

Indiana University College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Germanic Studies

Vol. 15 • Fall 2007

Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the chair

Department getting so much better all the time

"I must admit, it's getting better, getting better all the time," Paul McCartney sang in the buoyant days of Beatlemania, to which John Lennon slyly added: "It can't get much worse." I always liked John best, but even *I* must admit it's getting better. What's getting better? The proverbial life of the mind in Bloomington, Ind.

Over the past few years we have developed a workshop format that arises out of a graduate seminar. Pioneered by **Michel Chaouli's** *The Five Senses in the 18th Century*, the workshops are designed to continue the theme of the seminar on a more advanced level and to open the conversation to a larger public. Graduate students develop their seminar papers into talks, faculty members from neighboring disciplines whose research borders on the theme of the workshop are invited to deliver papers, and outside speakers, often ones whose work informed aspects of the seminar, are also brought in to participate. Last year **Ben Robinson** organized *Living Weimar*, and our then Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor, Helmut Lethen, whose *Verhaltenslehre der Kälte* was the central theoretical text of the seminar, was the featured guest. This fall **Claudia Breger** organized *Performing Community: Aesthetics and Politics, Violence and Re-mediation*, an outgrowth of her "Performing Culture" seminar conducted in 2006. Philip Auslander, whose concept of "liveness" loomed large in the seminar and workshop, was guest speaker along with our old colleague Katrin Sieg. Richard Bauman of our Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology and Shane Vogel from our Department of English delivered splendid papers as did our graduate students Christopher Sponsler, Dana Weber, and Zvi Gilboa, along with our former graduate student **Sonja Klocke**.

But this workshop was not the only major event of the semester. **Fritz Breithaupt** and

Claudia Breger organized a remarkable international conference on *Narrative Identification* that included major presentations by, among others, Rüdiger Campe (Yale), Albrecht Koschorke (Konstanz), Helmut Schneider (Bonn), Marianne Schuller (Hamburg), and Johannes von Moltke (Michigan). Our current Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor, **Eva Geulen** (Bonn) also presented, as did our students Orsolya Kiss, James Rasmussen, and Tyler Hafen. By all accounts, the conference was

immensely successful and impressive, with the level of intellectual engagement consistent throughout.

In addition, **Ben Robinson** has organized a visit by one of the most prominent French political theorists, Alain Badiou, who will deliver a lecture and participate on a roundtable discussion on film in November. This semester the department will also host a visit by Professor Jennifer Fay, director of film studies at Michigan State

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A word from the editor

Celebrating the past, present, future

You probably get the impression that we are always celebrating something around here. Well, this year we did it again: You may recall that last fall we took note of the fact that Peter Boerner, Fred Piedmont, and Eb Reichmann were all turning 80. Now, on page 2, we have some pictures that will show you what that looked like (as well as a couple of others to let you see what some of us look like now). In the meantime, I have just passed that same milestone myself. At our annual Honors Reception, the department provided a handsome 70th birthday cake for Albrecht and an 80th cake for me. And still a third for Henry Remak's 90th birthday! To avoid our looking too much like a bakery here, we're not including pictures of all of them.

All that serves as a reminder, I suppose, that the past is still alive and well among us. But the department would count as nothing without its activity in the present, and more important, its plans for the future. For that, all you need to do is turn to what our younger faculty colleagues are doing right now and their visions of where they are going.

To reach back into the past again, I just heard from Frank Banta that Peter Jansen died this past September. A few of the very-old-timers may remember him: when I joined the department in 1965 he had already been on the faculty for a year, and he left in 1968 for the University of Chicago, where he worked until retirement. He liked the big city, he once told me, and Bloomington was just too small and cozy for him to feel comfortable.

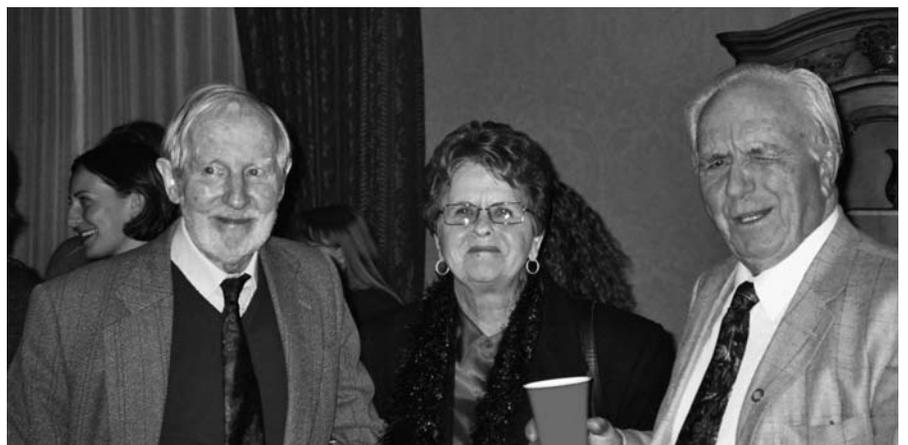
And thanks to all those who (unwittingly) provided me with material for a few irreverent cartoons. Please keep comments coming, at any time of the year.

— William Z. Shetter
shetter@indiana.edu

Department celebrates ... again!



Clockwise from top: Henry Remak; Albrecht Holschuh; Peter Boerner, left, and Fred Piedmont, right; Hugh Powell, left, Grace Armour, and Eb Reichmann; Steve Wailes; and Frank Banta and Pat Riesenmann



From the chair

(continued from page 1)

University (and former IU undergraduate), who will lecture on the politics of American films in occupied Germany after World War II and conduct a workshop on a related topic. Much more is on the way.

What strikes me about all these events is the active engagement of our graduate students in the intellectual life of the department. Last spring the students once again organized a graduate student conference on "Negotiating Identity," at which Julia Hell (Michigan) was the keynote speaker and Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm (Ohio State) was the plenary speaker (though illness prevented her from giving her talk until later in the semester). In all of our events, whether as panel participants or in the role of participatory audience, our students are fully present with their questions, comments, and conversation. This intellectual activity is carried off campus to national conferences, especially the German Studies Association Conference every fall. The presence of Indiana University faculty, graduates, and current graduate students at the GSA conference has become overwhelming. This year IU alumnus **Derek Hillard** (Kansas State) was awarded the prize for best literary article in the *German Studies Review*.

Each year a number of our graduate students go off to Europe to study and conduct research. This year Laura Sliker and Justin Glover are in Kiel, and Todd Cesaratto and Dana Weber are in Berlin, as is DAAD Fellow Zvi Gilboa. Christian Weber was the recipient of the Eighteenth-Century Studies Program dissertation fellowship, and Andrew Mills was awarded the department's Seidlin dissertation fellowship. We welcomed seven new graduate students into the program this year: Christopher Chiasson, Holly Hamilton, Nilzimar Hauskrecht, Peter Heidenreich, Christiane Kaden, Andrew Limbach, and Anita Lukic.

New opportunities for students and faculty alike are on the horizon. The department has become a partner institution with the IFK (*Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften*) in Vienna, Austria. Competitive fellowships for graduate students are available for a full year (2008–09) to conduct dissertation research at the Center in Vienna, and further possibilities exist for collaborate efforts between IU and the Center in the near future. We are quite excited about these possibilities, especially since the new director of the center, Helmut Lethen, was last year's Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor and continues to be a good friend of the department.

Our undergraduate program also continues to thrive. Professor **Rex Sprouse** and graduate students Dana Weber and James Rasmussen conducted another successful summer of study for our undergraduates in Graz, Austria; our graduate students Justin Glover and Laura Sliker taught in the high school honors program in Krefeld, Germany, the source of many future IU Overseas Study students; and we awarded the Catherine Clark Fraser Overseas Study Scholarship to an outstanding undergraduate student, Edward Madigan, who, with a group of fellow undergraduate students, is currently studying for the year in Freiburg, Germany. Lecturer **Nikole Langjahr** continues to do a splendid job organizing large and small activities, including lectures, discussions, film showings, and field trips, for the undergraduate population; and lecturer **Troy Byler** has done a similarly tremendous job in working with high school teachers and students of German in the area. We have expanded our curriculum to include more English-language courses to serve students campus wide, and **Gergana May** has developed a minor in Norwegian to complement similar minors in Dutch and Yiddish.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Helga Keller of the Center for Research on Concepts and Cognition on campus, who once again this year conducted a German-language guided tour of the IU Art Museum for our undergraduate students. This is certainly beyond

the call of duty, but also, I'm sure, is a labor of love. We are also grateful for the part-time lecturers and associate instructors who help us in our instructional activities: **Meghan Goff**, **Julia Lawson**, and **Sonja Rother**.

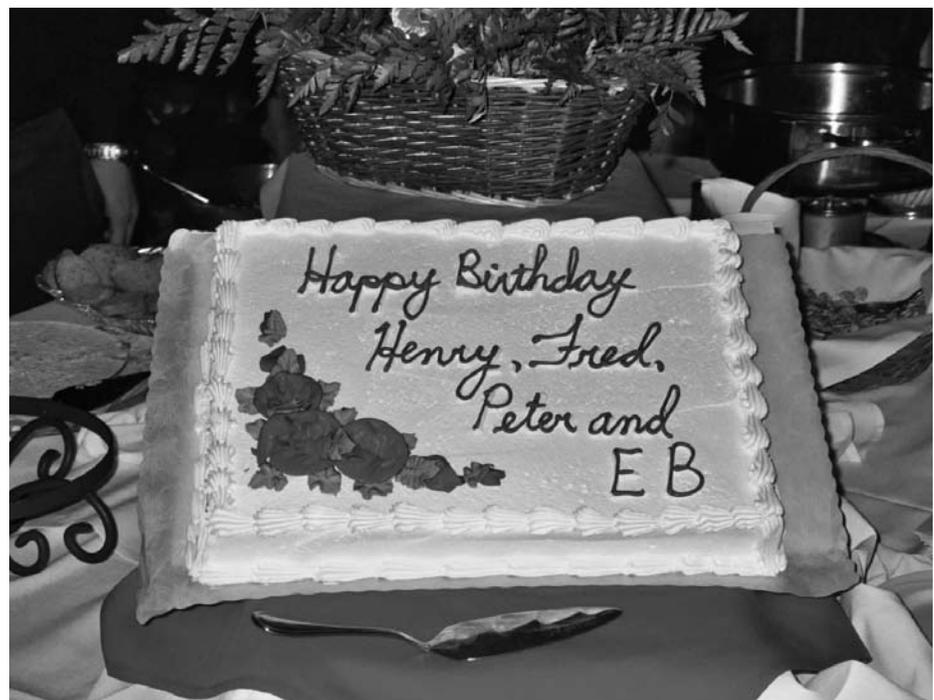
As many of you know, a world music festival — The Lotus Festival — takes place in Bloomington every fall. This year the Department of Germanic Studies co-sponsored a music group from Germany, 17 Hippies, who play an eclectic blend of European music and who, by all accounts, thoroughly entertained their audience on two consecutive evenings. Please visit their Web site at www.17hippies.de. Their CD is delightful.

In January 2008, the department welcomes our newest faculty member, Professor **Hildegard Keller**. You may remember her name from a few years back, for she was the Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2005. Professor Keller brings with her a varied and fascinating background in German medieval and Reformation studies, which we hope to showcase in a major medieval conference next fall. We have also been authorized to hire one more colleague, which would raise our total of tenure-stream faculty to 14, the largest we have been in quite some time. We are searching for someone in film, media, and visual culture to start August 2008.

So you see, it just keeps getting better and better. I must admit.

— William Rasch

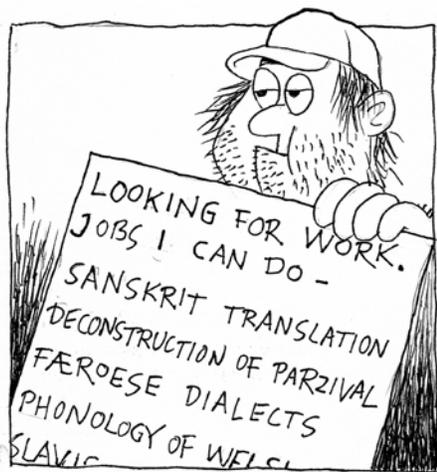
Getting better all the time ...



Faculty Notes

Frank Banta says “Searching my memory for something new and mentionable in the past year, I find little to report. It’s been a busy year; the 71 years since I started college have all been busy. For nine years I studied, supporting myself with jobs ranging from building fires in the stoves of the girls’ dormitory at Hanover College at 4 a.m. to teaching and working as a secretary at the University of Maryland. For some four years I served in the U.S. Army, doing nothing of any use to anyone until I disobeyed orders and obtained an appointment in the U.S. Military Government of Germany. On that followed five blissful semesters in Switzerland completing my degree. Then came full-time teaching, 13 years at the University of Illinois and 24 at IU, with an occasional semester or year of sabbatical leave. The year I stopped teaching I started working under the Dean of Students, where I volunteered for 11 years and have now been employed half time for eight.

“New in the past year? Well, a few months ago I took on the task of translating a bunch of letters written in the mid 1800s in Switzerland. Translating them is not difficult; reading German script is far harder than reading medieval manuscripts. Nothing we learn is ever useless. I’m employing the typing skills learned in high school, the knowledge of German gained in the past 77 years, the bits of Swiss dialect picked up in my graduate years, the experience of years peering at medieval manuscripts. I wonder what this job will lead to?”



Peter Boerner: “In June I attended conferences of the International Goethe Society in Weimar and Jena. Then, in July, I offered the *Festvortrag* at a gathering in honor of Heinz Friedrich, the deceased founder of the *Deutscher Taschenbuchverlag*,

in Kloster Seeon near Munich. My *Rowohlt* monograph on Goethe appeared in its 41st edition. An Estonian translation is in preparation [which must feel extra satisfying because remember that Peter was born in Estonia — *ed.*]. At home, the Friends of the Lilly Library awarded me their first medal for distinguished service.”

Claudia Breger writes, “At this moment, I am beginning to count the hours towards my sabbatical (which starts in January 2008), looking forward to some quiet writing time in Berlin. The last year has been hectic (as usual, I am inclined to say ‘more than usually’). Three of my ‘very own’ doctoral students (plus two on whose committees I served) went on the job market, and I am proud to say: All of them got jobs and defended their dissertations in the course of the summer. Needless to say, that was a lot of work for all of us. I also co-organized three conferences. The first of these happened last November in Germany, in collaboration with two colleagues there, and the book based on the event should be out in a few weeks (*Engineering Life: Narrationen vom Menschen in Biomedizin, Literatur und Kultur*, Berlin: Kadmos). The other two conferences just recently took place here at IU: For ‘Narrative Identification,’ Fritz Breithaupt and I brought in a number of Europe- and North America-based scholars for an investigation of various theoretical approaches and historical configurations of empathy in narrative. The workshop ‘Performing Community: Aesthetics and Politics, Violence and Remediation’ brought together a few students from my spring 2006 graduate class with ‘already famous’ people in the field, that is: invited speakers from other institutions as well as departments here at IU. Whereas ‘Narrative Identification’ went amazingly smoothly, the performance conference was subject to some last-minute complications, but everything came together eventually (and I am sure we will fondly remember the crisis moments retrospectively). As to the remaining time (= not much), I have been working on optimizing my professional travel schedules (three conferences/talks on the West Coast this calendar year, not a single one in D.C.!) and actually managed to go on a real vacation, two weeks of ‘adventure travel’ in Costa Rica in May.”

Michel Chaouli: “2006–07 was, in a word, restless. The spring term (badly misnamed, as it turned out, given that it consisted of one extended February) took me back to Cambridge, Mass., where I was a visiting professor at the German Depart-

ment at Harvard. I also kept busy in the larger university community there, presenting five different talks. At the same time, I also directed the Institute of German Studies at IU, which entailed coordinating our graduate recruitment effort (with excellent results, as we now see among our first-year students). I also presented talks at New York University and the University of Virginia, the latter a keynote at their graduate student conference. The academic year ended, as it has for the last six years, with the intense four-day workshop in May of our Center for 18th-Century Studies, at which I had the pleasure of presenting a paper. It was a great year, come to think of it.”

Von **Susanne Even** hören wir “Die Zeit rennt. Schon mein zweites Jahr in Bloomington! Der Job wird leichter, denn ich kenne mich besser aus, aber der Job wird auch voller, weil ich mich besser auskenne. Wenn ich auf das vergangene Jahr zurück blicke, kann ich mich nur immer wieder für den Einsatz aller AIs bedanken, die mir mit Rat und Tat zur Seite standen und eine wunderbare Truppe waren und sind, was organisatorische Zusammenarbeit, interne Hilfestellung, pädagogischen Austausch und Neugier auf Innovatives angeht!

“Das eingeführte Kursbuch für das erste Unterrichts Jahr, *Neue Horizonte*, scheint sich zu bewähren. Der Lehrplan wird inzwischen zum vierten Mal unterrichtet und dabei ständig überarbeitet und verbessert. Dieses Jahr steht im Zeichen des neuen Kursbuches für das zweite Jahr: *Anders Gedacht*. Wie auch bei *Neue Horizonte* wird der Lehrplan fortlaufend erweitert, und die Studis gewöhnen sich allmählich an das neue Format.

“Das dritte Jahr läuft gut, dank Nikole Langjahr, die die Einführung des Kursbuches *Unterwegs* anregte. Und G400 wird von Johannes Türk unterrichtet, der sehr zufrieden ist. Als Sprachkoordinatorin atme ich auf — nirgendwo gibt es (bis jetzt) größere Probleme, und die Atmosphäre unter den AIs ist gut.

“Äußere und innere Lernbewegungen anzuregen und zu begleiten habe ich mir zur Aufgabe gemacht — zum einen in den Studis, zum anderen in den AIs, die mit großem Interesse pädagogische Innovationen umsetzen und auch selbst entwickeln. Letzten Herbst gab es zwei extra Workshops: Improvisationstheater und dessen Anwendung im Fremdsprachunterricht (geleitet von Stefanie Beckmann aus Bochum), und zur dramapädagogischen Vermittlung von literarischen Texten (von

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Faculty notes

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mir). In diesem Sinne entwickelt sich auch meine Lehre und Forschung weiter. In diesem Jahr bin ich bislang auf vier Konferenzen mit Vorträgen zu Dramapädagogik vertreten. Als offizielle Trainerin des Goethe-Instituts sind Workshops in Atlanta, St. Louis und an der Acadia University in Nova Scotia geplant. Im vergangenen Sommer gab ich ein dramagrammatisches Gastspiel an der FU Berlin. Angedacht ist außerdem ein Kurs, der auf einem bilingualen Jugendbuch aufbaut und im Frühjahr 2009 vom Stapel laufen soll. Parallel dazu möchte ich die Entwicklung von Leseverstehen entlang bilingualer Texte untersuchen.

“Es gibt viel zu tun. Überarbeitet sind wir in diesem Herbst alle. Aber wir packen es trotzdem an, und der Rückhalt, das Interesse und die Hilfsbereitschaft von Kolleginnen und AIs sucht ihresgleichen. Vielen Dank euch allen.”

Catherine “Katy” Fraser: “My garden continues to flourish with the latest project being an avenue of crabapples, which should be lovely in spring if the deer don’t devour them. In between planting and tending, I’ve also been back in the classroom this year for brief stints. In the spring I played substitute at the University of Rhode Island while a former (Brown) student was on a six-week parental leave. This September I ran the DAAD workshop for new teaching assistants at the Goethe Institute in Boston. The group was much larger and more diverse than in Bloomington, some from Germany preparing to teach at small colleges, and others coming from larger American institutions, but all worked well together, and I hope they took back some useful ideas.

“Last week I represented the AATG at a meeting of administrators from Swiss colleges and universities, also in Boston, to talk about language teaching in the U.S. Though I enjoy these lapses into my former life, I am always happy to get back to my Rhody routine of gardening, swimming, and developing our textbook.

“For those of you who met my father, I can report that he is still doing well at 94. While in England to visit him, I also met up with a good friend from the IU law school.

I enjoy hearing how graduate students (former and current) are progressing and of their entry into — and experiences in — the job market. **Liesl Allingham**, PhD’07, was in my first AI group at IU and I was so happy to hear she’d landed a job. A former undergraduate wrote recently for a Fulbright reference. She had impressed me as a student but what she has done in

the meantime was truly impressive. They’re all a credit to the department.”

Kari Gade’s thoughts this year: “Not an uneventful year this time around. I discovered in November that I my eyesight was deteriorating rapidly, and I was diagnosed with cataracts on both eyes. So they sucked out my lenses and replaced them with plastic (quite remarkable really, but it hurt like hell). No more glasses except when I have to read very small print, which is a blessing, but I would have preferred the earlier status quo, I think — I’m starting to feel like Klaira in *Besuch der alten Dame!*

“Unlike last year, which was ‘the year of the groundhog,’ this was ‘the year of the raccoon.’ Ms. Hogg and Ms. Rae Coon fought it out concerning the occupancy of the *vagina Fannis* (aka ‘underneath my deck’), and Rae won. She gave birth to quadruplets, and I didn’t really mind, because, with nature’s garbage disposals at my disposal, I only had to put out the trash every second week (saved me \$4 a month).

“I was acting chair during spring semester and could not wait for June 30 to come around when I left the key in Bill’s mailbox and took off for Europe for a month. Spent three weeks in Norway with my family and one week in Cambridge, England, where I gave a talk and attended an editorial meeting. And it rained, and rained — every single day. In the fjords of Norway, the coastguard was picking up RVs that had floated down from inland campgrounds, and in England, they closed the motorways because they were crowded with cows (fields flooded). By the time I got back to Bloomington, I had developed webs between my fingers, which made it difficult to type and most likely resulted in two hard drives that crashed simultaneously (my home computer and my office computer).

“The skaldic project is finally taking off, and the first volume is in press. My volume is the next in line for publication (next September), and I’m working around the clock to make that happen. I’m on sabbatical now and have an NEH grant, so I hope to meet the deadline despite webbed fingers and crashed hard drives ...”

Tracy Alan Hall: “My highlight this past year was without a doubt my junior leave in spring 2006. I utilized my time wisely, giving invited presentations in Berlin and Mannheim and conference talks in Pennsylvania and Manchester. I am off to Paris next week for another conference presentation. One of the focuses of my current research is sound change. In particular, I have taken an interest in lesser known phonological changes that have taken place in various regional varieties of German. Sometimes people imagine that research involving dialects requires one to

travel to exotic villages in German-speaking countries. Although I agree that this approach can be fruitful, it isn’t necessary because the IU library contains a vast collection of descriptive grammars on German dialects and it is no exaggeration to say that these works contain enough data to keep a single linguist busy for an entire career. I hope that some of our promising graduate students will realize that phonology is a fascinating field and that large quantities of unexplored data within the Germanic family are just waiting to be discovered.”

Esther Ham: “Another year went by and we are still busy. We had (for the first time) a successful third year of Dutch. As an extra bonus, a couple of the third-year students and I visited the Netherlands during spring break and visited all the places we talked about during class. They all took the Dutch culture classes also, and it was a delight for them to see all the paintings, buildings and everything else we discussed in those classes with their own eyes. They stayed in a hotel in the middle of Amsterdam, opposite the Heineken Brewery, so maybe not a big surprise that they enjoyed that week very much. In the future, we hope to make this trip a part of the third-year program. Meghan Goff and I were very, very busy with a successful Summer Dutch Institute this summer. We had more students than ever, and in the Beginners Dutch class we had not only more students than last time, but also more states were represented. Also the cultural aspect was enjoyable. Now more students in the U.S. know how to bake real Dutch pancakes, how to cook an Indonesian meal, and what raw herring tastes like.”



Ingeborg Hoesterey tells us that for the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in April in Puebla, Mexico, she organized a seminar for 12 participants on the topic “Crossover Arts, Intermediality.” The group met on three mornings, and she also gave a paper. An article on “*Filmadaptation und Intermedialität: Patrick Süskinds Roman ‘Das Parfum’ in Tom Tykwers Regie*” was recently submitted.

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Faculty notes

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Albrecht Holschuh: “It would be incorrect to say that I am not doing much, but what I do is not connected to the life of the department and may not be worth mentioning. Most of my time goes to Bloomington Worldwide Friendship and the League of Women Voters. The world beyond the campus is full of excitement.”

Gergana May writes, “I am happy to report that the Norwegian program is going strong. Eight out of my 11 first-year students continued in the second year, and three went to Norway on different exchange programs. I am also rounding up in my classes everyone who wants to study Danish or Swedish but is not able to because they are not offered at IU, so we are true pan-Scandinavianists in the classes! The faculty group of Scandinavian studies buffs is also thriving. We just hosted the second speaker of our lecture series and enjoyed tremendously the academic stimulation and the social interaction. I am currently busy preparing the culture course that I will be teaching in the spring semester that will seek to illuminate the Scandinavian societies through the lens of the immigrant eye. Otherwise, my family is still settling in. We purchased a house in February and just returned from IKEA in Chicago with loads of additional furniture packed tightly in the Honda sedan. Rumor has it that there is another IKEA coming closer to here next spring — it will be in Cincinnati, bringing the real Swedish meatballs with lingonberries just two hours away from here.”

Ferdinand Piedmont: “Last November the department arranged for a great evening honoring the 80- and 90-year-old former colleagues (Remak, Boerner, Reichmann, and myself) at a special party with music by the graduate students and a moving revue of our careers at IU by Bill Rasch [see the pictures on page 2 — *ed.*]. I am still interested in and frequently traveling to the German theater scene, recently to the much touted performance of the entire *Wallenstein* in Berlin by Peter Stein with the Vienna actor Brandauer in the title role, almost all of it from 2 to 11:30 p.m. (with four intermissions), on the whole not as good as shorter adaptations I have seen in the past. My book titled *Aktuelles Theater mit Schiller* appeared last year (with Peter Lang) and could well be extended (*fortschreiben* would be the appropriate German term). Retirement in Bloomington is good, especially if it is regularly interrupted by trips to the South, West, and East of our globe.”

William Rasch writes, “I enjoyed a semester’s leave spring 2007 and spent four

months as a Senior Fellow at the *Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften* in Vienna, Austria. The working atmosphere, the colleagues, and the staff at the IFK were absolutely outstanding, and I fell in love with Vienna, truly a beautiful, comfortable, and interesting city. My wife joined me for the final six weeks of my stay, and my daughter came over to Vienna to celebrate her 21st birthday with us. This fall I’m teaching an undergraduate course in translation on Nietzsche, Weber, and Freud. I have a group of bright and engaged students who simply trash the stereotypes that abound about ‘kids these days.’ They grapple with texts that directly challenge their beliefs, grasp the twists and turns of thought of difficult thinkers, and make startling comparisons to other books they have read and contemporary events or situations. It has been gratifying and rewarding.

“One of the more enjoyable intellectual events for me this year was my experience as plenary speaker at the annual Critical Legal Conference in London in September. It was my third time in London, and each time I have been exhilaratingly energized by the intellectual atmosphere there. I will return to London for the week of spring break in March as guest of the International Law and Theory Centre of the University of Westminster. I can’t wait.”

Benjamin Robinson tells us, “Last fall was taken up with my new baby boy, Lewis. While on paternity leave, I organized the workshop ‘Living Weimar: Between System and Self’ with some of our outstanding graduate students, our 2006 Max Kade Professor, Helmut Lethen, and various scholars from here and away. In spring ’07, I had an especially gratifying time teaching a group of motivated graduate students a seminar on the themes of ‘stopping’ and ‘progress’ and inspecting the ‘things’ that cropped up in between. I organized a symposium on the work of the philosopher Alain Badiou, with guests Ken Reinhard (UCLA) and Bruno Bosteels (Cornell). I also traveled to Portland for a seminar on ‘Resistances to Economics in Literature,’ organized by Jan Mieszkowski in German at Reed. Along with Johannes Türk and several others, I continued with the theoretical reading group, plowing into Deleuze’s work on cinema and screening several remarkable films. My summer was taken up with revisions to my book manuscript on what literature is referring to when it refers to socialism; and also, aided by a research grant from WEST, with the beginnings of a new book on the paradoxical figures of *akrasia* (weak will) and *sorites* (the leap from quantity to quality) in modernist literature. On my junior leave this

fall, I am nonetheless organizing the visit of Alain Badiou to campus this November, just in time for the 40th anniversary of the ‘events’ of May ’68. Badiou will be speaking on the provocative theme ‘For a Revival of the Communist Hypothesis’ — I am looking forward to what he will present.”

Rex Sprouse: “The last year has been an active year for me in teaching and research. I have enjoyed teaching courses both in the Department of Germanic Studies and in the new Department of Second Language Studies. This past summer I directed IU’s summer program in Graz for the sixth consecutive summer. Austria has become something of a second home for me, and I greatly enjoy introducing new groups of students to that home. I also continue my service as director of undergraduate study for the Department of Germanic Studies and my work on faculty committees for Individualized Major Program students.

“The last 12 months or so, I took a bit of a hiatus from traveling to conferences, although I am gearing up for renewed conference participation in 2008. Since last year’s newsletter, several of my papers have been published in various volumes:

- ‘Linear Sequencing Strategies or UG-Defined Hierarchical Structures in L2 Acquisition? A Reply to Meisel’ (co-author:

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Germanic Studies

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

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 THE COLLEGE

Faculty notes

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Bonnie D. Schwartz [University of Hawaii faculty]), in *Phrasal and Clausal Architecture: Syntactic Derivation and Interpretation: In Honor of Joseph E. Emonds*, edited by Simin Karimi, Vida Samiiian, and Wendy Wilkins.

- ‘The Comparative Fallacy in L2 Processing Research’ (co-authors: Laurent Deydtspotter [IU French and Italian Department/Department of Second Language Studies faculty] and Bonnie D. Schwartz), in *Proceedings of the Eighth Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition Conference (GASLA 2006): The Banff Conference*, edited by Mary Grantham O’Brien, Catherine Shea, and John Archibald.

- ‘The Bankruptcy of the Stimulus’ in *The Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference on Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition — North America*, edited by Kamil Ud Deen, Jun Nomura, Barbara Schulz, and Bonnie D. Schwartz.

- ‘Syntax-Semantics Interface’ (co-authors: Laurent Deydtspotter and **Bruce Anderson**, PhD’02; University of California at Davis faculty, in *French Applied Linguistics*, edited by Dalila Ayoun.

- ‘Full Transfer and Relexification: Second Language Acquisition and Creole Genesis’ in *L2 Acquisition and Creole Genesis: Dialogues*, edited by Claire Lefebvre, Christine Jourdan, and Lydia White.

“Kevin Rottet (IU French and Italian faculty) and I were just informed that our co-authored paper on the development of tag questions in Welsh dialects has been accepted for publication in the journal *Diachronica*. I am working on a review article of sorts for *Second Language Research* in which I explore the theories of second language acquisition implicitly and explicitly assumed in recent creole linguistics research.

“Tracy Alan Hall and I are investigating/debunking alleged ‘reasons’ for the loss of the preterite tense in southern German dialects — research that we plan to report at a conference in Graz, Austria, in May 2008. I am looking forward to research leave in spring semester 2008 so that I can

work intensively on developing a principled theory of third language acquisition.

Johannes Türk says, “The first year has gone by so quickly that I found it difficult to keep track of what happened. Talks and conferences led me to Michigan; Zurich, Switzerland; and Puebla, México, and I enjoyed others being interested in my work. The talks as well as articles in *Germanic Review* and in a book edited by Claudia Breger led me to further investigate questions I had touched upon but not elaborated in my dissertation. And I look forward to presenting more general theoretical reflections on literature and immunology at a conference in Luzern this coming December. But even though the year went by at such a high speed, it has left me grateful about some memorable developments: Estela was offered a tenure-track position at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, so that we have the rare chance to pursue our academic goals in tandem with a shared life at this early point of our professional development. And we have become the owners of an old four-square house south of campus that is finally inhabitable after months of work and will hopefully shelter us in the years to come. It allows us to walk to campus and is situated in a nice neighborhood on Fess Avenue.

“It was a pleasure and honor for me to become an adjunct in the Department of Comparative Literature this year and open my work to this discipline — a task that is of considerable importance to me, especially in my research and in my work with graduate students. For some it may also be a surprise that I enjoyed teaching undergraduate classes and found pleasure in learning from and interacting with a generation so different from mine. And I discovered more and more what helpful, generous, and excellent colleagues I have. Therefore I look forward to the next years of work in and service to the department.”

For **Marc Weiner**, 2007 was both busy and fun. In the spring semester he gave an undergraduate “Authors Course” on “Nietzsche und Kafka,” and a graduate introduction to 20th-century German and Austrian literature organized around the topic “Literature as Social Criticism,” both of which he found rewarding owing to the high degree of engagement and of the impressive talent of the students.

Once the summer was upon us, he flew to Germany to observe and report on the IU Study Year Abroad Program in Freiburg in Breisgau, which he found to be quite an eye-opener, both on a professional and personal level, as he was repeatedly mindful

of the fact that he had been there 30 years before on his own junior year abroad(!), an ironic twist of fate. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Bonn-Beuel, where he regularly spends the month of July with his daughter, Madeleine, and friends in their villa-like apartment. This year, they all went to Piran, a small town on the coast of Slovenia just south of Trieste, where they spent nearly two weeks working on their suntans and the local cuisine, all of which made for a most memorable, self-indulgent, and fun experience.

Then it was back to Bloomington in late summer, during which Weiner put the finishing touches on two courses for the fall, an undergraduate introduction to German culture on the topic of *Wagner-Kino*, which the students apparently loved, and a graduate-level introduction to 19th-century German and Austrian cultural production, organized around the topic of “Productions of Presence,” a recent critical move away from exegetical interpretation and toward an appreciation of the materiality of aesthetic experience. (Whether the graduate students in that course also loved what they were doing was another matter.) In these cases, too, Weiner was very impressed by the level of intellectual engagement and abilities of the students.

Weiner gave two invited lectures in 2007, the first on “Bastions of Bayreuth and the Legacies of Discursive Practice” at the University of Illinois, Urbana, in October, and the other on “Hollywood’s German Fantasy: Ridley Scott’s *Gladiator*” at the American Musicological Society conference in Quebec, in November. In the course of the year, he submitted two essays, one on “Primal Sounds” for *The Opera Quarterly* (which he himself confesses was possibly the “weirdest” thing he’s ever written, but for that reason was a lot of fun to work on), and the other with the same title of the aforementioned study on the Hollywood blockbuster *Gladiator*, for a forthcoming volume on *Wagner and Cinema*, edited by Sander Gilman and Jeongwon Joe. In the past year, two essays appeared in print: “Lingering Discourses: Critics, Jews, and the Case of Gottfried Wagner,” in *Lingering Dissonances*, edited by Matthew Bribitzer-Stull and Alex Lubet; and “Hans Pfitzner and the Anxiety of Nostalgic Modernism,” in *Legacies of Modernism: Art and Politics in Northern Europe, 1890–1950*, edited by Rick McCormick, **Patrizia McBride**, PhD’98, and Monika Žagar.

Weiner says that if 2008 turns out to be as good a year as the last one, he will be a happy camper.

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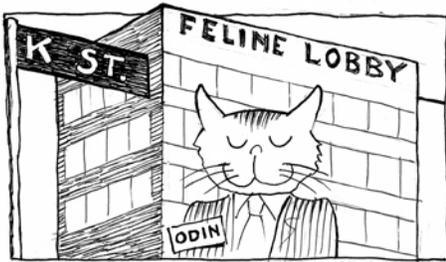


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Alumni Notes

Graduate news

Claudia Bornholdt, PhD'01, tells us, "I accepted a new position as assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Brian (whom some of you might still know from the two years he worked as administrative assistant in the Department of Germanic Studies), our cat Odin and I very much enjoy life in the capital city!"



Joe Delap, PhD'92, says, "The only news I have to report is that I taught an interdisciplinary course on Holocaust history and literature this past summer. Since beginning my job as associate VP for academic affairs five years ago, this is the first time I have taught a class. It was also the first time in years that a course has been offered under the German (GN) course designation at our university.

"The family is doing just fine. Shelby, our 15-year-old son, is attending the state math and science school in Mobile. Because it is a boarding-school arrangement, this has involved a major adjustment in our daily lives, not having him at home. In the end, the opportunity outweighs the emotions, and we are thankful he can enjoy such an academically challenging and rewarding experience."

Bill Eldon, MA'79: "Wieder einmal ist uns eine Nummer der Germanic Studies *Alumni Newsletter* in den Briefkasten gelandet, und wieder mal schäme ich mich, daß ich mich jahrelang nicht gemeldet habe.

"MA 1979, glaube ich, Seidlin-Fellow, ABD, dann bin ich aber wegen der Karriere meiner Frau 1985 nach Houston gezogen, wo ich bei der Farmers Insurance Group gelandet bin und nun seit bald 21 Jahren arbeite. Leider habe ich kaum regelmäßigen Kontakt zum Deutschen mehr, außer den *Spiegel*-Nummern die Beth mir aus der Bibliothek mitbringt und der DW-TV! Ich bin den Entwicklungen in Ballantine aber mit Interesse gefolgt.

"Nach 7 Jahren in Houston, wo unsere beiden Söhne geboren wurden, sind wir

nach Indiana zurückgezogen, diesmal nach South Bend, wo Beth 8 Jahre lang an der University of Notre Dame Professorin der Biologie war. Im Juni 2000 hat sie eine Stelle an der California State University Long Beach bekommen. Unser Sohn Andrew, der bald 20 Jahre alt wird, studiert im 2. Jahr Geschichte an der nagelneuen University of California Merced; sein Bruder Matthew, der 2 Tage davor 17 wird, ist Junior im PACE-Programm der Long Beach Polytechnic High School, spielt Violine im Orchester und singt im Kammerchor. Andrew hat in der Schule 4 Jahre Japanisch gelernt; Matt hat sich aber für Deutsch entschieden. Matt hat uns neulich mitgeteilt, er möchte vielleicht in Bloomington studieren. Ich selber bin Mitglied der Long Beach Chorale und lerne auch Rudern als Mitglied der Long Beach Rowing Association, wo Andrew während seiner High-School-Jahre Mitglied des Long Beach Junior Crew war.

"Wir haben im August den 28. Hochzeitstag gefeiert, wo ist die Zeit nur geblieben? Bitte meldet Euch bei uns in Long Beach, wenn Ihr mal in der Nähe von Los Angeles seid!"

Douglas J. Fischels, MA'00, MIS'01, is a project manager for Amdocs.

Robert Hoeing, PhD'87: After two terms as secretary, Associate Professor of Linguistics Bob Hoeing was elected chairman of the SUNY at Buffalo Faculty Senate.

William Keel, PhD'77, writes, "I was recently elected president of the Society for German-American Studies and continue to edit its Yearbook of German-American Studies. Still chairing the department at Old KU — we are trying to hire a tenured associate professor in 19th-century literature this year — anyone you can recommend? I will become chair of the Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board starting in January 2008 and just stepped down as president of KATG. Crazy!"

"Some Kansas Low German dialect speakers were recently featured in an NDR special 'Platt in Kansas' as part of a series *Die Welt op Platt* that was broadcast back in June on German TV. It focused on the group of Hannoverian Lutherans in northern Kansas where one of my doctoral students was able to start a heritage group with Low German instruction once a month. Other students continue the program now that he has finished his doctorate and has a job at Western Kentucky University. Those interested in German-American dialects may want to check out our Linguistic Atlas of Kansas German Dialects on

the Internet at www2.ku.edu/~germanic/LAKGD/Atlas_Intro.shtml — you can listen to sample texts in the various dialects still extant in Kansas.

"On the family side, we now have four grandchildren (two boys and two girls) spread over several states (Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin), and our only unmarried child works for Teach for America in Chicago."

Bill adds in the note to me: "We were just talking about your book on the 'pillars' of Dutch society in my Dutch Reading class this week — we were reading a text about *verzuijing* [previous organization of Dutch society into confessional blocs — *ed.*] and the topic popped up. I have two graduate students from German and four from art history in this semester's group. The chair of art history really encourages her graduate students to take the class, so I keep offering it."

Astrid Klocke, PhD'00: "I'm associate chair of modern languages now and even more heavily involved in administrative matters. My research focus has shifted a bit to humor in film: I just started a larger project on 'Individual Alienation and the Supernatural in Expressionist Film' (and, yes, there is humor in there somewhere!). I'm also in charge of developing a new film studies program at Northern Arizona University. The article on Chaplin and Hilsenrath is (finally!) forthcoming in 'Holocaust and Genocide Studies' this winter, and the *Introduction to Literature* textbook is in the final stages. Look for the promotional materials from Focus Publishing next spring! I'm also happy to report that I finally quit smoking last year and have found a better drug: Triathlon training. I completed a few shorter races this summer and hope to move on to longer ones next summer."

Laura Meyer, MA'88 (West European studies), was here 1986–87 and dropped by while she was on campus to give a lecture. While she was here, she had a French major and German minor, and she later lived in Amsterdam, where she learned the language fluently.

C. Patricia Riesenmann, MA'61, PhD'66, MLS'77, and Robert V. Goehlert, MA'72, MLS'76, PhD'81, received the 2006 William Evans Jenkins Librarian Award from IU Bloomington's Library Faculty Council. The award recognizes outstanding professional contributions. Pat was a reference librarian at IUB from 1977 until her retirement in 1997. Goehlert serves IUB libraries as the librarian for econom-

(continued on page 9)

Graduate news

(continued from page 8)

ics, political science, and criminal justice, among other university responsibilities.

Marty Rohlfling, PhD'76, women's issues coordinator for Illinois State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, turned a hobby into a second job: knitting multi-ethnic dolls, "All different, but all the same," as she writes. Although she contributes many of them to silent auction fundraisers at her church or at the social service agency ChildLink, they are also available at the Illinois Artisans Shop in Chicago's James R. Thompson Center.

Arthur Sachs, PhD'74: We have been informed that Art Sachs died in 2006.

Jill Smith, PhD'04, says, "I'm in the second year of my position as assistant professor of German at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and am as busy as ever! I'm working on several articles, teaching all new classes, and am on several important committees. It's a fantastic job, however, and I feel very lucky to have wonderful students and colleagues.

"My big personal news is that I got married this summer (July 20–21) in Berlin! My husband, Fabian Rüger, is a historian and professional tour guide in Berlin, and he will (I hope) be joining me in Maine very soon (right now we're working on getting his visa). Mihaela Petrescu (a very recent IU PhD) attended and participated in our wedding, which was absolutely beautiful.

"Before leaving for Berlin at the beginning of July, I had a lovely visit with **Elliott Schreiber** (ABD) and his wife, Julie O'Sullivan, at their home in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. It was great fun. I am also in fairly regular touch with **Wilfried Wilms**, PhD'00, **Derek Hillard**, PhD'01, **Corey Roberts**, PhD'02, and **Claudia Bornholdt**, PhD'01, who will, hopefully, send in their own reports."

Phyllis Smith Herdendorf, MA'63: "I have had a very long and wonderfully satisfying academic career. From 1959 until 1963, I was a student in the German Department and in the Russian Institute at IU. In 1960–61, while still an official IU student, I spent a year studying at the University of Munich at the Russian Institute there. The IU faculty helped me to arrange that as part of my program. I had finished the MA degree in German with a minor in Russian and was well along with the PhD, when I decided to take time out to earn some money in 1963. My first appointment as assistant professor was teaching German and Russian at the State University of New York, where I ended up finishing my PhD, (University of Buffalo). I have stayed employed with SUNY up to this day — over 43 years! Through the years,

I have been able to return to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria regularly, with and without students in tow. A highpoint of 20 years teaching at SUNY Empire State College was arriving in Berlin with 15 graduate students right after the Berlin Wall fell. Although I have officially retired, I have been retained on the faculty of both the graduate programs and the international programs of SUNY Empire State, based in Saratoga Springs.

"In recent years I have been teaching regularly for Empire State's programs in Istanbul, Cyprus, Athens, and Tirana, Albania as well as in our graduate programs (lots of MA theses!). My teaching specialty since the mid-1980s has shifted toward understanding the European Union and Germany during and after the waning years of the Soviet Union. My husband and I have changed our residence from New York to Wyoming, where our daughter does wildlife research for the University of Wyoming. The commute from Laramie, Wyoming, to Saratoga Springs and to Europe is a regular feature of my post-retirement employment. It is a good thing that I am no longer expected to teach full-time.

"Question to all: I wonder how many former students still remember the day that our department chairman, Doctor Meessen, didn't make it to our class? (I forget which class it was). After half an hour, a number of us went out looking for him. We found him lying on the floor in the foyer of Ballantine Hall, with the emergency crew still not yet at his side. Everyone was so sad and shocked to lose such a vibrant and admirable part of our student life. I remember him well. He and Doctor Remak were my personal favorite professors, but I esteemed all of them so much. My fellow students are also all wonderful parts of my memories of those years. (My married name has been Herdendorf since 1964)."

John Sundquist, PhD'02, was promoted to associate professor of German and linguistics and awarded tenure at Purdue University in April 2007.

Undergraduate news

Lyuba Bobova, BA'02, is a graduate student at IU Bloomington's Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. She received a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism training grant in 2006.

Rex Dwyer, BA'79, took an MS in computer science in 1981. He was teaching Spanish at the University of North Carolina in fall 2006. He received the MS in economics and Latin American studies at UNC in May 2007.

Victoria Johnson Burke, BA'93, is a supported-employment manager at Op-

tions for Better Living in Bloomington, Ind. She assists people with disabilities in finding employment.

In February 2007, **Sonja R. Fritzsche**, BA'92, was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill. In 2006, she married Ronald S. Schwartz and also released a new book, *Science Fiction in Literature in East Germany*. Fritzsche lives in Bloomington, Ill.

Kasia Jarski-Firlej, Cert/BA'92, is a continuing lecturer in marketing, human resources, and management at Purdue University Calumet. She lives in St. John, Ind.

Dennis R. Marrell Jr., BA'03, of Chicago, is an account manager at Country-wide Home Loans.

Michael E. Morrison, BA'86, MA'88, is a copy editor and page designer for Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers in Stuart, Fla. He lives in Palm City.

Anna M. Peeples, BA'01, of Portland, Ore., is pursuing a master's degree in public administration at Portland State University. She plans to work in Vietnam when she finishes school.

Keith A. Petty, BA'99, is an attorney for the U.S. Army. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Schmits Thomas, BA'88, left Hetrick Communications Inc. in Indianapolis to start her own public-relations firm. Her husband, John, BA'84, is now chief marketing officer at Hetrick Communications, which he joined in 2003.

Hannah C. Schroder, BA'06, of Chicago, received the second annual Reed Business Information Outstanding Intern Award from American Business Media at the Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism Awards luncheon. She interned at *Building Design + Construction*, where she produced features, news stories, and departmental materials for print and electronic products. Schroder now works for JSH&A Public Relations in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

Chad E. Strain, BA'95, MS'99, MD'02, is a staff anesthesiologist at University Heights Anesthesia in Indianapolis. An alumnus of Culver (Ind.) Military Academy, Strain was honored as the academy's Young Alumnus of the Year in May 2007. He and his wife, Brandi, MSN'03, have three children — Sophia, Bennett, and Griffin. The Strains live in Greenwood, Ind.

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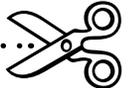
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