Well, how can I start without mentioning the World Cup? I will never forget the game against Brazil. The final has created specific memories for many of us, marking where and when we were and how we perceived the final goal. We have collected some personal accounts, written by students and faculty, to share on our website: www.indiana.edu/~germanic.

Another highlight just happened at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association when more than 40 faculty, former graduate students (now faculty elsewhere), and current graduate students gathered in Kansas City. Few if any departments in the country can claim such a vibrant community. We met quite properly in Grünauer, an Austrian restaurant with a German menu.

It also makes all of us proud to see how the success of our graduate students continues. Four students have defended their dissertations recently and have continued their careers elsewhere. All four have landed great jobs in their field. Justin Glover’s dissertation is called Liquid Vocalizations and Underspecification in German Dialects; he found excellent employment at Google.

Madhuvanti Karyekar defended her dissertation Translating Observation into Narration: The ‘Sentimental’ Anthropology of Georg Forster (1754-1794) in the spring and now teaches at Ohio State University in Columbus as a lecturer. Andrea Meyertholen now teaches at the University of Kansas at Lawrence after defending her work on Blurring the Lines: The Invention of Abstract Art in German Literature Since 1800. Olivia Landry won a prestigious postdoc at the University of Pittsburgh; her dissertation is called The Performance of Berlin School Cinema: Movement, Affect, Presence.

We continue to see a near-perfect job placement record for our Ph.D.’s over the past fifteen years! Still, the academic environment continues to be quite challenging in most fields, including German Studies. Whereas most of our Ph.D.’s in the past could hope to get tenure-track appointments coming right out of IU, the current new normal is that Ph.D.’s receive a limited-time contract first.

Again, we are growing and welcome several new adjunct professors to the department. Jeffrey Saletnik, assistant professor in art history, who works on Bauhaus; Miriam Zadoff, the Alvin H. Rosenfeld Associate Professor for Jewish Studies, who works in many facets of modern Jewish-German life; and Noam Zadoff, assistant professor in Jewish Studies and History, who
Hello, happy autumn, and greetings to all! We hope your year has been happy and productive. As Fritz Breithaupt outlines in his “Letter from the Chair,” there have been great doings among faculty, graduate students, and alums, many of whom will catch you up in more detail below. You will read that there has been much excitement about new efforts and old friends, and, yes, some heartbreak as well. We all do our best to stay in touch, to give you an idea of the continuing breadth and vibrancy of Germanic Studies, as well as of the creativity and productivity of its members and alumni. We also hope you enjoy the accounts of more personal experiences, insights, and fellowship that our contributors are pleased to share with you.

We were all greatly saddened last January by the news of Frank Banta’s passing and more recently by the death of Ulrich Weisstein. We were, however, grateful for the fond Wiedersehen with the many old friends and former students and colleagues of Frank who attended the memorial gathering held in his honor last spring. He was a good friend.

We reach out to you once a year in the form of this venerable newsletter, but remember, our Internet presence continues to grow. Do check in all year with the German House and the IU Bloomington Germanic Studies Department Facebook pages, and visit us at www.indiana.edu/~germanic. And let me remind you also of our spot on the College of Arts and Sciences news site, www.indiana.edu/~asnews/index.php. You can view news by department by clicking on the pull-down menu at the upper right and looking for us. So far we haven’t had much of a presence there, but that will change if you contribute. Just send me items of professional interest, book announcements, or conference activities any time during the year, and I will post them on ASNews for you.

With all these opportunities to communicate, you’d think we’d know everything that everyone has been up to—professionally as well as socially—but, alas, that isn’t the case. If you are among this year’s contributors, thank you for staying in touch; if you have not sent in an item, please consider doing so in the coming year! We welcome all means of communication, from parchment and quill to hyperlinks. I am still teaching, still apparently addicted to chalk dust. I am looking forward to attending the annual American Literary Translators Association Conference in November in Milwaukee and to working once again with the IU Opera Theater, this time for their production of Mozart’s Die Zauberflöte in April.

Read on, let us know what you think, and stay in touch!

Mit herzlichen Grüßen,

Julie Lawson
M.A., ’68, Ph.D., ’80
juklawso@indiana.edu
works on Gershom Scholem.

Still, there is a partial loss for us this year since Rex Sprouse has shifted his entire position over to a department he helped create, the Department of Second Language Acquisition at IU. The affiliation represents his research interests best. He remains active in the department, of course. Rex will pass the baton for the Graz program for 2015 to Tracy Hall.

With our current faculty configuration, we continue to offer the entire spectrum of German language, literature and culture, linguistics, and Germanic philology. In our large program on literature and culture, we focus on:
- German thought and ideas
- History of knowledge
- Narrative
- Performance and intermediality
- Politics and aesthetics

Our Dutch and Norwegian programs are growing. For the first time, we now have three people running our Dutch program, with Bieneke Haitjema and Esther Ham as full-time instructors and David Bolter as assistant instructor. Norwegian is also doing well, thanks to hard work by Gergana May, and we hope to grow our course offerings as well. Esther Ham now wears another hat and has become director for online education in our new Center of Language Excellence. Congratulations, Esther! Dov-Ber Kerler, our Dr. Alice Field Cohn Chair in Yiddish Studies, has a steady impact on our students as well. If you have not already done so, please google his amazing “Voices from the Shtetl: The Yiddish Memories Project.” Susanne Even and Troy Byler are quite busy with our German language sequence transition to new textbooks. The word is out: Our language program continues to be the envy of the discipline in North America.

Our Max Kade Visiting Professor in fall 2014 is Remigius Bunia from the Free University in Berlin, who has been teaching a thought-provoking course on “Dirty Little Things.” We congratulate Ben Robinson for being named the Henry H. Remak Professor in Germanic Studies for 2014–17 and for his dedication to our undergraduate students. Hildegard Keller is now not only a member of the Ingeborg-Bachmann-Preis jury but is increasingly present on Swiss TV (“Literaturclub”), in addition to being a prolific writer, of course. Michel Chaouli led our new course offered in Berlin in summer 2014 with ten students, which was a great success, as many people have reported. We hope that the program will grow with the help of the new alumni of the program. Our department continues to have more chairs and directors than any other. Claudia Breger is still chair of the Department of Gender Studies, Bill Rasch is chair of International Studies, Michel Chaouli is director of the Theory Center, and Johannes Türk serves as director of the Institute of German Studies. Kari Gade is director of graduate studies and Ben Robinson is director of undergraduate studies. Only I was able to shed one administrative office and am no longer interim dean of the Hutton Honors College.

We have to report sad news, as well. Our dear friend and colleague Emeritus Professor Frank Banta passed away in January 2014 while in Costa Rica. He lives on in the memory of the many whose lives he has touched.

There is certainly more news to report—please let us know what is going on in your lives. Finally, let me thank Julia Lawson for making the newsletter happen again. I do not know what we would do without her.

Herzliche Grüße,

Fritz Breithaupt
This year we have only one contribution from our current graduate students, but it is an especially interesting report on Minipädagogikworkshops: Thinking about Teaching. These workshops were convened by Ph.D. candidate Silja Weber, who explains them to us here:

“When I was done with our introductory pedagogy course, I realized very quickly that it was tempting to just prepare class from day to day, go by a few rules of thumb, and forget the kind of self-reflection and pedagogical planning I had learned about. I needed a reason to keep thinking about teaching, and this was how the idea of having tiny regular pedagogy workshops came into being. The workshops provide a forum for the exchange of pedagogical ideas and experiences among grad students, last maximally an hour, and take minimal preparation. We started the workshops in spring 2012 with two people, but we kept going three times a semester, and by now usually five to seven people attend. Someone will introduce a topic for about ten minutes, citing literature on the subject or bringing in recent material, and then we discuss opinions, experiences, difficulties, and possibilities among ourselves. Topics are generated by the participants and have included things like warm-ups, vocabulary learning, catering to different learner types and styles, grammar, and pragmatics. Why do people come? ‘It’s one of the few ways to regularly exchange pedagogical ideas.’ ‘It’s impossible
to teach too well.’ ‘I’m interested in teaching, and the workshops are fun.’ ‘I enjoy the cooperation.’ ‘We’re taking ownership of our professional development.’ Thanks to all participants for making the workshops happen!”

Congratulations to Silja and all the workshoppers!
Peter Boerner reports that his biography of Goethe is coming out in two new editions: the German version will be available as a Rowohlt e-book; and the English version, published by Haus of London, will be distributed in the United States as part of a program of the University of Chicago Press. Due to their ongoing donations of Caroline von Wolzogen's books and manuscripts to the Lilly Library, Peter and Nancy Boerner have been designated members of the Presidents Circle and the Arbutus Society of the IU Foundation.

Claudia Breger writes: “Another crazy year it has been, but I am starting to see the light at the end of that proverbial tunnel. Next summer, I will be done with my term as chair of Gender Studies, and I hope to be on sabbatical for all of 2015–16. It’s fun to think about another book project (after all, what else would we academics do in our ‘spare’ time?), but I have also gotten myself entangled in a larger home-improvement fantasy/project, with an eye on all the time I want to spend at home writing once I can. Of course, there will be some travel, too! Anticipation aside, the highlights of this past year include

- many thousands of people. Being chair in this department is a true joy. My experimental work is getting more serious; I hired a programmer for my experimental humanities lab to help me run telephone games of short narratives with many thousands of people.
- visiting Yale University; one of my books is on the shelf, but I have not sent out any this year yet. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Some gesture of liberation will come soon. I am just chair of Germanic Studies now, not interim dean of Hutton Honors College any longer. Being chair in this department is a true joy. My experimental work is getting more serious; I hired a programmer for my experimental humanities lab to help me run telephone games of short narratives with many thousands of people. This is fun. I also continue to be interested in moral decision-making; one of my books is on the loss of the inner voice of conscience from Goethe to today.”

Troy Byler submits the following about his productive outreach activities: “A student approached me the other day with a smile on her face and said, ‘Hello, Mr. Byler. Do you remember me from the German Theater Project for high-school students?’ Since I have a great memory for faces, of course I did, but names are a bit fuzzy. She is a freshman this year, tested into G400, has fond memories of the Project festival that took place here on campus last February, and is now looking forward to spending a year in Freiburg, Germany, and to pursuing a potential major in Germanic Studies. It is nice to know that our efforts here in this department to reach out to high-school students, teachers, and parents, can have such a positive impact. Through the hard work of our graduate students who comprised the committee --Emma Kriss, Juliane Wünsch, Catherine van Halsema, Megan Barrett, Michal Bryant, Franziska Krüger, Andrew Kostakis-- and those who presented workshops --Michael Bryant, Vanessa Domizlaff, Susanne Even, Christiane Kaden, Emma Kriss, Franziska Krüger, Catherine van Halsema, Silja Weber (special thanks also to her daughter, whose design was integral to the logo and T-shirt), and Juliane Wünsch -- we were able to host over 50 students and instructors from five schools. And since Johannes Türk, the director of the Institute of German Studies, was successful in procuring more funds from the Max Kade Foundation, we hope to have our second annual festival this coming spring. Let me end by sharing with you a bit of the thank-you message that we received from one of the German instructors who attended:

Wir sind alle gut heimgekommen und haben auf der Busfahrt gefeiert. Ich werde diesen Tag zu meiner Lebzeit nicht vergessen, denn nichts ist motivierender fuer einen Lehrer als der Erfolg seiner Schueler. Ich habe nur den Weg bereitet, aber sie haben ihn mit Enthusiasmus begangen.... Der ganze Tag war ein

Susanne Even brings us up to date on some very exciting developments: “In my 2010 contribution to this newsletter I wrote about two things that now, four years later, feature again, and strongly: SCENARIO, the bilingual online journal for drama and theater for second and foreign language teaching (www.ucc.ie/en/scenario) and the Common European Framework of Reference (www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp).

Four years ago SCENARIO had just been awarded the European Language Label by the European Commission. This summer my co-editor Manfred Schewe and I ran the First SCENARIO Forum International Conference on Performative Teaching, Learning, and Research on the beautiful campus of University College Cork in Ireland (www.ucc.ie/en/scenario/scenarioforum/scenarioforum-conference2014). The conference was a huge success, with contributors from four continents and nineteen countries. The next two SCENARIO issues will feature articles based on papers given at the conference. The keynote speeches, and Manfred’s and my seminar on Pedagogy in Transition—Paving the Way into Performative Teaching and Learning will be published by the Schibri Verlag in Berlin.

Also four years ago, Troy Byler, Rex Sprouse, and I started the process to obtain testing certification for the Common European Framework of Reference exams. The Department of Germanic Studies is now an official testing center for the levels A1, A2, B1, B2, and C1. We have had a steady stream of people inside and outside IU taking the exams, which are open to everybody.

Connected with this is a change to a new textbook series Netzwerk Deutsch, published by Langenscheidt, that is replacing our old U.S.-American–centered course books. This fall marks the launch of Netzwerk Deutsch A1 for G100, and Netzwerk Deutsch B1/1 for G200 (to be followed by A2 for G150 and B1/2 for G250 in the spring). Transitioning over to new textbooks for four semesters within the time frame of only one year is a monumental task, which
would have been impossible but for the Herculean efforts of my partner-in-crime Troy Byler, who spent countless hours (in the three digits!) working out the technology side of this whole venture (making it all work on CANVAS), putting together the syllabus for G200/250, and being the constant, reliable, and cheerful colleague and friend he has always been. My thanks also go to Silja Weber, who gave valuable feedback during the syllabus-construction phase in the summer, and Nikole Langjahr, who has composed a business syllabus for G100 based on Alltag, Beruf & Co (Hueber Verlag). Since the business textbook is also aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference, students can switch between the ‘normal’ and the business track without problems. Further thanks go to Dan Allen and Roger Crandall from CeLT, who supported us again every step of the way in our efforts to put all audio and video files online. I also want to mention our new AIs, Emma Kriss, Catherine van Halsema, Juliane Wünsch, Tyler Lear, and Arne Willée, who readily embraced the new pedagogy during AI Orientation Week and who have shown themselves to be excellent team players in this transition phase.

Netzwerk Deutsch is a brand-new book series that marks a decisive departure into the foreign language needs of the 21st century. There is much more listening and speaking involved, and the books feature a wide array of activities that get students out of their seats and communicatively active. Daily homework assignments ascertain the development of reading, writing, and grammatical competencies. The most visible change is that there is no English in the books; they target an international audience, whose first language is not necessarily English. Consequently, our G100 students were in shock after the first lesson. However, once they adjusted their default to ‘German lessons are conducted in German throughout’ (which happened within 24 to 48 hours), they really got into it: they now speak more and better German that anything I have ever heard from beginning students during the first week of classes. The Netzwerk books are also considerably cheaper (and lighter!) than any of their U.S.–American counterparts. Furthermore, we now have valid assessment measures in place—students should be ready to take the A1 exam after G100, the A2 exam after G150, and the B1 exam after G250. Since we have been working with Aspekte B2 (also by Langenscheidt) in G300/330, we are now covering the full range of A1 to B2 competencies in our language program!

These are very exciting times for the language program. Of course, there are still kinks here and there to be sorted out, but our students have so far been very forgiving, knowing that they are part of a new venture. And in Troy’s words (dating back to 2006, when I had just started and which have been supporting me ever since): ‘Was jetzt noch nicht richtig funktioniert, wird nächstes Jahr einfach besser gemacht!’

We’ve looked forward to hearing about Kari Gade’s further adventures both in Old Norse and with Mother Nature, and she doesn’t disappoint: “This was the year of the rabbit. For some reason, last spring Mrs. Bunny McRabbit decided to ‘people’ my yard with her offspring. They were legion—all different sizes and colors and all very partial to my black-eyed Susan flower bed, which they treated like a salad bar. ‘Oh, but they are sooo cute,’ cooed I, forgivingly and weak of mind. Then came the freezing winter, and when the snow left, the results of the evilness and voracity of the McRabbit clan came to light: they had eaten the bark off all my forsythias, roses, and the flaming bush in front of my guest room. ‘Trap them and kill them’ was the blunt advice of my Australian collaborator, who has a house in the Outback. I must admit that implements of mass destruction loomed large on my mental horizon as I watched brown and withered branches of once beautiful bushes stretching to high heaven. But I simply cannot do it. The McRabbits are so cute, and as I write this, four of them are grazing peacefully on my back lawn. But if the Farmer’s Almanac is correct about the coming winter, I may regret that decision come spring.

I spent most of the summer in Norway, and we saw the hottest July on record—temperatures in the eighties on land and in the seventies in the ocean. Needless to say, the Bloomington orca was wallowing in the waves. I gave a paper at a conference in Kiel and witnessed Germany racing toward the gold in the world championship in soccer while I was there. The atmosphere was electric, and German flags were waving from cars and lampposts. What an experience!

Volume III of the skaldic edition is scheduled for publication in September 2015, and I am working (with my collaborators...
in Kiel) around the clock on the introduction and quality checking. This is going to be a monster of a volume in terms of size (another two-part volume), and I will be glad once it has left the womb. Talking of wombs—does anyone know whether there is a contraception pill for rabbits that can be dispensed safely? Can't find anything on Google.”

And from Tracy Hall: “I had a busy and active year. In terms of research, I have been investigating phonology of modern German dialects as well as the phonology of Old High German. This year I published articles on the phonology of Old High German fricatives (in Beiträge zur Geschichte der Deutschen Sprache und Literatur), the structure of fricatives in Central German dialects (in Transactions of the Philological Society), as well as two articles dealing with the phonology of Westphalian German glides (in Journal of Germanic Linguistics and Diachronica). I am pleased to announce that I will take over as editor of the Journal of Germanic Linguistics beginning in January 2015. In the past year I taught my usual course load, including an advanced seminar on historical phonology with an emphasis on sound change in Germanic. Needless to say, I also enjoyed another semester with the phonology reading group.”

Esther Hamm and Bieneke Haitjema report from the very busy Dutch program and bring us news of an old friend: “Although it already feels like a long time ago, it’s actually only been a few months that we were both in the Netherlands during soccer mania, enjoying the swollen crowds of devoted Orange soccer fans. Neither of us had actually sought out the soccer craze, but it was inescapable once you landed in Amsterdam. Esther managed to find some tranquility on lovely Terschelling, her favorite island among the Wadden Sea Islands in the north, and she got to enjoy the sea and sunny days on the wide sandy beaches. Meanwhile Bieneke traveled in the opposite direction to the medieval city of Middelburg in the southwest for a cycling tour of the city and other parts of Zeeland. It was a great summer after a busy year of program activities and teaching both in-class and online courses. There has been a growing interest in our online courses, and we are excited to have David Bolter, a doctoral student in Germanic Studies, on board this year to assist with the online courses for first year students of Dutch. Our program also expanded in the sense that we now offer our students, both undergraduate and graduate, the option to pursue a Dutch Studies certificate. This certificate program, for which students must complete 27 credit hours in Dutch language and culture, was recently approved and is now officially ‘on the books.’ This past summer, Esther ran the Summer Dutch Institute with the aid of Christiane Kaden, also a doctoral student in Germanic Studies. We look forward to offering it again in 2015 for anyone wanting to learn Dutch as a new language or wanting to improve upon acquired Dutch language skills. Early in June, both Esther and Bieneke traveled to Boston to attend the 17th biennial Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies (ICNS). They each gave a presentation during the AANS (American Association of Netherlandic Studies) workshop, which is part of the conference. It is noteworthy that IU’s professor emeritus William Shetter was one of the organizers of the very first ICNS back in the early eighties. Professor Shetter hosted the international conference once more in 1998, and we are preparing to host the conference on the Bloomington campus in 2018.

Professor Shetter, who retired from teaching 20 years ago, but who has kept close ties with the Dutch Language and Culture program, joined the faculty of Indiana University in 1965. The Dutch Language and Culture program was inaugurated that same year and Professor Shetter was the first scholar to teach Dutch on the IU campus. The year 2015 will thus mark the 50th anniversary of the Dutch program, a real milestone! Check the Germanic Studies website for more information on next year’s semicentennial celebration of Dutch Language and Culture.

Albrecht Holschuh lässt herzlich grüßen und meint er hätte nichts Erzählwertes für uns: “Mir geht’s gut und ich bin vergnügt, aber genau das ist nichts Neues.” Aber schön!


Nikole Langjahr has been busy: “For the first time in 15 years, I am teaching a class of absolute beginners, our Professional German class, initiated by Professor Susanne Even. This brings with it its own challenges and joys, and it makes me stretch and grow as a teacher. I have also been involved in the mentoring initiative led by Professors Breithaupt and Robinson, and the planning for a Business German Certificate, which will be offered by the Germanic Studies Department in the foreseeable future. German House runs as smoothly as ever. Our main event this year was “Musik und Philosophie,” an evening of lecture and musical performances by Professors David McCarty and Wolfgang Brendel, with the support of Professor Kevin Murphy on the piano and several advanced voice students. This event drew over 100 people and was a joy to behold (and listen to!). The German Club under the presidency of Erik Troske (spring) and Maggie Kline (fall) is very active, enthusiastic, and busy, organizing lectures, film evenings, field trips, and even an Oktoberfest on campus. You can follow the club’s activities by looking for German House Indiana University on Facebook.”

Another bustling area is the Norwegian program. Gergana May tells us all about it: “The Norwegian program is thriving—with both the first- and second-year language classes enrolled at almost full capacity, and an enthusiastic group of seven students continuing into the fifth semester. Last year I taught two topics courses in Scandinavian literature (“The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen”) and in Scandinavian culture (“The Multicultural North”), both of which were well attended. In the spring semester we hosted a prominent Norwegian scholar, Professor Grete Brochmann, chair of the department of sociology at the University of Oslo, who spoke on the current challenges facing the three Scandinavian countries, which historically have combined strict labor immigration regulation with an equal-treatment policy in terms of their legal residents’ access to welfare rights. This model is being seriously challenged today, and Brochmann reflected on how the institutional path dependencies can serve as both obstacles for change and possible remedies for cure. She had several engaging meetings with the students of Norwegian, as well as faculty. This fall we are

German Club Oktoberfest outing to Seymour, Indiana.
welcoming another distinguished Norwegian social scientist, Professor Tor Fagerland, who is the chair of the Department of Historical Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. He will talk on the profound challenges Norwegian society faces today as it struggles to commemorate the tragic events of July 22, 2011, when a 32-year-old Norwegian male killed 77 people in two separate horrendous incidents. On a lighter note, Lotus Festival was again a diverse Nordic bands—all of them very much enjoyed and appreciated by the audience, including myself!”

Adjunct Professor Michelle Moyd’s book, Violent Intermediaries: African Soldiers, Conquest, and Everyday Colonialism in German East Africa, was published by Ohio University Press in July 2014, and is being very well received.

And this from Ben Robinson: “It was an adventure serving as interim chair of the department this past spring and summer, and it’s a pleasure to express my gratitude to Kari, Jill, Michelle, and Sara, whose resourcefulness and institutional memory helped keep our Leibnizian machine from winding down. We’re still the best of all possible worlds! Of course, Fritz was only ever ostensibly on leave and ever ready to jump in with advice and help, and now that he’s back in the saddle, we’re collectively moving from Leibnizian Vollendung to Nietzschean Selbst-Überwindung. Meanwhile, my projects continue apace. Claudia Breger and I are editing a volume on Complexity/Simplicity for Modern Language Notes, which gives us a chance to shape a playful debate we’ve been having for years. Responding to an impulse from our esteemed alumnus Marc Silberman (Ph.D., ’75), of Madison, I have co-organized a German Socialisms Network at the GSA, with art historian April Eisman and historian of material culture Eli Rubin. We’re aiming to bring together scholars who work on “really existing” socialism with those who work on Marx, critical theory, labor, and new social movements. We hosted a productive roundtable and series of panels on “The Commons” this fall, in which newly minted IUB Ph.D. Andrea Meyertholen gave a terrific presentation on Peter Weiss and the Pergamolen Altar. I am co-chairing the College Themester for next fall, which will coordinate undergraduate courses and co-curricular activities on the theme “@Work: The Nature of Labor on a Changing Planet.” I’ve been elected to the Bloomingston Faculty Council as a member of a slate interested in progressive faculty governance and have found myself chairing the Education Policies Committee for the year. Our agenda will focus on a challenge you are all probably familiar with—faculty teaching autonomy in the face of big data and learning management. I’ll make offerings to Chronos, Ananke and Tyche for a moment to write my book, and all will surely be Leibnizian.”

Rex Sprouse brings this news: “During the past year I introduced a new undergraduate course into the Germanic Studies Department curriculum: Introduction to German Sociolinguistics (taught in German); presented an invited plenary address at Germanic Linguistics: The Annual Conference (GLAC) at Purdue University on “German and the De Facto Difference Hypothesis”; served as resident director of the IU summer program in Graz for the eleventh time; and completed my three years as Henry H.H. Remak Professor. I am now teaching full time in the Department of Second Language Studies, but I remain enthusiastically available to Germanic Studies department students interested in Germanic linguistics. The current plan is for my office to be relocated from Ballantine Hall to Memorial Hall early in 2015.”

And finally from Johannes Türk: “It has been a year with new projects. At a conference on universal history at the University of Oslo, Norway, I presented on Schiller’s notion of universal history, his historic dramas, and their relation to the French Revolution. The collaboration between scholars from the U.S., Norway, and France has resulted in a book project, which I will tell you more about later. This year I was also invited to present on specialization in the humanities at a conference in Paris, as well as on Büchner’s Woyzeck here at IU’s Lee Norwell Theater. I hope to finish my book-length essay on sovereignty and immunity next summer. Furthermore, after the end of his long and successful tenure, I have replaced Michel Chaouli as director of the Institute of German Studies. I look forward to this responsibility, while being aware of the challenges that graduate programs are currently facing. On a more personal note, I am delighted to tell you that my daughters are growing up and confront me with a sense of time that is so much denser and miraculously more spacious that it challenges mine.”
In Fritz Breithaupt’s “Letter from the Chair,” you have read about his encounters with quite a few Germanic Studies alums at this year’s GSA meeting in Kansas City. Please look for familiar faces in the photos from that meeting included here. We know that a picture is worth a thousand words, but we like the words nonetheless. Here are some from more of our alumni.

**Paul Anderson** (Ph.D., ’74) continues to stay in touch and to keep very active. He reports from Aalen: “Gisi retired a year ago and is finally used to staying home. She is learning Italian, trying this and that, and cooking better than I ever have. I continue to frighten the Fontane scholarship with new material and add to our income by translating for the plastics and orthopedic insoles industries. Life is good, our house is paid for, the children have serious partners and good-to-brilliant futures, and our health is better than our age average. Three lectures coming later this year and a hammer of a scholarly article in December. The summer was dry, the lawn is browning, but the 22 or 23 kilograms of cherries I’ve been picking are the best ever. Starting in August, my meager old-age pension of €198 should be augmented by the recently legislated Mutterrente—since I did most of the child rearing and had no full-time job. Give my regards to Ballantine.”

**Jeanette Clausen** (Ph.D., ’75) sends her greetings from Thailand, where she is well into her second year of service with the Peace Corps. She invites you to catch up with her via her blog jclausen-pcth.blogspot.com. We will be very happy to have her back in Bloomington in the spring.

**Francis Gentry** (Ph.D., ’73) retired after a distinguished career in teaching. He is Emeritus Professor of German, University of Wisconsin—Madison and Penn State University. He wrote the following in a letter to Fritz last summer. We know he won’t mind if we quote him: “By way of introduction, allow me to begin with that I am a really “old” former student of the IU department. Nonetheless, the IU German Department in the 1960s was a formidable one—and as you note about the current one—very congenial, very supportive of the graduate students, and simply, a stimulating and exciting environment. We, the students in the sixties, were being taught primarily by the generation trained in Germany and Austria. It was wonderful and challenging, especially for some of us from the American working class—as I wrote once to a German colleague ‘not bad for an Irish kid from Boston.’ I wish you all the best, chairing what is still an excellent German department.”


**Astrid Klocke** (Ph.D., ’00) sends her greetings and reports: “I am in my second year as faculty senate president at Northern Arizona University and enjoy working with colleagues from across campus. We have a very good system of shared governance and active committees that get a lot done. It’s been one
of the most intense and rewarding experiences of my professional life to serve in this role. My three-year term as coordinator of Cinema Studies just ended. We redesigned the core required course into a blended format and have seen a huge increase in enrollments, which is always good. I also continue to teach a course on German film and a capstone seminar on black humor. It was fun to meet many IU alumni at the GSA this year! Muriel Cormican (Ph.D., ’99) and John Blair (Ph.D., ’94) participated in the seminar on teaching film that I co-convened—almost like being back in grad school.”

And this nice letter comes to us from David Scrase (Ph.D., ’72) in New England: “For those of us who never find the opportunity to go back to Bloomington and who are no longer in academe, so to speak, it’s especially nice to receive a word from you and anticipate reading about others later. Apart from a small article in a forthcoming Festschrift, I have done little academic work. I am, however, still writing. I am well into an autobiographical tract that is developing out of the simple memoir form into something a little more in the direction of Bildungsroman. Otherwise, I am very busy with my second career as a woodworker, with special emphasis on wood-turning. I have now more or less settled permanently on Chebeague Island in Maine, although I do still own my house in Burlington. (I say ‘I’ but should really use the plural ‘we,’ since my partner of many years, Melanie, shares in this double existence.) I do bowls of all shapes and sizes, ‘treen’ more and more (i.e., ice-cream scoops, pizza cutters, French rolling pins; ‘treen’ being all kinds of kitchen items with wood as a component), and side/end/coffee tables that combine driftwood and polished cherry/maple/ash, etc. I try to garden in my spare time and have just harvested (early) my peaches before the raccoons get them all. Holunderblütengelee is safely in my larder; the wines I make from my pears, apples, grapes are about to occupy me again. I suppose I am a true child of the getaway-to-the-land movement of the sixties and seventies. A couple of years ago I did have lunch with Edie Wagner Rentz (Ph.D., ’75) and David Rentz, who live not far away in Brunswick, but I have otherwise had no contact with others from the late sixties/early seventies. Thanks for the newsletter. The chance to read about others from what I consider the happiest years of my life is a great pleasure. I send greetings to all friends and acquaintances from my IU years.”

Congratulations are in order for Christine Rinne (Ph.D., ’05), who writes: “I have an update for the newsletter: I received tenure and promotion at the University of South Alabama effective 8/15/14.”

Wendy Westphal (Ph.D., ’10) says: “Hello! I am still at Marian University in Indianapolis and still juggling three hats as department chair, director of study abroad, and German prof! It has been a great and multifaceted learning process. My focus for the past two years has been to promote the two academic loves of my life: German and study abroad and I’m happy to report I have had good success in both, with increases in numbers on both sides. On a personal note, our family enjoyed spending another summer in Germany, especially since it was a World Cup year and Germany won! Our boys (eight, six, and four) were thrilled to watch the games in Germany, talk about them with their school/daycare buddies and then reenact them during the recesses!”

We heard a few months back from Edward H. Willis (B.A., ’83): “I’m writing to let you know that my first book translation has been published by the Monthly Review Press in New York. It is an English translation of a brief biography of Magnus Hirschfeld written by Ralf Dose, originally published by Hentschel & Hentschel in Berlin. Here’s a link to the publisher’s website: http://monthlyreview.org/press/books/cl4376/. I received a Bachelor of Arts in Germanic Literatures from IU in May 1983. I also spent a year on exchange at the Universitaet Hamburg, when Dr. Ulrich Weisstein was program director. Since 1992 I have been on the staff of the Modern Language Association of America, working on the ‘International Bibliography.’ My current title is index editor for Germanic literatures.”
Frank G. Banta
MAY 31, 1918–JAN. 3, 2014
HEREDIA, Costa Rica — Frank G. Banta, distinguished professor emeritus, died on January 3, 2014, at the Hospital San Vicente de Paul in Heredia, Costa Rica. He was 95 years old. Frank Graham Banta was born on May 31, 1918, and grew up on the family farm, adjacent to the community of Hopewell, near the town of Franklin, in Johnson County, Indiana.

In 1935 he left the farm to further his education, first at Hanover College for two years and subsequently at Indiana University, where he earned his B.A. degree in 1939. He went on to complete his M.A. at the University of Maryland and finally, after military service in World War II, his Ph.D. at the University of Bern in Switzerland. Frank joined the faculty of the German department at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in 1953, where he eventually served a six-year term as departmental chairperson.

In 1964 Frank returned to his alma mater to accept a position on the faculty of the Department of Germanic Languages at IU Bloomington.

During his academic career, Frank published numerous scholarly articles, as well as a critically acclaimed volume on the Middle High German texts of medieval Roman Catholic priest Berthold von Regensburg. But teaching, rather than scholarly research, was always Frank's passion. He dedicated his life to helping students, and over the years he garnered a well-deserved reputation among them as a good listener, friend, and advocate.

Though he retired from teaching in 1988, he was soon busy back at work in the IU Student Advocates Office, where he served for 20 more years, first as a volunteer and then as assistant director.

Ulrich W. Weisstein
NOV. 14, 1925–OCT. 10, 2014
GRAZ, Austria — Ulrich W. Weisstein, 88, Indiana University professor emeritus of comparative literature and Germanic studies, died October 10 in Graz, Austria, his home for nearly 25 years. He was born November 14, 1925, in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland), the son of Rudolf and Berta (Wende) Weisstein.

He completed his high-school education in Wiesbaden and studied at the Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-University in Frankfurt. In 1950 he came to the University of Iowa, transferring to IU in 1951.

He received his master’s degree in literary criticism from IU in 1953 and completed his Ph.D. in 1954.

He taught at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. In 1959 he returned to Indiana University, retiring in 1990. A prolific scholar and editor, he counted 400 titles among his publications, including 14 books. He served on the executive council of the Modern Language Association and the governing body of the International Comparative Literature Association.

Private interment services were held in Graz.

Both notices are excerpted from the obituaries published in the Bloomington Herald-Times.