

Indiana University College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Germanic Studies

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Alumni Newsletter

'Trajectories' conference a success

On the first weekend of March 2006, 26 scholars and teachers of German language, literature, and culture, all faculty members at colleges and universities across the country, gathered in Bloomington to discuss their research, their teaching, and their professional development during a conference titled "Trajectories: The Past and Future of German Studies." Their expertise spanned a wide spectrum, yet what united them all was that they had received their graduate training, and their doctoral degrees, from this department. It turned out to be the most intellectually satisfying reunion — or the most congenial conference — most of us have ever attended.

The bulk of "Trajectories," co-organized by William Rasch and Michel Chaouli, was devoted to six thematic sessions in which speakers presented their current research or teaching projects in 20-minute talks, followed by intensive discussion. Besides the time allocated between sessions, we had planned several social events in which scholarly discussions, professional contacts, and friendships could be established and deepened. The most important of these was a lunch, on Saturday, March 4, exclusively

for the invited guest speakers and our current graduate students. The social high point of the weekend was a dinner for all speakers, the department's emeriti, and the current faculty at Le Petit Café. The conference ended with a roundtable session on the opportunities and challenges in the discipline of German studies.

"Trajectories" was marked by an exceptionally high level of intellectual engagement, great collegiality, lively — even intense — discussions, all within the context of a shared intellectual and cultural framework and deep loyalty to Indiana University. It seemed that our guests were delighted to be back in Bloomington (for many, the first time since graduating) and to encounter their former teachers on the equal footing of scholar to scholar.

This conference quite literally could not have happened without the people and institutions that supported it financially. Above all, this means the Max Kade Foundation and its president, Lya Friedrich Pfeifer, who recognized the value of the proposed conference immediately and almost at once agreed to supply half of the projected cost. The balance came from within Indiana University,

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Letter from the chair

2006 high points

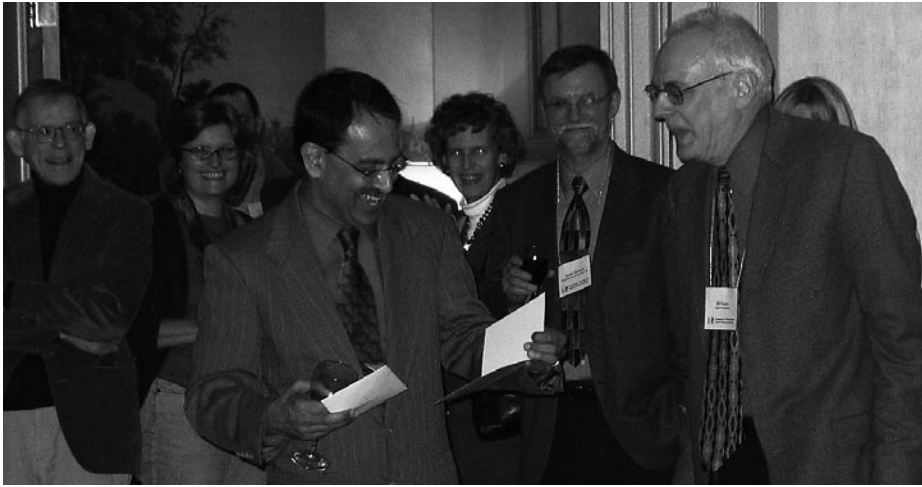
Were I to report with the thoroughness they deserve on all the activities of the department over the past year, this newsletter would look like a telephone book. Let me therefore just run through some of the high points.

It seems that the department is now complete, at least for the time being. This year we welcomed two new faculty members to Bloomington. **Johannes Türk** comes to us from the *Freie Universität* in Berlin, where he received his PhD in comparative literature under the direction of Winfried Menninghaus. Johannes's intelligence, depth of learning, curiosity, disarming modesty, willingness to learn American ways, and enchanting friendliness make him a remarkable colleague. His theoretically informed approach to European literature of the modern era brings a comparative and comprehensive perspective to the department that adds to our strengths. We all, faculty and students, look forward to years of collaboration with him. His partner, Estella Vieira, is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Spanish

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Participants in the "Trajectories" conference, with organizers William Rasch, far left, and Michel Chaouli, top row, right



William Rasch, right, presents outgoing dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kumble R. Subbaswamy with a token of the department's appreciation for his long-standing support.

Trajectories

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in particular from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College Arts and Humanities Institute, the Chancellor's Office, and the Provost's Office. All offered their support swiftly and generously.

The gathering was so rewarding, its structure so compelling, and its payoffs so obvious, that we are sorely tempted to try our hands at **Trajectories II** in a few years, when many of our current graduate students have joined the ranks of the faculty and are ready to return to Bloomington to share their insights with the next generation of students.

— Michel Chaouli, director
Institute of German Studies

'Trajectories' conference participants

- **Jeannine Blackwell**, PhD'82, professor of German and dean of the Graduate School, University of Kentucky
- **John T. Blair**, MA'84, PhD'94, professor of German, State University of West Georgia
- **Claudia Bornholdt**, PhD'01, assistant professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Elizabeth Bridges**, PhD'05, visiting assistant professor, Hendrix College
- **Muriel Ann Cormican**, PhD'99, associate professor of German, University of West Georgia
- **Joe Gene Delap**, MA'87, PhD'92, associate vice president for academic affairs, Jacksonville State University (Ala.)
- **Derek Hillard**, MA'96, PhD'01, assistant professor, modern languages, Kansas State University
- **Astrid Klocke**, MA'91, PhD'00, assistant professor of German, Northern Arizona University
- **Kirstine Lindemann**, MA'83, PhD'92, senior assistant dean and director of undergraduate academic affairs, College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University
- **Karl-Heinz Maurer**, PhD'02, assistant



Astrid Klocke and Karl-Heinz Maurer

professor of German, Rhodes College

- **Patrizia C. McBride**, PhD'98, associate professor of German, University of Minnesota
- **D. Brent McBride**, MA'93, PhD'00, assistant professor of German, Hunter College
- **Ann McGlashan**, PhD'96, associate professor of German, Baylor University
- **Christine Rinne**, MA'00, PhD'05, visiting lecturer, Dartmouth College
- **E. Corey Roberts**, MA'97, PhD'02, assistant professor of German, Northern Illinois University



Michel Chaouli, left, and Wilfried Wilms have a discussion during the concluding dinner.

- **Elliott Schreiber**, MA'00, visiting instructor of German studies, Vassar College
- **Jill Suzanne Smith**, MA'99, PhD'04, visiting assistant professor of German, Union College
- **Daniel Soneson**, MA'79, PhD'85, associate professor and director of language lab, Department of Foreign Languages, Southern Connecticut State University
- **Vera S. Stegmann**, PhD'90, associate professor of German, Lehigh University
- **John Sundquist**, MA'96, PhD'02, assistant professor of German and linguistics, Purdue University
- **Lynne Tatlock**, BA'71, MA'75, PhD'81, Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis
- **Felix W. Tweraser**, MA'87, PhD'95, assistant professor of German, Utah State University
- **Silke Von der Emde**, MA'86, PhD'94, associate professor of German, Vassar College
- **Ray Wakefield**, MA'67, PhD'72, associate professor, Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch, University of Minnesota
- **Wilfried Wilms**, MA'96, PhD'00, assistant professor of German, University of Denver



One of the sessions in progress.

Some comments on 'Trajectories'

... An event that will certainly be remembered as the Olympics of German studies

... What a wealth of talent came out of this *Füllhorn* of the Germanics department.

... I not only enjoyed making renewed contact to my former professors and fellow-students but I appreciated the opportunity to meet those who graduated long before me, to meet the current students, to see how the department at IU has reshaped itself and to consider how the profession is changing.

... Having the chance to come together with IU alumni who represent a variety of disciplinary perspectives (cultural studies, linguistics, film studies, etc.) as well as generational and professional backgrounds (liberal arts college vs. research institution) really gave me a much better insight into the diversity and potential of the field.

... If your current graduate students were paying attention, they had an important opportunity to learn quite a bit about what may await them in the profession, not all of it good or easy.

... I did notice the absence of peers who chose not to pursue a career in the profession. This absence is, of course, completely understandable, but it might be instructive for our graduate students to realize that the world does not end if one fails to complete the PhD or fails to get a job within academia.

... I was very impressed to see what other IU graduates have accomplished and really enjoyed hearing something of their work.

... I thought that the presentations on career choices were especially helpful.

... I appreciated the fact that not only research in literary and cultural studies, but linguistics, pedagogy, and university administration were well-represented.

... I enjoyed meeting old friends and making new connections, professional and personal. The presentations were outstanding and made me proud to be part of a department that values not just academic rigor but also the ongoing process of professionalization that starts as soon as you apply to graduate school and doesn't even end when you retire.

... I think it is a wonderful idea to get the various "generations" of scholars together. For us, the graduate students, it is great to see the tradition we are (supposedly) fitting in somehow and very informative to see what previous IU graduate students are doing now. Especially because their contemporary research as well as the working conditions they find themselves

in are so manifold, I found their reports fascinating.

... I only hope we don't have to wait another 25 years for the next "Trajectories" conference!



Above — Julia Lawson, left, and Lynne Tatlock.

At right — Vera Stegmann, left, and Jeannine Blackwell



Trajectories: The Past & Future of German Studies

MARCH 3–5, 2006

BLOOMINGTON

A word from the editor

Keep the alumni news coming

As you can see from Bill Rasch's letter, it's been a banner year when it comes to meeting and hearing from former students, thanks in no small part to the *Trajectories* conference last March. That conference gave me a chance to say hello again to three who had once upon a time taken Dutch here: **Jeannine Blackwell**, PhD'82; **Joe Delap**, MA'87, PhD'92; and **Ray Wakefield**, MA'67, PhD'72. And speaking of the Dutch course, this past year also brought a long, chatty note from former student **Rick Thorman**, MA'69, who says "It was in the Dutch class that I met **Mike Bolos**, BA'71, and **Bill Sycks**, MA'71. When last I saw Mike in October 1982, he was a partner in a medical malpractice law firm with a Chicago office overlooking Lake Michigan. (I was a federal employee union delegate to the National Safety Council's convention.)"

It saddened us to hear of the loss of **Pat Whitehurst**, MA'76, MS'79, who was one of the most contagiously enthusiastic students the year she took the class. Our sympathies go out to **Werner Ehlenberger**, MA'80, who was already there by her side in the class.

I'm keeping it simple this time and will just add one more word inviting you, as always, to send me any news items at any time of the year. Or send it to anyone in the department that you know, and remind them to pass it on to me. Let us know of any change in your academic affiliation and, also as before: please let me have your current e-mail address if I don't already have it.

I thought you'd like to see the reminder I sent out to the whole department, showing them how eagerly you all read the *Alumni Newsletter*.

— William Z. Shetter (e-mail: shetter@indiana.edu)



Yes, they look forward to reading the *Alumni Newsletter*. Those who used to be part of our departmental 'family' really like to find out how each other is doing. But they also like to hear how all of us are—and what's next!

From the chair

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and Portuguese. **Susanne Even** is our new language coordinator. With her AI training, her reorganization of 100-level courses and her plans for the 200 and 300 levels, and her guidance to advanced AIs during the course of the semester, she has already made an enormously positive impact on the department. Given her overwhelming duties, her upbeat and inspiring presence in the department is extraordinary. Her husband, Ken Perlman, is a musician who finds himself in seventh heaven in Bloomington. (Check amazon.com for his CD *Northern Banjo* and his instructional book.)

This past year, we also offered a position to **Hildegard Keller**, last year's Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor. She is currently involved in an extended project in Zürich, but we expect her to begin revitalizing our German medieval program in January 2008.

This year's Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor is **Helmuth Lethen**, University of Rostock. Professor Lethen has been a whirlwind of activity. He taught a seminar on biography/autobiography that was well-attended and well-received, and he has also initiated informal faculty seminars with literature and culture faculty members. The centerpiece of his stay was the *Living Weimar* conference that was organized by **Ben Robinson** and grew out of Ben's Weimar seminar of last year. That seminar featured Lethen's *Verhaltenslehre der Kälte* and generated a number of exceptional student papers, some of which were delivered at the conference. Professor Lethen worked long and hard with the students and was an engaged and enthusiastic interlocutor during the entire two-day event. Guest speakers included John Abromeit (Chicago), Peter Jelavich (Johns Hopkins), William Scheuerman (IU Department of Political Science), and Julia Roos (IU Department of History). Student presenters included **Todd Cesaratto**, **Orsi Kiss**, **Laura Oreggioni**, and **Mihaela Petrescu**. As on previous occasions, our students performed splendidly and the discussions were lively and informative. Helmuth Lethen's presence in the department has been as energizing and intellectually stimulating as was Hildegard Keller's last year. It is truly a shame we cannot hire him to stay permanently in Bloomington. I would ask the dean to make him the chair tomorrow (and not just for selfish reasons).

In addition to our two new faculty members and a third on the way, we hired **Gergana May** as our new director of the Norwegian program. She replaces Melissa Gjellstad, who left after one year to accept

a research fellowship in Norway. Gergana and her family (husband and child) have made themselves at home, and she is working hard to launch a Norwegian minor and build the program the same way **Esther Ham** has forged a thriving and active Dutch program. Esther, by the way, has added a third year of Dutch language instruction, for which we have hired a second instructor, **Meghan Goff**.

We have also hired **Nikole Langjahr** and **Troy Byler** this year as permanent German lecturers. Nikole, who has worked as a visiting lecturer for three years, continues to direct all our German House and Global Village activities, including *Stammtisch*, film showings, and special events. Troy, who was our acting language coordinator last year, has worked with Susanne on course development, but is mainly responsible for our high school outreach program. **Julia Lawson**, who was christened "the Goddess of German literature" by one of our undergraduates, continues to serve as a part-time lecturer primarily responsible for — what else?! — the 300-level introduction to literature courses.

To complete the picture, this past year we hired **Michelle Dunbar** to be our graduate secretary. I cannot adequately express what an amazingly efficient and good-natured addition she has been to the office staff. Michelle and **Sara Goodwin** make for an excellent office team, and **Jill Giffin** is simply the absolute best there is as office manager. Without them, life in Ballantine Hall would be chaotic and miserable.

Although competition for the best graduate students in the country becomes stiffer and fiercer every year, we continue to have great luck. Our new students this year are **Michael Auer**, **Ryan Bond**, **Michael Eith**, **Paul Fogelman**, **Madhuvanti Karyekar**, and **Michael Schlie**. (As you can see [or hear, should you have the same musical memory as I], the Michaels — but not just the Michaels! — have rowed their boats ashore. Hallelujah!). I have all but Paul in my seminar this semester and am quite pleased. The energy level and enthusiasm is great and discussions are at a quite sophisticated level. My expectations are high.

This past year, our graduating PhDs did extremely well on the job market. **Christine Rinne** is at the University of Nevada-Reno (visiting professor), **Dorian Roehrs** at the University of Northern Texas (tenure track), **Chris Sapp** at the University of Mississippi (visiting lecturer), **Elliott Schreiber** continues at Vassar but is now tenure track, **Kris Vander Lugt** is at Iowa State (tenure track), and **Jill Smith** moved from Union, where she was visiting professor, to a tenure-track position at Bowdoin. We have a number of students

on the market this year, and their prospects are also very good. On the undergraduate level, our graduating seniors are heavily recruited by firms in the United States and in Europe; some continue their education in graduate and professional schools. This past year, we awarded the Catherine Clarke Fraser Overseas Studies Scholarship to **Sarah B. Taylor** for study in Freiburg. We also extended our first four scholarships to high school students to participate in the IU honors program in Krefeld, Germany. Last summer, two of our graduate students, **Megan Barrett** and **Andrea Meyertholen**, taught in the program. This coming summer, Megan will be joined by **Justin Glover** and **Laura Sliker**. **Andrea** and **Orsi Kiss** are participating in the IU exchange program at the FU in Berlin.

Last year was marked by a number of conferences and lectures, but *the* outstanding event of the year was *Trajectories*. You will find information, photos, and comments from participants in this newsletter. I just wish to affirm what a remarkable conference it was. Far more than a reunion, it was an intellectual "happening." The presentations and papers delivered were of a consistently high quality that one rarely encounters at conferences. Perhaps all participants were on their best behavior, so to speak, because they were speaking to their peers and their "elders," but perhaps it was also due simply to the fact that at all levels and types of institutions, Indiana University "products" are among the best scholars, educators, and administrators in the profession. As professors at IU, we *could* take pride in our former students' achievements, but that would be sheer hubris. In paper after paper, it became apparent that what these scholars and teachers had learned since leaving Bloomington far exceeded what they ever learned here. It was a wonderful weekend.

This fall, we celebrated the 80th birthdays of **Peter Boerner**, **Ferdinand Piedmont**, and **Eberhard Reichmann**, and the 90th birthday of **Henry Remak**. It was a joyous evening of stories and memories shared with many old friends. In next fall's newsletter, we will publish more on this recent event, including photos.

Remembering the past of the department always also causes one to reflect on its present status and future prospects. Since, as I mentioned above, the present configuration of the department promises to remain as is (barring the unexpected) for another decade or so, we thought it a good time to investigate just who we are. Over the next three years, each faculty member will present to the department (faculty and graduate students) the basic commitments that drive his

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Faculty Notes

Ted Andersson spent three delightful spring months in 2006 at the Centre for Medieval Studies in Bergen, Norway. Just before he left for this assignment, his book on *The Growth of the Medieval Icelandic Sagas (1180–1280)* appeared at the Cornell University Press, and on his way back from Norway, he attended the Thirteenth International Saga Conference in Durham, England. On his return to California, he was not a little startled to be recycled as interim chair for the Department of German Studies at Stanford.

Frank Banta writes, “I did in 2005–06 very nearly exactly what I did in 2004–05. Instead of a heart operation, I had a cataract operation (successful) and an endoscopy (unsuccessful). I visited Costa Rica in February and, otherwise, worked five days a week at Student Advocates with three days off during the early summer.”

Peter Boerner: “During the past year, due to age and circumstance, I was involved in some mostly unexpected events: In Düsseldorf, the Goethe Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary, and as I had been its first *Kustos*, I was invited to reminisce publicly about its beginnings. In London, the publisher of the English version of my Rowohlts biography of Goethe arranged that I give a lecture on illustrations of *Faust*, followed by a reception for the translator (my wife Nancy) and myself. An exhibit shown first at the *Klassische Stätten* in Weimar and then at the *Hochstift* in Frankfurt commemorated “Hundert Jahre Goethe-Kalender,” including my editorship during 13 of these years. And in Berlin, *Deutsche Grammophon* launched a series *Rowohlts berühmte Monographien als Hörbücher*, with the Goethe volume as its third title — after Einstein and Andy Warhol. Back home, the Master Swimmers Association made the octogenarian an honorary member, calling him (the slowest stroker of the IU team!) “an Indiana Swimming Legend.”

Claudia Breger tells us, “Tenure went through fine, so looks like I am here to stay! Otherwise nothing major to report, just various research and teaching activities: (too) many conferences, including two in Berlin this year, one of them (Black European Studies) in a beautifully hot and relaxed post-World Cup city at the end of July. The other one, which I am co-organizing for November, is titled *Engineering Life. Narrationen vom Menschen in Biomedizin, Kultur und Literatur*. Forthcoming publications that kept me busy throughout the year include an article on ‘Friedrich Kittler’s Philhellenic Fantasies’ for *Theory*,

Culture, and Society and book chapters for a volume on ‘Violence in German literature and Culture’ (forthcoming from Rodopi) as well as for the rubble film volume Bill Rasch is preparing. In the spring, I had a slightly more relaxed schedule, thanks to a one-course teaching release CAHI grant for participation in the Faculty Workshop ‘Variations on Blackness.’ Now it’s back to normal with a lot of mentoring responsibilities as well, especially since a number of my doctoral advisees are going on the job market this year (keep your fingers crossed!).”

Fritz Breithaupt writes, “Alas, I still wear many hats. And the hats seem to perpetuate and even duplicate themselves. It started out with directing West European studies, and now I also co-direct the EU Center. I won’t be losing the family hat for some 20 years either, since we had our third child, Noah Friedrich, this summer. My repertoire of writing styles is also getting wider. In addition to scholarship, I continue to write fiction, have added grant writing for my centers (200-page Title VI applications — fun!) and now have a fixed column in a new journal that *Die Zeit* edits, *Zeit-Campus*. For the latter project, I had suggested to the editors that I could do some *aus dem Nähkästchen plaudern* or talk about academics like an ethnographer. However, the editors have now informed me that my job will officially be to ‘lästern’ about my colleagues. ... O friends, I won’t have many friends left soon. Luckily, my students do not follow my model of complete *Verzettelung*: **Christine Rinne**, **Elliott Schreiber**, and **Jill Smith** have all defended their dissertations recently and are working on their fabulous books.

Michel Chaouli: “In 2005–06, I assumed the directorship of the Institute of German Studies and hence the task not only of recruiting outstanding graduate students with our Max Kade Fellowships, but also of organizing colloquia and conferences for the benefit of the department. Thus the year was filled with events. First a colloquium on the five senses in Bloomington, at which some of our students presented superb talks, originally written as seminar papers. Then the GSA in Milwaukee, where the IU contingent seemed larger and more prominent even than the group from the University of Wisconsin. The high-point of the year for me was the ‘Trajectories’ conference in March, which brought many alumni of the department back to Bloomington. Please see the report on the conference for details.” In April, Michel received

the graduate students’ award for excellence in teaching and mentoring.

Von **Susanne Even** hören wir “*Moin! Wu geht’s? Ik kumm ja von’n Norden wech, awers Platt snaken kunn ik nich so recht*. Deswegen geht’s auch auf Hochdeutsch weiter. Ich bin Susanne Even, die neue Sprachkoordinatorin von Germanic Studies. Von meiner Heimatstadt Wildeshausen bei Bremen hat mich mein Lebensweg von der norddeutschen Tiefebene über Irland (University College Cork), England (University of Leicester), und die Ostküste (MIT, Boston University, und Worcester Polytechnic Institute) schließlich in den Mittelwesten geführt. Schön, hier zu sein!

Mein Mann Ken Perlman und ich kamen im Juli in Bloomington an und waren sofort aufs Allerangenehmste überrascht, wie nett die Leute hier sind, wie kurz die Wege, und wie gut das Brot! Seit August bin ich nun in Amt und Würden, habe alle Hände voll zu tun, und es macht großen Spaß. Ohne **Troy Byler** wäre der Anfang nicht so reibungslos gelaufen — an dieser Stelle nochmal tausend Dank, Troy! Verschiedene Dinge wurden bereits überstanden ... eine Einbahnstraße wurde in falscher Richtung befahren, eine Vollbremsung vor einem unerwartet da stehenden Stoppschild hingelegt, und mein erstes Fahrradticket auf dem Campus habe ich auch schon bekommen. ... In der Orientierungswoche lernte ich “meine” neuen AIs (für G100) kennen, und wir sind bereits zu einem guten Team zusammen gewachsen. An meinen vorherigen Stellen habe ich überwiegend *undergraduates* unterrichtet, und es bereitet mir jetzt viel Freude, mit so vielen interessanten und interessierten, mutigen, hochmotivierten, und sprachgewandten *grad students* zusammen zu arbeiten! IU im Allgemeinen und Germanic Studies im Besonderen ist inhaltlich und kollegial ein faszinierender Ort, und ich bin froh hier wirken zu können!

Als professioneller Banjospieler (Ken) und nichtprofessionelle Gitarristin (ich) sind wir hier musikalisch weitaus öfter unterwegs, als wir es in Boston je waren. Wer sich zwischenzeitlich in der *old time scene* herumtreibt, wird uns hier und da über den Weg laufen. Ken als New Yorker ist hochzufrieden, daß die Qualität der Bagels in Bloomington fast an das Niveau von Manhattan heran reicht, und ich bin von dem Angebot an deutscher Schokolade, Haribo Gummibärchen, bulgarischem Schafkäse, eingelegten Oliven, ökologischem Waschmittel, erschwinglichem Hauswein, und englischem Stilton überaus entzückt!

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Faculty notes

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Und wenn man sich dazu auch noch die gelegentlichen Besuche des Dalai Lama hier vergegenwärtigt, kommt einem Bloomington fast wie eine Wiege der Zivilisation vor — aber auf jeden Fall wie eine musikalische, kulinarische, akademische, und interpersonelle Köstlichkeit. Wie schon gesagt: Schön, hier zu sein!“

Catherine “Katy” Fraser: “I missed the boat on getting something sent in last year, and later, when I finally saw the *Newsletter*, I discovered I had moved to Providence. I actually live in a charming little village called Carolina in the southwest corner of Rhode Island. This allows me to zip down to the beach or tend a large country garden, and, after the initial upheaval of unpacking as plumbers, electricians, and painters finished their work on the renovations, the cats and I settled right in and love being here. All the warnings about being very busy when you retire are true, but it’s not all bad. Dierk and I finished our reference book on German popular culture and it’s due out this month. Now we can focus on the textbook we’re working on with Heinle. This summer, I chaired a committee for the MLA to select the Mildemberger and Shaughnessy book awards, and though it involved a bit more work than I’d bargained for, I had a great excuse for taking yet another book to the beach. In spite of its size — or perhaps because of it — the Rhode Island AATG chapter is quite active, and among its members are old friends, colleagues, and students, so I’m not totally removed from the profession. I still use my Indiana e-mail address, so I keep up with the Hoosier news too.”

Kari Gade: “Again, an uneventful year (as always). I had a delightful time teaching pagan (Old Norse) and Christian (Old Saxon) literature and worked like a madwoman on the skaldic project. I published one article and gave two presentations: one in Norway (for the first time in my life, giving a talk in Norwegian AND using PowerPoint!), and one at the 13th International Saga Conference in Durham, England. The latter conference provided the participants with more excitement than we had bargained for. On a beautiful Thursday morning, I was sitting in a bus filled with Vikings (the Norwegian contingent) on the way to the monastery of Lindisfarne, when the ominous words ‘Code Red’ suddenly spread throughout our motorized vessel. Because the year was not 793, the critical alert had not been issued for the beleaguered monks at Lindisfarne; rather, this time around it concerned the Vikings in the vessel. So we descended upon Lindisfarne

in an alarmed state of mind and did not pillage (except for a quick raid of the local mead store). We found ourselves stranded for the time being, while trying to procure clear plastic bags for our meager belongings and figuring out safe ways to bring the mead out of England. Divine retribution for the 793 attack on Lindisfarne that sparked the onset of the Viking Age? I should think so. ... Returning to Bloomington, things were back to normal: the deer and the rabbits are in full possession of my garden, Ms. Hogg gave birth again under my deck, and there is no flora left. This was the Year of the Mouse, who decided to take up residence in my stove, but succumbed to gluttony (peanut butter). But Lindisfarne mead will be served at this year’s PIGSTII!”

Tracy Alan Hall writes, “My projects over the past year included a number of articles published and submitted, as well as talks presented in Albuquerque, Barcelona, and Berlin. In June, I taught a weeklong class in German phonology at the Phonology Fest here in Bloomington, which had as its *Schwerpunkt* the phonology of Germanic languages. More recently, I had the opportunity to teach a weeklong seminar on the phonology-morphology interface at a summer school for linguistics in Zadar, Croatia. At the Indianapolis International Airport, the American authorities confiscated the herbal toothpaste I had purchased five days earlier at Bloomingfoods. Despite the initial setback, I successfully found my hotel in Zadar, which was situated in a maze of narrow streets in the old part of town. The main building at the university is right on the Dalmatian coast, just a few meters from the water. Teaching there was a wonderful experience, although it was very difficult because the rooms face the sea, so it was very easy to look outside and become distracted by the waves.”

Esther Ham: “Another year went by quickly: a good start with a new record of students in the first year (24), and it has been so busy that it feels like fall 2005 is ages ago. Language classes are always fun to teach, and in spring I’ve very much enjoyed teaching a class about painters and writers of the Dutch Golden Age — especially appropriate in the Rembrandt year: his 400th birth year. Besides a conference of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies in Albany, N.Y., and a short visit to the Netherlands for some research, the summer was mainly dedicated to developing course materials for a book for the third year of Dutch, with the help of a grant from WEST.

“We started this new academic year with three (!) people working for the Dutch program. AI **Meaghan Goff** will teach first year

also and help out in my large (first-year) class. For the second year in row, a Dutch intern, **Maaikje Besselse** from the University of Groningen (NL), will help out during fall semester, learn about teaching a second language, and be active in all aspects of the Dutch program. New for IU, and very exciting for me, is that we started a third year of Dutch. We started with eight students, and we have 55 students in all three years combined. Who knows, maybe Dutch will not be a ‘least commonly taught language’ in the future. In the summer of 2007, IU will again host the Dutch Summer Institute, hopefully with many students!”

Ingeborg Hoesterey much enjoys Harvard’s Widener Library. A recent article, “The Interarts Experiment in Early German Film,” was published in Gail Finney’s collection *Text as Spectacle. Visual Culture in Twentieth-Century Germany*. She contributed a biographical essay on Marlene Dietrich to the *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender* edited by Fedwa Malti-Douglas. At the GSA in Pittsburgh, she gave a paper on *Café Elektric*, a 1927 Viennese film, featuring early auto-reflexivity of the cinematic code.

Dov-Ber Kerler tells us, “Apart from teaching and two more Yiddish ethnographic expeditions to Eastern Europe (in Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine), there were a number of talks and lectures on Yiddish ethnographic work, contemporary Yiddish poetry, and living remnants of Yiddish songs and traditional folk drama (in Columbus at Ohio State University; in Bloomington at ‘The Writer Uprooted: A Conference on Contemporary Jewish Exile Literature’ at IU; in Seattle at a conference on Yiddish theater at Washington University; in Moscow at a conference on Yiddish language and culture in the Soviet Union at the Russian State University for Humanities; in Tel Aviv at the inaugural intensive Yiddish summer program at Tel Aviv University; and in Jerusalem at the local Yiddish Culture Society). In addition, a paper of mine on certain fiction modes of Isaac Bashevis Singer’s stories was published in Italian translation in *Ricordando I.B. Singer*. In the summer, a new volume of my Yiddish poems appeared in Jerusalem. A very brief review of it by Leonard Prager came out in the online Yiddish literature and language bulletin, *The Mendele Review*.” (You might like to see it and test your appreciation of Yiddish verse: [ed.]

“Boris Karlov [English pen-name Boris Karloff] — don’t let the name frighten you — is a very special breed of poet. Son of an accomplished poet, he both continues his father’s tradition and invents his own. More so than his father, he is a natural-born globe-

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Faculty notes

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trotter, linguistically and poetically at home in Moscow, Jerusalem, Oxford, Washington — and Bloomington! Despite his tribute to Menke Katz — “*S’hot mikh Menke gelernt/ Zikh bafrayen fun di gramen,*” Karlov is an adventurous rhymmer — he revels in rhyme. He has no difficulty in coupling *oybn-on* and *Vashington* and is not abashed by rhyming the blatant Americanism *olrayt* with *tsayt* in a poem ‘*Blumington harbst,*’ which opens with the trite *A simfonye fun farbn* but improves with the playful *Bleter, bleter, bleter faln / Mit yedn fal vert alts farfaln / Mit yedn ris vert alts farlorn / S’faln bleter — metaform.* The latter poem also reveals the poet’s excessive fondness for phrases like *mutter-naket* and *tsvaygn-tsiter*. He crosses borders easily — consider *shure: sinecure* — and can play with homonyms: *Derzen di shtern / Un farkneytsht dem shtern*. One hears Frostian and Eliotic echoes in *Kh’bob lib dem fal fun ‘letste’ bleter* (‘*Prolog*’) and *Lomir bald aroys tsuzamen / beyde ikh un du* —, but he generally turns them to his own purposes. The chief subject of this new collection is poetry itself, and the poet ceaselessly meditates on the wonder of composition. The central poem of this slim [103 pages] volume may be *A lid iz nit stam azoy...* (‘A poem is not just as it is...’).

Gergana May: “After a crazy year of giving birth to two babies — my dissertation and my daughter Kalina — it was a relief to settle into a more steady position: assuming the role of the new Norwegian program coordinator. And I hit the ground running! I currently teach two levels of Norwegian to 17 undergraduates and one graduate student, and I am continuing with the Norwegian coffee hour and film series. In addition, I have become a member of an interdisciplinary faculty group on campus dedicated to the advancement of Scandinavian studies at IU and am busy organizing the ‘official opening’ of the Norwegian program, an event that will include a lecture by a Norwegian academic and an exhibition of posters dedicated to Ibsen. Stay tuned! My current research is primarily focused on Ibsen, and I will teach a course on his oeuvre in the spring. I am a native Bulgarian and have lived in Seattle for the past nine years: yet another University of Washington graduate amidst the Germanics population! We are currently house-hunting and enjoying the cooler September “Seattle temperatures” in Bloomington.

William Rasch writes, “As Frank used to sing, it was a very good year! I don’t really measure happiness by miles traveled, but I do enjoy the miles. Shortly after the last newsletter was sent out, in December 2005, I flew to Coimbra, Portugal, for a very enjoyable conference on public spaces and communication. This past summer, my wife and I spent seven weeks at the University of Konstanz, where I was a visiting scholar. While there, we traveled to Aarhus, Denmark, Zürich, Rome, and Berlin, where we were guests at the wedding of **Andrew Mills**, MA’03, and **Rachel Bachmann**, MA’03, two of our current graduate students, and saw former graduate students **Kris Vander Lugt**; **Angela Holzer**, MA’04; and **Christian Kanig**, MA’02 (Max Kade Fellow 2003–04). In Rome, we visited with a dear old friend of mine (since high school), an artist who was a fellow at the American Academy of Rome. He took us on a five-day, whirlwind art tour of the city. In Denmark, I was the outside member of a dissertation committee. The defense was formal and public, with nearly 100 students and faculty in the audience. I was favorably impressed, and we have formalized our most recent dissertation defenses and have encouraged our graduate students to attend. The highlight of the entire stay, though, was World Cup fever. I’ve never seen Germany and Germans so relaxed about being German, a truly refreshing experience. It didn’t hurt that the German national team exhibited an open, offensive-minded, and joyous style of play that made them winners and champi-

ons even in technical ‘defeat.’ In August, I spent two weeks on my sister’s houseboat in Seattle, helping her recover from an auto accident. The weather was beautiful and we decided that red wine and fresh air were the best *Heilmittel*.

“Last spring, I taught an undergraduate course (in English) on European identities (from El Cid to the 19th century) in which I had many honors students from the School of Business. It was a joy and a shame — the students were the joy; the shame is that, as some freely admitted, their talents were under-exercised in their professional classes. One young woman, a direct admit into the business school, marveled that this class was the first one she had taken that felt like a ‘collegiate’ course. Given how short on time I was and under-prepared I felt, that was a sad statement.

“*Bombs Away: Representing the Air War over Europe and Japan*, co-edited with former student **Wilfried Wilms**, MA’96, PhD’00, appeared in 2006 as volume 60 of the *Amsterdamer Beiträge zur neueren Germanistik*. We are now at work on a new edited volume on postwar ‘rubble films’ that will include a splendid article on *Berliner Ballade* by Claudia Breger.”

Eberhard Reichmann: “While no longer living under the dictum ‘Publish or perish!’ (*Wer schreibt, der bleibt*, in my translation), I keep spending most of my day — if I don’t go swimming — writing/editing/translating both German-American materials and *Schwäbische G’schichte von hueba und drueba*, plus. My 700+ pp. anthology on *The Hoosier German Heritage* will be done next year. (When I did the 500+ pp. *The Teaching of German: Problems & Methods*, I said I’d never do anything of that length. Now ... but that’s the last time, promise!) Ruth is equally active in matters German-Americana.

Benjamin Robinson says, “My biggest news is the birth on July 19 of Jenny’s and my son, Lewis Matthew Robinson, who is rapidly growing into a playmate for his eager big sister, Tilly. On the academic front: I taught a course that mixed avant-garde film and cultural history to introduce students to technology and modern Germany via the Autobahn and Volkswagen. My graduate course on the Weimar Republic was an intense and rewarding immersion into the *neue Sachlichkeit*, and my excellent students carried their intellectual energy forth from last fall into this fall’s ‘Living Weimar’ workshop (more next *Newsletter*). Our exploration of Helmut Lethen’s *Verhaltenslehre der Kälte* was rewarded by one of those wonderful, only-in-Woody-Allen appearances of Herr Lethen himself as our Max Kade Professor this year. In the spring,

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Germanic Studies

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Faculty notes

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I taught a course on film and law, which ended with students filming their own courtroom dramas. A CAHI fellowship gave me time to finish my book manuscript, *Other Systems: Alternate Germany, Socialist Modernity*. I'll update you next time about its fate. Several articles and book chapters either appeared or are forthcoming, on Weimar, Weimar in exile, memory and justice, and socialism and ontology.

Rex Sprouse tells us, "On July 1, 2006, I was officially promoted to (full) professor, and since August 2006, I have been professor of Germanic studies and second language studies. While Germanic studies remains my home department, 50 percent of my teaching is now in the Department of Second Language Studies, a new department of which I am a co-founding member. The new department has arisen through the renaming and restructuring of the old Department of TESOL and Applied Linguistics. We are only the second department of second language studies in North America; the first one is at the University of Hawaii. A central structural feature of the new department is the existence of 'bridge faculty' like me, with joint appointments in language departments with linguistics PhD programs. Our goal is to cultivate mutually beneficial relationships among departments in order to provide students interested in second-language acquisition with an optimal education.

"Of course, I continue to teach linguistically oriented courses in the Department of Germanic Studies, and I continue to serve as director of undergraduate studies. This past summer, I directed IU's summer program in Graz for the fifth consecutive summer, and I hope to achieve summer six in May–June 2007.

"This past year, I gave invited lectures at the University of California at Davis and at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. As I await the publication of papers on the L2 acquisition of negation, L2 acquisition and creole genesis, the syntax-semantics interface in English-French interlanguage, and the 'bankruptcy of the stimulus' in L2 acquisition; revise a paper written with Professor Kevin Rottet (IU Department of French and Italian) on the historical development of tag questions in Welsh; and finish a paper on the morphosyntax of the German genitive with **Dorian Roehrs**, PhD'06, I am turning my attention to a new area of research: the development of a principled theory of third-language acquisition. I hope to be able to report to you on my progress in the 2007 *Newsletter*.

"In December 2005, I traveled to Utrecht, not only to deliver a lecture, but also to participate in Sharon Unsworth's *promotie* (highly ritualized Dutch dissertation defense). I have known Sharon since my days at the University of Durham in fall 2000, and it was a great pleasure for me to serve as an external reader of her dissertation. Closer to home, I am proud beyond words that during the period February through July 2006, three of my advisees in the IU Department of Germanic Studies successfully defended their PhD dissertations: **Dorian Roehrs**, PhD'06; **John Durbin**, MA'97, PhD'06; and **Chris Sapp**, MA'01. All three have teaching positions at reputable institutions. Clearly, with outstanding representatives such as these, Germanic linguists trained at Indiana University will play a central role in Germanic linguistics in North America and around the world in the decades to come."

Johannes Türk: "The transition from Berlin to Bloomington proved smoother than the contrast might suggest and was eased by the fact that I had established a second life in New Haven, Conn., during the three years that I worked and wrote my dissertation at *Freie Universität Berlin*. I have been looking forward to settling in with Estela, and only occasionally the *Fall ins Jetzt* interrupts the newly gained routines and makes me wonder how I found my way from, say, *Hackescher Markt* in Berlin to the farmer's market in Bloomington. Memories from a childhood spent in Siebenbürgen added to my acclimatization a tint of homecoming. I am glad and honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the flourishing of a department that is as energetic, distinguished, and unpretentious as ours.

"Besides the work on my book project on "Immunity in Literature, Theory, and Medicine," I work on a special issue of *Germanic Review* on "The Undead" that I co-edit. My own contribution consists in a study of the way in which Kafka and Proust try to immunize themselves in their last writings against their imminent death. I also am engaged in expanding a paper on 'Italian Visions' I presented at the Mediterranean Studies Association in Genoa this May — a first attempt to think about the rhetorical figure *Topographia* I am interested in. I look forward to several invitations during this coming year: I will give a lecture on the way in which immunology influences our way to think about the meaning of 'future' in Zurich, and I will contribute thoughts on Siebenbürgen to a seminar on empire. But more than anything else, I look forward to teaching our graduate students. And when I saw the enthusiasm with which a young man at Big

Red asked me if I taught Kafka's *Verwandlung*, I also look forward to the impact I hope my teaching of undergraduates will have."

Stephen Wailes says, "My monograph on Hrotsvit of Gandersheim was published early this year, and a couple of months later, with fellowship funds from the Mellon Foundation, I made a six-week tour in Germany, visiting libraries I thought would hold 16th-century plays. The trip was very enjoyable and reasonably fruitful. It took me to cities I had never visited before (Erfurt, Zwickau, Magdeburg) as well as to familiar ones. In Wolfenbüttel, my path crossed that of **Cornelia Moore**, PhD'71, retired from the University of Hawaii and living in Berkeley, and in the Frankfurt airport with that of **Howard Pollack**, MA'90, PhD'98, and **Deborah Milgate**, MA'93, and their children. Howard is tenured at Wabash College.

"At the start of this year, I decided, out of the blue, to write 10 or 12 lines of verse every day, which at the year's end I will print from my computer and put in a file on one of our bookshelves for future generations. This has been a lot of fun to do. Here's a sample, written during the five-hour wait we all enjoyed in Frankfurt while our airplane was being patched up. It is number 155, 'Departure Gate.'

*Each of the sheep
has a tattoo
inside its ear.
Some have two,*

*one in each ear,
and a stud in each hoof,
and a tag on the tail.
That is enough*

*for the good shepherds
to know them, and then
show them their places
inside the pen.*

For **Marc Weiner**, 2006 was both peripatetic and fun. While teaching two undergraduate courses in the spring on "Liebe, Ha?, und andere Fantasmen in der deutschen Kulturgeschichte" and "Tradition and Innovation in German Literature," he gave two papers, one on "Schnitzler's Dream-Music" at the American Comparative Literature Association in Princeton in a "stream," or three-day seminar devoted to the study of non-Freudian dream interpretation and aesthetics, and the other for the Wagner Society of America, Chicago (titled "Why a Mime Can't Hear, and an Ape Can't See"). Marc spent two months in Germany this summer, June in Hamburg

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Alumni Notes

Graduate news

Paul Anderson, PhD'74, writes, "With my children back in France and Sweden, I finally opened my *Alumni Newsletter*. First I was pleased to see there would be a powwow of grads at a time when I could attend, but then sobered by the suggestion that anyone whose degree is over 20 couldn't be trusted. I'm sure I'm not the only one who would appreciate some reassurance that we numerous grads from the '60s and '70s would not be regarded as party-crashers if we were to show up in March.

"Meanwhile, with technology 'in' again, my *Technisches Englisch* courses at the *Fachhochschule Aalen* are once more full of refreshingly unintellectual young (95 percent) men willing to look at language as another kind of machine. My translation work may be picking up, too. On the scholarly front, four Fontane articles, two each in '04 and '05, appeared in *Lili, Jahrbuch der E.T.A. Hoffmann Gesellschaft, Seminar*, and the *Neue Wernigeröder Zeitung*. In September '03, Manfred Durzak asked me if I'd like to publish a collection of my past production, but since my work is always in progress, I chose to update everything instead. Scarcely had I gotten things together, when a book appeared on Fontane's health history written by an M.D., thus causing a year's delay. Those who knew me while I was dissertating in '73-'74 may guess why: after all these years, this information allows me to prove that I wasn't crazy, just high, when I declared that Fontane chose his day of death many years in advance. This information also helps explain why he hid a parallel text involving his short-lived illegitimate daughter in a whole series of novels written in the 1880s. In both cases, thanks to media technology, it wasn't necessary to reread the *Gesamtwerk* to find the evidence: once you have found the key words in the game, all you need to prove exclusive intent is the CD-ROM. Eat your hearts out, *Destrukteure*: hard-nose interpretation is here to stay, harder than ever before imaginable! The title of this, my second book, is *Der versteckte Fontane und wie man ihn findet*, and it will appear in the S. Hirzel Verlag, Stuttgart, some time in March (they said).

"For the true scholar, life begins when his contemporaries are retiring."

Fred Betz, MA'67, PhD'73, tells us, "After seven years as department chair, I have decided to retire on July 1. I could return to full-time teaching, but at this

point I would prefer to return to more of my own research and writing (while I still have my wits about me).

"I wrote my dissertation on Fontane under Henry Remak's direction and kept in contact with him until a few years ago (ca. 2001). Although I must confess to negligence when it comes to reporting on myself, I read with interest about others in the department newsletter, and in the issue last year, I saw photos of Henry and Ingrid from the double retirement party."

Elizabeth G. Bridges, PhD'05, is a visiting assistant professor of German at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark.

William G. Brown, MA'51, writes, "When I arrived at IU in the spring of 1950, Hubert Meessen was chair and I had classes with professors Jaeger, Fuerst, and Velten. Henry Remak was riding herd on the graduate teaching assistants, of which I was one. It was a very exciting time. After finishing my work at IU, I taught German at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Mo.; the University of Kansas at Lawrence; and at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am happy to still be part of the greater family of Germanic studies at IU."

Jeanette Clausen, MA'66, PhD'75, has retired from her years of teaching and administration at Fort Wayne and is looking for a new career to start.

O. Thomas Crane, MA'00, is a civilian human resources specialist for the U.S. Navy at the Washington Navy Shipyard.

Ernestine Dillon, BA'78, MS'80, MA'83, PhD'98, writes us from Sandy Hook, Conn., about visits to Germany: "Our church choir went to Rome, Ravenna, Assisi, Padua, and Venice. ... Then we went to Germany and visited the pope's birthplace. ... We may go on another church musical tour to Europe, and I hope it is Germany. We are real happy here and have lots of friends through the church choir and the German club choir."

Myra Heerspink Scholz, MA'69, PhD'93, writes, "We are doing well: Bernhard with his volunteer work in the hospital and old-age home, a pottery course, and some scholarly writing; I with my translating, teaching, painting bits and pieces around the house, and gardening; Nick with his routine of sports, volunteer work, committee work, and, most recently, cartoon drawing for various newsletters. Who knows, he just might get syndicated one of these days."

Patrizia McBride, PhD'98, writes, "Last year I spent my sabbatical in New York City with **Brent**, MA'93, PhD'00,

who has a tenure-track position at Hunter College. In June, our first child, Giovanni Salvatore, was born. All three of us are now back in Minnesota — Brent is on paternity leave and happy to take care of Giovanni while I resume my teaching duties at the University of Minnesota."

David W. Rutledge, BA'74, MA'76, writes, "Well, I never cease to be amazed at the longevity and youthful appearance of the Pantheon of Ballantine Hall. It is good to see pictures of people I knew in my university days and who had such an influence on my life. It truly brings back a flood of memories. I continue my teaching at the high school in Oakdale [in Minnesota] and have taken on teaching German evening classes at the University of St. Thomas. Our school's exchange programs in Essen and Berlin remain active and successful on many levels: We celebrated the third exchange marriage in June 2004; and the St. Paul Pioneer Press ran a short story on the 30th anniversary of the exchange program in

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Faculty notes

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with the support of a short-term faculty exchange fellowship from IU, and, as he does every year, he spent July in Bonn with his 9-year-old daughter, Madeleine, with whom he went on a short trip to Baden-Württemberg (it turns out that Madeleine is no fan of long walks through the Black Forest). During a visit in March, Marc had taught an English class in his daughter's grade school, whereupon the teacher invited him to stay with her and her partner when Marc visited in July; when he arrived, he recognized her partner as Sebastian Münzer, an actor whom he had seen six years earlier as Prinz Friedrich von Homburg in a production in Bad Godesberg and as a principal in *Der zerbrochene Krug!* The world seems to be getting smaller all the time. Back in Bloomington, Marc taught two courses in the fall on "Adaptation" and was invited to present a paper ("Primordial Sounds") at a symposium on "Wagner's Ring in Context," jointly organized by the Canada Opera of Toronto and the University of Toronto, in conjunction with a new production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. The participants were given the option of accepting an honorarium, or accommodations for a week and four tickets to the entire musical-dramatic cycle. Marc spent the week in Toronto!

Graduate news

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Essen. We continue to take students to Germany every summer and host a group every year. My daughter accompanies the group (she's in a different high school) and is becoming quite familiar with Germany and German language. Otherwise, I continue to live out my linguistic fantasies: [I am] still making it to Iceland occasionally to brush up on my Icelandic; and last summer I spent three weeks on a farm in southern Russia to relearn Russian. I was on a 'deryevnya' not far from Rostov-na-Donu, made it to the Black Sea for four days vacation, and bused 12 hours up to Volgograd, aka Stalingrad, to see relics of another period. I was amazed at the level of rapprochement between Russians and Germans there, including a relatively new *Soldatenfriedhof* for the German soldiers who fell at Stalingrad — once an inconceivable idea. I lived in one of the poorest areas — it reminded me of my trips to Mexico but the poverty was in some ways even more pronounced: Everyday we dug potatoes and vegetables and once a week killed chickens to provide food for the week. So that's the news from here. Greetings to everyone from the '70s."

Eileen F. Savage, MA'87, has been appointed executive director for major gifts at the Indiana University Foundation.

Jill S. Smith, MA'99, PhD'04, tells us, "I moved to Brunswick, Maine (20 miles north of Portland), in early August to begin my first tenure-track position in the German department at Bowdoin College after spending three years as an assistant visiting professor at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. Bowdoin is a small, high-quality liberal arts college with nearly 2,000 students. I'm teaching a new course on the 19th century called Realism and Evolution, working on articles and a book manuscript, and trying to find time to sample the local seafood and explore some of Maine's rocky beaches. It's stunningly beautiful up here, and I love my new job!"

Rick Thorman, MA'69, writes, "I had to tell you that I enjoyed the fall 2005 Germanic studies *Alumni Newsletter*. The photos of the faculty present at Terence Thayer's retirement reception were especially enjoyable. It is wonderful that the corps of professors dating back to my years as a student at IU (1968–71) can still enjoy socializing as friends. You all still look great, too. My fondest memories of IU involve the courses and contact I had with you (WZS—ed.) and with Frank Banta.

"My third wife and I are about to celebrate 13 happy years together. The 1990s found us in the Iowa–Illinois Quad Cities,

Tom Bonfiglio awarded endowed chair

Tom Bonfiglio, PhD'84, writes, "Things are going very well at Richmond. My current book project is *Mothers, Tongues, and Nations: The History and Construction of the Native Speaker*. I've found that the locutions 'native speaker' and 'mother tongue' first appeared in the early modern period and were constructed by the nationalisms of the waxing nation state. These nationalisms created the idea of languages as organisms. I hope to finish it next year."

Last year, Tom reported some good news, but, unfortunately, it came just too late to be included in the *Newsletter*. All of us will be pleased to know that Tom was awarded an endowed chair by the University of Richmond (Va.) and is now the William Judson Gaines Professor of Comparative Literature and Linguistics.



The provost of the University of Richmond, right, announces the awarding of an endowed chair to Tom Bonfiglio, PhD'84, who is now the William Judson Gaines Professor of Comparative Literature and Linguistics.

where she earned her doctorate in chiropractic at Palmer University. We are back in St. Petersburg, Fla., now, where we each have a living parent and a sister named Barbara, and Bev is running a private practice in parallel to her position as manager of a corporate personal injury clinic.

"After a 13-year career in various technological jobs, I returned to a sort of academia in 2002, the nationally accredited, proprietary sort. I went from adjunct instructor of network administration to a dual administrative role (evening 'deputy dean' and online student service coordinator) on the staff of a dean of academics at Florida Metropolitan University. I am now an adjunct instructor in the schools of Information Technology and Electronics Engineering at the Tampa campus of ITT Technical Institute.

"In 2003, when I became an administrator, I was working online on a second master's degree, in information technology. In 2004, I abandoned that in favor of a regionally accredited doctoral program in business administration with a major in management at Argosy University's Tampa campus. I enjoy the courses, but I do not

know if I have the passion to write a dissertation. Argosy's faculty is marvelously supportive of dissertation writers, so maybe I can work up the enthusiasm to go crazy for 18–24 months. Bev says she'll support me. My next career trajectory adjustment — in 2006 — will be from technology instructor to business instructor. The former wears me out staying one jump ahead of the students. With the doctorate, I could probably transition to MBA program instructor in non-proprietary, i.e., real, academia."

Morris Vos, MA'67, PhD'75, reports, "After serving a term as chair of the department of foreign languages and literatures at Western Illinois University (where I've been since 1971), I have now returned to the faculty and have a full and heavy teaching load in German. I very much valued my experience as chair and loved the work. Now I love my teaching as much as ever, if not more. One of my immediate plans is to direct a brief travel-study credit-bearing course to Berlin in spring 2006. This short-term program is jointly administered by our department and the Center for International Studies at Western Illinois University.

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Graduate news

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I conducted similar trips during the May inter-session in 2002 and again in 2004.

“But, the ‘Trajectories’ in March 2006! Wow! Reading about it in the current issue of the *Alumni Newsletter* is the first I heard of it, but I certainly want to make plans to attend. What a wonderful occasion it will be. I have to cancel an opera ticket in Chicago and make some other drastic moves in order to permit my attendance in Bloomington, but I will do what I can (as I always have done!).”

Then in June, following “Trajectories,” he writes, “It was such a pleasure to be with you earlier in the spring of this year for the Trajectories Conference. With that format your department developed an excellent means of launching new members into the wider professional world by featuring their presentations in the context of the continuing faculty members, emeriti, and alumni. Thanks to the Department of Germanic Studies for accommodating all of us at that time and for the fine presentations themselves.”

Ray Wakefield, MA’67, PhD’72, reports, “This year the dean has asked me to chair Asian languages and literatures [at the University of Minnesota]. It’s an exciting new department (established in 2000) with young, bright, productive scholars and teachers. They’ve been very kind in working with the most underqualified chair they are ever likely to encounter.”

Pat Whitehurst, MA’76, MS’79, died Dec. 21, 2005. She and her husband, **Werner Ehlenberger**, MA’80, had been living in Tempe, Ariz., alternately working, building a cabin in the desert, and hunting for some country they had not visited before.

Undergraduate news

Elizabeth Brandes, BA’93, writes, “After completing the BA in German and French, I spent a year in Bonn on the Bundestag Internship Program, where I worked with MdB Rainer Eppelmann of the CDU. (Historical sidenote: Eppelmann was the last East German *Verteidigungsminister* prior to German reunification.) I completed an MA in German as a TA at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1998, including a year on a University of Regensburg fellowship. I then went to work for Bank One, eventually directing Bank One’s (and later Chase’s) national marketing efforts for student loans. After six years, I moved to Phoenix to develop and manage the student-loan marketing team at Southwest Student Services Corp., an affiliate of Sallie Mae Inc. I very recently accepted another position in Indianapolis within Sallie Mae’s

newest division, Sallie Mae International, where I serve as director of business development for the company’s international education lending efforts. And yes, the German and French language skills do tend to come in handy occasionally! Feel free to e-mail me at elizabeth.brandes@slma.com.

Leonore Hardy Dvorkin, BA’72, authored her second book *Why I’m Glad I Had Breast Cancer*, published by Wildside Press in 2005. In addition to writing, she is a tutor of German and Spanish, a translator, and a weight-training instructor. She and her husband, David, BA’65, who is also a writer, live in Denver. They have a Web site, www.dvorkin.com.

“For many years,” writes **John Fisher Gray**, BA’84 (Hamburg Program ’82-’83), “I have been a little amused that my major was officially ‘Germanic languages’ when I only studied German. Now I’ve finally put the ‘ic’ in ‘Germanic’: I’m learning Flemish (Dutch) in Belgium, where I now live with my family. I’m working as the head of human resources for Basell’s Polyolefins Europe and global Advanced Polyolefins businesses. This work often takes me to our locations around the world, including Germany, so I get to practice. My wife, three children, and I are enjoying life in Europe. Our son attends a Flemish school for children with autism and other developmental disabilities; our daughters attend the International School of Brussels. My wife and I were founding members several years ago of the Autism Society of Delaware, and we continue our support from abroad.

“We attribute our success to the leadership skills we learned at IU from the U.S. Army.” For the first time since graduating, three ROTC cadets, **Rebecca M. Freeze**, BA’88, Jeffery S. Yarvis, BA’88, and Tom Seifert, BA’88, were reunited during Operation Iraqi Freedom despite serving in different capacities. Lt. Col. Freeze is the G-3 for the 3rd Corps Support Command. Maj. Yarvis (who received a Ph.D. last year from the University of Georgia), is the civil-military operations officer for the Multinational Corps Iraq surgeon. Lt. Col. Seifert is the deputy G-1 for MNCI.

Here are some excerpts from a newspaper article about **David J. Hahn**, BA’03: “When 24-year-old Dave Hahn was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma last summer, the first thing he did was log on to the Internet. After reading up on the facts and figures of his illness, he started searching for more personal content: first-person stories from cancer patients like himself. He came up practically empty. So Hahn, a professional pianist who grew up in Elgin, decided he would try to add something to the discussion. He started his own cancer Web log, or blog, titled ‘Chronicles of a Cancer Patient.’

He also produced podcasts, or downloadable audio files that can be played back on a computer, about his chemotherapy treatments. ‘When you actually get diagnosed with cancer it’s such a personal thing that you kind of want to see what it was like for other people to go through,’ Hahn said in an interview. ... But Hahn’s story has not just left a lasting impact on the Internet, where he said more than 250 people downloaded his first podcast. The Children’s Theatre of Elgin (Ill.) also said Hahn has left an indelible mark there through performances he did as a child and through his work at the theater as an adult. The theater dedicated its annual gala benefit to Hahn, and all proceeds will go to help pay his medical bills. Hahn’s strong character is evident in his blog, where he expressed a mostly positive outlook despite his draining chemotherapy treatments. Hahn’s friends said his bravery and positive attitude were inspiring. ... There is more good news. This fall, Hahn scratched the word ‘patient’ off the title of his blog. It now reads ‘Chronicles of a Cancer Survivor.’”

Jennifer L. Morgan, BA’88, is the director for the global climate change program at the World Wildlife Fund in Berlin. The program is present in more than 30 countries. Morgan writes, “I use my German all the time and love it!”

Tina G. O’Donnell, ’96, reports that she teaches German at corporations and the University of Detroit Mercy. She also teaches English as a second language at Language Center International. She lives in Livonia, Mich.

L. Lazarre Ogden, BA’86, Res’97, attended medical school in Louisville and completed residency training in anesthesiology at IUPUI before moving to Salt Lake City, where his wife was training. They have been there ever since. He is the residency program director at the University of Utah.

Nicholas Vazsonyi, BA’82, reports, “I am now both director of German studies and graduate director of the whole Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (that’s six graduate programs in all). My volume on Wagner’s *Meistersinger* (University of Rochester Press, 2003) went paperback last year (2004). I am currently working on a book about the ‘Wagner Industry.’ Meanwhile, our second child, Benjamin, was born just over a year ago.”

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From the chair

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or her research and teaching. I have named the series, much to the chagrin of some of my colleagues, the *Tombstone Lecture Series* because, as I put it in my introduction to the first presentation, whether we believe in the immortality of the soul or not, professionally we are “pagans who think of the afterlife in terms of what we leave behind when our bodies have returned to dust and ash. I suspect, in other words, that immortality comes down to reputation, and reputation comes down to the memories of those who choose to remember. It is important, then, to stop and take time to chisel a few reminders in stone to excite the curiosity of coming generations. ... We are here to hear what each of us would like to see written on our professional tombstones, epitaphs that explain why we do what we do, that explain what we hope to leave behind to colleagues and students in the profession and thus maybe, just maybe, to the world at large. We are here to reveal to ourselves and others our intellectual formations and commitments, the drive that has made each of us a scholar in the broad area of Germanic studies and not lawyers, carpenters, or business managers. We are an unusually active group of scholars with nary a pterodactyl or raptor among us. Each of us wants to know what the other does and why she or he does it in this way and not that. We neither search for agreement nor celebrate disagreement. We simply seek a better understanding of the breadth and depth of the department and hope for unexpected if limited and forever shifting affiliations to emerge.”

Marc Weiner was the first to present, which is fitting since he has been in the department longer than any of the rest of us. He not only gave a lucid account of his own intellectual formation, but also spoke of the changing and changed nature of the discipline over the past 20 to 30 years. Speaking without a prepared text, Marc presented the past and the present of his and our professional lives with a level of clarity and precision that was breathtakingly impressive. It was a perfect beginning for this process of institutional — but above all human — self-clarification and understanding.

— William Rasch

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