

Indiana University College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

# Germanic Studies

Vol. 13 • Fall 2005

Alumni Newsletter

## *Letter from the chair*

### 1985–2005: A 20-year retrospective

As I have mentioned in the last two newsletters, the department has undergone a radical transformation over the past 20 years. With the retirement of **Terence Thayer** in 2004, no member remains of the generation of scholars and teachers that “created the reputation of the department in the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s” and that therefore forms the “foundation upon which those of us who arrived and stayed at Indiana University after 1985 continue to build” (as I put it in the 2003 newsletter). Why is the year 1985 of importance? 1985 is the year **Marc Weiner** joined the department as an assistant professor. If Terence and his cohort are our foundation, Marc is the architect of the building the rest of us inhabit. (No, Marc, I am not blaming you for Ballantine Hall.) To him much of the credit is due for the direction the department has taken. He brought with him in 1985 a new vision of what German studies could be, a view of the discipline that complemented those of some other

newer members in the department (notably **Ingeborg Hoesterey**), and one that pointedly looked more to the theoretical innovations of American literary studies than to the work done in Germany at the time. As a conscientious departmental citizen, as director of the Institute of German Studies, and as editor of *The German Quarterly*, Marc was adamant in his beliefs, aggressive in his advocacy, and provocative in the best sense of the word. Battles were fought — some necessary, others nonetheless enlightening — but in the end a compromise was forged, and the department emerged once again as a leader in defining what the discipline of German studies is. For this we owe Marc Weiner an enormous debt of gratitude.

To celebrate the 20-year history of the current version of Germanic studies at Indiana University, the department and the Institute of German Studies, now under the leadership of **Michel Chaouli**, have organized a conference called *Trajectory-*

*ries*, scheduled for March 3–4, 2006. We have invited those who earned their PhDs from our department since 1985 and currently hold academic positions to return to Bloomington and report on their research or on their experiences in the field over the past two decades. Many of these former students studied with the ‘foundational’ generation; others with the architects of the new house. All have made a mark on the discipline as scholars, teachers, and administrators. We want to hear — and want our current graduate students to hear — what they have to say about their training, both here and ‘on the job,’ and about life in general after graduate school. We welcome all who receive this newsletter to attend the conference. Please see the box on this page for further information.

The transformation and *Erneuerung* of the department continues. This year we welcome **Melissa Gjellstad** as lecturer and coordinator of our Norwegian program.

(continued on page 2)

ANNOUNCING

## Trajectories:

The Past &  
Future of  
German  
Studies

MARCH 2–4, 2006

BLOOMINGTON

During the weekend of March 2–4, 2006, the Department of Germanic Studies and the Institute of German Studies will hold a conference about the past and future of German studies, at IU and beyond. We are hoping to gather scholars and teachers who have received advanced degrees from the department.

*Trajectories* is motivated by a set of straightforward questions: We wonder how those who have received their PhD here see the intellectual arc of their work in the context of their area of specialization, how the two have evolved since they left Bloomington, and what interesting turns or vistas they see looming ahead. This will be an occasion for us to reflect, singly and collectively, on the paths taken and those not taken in the fields of German literature and culture as well as Germanic philology and linguistics.

The meeting will also allow for socializing and for renewing old bonds and forging new ones with teachers and fellow students. To that end, we have set aside ample time for meals and refreshments. We plan to have present all the generations involved in the life of the department: the emeriti, current faculty, graduate students, prospective students, and, of course, you, the alumni.

For more information, visit [www.traject.indiana.edu](http://www.traject.indiana.edu), or contact Randy Simmons at [raesimmo@indiana.edu](mailto:raesimmo@indiana.edu).

## From the chair

(continued from page 1)

Melissa earned her PhD from the University of Washington (another Husky in our midst — Bloomington is becoming the Seattle of the Midwest) and is just the dynamo we need to propel the Norwegian program forward. I do not know how we have managed to find and attract such fabulous and energetic teachers and leaders as **Esther Ham** (senior lecturer and program coordinator of Dutch) and Melissa, but we cannot be the department we want to be without them. I hope all of you will go out of your way to welcome Melissa Gjellstad into the extended family that we are.

**Nancy Boerner**, longtime acquisitions librarian responsible for Germanic Studies as well as a host of other language and literature departments, retired this summer. She has always been a wonderfully helpful and cooperative colleague in the library, responsive to our needs, and eager to inform us of new developments in electronic and other media that we should be aware of. She may be without her old job now, but most certainly not inactive, for she has recently translated Peter Boerner's Rowohlt monograph on Goethe into English. We all wish Nancy the best in her well-earned retirement.



Nancy and Peter Boerner

The position of librarian for Germanic studies, French and Italian, comparative literature, and classical studies will thankfully remain in the family. Our own **Kate Brooks** (who received her BA as a German major from IU in 2000, her MA from our department in 2004, and will receive her MLS this December) will fill Nancy's old position as of Dec. 15 this year. As some of you may know, in addition to her near-native fluency in German, she is an excellent student of Yiddish. We look forward to working with her for years to come.

We have a small but extremely talented incoming class of graduate students this year: Justin Glover (IGS), Andrew Kostakis (IGS), Laura Oreggioni (Fulbright Fellow from Italy), James Rasmussen, John Scott

(IGS), and Laura Sliker (IGS). Elizabeth Bridges successfully defended her dissertation (*Die Mensch-Maschine: Technologies of Replication and Reproduction in German-Language Literature and Culture*) in spring 2005 and is currently visiting assistant professor at Hendrix College in Arkansas. Jill Smith, who received her PhD in 2004, was just awarded the Women in German Annual Prize for a Dissertation by a WiG Member for her dissertation, *Reading the Red Light: Literary, Cultural, and Social Discourses on Prostitution in Berlin 1880–1933*. Congratulations to both Elizabeth and Jill.

This fall we had the great pleasure of hosting **Hildegard E. Keller** of the University of Zürich as the Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor for 2005. One cannot imagine a more enthusiastic, talented, entertaining, and inspiring colleague than Hildegard Keller. Students and colleagues alike have been singing her praises for weeks, and her departure on Oct. 22 left a perceptible void in the department. Professor Keller's visit served as an inspiration for a number of medieval-related events in which the department collaborated with the Medieval Studies Institute. Keller's public lecture, "Melusine's Verticality: Lines of Descent in Genealogical Narratives," co-sponsored by the institute, was as stimulating as it was well-attended. The institute also invited to Bloomington the well-known art historian Jeffrey Hamburger of Harvard, who has collaborated with Keller on a number of projects in the past, to deliver a lecture on the pictorial representation of female readership in the Middle Ages ("Representations of Reading — Reading Representations: The Female Reader from the *Hedwig Codex* to Châtilon's *Léopoldine au Livre d'Heures*"). Both Keller and Hamburger were quite favorably impressed by the medieval holdings in the Lilly Library. Indeed, Hamburger was able to hold in his hand for the first time a manuscript he had done extensive work on, but only by using a photographic reproduction: He was thrilled.

To round out this semester's medieval trinity, the department hosted the inaugural Sidney M. Johnson Memorial Lecture, delivered by C. Stephen Jaeger of the University of Illinois. Lora Johnson was present at the occasion, and Professor Jaeger presented as a prologue to his talk a touching tribute to Sidney Johnson, which included an anecdote about friends and colleagues drinking vodka martinis in Sid's memory at the annual Kalamazoo conference. Sid would have appreciated the gesture. Professor Jaeger's talk was called "Gottfried von Strassburg and the Sublime Style in the Middle Ages." Thanks to professors Keller,

Hamburger, and Jaeger, the fall semester of this academic year has demonstrated to us the vitality and necessity of German medieval studies and has renewed in us the determination to hire in that area. More on this, I hope, in next year's newsletter.

"Is that all there is?" Peggy Lee once asked in song. If she had been thinking of medieval studies (how many of you think she was? Come on, raise your hands!) instead of life in general, the answer would have had to be "no" (even if, about life in general, the jury is still out). For during the fall semester of this year, the department also sponsored a conference on The Five Senses in the 18th Century, an event in which guest speakers Blakey Vermeule (Stanford) and old departmental friend and former Max Kade Professor Helmut Schneider (Bonn) delivered papers, along with IU faculty and graduate students from Germanic studies, comparative literature, history, and the history and philosophy of science. The idea for the conference grew out of a graduate seminar taught by **Michel Chaouli** last year, and more events that combine outside visitors with our students on topics of common interest are planned for the future. Spring semester 2005, for instance, we will sponsor a one-day workshop on the political thought of Hannah Arendt, in conjunction with a seminar on the notion of political judgment in Kant, Arendt, and Jean-François Lyotard. Next fall, we hope to arrange a small conference on the work of Helmut Lethen, who will be our Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor for 2006, and whose influential book, *Die Verhaltenslehre der Kälte*, has been intensively studied this semester in Ben Robinson's class on Weimar culture. Incidentally, the Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor for 2007 will be Eva Geulen.

Speaking of courses, this year's offerings are nothing if not exciting. Undergraduate topics in German include introductions to German literature; a survey of German cultural history; an introduction to modern German culture by way of studying the *Volkswagen* and the *Autobahn*; a survey of medieval literature; an examination of late 19th-century literature, music, and culture; the literature of love and hatred; law and cinema; German subcultures; German phonology; and German morphology. In English, we offer a survey of German literature in translation; a course on the changing face of Berlin in the 20th century; two courses on Dutch culture; one on 20th-century Yiddish literature; and a course on European identities from Islamic Spain to the Germany of the Napoleonic wars. On the graduate level, we have seminars on 19th-century decadence; medieval German mysticism; the Weimar Republic cult of the

(continued on page 3)

## Many old and new family voices heard from

This past year I had occasion to study and compare a large collection of newsletters put out by other IU departments. It was interesting to see what can be done, and I got a number of good ideas. I was also gratified to be reminded once again of the determined efforts we make to keep in touch with our whole far-flung departmental “family,” even going back many years. In other words, issuing a newsletter that is not only *for* all who have and had some association with our department, but also *about* them. You see the results each year in our “Graduates” and “Undergraduates” columns.

During the past year, we have been delighted to hear from so many of you who were formerly connected in some way to the department. All of these are included — occasionally in lightly edited form — in the columns below. On occasion we even get news from someone long gone who served years ago on the departmental faculty. This is news we treasure, not only because some of us old-timers knew them, but also because there are bound to be former students who remember them too.

**Christiane Frederickson** was visiting assistant professor from 1974 to 1976 during the time she was working on a degree from UC Berkeley. She says, “Those two years count amongst the best in my life. ... Since IU, and shortly after my husband (of now 40 years, yes, we manage to weather the hurdles) and I moved from Southern California to my beloved San Francisco Bay area — where, by the way, to this day I am in close contact with **Tom and Christa Shannon** — I’ve been teaching off and on at Berkeley’s extension and at the Goethe Institute in San Francisco. That was to balance my other love life, cooking. I ran a catering service for a number of years, and I still do small jobs for friends. ... For the past 15 years I’ve been working as a *pädagogische Beraterin* for the German publisher Klett. ... My job there led to an ever-increasing involvement with teachers of German across the nation, and last year the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching honored me with their Friend of the Profession award. This year, at ACTFL/AATG in Baltimore, I will be receiving AATG’s 2005 Friend of German

award. ... I plan to celebrate the occasion with gusto!”

Christiane goes on to reminisce about her friendships with **Carl Ziegler**, **Russell Neuswanger**, and **Ginny Coombs**. The latter two were also faculty members here in the ’70s.

**Ted Schaum** was part of our departmental faculty from 1962 to 1969. Last year, he sent us from Rochert, Minn., a copy of his family’s Christmas newsletter. Here are a few sentences from it: “At age 70, I enjoy relatively good health, live and work merrily by day (and occasionally into the night). You see, as a retired person you think you have to catch up with all those things you were forced to postpone during your professional career.” The letter is bilingual, so here’s what he says about his visit to Germany: “Was mir im Sommer einen besonderen Auftrieb vermittelt hat war der 2-wöchige Deutschlandbesuch in und um meine Heimatstadt Goslar im Harz, wo ich zusammen mit meiner Freundin Kirsti Johnson und mit den meisten der damals 23 Klassenkameraden von Jahrgang 1954, mit deren Gattinnen oder Witwen unser 50. Jubiläumstreffen feiern und gleich darauf, von meinem anderhalb Jahre älteren ‘Zwillingsbruder’ festlich bewirtet, meinen ‘140.’ Geburtstag begehen durfte.” He concludes with “Last but by no means least, daughter Erika, registered nurse in Minneapolis, made me a grandpa for the sixth time.”

Under “Faculty Notes,” you’ll see that Kari Gade calls last year the “Year of the Cicada.” And you might recall that in last year’s issue of this newsletter, she gave quite a colorful description of her desperate battle with the swarms. After I had submitted last year’s newsletter copy, the editor at the Alumni Association thought that incident was so amusing that she told me “we really have to have a cartoon of that!” — and the one you saw last year is the result (after a check with Kari to make sure my Old Norse invective was correct).

If you didn’t get an e-mail from me inviting you to send me any interesting news about your doings, it indicates that we — and this means the department, too — do not have a current e-mail address for you. So please let us have your e-mail address. And please continue to send news to me (or any of us — everyone here is under strict instructions to pass on any news to me) any time throughout the year.

— William Z. Shetter  
shetter@indiana.edu

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## From the chair

*(continued from page 2)*

cool; staging culture in 20th-century theater; Hegel on form; Kant’s Third Critique; political judgment; Old Norse language and literature; Old Saxon; history of the German language; German syntax; and German phonology.

We currently have around 90 German majors. Last year, we awarded our first Catherine Clarke Fraser Overseas Study scholarship to Rebecca Darling, who currently is studying in Freiburg. In the past two years, **Claudia Breger** and **Rex Sprouse** have visited our students in Freiburg to gain first-hand knowledge of the program. We hope to send another of our faculty members to Freiburg this coming June to solidify our presence there. We have been told that our students are clearly the best prepared of all American students participating in programs in Freiburg, a judgment that reflects well on our work in the classroom and the vigilance of Kathy Sidelis and Paige Weting. Rex Sprouse has redefined the summer program in Graz, Austria, and both enrollments and morale

are up! Our graduate students continue teaching in the IU Honors Program for high school students every summer in Krefeld, Germany. This coming summer the department will offer four scholarships to deserving high school students who wish to participate in the program.

As a final thought, I would like to report an anecdote recently conveyed to me by one of our graduate students, **Kris Vander Lugt**, who is currently studying in Berlin. She wrote:

“Bill, I wanted to pass on to you that I’ve now met three people in Berlin — two profs and one graduate student — who were quite *lobhaft* when I mentioned coming from IU. The graduate student (from Ohio State) even said, “Wow, IU Bloomington — from what I hear, don’t you all have, like, pretty much the best German department in the country?” I tried to remain modest, but of course could not contradict her.”

We must all remain modest. But when deserved praise comes our way, we must also follow Kris’s lead and never contradict. Just between you and me: *We are* the best!

— William Rasch



Visit us on the Web at [www.indiana.edu/~germanic](http://www.indiana.edu/~germanic)

## Faculty Notes

**T**ed Andersson spent the fall of 2004 at the Stanford campus in Berlin as a last-minute substitute, not having visited Berlin for an even half century. His teaching duties included gender problems in the first millennium CE and, even more outrageously, a reading of Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit*. In the winter of 2005, back at Stanford, he taught continuing education in the more familiar territory of the Icelandic sagas, and in the spring he taught a sophomore seminar on the *Iliad*. He also attended a celebration honoring Marianne Kalinke at the University of Illinois and spoke on the chronology of the sagas.

**Frank Banta** writes, "Once again my professional life has not changed — except that I have been ordered not to work overtime. I am therefore working only 20 hours a week with troubled students. It is never dull. One week I was dealing with a student charged with multiple sexual felonies and at the same time with an irate mother whose son had moldy curtains in his dormitory room. (Apparently they had rendered him unable to speak for himself.)

But I do have advice based on a new personal experience. If you are planning open-heart surgery, don't wait until you are 87 years old to do it. My aortal valve was replaced June 2 with one stitched from the pericardium of a cow. I had expected to be back in the office in six weeks. Actually I was out exactly twice as long, and am still short of energy and breath. Is this sluggish recuperation or simply age? I can't tell. I've never been this old before."

After Frank wrote this, the newspaper announced that the Indiana Civil Liberties Union recently honored him with the Robert Risk award, recognizing his nearly 50 years of ICLU membership, including serving as president of the Bloomington chapter for a number of years.

**Peter Boerner** reports, "A good part of my time last year went into preparations for two lectures in Germany: a *Gedenkrede* for Heinz Friedrich, the deceased founder and director of the *Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag* (with whom I collaborated for many years), held at the Goethe National Museum in Weimar; and a contribution to a symposium on Paul Schwenke, a Gutenberg scholar and leading librarian in pre-World War I Germany (who also happened to be my grandfather) that took place at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel. At IU's Mini University I gave a presentation on "The Euro: A Blending of Culture and Currency." Goethe, my *Rowohlts* biography volume, appeared in Korean, Czech,

and Croatian. A new English translation, by Nancy Boerner, came out at Haus Publishing in London."

**Claudia Breger** writes, "Not that much news here, unless you count the fact that I'm up for tenure right now and spent way too much time during the summer writing my statements and putting the file together. It was a very busy year, with teaching, advising all my fabulous doctoral students, and various service activities (we put that new exam reading list together!).

During the summer, I tried to (reasonably successfully) catch up on all sorts of article projects and finally got a serious start on my new book project, on narrative performance in contemporary culture (aided by a West Research Grant). Now I'm on (teaching) leave, happily conferencing and planning a trip to Berlin to go to a couple of archives, theater performances and, of course, bookstores in November. I'm also participating in a CAHI faculty seminar on Global Variations of Blackness this academic year and preparing a graduate course on 20th-century German theater histories for spring, which I am looking forward to."

**Fritz Breithaupt** writes "I have recently moved one circle closer to the center of the inferno by taking on the directorship of the West European Studies National Resource Center. I spent the spring writing a grant for a competition from the European Union for one of 10 official EU Centers of Excellence (which turned out to be well-spent time), and this fall I am hoping to renew the substantial Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education for West European Studies. All this is definitely a step down, since, as you will remember, West European Studies is located on the fifth floor in Ballantine Hall.

One of the very bright sides of West European Studies is that I get to work together with both Melissa Gjellstad and Esther Ham frequently. Originally, I had hoped that this year would see the birth of two of my books, but instead I ended up writing these two book-long grant applications. Still, my two books on money are on their way and could be available for real money next year; one discusses the rise of money as a paradigm to explain human behavior (*Der Ich-Effekt des Geldes: Zur Geschichte einer Legitimationsfigur*) and the other is a novel about a team of forgers (*Fake Fiction*). My next larger project will be on theories of empathy, and as usual I used the graduate students of our department as the guinea pigs in a class this spring."

**Michel Chaouli** says "My work during

the last year was focused on two main projects: one, my next book, which deals with touch, aesthetics, and embodied cognition (among other things), and the other, a reverie about what it might be like to be able to 'play' literature on a machine the way we play music on a stereo. I'll keep you posted about the results.



I did my fair share of running around the country to present talks, and as head of the Institute of German Studies starting in fall 2005, I am also putting quite a bit of energy into organizing events here in Bloomington. The most ambitious will be Trajectories, a conference during the weekend of March 2–4, 2006, where I hope to meet many of you. (For more information, see the chair's letter.) Oh, and I got tenure.

**Katy Fraser** now makes her home in Providence, R.I. This year, the department's Catherine Clarke Fraser scholarship for overseas study was named after her (see also the chair's letter).

**Kari Gade** reports, "I finished up my stint as director of the Institute of German Studies, which ended up being quite daunting for a person who has problems balancing her checkbook. At the research end, I published one article and gave two papers, one in Reykjavík, and one in Flagstaff, Ariz. The latter conference awarded me the opportunity to visit Grand Canyon, and it was awesome to observe ravens soar around "Wotan's Seat" (I kid you not — that is the name of a giant rock formation). The skaldic project is still taking up most of my time, and to my dismay I suddenly found myself the editor of five long 14th-century poems about the Virgin Mary. The editing proved to be extremely time-consuming for someone more familiar with the pagan pantheon than the pastures of heaven, but I did learn a lot (including the fact that "Virgin" is always capital-

(continued on page 5)

# Faculty notes

(continued from page 4)

ized). As for the Bloomington fauna, if last year was the Year of the Cicadas, this was the Year of the Groundhogs. At the end of spring, Ms. Hog decided that my back yard was ideal for producing offspring, and consequently the dam (the size of a battleship and equally intimidating) proceeded to give birth to three hogsters beneath my deck. The small ones were possessed by an insatiable curiosity, and whenever I brought my books outside, they would line up on the steps of the deck watching me. I could almost read their minds: "Is that a scholar sitting there?" However, between the Hog family and the Barry Bonds (the deer), my garden was reduced to ground zero by the time I left for Europe in July.

This semester I am teaching Old Norse (always a pleasurable experience), and in November the IU gang will once more descend on the U. of Illinois like locusts for PIGSTII. Watch out, Marianne and Claudia: IU is Red Hot!

Melissa Gjellstad tells us, "I arrived at IU in August and immediately turned on my air conditioner. It has been running ever since. Accustomed to dank days in Seattle, the intense combination of humidity plus heat has been a rite of passage into

life in Bloomington. In all seriousness, the transition has been smooth, thanks in large part to the hearty departmental welcome.

There are 11 enthusiastic students in first- and second-year Norwegian classes this fall, and I aspire to grow the program each semester. I am delighted to team up with Esther as we build what we like to call the "tallest" less commonly taught language programs at IU. Following departmental tradition and student requests, I organized an informal Norwegian coffee hour and film club; I continue to scour the campus and community for others interested in Scandinavia.

My next trip to Norway will be in summer 2006. I'll be at the Nordic Institute for Women and Gender Studies at the University of Oslo as an American-Scandinavian Foundation Fellow, doing research on the notion of fatherhood in 1990s Norwegian literature."

Tracy Alan Hall writes, "After completing my first year in Bloomington, I have gotten over my initial culture shock and have even managed to become a homeowner. We planted a plum tree in our back yard, which might not grow because the deer like to chew on it. Professionally, the book I co-edited (*Paradigms in Phonological Theory*, Oxford University Press) appeared, and I presented papers at conferences in the first part of 2005 in Tromsø, Davis, and Chicago. I spent the summer in Europe, where I was a guest researcher at the *Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft* in the eastern part of Berlin. While I was there, I managed to give talks at conferences and universities in Berlin, Leipzig, Düsseldorf, and Manchester. At this moment, I am situated in my office preparing for my two phonology classes, which I am enjoying tremendously."

Esther Ham writes, "Dutch did very well again in 2005. How appropriate in the "year of languages"! Not only are student numbers still growing during the regular academic year, but this was the first time for me to organize the Summer Dutch Institute at IU. The last couple of years, this institute was hosted at the University of Minnesota, and this summer it was our turn. Students from IU, together with students from several other states, studied hard to master this exotic language. And yes, they did very, very well. Maybe the less formal parts contributed a lot to the success also. Two Dutch or Flemish movies every week, typical Dutch food, a Dutch/Flemish art tour in the IU Art Museum, and so on. In retrospect, it was a lot of work and a lot of fun. Last interesting detail: The poster designed for this SDI, with photos made by myself in the Netherlands, won a national design award from the *Graphic*

*Design USA* magazine. Now the fall has started again, with even more students than last year. At the moment, Dutch is still a less or even least commonly taught language in the United States, but maybe we can change that status at IU into not-so-less-commonly-taught language." Esther doesn't mention that her Dutch teaching was prominently featured in an article titled "We Speak Your Language" in a recent issue of the IU magazine *The College*.

Ingeborg Hoesterey reports that she embarked upon teaching in the Harvard Extension School last year, which she describes as an experience quite different from life at IU. On the research side, a Lufthansa ticket to Germany lured her to a conference at Bremen University on the author Uwe Johnson, an early concentration of hers. Her paper "Multimediale Narratologie: Der Roman *Jahrestage* nach seiner Verfilmung" appeared in *Johnson-Jahrbuch* 12. Other efforts, published or accepted, include "The Interarts Experiment in Early German Film" and "Avant-Garde as Structure." Not surprisingly, Ingeborg has not yet tired of the varied cultural offerings of Cambridge.

Albrecht Holschuh says, "Fun things to do: I have become involved in untangling the letters and lives of a 19th-century IU professor from Schleswig-Holstein and his family. Hermann Boisen was a colleague of Owen, Ballantine, and Atwater. He married the daughter of Theophilus Wylie and lived in Wylie House, now a local shrine, where he introduced the Christmas tree to Bloomington. Other fun things to do: Work in civic organizations, close to the reality that literature imagines, or stand atop Yale and Harvard (the mountains), or read about all that life in great books."

Dov-Ber Kerler writes "Last year I was mostly busy crossing the ocean to different parts of the Old World. In December, I traveled to Rome to deliver a paper at a special Isaac Bashevis Singer conference, which marked the end of the centennial celebrations of the great American Yiddish author and served as a focal point for the recently organized Italian Yiddish Studies Society.

In April, I participated in a Berlin conference dedicated to the German preservation and dissemination project (= EYDES) of audio Yiddish interviews recorded in the 1960s and 1970s for the Columbia University *Language and Culture Atlas of Ashkenazic Jewry*. In my presentation, I talked about current achievements and challenges in the preservation and efforts to record *in situ* the last surviving native Yiddish speakers who were born and reached intellectual maturity before World War II.

In May, I taught an advanced course on (continued on page 6)

## Germanic Studies

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## Faculty notes

(continued from page 5)

Yiddish poetry (in Yiddish) at the inaugural two-week intensive Yiddish Educators Academic program, which was organized by the Vilnius Yiddish Institute at the Vilnius University in Lithuania and attended by 30 Yiddish teachers from a wide variety of countries.

In mid-June to mid-July, three of us organized the third Yiddish Ethnographic Expedition to Ukraine. The expedition yielded 40 extensive interviews including some local footage and live Yiddish exchange with the last elderly Yiddish speakers in more than 30 cities, towns, and villages across Western Ukraine and especially in the Carpathian area. Incidentally, this year, the Indiana University Yiddish Ethnographic Project was awarded a \$200,000 NEH grant, which will ensure its work for the next two years (together with a number of generous IU grants and another external grant from the New York Atran Foundation).

In Jerusalem, I began editing the forthcoming volume of *Yerusholaimmer Almanakh: A Periodical Collection of Yiddish Language, Literature, and Scholarship* and finished editing a new volume of poems by my late father, Josef Kerler.

I will spare you other boring details, but might as well mention that since August 2004, I became involved with a Yiddish poetry blog. In addition to my own mostly fresh, often perhaps too fresh, new Yiddish poems ([www.elabrek.blogspot.com](http://www.elabrek.blogspot.com)), this blog also hosts a number of other poets' works ([www.blogger.com/profile/4410792](http://www.blogger.com/profile/4410792)). While my own page should soon be weeded out, I do hope and plan to add more poems to the other poets' pages and to create a number of new blog sites representing the works of some of the best contemporary Yiddish poets."

**Fred Piedmont** reports, "The family in and around Bloomington is doing well, and we are looking forward to our third grandchild in my son Tilman's family. I am still a student advocate for IU, and my German class for older Americans is still going well. Last year, we all composed a script for a German play titled *Die Deutsch-klasse 'goes wild' im Wilden Westen*. It was a riot, and we preserved our precious reading performance on tape. From time to time, we welcome presenters from the German Department, and last fall, grad students introduced and performed, to great acclaim, German songs and Lotte Lenya and Zarah Leander for the group.

Finally, my studies of the German theater bore more fruit, a book entitled *Aktuelles Theater mit Schiller: Aufsätze zur Schiller-*

*Rezeption des Theaters im 20. Jahrhundert*, Peter Lang Verlag, Frankfurt.

As for former IU students, both **Frank Banta** and myself have received a message from **Fredericka (Ricki) Schmadel**, BA'68, who after years as a professional diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service will return to Bloomington next semester.

**William Rasch**, writes "Fall of 2005, I started my third year as chair of the department; it looks as though I may have another three years ahead of me after that. As a result, not much research going on in this neck of the woods, but the German translation of my *Sovereignty* book, *Konflikt als Beruf*, came out with Kadmosverlag in Berlin. I also edited a special issue of the *South Atlantic Quarterly* on Carl Schmitt. This past spring and summer, I traveled to Europe a number of times — Konstanz, Bonn, London, and Duino — for conferences and talks. As always, these trips are fun but exhausting. For a surprisingly equally exhausting vacation, my wife and I traveled to Berlin and then Paros, a Greek island. We dined late every evening, then 'clubbed' even later — OK, truth be told we're old, we went to the same bar on the beach each night, drank, listened to the music of the '60s and '70s, talked politics with our law professor host and historian hostess, and crawled back home before sunrise to sleep all day while it was hot. When we got back to Bloomington we were clubbed again — with work. Last year I taught an undergraduate and graduate version of a course on the German wars of the first half of the 20th century. I was very gratified by the types of discussions I had with both sets of students. The time seems ripe for challenging orthodoxies. This year, I'll teach an undergraduate course on European identities (in English) and a grad course on Kant, Arendt, and Lyotard on political judgment, both in the spring. I'm very much looking forward to them — though I still feel woefully unprepared for the undergrad endeavor. I also look forward to *Trajectories!*"

**Benjamin Robinson**: "It's year two for Jenny, Tilly, and me, and we have been settling in well. We enjoyed our first full summer in Bloomington, and especially taking walks to Bryan Park and the "limestone lagoon," eating ice cream at Bruster's, and exploring town with Tilly. My projects over the past year have included several articles and academic talks: a talk at Swarthmore and forthcoming article on Klaus Mann, Jean Cocteau, and Roberto Rossellini; a chapter on Hans Fallada in the anthology *Die 'Krise' der Weimarer Republik*, ed. by Moritz Föllmer and Rüdiger Graf; the acceptance of an article "Against Memory as Justice" in *New German Critique*; and

a talk at the Comp Lit Association and an article on "Socialist Ontology." I have been helping organize an interdepartmental study group around the broad theme of modernisms and modernities, with two talks so far, one by Susan Buck-Morss, of Cornell and the other by Walter Frisch, of Columbia. Together with Fritz Breithaupt and Bill Rasch, I have been floating the idea of a conference on constitutionalism. The immediate reference would be the EU constitution, but our angle would emphasize cultural and historical dimensions, especially how those dimensions relate to the more formal institution of law. Under the auspices of the Institute of German Studies, I've been working with Michel to continue the precedent he set with this year's successful Five Senses workshop and to organize a workshop on Affect in the Weimar Republic, again integrating our graduate students' best work with presentations by internationally known scholars in the field. Mostly, however, I have been teaching, with graduate seminars on Alternate Modernities and Weimar Pathos and a new undergraduate class this semester on the Autobahn and VW as examples of the material infrastructure shaping cultural modernity."

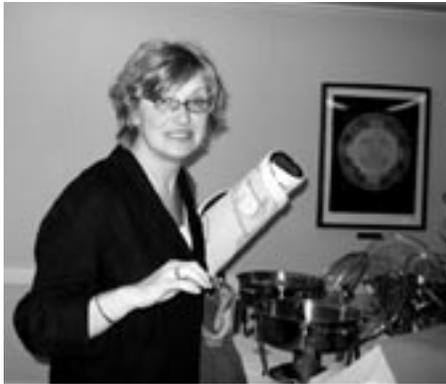
**William Z. Shetter** writes, "I continue my educational effort of posting brief essays on various language matters on my Web site. Occasionally one will take up a German topic, such as the common thread that runs through the superficially unrelated meanings of *Zug*, including derivatives such as *Abzug*, *Anzug*, *Aufzug*, *Auszug* — even *Vorzug*. Or the origins of German family names and the anglicized forms they sometimes take (where I come from, most families have names like *Cooms*, *Hines*, *Kaney*, *Spainhower*, *Crumrine*, *Diefenbaugh*, *Croushore*, *Keener*, *Shanexfelt*, *Wisecarver*).

Recently I examined the media reports of that famous German dog Rico, who in his fetching game seemed to be making hypotheses about the meaning of a new word on first hearing, thus showing some of the fast-track language learning ability of children. Or so it was dramatically claimed in the international media. Linguists feel it's a bit of a shame to spoil the sensation the press was disseminating, but Rico's behavior when looked at more closely turns out to be a whole lot less astonishing and rather remote from what even a small child does."

**Rex Sprouse** reports that over the summer he moved to The Arbors (a slightly-less-than new development off Moores Pike), enjoying the new apartment in beautiful surroundings. He adds, "Much of my effort outside of IU is devoted to

(continued on page 8)

# HAPPY RETIREMENT!



*Katy Fraser*



*Terence Thayer*

Last year's newsletter included an announcement of the retirement of both Catherine "Katy" Fraser and Terence Thayer. Each one was honored this year with a reception, at which a lot of pictures were taken. Here are a few of them. Photography by Jill Giffin.



*Jill Giffin*



*Beate Piedmont, left, Hugh Powell, Katy Fraser, Fred Piedmont, and Ingrid Remak, seated*



*Martha Wailes and Julie Lawson*



*Michel Chaouli and Terence Thayer*



*Hugh Powell, left, Steve Wailes, and Bill Shetter*



*Bill Rasch*



*Henry Remak*



*Albrecht Holschuh*



*Henry Remak and Fred Piedmont*

# Alumni Notes

## Graduate notes

**Jeannine Blackwell**, PhD'82, writes, "I'm still dean of the graduate school at Kentucky and am currently chairing the search committee for a new provost at UK. I'll be teaching fairy tales next summer in our new MAT in World Languages program (send your students!). Michael (Jones) is teaching in honors as well as German, and continues as editor of *Colloquia Germanica*. Daughter Bettina is five feet nine with long blond hair, loves high school, and is in second-year French as a freshman. This year, trips for her to Italy and Greece, for me to Halle, Germany, and Beijing, China. Michael stays at home feeding our cat, Sophie. Stop by when you are in Lexington, and come to the KFLC!"

**John Blair**, PhD'94, and **Muriel Cormican**, PhD'99, write, "This will actually be a report on the German program at the University of West Georgia, a program built and operated entirely by Indiana University graduates!! Muriel and I were delighted when, in the fall of 2003, the years of hard work in and devotion to the undergraduate curriculum at the University of West Georgia were rewarded by the Board of Regents approval of the establishment of a German major at the University of West Georgia. When I started here in 1997, there were hardly any minors. Now we have nine majors, 10–12 minors, and three graduates. Our students are bright and committed, and our graduates are all employed, two in jobs in which they use their German daily. We've spent a few weeks in Oldenburg

each of the last two summers and will be, all going well, starting UWG's first study abroad in Germany program in the summer of 2006 (*haltet uns die Daumen!*).

Muriel and I are now both tenured associate professors here, I since the fall of 2003, and Muriel (a year early) since the fall of 2004. We have been active on the conference circuit, where we're always happy to see old graduate school friends and mentors, and we've started a love affair with Berlin, where we can be found every summer for at least a few weeks. Muriel's recent publications include "Thomas Brussig's *Ostalgie* in Print and on Celluloid," in *Processes of Transposition: German Literature and Film*, and "Pro-porn Feminist Rhetoric and the Cinema of Monika

(continued on page 9)

## Faculty notes

(continued from page 6)

my life as a Quaker and to the promotion of peace, social justice, and equality. ... Recently I finished up and submitted a paper on the development of tag questions in Welsh dialects with Kevin Rottet (French and Italian, IU). Research attention has been turning toward (1) developing a model of adult second language acquisition to account for difficulty that many but not all adults experience in learning vocabulary and inflectional morphology; (2) second language sentence processing; and (3) combining insights in second language acquisition research, language contact, and creole genesis."

Last year Rex undertook his first trip to Hawaii to give an invited plenary address, "The Bankruptcy of the Stimulus" at the meeting Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition in North America (GALANA 1). He also reminds us that he gave several competitive conference papers.

He adds some remarks about his "new adventure in teaching: Fall 2004 and fall 2005, I've had the opportunity to rekindle my interest in teaching Middle High German by reviving the course G403 and focusing it exclusively on the Middle Ages. As I write this, I have a class of 21 IU undergraduates who have now read most of Hartmann von Aue's *Der arme Heinrich* in Middle High German and discussed it in Modern German. We are about to embark on selected scenes from *Das Nibelungenlied*. I am very excited about introducing a new generation of students to the (to me, at least, endlessly fascinating) literary,

cultural, and linguistic medieval German-speaking world." Rex is still our departmental director of undergraduate studies and last summer, for the fourth consecutive year, resident director of the IU Overseas Study program in Graz, Austria. He plans to do it again in summer 2006. He further enjoys working with the Freiburg Program Committee and with Individualized Majors Program Committee.

**Stephen Wailes** writes, "Since the last newsletter, we moved from Ellettsville into Bloomington, leaving our farmhouse started at the time of the Civil War for a 1960s subdevelopment structure which has less charm but more space and practicality. It belonged for years to Carl Ziegler, from whom we bought it. On this smaller property, we are forced to reduce the size of our gardens a good deal, which makes sense in view of the main gardener's declining vigor. Our sons are now enthusiastic learners of tae kwan do. It is excellent for balance and coordination (and they understand that the moves stay in the gym). After caring for the Montessori School's large bearded dragon lizard this summer, we were given two small ones of that species, and I am trying to develop a self-sustaining cricket farm for their sake. My book on Hrotsvit should appear in the next couple of months, and, rather surprisingly, I became a fellow of the Mellon Foundation, in which status I will spend about two months next summer visiting German libraries on the lookout for 16th-century vernacular plays and related literature. In mid-September, my younger daughter, Eva, gave birth to a son, giving me a third grandchild, and so this has been a great year on many fronts.

**Marc Weiner** tells us that after a health-related absence, he returned to the department in the spring to teach two intensive eight-week courses, and then, on a more humane schedule in the fall, one undergraduate course on Orfeus und Oedipus and a graduate course of a decidedly comparatist nature, *Harbingers of Decadence: Shadows in the Age of Industry*. Marc found all four unusually rewarding, but he's unsure whether the students shared his enthusiasm (!). He presented papers on "Parsifal and the Inviolability of Music" at a symposium on Parsifal and the Performance of Culture at the University of Chicago, and "From the Womb to the World," on the application to modernist studies of the anthropological and psychoanalytic theory of Peter Sloterdijk, at the annual Modernist Society Association conference, also in Chicago. He chaired a discussion group at the Modern Language Association on "Opera as a Literary and Dramatic Form" and organized a panel on "Who Speaks and Who Listens in New Opera Studies?" at the annual conference, this time in Washington, D.C. "But," Marc says, "by far the most exciting and pleasurable event of 2005 was the vacation I took in the Black Forest last summer with my 8-year-old daughter Madeleine, who loves hotels with big swimming pools, presumably because — I'm pleased to note — she still thinks she's a Rhinemaiden."

Finally, you might like to know that although **Hugh Powell**, **Eb Reichmann**, **Henry Remak**, **Carl Ziegler**, and now **Terence Thayer** didn't manage to give us any details of their present lives, all remain active and seem to be doing fine.

# Graduate news

(continued from page 8)

Treut,” in *Women in German Yearbook 19*, for which she recently won the Graduate Faculty Research Award here at UWG. In the spring of 2005, Muriel also received the AATG Georgia chapter’s Professor of the Year award, the best part of which is the free flight to Germany, which we hope to take advantage of in December. My own most recent work includes encyclopedia entries on Melchior Grimm and an article titled “Colonialism in Sternberg’s *Der blaue Engel*.”

On the more personal front, we have bought a house, have a wonderful dog who speaks French (“œuf”), and have now set our sights on the creation of a film studies program at UWG. We have some great colleagues and the good fortune of having landed in a place where the students are generally first-generation college-goers, eager to succeed, and a real pleasure to work with. On a daily basis, we get to see and enjoy the very real impact that our work has on their lives.”

**Janet Brown-Lowe**, MA’77, writes, “I get the fall newsletter and enjoy it very much. I never feel I quite match the pace of all the PhDs, CEOs, and assorted other alphabet soup types, so I don’t send anything in. I am terribly grateful for the foundation I got at IU. I came from a small liberal arts college in Iowa, where much of my work had been independent study, so I had to work like the dickens to keep up, but it was as invigorating as it was challenging. The lectures I enjoyed by **Oscar Seidlin** were models of clarity, delivered with a passion and a scope — and a pure humanity — seldom encountered before or since. I also took courses in German history from an elderly prof whose name I can no longer recall, but I have used both the texts and the course notes many times in my own professional career. I have taken high school students to Germany with the GAPP program out of Goethe Institute New York for over 25 years and have launched at least five other students into the profession. I was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the AATG a number of years ago. I love what I do, and am grateful for the part IU played in preparing me for the job, despite the passing years. **Frank Banta** provided funding for an extended stay in Germany for a summer program, which was also a big plus for me. I doubt if anyone remembers me, but I certainly cannot forget their influence; it was a tremendous positive force in my life.”

**Patricia Calkins**, PhD’93, is at Simpson College in Iowa. Last year, she received from the Iowa Foreign Language Associa-

tion the Outstanding Educator award for achievements at the university level.

**David Chisholm**, PhD’71, writes, “Please give my best regards to **Sonja Klocke**. She received an MA here before going to IU. Please also give my best to **Frank Banta** and **Terry Thayer**. In fall 2002, after a conference on Humanities and Technology at Rose-Hulman in Terre Haute, Ana and I came to Bloomington, where we had wonderful visits with Frank and Terry, explored some of our old haunts on the IU campus, and went to the theater in Nashville. (I discovered that the room I shared with two other first-year grad students at IU had been converted into a phonetics laboratory — somehow that seemed very appropriate!)

Last summer I was in Leipzig to give a lecture on “*Das Kabarett in Deutschland seit der Wende*” and to meet with colleagues and administrators there concerning our proposed new Arizona-Leipzig PhD Program in Transcultural German Studies. I also continued my research on literary-political cabaret at the German Literature Archive in Marbach, participated in a conference in Graz, and visited friends in Bonn, Mainz, Leipzig, Vienna, and Arbon (Bodensee).

In 2001 I gave a series of guest lectures on German cabaret and on metrical and phonological aspects of German literary prose at universities in Germany and Switzerland. My wife, Ana Valdes-Estay (IU MA in Spanish literature), came with me, and in Cologne we visited our long-time friend and colleague **Heinz Vater**, who seems just as active after as he was before his retirement.

Here at the University of Arizona, I am teaching courses on European Literary-Political Cabaret, Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century German Lyric Poetry, and Music and German Literature. I’m also serving on the University Graduate Council as well as other college and departmental committees.

Two recent results of my work in music and German literature are articles on “Brecht’s and Weill’s Views of *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny*: Musical-Textual Tensions,” in the 2004 *Brecht-Jahrbuch*, and “Alban Berg’s *Wozzeck*: A Re-Creation of Büchner’s *Woyzeck*,” (forthcoming in the proceedings of the 2004 Georg Büchner Symposium in Vanderbilt).

Ana and I would love to hear from other graduate-student friends from our time at IU. Just send an e-mail or give me a call.

**James S. Currie**, MA’76, earned a PhD from Rice University in 1997, writing his doctoral dissertation on a contemporary Germany theologian, Hanfried Müller. He is the director of the Houston Extension

Program of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and teaches church history. He lives in Sugar Land, Texas.

**Gordon Hartig**, MA’77, says “We left Bloomington in February 1987 and moved to Fort Collins, Colo., where Jane went to work for Hewlett Packard. (For two years before that she had been working for the Independent Study Program in Owen Hall.) In Colorado, I worked as a technical editor for the publisher of several magazines for users of IBM midrange computers, and I resigned in July 1998, when Jane’s maternity leave ended, so I could stay home with Emily. Caitlin was born two years later. At first, I did some writing and editing at home, but then became involved with translating records in German scriptures. I also continued to work with Ruth Reichmann, and sometimes **Eb**, on projects dealing with German-Americans.

In 1992, Jane transferred with Hewlett Packard to Massachusetts — which was her home originally. About that time, I started advertising my services as a translator in various genealogy magazines, and that has provided enough work over the years to keep me busy. Between 1997 and 2001, I also was the language lab coordinator at Middlesex Community College, and I probably still would be there today if the full-time ESL faculty members hadn’t created such a hostile environment. So I have been concentrating on translating and probably will step up the advertising in a couple of years to see if I can find enough work to keep me busy more or less full time.

Most of what I do is the old German handwriting, but I also work with French and Dutch. I get inquiries only once or twice a year about Dutch, and my Dutch is pretty rusty. If it’s a standard birth certificate or other genealogical document, I can translate those with no trouble. Otherwise I have worked with a young man in Amsterdam whom I met when he was an exchange student at Middlesex. I definitely needed his help a month or two ago to translate some material published in the 1700s about several Dutch artists.

I am still in touch a few times a year with **Barry Beavers**, who took the first-semester Dutch class the same time I did. He went into the Army the next semester and eventually got a graduate degree in social work, and he now is working as an institutional counselor in Asheville, N.C. Other than him, I have not been in touch with people in the class for quite a while. So I do enjoy reading about people in the newsletters.”

**Derek Hillard** writes, “Summer ’05 I took a group of students to Berlin on a

(continued on page 10)

## Graduate news

(continued from page 9)

study abroad program with Kansas State. It was a pleasant experience seeing students visiting Germany for the first time. Mornings, they would tell me of their adventures in clubs in Friedrichshain and all-night odysseys across Berlin. I was happy to see so many folks from IU at the GSA in Milwaukee in September."

**Ron Horwege**, PhD'71, is now serving on the AATG Executive Council.

**Marianne Kalinke**, PhD'70, has been appointed as the first Trowbridge Chair in Literary Studies, an endowed position, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (see box). "My book, *St. Oswald of Northumbria: Continental Metamorphoses*," she says, "is scheduled to be published before the end of the year as vol. 297 in the series *Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies* (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies)."

**William Keel**, PhD'77, writes, "We are now grandparents twice, and our third child married this spring, so the family is growing. And I am also teaching a Dutch reading course this semester, primarily for graduate students in art history — so the intensive course some 33 years ago continues to pay off. While on the Low part of the German spectrum, one of my doctoral students has begun a Low German heritage language course in a Lutheran community in northern Kansas (near the towns of Hanover and Bremen along the border with Nebraska) with the financial support of the Kansas Humanities Council as well as our Max Kade Center.

There are some 80–90 persons who meet once a month to learn and speak Low German, including one class of children. They have even started a five-minute radio broadcast in Low German, on Sunday mornings just before the "Lutheran Hour." This all grew out of my dissertation project on the demise of Low German and High German in the community.

Best wishes to all in Bloomington who may remember us."

**Paul Michael Lützel**, PhD'72, has been appointed as director of the Max Kade Center at Washington University in St. Louis.

**David Rutledge**, MA'76, writes, "You are not likely to remember me, but I read the reference to the days of student-faculty races in the Germanic Studies Newsletter and it brought back many memories. I believe the first challenge was in the fall of 1974, and I took part in that race (won by the students, as I recall), followed by pizza and beer at the pizza place whose name I no longer remember, with poetry by Stephen Wailes following, extolling the

## Marianne Kalinke honored in Illinois

In a ceremony at the University of Illinois on April 28, 2005, Marianne Kalinke, PhD'70, was appointed to the first Trowbridge Chair in Literary Studies, an endowed position. On this occasion, **Ted Andersson** gave a lecture titled "Medieval Iceland and Literary History," a topic on which Kalinke herself has published extensively. A few words from the notes on the program for this event: "...her research calendar is booked for decades ahead. She is ... stepping down from various administrative responsibilities in August and will be on leave from teaching next academic year. ... Marianne's colleagues have elected to publicly recognize her contributions to research, teaching, and administration ... while she continues to be actively involved in all three areas."

We at IU are glad to be able to join in the acclaim, and her former fellow-students will be delighted to hear of it. If you want to read more about it and see all the pictures from that occasion, please go to the Web site [www.german.uiuc.edu/events/](http://www.german.uiuc.edu/events/).



Cecilia Ovesdotter Alm, UIUC

Marianne Kalinke

merits of the runners. I think I still have the poem someplace in all the buried papers of the past. **Sandy Doerge**, **Jim Curry**, **Siggie** (from Germany — last name?), and maybe **Tom Shannon** ran for the students, as well as myself. That was my first year in grad school, and I remember it as one of the best and happiest years of the 52 I've been on this earth.

I'm still teaching German in the high school — Oakdale, Minn. — and keep busy with two exchange programs, traveling every summer to Essen in the even years, to Berlin in the odd years, and taking about 20 students; and hosting about 20 German students fall and spring every other year. It is time-consuming but rewarding, especially considering the number of former students I currently have in Germany — living, studying, doing internships, and married.

I seldom make it down to Bloomington anymore but remember it with fondness. My regards to all the staff from the 1970s, especially **Frank Banta**."

**Arthur Sachs**, PhD'74, dropped us a nice letter, detailing a little of his life in the last several years: "I retired from the Defense Language Institute in September 1995 after 14½ years' service. Next month, I will turn 75 (yikes!), but feel well despite various maladies and try to remain as active as possible. ... I try to maintain my German by reading a weekly German-language newspaper, magazines, and TV. And I have a pen pal in Augsburg with whom I have corresponded for 50 years."

**Eileen Savage**, MA'87, has been ap-

pointed executive director for major gifts at the Indiana University Foundation. In that role, she will head the foundation's major gifts staff and will be the chief liaison to IU Bloomington's major gifts officers. For the past eight years, she has served as a senior development director for the IU Foundation. She is a member of the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity for Monroe County.

**Myra Heerspink Scholz**, PhD'93, writes, "We took another summer trip across the ocean, this time limiting ourselves to Michigan and contacts with family there, most importantly spending time with my aging parents. The same wonderful old cottage as last year served us as home for two weeks, giving opportunities for long walks on the beach and sunset views over Lake Michigan. Back on the Dutch side of the ocean, we picked up our usual routine. I am starting on another book-translation project (this time a 17th-century topic with a foot on both sides of the ocean, one in the Netherlands and one in New Amsterdam), and continue to teach English conversation to Japanese people. Freelancing keeps retirement at bay!

Bernhard has found many ways to fill the free time of retirement: independent research, volunteer work, sports, and pottery making."

**Tom Shannon**, PhD'82, reminds us that he was named to the executive committee of the Society for Germanic Linguistics and lists several talks and papers he's given over

(continued on page 11)

## Graduate news

(continued from page 10)

the past two years. One from last year has the intriguing title “Oy vey, maatjie: More drift in Germanic.”

“We were in Göttingen from 2000 to 2002, as I was director of the UC Study Center in Germany. We had a wonderful time there and still miss it at times. It was great for our daughter Stephanie to be able to attend German school for two years, and I really enjoyed watching California students live and learn in Germany.”

**Nicholas L. Strout**, BA’81, MA’86, was recently promoted to senior vice president and general manager for international business at Minntech Corp., a medical device manufacturer based in Minneapolis. He writes, “After three years in the U.S., my (German) wife, Susanne, has almost adapted to life in a Midwest suburb — a far cry from Hamburg, Germany, where I first met her as an IU exchange student in 1980 and where we married in 1985!”

**Felix Tweraser**, PhD’95, writes, “I’m in my sixth year at Utah State University in Logan in the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Speech Communication — a unique configuration that! — and my current research deals with Austria in the Cold War. My wife, Julie Johnson, teaches art history here, with a research interest in Central European art. We’re both up for tenure this year, so please touch wood on our behalf. (We were in Texas at TCU last year, but decided to return to Utah. Our

thinking: if we have to live in a red state, it might as well be one with really good skiing and spectacular national parks.) Our daughter Isabel is 8 years old, attending third grade, and a constant source of wonder and fun. We try to make it to Vienna as often as we can, mostly to research the latest innovations in *Heuriger* and *Kaffeehäuser*, hitting the odd archive by accident sometimes.

**Silke von der Emde**, PhD’94, last year published *Entering History: Feminist Dialogues in Irmtraud Morgner’s Prose*.

**James C. Williams**, BA’74, MBA’77, MAT’81, writes, “I still occupy the Edna B. Lacy Endowed Chair in Business and Entrepreneurship at Franklin College, where I have been since 1983. ... For the last three years I have also been a featured performer at Oktoberfest Zinzinnati, where I am able to give my German a workout!”

## Undergraduate notes

In a letter to Bill Shetter, **Rex Dwyer**, BA’79, reminisces a bit about the Dutch course he took: “I finally got around to reading the department’s newsletter (which I still do, although it is with mixed feelings that I read constantly about being surpassed by my juniors). I graduated in 1979 with a degree in Germanic Languages rather than German on the basis of my study of Dutch. I took your graduate German linguistics course as a senior, and that was our only time together in a classroom. I first encountered your name when I was about 13 or 14 when I took Dutch by Radio, and I saw it again a year or two later when my

brother gave me a copy of your textbook, which still stands on my shelf with its worn yellow cover. I think back now how those were at the time probably the only printed words of Dutch accessible to me aside from *Radio Nederland’s* quarterly program schedule and perhaps the list of ingredients on an occasional box of chocolates or cookies brought or sent from Germany by my older brother. And now I sit here in my chair with my computer in my lap, not physically connected to anything at all, able to instantly summon up probably more Dutch text than I could read in a lifetime. My parents died recently, and I try to imagine explaining to them that their obituaries in the Muncie paper are instantly accessible all over the world. At any rate, I did learn some Dutch, and you played your role. I think I also got some credit toward the Germanic Languages part of it by reading chunks of *Van den vos Reynaerde* and writing a paper on Frisian as a student abroad in Marburg in 1978.

Where I work now, at a biotech company, there is a Dutchman in the next office and another three or four offices down. They are quite surprised that I can carry on a little small talk and very impressed to hear me say *achtentachtig prachtige grachten* as well as the first few lines of *Reynaerd*. Around 1989, I met a Dutch couple on the Orient Express. I spoke a few words with them; they asked me where I learned it, and when I told them “I studied it at my university,” they responded, “Why would anyone do that?” I’ve never regretted it.

At any rate, it was interesting to see the names **Nancy Chadburn**, **Bill Christian**, and **Werner Ehlenberger** in the *Newsletter*. Bill was the RA in the German House in Aley Hall, where I lived 1979–1981. Nancy was a frequent visitor at the German table (where we never spoke German). Werner was in your linguistics class that I previously mentioned. I believe he followed me by a year into the MS program in computer science, and perhaps I was even his AI. I seem to recall that Nancy taught at Calvin College for a year or two. I still exchange Christmas cards with **Jane Marcus** and **Gordon Hartig**. I didn’t realize that Gordon had been in charge of the high school correspondence courses. I took second-year German that way in high school.

Regarding myself, Cambridge University Press published my bioinformatics textbook *Genomic Perl* in early 2003, but I may have asked you to boast about that in last year’s newsletter. My current project is to become proficient in Spanish, a language that always appeared sinfully easy to me but which, as you may know, has a rather hellish system of verb tenses and moods. And it presents

(continued on page 12)

### ANNOUNCING

## IUAlumniCareers.com

### Wanted: IU Alumni Mentors

IU alumni are invited to register now to give career advice to other alumni on our new online career services center, **IUAlumniCareers.com**, which is scheduled to launch in January 2006. This Web site will provide career and mentoring services for Indiana University alumni. As a mentor, you may choose how often and in what manner you wish to be contacted, and you may opt out of the mentor program at any time.

### Wanted: IU Alumni Employers

Employers are invited to register now online at **IUAlumniCareers.com**. If you are an employer, you may register your company now to post job openings. There is no charge to employers for this service.

### Questions?

Contact the IU Alumni Association at [iuaamemb@indiana.edu](mailto:iuaamemb@indiana.edu) or (800) 824-3044.



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# Undergraduate

(continued from page 11)

its share of “false friends.” I am applying for an MS program in development economics at UNC–Chapel Hill, but I’m not yet certain that I will enroll. My motivation for Spanish and development economics is what I saw in Guatemala when I traveled there to adopt my children in 1997 and 1999. One of my difficulties with Spanish at the moment is that my Chilean tutor may be deported soon.”

**John W. House**, BA’77, MS’78, has been deployed to Balad, Iraq, since January 2005. As public affairs officer for the 30th Engineer Brigade, North Carolina National Guard, he has produced a bimonthly newsletter for soldiers and their families. He has also prepared press releases highlighting the brigade’s engineering projects and hosted civilian news media covering the war. He is scheduled to return to the United States in December, and in January he will return to Spartanburg, S.C., to teach English as a second language and German at Boiling Springs High School. He writes, “I am eager to hear from alumni from Aley Hall (GRC) 1973–75 and participants in the Strasbourg overseas program, 1975–76.”

**Carol Imler Jackson**, BA’75, of Fort Wayne, Ind., founded a German conversation group that meets twice a month in members’ homes. Fellow alumni interested in joining are invited to e-mail her at carolimja@yahoo.com. She sings in the Fort Wayne Bach Collegium Choir.

**Annalies (Haag) McMorran**, BA’69, taught German in West Lafayette, Ind., for six years before moving to Atlanta, where she became involved in the restaurant business. She writes, “Anna Lee’s started in ’83 and is still keeping me busy and happy!”

**Hilary (White) Reis**, BA’92, lives in New York with her husband, Steven, and teaches in a large public high school. At her previous school, in Massachusetts, she started an exchange program with Germany and created a curriculum for the German program.

**Fredericka A. Schmadel**, BA’68, MA’69, is a desk officer for the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

**Connie V. Thornsberry**, BS’00, BA’04, is currently a graduate student at IUB pursuing a master’s degree in microbiology.

**Alicia J. Vega**, BA’99, writes, “After three years as a middle school French/German teacher and foreign language department chair just outside west Philadelphia, I am taking an indefinite amount of time off. Aug. 28, 2004, I gave birth to my first child, a daughter, Leta Jane. She came six weeks early, but after a two-week hospital stay is thriving and happy.”

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