



Germanic Studies

Fall 2012

Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

Old Hats Out - New Brooms In

My four-year stint as Chair of our department ends in June 2013, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you – colleagues, students, staff, emeriti, alumni, and friends of department – so very much for the support and help I have received during my final term as Chair. I have decided not to seek re-election, because I believe it is time for a change of regime. The past four years have provided me with an incredible ride, be it soaring sky-high or driving on a bumpy road. But now it's time to say goodbye to the Kari-Bill-Kari era (2000-13) and to hand the keys of department over to the younger generation. Pending approval from the College, **Fritz Breithaupt** will take over as Chair of the department, and **Johannes Türk** will be the next Director of the Institute of German Studies (**Michel Chaouli** is stepping down as of December 2013). **Ben Robinson** has already replaced **Rex Sprouse** as the Director of Undergraduate Studies. One of my very last duties as Chair will be to oversee an external departmental review at the beginning of March next year. Our last review took place in the spring of 2001, during my first year as Chair, and this time around 'the veterans' will work hand-in-hand with the younger guard to assess the state of the department and to plan for the future. As Bill will testify, during the past thirteen years there have been nu-

merous moments of joy and occasions to celebrate in our department, as well as the throwing of keys and books, the breaking of telephones, and the use of very foul language (Bill and I are Scorpios...). I think we both agree that the pleasure of chairing the department has by far outweighed the pain, because, during these years the department has become one of the top German(ic) departments in the nation. Colleagues pulled together and worked hard, sacrifices to the gods of administration have been made, but if asked – Was it worth it? – one can only answer: YES!!

This year we welcomed three new graduate students (all Max Kade Fellows), namely, **Brittney Amendolia**, **David Bolter**, and **Elliott Evans**. We were very pleased that they decided to join us, and they are all thriving and are well integrated into our graduate student population. That is also the case with our other new Max Kade Fellows, **Anselm Chen** (Comparative Literature) and **Volker Schmitz** (Political Science). Our Distinguished Visiting Max Kade Professor this autumn is Professor **Frauke Berndt** from Tübingen, who is teaching a successful graduate colloquium while her son is attending Bloomington South.

Last spring our department co-hosted (with English) two large international conferences running concurrently, the eighteenth Germanic

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Grüße aus Bloomington!

a message from editor Julie Lawson

Already another year has passed. Here in Bloomington, as in so many other places, we are still talking about the easy winter and the record-breaking summer heat. As you will read, our faculty, emeriti, alums, and current students are running strong in spite of the weather. They have traveled, attended conferences, published books and papers, created new opportunities for study and fellowship, and welcomed new challenges both professional and domestic. We hope you enjoy reading about their accomplishments and adventures as much as we've enjoyed collecting them.

If the newsletter has a theme this year, it might be the wonders of the technological world. Last year was the first time we distributed an electronic version of the Germanic Studies Newsletter, and as a result you will hear from several alums who responded to the "Let us hear from you" func-

tion. Furthermore, at least two alums tracked us down simply by way of one internet search engine or another. You will also learn from **Nicole Langjahr** that the German House is now on *Facebook*. And not to be outdone, the

"If the newsletter has a theme this year, it might be the wonders of the technological world."

Department also recently launched the IU Bloomington Germanic Studies Department *Facebook* page! The page has only been up since October, but has had a good start. Look us up and – of course – "like" us to follow news and

events connected with the Department all year long. Of course, we still have our own very active spot in the Indiana University website, <http://www.indiana.edu/~germanic/>.

If you are among this year's contributors, thank you for staying in touch; if you have not yet sent in an item, please consider doing so in the coming year! We welcome all means of communication, from smoke signals to hyperlinks.

On a personal note, I can happily report that I am back in the classroom again for Germanic Studies and back again as German diction coach with the IU Jacobs School of Music Opera Theater, this year with Franz Lehar's "Die lustige Witwe." How much fun can one person have? I am truly fortunate.

So please read on, let us know what you think, and stay in touch!

With warmest greetings,

Julie Lawson, MA '68, PhD '80
juklawso@indiana.edu

Letter from the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC-18) and the seventh Studies in the History of the English Language conference (SHEL-7). Both arrangements were very well attended, and I think we set a new record of graduate student presenters – a total of eight current graduate students presented and, in addition, one of our undergraduate students gave his very first conference paper. We were also very happy to welcome back our alumni, **John Sundquist**, **Dorian Roehrs** and **Chris Sapp**, for this occasion, and the I.U. presence was indeed highly visible (and loud).

This autumn we are launching a new initiative, 'The German Studies Undergraduate Conference', spearheaded by **Fritz Breithaupt** and **Michel Chaouli**. This is a workshop in which about twenty undergraduate students, largely seniors enrolled in North American colleges and universities and working in German studies, will engage in two distinct, yet related projects; presenting samples of their academic work for critique and discussion, and learning about the professional opportunities in German studies. Aside from the invited undergraduates, the workshop, featuring our own alumna, **Patrizia McBride** as keynote speaker, will include our students and faculty. In

this way we hope to raise the visibility and awareness of German studies in the U.S. and secure the infusion of new blood into the field that we all care about so very much.

Once more I would again like to extend my thanks to all of you, and as always, a resounding round of applause to the editor of this newsletter, **Julia Lawson**. I don't know how she does it, but in addition to editing the newsletter, she has now de-retired for the third time and is teaching for us once again. And now, I'll stop: it's time to say 'Goodbye'.

~Kari Gade

Paul Anderson (PhD, 1974) checked in last fall to let us know that all is well in Aalen, where he lives and works as a freelance writer and translator. His most recent article "Theodor Fontane und Philipp zu Eulenberg. Der Briefwechsel 1880-1890" appeared last year in the *Jahrbuch für brandenburgische Landesgeschichte*, 62. Band. Otherwise Paul reports his wife Gisi is planning her retirement, and son Richard and daughter Marlene are enjoying success

on a regular basis, but enjoy my work nonetheless."

Claudia Bornholdt (PhD, 2001) reports that she has been awarded tenure at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Since January 2012, she is serving as Chair in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. She also started a program in European Studies for which she is the program director.

Jeanette Clausen (PhD, 1975)

and French in Newport News Public School. We both retired in 2001, and live across the James River in Surry County." We also heard from **Ronald Horwege (MA, 1968, PhD, 1971)** in response to last year's newsletter: "After a serious illness in 2009 that left me in the hospital for four months and for which I underwent four operations, I returned to my teaching in 2010 and am now in the middle of my 41st year at Sweet Briar College. I have no serious thought about retiring. I was recently reelected to serve a second term as President of Delta Phi Alpha German Honor Society and I continue to work with the Center for Liberal Arts as the University of Virginia as coordinator of a Spring Workshop for German teachers. I plan also to offer at least one more Immersion Weekend for German Teachers in April and one more Summer TPRS Workshop this July. I am especially excited to teach a course in History of the German Language in our Spring Semester. I am always very happy to return to Germanic Linguistics!!"

Through the magic of the internet, we've gotten back in touch with **Eva-Maria Janke-Nagler (MA, 1982)**, and her husband **Jörg Nagler**. They live in Jena, where Eva-Maria works as a freelance editor and translator, and Jörg serves as Professor of North American History at the *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität*. Eva writes that they had a wonderful sabbatical year at Oxford and in Paris, that the family is all well, and that she thinks often of her time in Bloomington and her friends at IU.

Susan Peters (MA, 1966) sends a hello from Overland Park, KS, where she is Adjunct Assistant Professor at Johnson County Community College: "I continue to teach in the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program at JCCC, and on occasion have been drafted to teach German as well. I'm also a prose editor for Kansas City Voices, a local literary/arts journal, and have had poetry and prose published online and in print. Can't decide if I'm primarily a writer or a teacher, and trying to do both well."

(Continued on next page)

Alumni News

in their professional and personal lives. Paul sends his greetings to all.

Bonnie Becket (PhD in Comp Lit, 1977; MA in German 1978), now at home in Arlington, VA, wrote in response to last year's newsletter: "I retired in 2010 from a 25+ year career at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. My last position there was as a Strategic Planner for our team of 175 analysts in 5 offices around the U.S. I'm enjoying having much more time to read, spend with my husband, walk our two Siberian huskies, garden, and share time with our granddaughter and three daughters."

Jeannine Blackwell (PhD, 1982) sent this in a few weeks ago: "I'm still deaning at University of Kentucky. Husband Michael retired in January, and daughter Bettina is a senior at Pitt. She's studying abroad in Morocco this fall, and is applying to grad school in international affairs, using her French, Arabic, and Spanish. Michael and I are visiting her in October. We can't wait! Casablanca, here we come!"

Natalie Brown (BA, 2008) writes: "I am currently working in Chicago with the Albany Park Community Center teaching both ESL and ABE (Adult Basic Education) as well as serving as the Adult Literacy Program Assistant for our evening/Saturday programs. I sadly do not get to use my German

has resigned from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she spent the last five years, and returned to Bloomington. After a few months here she will leave again in January 2013 for a two-year Peace Corps assignment in Thailand, in a program called Teacher Collaboration and Community Service. She's looking forward to learning the Thai language and working with Thai teachers of English. She remembers: "For years, I've been saying that I wanted to learn a non-European language, so now we'll see how that goes." If you want to receive notices, starting in 2013, of her blog posts about the Peace Corps assignment, email her at: jaycee0740@gmail.com.

Barbara (Frame) Eger said very kindly: "Thanks for your work in keeping alumni informed of people and events in the Germanic Studies Department and Indiana University. My husband and I were at I.U. from 1964-68. There are only a few people in Bloomington now whom we knew. I married **Waldemar Eger** in 1965; we were at I.U. till the summer of '68, when we left for Chapel Hill, N.C. He completed his Ph.D. in 1970. I finished mine in 1971. In 1975, we moved to Virginia, where he taught at the College of William and Mary for 26 years. I taught at various levels, finally settling in as a high school teacher of German

Alumni News (contd) **M a r t h a (Marty) Rohlfing (PhD, 1976)** sent us her greetings last winter from suburban Chicago: “My IU friend **Charlene Soby (AM, 1975)** just forwarded me the newsletter. Hope all is well with everyone in Bloomington. I retired from the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office at the end of 2010 so now have a full year of retirement behind me, which included trips to California and Colorado, plus 2 weeks in Martin, Slovakia, where I volunteered two weeks teaching beginning English to young adults, followed by a few days in beautiful Krakow, Poland.”

Fredericka Schmadel (AB honors German, MA German 1968, 1969) retired from the Dept. of State, Foreign Service and now resides in Evansville, IN. Last year’s newsletter also brought this note from someone else we hadn’t heard from for quite some time, **David Scrase (PhD, 1972)**: “I am an alumnus (PhD, 1972), who thinks constantly of good times in the department at IU. My biography of Wilhelm Lehmann was just published by Wallstein. After nearly forty years at the U. of Vermont in Burlington, I finally retired in 2009. I now divide my time between Burlington and Chebeague Island in Maine (in Casco Bay), where I am a wood-turner and woodworker. Last year I, as did many other local crafts-people, produced many items (bowls, vases, bracelets, etc.) for sale at the Yarmouth Clam Festival. The wood (elm) was from Herbie, the venerable Yarmouth elm (1793-2010), that finally succumbed to Dutch elm disease and had to be felled. As for *Germanistik*, I am now trying to get my Bobrowski book translated into German for publication

in Germany, and am writing the odd article. After thirteen years as director of Holocaust Studies at UVM, I stood down from that position just before retirement. Although having had a

And closer to home, **Wendy Westphal (PhD, 2010)** sends both a note and a photo: “As always, the year has been a busy one, and the coming year promises to be even



The “Museum Panel” at the 2012 GSA Conference in Milwaukee: Dana Weber (PhD, 2010), Christine Lehleiter (PhD, 2007), Andrea Meyertholen, Wendy Westphal (PhD, 2010) and Madhuvanti Karyekar

double total knee replacement last year, I am in relatively good health and am thoroughly enjoying retirement.”

Nicholas Vaszonyi (BA, 1982) sends his greetings from the University of South Carolina: “I was promoted to Full Professor in 2010 and appointed Jesse Chapman Alcorn Professor of Foreign Languages in 2011. My book *Richard Wagner: Self-Promotion and the Making of a Brand* (Cambridge UP 2010) will be coming out in paperback and in German translation (*Richard Wagner: Die Entstehung einer Marke*) with Koenigshausen & Neumann in 2012. I am currently editing the *Cambridge Wagner Encyclopedia* in collaboration with 84 scholars from around the world.”

busier. I am now at Marian University in Indianapolis in a full-time capacity and wearing (or juggling?) three hats as Asst. Professor of German, Department Chair and Director of Study Abroad. So far, I am enjoying the work immensely as it offers a lot of variety and also gives me a chance to put my passion for study abroad into action. Our three boys, Marcus, Toby, and Alex continue to give us great joy and their German ability makes their “teacher” parents proud! I attended the GSA in Wisconsin this fall and immensely enjoyed catching up with a group of IU grads over some Milwaukee ale!”

News From Our Current Graduate Students

We didn’t hear from many of our current graduate students, but based on the sample we can share with you, we can see they’ve been busy.

Our first contributor to this section is the newest: **Brittany Amendolia** writes: “New to Bloomington and grad-

uate school, I am enjoying exploring all the opportunities offered. These include but are not limited to-- the silly thrill of somehow getting lost walking someplace new that should have only been two blocks away, finally getting to say *I’ve been to the Kinsey Institute

*(and having the mug to prove it), and experiencing class discussions so rewarding that it is surprising when the two and a half hours of class time is up.” **Christiane Kaden** reports: “I presented a poster at MidPhon 17, a linguistics meeting, at the University of Illinois at

Grad News (contd)

Urbana-Champaign in October 2011, and I gave a presentation at GLAC 18, held at IU, last April. I received this year's E.O. Wooley Award and taught at the summer program in Graz this summer. I also serve as the Graduate Student advisor to the newly-founded undergraduate German Club since the fall of last year." We asked **Silja Weber** to give a report on the new teaching workshops initiated by our grad students and currently managed by Silja: "The mini-pedagogy workshops started last semester, we have 3 per semester, each about one hour long, and they are cooperatively organized. They were inspired by the supportive teaching atmosphere we are blessed with here (from **Susanne Even** and other 'senior people' as well as our own mutual collegiality and support). The aim is to encourage each other (AIs) to think about our pedagogy beyond the usual daily prep, to get

"the silly thrill of somehow getting lost walking someplace new"
-Brittany Amendoli

conversation going (even more than usual), and hopefully to spark motivation to read up on pedagogy-related research once in a while. Each session focuses on one specific topic; first we have about ten minutes of initial presentation by a volunteer from among us (relating to research literature or to how things are done in different textbooks). This is followed by discussion about our own perspectives on the topic, questions, and the sharing of experiences, including the sharing of class activities we have used or would like to experiment with. I just keep the organization going, first, because I want it to be there, and second, because it inspires me to read related materials. We usually meet the first week of the month, dates and times change with the presenter, but are announced. All are welcome!"

Class notes from the IU Alumni Association

**IUAA Class notes are divided into
graduate and undergraduate categories*

Graduate

Daniel I. Landis, MAT'71, of Indianapolis, is a retired schoolteacher who taught German and English at Mishawaka (Ind.) High School and Warren Central High School from 1963 to 1995. He writes, "I keep busy doing part-time substitute teaching in a local high school; reading books and newspapers in German; reading my Bibles in German, English, Hebrew, Greek, and Dutch; keeping up with Pennsylvania Dutch; studying Yiddish and Yiddish annals; studying the correlation of English, Hebrew, and German; studying the lives of men of the Reformation and the Anabaptist movement up to the present time; and much letter-writing."

Undergraduate

James C. Ruwaldt, BA'93, MLS'97, is a cataloging clerk at LAC Group in Washington, D.C. LAC Group began in 1986 as Library Associates Companies and has grown into a multifaceted professional services firm, providing library, legal, information, and research staffing, consulting, project management, and asset management services. Ruwaldt lives in Washington, D.C.

Sandra Brickley West, Cert/BA'94, is a process improvement manager for First Mercantile Trust in Cordova, Tenn. She has been married to her husband, Michael, since 2004 and the couple's first child, Isabella Grace, was born in February 2010. West lives in Somerville, Tenn.

Kyle T. Kramer, BA'95, is the author of *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in*

Work, Prayer, and Dirt, a candid, humorous, and hope-infused tale of coming to know oneself and God. Kramer is a writer, farmer, and lay ministry program director. He is the founder of Genesis Organic Farm in Spencer County, Ind., and the director of lay degree programs at St. Meinrad Archabbey, a Benedictine monastery, seminary, and graduate school of theology in southern Indiana. Since early 2009, Kramer has been a regular contributor to *America* magazine. He lives in Lamar, Ind.

Alex J. Fowler, BA'98, writes that he completed a Master of Arts degree in foreign languages and literatures at Colorado State University in 2002. He currently teaches German and English at Greenway High School in Phoenix, Ariz., and is also Greenway boys' soccer junior varsity coach. Fowler lives in Glendale, Ariz.

Sally Hulett Hubbard, BA'99, JD'08, is president of Adams Hubbard Legal Solutions in Carmel, Ind. The company works with law firms and businesses to find employees who are matched to client needs, including searches for permanent and temporary attorneys, paralegals, legal administrative assistants, law clerks, and executive legal recruiting. Hubbard is an attorney licensed in the state of Indiana. During law school, she served as a Program in Law and State Government fellow and led a symposium about public health policy and its relationship to laws and regulations. She also served as a Congress-Bundestag Scholar and studied abroad for a year in Hamburg, Germany. Hubbard spent several years working as a legal research specialist on a health policy team at a research university, where she reviewed and analyzed hundreds of legal codes and comprehensive plans throughout the United States. Prior to law school, she worked in the health-care industry for five years. Hubbard has authored and co-authored law review and journal articles, and frequently speaks at legal and general conferences. She lives in Carmel.

Faculty Notes

Greetings from Current Faculty and Emeriti!

We begin as always with an update from **Frank Banta**, who knows good things come in threes: “When I look back at my report of a year ago, I note that 2011/12 did not turn out at all as expected. I have kept busy and enjoyed myself most of the time, but have not spent my days as constructively as one could wish. (Good Heavens! Am I still a crypto-Presbyterian?) Three things have been new. Although I have retired three times, it has always been to turn immediately to a new occupation. This has been my first year of real retirement. And I miss the regularity of work, study, or both. Second, I visited a new country, Guatemala, where I saw beautiful lakes and mountains, met some charming people, and heard a Mayan dialect spoken. Third, I’ve spent more time trying to improve the world, although without notable success. Most exciting, I served as a Monroe County delegate to the state Democrat convention in Ft. Wayne. I worked a shift at our county table, helped elect three delegates to the national convention, and participated in the nomination of our candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. I have not looked seriously for a new job, of Mayan I learned only a new consonant, and at writing I do not know how the upcoming election will turn out. We’ll see.”

Peter Boerner has been busy as usual: “In May, my wife Nancy and I crossed the North Atlantic on the Queen Mary 2 from New York to Hamburg. Then in Frankfurt at the *Goethe-Haus* I gave a lecture on Ernst Beutler, who was director of that institution for almost four decades. My biography of Goethe, published by the Rowohlt Verlag, came out in a revised edition, with a total of 314,000 copies now in print. I continued to serve on the endowment committee for the Remak Fellowship of the Institute for Advanced Study and on the board of the Friends of the Lilly Library, as well as an evaluator of applications to the Wells Scholarship program.”

And from **Claudia Breger** we learn: “Last year around this time, I was rather optimistic that I was on track for a

relatively peaceful time in my professional life, just having gotten the *Narrative Performance* book accepted and successfully tackled the challenge of getting my (tiny) car equipped with a kayak-suitable roof rack. Alas, I was very wrong. Shortly thereafter, I was approached by the Gender Studies faculty about taking over as their department chair, and when - after appropriate soul searching; or so I thought - I ended up consenting, my fate was sealed. So this past summer was pretty crazy; between learning the ropes as an administrator in the age of advanced university bureaucracy, putting my own promotion file together and dealing with the actual production of the book (copyediting, proofs, indexing!), the kayaks have suffered some neglect. And now it is already fall again! But, of course, there were some fun moments, too: presenting at the Narrative Society, ACLA and, here in town, Cultural Studies conferences in the spring, for example, and now teaching a graduate course this fall on a topic related to my own current research interests: “Complex Affectsapes,” or the interplay of affect and distanciation in independent transnational cinema. And as I write these lines, I am off to another conference in Vancouver, and then the GSA - that counts as relaxation, doesn’t it?”

Fritz Breithaupt writes: “What is new? Well, I am thinking about new things. Somehow I stumbled into a new area of thought, that I am rather naive about, so I am walking around in this large field, and it turns out to be a field full of mines: morality. Now I go back and forth between the extremes. In the spring, I published a book in which I suggest that narration developed from the need to make excuses and to avoid morals (*Kultur der Ausrede*, Suhrkamp 2012, stw 2001). Now I am working on a book that stresses the opposite: Morality strikes back. In other news, my youngest son is now in school and I have shifted my life and writing back to daytime. It is pretty sunny out here. I even have time for sports again. This summer, I participated in the “people’s race” of

the Tour de France and got to cross the Tourmalet and other passes in the Pyrenees.”

Troy Byler reminds us: “As you may recall, last spring our department submitted four undergraduate “Do Deutsch!” projects to the German Embassy in Washington D.C. I am delighted to inform you that our student, **Melissa Moeller**, received second place and a travel voucher to Germany for \$3000. Her original song parody, “German Influences in America” can be found at: http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/11_Campaign/Do_Deutsch_GIC_CW/WinnersCampusWeeksDoDeutsch.html. Now an official part of the program, the Lotus Festival School Orientation, which is coordinated in part by our department, brought in almost 200 high school students to attend the Friday evening performances. And this year, as part of the orientation, the students learned how to dance the *Schuhplattler*, with varying degrees of success.

Our concurrent enrollment program in German, administrated by the Advance College Project (ACP) here at IUB, has grown. We now have 15 trained German high school instructors throughout the state. This year in addition to the existing programs I will be making new site visits to Clark HS, in Whiting, Ben Davis HS, in Indianapolis, and Oak Hill HS in Tipton. As I mentioned at this year’s CIC meeting (Big 10+2) for Germanic Studies in Madison, Wisconsin, it is this type of advocacy, the direct support of primary and secondary instructors and their students, which is most crucial in maintaining an active academic department at the post-secondary level. If we falter in this endeavor, our pool of undergraduates will wane, and so too will our graduate program suffer. **Brigitte Wagner** and I are in the planning stages to extend the IU-DEFA project back into the high schools this coming spring semester. Once again we hope to bring together high school students and filmmakers in order to demonstrate the bilateral benefits of open dialogue. And lastly, I will toot my own

Remembrances

horn a bit. This year I was awarded the AATG Indiana Chapter German Teacher of the Year, College Level and am currently up for IFLTA Teacher of the Year, which will be awarded at the annual conference in November. These accolades are only made possible, because of the continued support that I receive from both our department and from the graduate students in all things outreach. Thank you!”

Michel Chaouli reports on a new summer abroad program: “One of the things I worked on last year was setting up new summer program for undergraduate students in Berlin. The idea was to teach a full IU course, in English, in Berlin. The city was to be not merely the backdrop for the course but its central theme. Last June, I taught the course for the first time. It was on the ways the city both memorializes and forgets its recent past (starting in 1871). This was an intense and pleasurable experience for all of us. I hope the program becomes an enduring way this University opens paths of knowledge into German culture and history.”

Kari Gade shares another “wild” adventure: “This was the year of the chipmunk. It all began on an ominous note at the beginning of May when I was attempting to plant my annual impatiens in the little mound of earth next to the door that leads to my study. As I broke ground, a deep and loud growling noise arose from said mound, and I flew backwards and landed very hard on my rear end in the concrete of the driveway, spade in hand. As a Norwegian, I am, of course, quite familiar with mound-dwellers, but to my mind this must have been a tiny and an extremely angry one. I did not know at the time that Mrs. Chip Munk had taken up residence in the mound and decided to people my entire property with her offspring, but that became abundantly clear as a legion of little Munks began to emerge from the newly planted impatiens. Since the members of this particular family apparently do not have a problem with engaging in incest, they have continued to multiply, and my neighbors’ barking dogs (yes, they are still barking) are of no help here at all. If anyone has a big, mean, and hungry cat for rent, please let me know! I escaped five weeks of the scorching Bloomington summer by relocating to Norway,

John Antosh (PhD, 1977) of Dunkirk, NY, died April 16, 2012. He was 68. From 1970 to 1982, he was a faculty member in German at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Bard College, and Syracuse University. He retired from SUNY Fredonia in 2011. Dr. Antosh loved teaching, and was much admired by his students. Survivors include his wife of 41 years, **Ruth Beharriell Antosh**.



Dr. Dorrit Cohn, who was among the early tenured female professors at Harvard, where she taught for 24

years and was the Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Literature emeritus, died March 10, 2012 in her Durham, N.C., home of complications of Parkinson’s disease. She was 87 and had moved to North Carolina from Cambridge, where she lived for nearly 40 years. She retired in 1995. Born in Vienna, she and her family fled before the Nazi invasion of Austria and lived in Switzerland and France before settling in New York City. She received her PhD from Stanford University. Dr. Cohn taught at Indiana University and was granted tenure before moving to Harvard.

where it rained cats and dogs (but no chipmunks) for my entire stay, and I had to look in the mirror every morning to check whether I had developed gills. The rain continued during our annual skaldic editing meeting, which was held in Aarhus, Denmark, but it did not put a damper on the mood of the participants, because we are now finally ready to launch the next volume (in two parts) of the skaldic edition. The volume off the rack after that is my own volume, and I am looking very much forward to returning to research (and teaching) upon my retirement as Chair of our department. This semester I am teaching my undergraduate course on ‘Vikings and Sagas’, and the students are just wonderful. They appear to be genuinely interested in the topic, many of them produce graduate-level written work, and, *Wunder des Wunders*, I haven’t caught any of them

texting in class. So maybe there is hope after all... Speaking of which, please don’t forget the summons that are out for that hungry cat!”



Esther Ham and **Bieneke Haitjema**, bring us the latest “Dutch Duo News”: Before taking a break from teaching and classroom responsibilities after the end of the Spring Semester, Esther began her summer by taking a course at the Institute for Designing Online Courses. This training was part of a grant she had received from IU’s Center for Innovative Technology and Teaching and the College of Arts and Sciences to develop an online language class. In it, Esther proposed to augment the Dutch program at IU with a third-year online language course, which will put the Dutch program in the forefront of Dutch language programs at US academic institutions. In June, both Esther and Bieneke at-

tended the 3-day biennial conference of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which included a one-day workshop for Dutch language instructors. Esther gave an invited presentation on the difficulties of translating idioms, titled "How to keep your head above water when wading through idiom", which was well received. Apart from further developing the online course, Esther spent time tending her vegetable garden and orchard during the second part of the summer break. Bienenke traveled through the state of New York and visited the Hudson River Valley, the area that formed the heart of the New Netherlands colony operations in the seventeenth century. The hot summer ended with an earlier than usual start of the 2012 Fall semester showing bumper crop enrollments not only at IU in general, but also in the Dutch program. This resulted in an increase in the number of students in both the first and second year Dutch classes. We continue to offer a third year language course in Dutch, taught by Esther, and several culture classes. This semester Bienenke teaches the Modern Dutch Culture class on Anne Frank in which many students who are pursuing a Dutch minor are enrolled.

We look forward to the continuation of a vibrant Dutch program that offers courses for first, second and third year students of Dutch language and culture, as well as a Dutch minor for students at the undergraduate and doctoral level.

Albrecht Holschuh sends his greetings: „When I stepped away from teaching eleven years ago, the focus shifted to life beyond the campus. Besides remaining involved in the League of Women Voters and other non-profit organizations, I now devote most of my time to early election administration in our county. There also was a stint on a township board this year. I am learning more about our society than one could within the university, but all the reading, thinking and teaching over the decades has given me the best tools.”

Hildegard Elisabeth Keller reports on another very busy year: „Wieder ist ein Jahr um, das die Qual der Wahl (was soll ich erzählen?) nicht kleiner gemacht hat! Erzähle ich vielleicht vom grossartigen Kalligraphie-Workshop mit Patricia Lovett in der Lilly Library

und von der kleinen, aber feinen Ausstellung der fantasievollen Doppelseiten-Arbeiten unserer Studierenden im letzten Spätherbst? Oder von der Preview unseres Films „Der Ozean im Fingerhut“ im IU Cinema letzten Dezember? Oder von den tollen Ideen, welche die Studierenden in den Kursen GERM E371 und Medieval Studies M490 im Frühling entwickelten? Ihre Semesterprojekte zum Thema „How to merchandise a medieval concept?“ reichten von Filmen über Board Games bis zu T-Shirts; es entstanden 12 kleine Meisterwerke. Und dann, ja, ein langer Sommer in Europa, mit Reisen u.a. nach Südfrankreich und in die Südschweiz. Auch wartete der Sommer wieder mit Erfahrungen als Literaturkritikerin am Fernsehen auf: In Klagenfurt kam es zu einem packende Finale um den Bachmannpreis; Matthias Nawrat, einer ‚meiner‘ Autoren, gewann den zweiten Preis. Im Mai und im Juni diskutierten wir im *Literaturclub* des Schweizer Fernsehens über neu übersetzte Klassiker (*Oblomow* von Gontscharow) ebenso wie über aktuelle Neuerscheinungen (beispielsweise die neuste „graphic novel“ des Kanadiers Chester Brown, auf Deutsch „Ich bezahle für Sex“). Ab September diskutieren wir weiter, gemeinsam mit Elke Heidenreich, Rüdiger Safranski und Stefan Zweifel (nach der Ausstrahlung online auf dem Videoportal des Schweizer Fernsehens <http://www.videoportal.sf.tv/>).“

Nicole Langjahr checks in: “The fall months of 2011 were quite exciting for me -- I presented on Teaching Business German to Intermediate Learners at the IFLTA in Indianapolis, my first conference presentation ever, and both the audience and I survived it. I also became founding member and faculty advisor of the new German Club which centers on student-led extracurricular activities. Then, at the end of the year, I learned of my promotion to senior lecturer. *Stammtisch* and our other German House events are still going strong-- I made the jump into the networking age by deleting 919 addresses from the old German House email list and opening up a Facebook group instead...join us at www.facebook.com/groups/germanhs/.”

And this from **Gergana May**: “It was another good year for the Norwegian program at IU, with maximum enroll-

ment reached once again in the first year class, and a strong group in the second. In the spring I taught the Multicultural North course for a second time and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. I am gearing up for another busy spring when I will offer Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature. I am also working on developing a new topic for next year - “The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen.” Spring also brought the news of my promotion to Senior Lecturer – very pleasant news, indeed– and I am very thankful to the Department for their support. In the summer I started working on my new research – comparing two very prolific contemporary Norwegian and Bulgarian writers - both creating “biographical fiction” and both tremendously popular in their respective countries. I conducted some interviews while in Bulgaria and am looking forward to presenting the first part of this research at an upcoming conference. At home I have a very active and busy first-grader who is also enjoying tennis, swimming, drawing and guitar lessons.”

From **William Rasch**: “Over the summer I was appointed the new director of the International Studies Program. In August, the Board of Trustees approved the comprehensive plan to establish within the College of Arts and Sciences a School of Global and International Studies. Our immediate job will be to transform the Program into a Department of International Studies with multiple undergraduate and graduate degrees. The Department will be the core of the new School and, with the area studies programs and language and culture departments, will be housed in a new International Studies building to be built soon (we hope). I am thrilled with and overwhelmed by the new job and the various tasks to be done. Nevertheless, I am still part of Germanic Studies and am teaching a graduate course on the theme of *Sachlichkeit* in the literature, reportage, political writings, and the visual arts during the Weimar era. Great fun. And, to semi-cite Ernest Hemingway: Hot it was that summer in Bloomington. In Bloomington it was hot that summer. That summer hot it was in Bloomington.”

Ben Robinson notes: “What’s made the past year so terrific for me is the

emergence of a new public in the US, globally, and best of all, here in Bloomington, where we have our own lively and protean Occupy movement. This activism has affected both my scholarship and my teaching. This past spring I taught a new course, "Introduction to Radical Thinking: Marx to MLK," for the College's Critical Approaches requirement. With the help of **Chris Chiasson**, we had a demanding and rewarding semester engaging both the Marxist philosophical tradition and the history of radical social movements. I was able to follow up that course with a new class in IU's Intensive Freshman Seminar program that posed the question "What Does it Mean to Occupy the Commons?" This class sought ways to define a concept of the "commons" in distinction to concepts of the state and the economy. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss political and cultural theory with an impressive group of undergraduate scholars and citizens, introducing them to, among other things, German critical theory. Meanwhile, my research into the semiotics of the index continues. Sometimes it seems to go at a snail's pace, but I like what I am discovering, and hope soon to be able to gather it together in a book. Here's the thought I'm grappling with now, courtesy of Robert Walser: "*Vielleicht wissen sehr viele mit der Freiheit deshalb nicht richtig umzugehen, weil sie ihre Leichtverletzlichkeit in Betracht zu ziehen sich nicht angewöhnen wollen?*"

Mark Roseman published a revised edition of *The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution* with the Folio Society, London, including a new preface. The 70th Anniversary of the Wannsee Conference led to a number of invitations in Europe and North America. He participated in a commemorative event in Berlin involving the President of the Federal Republic (one of the President's last events before resigning!), and the ensuing international conference organized by the House of the Wannsee Conference. He was also keynote speaker at commemorative conferences at the Universities of Sussex (UK) and Utah, and he gave the biennial Holocaust Education Foundation lecture at Northwestern University on the subject. As part of his new project on rescue in the Holocaust, he gave the annual lecture at the

German Historical Institute London, co-organized by the University of Oxford and the Institute, and was the keynote speaker at the international workshop "Resisting the Path to Genocide: Groups" held at University of Southern California, September 6-8, 2012. A panel at the biennial conference Lessons and Legacies on rescue and the left and a conference at IU on November 5th on rescue will follow later this year. In addition to these events, Mark also participated at conferences at University of Oxford and at the 49th *Deutscher Historikertag* in Mainz, among other meetings. **Rex Sprouse** contributes: "Let me begin with a research up-date. In 2012, "Direct Mapping of Acoustics to Phonology: On the lexical encoding of front round vowels in L1 English-L2 French acquisition" by Isabelle Darcy (IU SLS), Laurent Dekydtspotter, myself, **Justin Glover**, **Christiane Kaden**, Michael McGuire, and **John H.G. Scott** appeared in *Second Language Research*. The work of our second language phonology research group, currently composed of Isabelle Darcy, Laurent Dekydtspotter, myself, Danielle Daidone, **Christiane Kade**, **Franziska Krüger**, and **John H.G. Scott**, continues. In April 2012, we presented "Asymmetric development in lexical encoding of L1-English L2-German front rounded vowels" at Germanic Linguistics: The Annual Conference, held this year right here on the Indiana University Bloomington campus. Currently in press is the Cambridge University Press *Handbook of Second Language Acquisition*, which includes a chapter on the role of the argumentation from the poverty of the stimulus in generative approaches to second language acquisition, written by Bonnie D. Schwartz and me. Bonnie and I are currently working on a chapter on second language acquisition for the Oxford University Press *Handbook of Universal Grammar*. As of this writing, the student-faculty research group on the L2 acquisition of lexical semantics is poised to undertake a major data collection effort. This summer I presented a plenary address at the annual meeting of the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers, held this year at Indiana University Bloomington. This past year I introduced a new undergraduate course in the Germanic

Studies Department (Introduction to the Germanic Languages), while in the Second Language Studies Department, I taught Introduction to Second Language Acquisition and introduced a new undergraduate course (Acquiring New Language Systems). My eight-year term as Director of Undergraduate Studies ended in summer 2012; hence, I will now be teaching two courses per year again in Germanic Studies. Under my mentorship, **Robert Thompson** ("**Tommy**") **McCullough** completed his B.A. honors thesis on the acquisition of the syntax and semantics of ditransitive constructions by English-German learners this summer. Since this was my "summer off" from directing the Graz Program, I was able to visit Turkey in June. Not long after my returned, I embarked on a three-week 2500-mile odyssey across the Eastern United States. By now, however, I settled back into my life of research and teaching at the world's most wonderful university."

Johannes Türk sends us this: "I returned to Berlin twice last year: in the summer I gave a talk on the two components of Freud's fascinating notion "*Triebchicksal*," the second time in order to participate in an interdisciplinary conference on epigenetic, or "cultural", factors of inheritance to which I was invited by the *Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung*. The second conference taught me anew (in spite of its collegial and intense conversations) how large the divide between the sciences and the humanities are – especially in the German context, where the humanities are considered a "*Wissenschaft*." I also continued working on a project about the relationship between sovereignty and immunity that I will turn into a small book soon. I am also writing a longer article on language and rhetoric in Carl Schmitt's work. My teaching led me into new territory: I taught an undergraduate course on the cultural history of Germany in the 20th century and developed a course on injustice in German literature where I was surprised to see how many of our students enjoyed reading *Kabale und Liebe* or *Michael Kohlhaas*. Since late June, my professional concerns are accompanied and complicated by the amused, wondering, and curious eyes of our second daughter, who is now five

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Department of Germanic Studies

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Editor.....Julie Lawson

College of Arts & Sciences

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Newsletter Layout.....Jonathan Jenner



Germanic Studies



months old.”

Brigitta Wagner writes: “The past academic year began with an exciting project at the Kinsey Institute. Together with Max Kade Visiting Professor and filmmaker Dr. Monika Treut, I worked with a great group of graduate students to conduct research on the Institute’s film collection and to curate a program of shorts for the IU Cinema. I also presented work on filmmaker Angela Schanelec at the GSA, worked on “memoriescapes” at a conference in Basel, and curated a one-evening remixed film performance and audiovisual argument on the Palace of the Republic, *Bau/Rückbau*, at Program—Initiative for Art and Architecture Collaborations in Berlin. In January, I had the pleasure of conducting an AATG immersion seminar on film studies in 21st-century high school language and culture education and got to meet some of the dedicated German teachers from schools across Indiana. I also made stops at the *Berlinale*, continuing as *Film Quarterly*’s representative to the festival; the Society for Cinema and Media Studies

conference, where I organized a panel on critical media practice; the Midwest Symposium in German Studies; and the Telluride Film Festival, which had a good showing of German and Austrian cinema. Currently I’m finishing my book on cinema and urban nostalgia in Berlin after the *Wende* and editing the research volume from the IU DEFA Project. It’s been a busy year!”

At last but not least, **Stephen Wailes** reports: “For several years I have enjoyed working on a serious and thorough introduction to Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, one of those uncomfortable figures of German literary history who did not write in German but in Latin. We don’t know when she was born or when she died; some people have doubted that she really existed at all, despite the evidence of a large, parchment manuscript from the Middle Ages devoted to her work. Hrotsvit wrote short stories in verse and short plays in rhymed prose, and also two longer poems of historical content. She was an intellectual and, yes, a feminist. Our just-published book, *A Compan-*

GERMANIC STUDIES ALUMNI: WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

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ion to Hrotsvit of Gandersheim (Brill, 2012), frames her writing historically and makes a number of interpretive sallies into the many questions it raises. My own role in this undertaking was as co-editor, working with Phyllis Brown of Santa Clara University (whose idea it was) and a group of contributors from North America, England, and Germany. This work entailed translating a chapter from Latin (warm thanks to all who helped me along!) and another from German, and writing the historical introduction and the chapters surveying her plays and stories. Having published a monograph on Hrotsvit in 2006, I thought it would be easy to write these chapters, but it was surprisingly hard to rethink the material for comprehensive yet much briefer presentation. The last thing I did was to identify and propose the Ottonian work of art at the center of the cover design. To see this, and for more detail on the book, go to: <http://www.brill.com/companion-hrotsvit-gandersheim-fl-960>.”