

Germanic Studies

Fall 2013

Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends - We begin again!

This semester, I got to see the geographic reach of our program. We are no department at a Midwestern university. Rather, we span North America and beyond. At the latest conference of the German Studies Association in October 2013 in Denver, we organized an alumni meeting with our former PhD students. More than thirty people came, mostly PhDs from the past 20 years and some current students who hope “to do some damage” in the world soon. We heard great tenure news from quite a few of them, saw new books, learned about improved positions, and got to admire the youngest Germanist (Nora, daughter of **Roswitha & Todd Cesaratto**). People came as far as from England to attend (**Orsolya Kiss**, now lecturer at Oxford University). Some of their stories are to be found in this Newsletter.

Seeing all of our former students back in the room at the Baker Street Inn in Denver reminded me who we are: a crazy bunch of individualists, self-driven, each with his or her very own interests, projects, and obsessions. And yet we are people in constant conversation, bubbling with things to share, gossip & fun, held together by an intense, at times insane learning experience in our department, a unity of difference. In short: we are the

very people with whom you would like to spend a great evening in a Sherlock Holmes themed pub—and seven years in grad school.

Here are some administrative changes in the department. **Kari Gade's** long turn as chair has ended this summer. We are immensely thankful to her for her years of service—she has returned to her research and a monumental edition of Skaldic texts. She nevertheless has agreed to be our director of graduate studies. **Michel Chaouli** will pass on the baton of being director of the Institute of German Studies to **Johannes Türk** in 2014. We thank Michel for the many years he gave us.

What else is new in the department? Good and bad. Unfortunately, we lost out film professor **Brigitta Wagner** after a few years. She has decided that she wants to pursue a career closer to actual film making and moved to Berlin. On the positive side, our Dutch and also Norwegian programs are thriving--which allowed us to add a position in Dutch. Since the summer, we have two full-time positions in Dutch with **Esther Ham** and **Bieneke Haitjema** running the ship. We are very proud of our Susanne Even who was selected to be Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Teachers of German

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Grüße aus Bloomington!

a message from editor Julie Lawson

Once more we send news and greetings from crisp, colorful, autumnal Bloomington. We hope your year has been happy and productive. As you will read, our faculty, emeriti, alums, and current students are busier than ever keeping up with teaching and writing and projects, all in a veritable whirr of technological innovation and organizational buzz. Some folks have come back to town for visits, others have come together in far-flung places; some have discovered exciting new things along familiar paths, while others are finding common ground on some very new ones. They all wish to reach out to you, however, in our conventional and treasured way, and we hope in turn that you will let us hear from you again.

Our internet presence continues to grow with more and more friends visiting the German House and IU Bloomington Germanic Studies Department Facebook

pages, and checking in from time to time at our Indiana University website address: <http://www.indiana.edu/~germanic>. We're looking at an update of the site and would welcome your comments. And let's not forget our spot on the College of Arts and Sciences news site, <http://www.indiana.edu/~asnews/index.php>. If you have some professional news to share during the year, please send it along to me at any time, and I will post it on ASNews for you.

With all these opportunities to communicate, you'd think we'd know everything that everyone has been up to – professionally as well as socially -- but alas that isn't the case. If you are among this year's contributors, thank you for staying in touch; if you have not sent in an item, please consider doing so in the coming year! We welcome all means of communication, from smoke signals to hyperlinks.

As for me, after a lovely visit

to Berlin this summer for a family wedding, I'm back teaching, persuading my undergraduates that German literature is exciting and that an examination of contemporary German culture does indeed reveal some interesting things! We are grateful to the IU School of Journalism for facilitating a recent visit to the culture class by two very informative and personable RIAS Commission Fellows, who talked about to us reporting the news in Germany today. Also in October, I attended the 36th Annual meeting of the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA), held right here at IU. Busy times, fulfilling times. 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)

(AATG) in Indiana. This is quite an achievement and honor.

We have welcomed five new graduate students (all Max Kade Fellows) to our ranks: **Emma Kriss, Tyler Lear, Catherine Van Halsema, Arne Willee, and Juliane Wunsch**. The youngsters are an exciting group of scholars who are taking full advantage of our offerings already. Our Distinguished Visiting Max Kade Professor is **Ethel Matala de Mazza** from the Humboldt University, teaching a course on "Moving Scenes: On Affect and Drama." Professor Matala de Mazza also

presented a paper in a workshop "Moving Scenes: Affect, Drama, Film, Performance" in September organized by **Claudia Breger** with ten speakers from and beyond IU.

This is my first semester as chair, and I would like to thank all of you for your support, patience, and guidance in the transition. This is a wonderful department, and I am blessed to be in such good company. In fact, I am especially blessed that **Julia Lawson** continues to edit our Newsletter. Thank you, thank you, Julie!

Fritz Breithaupt, Department of Germanic Studies Chair



2013 IU Honors Program Krefeld Max Kade Awards to outstanding high school students: l.-r., Anneliese Furtner, Jordyn Alexander, Eric Wang, Kristen Schnell, Heather Otto last April.

Alumni News

First up of the alums checking in is **Jeanette Clausen** (PhD, 1975), who is not only the first, but also the farthest away: “It’s hard to believe I’ve been in Thailand for ten months and at my Peace Corps site for seven. I’m in a rural village of 3000 people in northeastern Thailand (Isaan) not far from Laos. I teach English at the local school. Our job as PC volunteers is to co-plan, co-teach, co-assess, etc. with Thai teachers so that we continually learn from each other, and so that teachers who need to improve their English get lots of practice. In the first term (May – Sept.), I co-taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grades with one co-teacher. In second semester (Nov. – March) I expect to work with her again and with a second English teacher as well, co-teaching at least one high-school level. I’ve learned a ton – not just about teaching younger students but about teaching in a culture with different values, attitudes, and expectations. I’ve written about some of these challenges in my blog, which you can visit at: jclausen-pcth.blogspot.com if you wish.

My struggles to learn Thai have given me compassion for what our students go through. I used to consider myself a good language learner but have downgraded that rating: I’m a good learner of European languages but Thai is a different kettle of fish. The unfamiliar alphabet letters turn into restless squiggles if you look at them too long. Thai sentences have no spaces between words and no punctuation at the end. The tones (there are five of them) give you multiple ways of saying the



Jeanette Clausen and new friend at the Grand Palace, Bangkok

wrong thing. But I’m not giving up! I haven’t traveled around Thailand much yet, but recently had a great visit to Chiang Mai (close to Myanmar). The photo of me is in Bangkok with a handsome statue I met at the Grand Palace.

Before you ask, yes, people in Isaan do eat bugs, as well as other, um, unexpected protein sources that I’ve avoided by being a vegetarian. They also eat lots of delicious highly spiced dishes that are quite different from what you get in Thai restaurants in the US. More than in Central Thailand, you get many kinds of greens and flowers, a wonderful array of mushrooms, yummy stuff with coconut and pumpkin (don’t snort, it’s good) and much more. Come visit!”

Thanks to Sweet Briar College News from which the following item about **Ron Horwege** (MA, 1968; PhD, 1971) is excerpted. We received the news too late to include in last year’s newsletter, but better late than never, we say: “**The**

Virginia chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German has created the “Ronald Horwege Award of Outstanding Service” in honor of a revered Sweet Briar professor. The award will be given annually to someone “for outstanding performance and dedication to the profession,” said AATG board member Dirk Johnson, who is chair of modern languages at Hampden-Sydney College. Horwege was chosen unanimously by the chapter’s board to be the first recipient of the award. The recognition is bittersweet for Horwege, who has spent much of his career promoting the German language at Sweet Briar and beyond. It comes after the College announced last spring that it will no longer provide German as a major or course offering on campus. Horwege came to Sweet Briar College in 1971 and has been in charge of the German program ever since. In 1983, he initiated the exchange program with the University of Heidelberg and six years later, he entered into a partnership with Vassar College and the College of William and Mary in managing the Summer Program in Münster. Horwege has served four terms as president of the Virginia chapter of the AATG and has also been president of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia. He has received many awards for his work, including a Certificate of Merit from the AATG and the Goethe-Institut and the Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Foreign Language Association of Virginia, both in 2003.

In 2004 he was the recipient of the first Cameron Fellowship

Alumni News (contd)

awarded by Sweet Briar College. Horwege still has two more years to go before the German program is phased out, but he's already making plans. Not surprisingly, those plans don't include retiring from German altogether: *"I actually look forward to some yard work, a lot of travel and also finding some way to continue working with German through some study and research in pursuit of my own interests and through continued work in the professional organizations, he said. I will also look for more volunteer work, perhaps working with illiteracy."*

Warren Haas (BA, 1970), now judge of Grant Superior Court 3 in Marion, Indiana, visited IU in October 2013 and gave an engaging and lively talk about empathy in legal practice. He writes: "Much of my success in life comes from my very positive experiences with the German Dept. while an undergraduate student from 1966 to 1970. Many professors made a lasting impression, such as **Herr Banta**, **Herr Piedmont**, **Herr Holschuh**, and others. The Jr. Year Abroad Program in Hamburg Germany was a terrific experience. During those years we also had a floor of Wright Quad and later the old Graduate Residence Center for people who wanted to speak only German."

Christine Rinne (PhD, 2005) is currently in her sixth year at the University of South Alabama, and recently applied for tenure and promotion. Summer 2013 she was one of fourteen Fulbright German Studies Seminar awardees and traveled to Berlin and Cologne.

Lorna Schofield (BA, 1977) was nominated by President

Obama in April 2012 to serve as a United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Her nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in a 91-0 vote, and she received her commission on December 13, 2012. Lorna Schofield is the first Filipino

American in the history of the United States to serve as an Article III federal judge. She came back to visit us in September to meet up with her professors, our Breon Mitchell and Albrecht Holschuh.

Steve A. Livesey (MA, 1967) sends greetings and some fond memories of his time at IU: "Dem damaligen Chairman Prof. Frank Ryder war es wohl zu verdanken, dass die Zusammenarbeit unter Professoren, Studenten, und Administration besonders fruchtbar war. Von der Humanität der deutschen Klassik durchdrungen, wirkte er positiv auf die Atmosphäre in der ganzen Deutschabteilung. Auch seine Vorlesungen ueber Goethe waren sehr beliebt. Grace Armour, seine Sekretärin, verbreitete grosse Hilfsbereitschaft und Freundlichkeit. Unter den Professoren, deren Klassen oder Seminare ich besuchte, waren: Prof Ferdinand Piedmont, dessen Schiller-Vorlesungen und sein Stilistik-Kurs mich sehr herausgefordert haben, aber das war gut so. Mit Begeisterung betreute Prof. Albrecht Holschuh die TAs und deren Lehrprogramme. Wenn ich mich richtig erinnere, leitete er jede Woche auch eine deutsche Konversationsgruppe, die allen Interessierten geöffnet war. In dem Proseminar von Prof. Eberhard Reichmann

wurden wir in die Germanistik als Fachbereich eingeführt. Prof. James Poag eröffnete mir eine ganz neue Welt in seinem Seminar in Mittelhochdeutsch. Mit seinem Kurs über "Deutsche Kultur" gelang es Warren Maurer, die Komplexität deutscher Kultur verständlich zu machen. Ich hoffe, dass sich die glückliche Konstellation, die die Abteilung für Germanische Sprachen in den Jahren 1966-67 beeinflusste, auch an anderen Universitäten in anderen Jahren wiederholen lässt."

Dorian Roehrs (PhD, 2006) writes: "I am on Faculty Development Leave this fall from the University of North Texas. I am working on adjective endings in the different Germanic languages. As part of this sabbatical, I returned for a while to Bloomington to work on Yiddish with Dov-Ber Kerler, who provided much needed help and advice. Another highlight of my stay was that I visited with my former advisors, Rex Sprouse and Kari Gade, and took part in their classes. In some ways, I felt like a student again. What a nice feeling! Many, many thanks to Fritz Breithaupt and Jill Griffin for helping with room and board. Thank you all for your wonderful hospitality and, boy, isn't Bloomington just beautiful this time of year?"



Class notes from the IU Alumni Association

IUAA Class notes are divided into graduate and undergraduate categories

Graduate

Jonathan E. Tweedy (MA, 2005;MIS 2008), is an advanced applications analyst at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He lives in Durham, N.C.

Undergraduate

David A. Frick (BA, 1977), is the author of *Kith, Kin, and Neighbors: Communities and Confessions in Seventeenth-Century Wilno*, published in May by Cornell University Press. The book provides a historical account of Wilno (Vilnius), which in the mid-seventeenth century was home to a bewildering array of peoples, languages, and faiths, and shows how the city's inhabitants navigated and negotiated these differences in their public and private lives. Frick is professor of Slavic languages and literatures at the University of California,

Berkeley. He is the author of *Polish Sacred Philology in the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation: Chapters in the History of the Controversies (1551–1632) and Meletij Smotryc'kyj*.

Karen Maronski Franks (BA, 1982;MLS 2001), of Bloomington, Ind., recently began her seventh year on the Monroe County Public Library Friends of the Library board, and her second as president. She is a University Division adviser at IU Bloomington.

Ryan S. McMeen (BA, 2007), studied Russian, German, Czech, and Georgian at IU, spending time studying abroad in Olomouc, Czech Republic, in 2005; in Freiburg, Germany, in 2005-06; and in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2006-07. He worked as a counselor at a Russian-immersion children's camp in Bimidji, Minn., and as a Russian teacher for grades 3–5 in Memphis, Tenn., before enlisting in the U.S. Army as a cryptologic linguist. After basic training, Mc-

Meen enrolled in the Defense Language Institute, where he studied modern standard Arabic, and then studied Pashto at Diplomatic Language Services. A sergeant in the Army, he makes regular use of his language skills in his job at Fort Gordon, Ga., supporting forces engaged in the war on terror.

Tarlise N. Townsend (BA/BS, 2012), who graduated from IU with highest honors and a dual degree in neuroscience and Germanic studies, has been named a Luce Scholar. Launched in 1974, the Luce Scholars program is a nationally competitive award designed to enhance an understanding of Asia for future leaders. Townsend is currently a visiting researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, where she is studying environmental decision-making and the role of psychology in policy-making. She plans to pursue a career in global and environmental health.

News From Our Current Graduate Students

We didn't hear from many of our current grads, but here are a couple few. You will have read a bit more about some others in the Faculty Notes.

From **Madhuvanti Chintamani Karyekar**: "Nothing spectacular happened last year. But thanks to last year's Oskar Seidlin Fellowship, I was able to get much of my writing done. I will be teaching this year, which I am very much looking forward to. I am also participating in some conferences that require me

to write on the themes which fall outside of my dissertation topic, which, I am sure, will be very invigorating. Oh, and Chinmay started riding school bus this year. He now goes to a pre-K program and is very happy about it, and so am I!"

Erin Noelliste caught up with us at the Department of Germanic Studies picnic in August: "I'll be in Munich this academic year on a DAAD Fellowship to work on gathering data for my dissertation. I'm working with a Bavarian dialect."



Faculty News

Greetings from Current Faculty and Emeriti!

Emeritus professor **Frank Banta** keeps in touch: “Only two things have been new in my life in 2012/13. I broke my arm and I became a year older. The arm healed nicely, but so far no cure has been found for my 95th year. Increasing age has made me the more aware, however, of something to be thankful for: how kind people are to me. There are the unknown students who picked me up from my icy way to the bus, and the unknown man who helped me stay upright the rest of the walk. There is the charming young Asian woman who reached across the aisle of the bus with a Kleenex and patted my moist nose. There are the numerous people who have patiently repeated information that I failed to understand the first time. My own family grows the more thoughtful as I grow feebler, but here I am speaking of strangers who see me only as someone whose need is increasingly apparent. I am grateful.”

Peter Boerner also sends greetings: “My essay “Ernst Beutler in Amerika” appeared in the *Jahrbuch des Freien Deutschen Hochstifts*. A new print of my biography of Goethe was brought out by the Rowohlt Verlag in Hamburg, and a revised version of the English translation came out at Haus Publishing in London. I continued to serve on the board of the Friends of the Lilly Library, as well as an evaluator of applications to the Wells Scholars program.”

Cheerful notes from **Claudia Breger**: “It’s been another busy, read: insane year. In my new role as chair of the Department of Gender Studies, I learned that each of the

associated responsibilities is quite manageable in and by itself, but the sheer amount of them (not to mention the daily email volume) remains overwhelming. At the same time, of course, I have tried to remain actively involved in the German department which shouldn’t suffer from the fact that so many of us have taken on administrative responsibilities in other units now. Thus, I was happy to organize a workshop on “Moving Scenes: Affect, Drama, Film, Performance” for and with our distinguished Max Kade visiting professor this fall, **Ethel Matala de Mazza**. At the same time, **Ben Robinson** and I are planning a larger, theoretically ambitious conference on “Engagements, Events, Energies: The Humanities Between Affirmation and Critique” for spring 2014, for which we have now teamed up with Cultural Studies also. (More interdisciplinary collaborations!) On the publications front, the *Narrative Performance* book finally came out in December, and I gave a few talks on it in the spring, both here and abroad. Other than that, various conference presentations and book chapter/article publications have drawn me more deeply into my new project on ‘Mixed Feelings’ in contemporary film, which I intend to fully flesh out as a book project for my sabbatical application to be submitted a year from now. (Yes, I am counting the days.) I may have also just gotten myself into promising a (small) German book on the topic of my current grad course, “Affects and Sexualities in 20th and 21st century culture,” for early next year. And yes, I still do a lot of yoga.

Otherwise, things would be even worse...”

Fritz Breithaupt writes: “My life got a little bit busier this year. On July 1, I started as Chair in Germanic Studies. A few days before July, I was also appointed Interim Dean in the Hutton Honors College. Luckily, I have a lot of wonderful staff members who usher me along the new lists of duties, especially **Jill, Michelle,** and **Sara**. Also, since I have just published my book on excuses (*Kultur der Ausrede*, Suhrkamp 2012), I get to put my research to good work. Excuses flow like milk and honey from my offices. If I had time to write more books, I would complete my book on “True Stories,” which is based on experimental work in my new lab with psychologist John Kruschke. And I would complete the English follow-up to my first empathy book, to be called “The Dark Sides of Empathy.” “

“It is always pleasant to be rewarded for one’s efforts,” **Troy Byler** tells us, “especially when it is completely unexpected. The AATG headquarters informed me this last April that I had been selected as one of 15 testing chairs to participate in a Sonderprogramm in Germany sponsored by the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst. When I first received the message, I reacted as most usually do to an unsolicited email promising an all-expense-paid trip, “Right. How many time-shares do I need to purchase?” I am happy to say that it was legitimate. A department of the Kultusministerkonferenz, which is under the direction of the German Auswärtiges Amt, the Pädagogischer Aus-

Remembrances

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Ingrid Remak this year. The following is excerpted from the Herald Times obituary: "Ingrid Remak passed away in her home on Sunday, May 26. In May 1939, just months before the beginning of World War II, Ingrid and her family arrived in New York from her native Germany. She quickly embraced her new life in America, met and married fellow Jewish refugee IU Professor Henry Remak (1916-2009) in San Francisco in 1946, and shortly thereafter first stepped foot

in her beloved Bloomington. Mother of four, grandmother of seven, and great-grandmother of four, Ingrid enveloped them all in her quiet devotion and abiding love. Her contributions to our community included teaching German to University Elementary School students, instructing English as a second language to adults, and accounting at Planned Parenthood. In 1963, she began a stint of 50 years of volunteer service at Bloomington Hospital, and could often be found at the local tennis courts, playing the game she loved."

tauschdienst supports the AATG summer visiting high school student program. American students of German who pay to participate or who are awarded one of 40 free experiences, stay with a German family for six weeks and attend the local Gymnasium. This last spring, the AATG Indiana Testing Committee that included our own **Julia Lawson**, Amy Norris, the ACP German instructor from Edgewood High School, and me, nominated two candidates for the award; both won. I was later told that nominating successful candidates was not a factor in the selection process for the Sonderprogramm participants, and the actual criteria were never divulged. You shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth, or otherwise you end up buying timeshares in Mallorca. Feel free to ask me about my trip and how I got eaten by the paternoster in the Auswärtiges Amt in Berlin.

Over the last few years there has been a steady rise in the number IUB campus visits by high school German instructors and their students. We must be doing something right, for many are returning year after year, with several of them also bringing along their visiting German exchange students. Often, in addition to visiting the Lilly Library to see the Gutenberg Bible and other priceless German tomes, and touring the IU Art Museum, time permitting, they get the opportunity to sit in on our undergraduate German language courses. Some groups request informational sessions on overseas studies for their American students and sessions on how to study at IU as an international student for their visiting German students. Our success in bringing in these groups is due to the willingness of our AIs

to open up their classrooms and the enthusiasm of our own graduate students to co-host and accompany the visitors. Thank you!

Lastly, it gives me great pleasure to inform you of our new outreach initiative, the German Theater Project for high school students. **Michel Chaouli** has been very diligent in his efforts to procure financial support from our sponsors, which are currently, the Max Kade Institute, IU Department of Germanic Studies, IU College of Arts and Sciences, German Embassy, and DAAD. We have a planning committee comprised of our graduate students who are working on the details of a one-day theater festival and competition on the Bloomington campus in which German programs from up to ten Indiana high schools present filmed versions of brief theatrical productions in German. These can be original short plays or adaptations. A panel of faculty judges will award the best productions. We will also conduct a training session for German teachers accompanying the students on how to integrate drama and theater into the German curriculum. The focus of the day will be on the stu-

dents and their theatrical presentations. They will also learn about opportunities for pursuing German in college and beyond. Our main goal is to encourage the vitality of German instruction in Indiana high schools. A theater festival and competition will put a creative project at the center of the work of German classes and German clubs in high schools, a counterweight to the test-driven atmosphere that nowadays prevails in schools."

Michel Chaouli reports on his year: "I began the last academic year by sticking my finger into a hornets' nest. I intervened in the debate in Germany on the circumcision of children by publishing a piece in Die Zeit, which unleashed several hundred irate commentaries. (I still receive angry responses from people evidently catching up on their reading.) Interesting experience. On the properly academic front: I put together a "stream" of four panels on "poetic thinking" for the GSA, all which were stimulating. A few articles appeared and a few others were completed. And I am now wearing yet another hat, that of director of the Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Human-

ities, which some readers of these pages may remember as the Center for High-Energy Metaphysics. Not too many dull moments.”

Kari Gade’s adventures continue: “This was the year of the mouse. At the beginning of December, cold weather moved into the state of Indiana, and Ilya, the satanic mouse, moved into my house. His presence was first signaled by some tell-tale droppings behind the trashcan in the kitchen, but when I opened the door to the closet that houses my coats and jackets, the full extent of his destructive and evil nature revealed itself: he had eaten five jackets, one scarf, and a glove. I rushed to Bloomington Hardware and bought four mousetraps, which I laced with peanut butter and placed at strategic positions around the house. Every morning I checked the traps and found that they had snapped and that the peanut butter was gone, but there was no trace of Ilya. This routine continued for a week, and in the meantime he ate the cover off my Norwegian cookbook and appeared to have resided temporarily in my beloved Cuisinart toaster. His transgressions and increased insolence brought about his demise, however: I walked into my study and discovered that he had defecated on top of vol. II of Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages! That abominable and inexcusable act called for drastic measures, and I immediately ran to the phone and called in the Marines. To make a long story short, Ilya, the satanic mouse, expired three days later at nones on the carpet next to my bed with an evil grin pasted on his face. There was no memorial service.

A free and chair-less woman, I spent the summer in Norway, Iceland (skaldic editorial meeting),

and Denmark in the most wonderful weather Scandinavia has seen for more than twenty years. It was somewhat difficult to get work done (phone calls from sister: ‘Let’s go to the beach!’), but I plodded along steadily on vol. III of the skaldic edition, and I hope that this two-part volume will be ready for publication next autumn. This semester I am teaching Old Norse to a wonderful group of graduate students, and for the first time since 2004 I am teaching third semester Norwegian. We have great fun, but the textbook, aimed at adult immigrants in Norway, can be somewhat of a challenge: as I am writing this, I am taking a break from the attempt to bring sweetness and light to a reading entitled ‘Is Cod Boring?’ which culminates in a recipe for ‘cod in curry’, a dish that sounds utterly repulsive. But maybe Ilya would have found it palatable?”

Esther Ham and **Bieneke Haitjema** report in tandem about the newest development in our Dutch program and beyond: “Exciting developments took place in the Netherlands this past spring. The first Dutch king for 133 years began his reign on Queen’s day, April 30, with the abdication of Queen Beatrix in her son’s favor. We were able to share this important historical event with the students in our classrooms; via live-stream coverage of the inauguration in Amsterdam, the students ‘met’ the new king, Koning Willem-Alexander. The investiture of the monarch happened at the end of the spring semester, right before we ‘promoted’ around 25 students to becoming 2nd year students of Dutch. Some of them bolstered their Dutch language skills over the summer by spending time in Suriname, Flanders/Belgium, or the Netherlands.

At the start of this fall semester, it was, of course, very satisfying to see many of them back in the classroom as second-year students of Dutch. Our second-year group had grown even larger over the summer thanks to **Esther**, who taught an 8-week intensive Dutch language class to a dedicated group of first-year students. These students acquired the necessary skill level to join the students in the next level of Dutch this fall semester. A larger student population in our language and culture classes, augmented by a growing interest in taking on-line Dutch language classes by both IU students and students from other universities, has made it possible for our program to acquire a second full-time lecturer’s position in Dutch. Starting in January 2014 there will be two full-time lecturers on deck; our program will then be better positioned to teach more students, to offer on-line courses to first-, second-, and third-year



Photo of Hildegard Keller (left) with Katja Petrowskaja, winner of the Bachmann Prize for Literature 2013. Photo: Johannes Puch

students of Dutch, and to cater to more advanced students of Dutch who are interested in taking a capstone language course on the 400 level.

The past summer wasn't all about teaching students though. Both **Esther** and **Bieneke** traveled to the Netherlands in July to spend time with family and friends. While **Esther**, back in Bloomington, took a few weeks off in July to devote to her vegetables and flowers in her home garden, **Bieneke** went from being below sea-level in the Netherlands to the City by the Bay in California to see more family members before returning to Bloomington.

September 17th, the 3rd Tuesday in September, was an important day in the Netherlands. On this day, Prinsjesdag, the reigning Dutch monarch holds his or her annual speech to announce the plans for a new parliamentary year. Again, it was interesting for our students to watch a live-broadcast of the new king, this time seeing him arrive in a golden carriage at the Binnenhof in The Hague and hearing his speech, delivered from a throne, at the assembly of the Dutch Senate and the House of Representatives. Long live the new king!"

Another emeritus professor, **Albrecht Holschuh**, checks in on "a beautiful, quiet autumn in Bloomington" and writes: "I absorb books for which there never would have been time in forty years of teaching, research, and so forth. Among the recent favorites: This Explains Everything. Compiled by John Brockman of The Edge, it offers about 200 answers from scientists and other thinkers to the 2012 question: "What is your favorite deep, elegant, or beautiful explanation?" Reading just a few pages may take you to the edge. This

week the Honorable **Lorna Schofield**, Federal Judge for the Lower District of New York, shared a delightful and stimulating conversation with me, in part talking about books we had read in a course in 1975-76. At about that same time she had read Ulysses under Prof. **Breon Mitchell**. Judge Schofield graduated from our Department in 1977, with a double major in English; her final year was spent in the Hamburg Program. You may already have read that she was visiting the campus as one of three Luminaries invited by the College of Arts and Sciences."

Hildegard Elisabeth Keller reports in: „Es war ein tolles Jahr. Früchte aus Bloomington konnten in Europa gezeigt werden (der Film „Der Ozean im Fingerhut“ wurde in Kinos in Zürich und Saarbrücken gezeigt und war im Sommer 2013 Teil eines interdisziplinären Mystikkolloquiums an der Universität Kassel). Zwei freudvolle Höhepunkte des Jahres 2013 stehen bereits jetzt fest: Im Sommer fanden die Tage der deutschsprachigen Literatur in Klagenfurt statt; der Hauptpreis ging an die von mir vorgeschlagene Katja Petrowskaja, deren Buch Vielleicht Esther im Frühling 2014 bei Suhrkamp erscheinen wird. Am 25. Oktober veranstalten wir im Zürcher Kino RiffRaff eine Buch- und Filmpräsentation anlässlich des 75. Todestags der schweizerisch-argentinischen Autorin Alfonsina Storni. Das Buch trägt den Titel Meine Seele hat kein Geschlecht und stellt die erste Leseausgabe von Alfonsina Stornis Werk in deutscher Sprache dar; es enthält Essays, Erzählungen, Kolumnen, Aphorismen und Reisenotizen, Gedichte, autobiografische Texte und Interviews sowie einige Neu-

funde, die auch auf Spanisch noch nicht publiziert sind. Die Übersetzungsarbeit machte mir viel Freude, und gemeinsam mit einem interkontinentalen Team schufen wir ein schönes Buch, das ich am 1. Oktober zum ersten Mal in Händen hielt. Auch der Kurzfilm „Alfonsina Storni. A Dedication“ ist eine Zusammenarbeit, diesmal zwischen Bloomington und Zürich. Nun fiebern wir alle dem 25. Oktober entgegen, die Vorfreude auf das Literaturfestival „Zürich liest“, in dem unser Event eingebettet ist, wächst von Tag zu Tag!"

Nikole Langjahr reaches new heights in social media: "This has been the year of networking... Ever since German House and German Club created Facebook groups, attendance at our extracurricular events like Stammtisch or Game Nightshas steadily increased. One of this year's special events highlights was Regine Richter McClain's talk on the Berlin Wall. I am also very happy that more and more native speakers of all ages find their way to Stammtisch, thus increasing authentic opportunities for our undergraduates to hone their conversation skills.

Andrea Meyertholen and I presented our first Business German Workshop to a group of associate instructors, and got so inspired that we signed up for the October IFLTA conference, to give a talk on -- no, not business German, but on how to teach German classics through modern media. Here is the title: "Classic Texts, Contemporary Students: How I Friendd Kafka on Facebook"

Gergana May wants us to know: "The Norwegian Program is going strong with enrollments at full capacity and a brand new course! This summer I taught successfully

a literature class with a new topic – “The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen.” This focus on the Danish master-storyteller attracted, amongst others, several graduate students from the English Department majoring in Creative Writing, and their response was overwhelmingly positive. I am currently offering it again, and am exploring this fascinating oeuvre with 19 wonderful young minds. Other news regarding the Norwegian program is that we are now partnering with the ethnic Norwegian students studying currently at IU, to establish a joint student organization and plan together exciting and meaningful cultural events. Look forward to news from “Den Norske Klubben”! My service activity for my professional organizations has also been at its highest in the past few years. In addition to being the Treasurer of NORTANA (Norwegian Researcher and Teacher Association of North America,) I have now also been elected a member of the Executive Council (and Treasurer) of the Ibsen Society of America. On another note of off-campus interest is that three (!) Nordic bands performed at this year’s Lotus Festival of World Music and Arts in downtown Bloomington.”

And this from **William Rasch**: “Over the past year I served as the last director of the International Studies Program and, as of July 1, 2013, the first chair of the Department of International Studies. In some ways I have never worked as hard and long as I have since ca. May 2012. I have to admit that I enjoy the challenge, with the details of which I shall not bore you. But one of my self-appointed tasks is to make sure that the style of thinking (“qualitative” and text or archive based, in contrast to ethnographic

and quantitative modes of inquiry) that is characteristic of the humanities remains at the core of the new department’s mission. I am currently teaching my first course in the new department on a topic I could not have justified teaching in Germanic Studies, namely the development of theological, moral, and legal justifications for war (“just war” doctrine, etc.). My old fashioned way of teaching (“class, let’s examine closely the passage on page 42 I asked you read”) butts up against the twitter age, and I know I’m not all that long for this academic world any more. But I am getting them to think, at least a little and whether they like it or not. This fall two essays that I’m happy with will appear: one in a *Klassiker Auslegen* volume devoted to Luhmann’s *Soziale Systeme* (I was given Chapter 1 to explain); and the other in a 4-volume Cambridge UP series on *The Impact of Idealism* (on Kant and the intellectual). Best of all, for the past two summers my life-long (since high school) best friend has stayed with us for a few weeks. The only way he and I survived growing up in Miami, Florida, was to have each other as intellectual stimulus (he’s an artist), and it’s wonderful to still have him in my life as a constant if mostly distant presence.”

Ben Robinson notes: “This past year I have thought a lot about what public higher education means for democracy (that is pretty much the title of an Intensive Freshman Seminar I taught this summer). So much of our imagination of change (“innovation”) is taken up with celebrating entrepreneurship that it has become increasingly hard to understand what education might contribute to the shaping of collective destinies. A student strike last spring, while it did not rattle

the foundations of the institution, did help many of us to think what education would feel like as a kind of spiritual transformation of the public rather than (only) a disciplined acquisition of skills. A talk I gave in Madison that grew out of the strike focused on the way education reformers have misused populist rhetoric to pit “learning” against “teaching.” In the talk, I take the challenge of online courses (MOOCs) as an occasion to pursue the old Platonic inquiry into the relationship of education to democracy. Both my graduate and undergrad classes last spring tapped into these themes. A lively group of graduate students in literature and history explored with me post-war reflections on the failures of the various transformational projects from the first half of the 20th century. We began with Benjamin’s conception of the German baroque “*Machtspiel*” as the key to a modernism in ruins, and then jumped forward to Brecht’s unfinished adaptation of Shakespeare’s most political play, *Coriolanus*, working our way through Peter Weiß’s *Ästhetik des Widerstands*, and ending up with Volker Braun’s transposition of the peasant wars onto the process of German reunification. With Olivia Landry’s excellent teaching assistance, my undergraduate Critical Approaches course on radical political thought was a stimulating complement both to the graduate course and the student strike. Work on my book on indexical signs and modernity continues apace.”

Rex Sprouse comments: “The year 2013 saw the publication of “Generative approaches and the poverty of the stimulus,” my contribution (co-authored with Prof. Bonnie D. Schwartz, University of Hawaii) to *The Cambridge Hand-*

book of Second Language Acquisition, edited by Julia Herschensohn and Martha Young-Scholten. In March 2013, my Ph.D. advisee Boshra El-Ghazoly and I presented “Feature reassembly: The acquisition of non-canonical agreement in English-Arabic Interlanguage” at the American Association for Applied Linguistics meeting in Dallas, TX. By the time you read this, my faculty-student research group and I will have presented a poster reporting on our research on the acquisition of the English Dative Alternation by native speakers of Arabic and Chinese at the Second Language Research at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. I am currently working on a research project on the acquisition of Turkish vowel harmony by speakers of English with Prof. Öner Özçelik (Indiana University). I have recently become interested in studying the relevance of second language acquisition theory and models of language contact for Kiezdeutsch, the new variety of German that has been arising among youth in multi-ethnic neighborhoods in large cities in Germany, and I am also interested in investigating Turkish as a heritage language among people of Turkish ethnicity born in Germany and Austria. In Summer 2013, I served as Resident Director of the Graz Program for the tenth time. By the time you read this, I will have introduced two new 400-level German linguistics courses: Introduction to the History of the German Language (Fall 2012) and Introduction to German Sociolinguistics (Fall 2013).”

Johannes Türk sends the following: “I have continued to work on my second book on sovereignty and immunity and finished articles on Montaigne, on Freud’s notion

“Tribschicksal,” as well as on epigenesis – the cultural factors of inheritance – and immunity. During the last year, I was invited to present my work in lectures at the Sorbonne in Paris as well as in Princeton, New Jersey. With Frauke Berndt and **Fritz Breithaupt**, I have organized a seminar for this year’s GSA on narrative which allows me to pursue my long standing interest in narratology. I have also contributed with a presentation on Schiller to a workshop on universal history as well as to the eighteenth century workshop on exemplarity. I can hardly believe that all of this happened while our second daughter learned to take her first steps in a world she had barely entered when I wrote my last contribution to the newsletter.”

Emeritus professor **Stephen Wailes** wrote us last winter: “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. She was a contemporary of Otto the Great (imperial corona-

tion 962) and close friends with one of his nieces, who was her abbess at Gandersheim. 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 Companion 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>.”





Germanic Studies



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Professors Breger, Even, Rasch, and Breithaupt presenting at the Department's end of year awards gathering last April.