the development of free and just societies?

Two guest speakers provided thought-provoking insights into important aspects of this discussion: **Dorothea von Mücke** (Columbia University) explained how Lessing's multi-voiced and ironic style demands an active, critical "public" reader, while **Christian Emden** (Rice University) elaborated on the social imaginary of modern nation states and on the absence of a shared "imaginary" that could increase European citizens' support for the EU. Attendants of the regular Friday afternoon meetings saw faculty members and guest speakers introduce ideas and lead discussions on seminal texts by Kant, Mendelssohn, Lessing, Herder, Hegel, Nietzsche, Kraus, Habermas, Knoblauch, Sloterdijk, Charles Taylor and Deborah Coen. The discussion continues, and the wider community of scholars at Ohio State and beyond is cordially invited to participate. Plans are underway for a conference on the topic, to be held in Columbus in 2011.

## Graduate Specialization in Second Language Studies

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new and unique Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Second Language Studies (GIS in SLS). The specialization, which was proposed by **Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm**, along with colleagues in several other foreign language departments, has now been approved by the Graduate School and the Council on Academic Affairs. It is intended to provide graduate students with additional qualifications and formal training by offering them a theoretical and practical background in the important and rapidly growing field of second language acquisition (SLA). The graduate faculty of the specialization is interdisciplinary, drawn not only from the foreign language departments, but also from distinguished faculty in Linguistics, Psychology, English, and Education. Pursuing this specialization in addition to their main area of study will give graduate students the opportunity to move beyond

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being a well-trained teacher to understanding curricular choices in undergraduate language education and to designing language programs and course materials that are informed by theory and research in SLA. The Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in SLS consists of twenty-three hours of graduate level coursework. Students choose from three tracks: (1) Applied Linguistics, (2) Instructed SLA, and (3) Technology and SLA. The course requirements in each track are generally flexible and allow students the freedom to conduct coursework in subfields. Graduate students who complete the specialization will significantly increase their prospects on the job market for a range of demanding academic positions involving language program direction, coordination and GTA training. For more information, please visit [www.sls.osu.edu](http://www.sls.osu.edu).

### **Two Exhibitions in Hagerty Hall: Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, August-September 2009.**

**Icons of a Border Installation: Photographic Search for Traces in Today's Berlin.** The exhibition is the result of a seminar held at the University of Paderborn, the goal of which was to track down visible and invisible remnants of the Berlin Wall with cameras and acoustic recording devices. This involved finding both forgotten remnants of the physical wall, deserted watchtowers or still visible border strip, as well as mental traces of a possible "Wall of the Mind."

**Ortszeit/Local Time.** In his photographic journey through time, **Stefan Koppelkamm** used the historical moment of the fall of the wall between the two German states to photograph buildings and townscapes in East Germany where time seems to have stood still. He captured these spaces right after the fall of the wall in the early 1990s and from the same viewpoints again between 2001 and 2004. The photographs, taken with a large-format camera, make it possible to read the traces time has left in detail, revealing dramatic social and economic changes.

As part of the opening ceremony for both exhibits on August 18, 2009, **Katharina Gerstenberger** (University of Cincinnati) lectured on the topic of "The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall at Potsdamer Platz."



“Alexander Kluge once remarked that ‘every structure left to us by history expresses the spirit of its builder, even if later used for other purposes.’ But what traces are left of the structures that have been removed? What spirit finds its expression in the spaces where the goal has been to eradicate such traces? That, too, must be pursued.”

*John Davidson*

## German Day 2009

German Day took place on April 29, with 140 students from six high schools in attendance. The large group pushed the bounds of available indoor space, so much of the day was spent outside in the Hagerty Hall courtyard. As a result, we were delighted to see that April 29 was a beautiful, sunny day—our morning welcome and introductions, lunch, poster session, and final award ceremony all exuded the celebratory mood of one of the first really warm days of spring.

The day began with the arrival of buses and cars from Fairlawn, Tirpin, Olentangy, Licking Heights, Pickerington, and Upper Arlington high schools. Students from several high schools arrived in T-shirts they had created especially for the event, and all toted posters they had researched, written, and designed in class. After dividing into mixed-school groups for the day’s activities and taking a few minutes to introduce themselves (in German!) to other group members, they headed inside for a variety of activities that combined learning about German language and culture with a good dose of fun. Undergraduate majors and German club members led campus tours in German and introduced the students to a song by Austrian pop musician Christina Stürmer. (Thank you Sally Coons, Nick Dilenschneider, Anais Flores, David Garman, Cathy Hatten, Sam Karnitis, Kristin McCracken, Eric

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Perinovic, Andrew Scott, Alyson Sewell, Anne-Marie Simon, Patriya Wiesman). Graduate students Wonneken Wanske and Felicitas Wonneberger gave students the chance to try speed-dating *auf Deutsch*. Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm organized a round of sports trivia and wacky physical feats that expanded students' vocabulary and tickled some funny bones, too. And the highlight of the morning was a repeat of last year's teleconference with the students of the Freifrau-von-Löwendal-Gymnasium in Lauchhammer (near Dresden), again facilitated by graduate student and Lauchhammer alumna Annett Krause.

After the morning's activities, students gathered in the courtyard for pizza (and some sunbathing). The poster session took place after lunch, with OSU faculty (Paul Reitter and Anna Grotans) and high school students both selecting outstanding posters in several categories (including creativity, information, and German language). An award ceremony followed, in which students from several schools walked away with prizes and Olentangy High School won the "outstanding achievement award" of audiovisual materials for use in class. We would like to thank the teachers who brought their students to participate (Thomas Crookshank, Nicki Davis, Tricia Fellingner, Charles Heintz, Sara Poss, Scott Sharples, Julia Voegt-Brookings), the German Day committee (Katra Byram, Kathy Corl, Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm, Brenda Hosey, Tricia Fellingner, and Anna Grotans), and all the other students and staff who helped make the day a great success.



**Graduate Student Berit Jany (left)**

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## Lectures and Events

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**Katra Byram** presented a lecture on “Narrative, Power, and the Colonial Discourse of Raabe’s *Stopfkuchen*” on November 2008.

The **First Alumna Lecture** was given by **Elizabeth Loentz** (University of Illinois at Chicago) on Nov. 14, 2008: “The Baptism Epidemic: Combating Jewish Apostasy through Literature and Social Work.”



**Barbara Becker-Cantarino and Dorothea von Mücke**

**Dorothea von Mücke** (Columbia University) lectured on “Staging Learned Battles—Lessing and the Public Sphere” on January 12, 2009 as part of the Luebeck Lecture series.

**Ohio Foreign Language Association.** The Department sponsored a session on “Strategies for Strengthening and Protecting German Programs” at the 2009 OFLA annual meeting in Columbus. Together with the Ohio AATG (American Association for the Teachers of German), the Department also co-sponsored a “Meet and Greet” attended by over seventy-five high school German teachers. The event was meant to provide an opportunity for representatives from GLL and other local universities (Kent State and Ohio University; faculty there are alumni of our program) to meet local teachers of German (K-12) and to assess their needs.

**Christian Emden** (Rice University) lectured on “The Nation State as a Social Imaginary: Political Realism Beyond the Liberal Public Sphere” on April 6, 2009, as part of the Luebeck Lecture series.

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**Visiting Writer Zafer Şenocak.** On Monday, April 13, 2009, award-winning poet Zafer Şenocak (born 1961 in Ankara) joined us for a discussion on the topic of “German Past/Turkish Presence” in the framework of the Public Sphere initiative. He later read from his works, including poetry from the volume *Übergang* (2005) and a critical essay from his collection *Das Land hinter den Buchstaben: Deutschland und der Islam im Umbruch* (2006). The visit was arranged by May Mergenthaler, who was able to procure outside funding.



**Second Alumna Lecture.** Karin Wurst (PhD 1985), now Professor of German and Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, travelled to Columbus with her family on May 15, 2009. She has published books on Lenz, on Lessing, and on 18th century drama. Her recent book *Fabricating Pleasure: Fashion, Entertainment and Cultural Consumption in German Culture, 1780-1830* shows her new scholarship in cultural history. Karin gave a lively and entertaining lecture on „Garden Culture in Late 18th-Century Germany“ as depicted in the then trendy magazine *Journal des Luxus und der Moden*. In the question and answer period Karin explained her shift of interest to consumer culture and people’s everyday life. She stressed the importance of her research being accessible to students and useful for teaching.

**Dissertation Colloquia.** Four of the department’s A.B.D. graduate students presented their ongoing research in the dissertation colloquium series organized by Chair of Graduate Studies Barbara Becker-Cantarino. **Svetlana Gordon** presented “On Satire and Humor in the Literature of Turkish-German Authors”; **Kristen Hetrick** presented “Writing Illness: Cancer and AIDS in German and North American Literature”; **Annett Krause** presented “Der Priesterkönig Johannes in deutschen Reiseberichten des 14. bis 16. Jahrhunderts”; and **Sara Luly** presented “Somnambulism in German Romantic Literature.”

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**Other visitors.** Members of the Sächsische **Bergsteigerchor** of Dresden came to visit on Sunday, November 2, 2008. They received a tour of the campus and attended a special session of **Kaffeestunde**, a weekly gathering organized by our graduate students. Just two weeks later, the Department was honored to host three **Swedish hockey players** from the Columbus Blue Jackets. They were #5 Christian Backman, #20 Kristian Huselius, and #33 Fredrik Modin.



**Graduate Students Alex Holzniekemper and Alex Brewer**

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## life in the profession

**A Workshop.** November 14-15, 2008. The workshop began on Friday afternoon with the First Alumna Lecture given by **Elizabeth Loentz**, Associate Professor of Germanic Studies at University of Illinois at Chicago. Elizabeth, who received her Ph.D. at Ohio State in 1999, has recently published *Let Me Continue to Speak the Truth: Bertha Pappenheim as Author and Activist* (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 2007). She spoke to us on "The Baptism Epidemic: Combating Jewish Apostasy through Literature and Social Work." After a lively question period there was a buffet supper catered and expertly arranged by Brenda Hosey and Natascha Miller.

On Saturday morning a diverse panel of the department's graduates presented their views on Life in the Profession. They reported on highlights and difficulties in their careers and answered questions. Panel members were **Patricia Fellingner** (M.A. 1995), German Teacher at Upper Arlington High School; **Stephanie Libbon** (Ph.D. 2000), Assistant Professor of German at Kent State University (past president of the AATG – Ohio chapter); and **Kate Hallihan** (Ph.D. 2005), Director of the Curriculum and Assessment Office, Colleges of Arts and Sciences at OSU. Elizabeth Loentz also joined the panel. It was particularly rewarding for our graduate students to hear about different academic career goals and paths. A box lunch in Hagerty followed and provided an opportunity for socializing. The workshop was organized by the Graduate Studies Chair, **Barbara Becker-Cantarino**.

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## Faculty and Staff

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**Barbara Becker-Cantarino**, Research Professor, continues as co-editor of the journal *Daphnis* and its companion book series *Chloe*. She published "'The Black Witch.' Gender, Sexuality, and Violence in *The Tin Drum*," in: *Approaches to Teaching Günter Grass's: The Tin Drum*. Ed. Monika Shafi (New York: MLA, 2008); and "'Die mütterliche Kraft unsrer neuen Geburt.' Zu Wirksamkeit und Glauben von Jane Lead (1623/4 – 1704) und Johanna Eleonora Petersen (1644-1724)." In: *Glaube und Geschlecht*. Ed. Ruth Albrecht (Köln: Böhlau, 2008). Her articles on the discourse of sexuality in Sophie Mereau's fiction, on Swift's *The Lady's Dressing Room*, and on Bettina von Arnim and Heine also appeared in 2008. She reviewed books for *Arbitrium*, *Germanistik*, *Das Achtzehnte Jahrhundert*, and *Modern Language Review*. She gave invited lectures on 18th-century occasional poetry at the University of Potsdam, on the epistolary novel at the University of Graz, on Christian Weise's poetry in Zittau, Germany, and on sexuality and the 18th-century actress at the University of Bremen. A surprise invitation to the Kempowski-conference at the University of Rostock gave her the opportunity to lecture on "Ingeborg Drewitz and Walter Kempowski: Gegenwartsbewältigung" and to visit Rostock and the Baltic Sea in early May 2009. She also presented a lecture at the 2008 GSA meeting and organized the session "Reconsidering Sensibility" at the meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. In her role as Graduate Chair, she organized workshops for graduate students on "Life in the Profession" and "Getting Started with Publishing," as well as a series of dissertation colloquia. She also started an alumni lecture series with Elizabeth Loentz (Illinois-Chicago) and Karin Wurst (Michigan State). During the quiet summer months she hopes to finally finish her manuscript "Genderforschung und Germanistik. Kulturelle Perspektiven von der Frühen Neuzeit zur Moderne" and to visit briefly with family in Spain.

**Marilyn Johns Blackwell**, Professor, published "Platforms and Beds: The Sexualisation of Space in the Films and Theatre of Ingmar Bergman" in *Ingmar Bergman Revisited: Performance, Cinema, and the Arts*, ed. Maaret Koskinen (Wallflower Press, 2008). In September 2008 she gave an invited lecture, "Masculinities in the Films of Ingmar Bergman," at the University of British Columbia. She also gave two conference papers-- "The Disappearance of the Male in the Films of Ingmar Bergman" at the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in Madison, Wisconsin, and "Repetition and Memory in Strindberg's Post-Inferno Drama" at the annual congress of the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Ottawa. Professor Blackwell furthermore attended the Royal Swedish Consulate's Workshop for University Teachers of Swedish, October 16-18, 2008, at the University of British Columbia.

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**Katra Byram**, Assistant Professor, has enjoyed her first year of teaching at Ohio State and building courses to spark undergraduate interest in German language, culture, and identity, including a course on *Gender and the German Nation*. She is currently working on a follow-up paper to “Why Is Teaching Language as Culture so Difficult,” published with Claire Kramsch in *German Quarterly* 81.1 (2008). Her primary research project is a book manuscript on narrative theory, narrative ethics, and a German tradition of using narrative to come to terms with the past. She is also exploring a project on realism, modernity, and professional discourses, which yielded a conference paper, “Modernity, Textuality, and the Dynamic Place(s) of Realism,” at the German Studies Association meeting in October.

**Kathryn A. Corl**, Associate Professor, continued her work on her grant-funded project *Merk mal* (online grammar-noticing exercises), which she presented in February at the OSU conference “Digital Media in a Social World.” The new web-based version of the MultiCAT multimedia computer-adaptive placement tests was released this past spring in time for use during summer orientation sessions. She organized and chaired the session “Preparing Future Professionals” at the AATG/ACTFL Annual Meeting and served as Community /University Liaison to the Upper Arlington High School Global Languages Program for the revision of their course of study.

**John E. Davidson**, Associate Professor, continues to direct the growing OSU Film Studies Program. Recent scholarly work includes chapters on: “documentary realism” in postwar feature films; Eberhard Fechner’s televisual aesthetic; and, individual essays on the documentary work of Andreas Veiel, Hartmut Bitomsky, and others. He is completing a manuscript entitled *Life is Work: Ottomart Domnick, The Father of the Other German Cinema*, and continues to compile his history of automobility as a discourse throughout German cinema. Davidson has been a core member of the Public Sphere and Social Imaginaries initiative within the department, as well as of the international European Cinema Research Forum. In Autumn, 2009, he takes over as Chief Editor of the *Journal of Short Film*, a quarterly DVD publication of original artistic work.

**Helen Fehervary**, Professor, continues as general editor of the Seghers *Werkausgabe* (with Bernhard Spies, Universität Mainz). The edition’s eighth volume (Bd. II/4) appeared this past spring: Anna Seghers, *Erzählungen 1950-1957*, vol. ed. Ute Brandes (Berlin: Aufbau Verlag, 2009). Articles published: “Landschaften eines Aufstands – und wie sie sich bewegen! Erwin Piscators und Thomas Langhoffs Verfilmungen vom „Aufstand der Fischer von St. Barbara,“” *Argonautenschiff: Jahrbuch der Anna-Seghers-Gesellschaft* (2008); „Kipling and Others: Literary Allusions in Seghers’s ‚Die schönsten Sagen vom Räuber Woynok,“”

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*Dislocation and Reorientation: Exile, Division and the End of Communism in German Culture and Politics*, ed. Axel Goodbody, Pól Ó Dochartaigh, Dennis Tate (Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi, 2009). Book review: Laura Bradley, *Brecht and Political Theatre: The Mother on Stage* (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 2006), in: *The Brecht Yearbook* (2008). Invited Lectures: "From Shakespeare to Brecht and Beyond: Political Theatre in the Twentieth Century," University Lecture, Bucknell University (April 2008); "Köpfe des Mittelalters," 18. Jahrestagung der Anna-Seghers-Gesellschaft: Anna Seghers und die Künste, Berlin (November 2008); "Anna Seghers's Textual Codings in the Stalinist Era," Department of German Studies lecture, University of Nottingham, UK (November 2008); "Anna Seghers: A Retrospective on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her Death," Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Boston (February 2009). Panel organizer and moderator: "Vienna 1938 and its Aftermaths: Experience and Memory – Erika Bourguignon and Egon Schwarz in Conversation," Mirrors and Compasses: An 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Symposium for Erika Bourguignon, The Ohio State University (February 2009).

**Bernd Fischer**, Professor. With papers on Kafka, Schiller, and Kleist, Bernd Fischer has drifted back to the center of the literary canon but is still confident that he will complete his monograph on Saul Ascher in the current academic year.

**Anna Grotans**, Associate Professor, completed the first year of her term as Chairperson of the department. She presented "From Glosses to Text: A Logical Step" at the 35<sup>th</sup> Conference on Manuscript Studies at St. Louis University and "Premodern German" in the CARA session on Teaching in the Middle Ages at the 2009 International Medieval Conference in Kalamazoo, MI. She was chosen by the College of Humanities to participate in OSU's President and Provost's Leadership Institute and was one of three OSU representatives at the CIC Department Executive Officers Seminar in Chicago.

**Kai Hammermeister**, Associate Professor

**Gregor Hens**, Associate Professor, published translations of several novels: Ray Robinson, *Lily* (Hamburg: marebuch, 2008); Rawi Hage, *Als ob es kein Morgen gäbe* (Köln: Dumont, 2009); and Leonard Cohen, *Das Lieblingsspiel* (München: Blumenbar, 2009). He also collaborated on a translation of Susanna Moore's novel *Big Girls* (Hamburg: Arche, 2009). His text "Fünfzig Vereinigte Staaten" appeared in the Austrian daily *Der Standard*.

**Brenda Hosey**, Fiscal HR Officer

**Neil G. Jacobs**, Professor

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**Steven Joyce**, Associate Professor (Mansfield Campus), published a review of Frederick Beiser's *The Romantic Imperative: the Concept of Early German Romanticism in European Legacy* 13 (2008). He presented papers at the 11<sup>th</sup> ISSEI (International Society for the Study of European Ideas) Conference in Helsinki, July 2008, and at the Sixth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Fatih University, Istanbul, July 2008. He has also published a number of poems in various poetry journals and is working on a monograph that discusses the concept of "ambient romance" in Judith Hermann's works. He teaches courses in German language and comparative literature.

**Merrill Kaplan**, Assistant Professor, published a piece on the mysterious origins of the phrase *sub rosa* in a volume honoring a colleague named Rósa. She made conference presentations this year about severed heads in Old Norse mythology as well as user-generated video responses to the recent political and economic crisis in Iceland. She was invited to the Nordic Spirit Symposium in Thousand Oaks, California, where she spoke about the Icelandic Sagas. Professor Kaplan very much enjoyed teaching Old Norse language this past winter term and is pleased to report the approval of the syllabus as a regular course with the number SCAN 710. At the time of writing, she has just settled down to reading and research at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies in Reykjavík, where the coffee is still blacker than basalt and the residents fearsomely learned.

**Bernhard Malkmus**, Assistant Professor. Teaching has allowed him to moor at interesting shores during the last year and he is planning on returning to some of these areas in the foreseeable future, e.g. 'Ecology and German Intellectual History' and 'W.G. Sebald.' His article on Alexander Kluge appeared in *New German Critique*. He is heavily involved in the departmental initiative on 'The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries.' Other than that, his office is still inhabited by too many picares and rogues who don't fit into his manuscript on the modern German picaresque.

**May Mergenthaler**, Assistant Professor, published "Die Frühromantik als Projekt vollendeter Mitteilung zwischen den Geschlechtern: Friedrich Schlegel und Dorothea Veit im Dialog über Friedrich Richters Romane," *The German Quarterly* 81.3. (2008). The article presents a small section of her dissertation, which she continues to revise for publication under the working title *Ein Projekt vollendeter Mitteilung: Die Frühromantik im Symposium der "Athenaeums-Fragmente."* She has also begun a new project on the representation and transformation of fear and anxiety in literature, aesthetics, and philosophy. The project was the subject of her graduate seminar in Winter 2009 as well as of a paper she presented at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association. Furthermore, she has continued to pursue her interest in

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the relationship between literature, religion, and society in an undergraduate course on the topic, at a panel at the MLA 2008, as well as in a presentation entitled “On Translating Religion into a Universal Rational Discourse: Jacques Derrida, Jürgen Habermas, and the Poetry of Zafer Şenocak,” given at a conference on translation at Duke University.

**David Neal Miller**, Associate Professor

**Natascha Miller**, Office Associate, is nearing her ten-year anniversary with the Department. *Sed fugit interea, fugit irreparabile tempus, singula dum capti circumvectamur amore.* Time. It does indeed fly, but not as the pop culture adage — *because we’re having fun* — would have us believe. It is more because time flees like a deer that one does strive to live the moment with fun and conviviality. Here’s to the next ten years with all of you! [*clink, clink*]

**Brikena Ribaj**, Visiting Assistant Professor, had the opportunity to present on new medieval research at the Medieval Association of the Pacific as well the International Congress on Medieval Studies. She continues to work with various ways of synthesizing classroom lectures and interactive pod- and videocasts and has thus far published with iTunes two projects “De amore” and “Gendering the Media.” She also reviewed *Ritter, Schiff und Dame. Mauritius von Craiún: Text und Kontext* for *Speculum* 84.2 (2009).

**Paul Reitter**, Associate Professor. During the 2008-2009 academic year, Paul presented his work on Jewish Self-Hatred at the GSA and MLA conventions, as well as at Duke University, Haverford College, the University of Notre Dame, and Northwestern University. He also wrote an article on that topic, which appeared in the fall 2008 issue of the *Germanic Review*.

**Andy Spencer**, Senior Lecturer, is directing the Summer Study in Dresden Program for the twelfth consecutive year. He was nominated for the Mortar Board and Sphinx Senior Honor Societies’ John T. and Ruth Weimer Mount Award, published a review of *Deutschland im Luftkrieg* by Dietmar Süß on H-Net, contributed two essays to a catalog published jointly by the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Culture Ministry of Saxony marking the second five years of the artists’ exchange program between Dresden and Columbus, and provided translations for catalogs of works by Fred Marsh, Ardine Nelson, and Tobias Stengel.

**Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm**, Associate Professor. Talks and conferences led Carmen to Honolulu (Second Language Research Forum), San Diego (National Communication Association), and Urbana-Champaign, IL (Midwest Conversation Analysis Conference). In spring 2008, she

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conducted a workshop and gave a lecture at Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania. Also in the spring, her proposal for a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Second Language Studies, co-written with colleagues in other departments, was approved. She spent the summer in Berlin collecting data for her new research project that analyzes intercultural interaction in everyday conversation and institutional settings with respect to how affiliation among speakers is locally achieved in observable practices.



**Paul Reitter**, returning from a conference

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## Recently hired: Katra Byram

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As a child, I often spun my globe, closed my eyes, and dropped my finger at random, landing in an imagined place and pretending to speak its imagined language. I disappeared into books and their characters, losing all

sense of my physical surroundings. This excitement of trying on a different identity is, I think, what draws many people to learn other languages and to read texts of all kinds. And it is the excitement of investigating the link between identity, language, and text that fuels both my research and my teaching.



After earning a B.A. in German and political science from Lawrence University in 1997, I spent a year at the Freie Universität in Berlin, studying political science and economics

as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. Studies in the M.A. program in German at the University of Arizona in 2001-2002 introduced me to the joys of teaching and to new methods for analyzing texts; as a result, I continued on to the German department of the University of California, Berkeley, where I earned my M.A. in 2003 and my Ph.D. in 2008.

My research and teaching today are still engaged with many of the questions that occupied me during my Berkeley years. I am revising my

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dissertation for publication, under the working title “Other People’s Stories: Ethics, Identity, and Coming to Terms with the Past.” In it, I examine a group of fictional texts produced from the late nineteenth century to the present, arguing that their first-person narrators tell stories about other people to try to come to terms with their own identities. I maintain that these identities have become problematic because of social and historical shifts, and I explore how the texts deal with the ethical ramifications that arise when narrators use other people’s life stories to make sense of their own lives. Perhaps most controversially, I contend that many of the post-1945 narratives that attempt to deal with the National Socialist past are, in form, nothing new; they address singular events, but they use long-established narrative practices to do so, and many of the questions they raise are the same questions the 19<sup>th</sup>-century texts ask.

My teaching and associated research are also continuing lines of inquiry begun during my years as a graduate student. In teaching intermediate and advanced language, I am developing and testing methods for helping students understand and appreciate the links between language, culture, and identity—both in the German-speaking world, and in their own lives. A general education course on “Gender and the German Nation” in literary and pop culture texts explores similar issues. In texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century *Effi Briest* to 21<sup>st</sup>-century Turkish-German rap, gender identity and national identity are often inextricably intertwined.

When I’m not working, I spend a lot of time watching language and personality emerge in my 2-year-old son. Whenever possible, our family is outside. Whether we’re hiking, doing yard work, studying a spiderweb, riding bikes, or splashing in a lake, ocean, or pool, there are always new words to be learned and a new world to see.

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## Graduate Student News

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**Germanic Graduate Student Association.** The past year was very successful for the GGSA. In cooperation with the Department, the GGSA helped to institute a recruitment weekend in early April. This weekend served to introduce our department and our university to prospective graduate students and culminated in the GGSA's first ever **graduate student conference**. The conference was the result of months of planning and hard work on the part of the entire graduate body and reflected the diversity of our interests. Papers were presented by students who are now finishing their Ph.D., as well as by students who are just now finishing their first year of study. The topics were equally as diverse and included readings ranging from Pennsylvania Dutch to representations of pagan heroes in modern Scandinavian literature.

The success of our conference and the experience gained have prompted us to make this an annual event in our department. We are excited to announce that the 2010 GGSA Conference will be organized around the theme of *Travel Literature*. It will be opened up to graduate students from other departments and other universities. We expect this to be a successful event and look forward to equally rewarding conferences in the years to come.

**New graduate students.** The Department welcomes six graduate students who are joining the program in Autumn of 2009: **Jeffrey Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Sibel Günükutlu, Jonathan Justice, Sara Rossini and Ryan Smith.**



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# graduate students 2008-2009

**Alexander W. Brewer** passed his M.A. exams in May 2009.

**C.J. Brown**, M.A.

**Erin Cary**, M.A.

**Addie Cheney** passed her Ph.D. candidacy examination in May 2009.

**Ingrid Fraser**, a second year MA student, received a fellowship to study at the Freie Universität in Berlin this year. (See her letter from Berlin below.)

**Svetlana Gordon**, A.B.D.

**Helen Hauser** started her MA in German Studies this past September after teaching English in Satrup, Germany with a Fulbright Grant. Her favorite course this year was Prof. Malkmus' course on Ecology. She also loved teaching 101-103. Helen received a DAAD Summer Course Grant and will be spending half of this summer taking a class in Trier and earning a "Zertifikat Didaktik und Methodik Deutsch als Fremdsprache."

**Kevin Herzner**, M.A., March 2009.

**Kristen Hetrick** continued work on her dissertation this year, which focuses on tuberculosis, AIDS and cancer in German and North American literature. She also presented papers at both the Ohio State Comparative Studies graduate student conference in January and the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in April.

**Alex Holznienkemper** completed his first academic year of coursework and is trying to zoom in on a dissertation topic in anticipation of

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candidacy exams during the Spring 2010 quarter. He had the opportunity to present his first paper at the Indiana University Graduate Student Conference, discussing the recurring theme of salvation in W.G. Sebald's works. He also presented at the 1st annual GGSA conference on the role of Karl Jaspers in postwar German film and is looking forward to co-teaching the summer study abroad program in Dresden.

**Trent Hudson** spent the year as a fellowship student at the Humboldt Universität in Berlin. See his "Letter from Berlin" below.

**Berit Jany** started the academic year by attending a DAAD workshop at UC Berkeley on how to integrate literary texts into 100 level German classes. In May, she successfully completed the M.A. exams and is eager to start her first year in the PhD program this fall. She will spend summer quarter in Germany, where she is going to teach in the summer program of OSU at the TU Dresden.

**Kyle Kissell** finished his first year in the M.A. program and is preparing to study at Humboldt Universität in 2009-2010. His favorite course so far was Old Norse with Prof. Kaplan. He will be spending most of the summer working on the M.A. reading list and practicing Old Norse translation.

**Michael Kovnat** passed his Masters exam in November 2008. He has not eliminated the possibility of returning to school to work towards a Ph.D. He translated four Yiddish short stories and has been commissioned to translate the Yiddish meeting minutes from 1928 to 1933 from Beth Jacob Congregation in Columbus. He hopes to soon publish an anthology of Yiddish short stories in English translation.



**Annett Krause, A.B.D.**

**Jaclyn Kurash** is finishing up her pre-candidacy exam coursework.

**Weijia Li** defended his dissertation on "Anna Seghers' China – Begegnung in ihrem Leben und ihren Werken" under Helen Fehervary's guidance. In the Fall he will join the faculty of Western Illinois University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of German.

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**Sara Luly** is a fourth year Ph.D. student. This past year she successfully defended her dissertation prospectus on “Somnambulism in German Romantic Literature” and has been working on her first chapters. During the 2008-2009 academic year she served as the treasurer for the Germanic Graduate Student Association and helped organize the first Germanic Graduate Student Conference at Ohio State University. She also worked as peer coordinator, coordinating the graduate student teaching assistants in levels 101-103.

**Jennifer Magro Algarotti** is a third year PhD student who recently passed her candidacy exam. Her areas of interest are postmodern Austrian novels, especially the work of Christoph Ransmayr, ecology and literature, Ecocriticism, and missionary narratives. She has a 13-month old son and is looking forward to starting dissertation work.

**Kevin Richards** began the 2008-2009 academic year in a new position as the web administrator for the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and will continue at this position through 2010. The Autumn quarter brought with it preparations and prospectus for his Candidacy exam, as well as the GSA conference in Minnesota, where he presented “Stylized Symptoms: National Trauma in Horror Film and the Magical Realism of Günter Grass’ *Blechtrommel*.” Kevin filed his prospectus “The Negotiation of German National Identity and Military Policy in the *Nibelungenlied* Adaptations of Wolfgang Hohlbein.” His paper “Thialfi and Roskva: A Myth of Child Exposure” will appear in the proceedings of last year’s conference on Myth at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, published by Cambridge Scholar’s Press. Kevin is currently working on his dissertation prospectus, in which he is combining texts from the realms of political psychology and political science, genre and gender studies, and theories of choice in foreign policy and literary discourse analysis in order to take an expanded look at the relationship between popular German, Scandinavian and American media and the negotiation of their military policy through the gendered construction of their heroes/soldiers.

**Daniela Roschinski, M.A.**

**Nicholas Spindel** is currently in his second year in the Master’s Program. His interests lie in Travel Literature as well as literature involving Nature and Ecology. He presented a paper titled ‘Nature, Landscape, and the Autobahn’ at the recent GGSA Conference. He has been elected Treasurer of the GGSA and will represent the Department in the OSU Council of Graduate Students for the 2009-2010 academic year.

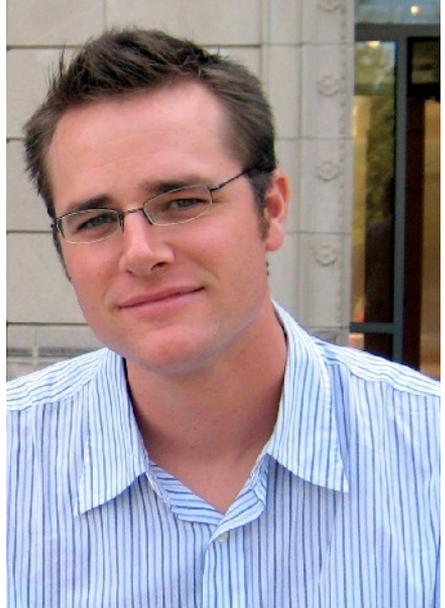
**Thomas Stefaniuk** passed his candidacy examination, chaired by Kai Hammermeister, in June.

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**Amber Suggitt** recently passed her M.A. examination.

**Bethany Van Camp** is currently finishing up her first year as a Master's student. She has particularly enjoyed taking several classes in Medieval German and Art History and looks forward to next year, when she will be taking part in the department's exchange program with the Freie Universität Berlin. Bethany received the Graduate Student Research Paper Award of 2009.

**Charlie Vannette** passed his candidacy exam in December of 2008, and has since then been working towards the completion of his dissertation. His focus is on the role of hyperreflexivity in the works of the Swiss author Robert Walser. In addition to his dissertation work, Charlie served as the president of GGSA. For his enthusiastic support of the department's mission he received the Graduate Student Service Award of 2009.



**Wonneken Wanske** enjoyed her first year of teaching and taking courses at OSU. She presented "The Perpetual Quest for Innocence - Andrea Breth's Emilia Galotti" at the GGSA Conference in April. She had the pleasure of organizing the department's weekly Kaffeestunde together with Bethany and Felicitas.

**Felicitas Wonneberger**, second-year M.A. student.

**Jesse Wood** passed his candidacy exams this winter and is working on his dissertation proposal. He and his wife Melissa are proud parents of Charlotte, born in January 2009. Jesse hopes to further his hip-hop career this summer.

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# letters from berlin

**It has been** an exciting year for me. It was quite a different experience to sit in a seminar with 50 students as opposed to 15! I attended seminars on a wide range of subjects varying from Literature and Psychoanalysis to “Der Leser als Held.” It was interesting to meet students from all over the world who were also studying literature. Sharing experiences and ideas over lunch in the Mensa has taught me things I will not soon forget. As a side job I started teaching English to 7th graders at the Heinz Brandt Oberschule (Hauptschule) in Pankow. I quickly discovered that teaching your own language is VERY different from teaching a language that you learned as well. When I'm not busy with reading or teaching I've been exploring Berlin. I live in Friedrichshain, which is in the former east. I find it interesting that there is still this divide between the east and west even though the wall came down 20 years ago. Berlin is really an incredible city that I'm sure I will not fully discover in my year here. Just last weekend I ended up in a beautiful part of the city that I had never seen before. Every night there are performances of theater pieces or art exhibitions that one can see, a new corner cafe to discover and new people to meet. I will definitely look back fondly on my year here in Berlin. *Ingrid Fraser*

**Sometimes it is hard** to believe that nine months have gone by so quickly. It seems like just a few days ago that I was walking up to the door of an apartment complex in Friedrichshain,

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excited yet confused, and suffering from a serious case of jet lag. To say that I have had some interesting experiences and met some unusual people in the past year would be understating the magnificent character of the city and its residents. There is a reason, I have found, why David Bowie and Iggy Pop made Berlin their home in the late 70s, why U2 sang about “Zoo Station” and why countless other songs and novels have been written about the city. Bowie, I think, said it best; Berlin is “the greatest cultural extravaganza that one could imagine.”

The diversity of the courses at the university is stunning. I have had fun exploring, for example, the complete works of Bertolt Brecht and the history of Low German. My year-long stay has been wonderful in other respects as well. I will miss the flea market at Ostbahnhof on Sundays, the Kulturforum at Potsdamer Platz, the Berlinale film festival in February, and I will definitely miss late-night döner in Kreuzberg after going to class, the theater, Kino, museum, or anything else I've been up to. Berlin is a wonderful city of never ending variety, and I still haven't seen everything.

*Trent Hudson*



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## Undergraduate News

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**Stacy Hoenig** defended her honors thesis “Missionary’ Redefined: German Mission Work in 21-Century East Africa” (Advisor: Nina Berman). Stacy earned third place at the Martha D. Denman Undergraduate Research Forum and received a DAAD German Studies Research Grant to study German in Kenya, and a \$5,000 Scholarship by the Arts and Sciences Honors Committee in recognition of her excellent research proposal. She was an honoree at the President’s Salute to Undergraduate Academic Achievement in April.



**Linnea Overman** successfully defended her honors thesis “The Ideological Framework of Select Examples of German Missionary Literature during the Weimar Republic” (Advisor: Nina Berman). She received a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Germany for 2009-2010.

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**Galen Roth**, a Theatre and German major, successfully defended his honors thesis "The Colony - A New Work by Galen Roth" (Advisor: Bernhard Malkmus).

**Alyson Sewell**, a German and Linguistics major, successfully defended her honors thesis "A Qualitative Study of the German Modal Particle *ja* in Internet Messaging" (Advisor: Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm). She was offered a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Germany, which she declined. She also received an Arts and Sciences Honors Committee Fellowship and a fellowship for graduate study at the University of Wisconsin. She was an honoree at the President's Salute to Undergraduate Academic Achievement in April.



**Linnea Overman with Advisor Nina Berman**

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## undergraduate awards and fellowships

We happily congratulate our other undergraduate students -- majors and minors -- who won fellowships and awards this year!

Yusun Abrahams	Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Germany
Jeanine Baumann	Dieter Cunz Award
Amanda Bragdon	Wolfe Study Abroad Scholarship
Rachel Burns	Undergraduate Essay Award
Michael Carr	Transatlantic Internship Fellowship, German American Chamber of Commerce
Colin Day	Francille M. Firebaugh Study Abroad Scholarship, Office of International Affairs
David Garman	Humanities Alumni Scholarship
Claire Herbert	Jutta and Peter Neckermann Study Abroad Scholarship
Matt Jepsen	Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Austria
Alysa Kociuruba	Martha D. Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, 3rd place. ("Ordinary Germans or Willing Killers: Klemperer and the Goldhagen Debate." Advisors: Andy Spencer, Alan Beyerchen)

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Elizabeth Lemons	Richard and Karol Wells Scholarship
Amanda Lorenz	RISE Professional Internship Scholarship, DAAD
Theresa Michell Lucius	Ilseadore Edse Scholarship, Jutta and Peter Neckermann Study Abroad Scholarship
Daniel Maurath	Brandt Family Memorial Scholarship
Kristin McCracken	Ilseadore Edse Scholarship, Robert and Mary Reusché Scholarship for Study Abroad
Nathan Ryan	Jutta and Peter Neckermann Study Abroad Scholarship
Adam Sulewski	Robert and Mary Reusché Scholarship for Study Abroad

**Danny  
Ferguson**



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## alumnus profile: Nikhil Sathe



**Nikhil Sathe** is an Assistant Professor of German and German Language Program Coordinator at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He has a B.A. from West Virginia University (1991), an M.A. from Bowling Green State University (1993), and, after teaching in Austria for two years through the Austrian Fulbright Commission, he received a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 2003 with his dissertation entitled *Authenticity and the Critique of Tourism in Postwar Austrian Literature* (Advisor: John Davidson). His research and teaching interests are in Austrian Studies, post-1945 literature and film, and language pedagogy, in particular the study abroad context and the application of digital technologies. He has published (forthcoming) articles and reviews in *Modern Austrian Literature*, *Unterrichtspraxis*, *Teaching Austria*, *Journal of the Research Center for Educational Technology*, and *German Studies Review*, and has contributed book chapters on Austrian film and on the representation of German wartime suffering. His current research examines how constructions of Eastern Europe and Eastern Europeans in contemporary Austrian cinema interrogate definitions of national identity alongside lingering and imagined Habsburg legacies, EU and post-1989 continental transformations, and the shifts in global migration patterns. Sathe is an active participant in numerous professional organizations, especially the state and national American Association of Teachers of

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German. At the national level, he serves on an AATG external committee (Sustaining the Momentum), whose task is to highlight successful strategies for articulation between secondary and post-secondary German programs. In Ohio, he is currently serving a two year term as president of the Ohio Chapter of the AATG.

At Ohio University, Sathe teaches all levels of language and culture courses in the university's undergraduate German program and serves as program coordinator for elementary and intermediate German. Perhaps the most fulfilling aspect of Sathe's service at Ohio University is his role as alternating director of the department's Study Abroad Program in Salzburg, Austria, for which he accompanies roughly 20 students each Spring Quarter for an intensive language and culture course. He is particularly pleased that some of his best program participants have since started their graduate study of German at OSU! Sathe's most recent and fulfilling project, a coproduction with Andrea Herzog (OSU, 1997), is their daughter, Mira Herzog, born in December 2009, who is presently relishing her role as guest lecturer in the 2009 Study Abroad program.

As Sathe notes, OSU prepared him well: "From my role models at OSU I learned what it means to be a professional educator and scholar and continue to aspire to their examples. From them I received both a thorough background in literature and culture and also excellent pedagogical training, both of which have served me well at OU where I can confidently teach everything from elementary German classes to senior seminars. At OSU, I also first learned how to use diverse technologies in and outside the classroom, especially the internet, and I presently design and manage all OU-German section sites and enjoy experimenting with digital audio and video assignments. Finally, my fellow OSU students not only remain great friends, but also are an invaluable professional network on which I regularly rely for conferences, feedback, AATG matters, and even a guided tour of Berlin."

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## more alumni/alumnae news

**Erol Boran**, Ph.D. 2004, is into his fourth year as teaching stream lecturer and third as Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures at the University of Toronto.

**David Connolly**, Ph.D. 2005, keeps very busy with his position as Scientific Information Analysis Manager at Chemical Abstracts Service in Columbus - and two teenage daughters at home! He squeezes in time for kayaking and bass fishing in central Ohio streams and lakes. VDM Publishing House has approached him about revising his dissertation on 16th century German mining for publication in monograph form.

**Jenifer Cushman**, Ph.D. 1996, attempts to straddle the faculty/administrative boundary in her role(s) as Dean of International Programs and Associate Professor of German at Juniata College in central PA. She also serves as 2009 president of the Midwest Modern Language Association.

**Michelle (Darvishi) Dudley**, B.A. 1995, J.D. 1999, is currently a partner with the law firm of Shayne Nichols, LLC focusing on business litigation. Married to Jon Dudley (B.S. Political Science, 1999) with two sons, Logan (4) and Quinn (1).

**Stephanie E. Libbon**, Ph.D. 2000, is Associate Professor of German and Director of the Elementary German Language Program at Kent State University. She publishes in both pedagogy and gender studies. Recent articles have appeared in *Unterrichtspraxis*, *Academic Exchange*, *NEOS*, and the *Journal for International Women's Studies*. For her work in designing interactive computer modules, Stephanie has been the recipient of several grants as well as co-recipient of a \$300,000 Mellon grant and an \$80,000 Provost's grant. Having just ended her term as

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President of the Ohio AATG, Stephanie continues to serve as the Ohio AATG PAD-Testing Chair and as the Praxis liaison for Northeast Ohio.

**Barbara Mennel**, M.A. 1991, has received tenure and has been promoted to Associate Professor in German Studies in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and in Film Studies in the English Department at University of Florida. She is also affiliate faculty in the Center for Women's and Gender Studies and the Center for European Studies at UF. In 2008, her book *Cities and Cinema* came out with Routledge. For 2009, she is expecting the co-edited volume (with Jaimey Fisher) *Spatial Turns: Space, Place, and Mobility in German Literary and Visual Culture* to appear in the series *Amsterdamer Beiträge der neueren Germanistik* with Rodopi.

**Jennifer William**, Ph.D. 2002, and her family enjoyed an enriching Spring Semester on sabbatical in Berlin, where she had a DAAD faculty research visit grant to start a new project on German historical film. For the summer she has been awarded a grant from the Purdue Research Foundation to continue her work on that project. She is in her third year as Chair of German at Purdue, and looks forward to visiting Columbus for the CIC Chairs and Coordinators meeting being held at OSU this Fall.



Dear friends / alumnae / alumni:

Please keep in touch by sending us your news for the next issue of the OSU Germanic Languages and Literatures Newsletter. Send an email, a letter, or visit our website at [GERMANIC.OSU.EDU](http://GERMANIC.OSU.EDU), where you will find a submission form. As always, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

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# friends of the department

If you would like to become a friend of the **Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures** and contribute, please make your check payable to the "The Ohio State University," indicate the desired fund (see below), and mail it to the Chair, Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures, 498 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1340. If you prefer to donate through a secure, online connection, you can find the name of each fund on our homepage linked to the OSU *igive* Web site. Our sincere thanks to all past donors. We appreciate your continued support!

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### **Friends of German**

Max Kade visiting professor  
Student and departmental activities at the German House  
Field trips

### **German Support Fund**

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Supports student play productions

### **Ilseadore Edse Fund**

Scholarships for first time study abroad students

### **Scandinavian Support Fund**

General Scandinavian program support

### **Yiddish Program**

Conference Support  
Faculty and Graduate Student mini grants

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