

Indiana University College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Germanic Studies

Vol. 16 • Fall 2008

Alumni Newsletter

A word from the editor

Ave atque vale

As you read the **Faculty Notes**, you'll be struck, as I was, by how many speak of being or beginning to feel "at home" here. Some are referring to the Midwest or Hoosierland as a whole. Others mean the vibrant community we have here in Bloomington or the department. Those of us who have been here for a while (I've been part of this community for 43 years now) need to be reminded once in a while how strongly we should treasure our cultural-intellectual community.

The *Alumni Newsletter* not only serves to remind us of what we share, it forms a sort of micro-community of its own. This is where many of us meet once each year. This past year I ran into, among others, **Andy Morse**, MA'78, who took the Dutch course from me thirty years ago and since then has been living in Atlanta GA along with his wife **Elaine Hall**.

Each year I enjoy being asked to put the newsletter together, and one of the greatest rewards is the many words of thanks I get for bringing us all into contact with news and anecdotes. This year I received two kind comments from former graduate students, one of whom said, "I edited our newsletter last year ... and now I know how much work it is. Thank you for all the energy you have put into these newsletters over the years!" The other said, "I'll miss your touch (and your drawings) in the *Alumni Newsletter*" (in this issue too, I couldn't resist letting an amusing remark inspire my final cartoon).

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Letter from the chair

A pleasurable past and promising future

One might think that being a chair of a small but growing department presents an onerous chore for a scholar who enjoys teaching and treasures the solitude that humanist research demands. One hears distant and not-so-distant rumors of discontent among the faculty members of Germanic studies departments around the country and other units nearer to home, one understands that state governments have abdicated their financial responsibility for funding higher education, and one appreciates the odds stacked against traditional programs in light of new needs and new fields of knowledge.

One also has experienced the interaction of highly intelligent, cleverly ironic, and fiercely independent colleagues. Each of our 14 tenured and tenure-track professors and all of our five lecturers (including two program directors) has a unique intellectual and pedagogical profile. Each, quite obviously, has a well-defined personality etched by purpose, ambition, desire, and clear visions of what counts as academic and intellectual quality.

Furthermore, our graduate students are precocious, witty, nervous, ever watchful for praise and censure, yet also driven by intellectual curiosity and the hunger to become full members of this occupation we call, in our more hopeful moments, the life of the mind. Our undergraduates are equally precocious but, perhaps above all, anxious about the future, wondering how best to balance their passion with the necessities of embarking upon a viable, socially and personally rewarding career in what is becoming an ever more unsure future. And our woefully underpaid staff labors under increased burdens and pressures to make all of this cohere for everyone's benefit. Indeed,

they, the staff members, manage to retain an extraordinary humor and *esprit de corps* that even my outbursts of frustration cannot extinguish.

Now, put all of this and all of us in the same space, and one might expect inevitable combustion. One might think, in other words, that I would consider being chair a burden, a chore, a mere duty. As I begin my sixth and last year as chair of Germanic Studies at Indiana University, however, I can honestly say that it has been a joyful and emotionally satisfying experience precisely because of the remarkable, and remarkably casual, harmony that has prevailed, even under acute pressure. I could have wished nothing to have been substantially different — except, of course, for some of my amateurish mistakes that, thank goodness, proved not to have been fatal. Still, despite all we have accomplished over the past decade, there is much yet to be done. Let me begin with the latest good news before I wring my insecure hands and make a plea for help.

Hildegard Keller is now officially a full member of our department, having started spring semester 2008. You will recall that she came to us first as a Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2005. Her specialty is, shall we say, the loooooong Middle Ages, since she teaches everything up to the beginning of the 18th century, and many things after that. She brings to the department more than a specialty that we have needed ever since, first, Sid Johnson and then Steve Wailes retired; she brings a feverish enthusiasm and exuberance to everything — from her research and her teaching to a casual conversation over a cup of coffee

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From the chair

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or glass of wine. A remarkable presence, Keller's wit and intelligence form fabulous flashes of lightning that brighten the often baleful corridors of Ballantine Hall. (Indeed, she has painted her office furniture bright colors, to the astonishment of the maintenance crew.)

Brigitta Wagner is the newest member of the department. A graduate of Dartmouth and Harvard and sometime resident of Berlin, she is trained in German studies and as a film studies scholar, and is passionately devoted to German film. Her expertise ranges from silent film and early German film theory to the contemporary German cinema scene, with which she connects every year at the *Berlinale* and which she can observe every summer in her Kreuzberg neighborhood. With good reason we expect her to have an enormous impact on our program, not only because of what she knows but also because of who she is as a person, namely intelligent, confident in her knowledge and purpose, and filled with that most necessary of all ingredients — humor. You, too, will get to know and appreciate her as the years go by.

We welcomed new students into our fold on Max Kade Fellowships, a slightly smaller class than in the immediate past, which speaks to our increased selectivity. **Carlos Gasperi** comes to us from Venezuela by way of Chapel Hill, N.C., where he received his BA from the University of North Carolina. His interests are now forming and expanding, but he already has an impressive grasp of some facets of contemporary theoretical discourse. **Olivia Landry**, who received her MA from McGill University, has already impressed us with her skills as a reader of literary texts, her ambition and eagerness to plunge into life here in the department. Her provisional interests focus on Austrian literature and gender studies, but are surely not limited to those areas. **Erin Noelliste** comes to us from us, having received her BA in Germanic Studies at IU. We recognized her extraordinary ability in the study of Germanic linguistics, and she recognized our unique and preeminent profile precisely in that area. A better fit could not have been found. We also awarded **Claire van den Broek** a Max Kade Fellowship. She comes from the University of Oregon and is pursuing a PhD in IU's Comparative Literature Department. Following in the footsteps of Joe O'Neil, James Rasmussen, and Michael Schlie, she contemplates a dual PhD with Germanic Studies and has already begun taking courses with us.

Our Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor for fall 2008 was **Andrea**

Polaschegg. A junior professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Polaschegg is a many-faceted scholar with an outgoing personality. Directly upon hearing that I was teaching parts of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*, she passed on to me sound clips of *The Tractatus Suite*, composed and sung by the Finnish avant-garde musician M.A. Numminen — a quite unexpected surprise to me and the members of the seminar. As with most of our visiting professors from Germany, she was relieved by the small number of students in our seminars and pleased by the quality of work done by these students, all of whom were in their first or second year. Professor Polaschegg delivered a paper on Kafka which provoked a stimulating and detailed discussion afterward. Her lively personality energized those members of the department who interacted with her academically and socially. I ordered fabulous fall weather for our visitor and the gods delivered. They have been kind to us all so far this year.

If you have been reading the chair's letter every year over the past half-decade or so, you have experienced my unabashed cheerleaderism for this department. (Sometimes I have to check my feet just to make sure I'm not wearing saddle shoes.) It may seem excessive, it may seem like normal, run-of-the-mill boosterism. It is, however, not only genuine (i.e., how I actually feel about the department), but *accurate*. My day-to-day self more resembles a wannabe curmudgeon than a Mouseketeer, so it means something when I say how *comfortable* working in this department is and how *rewarding* my stint as chair has been. That I have enjoyed the responsibility, have even marveled how smooth and even-keeled the day-to-day and year-to-year operations of the department have been, speaks volumes about its members, their spirit of cooperation and the respect they have for one another. We retain contact with and receive support from our emeritus professors and each year we renew friendships with former graduate students at professional conferences (especially the German Studies Association conference). It is an extraordinary sensation to feel oneself one of a series of ripples in the large pool that is IU Germanic Studies.

Alas, it is more difficult to keep in touch with our undergraduate alumni — those who major in German or minor in one of the Germanic languages offered in the department, as well as those who may simply enroll in one of our English-language courses. When they graduate, they tend to disappear to the four corners of the country if not the world, and we seldom hear from them again. However, it is safe to say that the lives of those who have participated in any of the various overseas studies opportunities sponsored and supported by the university

and the department have been altered in profound ways.

As a whole, not many Americans are exposed to foreign lands and cultures, and the effect of this impoverishment of experience is not, in my opinion, a happy one. The opportunity to study, work, intern, and just travel for extended periods of time in foreign lands affords new ways of looking at the world and our place in it. Perhaps more than ever before, our students need a "global education," which means not only knowledge of languages and cultures attained in the classroom, but also the concrete local experience of interacting with people who may not share the same assumptions about life, work, and leisure that we may take for granted. To understand others is neither to convert them nor be converted by them to a particular way of life; it is simply to experience differences in manners, customs, and basic predispositions. Overseas studies can provide our students the opportunity for this basic, necessary exposure.

IU supports a host of overseas studies programs. Nearest and dearest to the Department of Germanic Studies of course are the summer program in Graz, Austria, and the year-long program in Freiburg, Germany. Perhaps the most important program, however, is the IU Honors Program every

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Germanic Studies

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Germanic Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to iualumni@indiana.edu.

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Bloomington

From the chair

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summer that sends high school students to Krefeld, Germany, for six weeks between their junior and senior year. There they live with host families, take courses in language, literature, and culture taught primarily by our graduate students, and travel in organized field trips to Berlin and elsewhere to learn, for instance, about German history and the current German political system.

We have noticed over the year that many of these high school students come to IU to further their studies and often return to Germany, either on our summer or year-long program. To us, this confirms that the Krefeld program has been a welcome experience that these students wish to relive.

For the past three years the department has offered modest scholarships to a small number of students to help hard-pressed families cope with the cost of sending their sons and daughters to Krefeld over the summer. We *very much* wish to increase the amount of funds we can contribute and thereby increase the number of students who could benefit from such scholarships. Jacqueline Danner, founder and long-time director of this marvelous IU program that serves high school students studying German, French, and Spanish, will retire in December. I wish here to express my appreciation for Danner's tireless efforts. Stephanie Goetz, who will take over directorship of the program in January, and I have discussed our initiative, and I have again pledged money for this coming summer.

Alumni and friends can help us continue



A group of 2007-08 Freiburg students

our aid to Indiana students wishing to study German and learn about German-speaking Europe by contributing to Germanic Studies so that we may increase the amount we donate to the scholarships reserved for high school pupils wishing to study in Krefeld and IU students wishing to study in Freiburg.

We have made donating easier (yes, I realize how ridiculous this sounds) with our newly improved Web site's and "give now" link. But no matter if you contribute this year or not, we invite all of you to visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~germanic/>.

Here you will learn about the courses we teach, our areas of research, or more generally about the current shape of our

undergraduate and graduate programs and the other Germanic languages we offer. For a treat, visit the faculty and staff page and click on the names. There you will notice that, yes, **Kari Gade** is a Viking and **Marc Weiner** a Wagnerian motif; but please realize that **Johannes Türk**, despite appearances, is *not* a character in one of the silent films **Brigitta Wagner** studies. I, like some Flying Dutchman or Wandering Jew, indeed am *Der ewige Dozent*, forever trapped in eternal lecture mode, contemplatively pontificating in the empty air.

This time next year, however, I will no longer pontificate through these pages. It has been my pleasure. — *William Rasch*

In memoriam: Theodor Schaum

Early this year we were informed of the death in a traffic accident of our former colleague **Theodor (Ted) Schaum**. He came to the U.S. in 1954 and did his undergraduate work at Princeton University. In 1964 he earned the PhD at IU under Henry Remak, and taught in the department from 1962 to 1969. Upon leaving IU, Schaum taught German and Norwegian at Moorhead State University in Minnesota until 1994. On his retirement he remained in Minnesota.

You might recall that in the 2005 *Alumni Newsletter* we quoted a couple of sentences from him: "At age 70 I enjoy relatively good health, live and work merrily by day (and occasionally into the night). You see, as a retired person you think you have to catch up with all those things you were forced to postpone during your professional career." There are still a few of us here who will remember him as an unfailingly soft-spoken and congenial colleague.

Editor's note

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So all good things must come to an end. After six years I am bowing out before I get too stale or dig myself into too much of a rut. It is time for someone with fresh ideas and a different style to take over. Next year you can look forward to a different editor to accompany the new chair.

But don't let that keep you from sending in any news about yourself or alumni you've had contact with or heard about. Even though we don't know yet who will be editing the newsletter next year, we'll make sure it gets into the right hands.

With best wishes to all.
— *William Z. Shetter*
shetter@indiana.edu

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Faculty Notes

On Labor Day **Ted Andersson** finished a two-year term as interim chair of the German Department at Stanford and retired once and for all. He again spent the month of May at the Centre for Mediaeval Studies in Bergen and participated in a small conference on the dating of the sagas, as well as sitting in on a larger conference on hagiography. In September he returned to Bergen for a week's session for critiquing chapters of dissertation projects from the length and breadth of Europe as well as a couple of projects from the U.S. You can learn a lot in a short time! It stands to be revealed what a longer retirement will hold.

From **Frank Banta** we hear "The main thing I've done this past year is to continue working as a student advocate and translating some more Swiss letters from the mid-19th century. The most exciting thing was a 90th birthday party (see photo below) and a trip to Germany as guest of wonderful family and friends. I'm planning to be 90 again next summer."



Frank Banta (left) and **Hugh Powell** (second from right) with a group of well-wishers on Banta's 90th birthday.

Peter Boerner says "I spent much of my time preparing papers on the story of Faust, on Caroline von Wolzogen, and on Goethe's relations with his friend Carl Friedrich Zelter, and delivering the papers in Hamburg, in Rudolstadt (where von Wolzogen grew up), and in Strasbourg. Together with my wife Nancy I sailed on a section of the nostalgic last trip of the Queen Elizabeth 2 through the South Pacific. We made the acquaintance of those tall, mysterious statues on Easter Island, visited Gaugin's Tahiti, and conferred in Sidney with Gero von Wilpert, probably the only other non-Estonian Germanist who was born, as I was, in Tartu, Estonia."

Claudia Breger: "I have been in Berlin throughout 2008, on a Humboldt Fellow-

ship, trying to write my book on *Narrative Performance* while enjoying Berlin's diverse cultural offerings (and eternally resenting the Northern climate). Somehow, this desk existence has not been quite as undisturbed as it could have been (the age of e-mail in general, doctoral students in Berlin, the anthology based on the Narrative Identification conference which **Fritz Breithaupt** and I are co-editing, a graduate conference we held at the *Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut* in Vienna, new conference plans for next year, etc.), but partially that's also a good thing since I miss everybody—and actually look forward to returning to my new home and teaching in the spring!"

Fritz Breithaupt is still playing catch-up to his growing family (Noah is already two). His goal was one book per child. Finally, in February 2009, this goal will be reached. In October, his *Der Ich-Effekt des Geldes. Zur Geschichte einer Legitimationsgeschichte* came out with Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag. In February, his *Kulturen der Empathie* will come out with Suhrkamp (stw). The next problem is that by his logic, he would have to produce another (biological) offspring in order to publish more. Nay — no way. Luckily, there are only three kids, though visitors to their house seem to remember that there were six. Hopefully, now will come some time for relaxing, reading, and reasoning. He is looking forward to simply enjoying the many wonderful texts by friends, students, and colleagues.



Troy Byler is eloquent on some of the pedagogical activities in the IU Germanic Studies Department. "As the outreach coordinator for our department, let me highlight some activities that we have been involved with this past academic year.

Last fall the department was called into action. Two local high school teachers of German contacted us for support to help them save their successful, long-standing German programs. The school board was

planning on bringing in Mandarin Chinese at the cost of the German instruction. **Bill Rasch** and I each wrote letters of support and, along with PhD student Andrew Mills, we attended and voiced our solidarity at the Columbus school board meeting. It was gratifying to witness the overwhelming community support for the German programs at that meeting and to hear later that the programs were saved.

In August I trained three new Advance College Project German high school instructors in our third- and fourth-year curricula. We now have a total of five highly motivated and experienced teachers offering IU concurrent enrollment credits to their most advanced students. Many of these top-notch students will be attending an upper level German class near you soon.

For four years I have been involved in and have represented Germanic Studies with a high school outreach program created by the assistant director of Center for the Study of Global Change. This orientation program brings hundreds of students to the annual Lotus World Music and Arts Festival here in Bloomington, and has been officially recognized by the festival's committee this year. For the 2007 festival, the department sponsored the extremely well received music group from Berlin, 17 Hippies. Sadly, and to the dismay of many of the returning high school students this year, the 17 Hippies had to cancel many of their appearances. But take heart, Hippie fans: I have been in contact with their manager, and he has assured me that they will be back for next year's Lotus Festival!

I also hosted three separate high school German programs here in Bloomington for campus visits last spring. Several of our talented associate instructors invited the students into their classrooms for a firsthand university experience. Students also heard from the Kelley School of Business about the importance of language instruction and from the Overseas Studies Program about the many opportunities to study in a German-speaking country. Additionally they enjoyed German/English tours of both the Lilly Library and the IU Art Museum led by Helga Keller.

It has been a joy to work with my colleagues in such a strong, reputable department. It is impressive what can be accomplished when working with a great team."

Susanne Even reports, "The academic year 2007–08 was extremely work-intensive

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Faculty notes

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but also very rewarding for me. I taught the second year of German with the new course book *Anders gedacht*. **Troy Byler** and I composed the entire syllabus from scratch, complete with tests, exams, and portfolio assignments. After a little bit of a rocky start — teachers and students alike had to get used to the approach of the new book — we are quite pleased with the results. After having revamped the first- and second-year courses, a new placement test is underway (again with invaluable and tireless help and support from Troy) to reflect more accurately the demands students face at the different levels of the language program.

This fall 2008 semester is off to a great start. I'm teaching a highly motivated fifth-semester German group. The G500 methodology seminar is as much fun as ever, and I am delighted to be working with such a marvelous bunch of AIs!

I discovered the image function of the Google search engine, fell in love with it, and now find myself almost unable to put together handouts without pictures. Catering to visual learners is only one part of my ongoing quest in devising new teaching materials over and above any coursebook. In an age that is predominantly visual (due to the preponderance of the Internet), it is important to integrate visual impulses even more in our day-to-day language teaching. The need for a balanced curriculum that helps students discover and utilize different learner strategies and learning styles is as urgent as ever.

The pursuit of language teaching as an art form led me to intense involvement with the Goethe Institute Trainer Network (*Lehrer bilden Lehrer aus*). The most recent trainer seminar with the topic '*Autonomes Lernen und Lernstrategien*' took place only two weeks ago here at IU. In April I ran a workshop '*Über Bilder ins Gespräch kommen*,' together with Elizabeth Bridges at the German Culture Center, University of Missouri in St. Louis. I was also invited to give a presentation and workshop on drama pedagogy at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. In May, I participated in the Freshmen Learning Project here at IU which got me thinking deeper about ways of making foreign language reading more enjoyable, rewarding, and empowering for our students

In her inimitable style, **Kari Gade** writes, "This year was the year of the raven. Early this spring I was sitting at home at my desk editing and translating a 10th-century skaldic stanza filled with blood, gore, and birds of battle feasting on carrion, when

I felt myself observed. I turned around, looked out of my living room, and saw a big black bird sitting in one of the bushes, looking in. I thought it was a big crow until I saw the telltale beak, and realized that Óðinn had sent down one of his ravens to see how I was handling the mead of poetry. Huginn's report was clearly not favorable, because this visit (the first of many) presaged a series of unprecedented events. First there was the earthquake, then the flooding, then my house was hit by lightning (frying the air conditioner), then I went to a conference in Australia and got stranded in Dallas in the grounding of the AA fleet, and had to fly into Evansville (Ind.) and rent a car to get back (to Bloomington). Then came the hurricane, and now the banks are going belly-up. The good thing is that Huginn seems to have abandoned his dwelling (a tree in my neighbor's yard), and, since I am now putting the finishing touches on the two-volume skaldic edition, I hope that Óðinn has been mollified. But this semester I am choosing the texts for my Old Norse course with extreme care!"

Tracy Alan Hall: "Now that this tenure business is over and done with I am happy to report that I now have my first sabbatical. I have been quite productive in terms of research the past few months and I will hopefully be able to continue this trend throughout the remaining two months of the semester, which I will spend at the *Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft* in my old home (Berlin). I am presently counting the hours until I leave. In the meantime I am enjoying multitudes of assorted vegetables from my garden."

Esther Ham has a lot to say about the Dutch wing of the department. "Another fall, another year in Indiana. When those leaves are changing color, it is almost inevitable for me to look back on my years at IU. Since 2001, the numbers have been growing and growing: not only in the culture classes, but especially in the language classes. This fall we set a new record: two first-year groups with more than 20 students each. However, more students are always welcome! It looks like Dutch will be around for a long time.

In the last three years, we had a couple of Dutch students who were willing to come all the way to Indiana to learn what it takes to teach Dutch to a group of American students. The task was actually quite challenging for those interns (and maybe also for the American students, as we have a reputation of being extremely direct), but hopefully we will have more in the future. Especially as our numbers continue to grow.

On a more personal note: in our garden/yard, we planted a couple of nice, old-fashioned Dutch apple trees — very symbolic

for me because I had some health issues this spring. Now I look forward to picking a really good Dutch apple in a couple of years (if the deer let them grow). I also look forward to teaching the students in the Dutch program how to bake traditional Dutch-apple pancakes and apple pies!

Next year we will organize another Summer Dutch Institute, so if you know people interested in learning Dutch: please encourage them to study Dutch language and culture (www.iub.edu/~sdi).

Albrecht Holschuh: "Neither publications nor courses. Much of my time goes to the League of Women Voters, where I serve as an officer at the state and local levels. The year brought short trips to Germany and Jamaica and a long road trip west, with family visits and hikes in six national parks and Fourth of July fireworks at Donner Pass (our party had plenty of food). Now reading *Don Quixote* in the Grossman translation, with lessons for today's politics."

Hildegard Keller treats us to a lengthy and colorful narrative: "Shortly after the presentation of my audio book about Henry Suso (the book, *Die Stunde des Hundes*, Zürich 2008, co-authored with Jeffrey F. Hamburger, the CDs co-produced with actors and singers) in the Insel Hotel in Constance, I came to Bloomington in the middle of an academic year and in the middle of winter. The fire-red cardinals flew through the snow as I watched, fascinated, from the veranda of **Claudia Breger's** house, where I found a pleasant place to stay until Spring. Bloomington was cold and barren compared with the blossoming, warm town that I had come to learn in the summer of 2005, but the reception I was given by my new colleagues and the graduate students in my two seminars was wonderfully welcoming and warm. It was a fantastic reentry here — and I thank you all!

After various trips to conferences in February (including a symposium at Princeton University on mysticism before and after the Reformation) and in March (at the *Deutsches Historisches Museum zu Berlin*, where I spoke about performative projects involving the historical development of language and coincidentally and to my great delight met **Brigitta Wagner** and, as planned, Claudia Breger), things began to get warmer in Bloomington. My search for a house also began to bear fruit (see below).

Spring came sooner to Zürich, however, and saw the successful conclusion of a long-standing research project. Since 2002 I had been occupied with Jakob Ruf, who, although born in Constance, became the town surgeon and playwright of Zürich. From 2004 until 2007 I directed an interdisciplinary team of researchers at

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Faculty notes

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the University of Zürich with nine members representing various fields. We all eagerly awaited the first edition of Ruf's complete works on which we had been working — I had sent the last proofs from Bloomington to the publisher in Zürich! Our 'quintuplets' weighed almost ten kilos and appeared under the title: *Jakob Ruf. Leben, Werk und Studien*, published by Verlag der NZZ Zürich.

We spent the summer recovering on three different lakes: on the Bodensee (aka the Lake of Constance, the home of Henry Suso, Jakob Ruf, and also the lake of my childhood, on the Zürichsee and also on the Vierwaldstättersee (a.k.a. Lake of Lucerne, on the summit of the Pilatus I saw for the first time a wild ibex).

Since the end of August, I belong to the club of those enthusiasts who start a new home, clean the yard with power-washers, chase relentlessly insects in their basement, evaluate all the models of blade-mowers for their two small patches of lawn and stain their deck in unusual colors. That inspired my neighbor, who peeked over the fence, to the guess: 'Looks like watermelon.' 'Hmm. It's called Indian Corn.' 'Oh, I knew it was something to eat.' Yummy. I like it as much as the volunteer tomatoes and corn in my small garden.

The first fruit of my scholarly orchard at Bloomington are articles on martyrdom (published in *DU*, October 2008), on risk management in the Middle Ages (to be published in a volume of the *SfB Kulturen des Performativen*, Berlin) and on performative approaches to Medieval German literature (to be published in the catalogue of the exhibit '*die Sprache deutsch*' at the *Deutsches Historisches Museum zu Berlin*, 2009). I appreciate the soil and the climate at our department very much — a great, blooming community.

Dov-Ber Boris Kerler: "The period since I talked to you last was quite busy. There was a spate of talks, presentations and papers at various conferences, symposia and venues in Berkeley and Chicago (May 2007), Vienna, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem (July-August 2007), and Vilnius and Stockholm (August 2008). Three more Yiddish ethnographic expeditions were carried out in Ukraine (May 2007 and 2008), Budapest (June 2007), and northeastern Hungary and Romania (parts of Transylvania, in July 2008). Throughout August 2008 I also got a chance to teach two advanced Yiddish language and literature courses in the intensive summer program at the Yiddish Institute of Vilnius University (Lithuania).

My colleague, Jeffrey Veidlinger (History), who co-organizes with me the Indiana University Yiddish Ethnographic project, is already hard at work writing a book on some of the major historiographical aspects of our collected Yiddish interviews in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia, and the close-to-700 hours of interviews and footage that we collected in the years 2002–2008 will form our planned IU AHEYM project (AHEYM meaning 'homeward' is the acronym of: Archives of Historical and Ethnographic Yiddish Memories).

In July 2008 the long overdue new volume of *Yerusholaymer Almanakh: periodical collections for Yiddish literature and culture*, appeared in Jerusalem. Its 430 pages contain — among other materials and publications — new works of fiction, drama, poetry, translations, studies and articles by 34 contemporary authors.

In the meantime, a rather personal account of my poetic *alter ego*, Boris Karloff, appeared in the collection *The Writer Uprooted: Contemporary Jewish Exile Literature*, edited by Alvin Rosenfeld and published by IU Press last May. Two of Boris Karloff's self-translated poems appeared both on paper and online in the April issue of *Zeek: A Journal of Jewish Thought and Culture* (see: <http://www.zeek.net/804karloff>), and a new, rather slim collection of poems, titled *Katoves on a zayt: nekbtkike lider* (English title: *I kid you not: poems of yesteryears*) appeared in Jerusalem in August 2007. The previous one, *ELABREK: lider fun nayem yortoyznt* (*ELABREK: poems of the new millennium*, Jerusalem, 2006), was awarded the 2008 Dr. Hirsch and Dora Rosenfeld Prize for Yiddish Literature by the Montreal Jewish Public Library's J.I. Segal Awards committee."

From **Gergana May** we hear, "Arriving back from Europe this fall, I realized Bloomington finally felt like home. I am starting my third year as the director of the Norwegian program, and I feel thoroughly settled at my new job, house, and town. The comfort makes me more productive and creative! The number of students for all language, literature and culture classes is rising. The community of Nordic-language-speakers who enjoy hanging out together is rapidly increasing. The prospects for the future are pretty good too, considering the fact that IU is hosting the National Institute for Summer Scandinavian Studies in 2009. The institute will offer intensive Norwegian and Swedish language instruction, two additional culture classes, and a plethora of extra-curricular activities ranging from museum visits, lecture series, theatre performances and a trip to IKEA-Cincinnati to nail the interior design vocabulary (and the Swedish cranberry jam). In addition, I

keep collecting materials towards my former dissertation/future book on Ibsen that may materialize some day. I also only recently enjoyed my first parent-teacher conference and am looking forward to many more ahead.

From **Hugh Powell** we received a note that said "Some months ago, when reflecting on the past years of my life, it occurred to me that the year 2008 has brought anniversaries of some notable milestones in my academic career." This year is the 75th anniversary of Powell's receiving his BA, and thus the 70th for his PhD, the 45th anniversary for his D.Litt and a British Academy Award, "plus 25 years of mandatory retirement."

William Rasch writes "2008 has been another enjoyable year. My wife and I traveled to London over spring break, where I participated in a number of panels and workshops at the University of Westminster and visited with many friends. I will be back in London in November for a conference on world order. In July I participated in a conference on philistinism in Berlin, where I had a good time (and enjoyed marvelous weather) with Dirk Baecker among others, and briefly drank a cheery glass of wine on a dazzlingly bright Saturday afternoon with **Claudia Breger** (in Berlin on a Humboldt fellowship) and, later, enjoyed dinner with Todd Cesaratto (on the Berlin student exchange). Directly thereafter I traveled to Medellín, Columbia, for a law and politics conference and was charmed by the city and my hosts. I am particularly pleased with my article on Kant and perpetual peace that was published in the British journal *Law and Critique*, and am also happy with an article on Carl Schmitt for a special issue of *New Centennial Review* on the Culture of Occupation (co-edited by a former undergraduate student in the department, **Jennifer Fay**, who is now director of Film Studies at Michigan State). Late this fall, a special issue of *Soziale Systeme* that I edited on Luhmann and law will appear, as will a volume (published by Palgrave) on postwar German film, co-edited with former student **Wilfried Wilms**. Last fall I had perhaps my most memorable teaching experience, an undergraduate course (in English) on Nietzsche, Weber, and Freud, with an exceptional group of very bright, articulate, and concerned students. In the spring I conducted a seminar on the philosophical discourse of modernity (from Nietzsche and Weber to Habermas and Luhmann, with many stops in between), which I also felt to be a great success. This semester Ed Comentale (English) and I are co-teaching a seminar on Anglo-German modernism, which gives me a chance to indulge my taste for some of my favorite Anglophone authors, Ezra

(continued on page 7)

Faculty notes

(continued from page 6)

Pound and Wyndham Lewis. It's a large class, about half from English, with the rest from German and Comparative Literature, and we're having a blast (indeed, a Blast, if I may pun on Lewis's vorticist journal of 1914). Lately I have been daydreaming of the time I will have after I step down from being department chair. I hope I figure out how to fill it."

Benjamin Robinson: "I'm teaching a grad seminar now with a wonderful group of students in which we're trying to figure out how the past century is made vivid to us... meanwhile, here I am, confronted with the task of making my last year present. Well, I won't try to one-up the chroniclers. My biggest news on the academic front is that my book *Other Systems: Alternate Germany, Socialist Modernity* will be coming out with Stanford UP in 2009. I'm working on a new book entitled *Out of All Scale: The New, the Other, the Individual and the Index* that is about artistic attempts to demonstrate incompatibilities of scale in the face of continuity's temptations. I've written an article on Alain Badiou that will appear in a volume of on contemporary critical theorists. My article comes in the wake of Badiou's exciting four-day visit to campus last fall, in which the main public lecture on 'Reviving the Communist Hypothesis' drew several hundred people. It was a galvanizing visit thanks to the active participation of so many of our grad students and faculty and Badiou's Parisian charms. As I write this, certain leading indicators of our economy are tanking, but I'm bullish on indices in general. I participated with Johannes on a panel on Indexicality at the last GSA in San Diego and gave an invited talk at Purdue on 'Leading Indicators.' I was on leave with my family in beautiful Oregon last fall, but in the spring I taught an undergrad class on film analysis—which with my kids keeping me busy at home is my only chance these days to see movies—and a grad class on paradoxes of change."

For **Rex Sprouse**, the last year has included both familiar and new territory. He continued to teach courses both in the Germanic Studies Department and in the (still relatively) new Department of Second Language Studies. This past summer he directed IU's summer program in Graz for the seventh consecutive summer, and also continued his service as Director of Undergraduate Study for the Germanic Studies Department.

Under his direction, **Richard Scuderi**, BA'08, completed a senior honors thesis entitled *The Acquisition and Semantic Inter-*

pretation of German Locative Morphosyntax by English Native Speakers. They are hoping to collaborate on the basis of Richard's study to produce a refereed journal article.

In 2008, he published a paper together with Professor Kevin Rottet of the IU French and Italian Department. The paper, 'Tag questions in Welsh' appeared in the journal *Diachronica*. His interest in the topic of the preterite vs. present perfect tense has been significantly spurred on by **Christopher Sapp**, PhD'06, who is now an assistant professor of German at the University of Mississippi. He is looking at this phenomenon in the history of German with our **Tracy Alan Hall** and at the analogous development in the history of Welsh with Kevin Rottet. Perhaps another *Diachronica* article lies in the future.

For the past couple of years, he has been working on fleshing out a model of adult second language acquisition. He is also very keen on crafting this model to be sufficiently general that multiple additional languages receive an empirically adequate and theoretically natural account. This has led to a new research topic for him: second language phonology as encoded in the second language lexicon. He has been organizing a faculty-graduate student collaborative research group working on this topic since January 2008.

Johannes Türk writes "When he heard about my plans to join Indiana University's Department of Germanic Studies more than two years ago, a senior professor at Yale, where I was visiting, asked me with an ironic undertone "So, you are becoming a – how do they call it – a Hoosier?" I still have not made up my mind on how to interpret his sentence and its tone. By all accounts, becoming a Hoosier still seems to be a difficult task. Yet even without becoming one, I have gone through the first two years and have found a place that could hardly be more welcoming and favorable to my life and my work. During the last year, I have become a regular member of the Theory Reading Group and a member of the steering committee of the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies that offer inspiration and exciting forms of collaboration. In a special issue of *DVjS*, edited by **Claudia Breger** and **Fritz Breithaupt**, I had the opportunity to explore a range of texts – among them Kleist's *Die Verlobung in St. Domingo* – to examine the poetics of pity and its ethical implications. And last

but not least, my book seems to get nearer to its completion. All these are reasons for gratitude and a moderate local optimism – to use a phrase Kant might like – in spite of the hard times all of us are facing. And on the way Estela and I married and celebrated in Portugal. But that is another story."

Brigitta Wagner: "Bloomington marks the third in a trilogy of significant 'B'-towns in my life, and I would like to believe that the letter 'B' is symbolic of continuities rather than ruptures. My transition from Berlin and Boston to rural Indiana is hardly complete, but I have already managed to find a few correspondences between lives here and there: the biweekly sale of fresh produce evokes the ritual of my visits to Berlin's *Maybachufer* market; the multiplexes East and West recall the guilty pleasures of first-run original versions at the Sony Center Cinestar or Saturday outings to the Boston Common Loew's; The Cinemat is a haven for the lesser known cinephilic delights of Berlin's *Arsenal* or the Harvard Film Archive. So, it would seem, my two sources of continuity are food and cinema! But what I am most curious to discover are those qualities of small-town life that make Bloomington unique. I am already beginning to detect the channels by which the university's cultural opportunities and intellectual climate have both created and attracted a community unlike any other I've encountered in the Midwest. The streets and shops are alive with the politics of the 2008 presidential election. Neighbors communicate, musicians stage private house concerts, and volunteers urge passers-by to vote in the upcoming election. Time functions differently here. That is to say, there is time to work, to think, and to recreate when global patterns of information exchange resume a local pace.

In my first fall at IU, I taught a seminar on 'German Cinema after the Wall' and a second eight weeks' course on 'The City of Moving Images.' While continuing work on my larger project, *Berlin, Revivified City*, a study of cinema and urban nostalgia in the post-wall era, I attended the German Film Institute in Ann Arbor, the Telluride Film Festival, and the *Giornate del Cinema Muto* and presented a paper at the GSA. It is my hope, in working with town and university resources as well as great colleagues, to improve the profile of German cinema (and international cinema generally) on campus and in the region.



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Alumni Notes

Graduate notes

In a recent letter, **Nancy Chadburn**, MA'74, PhD'81, says "... I don't have nearly enough time to read all the English, Dutch and German books I'd like to, but it's fun to have so many potential sources of diversion and edification... I've been feeling homesick for Utrecht – last trip there was two years ago – so turned to Google Images for a virtual visit and found a 'slide show' of over 290 photos taken by two young women..."

Peter "Petrus" Freecouf, MA'82, PhD'90: "I'm still teaching at Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand. This is my last semester as a full-time contract teacher. Next semester I'm going part-time and will teach only linguistics courses in the English Dept (semantics, language classification) and supervise a few senior research projects in linguistics.

My wife Nitida is still teaching in the Faculty of Education and my daughter Saranta, who was born in Bloomington shortly before we moved here, has one more year of high school. In linguistics I'm working on Papuan languages (typological matters) and North American Native Languages (typological matters also). I'm particularly interested in verb morphology and morphosyntax in both groups. A new comprehensive Lakota dictionary with an 84-page grammatical description has just come out this year, published in Bloomington by the Lakota Language Consortium. I received a copy yesterday from amazon.com, which is fast and reliable and a really valuable resource here. As you know, the internet has more and more really high quality academic linguistics for viewing and for downloading—also something which is very useful here."

Frank Gentry, MA'66, PhD'73, sends us a copy of a news release from Penn State announcing his recognition with Germany's prestigious civilian award, the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Knight of the Cross of the Order of Merit) "for his significant contributions to the academic cooperation between Germany and the United States. In particular, the award honors Professor Gentry's work on behalf of the Alexander von Humboldt Association of America and his active role in fostering exchange programs between American and German universities."

The release goes on: "Gentry came to Penn State from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1991 as head of the Department of German, a position he held until 1997. His research agenda encom-

passes broad areas of Medieval culture and Medieval German literature as well as the reception of the Middle Ages in the modern period. He is the author and editor of seven books and a few dozen articles. He has lectured extensively both here and abroad on medieval and modern topics and was a recipient of an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (1978–79, 1984) for research in Munich and Freiburg. In 2007 the College of the Liberal Arts honored Professor Gentry with its Distinguished Emeritus Award. The award by German President Horst Köhler is to be presented to Professor Gentry by the Consul General at a public ceremony and reception in November."

"That I am honored and very happy goes without saying," Gentry adds. "Unfortunately, I have been informed that even though I will officially be a 'knight' (*Ritter*), I will not have the privilege of *droit du seigneur or ius primae noctis*—probably just as well. In any event and in all seriousness, I am letting you know this because without IU, nothing I have achieved would have been possible. I am also continuing my editorship of the Classical Traditions volumes for Brill (*Rezeptions- und Wissenschaftsgeschichte* volumes of the German *Neue Pauly*, three volumes are done and I am working on the fourth. I am also the General Editor of the Brill series *Medieval and Renaissance Authors and Texts*. I keep busy."

Derek H. Hillard, MA'96, PhD'01, is an assistant professor of German at Kansas State University, where he has worked since 2002. In December 2007 he received the German Academic Exchange Service Article Prize from the German Studies Association, an award that honors the best article published in the *German Studies Review*. Hillard's article was titled, "Rilke and Historical Discourse or the 'Histories' of 'Malte Laurids Brigge.'" He lives and works in Manhattan, Kan.

Ron Horwege, MA'68, PhD '71, "I am still teaching at Sweet Briar (Va.) College, although in the past two years I suddenly lurched forward in the academic line as colleagues have retired. I am now the senior member of our small faculty and have the dubious honor of walking at the front of the line during our three academic processions. I continue to work with colleagues from across the country. For the 14th year I have organized and hosted an annual immersion weekend at (Sweet Briar) College, and our theme this last year was '*Musik im Unter-richt*.' We were privileged to have as our presenter one of my colleagues from IU days, **Charles James**, MA'68, from the

University of Wisconsin. Our catchy title was 'Charles James und seine wunderbare Musiktruhe.' Our group wine, dined, and rocked all weekend. I also organized for the fifth year an AATG Summer Seminar on the campus, the only TPRS workshop organized specifically for German teachers. One of the staff members was another IU alum, **Hank Schwab**, MAT'83, and another was an Indiana German teacher, Julie Baird. Last Spring I was privileged to be one of the organizers for the program celebrating the 400th anniversary of German Immigration to America held in Williamsburg, VA. I was in charge of the Saturday morning workshop for German teachers entitled 'Teaching about German-Americans and Germans in America.' I met several IU people there, including **Eberhard Reichmann**. Otherwise my wife and I use our free time to visit our daughter in Richmond and our son, his wife, and our three grandchildren in Bel Air, Md. Retirement is still a few years away.

Marianne Kalinke, PhD'70, writes, "I retired officially from the University of Illinois in May 2006, but I seem to be as busy as ever. This is of my own choosing, however, and I have been able to throw myself wholeheartedly into my research again. I have also had occasion to travel to Norway. For several years now, together with two historians, Patrick Geary (UCLA) and Hans-Werner Goetz (Hamburg), I have been a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Nordic Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Bergen. This committee work has brought me repeatedly to that university and has left me green with envy at the financial support the Nordic governments provide for medieval studies. Despite my retirement, I am still the managing editor for German-Scandinavian of the *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, which became a medieval journal several years ago. This is because my department has chosen not to hire a medievalist despite having been given a line by the provost to replace Stephen Jaeger, **Claudia Bornholdt**, PhD'01, and me. ... Philologists in Germanic Studies at Illinois and Indiana (PIGSTII) continues to flourish, and the Illinois contingent expects to travel to Bloomington in spring 2009 for our next meeting."

William Keel, MA'75, PhD'77, has two new grandsons this year in Ohio and Oklahoma and is now at six grandchildren — two each in those states plus another two in Wisconsin. Keel's fourth child works for Teach For America in Chicago. He writes,

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Graduate news

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“much remains the same—still chairing the department; chairing the Sister Cities Advisory Board in Lawrence, Kan.; being president of the Society for German-American Studies etc.”

Astrid Klocke, MA’91, PhD’00, works at Northern Arizona University, now with tenure, and is busy with a new translation project: Nietzsche’s *Will to Power* in a new edition, derived from his notebooks. She writes, “I’m working with two colleagues in the Humanities Department who are in charge of the editing and the philosophical introduction. I’m also preparing the first English translation of Edgar Hilsenrath’s novel *Bronskys Geständnis*. One chapter was published this fall in *Metamorphoses*.”

The textbook is finally out and I gave the publisher a long list of IU contacts so that they can send you an exam copy. Please let me know if you haven’t received one yet: *Deutsche Literatur im Kontext 1750-2000* (with W. Maierhofer, Focus Publishing, 2009). It is task-based and designed for an intermediate/advanced-level ‘Introduction to German Literature’ course. And if you have any suggestions for the second edition, please send them to me.

After four years as associate chair of modern languages, I’m back to full-time teaching this year and enjoying my new freshman film class. It’s part of the film studies minor we’re developing, a program that is drawing lots of student interest. No wonder: As an example of what many Germans really watched from the 1950s to 70s, we screened *Sissi* this week, my worst childhood memory of Sunday afternoons at the grandparents’... The students loved it!

Not much else to report since I hardly have time left for anything outside of work or training these days. After a long winter and spring of endless circles around my neighborhood I’ve finally worked up some kind of basic running fitness and completed a series of trail races, including a half marathon, this summer. I’m also still racing triathlons and doing much better there since running is only part of it. Ironman Arizona 2010 is the big (mid-life crisis) goal.”

Myra Heerspink Scholz, MA’69, PhD’93, writes from her home near Amsterdam. “Bernhard’s retirement and my status as freelancer made it possible for us to have a three-plus week extravaganza in the U.S. this fall. The first two and a half weeks we spent on beautiful Lake Michigan, renewing contacts with relatives, playing on the beach with granddaughter Cleo, etc. Then three nostalgic days in Bloomington, walking the campus and seeing a few old friends — among them Ingrid and Henry Remak,

who had hosted our wedding reception in their house 39 years ago. With so little time we managed to miss out on seeing Bill and Janette Shetter, but Bill’s classic Dutch grammar remains a part of my life, as I’m now using it to help an American neighbor through the rigors of language learning.

Translating challenges keep coming, presently in the form of poetry and prose for an anthology of Dutch and Flemish women writers, 1200-1850. The last large project was Willem Frijhoff’s *Fulfilling God’s Mission: The Two Worlds of Dominic Everardus Bogardus, 1607-1647*. In September of this year Frijhoff was awarded a prize for this biography by the New Netherland Institute of Albany. Teaching English conversation to Japanese and Korean people — and there are many here in Amstelveen — continues to be enjoyable. For the rest, there’s gardening (my counterpart to Bernhard’s pottery hobby), cycling, and walking. No boredom in sight.”

John D. Sundquist, MA’96, PhD’02, was promoted to associate professor of German at Purdue University in April 2007. He works in West Lafayette, Ind.

Ray Wakefield, MA’67, PhD’72, is another alumnus with his own way of putting things: “If there’s a statute of limitations on the number of years absent from Bloomington, then those of us from the dinosaur era have clearly exceeded the limit. Let’s just consider this an update for you and a few other faculty who were also there when dinosaurs roamed the stone quarries. For reasons that escape logic, I have been called on by the (University of Minnesota) dean in the past few years to serve as an interim chair or director. Three years ago, it was for my own department (German, Scandinavian, and Dutch); two years ago, I served Asian Languages and Literatures; and last year continuing on into this fall semester, I’ve been interim director of the Institute for Linguistics, ESL, and Slavic Languages and Literatures. My task in this last position has been especially interesting and challenging: close down the institute and find new homes for the faculty. Last year, I worked out agreements for the ESL and Slavic faculty. This fall, I have the unique opportunity to reestablish Minnesota’s Department of Linguistics after a hiatus of 16 years. Negotiations are still underway, but we have reasons to be optimistic — a Department of Linguistics on July 1, 2009. In spite of the administrative challenges, I continue to teach my fair share and enjoy my teaching more than ever. The UM College of Liberal Arts has given me the Motley Exemplary Teaching Award for 2007–08, and the grandkids may come in December to watch me shuffle to the podium to receive this high honor.”



Pictured are three Germanic Studies graduating seniors of May 2008. **Michael Graff**, **Erin Noelliste** (Max Kade fellow 2008–09) and **Gretchen Sneegas**.

Wilfried Wilms, MA’96, PhD’00, is “happy to report that I just received tenure at the University of Denver. Even though I am more than happy to live in Colorado, with all its perks, I must admit that I will apparently forever miss the *Lernschweis* of Ballantine Hall and the library’s 11th floor. While little Wilms #1 (Tibault) is already five years old, little Wilms #2 is on his/her way and will join us in March. Hooray!”

Undergraduate notes

Dan R. Anderson, BA’71, MAT’73, teaches German at University High School in Tucson, Ariz. “UHS was just ranked the 13th best high school in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*,” he writes. “We are the only public college preparatory high school in Arizona. I have been here eight years and have a growing German program including [Advanced Placement classes] and a very active GAPP exchange. I would love to hear from the ‘Hamburg ’69 gang.” Anderson lives in Tucson and can be contacted at dra1547@mac.com.

Susan McFadden Chyn, BA’74, MA’78, is president of Princeton Language Group. She writes that she is interested in international activities, including language programs and cultural exchanges. She lives and works in Princeton, N.J.

Orville “Tom” Crane IV, MA’00, is a lead labor and employee relations specialist with the Department of the Navy in Washington, D.C. He and his wife live in Arlington, Va. Their son, Riley Thomas, was born in September 2007.

Amy L. Hoffman, BS/BA’06, is a student in the IU School of Medicine in Indianapolis. While attending IU Bloomington, she earned bachelors of science degrees in chemistry, mathematics, and biology, as well as a bachelor of arts degree in Germanic studies. Hoffman lives in Carmel, Ind.

James P. Perin, BA’68, MBA/JD’75, is senior vice president and chief financial officer of the IU Foundation in Bloomington, Ind.

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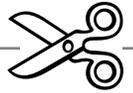
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Undergraduates

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In 2007 he received the IUF's George F. "Dixie" Heighway Award for Leadership. A member of the University and Foundation Financial Officers group, an organization that develops financial policies for institutes of higher education, Perin lives in Spencer, Ind.

Robert Ethan Ransdell, BA'05, is a patient-care coordinator at WellPoint, a health-benefits company in Indianapolis. He lives in Indianapolis.

Betty Rouse Ferree, BA'80, is a self-employed massage therapist in Alexandria, Va., where she also lives.

Edyta Sitko, '05, majored in political science and minored in German and Western European studies. She is now the field organizer for Greenpeace, and currently works for Greenpeace's global warming team. She writes that the program is expanding and "hiring graduating seniors for full-time, entry-level positions."

Anne King Speicher, BA'07, is a full-time intern for Optimus Inc., a video post-production house where she works with two other IU alumni — Brian J. Hrastar, BA'96, a producer for the company, and Craig M. Lewandowski, BA'96, an editor. Previously, Speicher worked as a production assistant on the television show *Mexico: One Plate at a Time*. She lives and works in Chicago.

In summer 2007, **Erin N. Wroblewski**, BA'03, served as an Advocacy Project Peace Fellow. She traveled to Israeli and Palestinian territories and worked with the Fredreich-Ebert Foundation, an AP partner organization that promotes human rights. Wroblewski lives in Avon, Ind.

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